

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 3rd Ordinary Meeting of the
112th UQ Union Council, 2023

5:30 PM
Monday April 24th, 2023
Holt Room
UQ Union Complex, St. Lucia

a) Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:57 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
Shenalle Jiang	Richard Lee	Michael Walker
Jacinto Hedus	Greta Simpson	Benjamin Myatt
Timothy Hirsch	Joshua Marsh	Will Sim
Adrian Sutherland Chettle	Tapanega Reupena Jr.	Priya De
Karsten Duvel	Ryley Calvert	Sam Adams
Kore Opie	Erin Blyth	Eric Yun
Elise Northcote	Daniel Chancellor	Alex Smock
Max Thompson	Sandra Fadia Haya	Aaron Lin
Skye Stewart	Rita Zhou	
Alex McDowall	Jester Roach	
Rehan Gulati	Sian Chadfield	
Emma Goodwin	Jeryn Chang	
Utkrist Paudyal	Laura Nolan	
Matthew George Pereira	Ella Gutteridge	
Claire Sturm	Emily Lee	
Lily Cooke	Clara Mueller	
	Annalise Whittingham	
	Keely Fischer	
	Jess Heald	
	Ahmed Abdulmunem	
	Emily Lee	

Apologies and Leave:

Saumya Jain

The following proxies were received:

Toby Abrahamson to Michael Walker

Lily Cooke to Skye Stewart

Elise Northcote to Daniel Chancellor

Jinxu Zhuang to

Ayden Rusov to Karston Duvel

Oscar Green to Matthew George pereira

Abraham Sunil to Jeryn Chang

Daniel Lynn to Jacinto Hedus

c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Meeting

The minutes were corrected to reflect the fact that

- i) Oscar green voted FOR in the recorded vote for the motion of paying office bearers 60 hours per fortnight.
- ii) Elise Northcote proxy vote was AGAINST in the motion pertaining to International Atlas Ball.

With those changes accepted, the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and approved.

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 2nd ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 112TH UQ UNION COUNCIL HELD ON 22nd MARCH 2023 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 112/38

WALKER/

CARRIED

d) Business arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting

None

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

Matthew Pereira starred the reports of environmental officers and international officers.

It was moved

TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS EN BLOC EXCEPT THOSE STARRED

COUNCIL 112/39

HEDUS/SIMPSON

CARRIED

Karsten Duvel queried the Environmental officers on the pragmatic actions undertaken by the environmental officers as part of their portfolio and raised the absence of activities from the collective such as clean-ups etc. the Environmental officers replied that most activities are centered around creating awareness, providing educational opportunities to the students and encouraging the students in getting involved in environmental activism and work towards environmental actions. They further clarified that the funding of the collective goes towards educational awareness and outreach.

Matthew Pereira queried the International officer Rita Zhou on the exclusion of international student demographics aside from china from the welcome pack distribution. Rita clarified that it was on account of Chinese students missing out on the 0-week because of travel restrictions in their country and not in anyway catering to one demogrpahics alone. In response to another query regarding the usage of social media to inform international students, Rita replied that focus on wechat is because of accessibility issues for students in china but agreed to have it across the board in future.

It was moved

TO ACCEPT ALL STARRED REPORTS EN BLOC

COUNCIL 112/40

CHETTLE/PEREIRA

CARRIED

f) Matters Arising from Reports of Elected Officers

None

g) Question Time

In response to a query from Ella Gutteridge, UQU President Richard Lee replied that on account of the cut off time last year for the conference being the same time as the changeover at the Union, it could not be achieved in time.

h) Reports of Union Bodies

Nil.

i) Business which has been proposed

Regulation Changes:

The Secretary informed the council members on the regulation changes being proposed, the motions related to them and that they were recommended by the last rules committee meeting.

Entitlements for Disability Officers and International Officers

Disability Officer Sian Chadfield spoke on the advocacy needed through the disability collective considering the various needs of the disabled students and issues faced by them. They further spoke on how accessibility issues and information is a huge problem and with significant number of University schools and officials looking to engage with the disability collective for research and understanding, the collective and the officers are undertaking a lot of work.

Matthew Pereira endorsing the views expressed by the disability officer, proposed an amendment to the motion that the paid working hours of the disability officers be raised to the same level as the VPs, to 76 hours per fortnight. He further mentioned that the disability officers and the international officers undertake a significant amount of work and it is only fair that they are paid for the same.

Max Thomson mentioned that the budget for the year was already formulated and passed and feels that the current wage increases are enough and that it matches what is expected of the roles as outlined in previous meetings and discussions.

The Chair recessed the meeting at 6:28 PM and resumed the meeting at 6:45 PM

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

THAT THE HOURS FOR DISABILITY OFFICERS AND INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS BE RAISED FROM 60 HOURS TO 76 HOURS PER FORTNIGHT.

COUNCIL 112/41

PEREIRA/DUVEL

NOT CARRIED

Recorded Vote :

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

It was moved

THAT THE ENTITLEMENTS FOR DISABILITY OFFICERS AND
INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS BE 60 HOURS PER FORTNIGHT

COUNCIL 112/42

SIMPSON/LEE

CARRIED

Regulating the PACE Officer

Secretary Greta Simpson spoke to the members on the proposed motion to regulate the role of PACE officer into the Union regulations to recognise the role which works towards the development of and working for the PACE students.

It was moved

THAT THE PACE OFFICER ROLE BE INCLUDED IN THE UNION REGULATIONS

COUNCIL 112/43 SIMPSON/LEE CARRIED

General Business:

UQU demands that the labour government reverse the decision on HECS and UQU posts a statement on social media condemning the government

Alex McDowall spoke on the effects of increased indexation of HECS on the student population and the increase in line with inflation is a crippling burden on the students.

Ella Gutteridge waived her speaking rights to Kore Opie.

Kore mentioned that students on Youth Allowance spend over 70% of their allowance on rent alone and that the Union should fight for the students and condemn such actions by the government.

It was moved

THAT THE MOTION BE SPLIT INTO TWO, ONE ABOUT INDEXATION AND THE OTHER ABOUT WELFARE

COUNCIL 112/44 PEREIRA/DUVEL NOT CARRIED

Michael Walker mentioned that the Union should be fighting every step of the way on the indexation increase.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU DEMANDS THAT THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT REVERSES THE DECISION ON HECS AND UQU POSTS A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT DECISION.

COUNCIL 112/45 MCDOWALL/GUTTERIDGE CARRIED

UQU condemns the Qld government and the police for the widespread sexist and racist policies

Asha Coles spoke on the proposed motion highlighting the violent behaviour, sexism and racism prevalent in the QLD police services and how the accused officers are being reinstated and there is an utter lack of accountability within the department. She urged the members to oppose the opening of the new youth bail laws, detention centres and bloated budgets for the department.

Will Sim spoke on how when atrocities committed by the police officials are being highlighted, QLD premier has praised the police services in a recent speech. He urged the council and the Union to condemn the QPS and to take a firm stand on these issues.

It was moved

THAT THE MOTION BE AMENDED TO REMOVE THE PART CONDEMNING THE QLD LABOUR

COUNCIL 112/46 HEDUS/MYATT NOT CARRIED

Ryley Calvert spoke in favour of the motion mentioning the tragic personal incident in his life where he lost a cousin due to the actions of QPS in the year 2018 and the coroner's report was handed in only this year, leading to a traumatic wait of 5 years for the family awaiting justice.

Matthew Pereira mentioned that he supports condemning the QPS but not the revoking of youth bail laws and support for defunding the police. He highlighted the resulting impacts of youth crime on people and why he is taking a stance against supporting the revoke of the bail laws.

Priya De mentioned the various motions put forward across the years at the Council on police brutality, and urged members to speak out against the party as being members of the party does not mean they cannot speak against the labour government and that as a student Union, the members should collectively challenge the government together

It was moved

THAT THE

1. UQU CONDEMNS THE QPS FOR THE WIDESPREAD SEXIST AND RACIST POLICIES IN DISCHARGE OF THEIR DUTIES
2. UQU CONDEMNS THE LABOUR PARTY
3. UQU SUPPORTS REVOKEMENT OF YOUTH BAIL LAWS AND DEFUNDING OF THE POLICE

COUNCIL 112/47 COLES/KANE CARRIED

UQU condemns the greenwashing policies

Will Sim spoke on the proposed motion explaining that the safeguards mechanism is nothing but a greenwashing policy helping only the fossil fuel industry and while this bill was designed by the previous liberal government it was merely airbrushed by the current labour government.

Laura Nolan spoke further mentioning that the bill is in no way a step forward and that it in fact allows the expansion of operations by the fossil fuel companies while continuing to destroy the planet.

It was moved

THAT THE MOTION BE AMENDED TO UQU CONDEMNS THE LABOUR SAFEGUARD MECHANISM

COUNCIL 112/48 DUVEL/PEREIRA NOT CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THE UQU CONDEMNS THE GREENWASHING POLICY OF SAFEGUARD MECHANISM

COUNCIL 112/49 SIM/NOLAN CARRIED

UQU supports the Uluru Statement

President Richard Lee mentioned that the proposed motion has the endorsement of the Goorie Berrimpa officers, highlighting that UQ is the only university not to have come out in support of the voice which is disgraceful on part of the University considering the reconciliation action working group of the University has already written a letter in support of the voice. He further mentioned that it is an important stance for the Student Union to have and urged everyone to stand on the right side of history.

Jeryn Chang waived her speaking rights.

Will Sim urged the members to not support the motion unequivocally and mentioned that there is no consensus amongst the indigenous community on the Uluru statement and also that the voice will not change the discriminatory policies of the labour government.

Max Thomson spoke against the motion mentioning that in his experiences with his godfather and conversations with his daughter, he understood the context better and is expressing his opposition to the voice. He further mentioned that the voices championing the Voice do not reflect the reality of issues and understanding of the indigenous people.

Elise Northcote mentioned that any referendum even seen as a symbolic one should still be seen as powerful in the symbolic value it represents.

The motion was amended to remove the word unequivocally

It was moved

THAT THE UQU SUPPORTS THE ULURU STATEMENT AND THE VOICE TO THE PARLIAMENT

COUNCIL 112/50 LEE /CHANG CARRIED

Union council recognises that the Union bodies should be politically neutral

Matthew Pereira spoke on the proposed motion saying that when the Union bodies post on social media accounts, it must be ensured that they cannot take political stance/sides without the consent of the council. He further spoke on the second motion concerning meetings saying that meetings like the rules committee should be held after working hours as it would make it easier for the students to participate. He also spoke on the third proposed motion relating to the labour government decision to allow entry of temporary visa holders which led to a huge increase in rental prices and urged caution about such steps in future.

Ti Parker condemned the proposed motion directing the Union bodies to be politically neutral saying that it is nothing but curbing free speech and that the collectives and the elected student officers should be able to take a stance on issues.

Utkrist Paudyal mentioned that when it comes to rules committee meetings, members did not offer their availabilities despite the repeated requests from the Secretary.

There was a procedural motion that the three motions be put to vote en bloc except for the motion proposing one minute silence for Anzac Day.

Recorded Vote :

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

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

Recorded Vote :

Shenalle Jiang Abstain
Jacinto Hedus *For*
Claire Sturm For
Daniel Lynn proxy For
Timothy Hirsch For

Adrian Sutherland Chettle For
Karsten Duvel Against
Toby Abrahamson For
Lily Cooke For
Elise Northcote proxy Abstain
Jinxu Zhuang proxy For
Aydan Rusev proxy Against
Kore Opie For
Max Thompson Against
Oscar Green proxy For
Abraham Sunil proxy For
Skye Stewart Against
Alex Mcdowall For
Rehan Gulati For
Utkrist Paudyal For
Matthew George Pereira Against
Carmi More proxy Against

It was moved

THAT THE MOTIONS MOVED EN BLOC BE ACCEPTED

COUNCIL 112/51 NOT CARRIED

Recorded Vote :

Shenalle Jiang Against
Jacinto Hedus *Against*
Claire Sturm Against
Daniel Lynn proxy Against
Timothy Hirsch Against
Adrian Sutherland Chettle Against
Karsten Duvel For
Toby Abrahamson Against
Lily Cooke For
Elise Northcote Against
Jinxu Zhuang proxy Against
Aydan Rusev proxy For
Kore Opie Against
Max Thompson Against
Oscar Green proxy For
Abraham Sunil proxy Against

Skye Stewart For
Alex Mcdowall Against
Utkrist Paudyal Against
Matthew George Pereira For
Carmi More proxy Against

UQU Council observes a minute of silence for the ANZAC day

Karsten Duvel proposed observing a minute of silence commemorating the sacrifices of the defence persons during world war 1.

COUNCIL 112/52 DUVEL/COOKE CARRIED

The minutes reflect the fact that members of SALT left the meeting before the observance of the minute of silence.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8:27 PM