



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY INC.  
ABN 49 844 560 526

Minutes of Executive Meeting held on **1/8/2022**

Chair: Ben Hines

Minute taker: Eden McSheffrey

Meeting opened: 9:10pm

**Present:**

Ben Hines	President
Irene Ma	Vice President (Education)
Thrishank Chintamaneni	Vice President (Careers)
Naz Sharifi	Vice President (Social Justice)
Julia Tran	Treasurer
Eden McSheffrey	Secretary
Kelly Ma	Sponsorship Director
Harriet Walker	Competitions Director
Maja Vasic	Competitions Director
Grace Wong	Socials Director
Vivienne Davies	Socials Director
Adam Schaffer	Sports Director
Ariana Haghighi	Publications Director
Michelle Chim	International Student Officer
Yijun Cui	Equity Officer
Grace Wallman	Disabilities Officer
Elizabeth Nutting	Women's Officer
Nishta Gupta	Ethnocultural Officer
Julia Lim	Marketing Director
Justine Hu	Design Director
Alexander McManis	SULS Member
Erika Blendell	SULS Member
Michelle Chen	SULS Member

**Absent:** Onor Nottle, Edward Ford

**Apologies:**

**Late:** Thrishank Chintamaneni (9:13pm), Julia Tran (9:14pm, with apologies), Adam Schaffer (10:25pm).

**Early Departures:**



## MINUTES

### 1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and Naz Sharifi delivered an Acknowledgement of Country. No apologies were received.

**Motion:** That Julia Tran's late arrival apology be accepted.

Moved: Elizabeth Nutting

Seconded: Naz Sharifi

The motion was carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Ben Hines noted Ben McGrory's resignation from the First Nations Officer position and therefore his absence. Ben thanked him for his work during his term.

### 2 Procedural matters

**Motion:** That the minutes from the Executive Meeting held 23 May 2022 be approved as a correct and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Naz Sharifi

Seconded: Elizabeth Nutting

The motion was carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

### 3 Last week updates/shoutouts

- Eden shouted out Naz, Thrishank, Michelle and Vivienne for helping him clean the office this morning. He also shouted out Naz, Ben, Yijun, Thrishank and Irene for leading the consultation sessions during the winter break despite the turnout.
- Ben shouted out Eden for organising the SULS Consultation project. Naz echoed this and shouted out Eden for all of his administrative work behind the scenes and for organising the SULS Weekly.
- Harriet shouted out Maja for doing an amazing job with Competitions and helping out during the winter break with comps during a busy time.
- Ben shouted out Harriet for her competitions work too.

### 4 What's on this week + portfolio updates

- a. **Mon:**
- b. **Tues:**
- c. **Wed:**
- d. **Thurs:**
- e. **Fri:**
- f. **Sat:** AWL Sydney Uni Satellite Viewing Event
- g. **Mon:** JD Torts Moot Grand Final



Ben H asked if there was a welcome back event, Vivienne replied that there wasn't one but that Law Ball was in the works. Ben asked them to chat to Onor re setting up a welcome event. Ben H asked Vivienne to confirm the Law Ball date and Vivienne replied that it was October 8th.

Ariana mentioned the Bar Association competition was coming up and encouraged the Executive to tell their friends to write for it.

Julia Tran noted that research has been done into the investment project and asked the Executive to update their budgets.

## 5 **ALSA Debrief**

Ben H discussed the ALSA conference and mentioned the Executive voted to send himself, Eden and Irene to the ALSA conference as councillors last semester. He noted that the conference involved round-table discussions, panels, discussions about law societies and meetings with sponsors. He said the key take away was that the conference was great for relationships with other law societies and was much more of an experience of sharing how SULLS does things.

Eden noted that one reason that SULLS re-joined ALSA was due to knowledge sharing and the relationship with other law societies that the conference fosters. He noted that a particularly rewarding aspect of the conference was discussing the merits of having a Queer Officer and later having some law society executives approach him for advice on establishing their own. He said that there was value in hearing how other societies conducted their governance and the progress that SULLS has made in this area is very strong. He said in this respect the conference was valuable from a councillor perspective even if SULLS had less than other societies to gain from the conference sessions.

Irene echoed this and discussed a particular ALSA session on burnout. She noted a common issue is student engagement and we can work on timetabling better this sem to ensure optimal attendance. Irene also mentioned she had a discussion with the ALSA VP Ed about the Law School's position on moving everything in-person and the School's major argument being based on accreditation.

There was also a discussion about the merits of moving a motion at an ALSA Meeting on this topic.

## 6 **SULLS Consultation Project Outcomes**

Eden discussed the 2022 SULLS Consultation Project and its outcomes. He noted that there was minimal if any attendance but thanked Naz, Ben, Yijun, Thrishank and Irene again for their contributions in heading up the sessions and monitoring the forms. He noted that given the lack of discussion on these issues it would not be appropriate to have a General Meeting to implement changes at this stage and as such the next General Meeting will be the Special General Meeting later in the semester. He invited the project overseers to comment.

Yijun echoed only Naz attended her sessions. The feedback received through the form indicated that cl 21b is a bit vague. She said there was merit to this but it was not necessarily a constitutional change and is something which could be put in bylaws.



Ben noted that no one attended his electoral session. He mentioned there should be changes done and we will work on these internally as an exec for the SGM but these will not apply to the 2022 SULS Election.

Irene mentioned that she spoke to a few people about PASS alternatives. She noted that everyone emphasised that PASS was a valuable source for students to learn outside of the classroom, but in summary:

1. They wished the new alternative to stay as peer-to-peer study rather than tutors;
2. They want the PASS alternative to be compulsory for students who don't perform well academically;
3. They wanted more clarity on how PASS makes a decision on providing a subject. An example that was raised is that CCP was not offered for PASS. Irene noted it was because of feedback that CCP had a lower fail rate. She noted that a concern was that they did not consult students on how these were chosen;
4. They thought that the feedback surveys can be improved. They noted there were a lot of qualitative and subjective questions, when more of a 'from 1-5 how satisfied are you' rather than 'what's your opinion about this subject' would be preferable;
5. There were lots of timetable clashes with PASS classes. It was suggested that PASS classes are spread out more and having sessions after work hours which would be popular for JD or evening cohort students; and
6. That the current PASS class doesn't provide direct answers and that some PASS instructors had inconsistencies in the way they teach.

Naz noted that no one attended her sessions.

Thrishank also noted no one attended or submitted forms.

## 7 Proposed SULS Bylaws Accessibility Policy

Grace Wa. noted that this policy has been in circulation within the Executive for several months. She said they are essentially accessibility guidelines and cultural competency bylaws which enshrine a lot of the things we have agreed upon last semester. She wanted to make sure this position on accessibility carries on into future Executives and hopefully these operate as an accountability mechanism.

Eden noted that they were fantastic and thanked Grace for drafting them.

**Motion:** That the SULS 'Accessibility Policy' as outlined in [this document](#) [Appendix A to the minutes] be accepted into the bylaws.

Moved: Grace Wallman

Seconded: Yijun Cui

The motion was carried unanimously with one abstention.

## 8 FNO continued vacancy notice

Eden thanked Ben McGrory for his work during his term. Eden informed the Executive that the position of First Nations Officer has remained vacant during an extended application process. The applications were opened 21 June 2022 with a deadline of 5 July, which was extended to 25 July,



and on 31 July applications are now accepted on a rolling basis. Eden noted that to date we have not received any applications for the position. He asked the Executive to encourage anyone they think may be a good fit for the role to apply.

**9 Website Updates + Marketing Reminders**

Julia L thanked everyone for their patience and discussed some reminders for semester two regarding marketing, photography, the SULLS banner and being mindful of Design's capacity.

**10 Semester 2 Expectations**

Ben discussed several administrative points and expectations about this semester, including: organisation/calendar, the office, the SULLS Weekly, communication and an Executive photo, catch-ups. Eden noted that the position on Executive attendance at sponsored events has been something which has been varied in previous years.

**11 Electoral Officer Applications**

Ben noted that we will not be doing electoral amendments on the Constitution before the 2022 election and that we need to appoint an Electoral Officer. Ben noted that he would draft something up and start to open applications via email as soon as possible.

**12 ALSA Competition Appeal**

Erika Blendell, Michelle Chen and Alexander McManis joined the meeting for this agenda item.

Michelle Chen explained the background of the appeal. She noted that herself and Erika competed in the ALSA Negotiations Grand Finals, and that before the winner announcement they received a notice that they were disqualified and the other team had launched an appeal. The alleged breach of the rules was that the coach provided guidance on the facts of the negotiation, and she noted that at no point was the team informed of the ongoing appeal and were not afforded a right of reply or any procedural fairness steps. She noted that we then unsuccessfully appealed this, denying the allegations and complaining of the lack of procedural fairness. She noted also that they think ALSA did not follow two rules in this process and wanted the Executive's advice on next steps for an appeal.

Ben noted he was happy to put his name down for the initial appeals but to the extent that the ALSA grievance board has rejected this, now SULLS will need to be involved if we take further steps. Ben said that from his perspective its not great what ALSA has done and they have unfair reasoning. That said, he noted its important to discuss what our appetite for an appeal is and deal with this as an Executive.

Erika noted that a possible next step under ALSA's constitution is to bring this dispute before a mediator, which would allow an impartial third body to review the decisions and mechanisms followed. Michelle Chen noted that there were two issues yet to bring, one being that the judge of the competition was informed of certain things which would give the other team an advantage over us, and second that ALSA have a rule that penalties dont apply to the Grand Finals. She noted that SULLS has an important relationship with ALSA and that another option could be to solve this in an informal way by reaching out to the NZ LSS and come to a mutual agreement.



Ben asked if there was a rush that happen in the next four business days or if we could formalise a decision in the next exec meeting with clear options.

Eden asked about the mediation mechanism and whether it would be against ALSA or the NZ LSS, whether there were any costs involved, and whether this was a formal process that SULLS as an organisation would be taking against ALSA. He suggested that we tell ALSA that we are considering taking the mediation option but need the particulars of the process. Ben agreed.

Alex noted that ALSA has been really reticent to reveal information on that process. Eden suggested that this escalation might encourage ALSA to consider the grounds seriously. Michelle Chen suggested that we could propose a mediation option which would be beneficial for SULLS.

Maja said she liked the idea of giving everyone time to digest and that it would be helpful to distribute information about each appeal to the Executive.

Ben outlined the next steps for Michelle, Alex and Erika to take in terms of emailing ALSA, distributing information to the executive and providing options and their consequences for next week's meeting.

### **13 Other Business**

None raised

Meeting closed: 10:41pm.



## APPENDIX A

### SULS ACCESSIBILITY POLICY



Sydney University Law Society Incorporated

# Accessibility Policy

*As at 31 May 2022*



## **Part 15: Accessibility Policy**

### **SULS Events Accessibility Guidelines**

160. The disability accessibility guidelines in this part must be consulted and followed as much as possible when planning and holding SULS events.
161. For events that are likely to be loud, if at all possible a quiet space should be set aside. The space should not have bright lights and be quiet. The location of the area should be clearly signposted in a spoken introduction and/or physical signposting.
162. If a quiet space is entirely not possible, disposable earplugs should be provided for free in a clear place.
163. For events that are likely to demand long periods of standing, ensure chairs are available for rest.
164. When PowerPoints, agendas, conference papers or similar are used for an event, if at all possible these materials should be circulated in advance.
165. At events with audience participation, the introduction should make clear protocol on how to participate (eg. How will people notify the chair if they want to speak).
166. Venues chosen for events must fulfil the following accessibility requirements:
  - a) Accessible bathrooms;
  - b) Avoidance of steep stairs;
  - c) Clear signage;
  - d) Wheelchair accessibility (eg. ramps);
  - e) Rooms with hearing loops if using rooms in law school; and
  - f) Availability of a quiet space.
167. Wellbeing personnel at events are to be briefed on the presence of each of the items listed in section 166 by the Socials Directors and the Disabilities Officer and are to be made aware of any accessibility limitations and accessibility features of the event or venue.
168. The location of disability accommodations such as quiet areas and accessible bathrooms should be made clear at events through the use of written materials and/or physical signposting and/or during the event's introduction.
169. In the introduction and/or materials and/or signage of an event, at least one person (such as the wellbeing personnel present or the Disabilities Officer) should be delegated and clearly noted as a contact point for attendees to discuss any accessibility needs or concerns.

### **SULS Disability Cultural Competency Guidelines**

170. The Disabilities Officer each year must deliver disability awareness training to the Executive as part of their induction and to the Committees at the committee training day.
171. Use of image descriptions on marketing/digital content/social media posts must be used if at all possible.
172. All video content uploaded by SULLS must include closed captioning if at all possible.
173. Language requirements applying to any marketing materials and physical or online content produced by SULLS when referring to disabled people:
  - a) Identity-first language must be used in relation to disability (both in the general sense eg. “disabled people” instead of “people with disabilities” and specific disabilities where applicable eg. “autistic students” instead of “students who have autism”); and
  - b) When referring to disabled people in SULLS materials and marketing, euphemisms for disability (eg. “handicapped”, “handicapable”, “special needs”) must be avoided.