

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 5th Ordinary Meeting of the
112th UQ Union Council, 2023

5:30 PM

Thursday June 22nd, 2023

Holt Room

UQ Union Complex, St. Lucia

Chair: Alex Smock

a) **Welcome**

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:53 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

Councillors	Student Executives and Officers	Observers
Jacinto Hedus	Richard Lee	Michael Walker
Claire Sturm	Greta Simpson	Benjamin Myatt
Daniel Lynn	Joshua Marsh	Natalie Scott
Timothy Hirsch	Laura Nolan	Barclay McGain
Toby Abrahamson	Ella Gutteridge	Ryan McDonald
Utkrist Paudyal	Jordy Duffy	
Matthew George Pereira	Brinda Gunashanhar	
Skye Stewart	Annalise Whittingham	
Lily Cooke	Anikka Way	
Elise Northcote	Erin Blyth	
Adrian Sutherland Chettle	Ryley Calvert	
Max Thompson	TJ Polataivao- Reupena	

Apologies and Leave:

Daniel Chancellor

Jeryn Chang

Angus McRae

Anikka Way

Jinxu Zhuang

Oscar Green

The following proxies were received:

Abraham Sunil to Timothy Hirsch

Shenalle Jiang to Max Thompson

Emma Goodwin to Barclay McGain

Jinxu Zhuang to Ryley Calvert, Toby Abrahamson, Richard Lee

Kore Opie to Alex McDouall

Oscar Green to Ryan McDonald

c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Meeting

Utkrist Paudyal and Matthew George Pereira queried on the pricing structure for Atlas Ball tickets. Treasurer Joshua Marsh replied that the pricing was formulated to ensure the event reaches a break-even point and highlighted that any profit made would be returned to the clubs.

Matthew George Pereira queried on the release of funds to UQIC pointing out that while negotiations are currently ongoing, previous agreements should be honoured. Joshua Marsh replied that discussions are being initiated to explore allocation of partial funding while the negotiations are underway.

The minutes were corrected to reflected the voting patterns of the councillors.

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and approved.

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 4th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 112TH UQ UNION COUNCIL HELD ON 24th MAY 2023 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 112/49

CARRIED

d) Business arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting

None

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

Mathew George Pereira starred environmental report.

It was moved

TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS EN BLOC EXCEPT THOSE STARRED

COUNCIL 112/50

CARRIED

Matthew George Pereira queried the environmental officer on the work being done by the collective aside from the movie screenings and protests mentioned in the report. Ella Gutteridge replied that all the work done by the collective has always been publicly notified, that the members of the council are further welcome to attend any collective meetings and obtain further information. She further mentioned that she refuses to answer the question as she believes it not to be in good faith.

It was moved

TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS

COUNCIL 112/51

HEDUS/STURM

CARRIED

f) Matters Arising from Reports of Elected Officers

None

g) Question Time

Natalie Scott queried the secretary on the availability of the council meeting minutes online and Secretary Greta Simpson replied that they would be made available the following morning on the Union website.

Natalie Scott queried on the costs associated with the posters of the Student Executives on the Union Building wall and the treasurer Joshua Marsh replied that the costs are minimal, and the intent was for the student representation through the Union be visible to the wider student body.

Matthew George Pereira queried on the activities of the environmental collective with regards to the environment aside from protests. Environmental Officer Ella Gutteridge refused to answer stating that anyone interested in the work of the collective can visit the environmental collective office spaces, attend workshops and meetings and also discuss with the Environmental Officers. Daniel Lynn mentioned that as elected office bearers of the council they are accountable to the council in explaining their roles and responsibilities to the council.

h) Reports of Union Bodies

Nil.

i) Business which has been proposed

Renaming the UQ Union Board of Directors to UQ Union Advisory Board:

Secretary greta Simpson spoke to the council on the proposed name change mentioning that it is to reflect the true nature of the board of being advisory in nature and will not change the roles and responsibilities of the board as it exists.

President Richard Lee further mentioned that it was a long overdue change and that it was recommended by the board chair to ensure the nature and direction of the board is accurately reflected, and that the advisory board will be advising the Union.

It was moved

THAT THE NAME CHANGE OF UQ UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO UQ UNION ADVISORY BOARD IN THE UNION REGULATIONS BE ACCEPTED AND APPROVED

COUNCIL 112/52

SIMPSON/LEE

CARRIED

UQU will continue to support and advocate for in-person voting

Greta Simpson spoke to the members on the proposed motion mentioning that it is to ensure Union stays on the right track as the current process rightly highlights the democratic nature of Union elections, gives the students a chance to know who to vote for and for the Union to communicate and be known to the students as well.

President Richard Lee reserved his right to speak on the proposed motion.

Matthew George Pereira suggested an amendment to remove the phrase “at any point” mentioning that in the event of another pandemic or such unforeseen situations, the Union and the students have the feasibility to conduct/participate in online elections.

President Richard Lee clarified to the members that in the event of such scenarios outlined by the councillor, the Union can address it anyway and that the current motion is being proposed to reflect the sentiments of the Union and the students, as the University can use online elections as a KPI and cut Union’s funding.

Matthew George Pereira withdrew his proposed amendment.

Claire Sturm mentioned the example of online voting and election process at ANU and suggested having a little more dispersed campaign at the Union and online voting could be one such way.

Greta Simpson highlighted the fact that online voting for campaigns/programs held by UQ has always been way lower than the in-person voting of the UQU elections.

Utkrist Paudyal mentioned that with the impending move of everything going online in the future, the Union should consider incremental steps towards such.

Ben Myatt mentioned that while there are various ways to enable online voting, coercive behaviours of campaigners to get students to vote in front of them can be problematic.

Ella Gutteridge advised recognising the traditional strength of the democracy at the union and the Union elections.

The Chair mentioned that while processes surrounding the in-person voting and the Union elections can always be revisited, the elections should stay in-person voting mode and highlighted that UQ is the last bastion in the country in terms of best democratic processes and student power at display, which should be rightly preserved.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

THAT THE UQU WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR IN-PERSON VOTING AT ANY POINT

COUNCIL 112/53

SIMPSON/LEE

CARRIED

RECORDED VOTE:

Shenalle Jiang Proxy For

Jacinto Hedus For

Claire Sturm Against

Daniel Lynn For

Timothy Hirsch For

Adrian Sutherland Chettle For

Karsten Duval proxy For

Toby Abrahamson For

Lily Cooke Against

Jinxhu Zhuang proxy For

Ayden Rusov Against

Kore Opie proxy For

Max Thompson For

Oscar Green proxy Against

Abraham Sunil proxy For

Rehan Gulati proxy For

Elise Northcote For

Emma Goodwin proxy For

Utkrist Paudyal For

Matthew George Pereira Against

Carmi More proxy For

Skye Stewart Against

Alex Mcdouall proxy For

SASH Policy at UQU

Erin Blyth spoke to the members of the council on the proposed motion about establishing a committee at the union for formulating a SASH response system at UQU. She highlighted that the proposed move is to ensure the Union shoulders adequate responsibility for the safety and security of the students and that this move was endorsed in the C&S committee and Executive committee. She encouraged the members of the council to join the committee upon its formation and urged their endorsement for the same.

Utkrist Paudyal seconded the sentiments expressed by Erin Blyth.

Greta Simpson clarified to the council that any system proposed by the committee will be complimentary to the existing systems of the university. She further mentioned that it will be highlighted and ensured that UQU will be framing policies that do not take away or lessen the role and responsibility of the University in these matters.

Barclay McGain advised caution and mentioned the culture of ganging up on a particular individual and expelling them and that the nature of the committee and how it will address frivolous/fake complaints needs to be clarified.

In response to a query from max Thompson who expressed concern on the legal aspects of such complaints or actions taken, Erin Blyth replied that the nature and structure of the committee is yet to be discussed and will ensure that proper legal safeguards are taken.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU COUNCIL SUPPORTS A SASH COMMITTEE AT UQU
COUNCIL 112/54 BLYTH/PAUDYAL CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

July Council Meeting at Gatton

Greta Simpson informed the members on holding the next council meeting at Gatton campus, highlighting that it would be a good way for the Gatton students to be involved in the Union and that the union presence at Gatton has vastly increased this year.

UQU condemns the paid elected environmental office bearers for failing to answer questions about their advocacy in improving the local environment at UQ

Lily Cooke spoke on the proposed motion saying that when student money through SSAF is used to pay the elected office bearers to run the environmental portfolio, the office bearers should be answering questions related to their role and responsibilities.

Matthew George Pereira concurred with the sentiments expressed and further mentioned that elected office bearers should respond to the council appropriately as they are not providing answers not just to the councillors but the wider UQ student body.

Dylan Thomas spoke against the proposed motion saying that environmental officers have answered the questions and that a lot of the issues they advocate for and/or protest against are connected to the environment.

Sian Chadfield mentioned that environment cannot be typecast as trees or nature alone and modern world is increasingly about Urbanism and that the environment collective is doing a good job.

Max Thompson mentioned that while he agrees with the opinion of Sian Chadfield, there are portfolios within the Union that already deal with a lot of issues the environmental collective is pursuing or intends to.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

THAT THE UQU CONDEMNS THE PAID ELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICERS FOR FAILING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR ADVOCACY IN IMPROVING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AT UQ

COUNCIL 112/55

COOKE/PEREIRA

NOT CARRIED

UQU increase the wages of all full-time staff by 10% to combat inflation

Matthew George Pereira spoke on the proposed motion saying that considering the upcoming wage review of Union staff, the council should endorse a 10% wage raise for all full-time staff members considering the 7% rise in inflation affecting the staff. He further mentioned that in order to retain good staff, the Union should support them appropriately and urged the members to support the motion.

Lily Cooke mentioned that with the rise in inflation, wages should be raised to support the staff.

Utkrist Paudyal mentioned that no consultation was held with the treasurer before formulating such a raise and that such numbers can adversely affect the Union if not considered carefully.

President Richard Lee clarified to the members of the council that the Enterprise Agreement negotiations are currently ongoing that negotiate the wage structures and levels for all the staff. He further mentioned that the wages of the Union staff do not fall under the purview of the union council. He highlighted the fact that while the council can always direct the Union to consider the welfare of the staff members, a direction cannot be given with certain amounts or percentages in mind. He further highlighted that Union is always committed in ensuring adequate support for Union staff.

UQU General Manager Student Affairs Glenda Jacobs mentioned that wages are a complex decision that involves businesses, finances and various other factors and that the Union staff appreciate and warmly receive the sentiments expressed by the council for them.

Motion mover Matthew George Pereira amended the motion to remove the percentage of wage raise proposed.

Barclay McGain spoke against the motion saying that such a change in the middle of the year will adversely impact the Union and could potentially reduce the funding for student experience side of things and that fundamentally such a change is too much at the Union level.

The motion was tabled for next meeting.

UQU Secretary to write a letter to Billy Slater

Matthew Pereira and Michael Walker spoke on the proposed motion highlighting the recent victories of the Queensland team in the state of origin series and that the Union secretary should write a letter to Billy Slater congratulating on the performances and the victory.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU SECRETARY WRITE A LETTER TO BILLY SLATER
CONGRAGULATING THE PERFORMANCES OF THE QUEENSLAND
TEAM IN THE STATE OF ORIGIN SERIES

COUNCIL 112/56

PEREIRA/WALKER

CARRIED

UQU commends former UQ Alumni Mark McGowan

Ethan Ryley Calvert spoke on the proposed motion mentioning that the leadership of Mark McGowan should be commended especially for keeping the WA state safe during the pandemic.

Michael Walker further mentioned that two of the UQ alumni are leading two major states of Australia and the leadership of Mark McGowan during the pandemic is commendable.

Laura Nolan disagreed with the motion stating that it is disgraceful to commend the likes of Mark McGowan when his actions or inactions in issues related to nurses, working conditions, disabled indigenous kids, mining industries etc. are deplorable.

Barclay McGain mentioned the recent report highlighting the role of environment minister in the Mark McGowan government in the approval of Rio Tinto mine that destroyed indigenous heritage sites and also that the locking of borders during the pandemic by Mark McGowan is condemnable.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU COMMENDS THE FORMER UQ ALUMNI MARK MCGOWAN FOR HIS SERVICES TO THE WA STATE AND FOR HIS LEADERSHIP

COUNCIL 112/57 CALVERT/WALKER NOT CARRIED

UQU Commends the new mining and energy Union

Emma Ryley Calvert spoke on the proposed motion explaining to the members of the council on the process the mining and energy industry workers followed in the formation of their own independent union delineating from CFMEU, to ensure the new union accurately represents and reflects the views of their members.

Max Thompson mentioned that CFMEU is no longer representative or reflective of the mining industry and the new Union will be free of the radical left-wing influences of the CFMEU.

Ella Gutteridge urged the members not to support the motion as it aligns with and supports the views of the fossil fuel industries.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU COMMEND THE NEW MINING AND ENERGY UNION

COUNCIL 112/58 CALVERT/THOMPSON CARRIED

UQU commends the Australian team performance in the Edgbaston Test of Ashes

Ryley Calvert spoke on the proposed motion extolling the spirit and display of the Australian cricket team in the first test match of the current Ashes series in England.

Barclay McGain further highlighted the presence of Khwaja as a good example of multicultural vibrancy of Australia.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU COMMEND THE PERFORMANCES OF THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TEAM IN THE EDGBASTON TEST OF THE ASHES SERIES

COUNCIL 112/59

CALVERT/WALKER

CARRIED

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 7:40 PM