



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY INC.  
ABN 49 844 560 526

Minutes of Executive meeting held on Monday 1 March 2021  
Chair: Wendy Hu (President)  
Minute taker: Alison Chen

Meeting opened: 9:04pm

**Present:**

Wendy Hu	President
Cameron Jordan	Vice President (Careers)
Tiana Dumonovsky	Treasurer
Alison Chen	Secretary
Gretel Wilson	Sponsorship Director
Felix Wood	Competitions Director
Caroline Xu	Competitions Director
Onor Nottle	Socials Director
Georgia Watson	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
Mahmoud Al Rifai	Ethnocultural Officer
Arasa Hardie	Design Director

**Absent:**

N/A

**Apologies:**

Sinem Kirk	Vice President (Education)
Sophia Semmler	Vice President (Social Justice)
Nathan Allen	First Nations 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 Last week updates/shoutouts

Wendy gave a shoutout to socials, design and publications for their efforts in organising Welcome Week, releasing First Year Guide and Introduction to SULLS Handbook and for designing publications and other collateral materials.

### 3 What's on this week

a. **Mon:**

- i. [SULLS Committee applications open](#)

b. **Tues:**

- i. Welcome Fest stall (10am-3pm)
- ii. My Legal Mate (1pm-2pm) - Sissi plans to record the session to circulate afterwards as a helpful resource, and arrange an invoice for any donations to the Redfern Legal Centre.
- iii. [Intro to Committees](#) and SULLS Launch Evening (Zoom, 6pm-7pm) - Wendy requested Executive members to prepare a 2-3 minute speech on their portfolio and committees to present on the evening.
- iv. Virtual office hours (Zoom, 8pm-9pm)

c. **Wed:**

- i. Speedfriending (Zoom, 6pm-7pm) - Sofia and Justin have collated activities for the evening.
- ii. Virtual office hours (Zoom, 8pm-9pm)
- iii. Australian Law Students Association General Meeting (8pm) - Wendy to attend

d. **Thurs:**

- i. JD1 Drinks (5:30pm-7pm) - Gretel raised concern that JDI have Foundations assessment the next day which may affect attendance numbers
- ii. Welcome Week Party (7pm-12am) - Georgia reported that ticket sales are going well.

e. **Fri:** no events

f. **Mon:**

- i. Intro to Comps week - Felix reported that he is seeking clarification regarding facilities booking and noted that the Intro to Comps Drinks event may move to Monday,
- ii. Tipstaves and Associates Panel - Cameron reported that six panelists have been confirmed (two are from the High Court). The list of panelists will be promoted on social media channels.



#### 4 Portfolio updates

None

#### 5 Welcome Fest Activities

- a. Stall on Front Lawns - Calvin and Wendy noted that merch samples should be displayed at the stall but sales should occur in the SULLS office. Alison noted that SULLS is required to provide its own hand sanitiser and QR codes for membership sign-up and monitor queueing outside the stall and the SULLS office.
- b. Welfare Procedural Questions - Georgia asked if SULLS has developed any comprehensive guidelines regarding the role of Wellbeing Officers at events, particularly social events. Alison referred to s 92-95 of the SULLS Bylaws. Georgia proposed that Socials and Equity develop more comprehensive position guidelines for the role of Wellbeing Officer, especially if and when committee members are appointed as Wellbeing Officers at events.
- c. Social media use - Georgia and Onor sought clarification regarding the delegation of roles on social media. Wendy noted that Sarah may grant ad-hoc access to social media accounts as necessary. Arasa and Alison noted that for Instagram, Executive members are free to post on Stories, however the Marketing portfolio will manage posting on feeds.
- d. Scavenger Hunt - Sofia reported that SULLS is unable to host this event inside the Law School due to COVID-19 restrictions and the USU requested written approval to use Law School facilities from the Dean of Law, which we were unable to obtain. Specifically, Wendy received correspondence from the Dean that the Law School does not provide COVID safety approvals, rather these are coordinated by Central University and the lead time for approvals has been 3-4 months. .

#### 6 Welcome Back Drinks

Sofia Mendes noted that Executive voting on expenditure for Welcome Back Drinks has been opened. Drinks will no longer be on tap, but cans of drinks will be offered instead. SASS and Debating drinks also happening on the same night, however discussed not to be an issue.

#### 7 Intro to Comps and Drinks

Felix informed that the Intro to Comps Drinks event was previously held after the last moot demonstration, however this year they are assessing drinks prior to the event as a back-up date.

#### 8 Annual General Meeting motion discussion

Alison noted that per s s 47(b) of the Constitution, a notice containing the time, place and motions of the Annual General Meeting is required to be circulated to members 14 days prior to the AGM (which will be held on 22 March). Alison requested that Executive members review the Constitution and send any motions of notice to amend the Constitution to Alison by Friday 5 March. Sofia discussed potential amendment to s 80 of the Constitution regarding changing references from 'women' to 'female identifying' to ensure consistency within the Constitution, and noted that she had consulted Bru and Nora about this change.

#### 9 SULLS Bylaw amendments

**Motion:** to discuss amendments to the SULLS Bylaws



**Moved:** Eden McSheffrey

**Seconded:** Alison Chen

a. Amendment of cl 71 of the Bylaws

**Motion:** to open discussion on the proposed amendment to add the phrase “per textbook loaned” after the word “bond” in cl 71

**Moved:** Felix Wood

**Seconded:** Cameron Jordan

Motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions

Eden noted that currently, there is ambiguity in the potential reading of clause 71 as to whether the AU\$40 bond is required for the total textbook loan or for each textbook in the Equity Textbook Loan Scheme. In the previous Textbook Loans agreements, it was clear that this was per textbook, and this is the way the scheme currently operates. The proposed amendment is designed to clarify that it is \$40 per textbook loaned out.

Felix asked whether the bond should be reduced to increase the program’s accessibility. Eden noted these concerns, however SULLS is also concerned about the security of textbooks and the bond is currently the only method of assuring security. Eden also noted that the bonds are refundable and still many books have not been returned, reiterating the importance of the bond. Eden also noted that if the next proposal was passed, the Equity Officer would be able to reduce/waive the bond amount to facilitate the accessibility of the program.

Felix noted that the current cl 71 states that the bond is only released upon return of all textbooks and suggests that to ensure consistency in provisions, the motion should be amended so that the bond is released as each book is returned, as opposed to only when all books have been returned.

Sofia asked Eden whether in a scenario where a recipient receives a highlighted book, whether the bond is released if the book is returned in a usable form but slightly damaged. Eden notes that under cl 73(a) of the Bylaws, highlighting is an indicator that a book is not in good condition, however the Equity Officer has discretion under cl 76 of the Bylaws to decide whether a textbook is in good condition.

**Motion:** to amend the proposed motion by replacing the clause “The bond will be refunded following the return of all textbooks.” in the original cl 71 with “The bond, or any part of the bond, will be refunded following the return of the relevant textbook.”

**Moved:** Tiana Dumonovsky

**Seconded:** Felix Wood

Motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

**Motion:** to amend s 71 to the following: “Successful applicants will be required to pay a AU\$40 bond per textbook loaned to the relevant SULLS Bank account. The bond for each textbook will be refunded following the return of the relevant textbook.”

**Moved:** Eden McSheffrey



**Seconded:** Felix Wood

Motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

b. Creation of discretionary bond waiver/apportionment clause

**Motion:** to open discussion on the creation of a discretionary bond waiver/apportionment clause by adding a new s 71(a) to the Bylaws: “At the discretion of the Equity Officer, a successful applicant may apply to have their bond reduced or waived if, in the opinion of the Equity Officer, they demonstrate severe hardship.”

**Moved:** Eden McSheffrey

**Seconded:** Wendy Hu

Eden proposed adding a discretionary waiver for people with financial issues who may not be able to afford the \$40 bond per book. Given the nature of the program, Eden argued there should be the ability in the bylaws to permit a waiver or reduction in the total amount if an individual reaches out and expresses that the sum is too high for them to afford.

**Motion:** to add a new s 71(a) to the Bylaws “At the discretion of the Equity Officer, a successful applicant may apply to have their bond reduced or waived if, in the opinion of the Equity Officer, they demonstrate severe hardship.”

**Moved:** Eden McSheffrey

**Seconded:** Alison Chen

Motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

c. Creation of discretionary right to exceed maximum textbook loan amount

**Motion:** to open discussion on adding a new s 67(a) to allow for a discretionary right to exceed the maximum textbook loan amount. The new s 67(a) is as follows: “If an applicant expresses interest in borrowing more than four textbooks, the Equity Officer may, at their discretion, either accept or reject their request having regard to the capacity of the program.”

**Moved:** Eden McSheffrey

**Seconded:** Alison Chen

Eden noted that the current loan maximum of four textbooks as stipulated in s 67 of the Bylaws hinders people’s ability to borrow more textbooks. In particular, Eden noted that many students may wish to borrow both a casebook and a textbook to supplement their studies in one subject and he would like to expand access to be able to loan textbooks alongside casebooks.

Alison asked if the section was created to ensure the return of books prior to the next semester. Eden responded that the security for the books still exists in the form of a bond. This change was something Max Vishney (2020 SULS Equity Officer) raised as a potential option for expanding the Equity portfolio.

Wendy suggested appending the proposed section to the end of s 67 rather than adding a new s 67(a) to prevent confusion. Eden states that this may cause s 67 to become too



long and create confusion, and Eden and Alison stated that adding a subsection to s 67 should not be confusing for interpretation purposes.

Mahmoud suggested amending the proposed section so that it has regards to the applicant's needs rather than the capacity of the program. Eden responded that to facilitate the efficient running of the program, requests for additional books should be assessed according to eligibility criteria.

**Motion:** to strike the proposed s 67(a) and propose a new s 67(a) as follows: "If an applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria in section 60, the number of textbooks they may be loaned will be apportioned between a minimum of one textbook and a maximum of four textbooks. However, this limit can be exceeded at the discretion of the Equity Officer, having regard to the capacity of the program."

**Moved:** Wendy Hu

**Seconded:** Eden McSheffrey

Motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

**Motion:** to adopt the new s 67 to the SULLS Bylaws: "If an applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria in section 60, the number of textbooks they may be loaned will be apportioned between a minimum of one textbook and a maximum of four textbooks. However, this limit can be exceeded at the discretion of the Equity Officer, having regard to the capacity of the program."

**Moved:** Alison Chen

**Seconded:** Eden McSheffrey

Motion carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

## 10 Miscellaneous

- a. COVID update from the Law School / Pro Vice Chancellor of Student Life  
Wendy advised that no events will be able to be held within the Law School complex in Semester 1 (owing to logistical difficulties). However, there may be a possible exception for some Competitions rounds and demonstrations (potentially without audience members). Wendy noted that other possible rooms include USU outlets, Colleges and external venues. Alison also noted that USU spaces are available for USU Clubs & Societies to book for free via SPACE.

Calvin asked about the possibility of booking Law Lawns and who the relevant contact is, as there is no option to book Law Lawns via the USU. Wendy advised she is unsure.

Wendy advised that she regularly meets with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Life) along with heads of other Faculty societies and suggests it as a potential forum to raise any future issues.

- b. Chairing future meetings  
Wendy called for Executive members to review the Standing Orders in Appendix 2 of the Constitution and volunteer if they would like to chair a meeting.



- c. Office hours  
Wendy and Alison noted that the Monday 11-12pm office hour timeslot needs to be filled. Once finalised, the Executive office hours will be publicised on our website.
  
- d. Intersarsity Trivia date  
Wendy reported that she has been discussing with other law societies about organising an intersarsity trivia event, and would like feedback on whether it is best to hold the event on week 5, 9 or 10. Felix suggested that a week 5 event might be better than later in the semester due to exam blocks. Sofia suggested that the event could be incorporated into the SULS Wellbeing Week in Week 10. Wendy suggested potentially using college spaces to host the SULS Wellbeing Week.
  
- e. Cohort starter packs  
Wendy notes that the cohort starter packs will be published after the Education Guide is released, and asked Executive members to contribute tips relevant to last year cohort experience to these packs.

**Meeting closed:** 10:27pm