

# UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the  
112<sup>th</sup> UQ Union Council, 2023

6:00 PM  
Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**Holt Room**  
UQ Union Complex, St. Lucia  
Chair: Alex Smock

## a) Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open at 6:29 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>
Jacinto Hedus	Richard Lee	Michael Walker
Claire Sturm	Greta Simpson	Ryan Black
Timothy Hirsch	Joshua Marsh	Richard Liu
Toby Abrahamson	Anshul Phaugat	Sam Adams
Carmi More	Daniel Chancellor	Oscar Keith
Ryan McDonald	Jordy Duffy	
Max Thompson	Emily Lee	
Lily Cooke	Ahmed Abdulmunem	
Karsten Duvel	Saumya Jain	
Matthew George Pereira	Jeryn Chang	
Lily Cooke	Erin Blyth	
Skye Stewart	Ryley Calvert	
Claire Sturm	TJ Polataivao- Reupena	

**The following proxies were received:**

Shenalle Jiang to Ryan Black  
Daniel Lynn to Michael Walker  
Adrian Sutherland Chettle to Richard Liu  
Karsten Duvel to Matthew George Pereira  
Elise Northcote to Richard Liu  
Jinxu Zhuang to Jeryn Chang  
Oscar Green to Oscar Keith  
Abraham Sunil to Timothy Hirsch  
Rehan Gulati to Jeryn Chang  
Emma Goodwin to Michael Gitsham  
Utkrist Paudyal to Ryan Black

**Apologies:**

Rita Zou

**c) Elections:**

*None*

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

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and approved after the proxies were reflected correctly.

*It was moved*

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 8<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 112<sup>TH</sup> UQ UNION COUNCIL HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 112/104

HEDUS/STURM

CARRIED

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

None

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

*Matthew Pereira starred the International Officers report.*

*It was moved*

TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS EXCEPT THOSE STARRED EN BLOC

COUNCIL 112/105

CARRIED

International officer Anshul Phougat informed the members of the council on the upcoming events under the Union aegis being organized by the international collective, some of which will be in collaboration with various University units and that the events would be diverse in nature.

Matthew Pereira queried the treasurer on the status of the 35000 dollars allocated in the budget for the atlas ball from the Union, which was allocated out of the international collective budget and queried on why it was not returned to the international collective portfolio.

Treasurer Joshua Marsh replied that the budgeted amount was borne out by the Union, the capital was invested and allocated, upon repatriation, the same way. Joshua Marsh further clarified that he misspoke in the budget council meeting in February, and he did not mean that the profits from the atlas ball festival will go back to the international portfolio upon making profits to the tune of 35k dollars or more.

*It was moved*

TO ACCEPT THE STARRED REPORTS

COUNCIL 112/106

CARRIED

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

*None*

**h) Question Time**

Jacinto Hedus queried the treasurer on the Indieopia event and Joshua marsh replied that there were 600 ticket sales plus 200 guests attended the event, and it was a successful event. It is being considered for doing it again next year but more as a launch party in semester 2.

*Question Time closed at 6:54 PM*

**i) Reports of Union Bodies**

*Nil.*

**j) Business which has been proposed**

**Incorporation:**

Joshua Marsh informed the council that referendum looks likely to pass and looking to initiate and achieve the incorporation process in the next month and half and requested the council to consider and offer their valuable input to the regulation changes required for an incorporated setup of the Union.

**Regulation Changes**

Saumya Jain spoke to the Council on the proposed motion involving regulation changes, to ensure international students studying at UQ will be able to run for the T3 positions at the Union, if they desire to, as the current regulations make them ineligible to run.

Matthew Pereira mentioned that the international students are a significant part of the university ecosystem, and the Union should take all steps to be inclusive for international students to be part of the union at all levels.

The motion was tabled for rules committee meeting.

**UQU respects the democratic decision of people on the Voice Referendum**

Oscar Keith spoke to the Council on the results of the recently held Voice referendum and that the money spent on referendum should instead have been used for the development of indigenous communities and areas.

Ryan McDonald further mentioned that it is time for the Australian public to move on from the issue, and that the government should respect the democratic decisions of the people and spend money on areas that matter to the people.

Timothy Hirsch spoke against the motion saying that a lot of misinformation in the media during the voice referendum campaign is not a good thing for democracy and that the defeat of voice referendum means it is a missed opportunity now.

The motion mover agreed with amending the motion to strike out the second half of the motion.

*It was moved*

**THAT THE UQ UNION RESPECTS THE DEMOCRATIC OUTCOME OF THE 2023 VOICE TO PARLIAMENT REFERENDUM, AND NOTES THAT THE DEMOCRACY IS A VITAL PART IN PRESERVING FREEDOM AND LIBERTY AMONG AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY**

COUNCIL 112/107

KEITH/McDONALD

CARRIED

RECORDED VOTE:

Shenalle Jiang proxy Against  
Jacinto Hedus Abstain  
Claire Sturm Against  
Daniel Lynn proxy Against  
Timothy Hirsch Against  
Adrian Sutherland Chettle proxy  
Karsten Duvel proxy For  
Ayden proxy For  
Toby Abrahamson For  
Lily Cooke For  
Ryan McDonald For  
Elise Northcote proxy Abstain  
Kore Opie proxy Abstain  
Max Thompson For  
Oscar Green proxy For  
Abraham Sunil proxy Against  
Skye Stewart For  
Alex Mcdowall Abstain  
Rehan Gulati proxy Abstain  
Emma Goodwin proxy For  
Utkrist Paudyal proxy Against  
Matthew George Pereira For  
Carmi More proxy Against

**Audiological Health**

Ryan McDonald spoke to the members on the proposed motion while noting the absence of the councillors aligned with the socialist alternative , mentioned that staying away from them definitely helps the students not to have to see an audiologist and the longer the socialist alternative aligned councillors are away from the council, the better and is a welcome change.

Lily Cooke mentioned that it is important to care about one's auditory health and that students should stay away from the socialist alternative members.

Jacinto hedus mentioned that while the socialist alternative members are indeed annoying, their presence also reduces the back chatter and one can actually hear the proceedings of the council.

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQ UNION COUNCIL NOTES THAT THE ABSENCE OF THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE COUNCILLORS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED THE AUDIOLOGICAL(EAR) HEALTH OF OTHER COUNCILLORS AND OBSERVERS. THE UQ UNION COUNCIL EXPRESSES CONCERN FOR THE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF AUDIOLOGICAL CLINICS AS PROLONGED ABSENCE OF THE SOCIALIST COUNCILLORS DIMINISHES THE DEMAND AND NEED FOR THESE CLINICS

COUNCIL 112/108    McDONALD/COOKE                      CARRIED

### **Increase of Student Support for Underprivileged**

Michael Gitsham spoke on the proposed motion saying that the funding for the scholarship by the union should be increased from the current 2k to 5k dollars , and that it should be based on compassionate grounds and circumstances rather than narrow criteria alone.

Lily Cooke mentioned that the increase in the amount of scholarship is really important and urged the members to support the motion.

Erin Blyth mentioned that a fine balance should be achieved between increasing the amount of scholarship and the number of students being able to access the scholarships.

The motion mover clarified that the motion is to ask for the scholarships to range from 2k to 5k dollars and on a need basis as ascertained by the Union.

Timothy Hirsch requested a clarification on the current process being followed and what would be the proposed changes to the process, and the question was taken on notice for the Vice President Student Rights for the next Council meeting.

*There was a procedural motion that the motion be put*

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQ UNION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS BE INCREASED FROM 2K DOLLARS TO 5K DOLLARS, WITH THE SCHOLARSHIPS NOW RANGING FROM 2K DOLLARS TO 5K

DOLLARS, ON A NEED BASIS, TO ENSURE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF  
THE UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS

COUNCIL 112/109      GITSHAM/COOKE      CARRIED

**November Council Meeting at Gatton**

Matthew George Pereira spoke to the Council on the proposed motion stating that atleast two council meetings per year should be held at Gatton campus,as it enables the Union to better connect with the satellite campuses.

The Seconder of the motion seconded the sentiments expressed.

The Chair agreed with the motion and mentioned that he will urge the next Secretary of the Council to have a fair view of the matter.

*It was moved*

THAT THE NOVEMBER UNION COUNCIL MEETING BE HELD AT  
GATTON

COUNCIL 112/110      PEREIRA/McDONALD      CARRIED

RECORDED VOTE:

Shenalle Jiang proxy Against  
Jacinto Hedus For  
Claire Sturm Against  
Daniel Lynn proxy For  
Timothy Hirsch Abstain  
Adrian Sutherland Chettle proxy Abstain  
Karsten Duvel proxy For  
Ayden proxy For  
Toby Abrahamson For  
Lily Cooke For  
Ryan McDonald For  
Elise Northcote proxy Abstain  
Kore Opie proxy Abstain  
Max Thompson For  
Oscar Green proxy For  
Abraham Sunil proxy Against  
Skye Stewart For  
Alex Mcdouall Abstain  
Rehan Gulati proxy Abstain  
Emma Goodwin proxy For  
Utkrist Paudyal proxy Abstain

Matthew George Pereira For  
Carmi More For

### **Gaza Conflict**

Ryan Black spoke on the proposed motion stating that the council should condemn the hamas attacks as well as the disproportionate response by Israel which is affecting the Palestinian population and the motion is trying to provide a balanced statement.

Claire Sturm agreed with the sentiments expressed and further mentioned that it is a humanitarian crisis affecting people across the divide and it is particularly distressing that there are those who use this conflict to fan anti-semitism and that some of the anti-arabic sentiments being seen are also condemnable.

Michael Gitsham while agreeing with the motion further stated that no one should be affected or die wherever the conflicts are and that he hopes and prays for both sides to come to a resolution without further bloodshed.

*It was moved*

THAT THE

1. UQU EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH THE CITIZENS OF PALESTINE AND ISRAEL, AND CONDEMNS BOTH HAMAS OCTOBER 7 ATTACK ALONGSIDE ISRAEL'S COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT.
2. UQU CONDEMNS THE ONGOING ATTACKS ON PALESTINIANS IN GAZA AND ELSEWHERE IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE.
3. UQU CONDEMNS ANTI-SEMITISM – AFFIRMING THAT ANTI-SEMITISM IS UNACCEPTABLE IN ANY FORM
4. UQU EXPRESSES ITS SYMPATHIES FOR ALL UQ STUDENTS WHO MAY BE IMPACTED BY THE ONGOING CONFLICT.
5. UQU IS REAFFIRMING ITS STANCE ON RESPECTING THE IHRA'S WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM.
6. UQU CONDEMNS HAMAS FOR VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

COUNCIL 112/111

BLACK/STURM

CARRIED

**Council Minutes and Recordings for Future Meetings**



Matthew Pereira spoke to the council on the proposed motion stating that the intent is to ensure the Union Secretary posts all the minutes of the Council meetings for the year before the AGM and that all future meetings should be voice recorded and uploaded onto the website later.

Cara Rowe clarified to the members of the council that as a matter of standing order(S15.12 B), only the minute taker is allowed to record the minutes and the recordings are to be destroyed once the minutes are taken and advised the council to refer this to rules committee.

Michael Walker clarified to the members the current state government legislation does not mandate the Union to record the meetings.

The motion was split into two, one dealing with the uploading of the minutes to the Union website and the second one pertaining to the recording of future meetings.

*It was moved*

THAT THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF ALL THE COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR TO BE POSTED ON THE UNION WEBSITE BEFORE THE AGM

COUNCIL 112/112      PEREIRA/STEWART      CARRIED

*It was moved*

TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS TO PROPOSE THE MOTION ALLOWING FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS TO HAVE VOICE RECORDINGS TO BE UPLOADED ONTO UNION WEBSITE

COUNCIL 112/113      PEREIRA/STEWART      NOT CARRIED

Matthew Pereira mentioned that sometimes the written minutes are not as accurate and the recordings of the minutes would instead be allow for the elected office bearers to be more comfortable and that the written minutes are sometimes edited to prevent the students from knowing the truth.

It was minuted that the members of opposition party tried to gatekeep the UQ student from proposing a motion.

Bryan mentioned that from a free speech perspective, the recording of each voice and opinion is chilling and will make people uncomfortable to voice their opinions. They further mentioned that if accuracy of minutes is a concern, they can always be addressed while confirming the minutes at the next meeting.

Sam Adams further highlighted to the members that standing orders also state that if any member objects, the meeting cannot be recorded.

*The motion was tabled for rules committee.*

**All motions to be displayed to Councillors before voting**

Michael Walker spoke to the members on the proposed motion, stating that the motions brought to the council should be visibly displayed at the Councillors prior to voting and that copies of all motions should be made available to all councillors.

*It was moved*

THAT

1. ALL MOTIONS BROUGHT TO COUNCIL ARE DISPLAYED TO ALL COUNCILLORS DURING THE MEETING AND PRIOR TO VOTING, USING A PROJECTOR WHERE POSSIBLE.
2. COPIES OF ALL MOTIONS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL COUNCILLORS

COUNCIL 112/114      WALKER/MORE      CARRIED

*There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8:22 PM*