

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 7th Ordinary Meeting of the
111th UQ Union Council, 2022

5:30 PM
Wednesday August 24th, 2022
Innes One
UQ Union Complex, St. Lucia
Chair: Samuel Adams

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:42 PM and acknowledged the traditional owners and custodians of the land, paying respect to their elders' past, present, and emerging.

a) Credentials:

The following were present

Councillors	Student Executives and Officers	Observers
Utkrist Paudyal	Emily Searle	Glenda Jacobs
Austin Smidt	Cara Rowe	Eric Yuw
Ella Gutteridge	Radhika Peddibhotla	Liam Heseltine
Natasha Brettell	Justin Chen	Kore Opie
Louisa McCarthy	Marisha Robinson	Asha Coles
Laura Nolan	Myo Sumiko	William Kugelman
Gabby Callow	Anna Li	Will Sim
Carib Phillips	Greta Simpson	Jack
Benjamin Myatt	Elias Blanch	Aiden
Mitchell Ablett-Nelson	Alicia Steele	Ryan Jover
Elise Northcote	Jake Coleman	Ryley Calvert
		Diana Elizabeth Aswon

Apologies and Leave:

- Rheanna Norris
- Daniel Dawes
- Elias Blanch
- Matthew Burgin

The following proxies were received:

- Max Thompson to Jacinto Hedus
- Anna Redshaw to Louisa Mccarthy
- Daniel Dawes to Mitchell Ablett-Nelson
- Matthew Burgin to Natasha Brettel
- Julia Bejleri to Hughston Parle
- Edward Uzelin to Carib Phillips
- Elloise Campbell to Aiden
- Zwe Htet Aung to William Kugelman
- Shenalle Jiang to Elise Northcote

The Chair proposed to the council to take up the regulations changes from the agenda first, before proceeding with the rest of the agenda items.

Regulations Changes:

Electoral group names were tabled until next council meeting.

I, Cara Rowe propose that Election time at Gatton campus be from 10 AM-4:15 PM on two days of polling and from 4:45PM to 7:00PM on two days of polling

Secretary Cara Rowe explained to the members of the council on why the changes are proposed in the polling times at Gatton Campus during the council election process. Secretary Cara Rowe who was the mover of the motion, upon hearing the discussion that followed and views offered by the council members, agreed to an amendment proposed to the motion.

It was moved

THAT THE ELECTION TIME AT GATTON CAMPUS BE FROM 10 AM – 4:15 ON TWO DAYS OF POLLING AND FROM 4:45 PM TO 7:00 PM ON THE SECOND DAY OF POLLING

COUNCIL 111/60 ROWE/JOVER

CARRIED

BoD QUORUM:

Secretary Cara Rowe explained to the Council on how the busy schedules of the executives on the board precludes the quorum of five being reached and hence the proposed changes to make it to four.

Hughston Parle queried on the role played by and the advice provided to the Union by the board. President Emily Searle and Secretary Cara Rowe explained how the board functions in its advisory capacity and the importance to the Union.

The members present discussed the motion and concurred on amending the motion to half the voting members rounded out and the Secretary consented to the proposed amendment

It was moved

THAT THE QUORUM FOR THE UQU BOARD OF DIRECTORS BE CHANGED TO HALF THE VOTING MEMBERS ROUNDED OUT

COUNCIL 111/61 ROWE/JOVER

CARRIED

b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were corrected to reflect the fact that the council motion 111/59 was in fact CARRIED and, the spelling of Drew Pavlou was corrected to reflect the actual name.

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 6th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 111TH UQ UNION COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH JULY 2022 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 111/62

CARRIED

c) Business arising from the Minutes of the previous Meeting

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

Ti Parker starred the report of the President.

It was moved

TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS NOT STARRED EN BLOC

COUNCIL 111/63

CARRIED

President Report

Ti Parker praised the Union's support to the Industrial action by NTEU and urged the council members to discuss the ways in which the Union can organize concrete things in support of the strike and, queried the president on updates regarding UQU complex.

President Emily Searle explained on how frequently the proposed plans for UQ Union complex have been changed and how the Union still is making sure Union's best interests are always at the forefront, giving the example of how schonelle theatre has been saved much earlier than expected.

Hughston Parle queried on the emergency accommodation mentioned in her report and upon receiving the explanation of the program, concurred with the president on how the program is much needed and beneficial, considering the international students in need.

It was moved

THAT THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT BE ACCEPTED

COUNCIL 111/64

CARRIED

e) Matters Arising from Reports of Elected Officers

None

f) Question Time

Secretary Cara Rowe queried the members of the rules committee on attending the next rules committee meeting and was replied in the negative.

Utkrist Paudyal asked the Secretary regarding two recent events held under the union aegis where bump in and bump out was either not informed or followed. The secretary replied that the motion passed at the council relating to this was communicated to C&S manager as well as the staff member who oversees it and, she would follow it up with them.

Utkrist Paudyal asked UQU GM Glenda Jacobs on the progress in financial arrangement discussions with UQIC and was replied that there has been no further response from UQIC so far.

Hughston Parle queried the Secretary Cara Rowe on uploading of the minutes of council meetings online and was informed that she would do it at the earliest.

ACTION ITEM : Secretary Cara Rowe to publish the minutes of the Council meetings up until the 6th Council meeting this year, at the earliest.

g) Reports of Union Bodies

Nil.

Matthew Burgin entered the meeting at 6:13 PM

h) Business which has been proposed

Recognition that Self-Censorship is a problem on campus

Sam Chamberlain spoke on the motion proposed saying there is a responsibility on all of us to fight the conditions that lead to stifling intellectual darkness. He further mentioned that this negatively affects students experiences, and that university should be a place where freedom of expression matters and that UQ administration should be held accountable in that regard. Natasha Brettel spoke on how freedom of expression is essential and that students should be able to express their views freely.

Laura Nolan and Louis McCarthy disagreed with the motion and opined that it was a disguised right-wing agenda to ensure opinions/views suiting the right-wing political leanings can be expressed and urged the council to vote against the motion.

Hughston Parle mentioned that the motion speaks on the need to have a civil discussion and that sentiment should be respected.

To Jacinto Hedu's query on the study that was the basis of the motion and potential bias involved, Sam Chamberlain replied that it was a survey on self-censorship quoted in Australian Financial Review.

Alicia Steele queried on whether the survey had covered the aspects of education being commodified/commercialized and Sam Chamberlain explained on how the sentiments expressed in the survey reflect the fact that self-censorship plays into that.

Ben Myatt opined that proposing a motion based on a study that was not ready by the mover and/or not submitted to the council is not the right way to put a motion to the council.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

THAT THE UQU COUNCIL RECOGNISES THAT SELF-CENSORSHIP IS ON THE RISE, THAT SELF-CENSORSHIP IS A PROBLEM, AND THAT THIS COUNCIL HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO FIGHT THE CONDITIONS THAT LEAD TO THIS SITUATION OF STIFLING INTELLECTUAL DARKNESS

COUNCIL 111/65

CHAMBERLAIN/BRETTEL

CARRIED

Recorded Vote

Edward Uzelin *proxy Against*

Julia Bejleri *proxy For*

Natasha Brettell *For*

Utkrist Paudyal *For*

Elise Northcote *Abstain*

Austin Smidt *Against*

Elloise Campbell *proxy For*

Ben Myatt *Against*

Matthew Burgin *For*

Zwe Htet Aung *proxy Against*

Gabby Callow *For*

Max Thompson *proxy Against*

Anna Redshaw *proxy Against*

Mitch Ablett Nelson *For*

Sam Chamberlain *For*

Carib Phillips *Against*

Daniel Dawes *proxy For*

Jack Feng *For*

Laura Nolan *Against*

Shenalle Jiang *proxy Abstain*

Helen Craze *For*

Ethan Jones *For*

Utkrist Paudyal left the meeting at 6:45 PM

The UQ Union stands in solidarity with workers across the State of Queensland whose right to join a union of their choice is being curtailed due to the State Government's proposed IR laws. Subsequently, the UQU recognises that having only one choice of union is no choice at all. UQU will publicly condemn the actions of the government on its social media platforms and encourage members to attend future protests relevant to these legislative changes

Samuel Chamberlain spoke on the motion mentioning that there are competitive Unions in Queensland and the current government rules would prevent unregistered unions from representing the rights of workers affiliated with those unions and that we all should stand in solidarity with the workers and support their rights.

Matthew Burgin reserved his right to speak as seconder of the motion.

Laura Nolan spoke against the motion saying it is anti-worker and the Unions this motion is suggesting supporting through, are composed of mostly anti-Vaxxers and urged the council to vote against the motion.

Mitchell Ablett-Nelson disagreed and said that the everyday functioning of such unions is apolitical and centred mostly around protection of and ensuring Workers rights which is why they have been hugely successful in gaining memberships.

Upon a query from Cristian Guitierrez on whether existing unions cannot be improved upon or integrated into rather than form a new union, Sam Chamberlain explained how competitive Unions are good and benefits the workers overall.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

Matthew Burgin as the seconder of the motion spoke on how competing unions benefits the workers especially when inflation is rising, competitive unions lead

to reduced membership prices and the potential conflict of interest for Queensland govt in formulating this law.

It was moved

THAT THE UQ UNION STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH WORKERS ACROSS THE STATE OF QUEENSLAND WHOSE RIGHT TO JOIN A UNION OF THEIR CHOICE IS BEING CURTAILED DUE TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED IR LAWS. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE UQU RECOGNISES THAT HAVING ONLY ONE CHOICE OF UNION IS NO CHOICE AT ALL. UQU WILL PUBLICLY CONDEMN THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT ON ITS SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS AND ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO ATTEND FUTURE PROTESTS RELEVANT TO THESE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES.

COUNCIL 111/66

CHAMBERLAIN/BURGIN

CARRIED

Recorded Vote

Edward Uzelin *proxy Abstain*

Julia Bejleri *proxy For*

Natasha Brettell *For*

Utkrist Paudyal *proxy Abstain*

Elise Northcote *Against*

Elloise Campbell *proxy For*

Austin Smidt *Against*

Elloise Campbell *proxy For*

Ben Myatt *Against*

Matthew Burgin *For*

Zwe Htet Aung *proxy Against*

Gabby Callow *Abstain*

Max Thompson *proxy Against*

Anna Redshaw *proxy Against*

Mitch Ablett Nelson *For*

Sam Chamberlain *For*

Carib Phillips *Against*

Daniel Dawes *proxy For*

Jack Feng *For*

Laura Nolan *Against*

Shenalle Jiang *proxy Abstain*

Helen Craze *For*

Ethan Jones *For*

Elise Northcote left the meeting at 6:56 PM

UQU Supports NSW Public Sector Strikes

Will spoke on the motion proposed saying it is a horrible nightmare the current wages that are being rolled out, the Union and the council should care more about supporting the unions in NSW and that this should be the start of a fightback.

Ti Parker mentioned that this is the right way to rebuild Unions. She further mentioned that workers across Australia should take inspiration from the strikes in NSW, challenge Union bureaucrats, defy the Union leaders when offered a bad deal and fight to make sure workers see a way out of this crisis.

Mitchell Ablett-Nelson disagreed with the motion saying that a way needs to be found to blend the impact of low income and inflation rather than ending up in a 1970s era spiral of economy and that long term strategic healthy economy recovery should be prioritized over Short-term comfort into the end of a decade.

Hughston Parle spoke in favour of the motion saying public sector workers are currently struggling and they need our support.

Various members spoke and disagreed on the ways to bring inflation down.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

THAT THE UQU SUPPORTS NSW PUBLIC SECTOR STRIKES

COUNCIL 111/67

SIM/PARKER

CARRIED

UQU stands in solidarity with staff and actively supports the 24-hour NTEU Strike taking place on September 1st

Laura Nolan spoke on why the strikes are necessary and the importance of ensuring wages rise enough to stay above inflation levels. She deplored the university not meeting the demands of the workers when executives are being paid ridiculous high wages, has ties to climate criminals and businesses. She further mentioned that the members show an active interest in participation and that the Union should show solidarity with the strike, urged the student executives to attend the strike and to encourage the wider student body to do the same.

Jack mentioned that the proposed actions and activities are in the Union's best interests and opined it would be more productive if the Union can discuss further on Student Engagement with regards to this.

President Emily Searle informed the members of the Council that the union would be promoting the strike as well as any future actions after that. She mentioned to the members that she had a discussion with NTEU Brisbane Chapter and that UQU stands firmly behind NTEU on this. She clarified to Barclay McGain that Students will be informed on why the strike is being proposed and it is up to the discretion of the students on whether to attend the strike or not.

Jacinto Hedus disagreed with the views of Barclay McGain on students missing classes for a day and, opined that staff not getting paid adequately and poorly looked after by the administration leads to sub-par quality of education delivered to students and if by missing classes for a day, students can highlight and champion the cause of the staff, then it is worth doing so.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH STAFF AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTS THE 24-HOUR NTEU STRIKE TAKING PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 1ST

COUNCIL 111/68

NOLAN/JACK

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS:

1. UQU TO POST REGULARLY REGARDING THE NTEU STRIKE
2. UQU WILL INFORM WHY THE STAFF ARE STRIKING AND WHY STUDENTS SHOULD CONSIDER NOT ATTENDING CLASSES THAT DAY

3. UQU TO PUBLISH POSTERS REGARDING THE STRIKE

It is noted in the minutes that Hughston Parle left the meeting during the proceedings on the motion.

UQU condemns the refusal of Labour Government to raise the age of Criminal Responsibility

Will Sim spoke on how the refusal of QLD govt to raise the age of Criminal Responsibility is horrible and racist, and that the UQ union should vociferously demand that the QLD labour party take responsible action that benefits the indigenous people, who are the most affected by such racist policies.

Ella Gutteridge spoke on how this is an abhorrent racist policy and explained to the members of the council of the current situation in northern Territory as an example and how this act by Qld government is nothing but state sanctioned racism and can potentially create new stolen generation.

Secretary Cara Rowe agreed with the motion and urged everyone to vote in support of this motion.

Mitchell Ablett-Nelson mentioned that while he is clearly not in favour of incarcerating young children, he does not believe raising the age of criminal responsibility is the answer to that and that there is a genuine purpose in society placing an offending person in prison.

Upon a query from an observer on the constitution of Union allowing social issues to be raised at council, Secretary Cara Rowe informed the Council that, if a student has a belief and wants to make a representation to the council on behalf of students, pertaining to a social issue, they can and will be allowed.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

**THAT THE UQU CONDEMNS THE REFUSAL OF QUEENSLAND
LABOUR GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE AGE OF CRIMINAL
RESPONSIBILITY AND ASK FOR RESPONSIBLE ACTION**

COUNCIL 111/69

SIM/GUTTERIDGE

CARRIED

Samuel Chamberlain and Barclay McGain left the meeting at 7:59 PM.

UQU condemns Labour's Greenwashing Climate Bill

Asha Coles spoke on how the Climate bill by labour government is deficient on enforcement and the reduction targets are already tiny while excluding the exports ignoring the fact that emissions are more from exports too. She mentioned that students should have a liveable future and as a union UQU should support the role of students in fighting for climate action.

Louisa McCarthy spoke on how this bill is not better than nothing but in fact is nothing. The mentioned targets will not be met anyway, and the approved gas projects alone will mean that the targets are in achievable, even in their deficient form.

Gabby Callow spoke in support of the motion but clarified to the members of council on the emissions from exports and clarifying the nature of coal exported by Australia and the nature of emissions and energy created by such coal. Mitchell Ablett-Nelson expanded on the views expressed by Gabby Callow and explained further on how the distinction is important.

Ti parker disagreed saying that it is a cynical argument and that the differentiation between coal types does not take away the fact that it is still a fossil fuel at the end of the day.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

THAT THE UQU DENOUNCES LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S CLIMATE BILL AS INADEQUATE GREENWASHING

COUNCIL 111/70

COLES/MCCARTHY

CARRIED

UQU Stands for elected student representatives on university bodies and all such bodies should have at least one Student representative from

President Emily Searle spoke on how the union should oppose the lack of student representation on important committees such as Student Infrastructure Committee, Senate Diversity Committee etc. She highlighted the fact that University Administration can simply handpick members of committees otherwise. She commended the UQ Ally Action Committee for having representation from queer collective.

The minutes reflect that Student Action opposed election of elected student representatives to university bodies.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU STANDS FOR ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON UNIVERSITY BODIES AND ALL THE BODIES SHOULD HAVE ATLEAST ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE FROM,AS BELOW

1. Ally Action Committee should include at least one representative from the Queer Collective
2. Disability Inclusion Group should include at least one representative from the Disabilities Collective
3. Cultural Inclusion Council should include at least one Union Representative
4. Gender Steering Committee should include at least one representative from the Women's Collective
5. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Steering Committee should include at least one representative from the Goorie Berrimpa Collective
6. RAP Oversight Committee should include at least one representative from the Goorie Berrimpa Collective
7. Age Friendly Committee should include at least one Union Representative and one APS Representative

COUNCIL 111/71 SEARLE/SCOTT

CARRIED

UQ Union Supports students at UQ Res Kev Carmody House in starting a UQ Res Committee

President Emily Searle spoke on the recent incidents involving UQ Res and the various rules associated with UQ Res. She further explained on the lack of mechanisms to report a complaint and the need for the Union to help the students establish a residence committee.

Jacinto Hedus spoke on how a building was not built to code, overcrowded kitchens, missing items and how students are harassed whenever they try to raise their concerns all of which gives the impression to the students that they are scammed out of a good deal, by the administration.

Upon a query from Logan, Secretary Cara Rowe explained on the proactive role played by the Chair in UQ Res Committee discussions.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU UNEQUIVOCALLY SUPPORTS THE STUDENTS AT UQRES KEV CARMODY HOUSE IN STARTING A RESIDENTS COMMITTEE

COUNCIL 111/72 SEARLE/HEDUS

CARRIED

Interpreting the quorum for Rules Committee

Secretary Cara Rowe sought the opinion of the members of the Council on interpreting the proxy for a rules committee meeting the same way as that of a Council meeting which is “if a voting member proxies to a Union Councillor, it counts for quorum” and the members concurred with it

It was moved

THAT THE QUORUM FOR UQU RULES COMMITTEE CONSIDER THE PROXY OF A MEMBER OF RULES COMMITTEE TO COUNT FOR QUORUM

COUNCIL 111/73 ROWE/JOVER

CARRIED

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM