

Minutes of the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the 110th UQ Union Council

Attendance:

Elected Officers

Emily Scott
Ryan Jover
Lisa Pham
Liam Heseltine
Emily Searle
Elias Blanch
Josie Vu
Ben Kozij
Kurt Tucker
Oula Shihan
Richard Lee
Shirley Mo
Allen Ding
Alicia Steele

Councillors

Annabel Bartley
Hamish Bright
Sam Adams
Julia Bejleri
Kyle Clunies-Ross
Michael Walker
Myah McGinity
Anastasia Georgiou
Thomas Stephen
Zoe Goss
Elloise Campbell
Ji Davis
Jordan Mark
David McGovern
Stuart Moss
Jason Wang

Proxies

David to Sam McDougall
Gabby Callow to Brad Plant
Elise Northcote to Jordan Mark
Tyson Etri to Brad Plant
Darcy Creighton to Ben Kozij
Kurt to Kurt Tucker
Tim Heffernan to Oula Shihan
Ella Gutteridge to Oula Shihan

Meeting opened at 5:34 PM

It was raised that the amendments to the budget were published today, and a budget has been in circulation since last week.

Environment was starred by Ben Kozij

UQIC was starred by Brad Plant
Every portfolio was starred by Kurt Tucker

Gender & Sexuality

A question was raised about the Queer Collective's activities, and why it justified certain expenditures.

VP Blanch raised that there were additional measures added because they wanted to bring speakers in.

A student raised that transmasculine people use binders to compress chests which cost \$60. Gaffs are also used for tucking genitals. There is a gender affirmation campaign to help students from lower SES backgrounds.

It was raised that there are organisations that sell for \$35 or \$40. Eli says that these exist for larger chested people. There are problems with ribs bruising and cracking.

VP Tucker asked, if there are potential harms, should they be provided without medical advice.

VP Blanch responded that the decision to use these products are usually reached through the user's own research. There have been fewer reports of problems with the more expensive brand.

It was asked whether there was a legal liability
There has been no legal issues with other organisations that have done this kind of campaign.

It was raised from the floor that trans people know what they're doing.

The President said that the potential for problems is why the Union has chosen the better quality brand

VP Tucker said people should check with the lawyer in the union.

A student asked why so many portfolios have STI testing under different headings.

President Scott said the Union is looking for ways to diversify funding streams for this. University has rejected funding for this in the past, but for the time being they are

A student asked if it is possible to increase the hours based on the demand?
VP Blanch replied that the Union is currently hitting the optimal utility with this service.

Student Rights

A student asked what the advertising publicity expense is.

Treasurer Pham said that it is for more advertising, corflutes, more ads for Kampus Kitchen, Morning Marmalade, and making sure that people know it's Union not UQ.

VP Tucker noted that if the figure relates to corflutes, \$1500 is 100 corflutes. He asked if this is budgeted in terms of corflutes.

VP Searle said there will be pull-up banners as well.

President Scott agreed that the Union needs awareness.

VP Tucker opined that a few corflutes and a-frames should do the job. And asked why marketing wasn't coming out of the marketing line.

Treasurer Pham said there is social media marketing as well.

VP Searle said the Union needs to replace some pull-up banners, and that the figures are all quoted by the Union's marketing manager.

The general manager of the Union added that Union advertising looks unprofessional when zip-tied to lampposts around campus.

A councillor asked if focus groups are still part of the Student Rights Collective?

Treasurer Pham replied that this would come under 'Academic'.

A proxy was received from Chamal to Matt Pereira

Social Engagement

VP Tucker raised that revenues haven't been estimated for anything other than Neon Party. The intention would be to run as many of these as close to at-cost as possible.

Campus Bus

Secretary Jover said the Union is still trying to move the bus drivers over to the University. The general manager added that safety bus staff don't currently fit UQ's EA, but they're trying to fix that without removing their rights.

President Scott said there would be an update at next council, SCG have been promising this, and it may be completed by the end of next quarter.

The general manager added as a caveat that this has been ongoing for 18 months.

Clubs and Societies

Eurovision has money, but this is not listed in budget.

Colleges

VP Tucker asked why this budget increased so substantially?

President Scott raised that this was to increase potential expenditure, but not necessarily going to be spent.

Treasurer Pham added that the figure is spent on UQU-venue events.

VP Tucker said that UQU-venue events are not what is being listed on the budget.

A Councillor asked if this meant it can't be spent on-campus outside of the Union.

President Scott confirmed that this is the plan. The Union wants to increase engagement

VP Tucker asked how much colleges have been engaged. In the past, they are supposed to run events that are open to non-college students.

President Scott believed the Union is working well with Cromwell on their Bunker Party.

Some colleges used it to send their students to Neon. It is unclear what else they're planning to go to.

VP Tucker asked if the bulk has been for giving free tickets for college students to Union events and opined that union priorities were out of order if \$1,000 is earmarked for gender affirmation, but more spent for college students to go to Union events.

Cr Adams raised he was not comfortable giving any money to colleges at all.

VP Tucker said there is a balancing act, as They are a student group, and the Union provides for students. They also live on-campus, so they're the most likely to use Union services. \$3,000 to \$35,000 is potentially too large.

A student asked Mr VP Tucker if there is any insignificant group on campus, and opined that gay students were probably more import than college students.

MOVED: That the budget be amended down to \$15,000.
SHIHAN/ADAMS
Failed

MOVED: That the budget be amended down to \$30,000.
TUCKER/KOZIJ
Carried.

Academic Rights

Cr Shihan asked why there were focus groups listed twice, but it was clarified this had been zeroed out already.

A student asked what the writing competition is and what are the benefits for students who win.

VP Vu said it's an educational competition for students to be more involved. It's also for fostering growth and getting them more interested and involved in academic writing as well. There haven't been any discussions about what topic it will be about yet, because the Union is still looking for academic staff that are willing to take on the students if they win to gain knowledge and have something like an internship, but also have a small cash prize.

VP Tucker asked what the representative induction was like, and asked why it was allocated \$2,000.

VP Vu said It's been revised down to \$1,500.

President Scott made her understanding known that the catering was \$340. Some expenses were for marketing and similar.

VP Tucker asked for the actual cost.

VP Vu said roughly \$800 worth was done in house, but she had overestimated just in case.

VP Tucker asked who the welcome dinner is for.

VP Vu said it was for the reps, and for the academic staff to meet each other, and added it would be better for the reps if they have a chance to meet the staff.

VP Tucker asked if have a catered event for their induction and their welcome?

VP Vu It's for the staff to meet the students.

VP Tucker asked how many reps.

VP Vu said there were 26. The induction was done at night and went on for a bit.

There was a clarification to the floor as to which line of the budget was being looked at.

VP Tucker asked if VP Vu thinks it's fair to give 20 students a catering budget of \$4,000?

VP Vu said the bulk of the cost is not catering. Catering is about a quarter of it. It's mostly marketing the events. The price of the welcome dinner will mostly cover the staff attending.

VP Tucker noted that even after revising down \$30,000, this budget is still twice as much as last year. He asked why most of the budget lines are events and catering for a small group of people in this portfolio.

VP Vu said that of the \$60,000, \$54,000 is actually for bursaries.

VP Tucker asked if this is a new cost.

President Scott said the Union is trying to make bursaries in more distinct categories because the University keeps trying to cut it.

VP Tucker asked how many bursaries there are.

VP Vu said there were 108.

VP Tucker asked how many people go on placements.

VP VU said it's likely students will be struggling after COVID and need it.

VP Tucker asked why the Union would give \$54,000 directly to some students when there are going to be students across the board who are worse off.

VP Tucker asked why \$7,000 in the portfolio revolves around a group of about 20 people?
VP Vu said It actually includes an advisory group, and giving services to other students. It gets the reps trained and upskilled. Gives them funds to train and get skills to help other students.

VP Tucker raised that there were too many social events.

A student asked how the dinner upskills the AAN?

VP Vu said the dinner is to help connect the AAN reps to the academic staff.

VP Tucker asked who are they networking with?

VP Vu answered it would be everyone in their school and faculty.

A student raised that a student rep meets plenty of academics from the work that you do.

VP Tucker added that it is \$100 per person.

Suggestions including a barbecue and merging the events were raised.

MOVED: That the welcome dinner budget be reduced to \$750.

TUCKER/KOZIJ

Carried

MOVED: That the networking night be reduced to \$0.

TUCKER/KOZIJ

Carried.

The general manager announced that last year's bursaries were \$114,000

VP Tucker suggested reducing the bursary. There was vocal disapproval from the floor. VP

Tucker asked if this was an increase.

The general manager clarified that it is the same amount.

Environment

An attendee asked if the Environment Officers were serious about the dollar figure they had asked for.

Officer Shihan said they didn't ask for the graphic design, and have spent less money.

The same attendee asked why the Environment Officers attended an Invasion Day rally.

Officer Shihan answered that mining is done on Indigenous land. The issue of land rights is tied to the environment.

VP Tucker began to ask about money spent on protesting at a coal conference.

Officer Shihan said it's been cancelled, so we're not spending that.

The attendee asked where money went from bags that were sold at Market Day.

Officer Shihan said it was the Union's finance team.

VP Tucker again asked where the money was.

Officer Shihan said she didn't pocket the money, and it's a matter to take up with finance. President Scott said they met with finance that morning. Said Oula doesn't have access to the bank account.

A student asked why there was even an expense, because the collectives always give out free bags.

Priya De responded that they were fundraising, and the Environment Collective's budget is pitiful.

VP Tucker asked why there aren't other events that have been listed with that money. Officer Shihan said it was supposed to be part of the overall budget. In prior years the budget's been low.

A student asked what costs were incurred during Sustainability Week.

Officer Shihan said that UQ covers the entire campus during that week, and the environment office wanted to be authoritative on this issue.

The student asked if it's mostly on marketing.

President Scott said that this was in consultation with the marketing manager.

Priya De added that this was all done in conjunction with the executive, who asked them to bump up the budget.

An attendee asked why the cost for a movie night is so high?

President Scott said that screening rights cost a lot.

VP Tucker noted that the budget lists \$200 for stalls, \$1,500 fortnightly meetings.

Officer Shihan said they have to outsource printing

VP Tucker asked what the actual costs of the stalls come from.

Officer Shihan said it was for producing a newsletter and other materials.

VP Tucker asked if they really print \$200 per stall, and noted the newspaper is listed in the budget already.

Priya De raised that the newsletter is resource-intensive, and the stalls do rack up a lot of spending.

VP Tucker asked why not make the environment newsletter a section of Semper. It was also questioned why they didn't just make it digital.

Priya De raised that it's just preference, and under the questioner's logic, nobody should have a budget for physical materials.

VP Tucker proposed an omnibus motion:

Advertising/publicity: 0

Graphic design: 0

Coal Conference: 0

Semester 1 and 2 market day: \$2,000

Sign-making: \$150

Welcome to collective forum: 0

Contingent to SS4C: 0

Sustainability Week: 500

Monthly stalls: 500

World Environment day: 0

Environment Newsletter: 0

Fortnightly Forum: 500

Film screenings: x5 should become x2: \$900

TUCKER/KOZIJ

Failed.

A student asks what the action is on World Environment Day.
Oula raised that it is a bunch of things. Visibility. Advertising. Workshops.
Treasurer Pham added there would be large signs and photo booth as well.

Cr Adams raises that this represents a duplication of services, and reminded VP Tucker he ran on a platform of opposing that in all forms. He added that UQ's version of sustainability is asking students to live in a cube.
VP Tucker said he just didn't want Socialist Alternative to run events.
Cr Adams replied that this is the environment collective, and it's open to all students.

A student asked if the Environment Collective have an elected committee?
Priya: Yes, at an ordinary meeting.

VP Tucker gestured toward a need to build consensus, and asked Cr Adams what he wanted.
Cr Adams raised that it's an important collective. People may not be involved and might be alienated, but students can fix that. People see posters saying we care about the environment and doing stuff.
An attendee raised that \$18,000 on this budget is probably far too much.

A student asked where the events are advertised, and that they are not on the Collective facebook page.
Priya De replied that the enviro collective have had meetings every two weeks. The collective elected a chairperson at the start of the year. The regs don't require collectives to have a committee.

VP Tucker said that the student services budget needs to be scrutinised line-by-line. Giving the environment collective thousands of dollars is not appropriate.
Officer Shihan raised that Environment still has the smallest budget.
VP Tucker noted that it's still a large increase from last year.
Officer Shihan said every student is welcome at these meetings, and that this is an attack on the Environment Collective.
VP Tucker noted that everybody else has reduced their budget.

Moved that the budget be capped at \$5,000.
TUCKER/KOZIJ
Failed

Rowan Evans moved the meeting be adjourned for five minutes. 6:45pm.

When the meeting resumed, the President announced that there would be a motion

Moved that the motion be \$5,111
TUCKER/KOZIJ

CARRIED

A motion to increase from \$5,111.

It was raised from the floor said the funds are insufficient.

Priya De said that they have the smallest budget already, the collective is run by unpaid office bearers.

VP Tucker compared the cut of \$13,000 to the volunteers cut from \$36,000 to \$4,000. Postgrad has been cut significantly. G&S cut significantly. The only reason Council was discussing it was that the executive didn't feel the office bearers would agree to a consensus reduction in the budget.

VP Blanch raised that the Environment Collective has had higher engagement in the past three months. They have had more engagement and more meetings.

Officer Shihan said that they have already had cuts to their budget. The reason there had only been \$1,500 in the past is because the Environment Officers have disappeared after O Week. They have been having regular meetings.

It was raised says this is about strengthening the Union in the face of UQ Life, and saying that the Union is not a service-delivery arm of the University.

An attendee commended the Environment officers for increasing participation, but said the situation is dire. Advocacy and running the union are more critical.

Priya De said that this has been the longest debated section of the budget so far for political reasons. Raised that the Liberal Party are the ones cutting the budget.

It was moved that the Environment budget be set to:

Advertising \$0

Graphic design: \$0

Invasion Day: \$220

Coal Conference \$0

Market days: \$3460

Sign making \$600

Welcome forum: \$1200

School Strike: \$60

Sustainability week: \$3000

Monthly stalls \$2000

World Environment Day \$1050

Fortnightly forums \$250

Film screenings \$450

SHIHAN/DE

Carried.

VP Tucker dissented in the call.

The dissent failed.

The room decided to address the budget line-by-line.

Market Days: \$3460

Moved that it reduced to \$3,000.

ADAMS/MCGOVERN

Carried

Priya raised that it's been 45 minutes already.

Signmaking: \$600

Cr Adams said that these are important for the large events they go to.
A student said that this is an important line for engagement.

Moved that Signmaking be reduced to \$350
VP Tucker / Kozij

Welcome to the Environment Collective/forum: \$1200

Priya De raised that they are planning to bring down Aboriginal activists Adrian Burragubba.

VP Tucker said fundraising for external organisations doesn't reflect the need for fiscal responsibility.

Cr Adams asked whether there is a gold coin donation.

A student raised that if these people are important to small communities, then depriving small communities of these people would be

It was moved that this be reduced to \$0
TUCKER/KOZIJ

VP Tucker amended this to \$800.
The amendment was carried.

Speaking time was limited to 1 minute at the discretion of the chair.

SS4C contingent: \$60

The Environment officer conceded that this could be \$0.

That this be reduced to \$0
TUCKER/KOZIJ

Carried.

Sustainability Week \$3000

VP Tucker asked for clarification on what events are happening.

Officer Shihan said that the University completely dominates this space. Photo booths. Very large displays that counter the University.

The Abilities Officer, Alicia Steele, raised that for collective events, it's not always possible to say how exactly the money will be used.

It was moved that this be reduced to \$2500
VP Tucker / Kozij
Carried.

Monthly Stalls \$2000

Reduce to \$1000
TUCKER/KOZIJ
Carried

World Environment Day \$1050

Reduce to \$750
TUCKER/KOZIJ
Fails

Environment Newsletter \$1000

Reduce to \$0
TUCKER/KOZIJ

Amended to \$500 at discretion of mover/seconded.
Carries

Fortnightly forums/meetings of the collective \$250

No motion.

Film screenings \$450

Reduce to \$0
STEWART / KOZIJ
Fails

At 7:42pm, David McGovern left the meeting, proxied to Sam Adams

Student Executive

It was queried why there was a line for motor vehicle parking.
Board of Directors.

It was queried why there was \$1200 for meetings.
Board of Directors.

Elections

Noted that the budget was reduced to reflect last year's turnout.

Noted that food and drink was reduced to \$0.

Goorie Berrimpa

No comments.

International Students

It was asked why \$2500 was allocated for Painting with Coffee & bubble tea.
Officer Mo said this was originally twice, but cut to once. The officers are trying to engage 70 people at \$35/head. \$2 for the event.

Officer Mo did not object to a suggestion to reduce this to \$2000, and this was accepted without motion.

VP Tucker asked about the figures for cooking classes.
Shirley said that six cooking classes will be run, and the cost is spread across them.
VP Tucker agreed that this was a fair number..

Cr Plant asked whether the International Ball was the same as a similar club event. The answer was yes.

VP Tucker asked what the industry night is.
Postgraduate officer Ricky Lee said that it's a collaboration with postgrad, and that this was originally reflected in both portfolios. 150 people are expected.

A student asked what the 'Living in Your Community' budget line is
Officer Ding said that this is to promote surfing safety, and similar events.

A student asked about the point of sending people to Movie World when we cut other portfolios.

Officer Shihan suggested that the formula is that if socialists want money, the money is rejected.
VP Tucker said Officer Shihan has the right idea.

A student asked what the \$2,000 for Movie World is being spent on.
Officer Mo answered that it covers buses.

A student raised that International students are the group that have been the hardest hit by COVID and need the most specific spending.

A student asked why there is a language exchange class for \$2,000

An attendee said that it was important to make sure international students were getting value for money.

Cr Clunies-Ross asked whether things like the Movie World trip have been done before, and whether this was a similar price.
Officer Mo said they did the Toowoomba tour in 2019, and it actually cost more because there was food.

Association of Postgraduate Students

A question from the floor about the figures for the postgrad ball
Officer Lee clarified that this will be revenue-neutral, and the numbers are based on previous years.

VP Tucker asked if the postgraduate club sponsorship is for Medical Society.
Officer Lee said that this has been a practice for a decade. Postgrad students also pay more money overall.

VP Tucker asked if this is double-dipping.
Officer Lee said it was not, because it's discretionary, there is criteria. It's for contributing to the greater postgraduate community. Must be collaborative.

Priya De asked why no money was in the budget for casual postgraduate students in an Enterprise Bargaining year, which is only once every three or four years.

Officer Lee said that \$20,000 was allocated, but it was removed.

VP Tucker said that the current situation is exploitative and contributing to the decline of universities. Advocacy is important, but what does \$1,000 do? He also raised that volunteerism should be preferred.

Officer Lee says it allows him to engage academics and have a discretionary fund.

Priya raised that the EBA is happening all year, and the money can be used for meetings and

It was moved that \$1,000 be allocated for advocacy on the EBA.

DE/ADAMS

Carried

A student asked why RUOK Day is reflected across several portfolios, and the answer came that it impacts several portfolios.

Cr Adams asked why social media advocacy was cut. Officer Lee explained that they were going to work with the grad school, and have a PhD blog and give them experience on surviving university. There is a disproportionate number of PhD students who have mental illnesses and don't know how to deal with their supervisors. APS has worked with the postgrad school and put in a lot of people hours.

That \$600 be allocated to the grad school for the purpose of social media advocacy.

ADAMS/TUCKER

VP Tucker asked why there is a research project for \$1,000.

Officer Lee said it's been recommended by SAS, it lets us bring in a Masters student to produce and compile a survey for abilities students to understand what challenges they face at university.

Abilities Collective

A question came from the floor about \$3,600 of expenditure for a website toolbar.

There is a proposal for an accessibility toolbar on the Union website recommended by developers. It is used by ANU and QUT. And \$3,600 is the quote for the toolbar.

VP Tucker raised that his experience of web development suggests \$3,600 is a bit much. It's for dyslexia, colourblindness, and allows us to determine how much usage these tools get.

VP Blanch added that as someone studying IT, these things cost money.

Cr Clunies-Ross said that this is something that has immense use for people with abilities.

VP Blanch said that as someone with dyslexia, this is an immense benefit.

VP Tucker asked how many people are attending Abilities meetings. In the past attendance has not met quorum.

There are more members attending now. There is also now a discord server. There was an issue with the abilities portfolio where members didn't want to go to smaller things, they didn't want to get together and talk about abilities, but wanted things disability-adjacent, like music events that had one or more members experiencing disability. This kind of thing was budgeted for, and there was also a planned rebrand to the Disabilities Collective. These were moved to Campus Culture. There's been greater engagement this year, and more interest in smaller events.

It was queried how many people were expected to attend, and the answer was 10 people.

It was queried how many events there would be, and the answer was 10 events.

A question was heard regarding whether the guided mindfulness sessions and crafternoons are an external event.

Officer Steele answered that this is a camel -- a horse designed by committee. There is an external arts group that wants to advertise to abilities groups, but also open the event to everybody.

Several questions were then heard in succession:

Is the expense primarily for the artist or catering?

It's for artists and materials. There are also three events planned.

What is the incentive program for?

For encouraging people to run events.

Are we giving money to the same people all the time?

Not really bad if we're getting more people into the collective.

Are we remunerating by default?

No, there are other people that are interested in being involved, and they aren't being remunerated. In this case, they are volunteering. There was plans for more spending.

VP Blanch added that there are 350 people in the active group, some of whom can't make it to campus. This allows for more events and for people who are just lurking to actually use the service.

What are the options that make \$3,000 worthwhile?

New couches, new shelves, some furniture, nothing major because the building is eventually getting demolished. Some anti-sensory pods.

VP Tucker opined that the Abilities Collective has been well-defended, and well-explained.

Semper Floreat

The budget was at \$69,000

Moved that this be raised to \$69,420

EVANS / CLUNIES-ROSS

Failed

ESports

The expenses listed were for things in the past. There are no future expenses.

UQIC

The budget began at \$60,000.

Brad Plant explained that an extra \$5,000 could go to funding two extra sports, including referees, field hire, and that this is important for competing with UQ Sport

It was moved that this be raised to \$65,000

TUCKER/KOZIJ.

Carried

It was raised that in 2019, UQIC spent \$60,000. Even in 2020, they spent \$50,000. \$70,000 would be reasonable. 7 sports in total as opposed to 5.

It was moved that this be raised to \$70,000
PEREIRA/TUCKER
Carried

Gatton

A question from the floor as to who the wages go to.
President Scott answered that a SAS counsellor goes down there twice a week, and this is the same with travel.

Herston

There have already been significant cuts to this behind the scenes.

A proxy was received from Eloise Campbell to Stuart Moss.

BUSINESS TRADING

IN CAMERA

The meeting moved ex camera at 9:49am

It was moved that the budget be passed.
KOZIJ/WALKER
Carried.

The meeting ended at 9:50pm.