

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 4th Ordinary Meeting of the
112th UQ Union Council, 2023

5:30 PM

Wednesday May 24th, 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
Timothy Hirsch	Greta Simpson	Benjamin Myatt
Adrian Sutherland Chettle	Tapanega Reupena Jr.	Will Sim
Kore Opie	Ryley Calvert	Sam Adams
Max Thompson	Erin Blyth	Aaron Lin
Skye Stewart	Daniel Chancellor	Dylan Thomas
Alex McDowall	Sandra Fadia Haya	
Emma Goodwin	Rita Zhou	
Matthew George Pereira	Jester Roach	
Claire Sturm	Sian Chadfield	
Abraham Sunil	Jeryn Chang	
Toby Abrahamson	Laura Nolan	
	Ella Gutteridge	

Apologies and Leave:

Karsten Duval
Joshua Marsh
Oscar Green
Rita Zhou
Misha
Ahmed
Emily Lee

The following proxies were received:

Karsten Duval to Jeanette
Shenalle Jiang to Abraham Sunil
Daniel Lynn to Benjamin Myatt
Jinxu Zhuang to Claire Sturm
Lily Cooke to Matthew George Pereira
Elise Northcote to Adrian Sutherland Chettle
Aydan Rusov to Claire Sturm
Rehan Gulati to Timothy Hirsch
Utkrist Paudyal to Sam Adams
Carmi More to Toby Abrahamson
Oscar Green to Matthew George Pereira

c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and approved.

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 3rd ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 112TH UQ
UNION COUNCIL HELD ON 24th APRIL 2023 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 112/40

ABRAHAMSON/HEDUS

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*

It was moved

TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS EN BLOC EXCEPT THOSE STARRED

COUNCIL 112/41

HEDUS/MYATT

CARRIED

f) Matters Arising from Reports of Elected Officers

None

g) Question Time

Emma Goodwin queried on the extent of association of the Union for the upcoming Edcon to be hosted at UQ and the financial aspects involving the Union. UQU President Richard Lee mentioned that the negotiations with the NUS are ongoing, and the council will be updated once the details are finalised. He further mentioned that conferences like these are an opportunity for the union to be back on the national platform.

Matthew George Pereira queried on the Atlas ball tickets being priced high and that for a union funded event, it should not be unaffordable to the students. Matthew George Pereira further queried on the non-disbursement of funds to UQIC even as they are negotiating a partnership agreement with the Union.

Claire Sturm queried the Semper editor Dylan Thomas on whether a response was requested from the library services regarding an article in the latest edition of Semper and was replied in the negative.

h) Reports of Union Bodies

Nil.

i) Business which has been proposed

Office Bearer Wages:

The Chair mentioned to the members of the council that the proposed motion was discussed at Rules Committee meeting and was endorsed as favourable by the rules committee to the Council.

The motion mover Sam Adams mentioned that he agrees with the proposed motion the intent of which is to ensure the office bearers are rewarded adequately for the responsibilities they discharge as part of their roles and that there should not be any opposition.

Motion seconder Jacinto Hedus concurred with the views expressed by Sam Adams and further mentioned that this is a fair motion and would encourage students to consider running for office at the Union.

Matthew George Pereira proposed an amendment to set the wage levels of office bearers of the union at HEW level 1.1 saying that the union should lead by example by offering adequate wages to office bearers.

Michael Walker spoke against the proposed amendment mentioning that such a proposal should have been brought to the rules committee first for the members to evaluate and offer their opinion to the council in a fair and proper manner. He further highlighted the fact that the proposed wage increase was agreed upon by the office bearers.

There was a procedural motion that the proposed amendment to the motion be put.

It was moved

THAT THE MOTION BE AMENDED THAT THE REGULATION R56.7 BE READ AS ELECTED OFFICERS WHO ARE PAID SHALL BE PAID AT HEW LEVEL 1.1

COUNCIL 112/42

NOT CARRIED

RECORDED VOTE:

Shenalle Jiang Proxy Against

Jacinto Hedus Against

Claire Sturm For

Daniel Lynn Proxy Against

Timothy Hirsch Against

Adrian Sutherland Chettle Against

Karsten Duval proxy For

Toby Abrahamson Against
Lily Cooke proxy For
Jinxhu Zhuang proxy For
Kore Opie Against
Max Thompson Against
Oscar Green proxy For
Abraham Sunil Against
Rehan Gulati proxy Against
Elise Northcote proxy Against
Emma Goodwin Against
Utkrist Paudyal proxy For
Matthew George Pereira For
Carmi More proxy Against
Skye Stewart
Alex Mcdowall

It was moved

THAT THE REGULATION R56.7 NOW READ AS R56.7 ELECTED OFFICERS WHO ARE PAID SHALL BE PAID 4/3RDS OF THE MINIMUM WAGE SET ANNUALLY BY THE FAIR WORKS COMMISSION

COUNCIL 112/43 ADAMS/HEDUS CARRIED

- UQU to condemn federal budget and post a statement

Alex Mcdowall spoke on the proposed motion saying the recent federal budget has billions of dollars going towards nuclear submarines while barely supporting the students and that the Union should take a public stance against it by posting a statement condemning the budget.

Laura Nolan further spoke endorsing the sentiments expressed saying that the Union needs to clearly demonstrate to the students that it is on their side.

Michael Walker spoke against the motion saying that while indexing to inflation of HECS is bad, it is unfair to judge the budget solely on this factor as other areas and services have benefited from the budget.

Kore Opie mentioned that the budget should be rightly condemned considering the billions of dollars offered in tax cuts while ignoring the effects on students particularly the rental crisis.

Louis McCarthy highlighted that nothing in budget is helpful to the students especially considering that a significant percentage of the population is below the poverty line. And that as a student Union there is a responsibility to take a stand against the budget in favour of the affected students.

There was a procedural motion that the discussion on the motion be moved into a formal debate.

Benjamin Myatt disagreed with the motion saying that while parts of the budget especially related to the student cohort definitely needs improvement, a lot of initiatives in the budget should be understood and appreciated.

Sam Adams mentioned that the budget should be condemned as a whole as it is skewed in the direction the Council and the students in general are not in agreement with.

Jacinto Hesus mentioned that 9 years of the previous government leaves little room for doing all that is needed and changes required within one year of the current labour government.

Laura Nolan mentioned that the budget is against the interests of the students and the working class, a lot of the issues is what the Union should be campaigning for and that only environmental portfolio has been actively highlighting these.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

THAT THE UQU POST A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE FEDERAL BUDGET 2023

COUNCIL 112/44

McDOWALL/NOLAN

CARRIED

UQU affirms its support for refugee and migrant rights

Kore Opie spoke on the proposed motion saying that the recent statements by Peter Dutton blaming the refugees for the rental crisis led to far right marches seen in Melbourne while it was in fact landlords and government policies that

are responsible for rental crisis. She further urged the members to support this motion.

Ethan Davidson mentioned that the type of rhetoric expressed by the likes of Dutton vilifying the migrants might be a norm for the liberals, but the current labour government policies are also greatly affecting the migrants and the Union should stand in solidarity with them.

Emma Goodwin mentioned that procedures and protocols should be followed while coming into Australia without compromising the systems and society.

Claire Sturm disagreed saying that while there is a process to come into Australia, United Nations has clear rules on processing refugees and current Australian policies are flouting international law in that regard.

Ella Gutteridge mentioned that Australia should embrace open door policy and that Union should endorse such a stance.

Matthew George Pereira mentioned that government should keep the capacity constraints in mind while deciding policies on immigration.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

THAT THE UQU AFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES AND
MIGRANTS

COUNCIL 112/45 OPIE/GUTTERIDGE CARRIED

No Nuclear subs Research at UQ

Ella Gutteridge spoke on the proposed motion saying that Aukus deal is disastrous and urged the members to understand the background on why the council and the students should advocate against moves to involve Universities in such research.

Will Sim mentioned that the students should fight against the corrosive influence of corporations and the military and that the union should advocate for the university to not be part of such.

Jacinto Hedus mentioned that while the council might have voted against the Aukus deal itself the opportunities for the students to engage in research of choice through the University should not be denied.

Laura Nolan mentioned that Universities should not be run like corporate organizations with profit alone in mind, nuclear submarines are an act of aggression and nothing about this is defensible as Universities should be place of enquiry, intellect and building a better future.

Sam Adamas agreed with the motion saying that UQ has a sordid history of aligning with the wrong side on issues like these in the past and that nuclear submarines make the likelihood of a devastating impact on the future of the world much larger.

Timothy Hirsch mentioned that from a research perspective, he disagrees with saying blanket ban on research on areas deemed harmful as research and learning can be applied across industries.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU SUPPORTS NO NUCLEAR SUBMARINES RESEARCH AT UQ

COUNCIL 112/46 GUTTERIDGE/SIM NOT CARRIED

UQU supports the Anti-AUKUS protest at the labour national conference

Will Sim spoke on the motion saying that AUKUS is not about protecting Australia but instead bringing in a needless conflict with China and pushing towards a world war and that a stance should be taken against it.

Louis McCarthy mentioned that a firm stance should be taken against the Aukus deal and protesting at the labour conference is the right way to show that people are actually against the priorities of the labour government in the budget, which is not what the people especially the students want.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU SUPPORTS THE ANTI-AUKUS PROTEST AT THE LABOUR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

COUNCIL 112/47 SIM/McCARTHY NOT CARRIED

UQU Secretary to write a letter of congratulations to King Charles III on his successful coronation after finishing the longest ever internship and that we look forward to his short reign

Matthew George Pereira spoke on the motion saying that King Charles should be congratulated on his successful coronation after the longest known internship in history and that the union secretary should write a letter.

Emma Goodwin mentioned that we should pay our respects to the constitutional monarchy.

Ben Myatt spoke against the motion saying that Australia should become a republic and not endorse the monarchy and that King Charles III should not be congratulated for an inherited title he simply waited for.

Toby mentioned that monarchy is fundamentally an outdated institution and highlighted that there is no consensus to endorse the move to write a letter.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU SECRETARY TO WRITE A LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS TO KING CHARLES III ON HIS SUCCESSFUL CORONATION AFTER FINISHING THE LONGEST EVER INTERNSHIP AND THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO HIS SHORT REIGN

COUNCIL 112/48 PEREIRA/GOODWIN NOT CARRIED

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8:20 PM