



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY INC.
ABN 49 844 560 526

Minutes of Executive Meeting held on 08/03/2021
Chair: Wendy Hu

Meeting opened: 9:05pm

Present:

Wendy Hu	President
Sinem Kirk	Vice President (Education)
Cameron Jordan	Vice President (Careers)
Sophia Semmler	Vice President (Social Justice)
Tiana Dumonovsky	Treasurer
Alison Chen	Secretary
Caroline Xu	Competitions Director
Onor Nottle	Socials Director
Sofia Mendes	Campus Director
Calvin Kwong	Sports Director
Justin Lai	Publications Director
Sissi Xi Chen	International Student Officer
Eden McSheffrey	Equity Officer
Nora Takriti	Women's Officer
Bru Hammer	Queer Officer
Arasa Hardie	Design Director

Absent:

Nathan Allen	First Nations Officer
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Apologies:

Gretel Wilson	Sponsorship Director
Felix Wood	Competitions Director
Georgia Watson	Socials Director
Mahmoud Al Rifai	Ethnocultural Officer
Sarah Purvis	Marketing Director



MINUTES

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members and noted the apologies received, acknowledged that the meeting is conducted on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, paid respect to elders past, present and emerging, and noted that sovereignty was never ceded.

2 Procedural matters

Motion: that the minutes from the previous Executive meeting on 01/03/2021 be accepted.

Moved: Wendy Hu

Seconded: Alison Chen

Motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

3 Last week updates/shoutouts

Wendy gave a shoutout to the Executive for their efforts in welcoming new members and organising events during the USU Welcome Fest and Week 1 of semester. In particular, Wendy recognised the work of Sissi with the *My Legal Mate* event in collaboration with Redfern Legal Centre, Sofia for her online Speedfriending event and Onor and Georgia for JD I Drinks and Welcome Week party. Wendy and Bru gave a shoutout to Cameron for the successful Tipstaves and Associates Panel and to the Intro to Comps Drinks run by Felix and Caroline.

4 What's on this week

a. **Mon:**

- i. Tipstaves and Associates Panel

b. **Tues:**

- i. Virtual Office
- ii. Intro to Comps Week Demo

c. **Wed:**

- i. Virtual Office,
- ii. Intro to Comps Week
- iii. Welcome Back Drinks 4-6pm - Sofia noted that Taste is able to accommodate even in the event of rainy weather.

d. **Thurs:**

- i. Intro to Comps Week
- ii. A&O Law School Basics: How to Study 1-2pm

5 Approving Campus Committee Elections

Sofia noted that the Constitution currently requires the Executive to approve the Campus Committee elections, however this has not been occurring in practice in the past few years. Sofia has discussed this clause with Alison, however it is too late to propose a motion in time for the



AGM on Monday 22 March. Sofia may seek to amend the Constitution at a later point in the year but notes that the Executive will need to approve the results of the elections this year.

6 Graduate Qualities Grading System

Sinem raised for discussion the University's plan to grade students on [Graduate Qualities](#). Sinem has been advised that students will be graded on these qualities and these will be recorded on their transcript and wished to hear the Executive's thoughts on the proposed system.

The concerns raised by Executive members about the system were wide-ranging, including the manner in which academic staff will assess these marks and the metrics used to measure such qualities. Additionally, concerns were raised about the ability of teaching staff to appropriately and adequately assess students in areas such as influence and the extra burden that it would place on academic staff who would be required to assess hundreds of students and attempt to mould their course content so that such qualities were even able to be assessed in the first place. Some Executive members also noted they had participated in subjects which conducted trial assessments of these graduate qualities and such attempts generally elicited unfavourable reviews from students. Others believed that the university should not be assessing students on employability, rather they should be focused on educating students.

7 AGM Motions

Wendy noted that Alison has circulated the proposed amendments to the Constitution to all members on Sunday night, and that these motions require a special majority of 75% for them to take effect.

8 Update on advocacy - meeting with Pro Vice Chancellor (Student Life)

Sofia attended the most recent meeting with the Pro Vice Chancellor (Student Life) and executives from the major faculty societies on campus. SULLS raised questions about the use of the different spaces within the Law School and Law Lawns. In addition, SULLS inquired about approval procedures for events in Victoria Park as some proposed SULLS events were to be held on Law Lawns, however the USU has rejected these proposed events as the USU does not currently have approval procedures in place for off-campus outdoor events.

Caroline Marin (Head of Client Spaces) also attended the meeting and offered to assist with securing spaces around the Law School for competitions and other events, and the new CEO of the USU also mentioned a desire to initiate a partnership with the City of Sydney Council to use Victoria Park as a picnic location for societies. The Pro Vice Chancellor also hoped to make outdoor spaces more accessible for students to run and hold events. This may potentially include installing new amenities for students.

Wendy stated that if Executives wished to use Law School spaces, they should notify her and Alison well in advance so that they can try and negotiate an arrangement.



9 SALS Statements Discussion

Wendy has previously proposed putting out statements to affirm SALS' stance on advocacy, including a COVID-19 update, social advocacy and student advocacy. Wendy requested that the Executive team review over the statements for publication in the next few weeks.

10 Marketing procedure - best practice

Wendy reminded executive members to provide at least two weeks notice to Sarah and Arasa for any marketing requests, even if not all event details are confirmed yet, to ensure events are well-publicised to our members. For the SALS Weekly, Wendy encouraged Executive members to provide a brief summary of the event and hyperlink additional information, including the Facebook event.

11 Bylaw changes

Motion: to discuss amendments to the SALS Bylaws

Moved: Eden McSheffrey

Seconded: Alison Chen

a. Amendment to cl 53 of the Bylaws

Motion: to open discussion on the proposed amendment to add a new sentence at the end of the existing clause which reads "However, this limit can be exceeded at the discretion of the Equity Officer, having regard to the capacity of the program."

Moved: Eden McSheffrey

Seconded: Sinem Kirk

Eden noted that last week, the SALS Executive passed a motion to amend Bylaw 67 to allow for the Equity Officer to grant applications which exceed the maximum of four textbooks per person while having regard to the capacity of the program. Clause 53 was not amended at the same time last week and is inconsistent with the new changes passed to Bylaw 67. This motion is to rectify that issue and adjust the reading of the clause so that it permits discretion to exceed the four textbook limit.

Motion: to amend cl 53 by adding "However, this limit can be exceeded at the discretion of the Equity Officer, having regard to the capacity of the program." at the end of the clause.

Moved: Eden McSheffrey

Seconded: Justin Lai

Motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

b. Addition of formal procedure to mitigate conflicts of interest in the Bylaws

Motion: to open discussion on the proposed amendment regarding formalising procedures in the event of a conflict of interest. The proposed changes include:

Create two new clauses under the sections headed 'Application assessment panel' in both Part 5 and Part 6 (for a total of four new clauses), which read:

- [x] "In the event of a conflict of interest, the Equity Officer should refer the application to the Assessment Panel for independent review.

- a. The Equity Officer's vote will not be counted in determining the outcome of the application;



- b. In the event of a tie, the President's vote will be the tie-breaker vote.
- [x] A conflict of interest is presumed to arise, but is not limited to, situations where the Applicant and Equity Officer:
 - a. Are siblings, child and parent, cousins, aunt/uncle and niece/nephew or any other close family relationship;
 - b. Are close personal friends;
 - c. Are currently engaged in a sexual and/or emotional relationship; or
 - d. Were engaged in a sexual and/or emotional relationship within the past twelve (12) months."

Moved: Eden McSheffrey

Seconded: Tiana Dumanovsky

Eden notes that as a registered charity, all of the SULLS Executive members as Directors of the organisation have an obligation to uphold certain governance standards, including declaring and mitigating any conflicts of interest. Currently, Eden noted there is no formal mechanism to regulate any potential conflicts of interest that may arise when a close associate applies for either the Textbook Loans or Financial Grants scheme.

Eden believes that there needs to be a 'conflict out' system, and the proposed new clauses attempt to use the existing Application Assessment Panel framework to allow the Equity Officer to refer decisions which present a conflict of interest to that panel. The definitions of the conflict of interest clause have been adopted from various SULLS competitions rules.

Wendy notes there is a grammatical error in the second main clause and suggests adding the word "in" after "presumed to arise" to reduce confusion.

Motion: to amend the motion to add the word "in" after "presumed to arise" in the second main clause.

Moved: Eden McSheffrey

Seconded: Tiana Dumanovsky

Motion passes unanimously with zero abstentions.

Motion: to add the following clauses to the Bylaws

"31A. In the event of a conflict of interest, the Equity Officer should refer the application to the Assessment Panel for independent review.

- a. The Equity Officer's vote will not be counted in determining the outcome of the application;
- b. In the event of a tie, the President's vote will be the tie-breaker vote.

31B. A conflict of interest is presumed to arise in, but is not limited to, situations where the Applicant and Equity Officer:

- a. Are siblings, child and parent, cousins, aunt/uncle and niece/nephew or any other close family relationship;
- b. Are close personal friends;
- c. Are currently engaged in a sexual and/or emotional relationship; or



- d. Were engaged in a sexual and/or emotional relationship within the past twelve (12) months.”

58A. “In the event of a conflict of interest, the Equity Officer should refer the application to the Assessment Panel for independent review.

- a. The Equity Officer’s vote will not be counted in determining the outcome of the application;
- b. In the event of a tie, the President’s vote will be the tie-breaker vote.

58B. A conflict of interest is presumed to arise in, but is not limited to, situations where the Applicant and Equity Officer:

- a. Are siblings, child and parent, cousins, aunt/uncle and niece/nephew or any other close family relationship;
- b. Are close personal friends;
- c. Are currently engaged in a sexual and/or emotional relationship; or
- d. Were engaged in a sexual and/or emotional relationship within the past twelve (12) months.”

Moved: Eden McSheffrey

Seconded: Tiana Dumanovsky

Motion passed unanimously with zero abstentions.

Meeting closed: 9:48pm