

# UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the  
113<sup>th</sup> UQ Union Council, 2024

6:00 PM  
Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**Holt Room**  
**UQ Union Complex, St. Lucia**

## a) Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open at 6:24 PM and acknowledged the traditional owners and custodians of the land, paying respect to their elders' past, present, and emerging, and extended the respects to the aboriginal and Torres strait islander people present at the meeting.

## b) Credentials:

**The following were present**

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Student Executives and Officers</b>	<b>Observers</b>
Samuel Wong	Angus McRae	Ella Gutteridge
Bryce Muir	Alex Smock	Liam Parry
Will Sim	TJ Polataivao-Reupena	Jeremy Wong
Banipreet Kaur	Jeryn Chang	
Anton Risch	Jordy Duffey	
Russell Huang	Samuel Lee	
Asha Coles	Skye Taylor	
Ryan Black	Laura Nolan	
John An	Louisa McCarthy	
Ryan McDonald	Yash Koppula	
Kaine Kenendy	Anshul Phaugat	
Felicia Clararetta	Sophy Barlow	
Nomhle Putuka	Alex Wei	
Barclay McGain	Hugh O'Donnell	
Felix McCoy	Chavelle Liu	
Kyel Steensma	Samantha Law	
Zandro Lagman	Nina Ko	
Lareina Liu	Dylan Thomas	
	Grace Leshan	

## **Apologies and Leave:**

### **The following proxies were received:**

Grace Dowdle to Samuel Wong  
Richard Liu to Lareina Liu  
Kate Beahan to Bryce Muir  
Ryan McDonald to Jeanette Hodgson  
Millicent Power to Steven Zhang  
Ankur Ganvir to Zandro Lagman

### **c) Resignations**

### **d) Elections**

The Chair noted that the election of academic teams funding board is on the agenda and invited the Union Secretary to update the council.

Union Secretary Alex Smock requested the Chair for the item to be rolled over to the next meeting taking into consideration the impending communication from the returning officer.

### **e) Requests for starring/approval or noting of the items not starred *en bloc***

*Will Sim starred VP Student Rights Report*

### **President's Report:**

President Angus McRae gave an oral report to the council updating the members about the ongoing negotiations with the University over various issues. He highlighted for the Council that the Union vehemently disagrees with the University view that most student unions are solely reliant on SSAF, and that the Union should be able to function with the increase in the allocated SSAF percentage. Angus further observed how factors like loss of physiol, maintenance costs for the Union, interpretation of how SSAF can be spent, restriction or reduction in revenue generating opportunities for the Union are in direct contradiction to the University view that the Union has been offered support and opportunities.

Angus informed the council that the proposed options for decant of the Union spaces have been deemed not in the best interests of the students or representative of students and furthermore, they are inadequate to support the services to students by the Union in their current form, which will only expand further.

Angus spoke to the council about the ongoing engagement and outreach to various bodies and those in public life, to ensure the Union's views and stance are heard, understood, and supported to give a fillip to the Union's negotiations with the University.

Angus reiterated for the Council that the Union will always advocate for the continuing control and operation of the Union Complex spaces by the students and that any dilution from the current arrangement by the University will not be acceptable.

In response to a query, Angus mentioned that the current position of the Union is to engage with the University in good faith regardless of the prevailing situation before it is assessed whether to go into a campaign mode.

Various members agreed to actively engage with the students and create awareness on the potential impact of the University stance and the ongoing flux, on the Union and its services to the students.

To the proposal of having a public general meeting where University authorities are invited to debate with the student executive and/or representatives, Union Secretary Alex Smock noted the sentiments expressed thus far and highlighted that Union will be formulating a response and after formalizing the ongoing bigger conversations amongst all spaces and stakeholders of the Union, led primarily by the students.

### **Union Secretary's Report:**

Union Secretary Alex Smock gave an oral report stating that his time since the last council meeting was focused on a lot of the administration and governance of the Union, ongoing incorporation process and engaging with the various units and stakeholders about the impact on Union and collating a collaborative response in negotiations with the University. He quoted the example of the signage around Union complex spaces that highlighted the dangers of the funding cuts to the Union, the responses to which and the strong position of the Union on the matter, was noted by the University.

Will Sim starred the VP Student Rights report querying on the cost-of-living week event held under the Union aegis and opined that it is objectionable and patronizing while the giveaway of vouchers from Coles as stating support to the students when in fact Coles is one of the major businesses profiting from the cost-of-living crisis, is condemnable. He further queried on why such an event was held. Asha Coles further mentioned that cost of living is a broader topic affecting students in more ways than one and that doing giveaways or offers to pay rent for a month is against the spirit of the Union.

VP Student Rights Jordy Duffey clarified to the members that it was an initiative run by the SAS team and not through the student rights. Jordy agreed with the sentiments expressed about the event and mentioned that the feedback will be considered and discussed with the team for future planning. Jordy highlighted for the members that the intention of any such initiative is always to support the students.

In response to a query regarding the efficacy of approaching or appealing to the governments with data on issues affecting students, Jordy mentioned that the recently conducted cost of living crisis survey was done with the involvement and/or consultation of key stakeholders

especially the NUS and that the importance of survey as a tool of engagement and analysis cannot be discounted. Jordy Duffey stressed for the members on the importance of gathering student voices and being representative of them at each step through engagement and evaluation of views expressed by the students.

**f) Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Meeting**

*It was moved*

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 114<sup>TH</sup> UQ  
UNION COUNCIL HELD ON FEBRAURY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2024 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED  
COUNCIL 113/14                      SMOCK/RHYS                                              CARRIED

*It was moved*

TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS EXCEPT STARRED EN BLOC  
COUNCIL 113/15                                                                                              CARRIED

CONFIRMED

**g) Business arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting**

*None*

**h) Matters Arising from Reports of Elected Officers**

*None*

**i) Question Time**

Rhys queried the VP C&S on the resumption of facilities and the usage of the BBQ sizzle area by the clubs and societies highlighting that it is often used for fundraising by various clubs and queried on the timeline. V C&S Jaafar Jabur replied that a request has been made with the UQ properties and facilities team and the remedial works are currently awaited.

In response to a query about the typos in the recent edition of *Semper*, Editor Dylan Thomas acknowledged the inadvertent errors and apologized for the same.

Laura Nolan queried about the timeline for fixing the elevator towards the UQ lakes busway and Angus McRae replied that the issue has been constantly raised with the University for the past 6 years and like various structural and maintenance issues around the Union Complex, they continue to stay neglected by the University.

UQU GM Operations Clint Wooler updated the council that the lift was expected to be serviced by the end of the week.

**j) Reports of Union Bodies**

*Nil.*

**k) Business Proposed**

**UQU 2024 Budget**

UQU Treasurer Tapenaga Reupena Jr. offered his respects to the traditional owners of the land and spoke on the importance of recognition of the shared bonds of history and struggle of the indigenous communities across the world.

TJ did a welcome address in Samoan language thanking the members present along with the fellow student executives and office bearers in their support and contribution to the Union in student cause and services.

TJ informed the members that this year's SSAF allocation to the UQU will be 50% of the total SSAF with 5% earmarked for APS.

TJ highlighted for the members that the increase in SSAF allocation comes with an increasing expectation from the University to cover the shortfalls in the services provided by the University and hence, it should be seen not necessarily as an increase but that it will offset the range and amount of services increasingly delivered by the Union.

The members were briefed on the priorities for the Union 2024, delivering the promises made during the election campaign last year, more bursaries have been added to various portfolios considering the increasing needs of the students, enhanced and increase in number of events, advocacy, and support to the students. TJ highlighted for the members that half of the campaign promises have already been delivered with the rest already at various stages of implementation.

TJ noted for the Council that the SSAF funding allocated will be \$7.91 million dollars, the operating fund to the tune of 1.3 million dollars and that UQ has informed the Union that continuity fund will be used for the decant and rebuilding of the Union Complex instead of the hitherto promised return of funds to the Union. TJ further mentioned that no further communication has been made by UQ about the fund or its transfer to UQU.

The Council was updated that the Union will prioritise Student Engagement, Campous Experience for the students and improved health and wellbeing of the students this year and the various parameters and delivery mechanisms were mentioned.

The Union priorities for the year were noted as below :

- Improving the overall quality and accessibility of resources and services provided by the Union.
- Fostering a sense of community and inclusivity within the student body through union-led events and initiatives
- Increasing student engagement and participation in union activities and decision-making process.
- Focus on a cultural change through and within the Union

The financial results for the year 2023 were noted as BT Net Deficit of \$33,568 against a budgeted Net deficit of \$31,387 with a variance of -6.95 %, SS Net Deficit of \$327,393 against a budgeted net Deficit of \$353,239, BT Corporate Support with a surplus of \$316,523 against a budgeted surplus of \$230,220 with a healthy variance of 37.49 % leading to a total of \$44,437 surplus before depreciation. The Net Surplus after depreciation was noted as \$781,125 with a variance of 53.55 %.

*It was moved*

CONFIRMED  
THAT THE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS MOVE IN-CAMERA TO DISCUSS BT BUDGET  
COUNCIL 113/16 CARRIED

*It was moved*

THAT THE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS MOVE OFF CAMERA  
COUNCIL 113/17 SMOCK/ADAMS CARRIED

The following facts were highlighted for notice of the members:

- UQ maintenance fee of \$200k will continue to be waived.
- Depreciation will be to the tune of -\$727k.
- Wages increase by 0.5 % in January 2024 and 5% in July 2024 and super to be increased by 5 % in July 2024
- Bank Charges for the Union reduce to nil resulting in a saving of about \$110k while electricity costs are expected to be increased by 50% (a rise of about \$190k)

The projected closing cash balance for the Union for the year 2024 is expected to be \$2,559,000.

The Council was informed that most of the Union outlets are expected to be making profits of various range this year while bookshop is projected to make a small loss, while Red Room and Main Course will be in the red but that the initial numbers seem positive so far.

The members noted the fact that increase in the marketing spend under the student service budget was due to increase in staffing to facilitate the increasing utilization for student services and engagement and enhancement of student services.

The Student Executive and Governance Budget will be utilized for Union visibility and promotions, student consultation, governance, Council, executive project funds and engagement with student bodies and programs, totalling to the amount of \$194,035.

The SAS team goals and priorities for the year were noted as Student Outreach and engagement across campuses with focus on preventative interventions and provision of resources, focus on welfare-based events and increased bursaries, building stronger partnerships with community agencies and taking a proactive role in compliance and influencing UQ Policy, with a total budget of \$330,574.

The goals for the Campus Culture- Events and Activities portfolio were noted as Organizing and hosting a wide variety of engaging events to boost social and student life on campus, promoting cultural diversity, inclusion and community engagement by holding cultural festivals from a range of diverse backgrounds, collaborate with clubs and societies for cultural sharing and collaboration, with a budget of \$509,000.

The goals for VP Campus Culture – Clubs and Societies were noted as doubling the new club startup grants and provide more equitable funding for smaller clubs, increasing the number of club executive events to increase networking opportunities, offer more professional development workshops to support club executives and foster student leadership, with a budget of \$526,100.

The Goals and Priorities for the Student rights portfolio were noted as advocating and providing welfare and wellbeing support for UQ students, especially those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and marginalised communities, building a robust academic advocacy network to ensure the student voice heard by the university and promoting awareness of community, student issues, and student advocacy through the students rights collective, with a budgeted amount of \$831,800 with the inclusion of the provision of subsidised offerings to students through mates rates.

The Goals and priorities for the G&S – Queer portfolio were noted as facilitating a more diverse and extensive queer community on campus through events and resources, connecting queer students with the wider queer community to promote a stronger community and provide queer people with more options in and outside University, provide resources and support to queer students including financial support, food, health & safety resources , a safe space, and specific queer resources.

Barclay McGain queried why the events like pride ball are run at a loss and further mentioned that these events are not important, and that the money is better spent on covering the deficit for the year.

TJ replied that revenue made from such events go back into the portfolios and supporting the portfolio and that subsidized prices are necessary to ensure representation and participation of all students in events and activities.

In response to a query from Barclay on the increase in the gender affirmation bursaries, Skye Stewart replied that there has been an increase in the needs of the students and the bursaries go towards essential support such as clothing, medicine and other essential items.

The Goals and priorities for the G&S – Women’s portfolio was noted as engaging with more students through the collective and providing them with a supportive space for women or gender fluid students, enhanced advocacy towards gender equality, addressing issues of discrimination and harassment, work towards an inclusive environment and proactive advocacy efforts to influence University policies and practices.

The Goals and priorities for the postgraduate portfolio were noted as providing financial support to postgraduate(coursework) students enrolled in placements, sponsor HDR students to enhance their academic and professional development, providing support to postgraduate students who are parents, provision of comprehensive career advisory services to postgraduate students, fostering networking and relationships between postgraduate students and staff.

TJ highlighted for the members that the Union will always be representative of both undergraduate and postgraduate students and that it will continue to support the postgraduate students alongside with APS.

The Goals and priorities for the International portfolio were noted as enhancement of integration of international students and facilitate cultural exchange, provide robust systems of support for international students, including language assistance, academic mentoring, and mental health resources.

The Goals and priorities for the disability collective were noted as representation and advocacy for students with disabilities, celebrating the creativity and artistic expression of disabled students at UQ, raising awareness about disabilities, support for the welfare and wellbeing of the disabled students at UQ.

The Goals and priorities for the Gatton Campus under the Union aegis are extensive engagement with the students and enhanced Union outreach and support to the students at Gatton Campus.

The Goals and priorities for Herston Campus were noted as liaising with SAS team to raise awareness of services available to students, more inclusive events, advocacy for increased placement support, engagement with APS to focus on HDR students, increase in welfare initiatives for students and provision of healthier offerings to students at Herston.



APS HDR President Richard Lee and Treasurer TJ in response to a question that the increase in budget for Herston is in line with the increase in services and initiatives at Herston, and it is to be noted that the number of students at Herston Campus is considerable in number along the lines of Gatton Campus.

The Goals and priorities for the Goorie Berrimpa collective were noted as to further increase the engagement of indigenous students, and to further increase the engagement and promotion of goorie events along with enhanced space for opportunities for cultural engagement among goorie members, thereby ensuring a inclusive and culturally safe environment.

The Goals and priorities of the Colleges for the year were noted as to ensure a robust and diverse intercollege community through a range of sporting, charitable and social events.

The Goals and priorities for the medical portfolio were noted as to develop personal and professional skills of students, better networking for students to explore career paths and continue focus on initiatives like Careers networking fair, mental health matters and provision of support to medical groups affiliated with UQMS through Medical School Board funding.

The Goals and priorities for the Environmental portfolio were noted as to create a network of students who care about the environment and social issues and share aims of advocating for climate action and social justice, increase the participation of UQ students within Brisbane environmental and social justice space, and contribute to the sense of belonging and experience for students on campus.

The Goals and priorities for Semper for the year were noted as turning the semper print editions into an informative, creative and expressive magazine that students would like to read, running events and projects which aim to build a platform for students expressive material and media, and cultivating a community and network of student journalists, writers and other creatives on campus.

## **1) Q&A**

Barclay Mcgain queried on the environment portfolio budget and the event in question was clarified as climate change conference.

To a query on whether educational campaign component was involved in the part time employability program of the international collective, TJ mentioned that worker rights would generally be part of such campaigns, and that further sessions with RTA are being planned.

In response to a query on international talent event, TJ clarified that it was not held last year and the expectation was that it will be run online and with no costs involved

Jacinto Hodus queried on the international belonging event and TJ mentioned that it will be events happening across campuses where international students will have a meet and greet with fellow international students across the semesters.

Jacinto Hedus further queried on the significant amount allocated for Gatton market day budget and TJ clarified that the difference is because of the actual costs and budgeted costs were different, and that the budget for Gatton board is also reflected in line with the portfolio allocation.

In response to a query on the Llamas and ice-cream event of SAS and how it fits with the advocacy and/or support of the students, along with the potential concerns with the wellbeing of the animals, TJ mentioned that the feedback will be passed on to the SAS team, and that the intention is to promote a sense of wellbeing of the students

Louis McCarthy further mentioned that while it is not only about amounts and the welfare of the animals involved in Llamas & ice creams, but also events like C&S executive events, goes against the spirit and priorities of the student union especially in the current climate of attacks against the future and funding of the Union.

TJ clarified that most of such mentioned events are about inclusivity and fostering a sense of community.

*Laura Nolan was named by the chair for disrupting the proceedings.*

The chair highlighted for the members on the importance of maintaining the decorum of the proceedings.

Barclay McGain queried on the process for passing the budget while considering the members may have issues with certain items and/or spending and TJ mentioned that it is the prerogative of the Council.

Ella mentioned that Council is a forum to raise the priorities of the Union.

*It was moved*

THAT THE TOGA PARTY ALLOCATION BE REMOVED FROM THE BUDGET

COUNCIL 114/18

NOT CARRIED

Jeromy queried on whether the APS budget can be sighted by the council and it was clarified that it up to the APS to make its financials available to the students

To a query on how the Kampus Kitchen program is being run with more increased capacity keeping in mind the increase in budget, TJ noted that the increase is reflected in the increasing number of students availing the service as well as expansion of the service across campuses.

In response to a query on the plan to decrease the deficit of 45k before depreciation, TJ mentioned that the plan is to increase the engagement of the students with the Union services and activities including the business trading outlets as well as various events run by the Union.

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQU BUDGET 2024 BE APPROVED AND CONFIRMED EN BLOC

COUNCIL 114/ 19

REUPENA JR./ADAMS

CARRIED

**RECORDED VOTE :**

Samuel Wong FOR  
Grace Dowdle Proxy FOR  
Bryce Muir FOR  
Yuqi(Richard) Liu Proxy FOR  
Zandro Lagman Proxy FOR  
Kate Beahan Proxy FOR  
Will Sim FOR  
Bani kaur FOR  
Lareina(liu) Liu FOR  
Anton Risch FOR  
Russell Huang FOR  
Asha Coles FOR  
Ryan Black FOR  
John An FOR  
Ryan McDonald Proxy FOR  
Kaine Kennedy FOR  
Millicent Power Proxy FOR  
Ankur Ganvir Proxy FOR  
Felicia Clararetta FOR  
Nomhie Putuka FOR  
Barclay McGain ABSTAIN  
Felix McCoy FOR  
Kyel Steensma FOR

CONFIRMED

**m) Other business Proposed.**

Richard Lee informed the members on the background for the proposed official name for the Union post incorporation and that the option to remove ltd for some aspects of the Union is still available.

Angus McRae mentioned that the step is needed to ensure the preservation and continuance of the Union identity and that its association with the students continues and that the students should continue to decide the representation of name.

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQU COUNCIL RESOLVES TO ENDORSE THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS AND TRADING NAME OF UQU AS UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND UNION LTD SUBJECT TO THE COUNCIL PREORATGIVE TO REMOVE THE LTD IN THE NAME IN FUTURE IF THE COUNCIL CHOOSES TO DO SO

COUNCIL 114/20

LEE/MCRAE

CARRIED

*Jason Cheung and Clint Wooler left the meeting at 8:48 PM.*

### **LNA affiliation appeal suspension**

The Chair clarified to the members that the intent of the motion movers is to revoke the decision of the council at the last meeting, whereby the affiliation of the UQ LNA was overturned.

Sam Adams mentioned that if the contention is that the councillors would have made a different voting decision if the list of signatures was sighted, then it is a wrong presumption on part of the movers of the motion.

The Chair declared a recess of 10 minutes for the members to review the evidence.

The Chair resumed the council proceedings at 9:14 PM.

Barclay mentioned on the standard practices under the aegis of the Union constitution and the processes followed for the affiliation of clubs and societies. Barclay further mentioned that the discrepancy needs to be highlighted and/or understood before the council decides to revisit the decision previously made.

Jeremy mentioned that the argument of Barclay stands valid only if the two bodies exist while in this instance, the striking of one body had already happened.

Sam Adams mentioned that it needs to be clarified that the motion on the floor is not about the CPA and the Chair concurred.

Sam Adams mentioned that there is no reason for any councillor to change their mind even in the evidence that was submitted to the councillors now and further highlighted on how such practices are bad precedence for students misusing the opportunity to start a club for nefarious reasons and urged the councillors to vote down this motion in the interests of the students and the Union.

Jeremy queried whether there is a mathematical component to the question of similarity and the Chair mentioned that the regulations state substantially similar and it is to the interpretation of the council.

Sam Adams mentioned that in this instance his opinion would be 90% of councillors would count as substantial.

Barclay mentioned that the noted similarity was 34 out of 36, which is 94.44% similarity. And further urged the councillors to vote against the motion.

Sam Adams highlighted for the members that it is the duty of the Council to ensure that two bodies of similarities are not allowed to exist.

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQU COUNCIL VOTE IN FAVOUR OF SUSPENSION OF THE UQ LNA  
APPEAL UPHeld BY THE COUNCIL PREVIOUSLY

COUNCIL 114/21

CARRIED

**RECORDED VOTE:**

Samuel Wong ABSENT

Grace Dowdle Proxy ABSENT

Bryce Muir FOR

Yuqi(Richard) Liu Proxy AGAINST

Zandro Lagman ABSTAIN

Kate Beahan Proxy FOR

Will Sim ABSENT

Bani Kaur FOR

Lareina(liu) Liu ABSENT

Anton Risch FOR

Russell Huang proxy FOR

Asha Coles ABSENT

Ryan Black AGAINST

John An FOR

Ryan McDonald Proxy FOR

Kaine Kennedy ABSENT

Millicent Power Proxy FOR

Ankur Ganvir Proxy ABSTAIN

Felicia Clararetta AGAINST

Nomhie Putuka AGAINST

Barclay McGain AGAINST

Felix McCoy FOR

Kyel Steensma AGAINST

*There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8:38 PM*