



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY INC.  
ABN 49 844 560 526

Minutes of Executive Meeting held on 15/03/2021  
Chair: Wendy Hu

Meeting opened: 9:09pm

## **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
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
Eden McSheffrey	Equity Officer
Nora Takriti	Women's Officer
Mahmoud Al Rifai	Ethnocultural Officer
Arasa Hardie	Design Director

## **Absent:**

Bru Hammer	Queer Officer
Nathan Allen	First Nations Officer

## **Late:**

Sarah Purvis	Marketing Director
--------------	--------------------

## **Apologies:**

Sissi Xi Chen	International Student Officer
---------------	-------------------------------



## 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 08/03/2021 be accepted.

**Moved:** Alison Chen

**Seconded:** Justin Lai

The motion passed unanimously with zero abstentions.

### 3 Last week updates/shoutouts

Shoutouts for Welcome Week Party and Welcome Back Drinks. Bru, Caroline and Felix reported that Intro to Comps Drinks had quite high attendance and registrations for competitions were at similar level compared to last year. Sofia sought clarification regarding the completion of post-event forms for the USU - Alison to clarify with the USU. The Law School Basics and Tipstaves and Associates panels also went well.

### 4 What's on this week

**Tue:**

- a. SULLS Virtual Office

**Wed:**

- a. Interfaculty sport - Oztag
- b. SULLS Virtual Office

**Thurs:**

- a. Queer Study Hour,
- b. International Students Weekly - Job Hunting

### 5 AGM

Alison reminded Executive members to review the motions proposed for the AGM

### 6 SULLS Statements

Eden attended the Law Education Committee on Friday and debated the University's proposal to introduce 12 week semesters or trimesters. Faculty would like to hear SULLS' stance on this issue. Felix - statement is good but language should be stronger.

Eden noted that the Faculty is against the introduction of a 12 week semester or trimester systems. Several Executive members noted the negative experience of 12 week semester last year, and Sofia highlighted the COVID-19 survey conducted by the Equity portfolio last year and published on Citations as well.



Wendy stated that to the best of her knowledge, other societies are against the proposal as well.

Eden argued that it would be difficult to compare with other universities as many major universities have already shortened or adjusted their teaching terms and that instead, the statement should focus on student wellbeing. Eden also noted there are significant impacts on staff as it affects their ability to conduct research, marking and preparation of teaching materials.

Sinem would like to send the statement to Faculty by midday on Tuesday. She also noted that academic staff have to deal with bigger classes and therefore aren't able to give attention to individual students.

The discussion moved to the second SALS Executive statement regarding graduate qualities. Eden noted that Law is a professional degree and graduates are being accredited for a specific thing. Felix thought it's super perverse to be making these assessable, beyond their impact on employability and educational experience. Sinem noted that students change and fluctuate, and that it's unfair to label students on something they can change - psychologically influenced.

Felix also argued that when something becomes assessable, it changes the way things are perceived and students focus on. Justin noted that we should clarify that we are opposed to the assessment of the qualities, rather than the value of the graduate qualities themselves. Eden suggested that at a bare minimum, the grading for graduate qualities should not be recorded on a transcript.

## 7 Careers Mentoring update

Cameron and the autonomous portfolios will work further on engaging industry mentors. Wendy and Cameron are hoping to have an in-person component to the Careers Mentoring Program Launch, but also integrate the AV system to ensure that remote students can also join online. There was also a discussion of possible venues for the inter-cohort mentoring launch.

## 8 First year bonding

Onor proposed a double session and a lunch, or morning session (11:15-12:15pm) + lunch OR lunch + afternoon (2-3pm). \$35 pp for two sessions, would be \$40pp including pizza lunch. If one session + lunch, \$22pp. The proposed date is Saturday Week 4 or Week 5 (Easter). Wendy suggested that one session is a good price point and includes lunch, and perhaps to anticipate timing - put out a 'save the date' or 'look out for' 27 March.

Onor noted that before SALS buys a session, need to know how many people are attending. Socials are currently planning for 6 groups of 20 people to do an activity at SkyZone and lunch at Sydney Park. It was suggested that we perhaps provide an option to just go to the lunch.

Sofia asked how we would be able to cater our events to JD students, noting that we had received feedback from JD students. Wendy suggested that

Caroline also noted that she had received feedback during the campaign that students of particular religious beliefs are not able to participate in events on certain days of the week. Wendy suggested that we try and make one initiative on a non-typical social day e.g. not weekends.



**10 Advertising external events/opportunities, particularly non-sponsors etc**

Cameron received a request from an organisation/business to advertise their law student website, and would like to hear the Executive's thoughts on advertising similar opportunities. He also declared a conflict of interest as he is also involved with the organisation.

Felix and Justin suggested that SULLS should consider advertising if it is a genuine opportunity that would add value to law students. Wendy also noted that SULLS officers a non-corporate sponsorship package and that we should consider advertising unique opportunities that are not run by SULLS. She noted that historically, SULLS has been very careful of its reach and only advertise opportunities that **directly** relate to law students. If it is not going through one of our sponsorship packages, if it is an educative and informative opportunity and students can get a lot more benefits than the organisation would gain, and is not in direct competition.

Felix posed a hypothetical situation whether SULLS would advertise an SRC student survey regarding 12 week semesters. Wendy responded if all faculty societies are advertising it, SULLS should join in as well.

Alison noted that SULLS needs to consider if our partnerships are mutually beneficial and don't compete with what we're already. Wendy noted that in 2019, the Executive had extensive discussions regarding whether they should advertise the STEM Law Society but concluded that we would not advertise them.

Gretel stated that if we post things that aren't sponsored or paid for, it needs to be adding a lot of value to SULLS members. Wendy added that we have non-corporate sponsorship packages available as well - able to still engage with not for profit societies.

Prior to discussing the proposed advertising request, Cameron left the room.

Alison noted that SULLS had initial interactions with the organisation through a Citations article published on that page, and members of the previous Executive were fine with the collaboration as that organisation was also promoting the Citations on their page as well, which was mutually beneficial for both sides. However, we now need to assess whether our relationships are mutually beneficial and whether they are offering something that SULLS doesn't offer. Further, Alison noted that we should set somewhat objective criteria so we don't put pressure on ourselves to make subjective judgments every time we receive similar opportunities. .

Felix noted that even though the organisation is not for profit, it is still a business and it is not a specific opportunity as much as it is an organisation seeking to increase their members. Justin argued that there is a very tangential link between how students could benefit from the promotion and usage of their company and the benefits which SULLS gives to the company in terms of reach.

Wendy also noted that we don't want to overpopulate our social media feeds we post enough as it is. The Executive agreed not to promote the opportunity.

Cameron returned to the room.



**11 Community Investment Project**

Sophia asked if SULLS wanted to run the Community Investment Initiative this year, which was unable to run last year due to the pandemic. It involves a deserving community organisation, chosen by shortlisted nominations and then an Executive vote, towards which selected events' proceeds over the year will form one donation.

Felix suggested that we make it explicitly a big focus for Semester 2. Justin noted that we don't want people to forget it over the holidays so bump it at the beginning of the Semester.

Sofia suggested that we could potentially ask for gold coin donations at the beginning of camps, however Alison noted that SULLS is now cashless and we would need to reevaluate this option.

Felix suggested that we have a launch event at the start of the semester and all proceeds go to our nominated charity, and Wendy suggested that we could perhaps put the charity to a vote by SULLS members.

The Executive decided we should run the initiative as a more focussed initiative in Semester 2, with a callout for nominations at the end of Semester 1.

**12 COVID-19 Guidelines update**

Wendy informed Executive members that venues not within the University Venues system are not subject to the same rigorous cleaning regime. She advised Executive members to be very forward planning and communicative with events to try and secure some Sem 2 events in person. Wendy has asked the Dean of the Law School for a list of criteria they would like from SULLS - venue, capacity, timing, students, guests, etc. Another potential option that was suggested is the alumni space in the Law Library, which includes three rooms that SULLS could book for use through the Law Library.

Calvin reported that he has not received an update from Central University regarding booking outdoor spaces, such as Law Lawns. He will continue to follow up with Central University and report back.

**13 SULLS committees**

Committee-wide component from 10:00-11:30 - online. At their discretion, Executives may wish to organise informal committee meetings in-person at the conclusion of the online component.

**14 Office hours**

Please finalise any changes to the roster

**15 Mental health first aid training session**

Option 3: Sat 10 April, Sun 11 April (10am-4pm) in person

**Meeting closed: 10:38pm**