

UNION COUNCIL

MINUTES

From the 7th Ordinary Meeting of the
108th UQ Union Council, 2019

5:00PM

Wednesday 21/08/2019

UQU Boardroom

Union Building (Bld. 21A), St. Lucia Campus

Chair: Ethan Van Roo Douglas

The meeting was declared open at 5:05pm.

a) Welcome by Union Chairperson

b) Credentials

The following members were present:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • Georgia Millroy | • Ethan Van Roo Douglas | • Nathan Kerr |
| • Bella Scattini | • Tom Landy | • Amy Sienkiewicz-Grob |
| • Rowan Evans | • Benjamin Kozij | • Lili Wackwitz |
| • Kaiyin Wu | • Ian Trinh | • Coen Harnischfeger |
| • Lachlan Gillespie | • Bradley Plant | • Lachlan Thomson |
| • Nellie Gordon | • Kurt Tucker | • Sarah Doyle |

The Following Members were absent:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Jehiel Lomaz | • Rebekah Thornton | • Georgia Baird |
| • Selene Cannelli | • Phillip Janowicz | • Tiantian Zhao |
| • Swin Su | • Roxanne Macdonald | • Finnian Sonter |
| • Kate Andersson | • Georgia Boon | • Sari Simawy |
| • Radin Manafi-Khosroshahi | • James Perkins | • Jesse Tong |
| • Ezra Taliv Mo | • Bethany McLeod | • Murrawah Johnson |
| • Lucas Schober | • Gustavo Pazo | • Joseph Krebs |
| • Nicholas Rowan | • Alexander Asher | • Priya De |
| • Tom Campbell | • Jordan Duffey | • Ambrose Boylan |

- Chloe Ainscow
- Connor Morin
- Mohammed Al-Basir

Apologies were received from the following members:

- Jordan Duffey

Applications for leave were received from the following members:

- Jordan Duffey

The following proxies were received:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| • Priya De to Oula Shihan | • Jehiel Lomaz to Oula Shihan |
| • Jordan Duffy to Harrison Pocknee | • Tom Campbell to Alex Smock |
| • Nicholas Rowan to Lachlan Gillespie | • Joseph Krebs to Chris Stewart |
| • Connor Morin to Tori Holliday | • Gustavo Pazo to Lili Wackwitz |
| • Mohammed Al-Basir to Lachlan Thomson | |

The following others were present:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| • Anna Heale | • Harrison Pocknee | • Ryan Jover |
| • Olivia Winchester | • Chris Stewart | • Wilson Gavin |
| • Tori Holliday | • Drew Pavlou | • Alex Smock |

Resignations:

- Campbell Ray – Councillor

c) Elections

Nil

d) The Minutes from the Previous Meeting

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 5th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 108TH UNION COUNCIL
BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 108/124

GILLESPIE/WACKWITZ

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 6th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 108TH UNION COUNCIL
BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 108/125

KOZIJ/TRINH

CARRIED

e) Business Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Nil

f) Requests for Starring/ Approval or Noting of the Items Not Starred en bloc

Nil

g) References

Nil

h) Reports of the Elected Officers

The Union President explained that the reports of the elected officers for this month's Council meeting are available in UQU's inaugural bi-annual report. The file will be circulated via dropbox link following the meeting for the councillors' perusal.

i) Matters Arising from the Reports of the Elected Officers

Nil

j) Question Time

Incorporation

Union Council requested an update on incorporation. The Union Secretary explained that they are currently working with legal consultants to determine the legal structure most appropriate for UQU and accountants have been engaged for advice on tax and the transfer of assets. The redrafted constitution will not be ready in time for a referendum during the next election period, however, the executive is currently looking at running a referendum to bind the incoming executive to the incorporation process. The new constitution will then hopefully be approved by referendum next year. Relevant documents will be brought to Union Council for approval once an appropriate legal structure has been determined.

Councillor Vacancy

Oula Shiha queried the process for electing a councillor to replace Campbell Ray. The Union Secretary explained that they would appoint a new councillor to fill the casual vacancy at the next meeting of Union Council, after an appropriate nominations period, as per the regulations. A temporary resolution will be passed to allow the Chair to fill the vacancy without contracting the RO, as has been done with earlier casual vacancies.

Chris Stewart entered the meeting as proxy for Joseph Krebs at 5.15pm.

Kurt Tucker entered the meeting at 5.15pm.

Fraser Anning Party Posters

Council queried the steps taken after the Fraser Anning Party posters were posted on the Queer Collective door. In response, G&S VP Amy Sienkiewicz-Grob explained that the posters were removed as soon as possible and the issue will be discussed at the Queer Collective meeting on 22nd August. The matter has also been referred to P&F as additional posters were posted on the Student Services wall. Unfortunately, there is no security footage available for the relevant area of the union complex.

UK Trip Report

Councillor Thomson queried when the report on the President's trip to the UK would be circulated. The Union President confirmed that the report would be circulated after the meeting, along with the 2018 RO report and UQU's inaugural bi-annual report.

Returning Officer 2019

Councillor Tucker queried whether Computershare would be returning in the role of RO for the 2019 election. The Union Secretary explained that the recruitment process is held according to the regulations. An ad has been posted on Seek and they have also reached out to appropriate candidates. Computershare are welcome to apply. Candidates will then be considered at the RO Selection Panel.

Clubs and Societies Committee Vacancy

Councillor Thomson queried whether Nerissa Aitken remains eligible to sit on Clubs and Societies Committee as she is no longer a student. The Union Secretary explained that, as far as he is aware, the eligibility criteria in the regulations specifies only that members must have been a former president of a club in the year immediately prior. She would therefore remain eligible. The question was taken on notice to confirm if this is the case. However, it was noted that she is no longer attending meetings and was listed as an apology at the last meeting of the committee.

k) Reports of Union Bodies

Procedural motion to consider reports en bloc.

It was moved

THAT THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND
CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 108/126

VAN ROO DOUGLAS/KOZIJ

CARRIED

THAT THE GATTON BOARD REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 108/127

VAN ROO DOUGLAS/KOZIJ

CARRIED

l) Appeals

Nil

m) Executive Business

Schedule 16

The Union Secretary explained that the updated schedule 16 has been referred to Council from the Clubs and Societies Committee. It was noted that there will be no material impact on existing clubs and the changes are simply to streamline the form and make the affiliation process clearer for prospective clubs.

Procedural motion that the motion be put

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THE UPDATED SCHEDULE 16 BE ACCEPTED

COUNCIL 108/128

KOZIJ/TRINH

CARRIED

C&S Code of Conduct

The Union Secretary explained that the C&S Code of Conduct was referred to Council from the Clubs and Societies Committee. Council were advised that the code ensures club members and executives have guidelines for best practice. In terms of disciplinary action, clubs will still need to abide by the Union's regulations and relevant club constitution.

Councillor Tucker raised that the proposed code implies that, for example, political clubs cannot exercise restrictions on membership based on political affiliation. In response, the Union President explained that club constitutions supersede the Code of Conduct.

It was moved

THAT THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES CODE OF CONDUCTED BE ACCEPTED

COUNCIL 108/129

KOZIJ/TRINH

CARRIED

Kurt Tucker abstained from the vote.

n) General Business

Protestor Laws

The mover, Oula Shihan, explained that the proposed laws are an erosion of civil liberties, an obstacle to peaceful demonstration and an attempt to criminalise climate change protestors.

Councillor Thomson raised that the law refers specifically to locking devices, not climate change protestors specifically. He asks that this be clarified in the motion before Council vote. In response, Oula Shihan noted that the proposed laws are targeting the specific tactics of Extinction Rebellion protestors.

Councillor Tucker raised that, while he personally considers the protestors to be inconsiderate, the protests to be highly inconvenient, and while he does not agree with their cause, there are already public nuisance laws in place and the new laws are therefore an overreach of big government.

It was suggested that the word ‘introduced’ be changed to ‘proposed’ as the legislation has not yet passed. The mover was amenable to the change.

Recorded Vote:

Benjamin Kozij	<i>In Favour</i>
Lili Wackwitz	<i>In Favour</i>
Ian Trinh	<i>Abstain</i>
Joseph Krebs Proxied to Chris Stewart	<i>In Favour</i>
Bradley Plant	<i>Abstain</i>
Gustavo Pazo Proxied to Lili Wackwitz	<i>In Favour</i>
Coen Harnischfeger	<i>Abstain</i>
Lachlan Gillespie	<i>In Favour</i>
Nicholas Rowan Proxied to Lachlan Gillespie	<i>In Favour</i>
Priya De Proxied to Oula Shihaan	<i>In Favour</i>
Jehiel Lomaz Proxied to Oula Shihaan	<i>In Favour</i>
Sarah Doyle	<i>In Favour</i>
Connor Morin Proxied to Tori Holliday	<i>In Favour</i>
Nellie Gordon	<i>In Favour</i>
Tom Campbell Proxied to Alex Smock	<i>In Favour</i>
Lachlan Thomson	<i>In Favour</i>
Mohammed Al-Basir Proxied to Lachlan Thomson	<i>In Favour</i>
Jordan Duffey Proxied to Harrison Pocknee	<i>In Favour</i>
Kurt Tucker	<i>Abstain</i>

It was moved

THAT THE UQ UNION CONDEMNS THE RECENT LAWS PROPOSED TO STATE PARLIAMENT BY THE PALASZCZUK GOVERNMENT THAT WILL EXTEND POLICE POWERS AGAINST PROTESTORS INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO SEARCH PROTESTORS AND MAKING “LOCKING DEVICES” ILLEGAL. THESE LAWS ARE AN ATTACK ON CIVIL LIBERTIES AND FREEDOM, PEACEFUL PROTESTS AND ASSEMBLY. THEY AIM TO PUNISH AND

CRIMINALISE CLIMATE PROTESTORS WITH THE AIM TO DETER ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE. THE UQ UNION ALSO CONDEMNS THE IRRESPONSIBLE COMMENTS MADE BY PALASZCZUK THAT HAVE LABELLED THE PROTESTS AS 'SINISTER AND SELFISH'.

GIVEN THAT THE UQ UNION HAS A COMMITMENT TO FREE SPEECH AND HAS A PROUD HISTORY OF ACTIVISM FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CLIMATE ACTION, THE UNION STANDS AGAINST THIS EROSION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THESE NEW LAWS.

COUNCIL 108/130

SHIHAN/PITTAWAY

CARRIED

The Chair ruled motion 108/131 to be out of order, as it amounts to a personal attack and is factually incorrect as Oula Shihan is not an elected councillor and Kurt Tucker abstained from voting on the aforementioned motion.

It was moved

THAT COUNCIL CONDEMN COUNCILLOR OULA SHIHAN FOR TEAMING UP WITH KNOWN NATIONALIST KURT TUCKER TO PASS THE PREVIOUS MOTION

COUNCIL 108/131

EVANS/SIENKIEWICZ-GROB

OUT OF ORDER

Student Services Mural

The Union President noted that Student Services have called multiple times this week expressing concern over the Semper Editor's postings on the mural. However, she noted that this is part of doing art in a public space and all art should be open to critique.

It was moved

THAT ALL ART IS POLITICAL AND SUBJECT TO CRITIQUE

COUNCIL 108/132

MILLROY/EVANS

CARRIED

Women's Rally

It was explained that a miscommunication had resulted in Student Services asking the Women's Rally to move from the grassy knoll, as the grassy knoll is a designated bookable space. While it was still a good event, student services should be condemned for attempting to silence free speech.

The Union President congratulated Tori Holliday and Amy Sienkiewicz-Grob on a successful women's rally. She noted that it epitomises the university administration that they were asked to move to make way for an activation.

It was moved

THAT COUNCIL CONDEMNS STUDENT SERVICES FOR ATTEMPTING TO MOVE THE LOCATION OF THE WOMEN'S RALLY

COUNCIL 108/133

SIENKIEWICZ-GROB/SCATTINI

CARRIED

Student Activism

The Union Secretary raised that 'The Semper Editors' are not valid for the purposes of seconding a motion.

Procedural motion for dissent in the chair

WITHDRAWN

The Union Secretary acknowledged that 'the Semper Editors' had been accepted as a valid seconder in previous years and for the sake of minimising disruption to the meeting would accept the submission on this occasion.

Procedural motion that the motion be put

NOT CARRIED

The mover of the motion, Drew Pavlou, explained that there has been a recent cultural shift amongst students to dismiss student activism in favour of merlos, eebis etc. This trend seeks to dismantle student activism and replace students with consumer drones.

The seconder of the motion noted that the student services mural is one such example of UQ's attempts at distracting students from a culture of activism and urged Council to vote the motion up.

Oula Shihaan noted that while she supported the sentiment of the motion and agreed that campus is becoming depoliticised and students are encouraged to be consumers rather than explore political ideas, she questioned why this must be framed in the context of a meme. In response, Drew Pavlou explained that framing the motion in this way is an attempt to codify a current trend.

It was moved

THAT COUNCIL CONDEMN EEBIS THOUGHTS WITH MERLOS CHARACTERISTICS
COUNCIL 108/134 PAVLOU/THE SEMPER EDITORS CARRIED

Councillor Tucker raised that student activists in the 70s, such as those protecting ZZZ radio station from eviction or students marching on Coronation Drive, were serious about student activism. Motions such as these make it hard to take student activism seriously. Issues such as the Hong Kong protests generated genuine student interest, but it has now devolved into memes and the average student is no longer able to take the movement seriously. He noted that this is what is truly endangering a culture of student activism.

The meeting was declared closed at 6.01pm.