



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY INC.
ABN 49 844 560 526

Minutes of Executive Meeting held on: **25/02/2024**

Chair: **Zara Paleologos**

Minute taker: **John Mentzines**

Meeting opened: **8:07 pm**

Present:

Danielle Tweedale	President
Priya Mehra	Vice President (Careers)
Jessica Xu	Vice President (Social Justice)
John Mentzines	Secretary
Amante Abela	Treasurer
Antonia Odegbaro	Sponsorship Director
Zara Paleologos	Social Director
Daniel Kim	Competitions Director
Ben Cullen	Campus Director
Phan Vu	International Student Officer
Kira Trahana	Equity Officer
Jessica Pens	Women's Officer
Juan Facundo Majul Fajardo	Queer Officer
Yoyo Chien	Design Director
Yuan Tran	Marketing Director
Stef Howes	First Nations Officer
Sara Wardak	Ethnocultural Officer

Apologies: Ellie Mangharam, Mounica Akula, Kiana Asgari, Kate Sinchilo, Sarah Huffman

Absent: Charlie Hua

Late Arrivals: Jessica Pens (8:12 pm)

Early Departures:



MINUTES

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and delivered an Acknowledgement of Country. Apologies were received from Ellie Mangharam, Mounica Akula, Kiana Asgari, Kate Sinchilo and Sarah Huffman.

Motion: To accept the apologies received from Ellie Mangharam, Mounica Akula, Kiana Asgari, Kate Sinchilo and Sarah Huffman for the Executive Meeting taking place on 25 February 2024.

Moved: John Mentzines

Seconded: Ben Cullen

The motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

2 Procedural Matters

Motion: That the public minutes from the Executive Meeting held 18 February 2024 be approved as a correct and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Zara Paleologos

Seconded: Jessica Xu

The motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

The following circular motion was approved via email on 22 February 2024.

Motion: To open a term deposit with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia of up to \$75,000, for a term of up to 8 months.

The motion was carried with 20 votes in favour.

3 Capacity Check In & Chair of Next Week's Executive Meeting

Dani requested that every member of the Executive fill in the capacity check in.

Dani explained that the Executive would again choose who would chair next week's meeting. Ben offered to chair the meeting. Dani reminded everyone that the next meeting would be at 7 pm on Thursday in week 3.

Motion: To appoint Ben Cullen as the chair of the week 3 Executive Meeting.

Moved: Danielle Tweedale

Seconded: Zara Paleologos

The motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions.



4 Shoutouts

Jessica Xu shouted out the competitions directors for all of their hard work.

Ben shouted out Stef for the success of the First Nations Welcome Lunch and Yoyo for all of her hard work in creating designs. Phan also shouted out Yoyo for her work on designs

Dani shouted out Mounica and Zara for the success of the week 1 social events.

Sara shouted out Ben for the success of the LLBIII picnic.

Daniel shouted out everyone who has been a wellbeing officer at an event.

Dani shouted out Kira for her work on the textbook loan scheme and financial grants for events.

Kira shouted out Yuan for her assistance with marketing the textbook loan scheme.

Dani shouted out John for his work as Secretary.

5 What's on this Week

Zara outlined all the events that are occurring this week.

Daniel explained all the events occurring in Intro to Competitions Week and emphasised the importance of high attendance at these events because they are sponsored.

6 Administrative Matters

Dani informed the members of the Executive that they are invited to a faculty morning tea on the 12th of March with the Dean of the Law School and a number of other academics. Dani encouraged everyone to attend. Dani also informed everyone that there is an interfaculty trivia event on the 14th of March which SULS is involved in, and she asked if anyone could help out at that event, noting it is at the same time as Executive Meetings.

Dani also mentioned that on the 21st of March there will be a judge from the United States visiting the law school who will be giving a talk to faculty and students about women in the law. Dani encouraged members of the Executive to attend. Ben emphasised that it is important to push attendance for these types of events because last year the Social Justice portfolio did not have significant attendance, outside of the Executive, for events involving judges.

Dani reminded the members of the Executive that they need to provide the Marketing and Design portfolios with at least two weeks notice if they want anything posted on social media. Dani also reminded everyone about the requirement to submit a USU risk assessment form two weeks before an applicable event.



6 SULLS & USU Conflict Options

Dani explained that following the discussion on this issue at last week's Executive meeting, it was not necessary to have another discussion unless someone wanted to add anything to what was discussed last week. Dani further explained that at this meeting options would be presented for dealing with the perceived conflict between being both a SULLS Executive and USU board member, and the Executive would vote on those options.

Zara and Ben raised concerns about the fact that some members of the Executive were absent from the meeting. Dani explained that at every Executive Meeting there is likely to be executives who are absent, and therefore a decision on this issue cannot wait until there is a meeting with every member of the Executive present. .

Dani outlined three options for dealing with the conflict, those being: (i) to prevent members of the SULLS Executive from running for the USU board; (ii) to only prevent specific Executive positions from running for the USU board; and/or (iii) to introduce a provision for dealing with the conflict in the SULLS Constitution or Bylaws.

Dani noted that she had ideas on the wording of such a provision. Dani explained that in her view any provision dealing with the conflict should exclude any member of the Executive who is also a USU board member from the relevant discussion, unless that person is able to provide convincing reasons to the satisfaction of the rest of the Executive as to why they should be included in the discussion. Dani noted that these reasons should be included in the meeting minutes and emphasised that such a person would need quite a compelling reason not to be excluded from the discussion.

Stef asked if the Executive voted for the second option could the third option also be implemented. Zara suggested that the Executive should firstly vote on the first two options and then the third option. Dani explained that the Executive would first vote on whether to exclude all members of the Executive from running for USU board, only specific executive positions or no positions, and depending on the outcome of that vote the Executive would then vote on provisions to deal with the conflict.

Stef asked why there was an issue with being both a SULLS Executive and USU board member. Dani explained that it is because the USU is responsible for regulating clubs and societies, including SULLS. Stef asked whether it was possible to simply require people in that position to sit out of Executive Meetings. Dani explained that that was an option and in her opinion it was preferable to deal with this issue in the least restrictive way possible.

Zara asked whether the Executive had to choose at this meeting which positions would be excluded if the second option was endorsed. Facundo asked why the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer had been suggested in that regard. Dani explained that it was raised by Kiana last week and that those positions have a greater role in the administration of SULLS than other positions. Dani further explained that at last week's meeting there were differences of opinion as to whether that was a correct distinction to make.



Facundo asked how excluding someone with a conflict from a meeting would work in practice. Dani explained that the agenda of Executive Meetings is distributed before the meeting every week and that conflicts with items on the agenda could be identified.

The Executive proceeded to vote anonymously for one of three options, those being: (i) to exclude all members of the Executive from running for USU board; (ii) to exclude only specific executive positions; or (iii) to exclude no executive positions. Mounica Akula and Kiana Asgari voted via proxies. There were two votes for the first option, nine votes for the second option, seven votes for the third option and one abstention.

Dani asked if anyone had specific executive positions in mind or whether everyone wanted to table this issue for next week's meeting. Ben noted that it would be better governance to table the issue for next week's meeting so members could read the minutes from the previous meeting before a final decision is made. Everyone agreed to table this issue for next week's meeting and Dani emphasised that a final decision needed to be made then.

7 Budgets (In Camera)

Zara asked Amante to provide a justification for moving the meeting in camera. Amante explained that it is important that the details of SULLS finances remain relatively confidential as it would impact SULLS's relationship with sponsors and other societies if they were publicly available.

Motion: That the meeting move in camera.

Moved: Amante Abela

Seconded: Ben Cullen

The motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

[In camera discussion]

Motion: That the meeting move out of camera.

Moved: Zara Paleologos

Seconded: Danielle Tweedale

The motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

12 Other Business

Dani asked if the Executive thought it would be beneficial if she also had an official SULLS debit card. The general consensus was that this would be helpful, but Amante and John explained that they thought the Constitution only permitted the President and Treasurer to obtain a single official SULLS debit card. Zara asked if it was possible to make the current debit card more accessible. Amante explained that he did not believe it was appropriate to put it in the safe in the SULLS Office because too many people would have access to it. Zara asked if it could be used via the SULLS iPad through Apple Pay. Amante and Dani explained that it would be too risky to put the debit card in a digital wallet because someone may accidentally use it to purchase something. Amante emphasised that last year all payments had to be reimbursed and that the debit card was not intended to absorb all expenditure. Dani asked if the Executive was happy to read the



Constitution as permitting the President and Treasurer to obtain more than one debit card. Zara and Stef said yes. Amante and John stated that in their view it did not. Dani noted that it may be necessary to change the relevant sections of the Constitution at the next AGM to clarify this issue.

Kira asked whether every applicant for committees had to be interviewed. John replied that only shortlisted candidates had to be interviewed. Jess Pens asked what the threshold was for having a conflict with someone you are interviewing. Dani replied that if you have a positive or negative view of someone before you have interviewed them then you have a conflict, and provided the examples of a good friend or someone you have had a relationship with. Ben emphasised that the perception of impartiality is also an important consideration. Zara and Jess asked whether you do not interview someone you have a conflict with. Dani explained that the procedure is generally that you still conduct the interview but an impartial member of the Executive must also be present to observe and discuss the candidate after the interview concludes. Priya asked if people who had been on a committee last year could be on the same committee this year. Dani replied that they could, but it was important to provide opportunities to as many students as possible.

Meeting closed: **9:08 pm**