

**2nd Extraordinary Meeting of the
111th UQ Union Clubs and Societies Committee Minutes**

12:00 PM

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2022

UQU Upstairs Boardroom

Chair: Rheanna Norris

The chair declared the meeting open at 12: 13 PM and made acknowledgement of the traditional owners and custodians of the land and wished to pay respects to the elders' past, present and emerging.

1. Attendance

Members Present:

Rheanna Norris
Ajay Chungath
Bradley James Plant
Finn Larson
James Hohl

Apologies & Leave:

None

Proxies:

Jessica Mills to James Hohl
Josephine Zhang to Ajay Chungath
Bradley James Plant to Barclay McGain

Others Present:

Katherine Jones
Granada Miranda
Nick Wyle
Jaafar Jabur
Kritim Dhakal
Barclay McGain
Hannah Thaesler
Payton Te Ngaio
Matthew Pereira
Hughston Parle
Emily Ryan
Rahul Samkruthyayan(Minutes)

Resignations

None

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE 4TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED.

C&S 111/50

NORRIS/HOHL

CARRIED

3. Business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

None

4. Requests for starrng/approval of items not starred en bloc

None

5. Reports of the Elected Officers- Campus Culture VP

The Campus Culture VP gave an oral report informing the committee that the grants are released and gave a brief on the process that underwent to figure out a system that benefits the majority.

It was moved

THAT THE REPORT OF CAMPUS CULTURE VP BE ACCEPTED AND APPROVED

C&S 111/51

NORRIS/CHUNGATH

CARRIED

6. Matters arising from the reports of the Elected Officers

None

7. Question Time

None

8. Business which has been proposed:

a) Ratifications:

Gatton International Student Association

The representatives Amrita and Cara entered the meeting at 12:21 PM.

The representatives explained to the members of the committee the aim of their proposed club is to bridge the perceived gap between domestic and international students at Gatton Campus.

They aim to bring more cultural awareness and diversity in a holistic environment inclusive of everyone. The representatives were queried on why the club was being proposed as hobby/interest group rather than as international and the

representatives believe hobby/interest group classification aligns more with their aim of inclusivity.

The initial intended events are a movie night, celebration of upcoming South Asian festivals, Food stall during Winter Carnival at Gatton and events during Harmony Week and floating the idea of weekly sport events.

The representatives were asked on the level of interest at Gatton regarding the proposed club and they informed the committee that they had a soft opening with about 60 people and are currently in the process to create more awareness. The representatives informed the committee they are looking to have a first-year rep along with reps from each presidential hall as part of executive team.

The representatives left the meeting at 12:28 PM

The committee discussed the proposal, found no conflicting clubs in existence or any potential issues with the proposal and agreed that the proposed club should be categorised as International.

It was moved

THAT THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY GATTON INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION BE RATIFIED AS UQU CLUB ON THE BASIS THAT THEY BE CATEGORIZED AS INTERNATIONAL CLUB

C&S 111/52

NORRIS/HOHL

CARRIED

UQ Aeroponics

The representative Kritim Dhakal addressed the committee at 12:30 PM

The representative explained to the members of the committee that the proposed club aims to promote building of sustainable future through advanced systems. Aeroponics was briefly explained as building of vertical towers where plants are grown using nutrient rich water pumped from the base to the top of the tower and does not involve usage of soil.

They did a couple of sample surveys among under graduates and postgraduates and found the responses positive towards forming a club to discuss and encourage Aeroponics. Their petition of interest has around 42 signatures, with the interest primarily centred around Earth and Environmental Sciences.

In response to the committee query on if they can be represented within an existing club or align closely with something that involves their proposal, the representative replied that distinct identity and representation would help better promote detailed farming practices like these and promote innovative technologies involving such practices.

Their initial intended activities include workshops in Brisbane, having a small space to initially build a tower, grow fresh produce in it and then use the produce in barbecue events. The representative highlighted the fact that associating students

with PNF for this purpose not only increase awareness and provide opportunities but also save resources for the University.

They have significant interest amongst students to participate as volunteers. In response to a question on the timeline of the club having a structure and a set direction, the representative replied that their action plan involves securing funds for workshops, have professionals give lectures on the ecosystem, the feasibilities of building the system from scratch or buying in existing forms, maintaining them to be followed by Faculty of Science workshops to formulate a design that can be built at affordable prices. First year students are to be part of proposed executive team to ensure continuity of club running into the future.

The representative left the meeting at 12:43 PM.

The committee discussed the proposal and agreed with the merits of it.

It was moved

THAT THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY UQ AEROPONICS BE RATIFIED AS UQU CLUB

C&S 111/53

NORRIS/HOHL

CARRIED

b) Affiliations

UQ Pakistani association be affiliated

It was moved

THAT THE UQ PAKISTANI ASSOCIATION BE AFFILIATED AS UQU CLUB

C&S 111/54

NORRIS/LARSON

CARRIED

c) Disaffiliations

None

d) Financial Record Requests

UQ Interfaculty Competitions

Jason Cheung, Emily Searle, Cara Rowe, Radhika Peddibhotla entered the meeting at 12:50 PM.

Bradley James Plant read out the following statement at the meeting.

“UQ Union and this committee regulates affiliated clubs and societies. UQIC may have appeared to some individuals to be an affiliated body, but the bottom line is it is no more than a relationship of cooperation between two independent entities. In 2010 the current UQ Union president Michael Zivcic founded UQIC going on to be the first UQIC president in 2011. UQIC partnering with UQ Union in 2011 led to maintain the illusion that UQU had some ultimate control over clubs and societies. Throughout the years that in practice the UQ Union has no jurisdiction over any

clubs and societies which are unincorporated associations governed by its members. In the case of UQIC, it is an incorporated association and UQ union is not empowered to exercise any control whatsoever. Bottomline is UQIC is not affiliated with UQU and thus has no jurisdiction to touch the funding, that UQU allocated to us. Nor does this committee have any jurisdiction to make a ruling on the matter. UQ has allocated the SSAF funds to go directly to UQIC and now these funds are not going to where they have been allocated. UQIC just wants its funding to resume so we can continue to deliver the services we need to almost 1000 students who participate in their competitions. And now we have been dragged through 12 weeks of what has been referred to as a preliminary investigation and there has been absolutely no progress. The allegations of misappropriate use of funds have no substance, UQIC has not engaged any conduct contrary to which the funds have been provided. Nowhere has it been substantiated to backup these claims and no funds have been provided for the year of 2022. UQIC has made it clear in our communications to UQ Union that for any complaint to be considered, it must be in writing, and it must be supported by evidence. This is the standard UQ Union set for clubs & societies, and this is the standard UQIC expected UQ Union to maintain. Over the past 12 weeks, UQ Union has ignored or refused all original requests by UQIC. Today we are discussing UQIC and yet UQIC did not receive any written notice or invitation to attend this meeting. UQIC also did not receive any motion in writing or receive any opportunity to respond in writing to any motion. This is a violation of R 158.3. UQ Union also has refused on multiple occasions to provide the complaints in redacted form. UQ Union has refused on multiple occasions to provide evidence to support their complaints, UQ Union has failed on multiple occasions to explain what outcome UQ Union and the complainants are seeking. UQ Union has ignored our requests to drop this investigation if they are unwilling to provide the evidence. UQ Union has not treated UQIC like a partner, UQ Union has not conducted this investigation fairly. This relationship between UQIC and UQ Union is no longer mutually beneficial. In order to protect the reputation of UQIC and all that we found and build over the past 11 years, today, UQIC ends that relationship with UQ Union”

Bradley James plant left the meeting at 1:00 PM.

Radhika Peddibhotla informed the committee that the university provides SSAF funding to the union on the understanding that the Union is going to have the ultimate responsibility of distributing the SSAF funds, governed by legislation in part as well as obligations to the University and the students.

She clarified that the University provides the Union with money and the Union is responsible for administering that money across all portfolios of the Union. If the Union sees issues with the way any portfolio or department is handling the student money, the Union should and will take all necessary precautions to ensure the money is handled the right way.

She informed the members of the committee that the student executives are not involved in the investigation and the preliminary investigation is being handled by the General Managers Glenda Jacobs, Clint Wooler, and Jason Cheung.

There was disagreement among members with the tabling of this motion or requesting the financial records through C&S Committee, with Hughston Parle questioning request of records by C&S Committee, Hannah Thaesler and Matthew Pereira opining that UQIC is not an affiliated club, with Matthew Pereira further mentioning that C&S committee has no authority, and that Council would rather be the appropriate forum for these discussions or request of records.

Finance Manager Jason Cheung explained to the members of the committee on the timeline of events so far, the steps taken and requests for information initiated by the Union till date and why the investigation is stalled at this stage.

Jason Cheung, Emily Searle, and Radhika Peddibhotla left the meeting at 1:15 PM.

The members present enquired regarding the general nature of the complaints and if the investigation can be conducted even in Brad's absence. The members voiced in agreement that the Union should keep in mind the students as well as activities of UQIC being affected meanwhile and that the issue needs to be resolved at the earliest.

e) Grant by Application- Terms of Reference Approval

Cara Rowe explained to the members of the committee the terms of reference proposed for grants applications. She explained that any clubs that run any initiatives that fall under the three categories of strengthen the relationship between domestic and international students, improve student experiences on campuses outside St. Lucia, that serve community or charitable purpose can apply for the grants funding.

Finn Larson queried if guarantees and loans are provided too or strictly bursaries and Cara Rowe clarified that only bursaries are provided. Hughston Parle asked about the guarantees against losses, Cara Rowe replied that bursaries are the easiest way to go about it for now but a consultation process involving Emily Ryan will be involved as C&S evaluates proposals and there will be a transparent structure for the C&S committee as well as the applicants in the process.

Hughston Parle while being encouraging of the initiative asked why these criteria differ from UQU constitution and Cara Rowe replied that because of the impact of COVID-19, certain events had to be encouraged and these are not long-term objectives for the Union.

It was moved

THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GRANT BY APPLICATION BE
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED

C&S 111/55

NORRIS/CHUNGATH

CARRIED

9. General Business

None

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1:44 PM