

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 2nd Extraordinary Meeting of the
111th UQ Union Council, 2022

5:30 PM

Wednesday 25 May, 2022

Holt Room

UQ Union Complex, St. Lucia

Chair: Sam Adams

a) The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:41 PM and acknowledged the traditional owners and custodians of the land, paying respect to their elders' past, present, and emerging

b) **Credentials**

The following were present

Councillors

Utkrist Paudyal
Ethan Jones
Austin Smidt
Mitchell Ablett-Nelson
Matthew Burgin
Edward Uzelin
Zwe Htet Aung
Louisa Mccarthy
Laura Nolan
Samuel Chamberlain
Gabby Callow
Carib Phillips
Ben Myatt
Daniel Dawes
Elise Northcote
Natasha Brettell

Student Executives and Officers

Emily Searle
Cara Rowe
Radhika Peddibhotla
Rheanna Norris
Justin Chen
Marisha Robinson
Anna Li
Greta Simpson
Elias Blanch
Alicia Steele
Ti Parker
Samara Paradine

Observers

Glenda Jacobs
Trent Boyce
Richard Lee
Logan Bean
Kore Opie
Priya De
Ryley Calvert
William Sim
Ben Muirhead
Barclay McGain
Jack Barton
Matthew George Pereira
Jordan A March
Joshua Todd Cowper
Natalie Scott
Cristian Gutierrez
Diana Elizabeth Ashton
Rahul (Minutes)

Apologies and Leave:

Myo Sumiko
Jake Coleman
Shenalle Jiang
Julia Bejleri
Jack Feng

Helen Craze

The following proxies were received:

- Julia Bejleri to Hughston Parle
- Jack Feng to Mitchell Ablett-Nelson
- Helen Craze to Hughston Parle
- Elloise Campbell to Matthew Burgin
- Thomas Stephen to Edward Uzelin
- Shenalle Jiang to Elise Northcote
- Utkrist Paudyal to Gabby Callow
- Anna Redshaw to Louisa McCarthy

c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were corrected to reflect the fact Mathew Burgin name was included in the list of councillors present and his name spelt correctly elsewhere in the minutes, the consolidated motion regarding UQ photography was titled in full with the actual proposals of the motion included in the minutes and the PACE Officer motion reflects that eligibility for the role is not limited to any gender and/or sexual orientation with the minutes also reflecting the name of the VP Campus Culture.

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 2ND ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 111TH UQ UNION COUNCIL HELD ON MARCH 2022 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 111/20

ADAMS/PARLE

CARRIED

d) Business arising from the Minutes of the previous Meeting

Nil.

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

Report of the President:

Hughston Parle asked the president Emily Searle regarding the Union Plans to stop HECS interest rate increases. President Emily Searle explained that HECS rates are tied to inflation, and it is beyond the remit of the Union to enforce a change, but the Union is looking to actively engage with and have conversations with the government on removing HECS rates from CPI. In response to a question, she opined that in the absence or as alternate to index, set cost can be considered.

Report Of VP Student Rights Jake Coleman:

Hughston Parle enquired on the additional resources that can be provided to Kampus Kitchen, Morning Marmalade and Food Co-op. Cara Rowe answered that the Kampus Kitchen menu is being evolved by data collection to optimize the process and will include vegetarian and meat options in equal halves. Radhika Peddibhotla mentioned that the recent food co-op survey found requests for more vegetables and cereals at the co-op and will be implemented accordingly. The council was informed that a fridge will be installed in

the co-op, the Union Hub space was spruced up to store and have more options. The council agreed that stringent quality checks are to be maintained. In answer to a query regarding the training for volunteers at co-op in handling materials, the council was informed that since existing food options are mostly packaged foods, there is no current need to have specific measures or training methods for volunteers to handle the materials.

Report Of VP Student Rights Samara Paradine:

In response to Hughston Parle's query regarding bursaries, VP Student Rights Samara Paradine replied that out of 20000 dollars allocated for bursaries this semester, 19250 dollars have been distributed amongst 26 students so far with the remaining amount to be rolled out to next semester.

Report Of VP Campus Culture Rheanna Norris:

Hughston Parle asked the VP Campus Culture Rheanna Norris on the status of projects being implemented and those that are completed. Rheanna Norris mentioned that grants by application and the additional funding projects were completed. In response to query on the basis/model by which grants were decided, she clarified that the same formula as earlier has been used, the exponential model as agreed by the C&S Committee and then formulated accordingly by Jason Cheung, the finance manager in consultation with the C&S Committee. She further mentioned that the current method ensures it benefits majority of clubs. She informed the council that the grants by application terms and the details of the process have been uploaded on UQU Website.

Report Of the Disability Officer:

Alicia Steele spoke to the council regarding the disability inclusion group, which is to provide consultative mechanism for developing and implementing disability inclusion issues across UQ. The disability collective was previously invited to the group meetings but only as a convention and not included in the terms of reference. The recent update of terms of reference does not include any dedicated representation from disability collective. She noted the potential conflict of interests among the current membership of the group and the importance of having dedicated disability collective representation in the group. President Emily Searle spoke on the importance of student executive role in ensuring adequate representation of students and collectives in all relevant groups of UQ and, that the Union is actively pursuing this with UQ to ensure inclusion of disability collective in the disability inclusion group.

Hughston Parle asked the disability officer Alicia Steele on what resources and support can the Council and Union provide more, to support the disability collective. Alicia Steele replied that the collective believes chill out spaces and interpreters at larger events, improved and expanded accessibility, Push from University, and union to ensure people with NDIS being able to use it for education, to be beneficial to the students with disability.

Report of the Treasurer:

The treasurer Radhika Peddibhotla informed the council that there was a discrepancy between budgeted amount at the start of year and the amount eventually received from university which was a result of incorrect SSAF estimation. Through successful negotiations, UQU was able to secure multiple streams of funding to compensate for the shortfall which includes

1. \$55K in welcome and induction funding for semester two, which is more than for semester one. The amount covers several events and initiatives to introduce students to the university campus.
 2. \$100K for sense of belonging grant
 3. \$75-80K recovered from wages
- Resulting in a total \$290-295K progress towards correcting the shortfalls.

There is also a small buffer of \$140K which is the surplus before depreciation, potentially leaving with a \$40K margin so far and negotiations are still ongoing with the University for further funding. The budgeted net loss was \$73K for the month of May but now it is running at only a \$20K loss, primary reason being wages saving, business trading and corporate support. She further mentioned the variances in different budget segments and explained the reasons for the same.

It was moved

TO ACCEPT ALL OFFICER REPORTS EN BLOC

COUNCIL 111/21

ADAM/SMIDT

CARRIED

f) Matters arising from the Reports of the Elected Officers

Nil.

g) Question Time

Nil.

h) Reports of Union Bodies

Nil.

i) Business which has been proposed

Regulations changes at Gatton:

The Secretary Cara Rowe explained the proposed regulations change at Gatton Campus to the Council, informing that the process was ongoing for a long time now, all the changes were made in consultation with members of Gatton Board and Emily Ryan, Clubs and Societies Manager, to make it more robust and in line with current duties and responsibilities of the Gatton board.

In discussions, the following was noted:

1. UQ Employees are removed from Gatton board and will only be invited as observers on a need basis.

2. All the presidents of UQU affiliated clubs get a vote, PSN has been added as nonvoting member while Gatton resident clubs has been moved to non-voting member. Chaplain and, Clubs and Societies Manager are non-voting members.
3. The role of Gatton Chaplain voting on behalf of all religious clubs in their absence and, ensuring fairness in proportional voting was explained to the council.
4. In response to a query from Hughston Parle on the proportionality of Gatton officers votes in comparison to C&S votes which seems to be going against the general precedent, Secretary Cara Rowe answered that other than setting aside the precedent, there is no observable cause of concern or conflict.

The Proposed Regulations for the Gatton Board are as follows:

R18 Gatton Campus Board

18.1 The members of the Gatton Campus Board shall be:

- a) Union President (voting)
- b) Union Secretary (voting)
- c) Union Treasurer (voting)
- d) Gatton Campus Officer (voting)
- e) Gatton Campus Board Member (voting)
- f) President, or nominee of all Gatton based clubs which are affiliated with the UQ Union (voting)
- g) UQ Union Clubs and Societies Manager (non-voting)
- h) Gatton Chaplain (non-voting)
- i) any Gatton student (non-voting)

18.2 Unless the President or nominee specifies otherwise, the Gatton Chaplain may exercise voting

rights on behalf of any religious club.

18.3 For the purposes of R18.1(e):

- a) The position shall be elected at the Annual Elections in accordance with Part 5 of the Regulations.
- b) Only Gatton Students may stand as, vote for, nominate or second candidates in the election of the Gatton Campus Board Member.

c) Up to two people may on a shared basis stand for and hold the Gatton Campus Board

Member position.

d) The provisions contained within C25.5 shall apply to the position of Gatton Campus

Board Member

18.4 In an event where two people hold a position on a shared basis, they may both individually

exercise voting rights as members of the Gatton Campus Board.

18.5 The Gatton Campus Board shall elect a Chair at its first meeting.

a) In the event of a tied vote for the election of Chair, the UQ Union President shall exercise a casting vote.

18.6 The Gatton Campus Board is delegated general responsibility for overseeing the Gatton

Campus Department.

18.7 Without limiting R18.4, the Gatton Campus Board is specifically responsible for:

a) Representing and furthering the interests of Gatton Students on matters of concern

to them and acting as the means for the expression of Gatton Students' concerns.

b) Facilitating the development of Standing Resolutions on Policy on issues of particular concern to Gatton Students.

c) Advising UQU on the effectiveness of its annual funding for Gatton Campus clubs and societies.

d) Propose to UQU how it should allocate subsidies and loans to Affiliated Bodies, where those bodies operate primarily within the Gatton Campus.

e) Advising UQU bodies (including Union Council) on issues that relate specifically to Gatton students.

f) Organising social and cultural events within the Gatton Campus.

g) Directing the Gatton Campus Officer in the conduct of their duties.

h) Provide feedback to the University on key issues that impact the UQ student

experience at Gatton Campus, using surveys and other data where needed.

i) Seeking to leverage resources where appropriate with UQ Sport and the Gatton Campus Director.

18.8 Without limiting R18.4, the Gatton Campus Board is not responsible for:

a) Organising or subsidising sporting activities within the Gatton Campus.

b) The management or recruitment of any employee of the UQ Union

It was moved

THAT THE PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES TO GATTON CAMPUS BOARD BE ACCEPTED AND APPROVED

COUNCIL 111/22

ROWE/PARLE

CARRIED

Stop Feeder Tickets!

Secretary Cara Rowe spoke on the need to stop feeder tickets, explaining that last year 14 tickets were run for 6 people, that had names repeated across multiple tickets. A lot of these tickets were intended specifically to deceive students in the election. The example of the ticket 'Gatton Students' containing students who do not study on Gatton Campus is a particular affront to democracy because it deceives students from a campus that is already marginalised and given less resources. Such measures are clearly an affront to democracy and feeder tickets need to be stopped.

In discussions the following were noted:

1. Gabby Callow opined that if the intent of the motion is to have unique people, then it may end up resulting in same group of people putting themselves across tickets but spread out on even more tickets to get the uniqueness.
2. Secretary Cara Rowe mentioned that a large ballot inevitably disincentivizes students from voting, is inaccessible and students feel disenfranchised
3. The Chair Sam Adams and Secretary Cara Rowe informed the council on feeder tickets and how the proposed motion can curb them.
4. Priya spoke to the council mentioning that it is clearly established that feeder tickets must be stopped for good, cross nomination can be for officers but not on council ballot. She further mentioned that multiple feeder tickets are used by the right-wing liberals to trip students into voting for them, it is a bad practice and expensive process for the Union while running the election process.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STOP FEEDER TICKETS BE ADOPTED

COUNCIL 111/23

ADAMS/DE

NOT CARRIED

RECORDED VOTE :

Edward Uzelin	<i>For</i>
Julia Bejleri	<i>Against</i>
Natasha Brettell	<i>Abstain</i>
Udkrist Paudyal	<i>For</i>
Elise Northcote	<i>For</i>
Elloise Campbell	<i>Abstain</i>
Austin Smidt	<i>For</i>
Ethan Jones	<i>For</i>
Benjamin Myatt	<i>For</i>
Matthew Burgin	<i>Against</i>
Zwe Htet Aung	<i>Abstain</i>
Gabby Callow	<i>Against</i>
Thomas Stephen	<i>For</i>
Anna Redshaw	<i>For</i>
Mitchell Ablett-Nelson	<i>Against</i>
Sam Chamberlain	<i>For</i>
Carib Phillips	<i>For</i>
Daniel Dawes	<i>Against</i>
Shenalle Jiang	<i>For</i>
Laura Nolan	<i>For</i>
Jack Feng proxy	<i>Against</i>
Helen Craze proxy	<i>Against</i>

The council suggested this be put to rules committee to consider nominating one name per council ballot.

I, Hughston move that UQIC SSAF Funding be Unfrozen

Hughston Parle mentioned to the council that he was asked to move this motion on behalf of Bradley James Plant. He spoke to the council saying that when the council voted to have the UQIC funding frozen temporarily in March, it was under the presumption it will only be for a while but it has now been three months resulting in UQIC activities as well as the students being greatly affected. He urged for this issue to be resolved soon and requested UQU General Manager Glenda Jacobs to give an independent perspective on the issue.

Secretary Cara Rowe read out the memorandum written by UQU General Manager Clint Wooler to be presented at the Council "UQU received a complaint against UQIC in late February 2022 regarding the allocation of SSAF funds. As discussed with UQIC President over the phone, UQU Staff

initiated preliminary Enquiry to understand if the complaint had enough merit for a formal investigation into the matter. UQU had contacted UQIC for more information to inform the enquiry by email on six different occasions without any information forthcoming from UQIC. UQU has and will continue to keep UQIC funding paused until such time they are satisfied the complaint has been addressed appropriately. UQU invites the UQIC to meet at their earliest convenience to rectify this situation”

President Emily Searle informed the council that the best way to address this issue is for the UQIC to discuss with the Union. She highlighted the fact that UQIC has refused to engage with the union and demanded the release of funding without any conversations to address the issue at hand. She said that even though Union understands and is greatly pained by how students are affected by the funding freeze, they cannot be released without addressing the complaints considering the serious nature of allegations that involve student money.

UQU General Manager Glenda Jacobs informed the council that as SSAF money is involved, Union is accountable to make sure that it is spent appropriately. Every complaint goes through a formal process and that this issue was something that could have been addressed in a meeting with UQIC to see if it is to clarify the processes or there is something serious to be investigated formally. She expressed her discomfort on having to speak about this issue in the absence of Bradley James Plant, as we are talking about an individual who is engaging on behalf of UQIC and not UQIC committee itself. There seems to be no reasonable motivation for the repeated ignorance of communications from UQU requesting repeatedly to have a meeting and as the Union is accountable to other bodies, procedures cannot be ignored.

Austin Smidt mentioned that when the funding freeze was agreed in first council meeting it was under the impression that the investigation was to be completed quickly. The decision was intended not to impact operations of UQIC.

Cristian mentioned that in so far as unfreezing funding goes, if SSAF money is used by UQIC and if later found to be misused, responsibility lies on union. Additionally, he noted that the situation is not a stalemate as mentioned by previous speakers because the communication has been unilateral and been brick walled by UQIC.

Daniel queried if any person or correspondence has come from UQIC explaining the reasons for non-participation and no co-operation. Glenda Jacobs mentioned UQIC response was that they felt penalized before being investigated and outcome was known.

Radhika Peddibhotla mentioned that we are talking about the professional relationship and the individuals must honour their respective responsibilities in principle of fairness and professionalism. It really is difficult to not just resolve but even to engage with considering the lack of willingness to participate.

Gabby Callow enquired on where the 30 dollars subsidy is coming from. Radhika Peddibhotla clarified that the Union would pay the subsidy from the intended UQIC funding which was frozen.

Procedural motion that tabled CARRIED

UQU Commits to fighting the Albanese Government

Louisa McCarthy spoke to the council regarding the motion explaining that Labour party won the recent federal election on an extraordinarily historic right-wing platform, without committing to any much-needed policy changes or addressing the pressing issues and concerns of the people as well as the environment. As a student union, it is important to fight for the right causes regardless of who is elected to power.

Laura Nolan spoke on the precedent of Councillors and Council members having voted in support of issues like refugee boats, religious discrimination etc and urged them to vote in support of this motion to show their support against the right-wing rhetoric still exhibited by the labour government. She also urged the council to encourage using all available resources to continue to protest on important issues like Wage Stagnation, Education Cutbacks etc.

Austin Smidt while agreeing that labour government should be doing more on wage and refugee issues, mentioned that any support for the motion intends to convey the impression that focus needs to be on these alone while there are whole range of things that need consideration. More accountability and responsibility towards a specific issue, and if motion is passed in relation to specific issue is good but being militant to government will not achieve anything.

Ti Parker mentioned that Union should be consistent in their voices and reactions to the government policies that affect the people regardless of their own personal political affiliations or interests. Oula Shihan concurred and expanded further saying any future protests, championing of causes and standing up for rights and issues should be supported across the board by all the students, ignoring political affiliations or preferences.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

THAT THE UQU COMMITS TO FIGHTING THE ALBANESE GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL 111/24

MCCARTHY/NOLAN

CARRIED

Solidarity with strikes at the University of Sydney

President Emily Searle spoke on the importance of addressing staff issues and on behalf of the UQ union offered full support to the staff at University of Sydney and NTEU branch of Sydney and concur with any similar action by the UQU branch.

Laura Nolan mentioned that many of the issues that are being fought for in Sydney, are also present here and if NTEU UQ branch decides to take industrial action, Council should support the same. Secretary Cara Rowe mentioned that there is a massive increase in the revenues of University of Sydney and their stance of lacking resources to afford increase in wages is untenable. Alicia Steele highlighted how the casualization of jobs is greatly impacting the staff.

It was moved

THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND STUDENT UNION SUPPORTS THE STRIKE ACTION TAKING PLACE IN SYDNEY

COUNCIL 111/25

ADAMS/SEARLE

CARRIED

UQU supports those fighting for reproductive rights in the US and calls on the state government to extend abortion access here

Ella Gutteridge spoke on the proposed motion giving the council a background on the abrogation of historic rights obtained and the need for UQU to reaffirm their position by voting for this motion. Even though abortion access is legal in Queensland, in reality, it does not translate into access for those in need or without creating hurdles even if unintended, for those trying to gain access to such facilities and highlighted the need to scrap the conscientious vote.

Ti Parker spoke saying that the situation might be different in Australia to USA, but issues remain and that instead of stopping at decriminalization of abortion access/rights alone, ensuring fully funded access to abortion in public hospitals should be pursued and in places where hospital access or availability is scant or difficult, alternatives must be explored.

Barclay McGain disagreed with the proposed motion saying that Roe vs Wade is a bad precedent, and that representative democracy should continue rather than laws based selectively or through authoritarian executive orders. He made a defence of the right to life, especially for unborn babies and condemned abortion as murdering babies.

Ella Gutteridge and Riley spoke on the need for greater access to healthcare especially in the regional areas and that the focus should be on access to services for people in a timely manner and safe fashion. Secretary Cara Rowe agreed with the sentiments expressed and spoke on the history and access of service and opined that healthcare policy should be nationalized.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

THAT THE UQU CONDEMNS THE LEAKED OPINION OF US SUPREME COURT THAT WOULD UNDERMINE ROE VS WADE AND THUS THE RIGHT TO ACCESS ABORTION ACROSS AMERICA, WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE ORGANIZING AND ATTENDING PROTESTS TO DEFEND ABORTION ACCESS AND UQU SUPPORTS FREE AND FULLY FUNDED ABORTION ON DEMAND AND CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT TO SCRAP THE CONSCIENTIOUS CHOICE OF DOCTORS TO REFUSE TO SUPPORT THE PROCEDURE AND FOR ABORTION ACCESS TO BE MADE ACCESSIBLE THROUGHOUT THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL SYSTEM

COUNCIL 111/26

ELLA GUTTERIDGE/TI PARKER

CARRIED

Recorded Vote:

Edward Uzelin	<i>Abstain</i>
Julia Bejleri	<i>Abstain</i>
Natasha Brettell	<i>Against</i>
Udkrist Paudyal	<i>Abstain</i>
Elise Northcote	<i>For</i>

Elloise Campbell	<i>Abstain</i>
Austin Smidt	<i>For</i>
Ethan Jones	<i>For</i>
Benjamin Myatt	<i>For</i>
Matthew Burgin	<i>Against</i>
Zwe Htet Aung	<i>For</i>
Gabby Callow	<i>For</i>
Thomas Stephen	<i>For</i>
Anna Redshaw	<i>For</i>
Mitchell Ablett-Nelson	<i>Against</i>
Samuel Chamberlain	<i>Against</i>
Carib Phillips	<i>For</i>
Daniel Dawes	<i>Abstain</i>
Laura Nolan	<i>For</i>
Jack Feng	<i>Abstain</i>
Shenalle Jiang	<i>Abstain</i>
Helen Craze	<i>Abstain</i>

Hughston Parle move the creation of S10.13 to read “unless otherwise unable, all the paid officers must deliver their reports as a written report to every meeting of the Union Council”

The Council was informed by Secretary Cara Rowe that Standing Orders are part of regulations and such improper notice has been given.

No Sympathy for Curio Scabs

Austin Smidt spoke on the proposed motion informing the council on the decision of Queen Mary University to hire contractors from Curio, a Melbourne based consulting firm and urged UQU to fight UQ on any attempts to hire curio in the future and that the UQU should condemn the Queen Mary University’s decision.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU CONDEMNS QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY DECISION TO HIRE CONTRACTORS FROM CURIO AND UQU WOULD FIGHT ANY ATTEMPTS BY UQ TO HIRE CURIO IN FUTURE

COUNCIL 111/27

SMIDT/BRETTELL

CARRIED

ACTION : UQU WILL FIGHT ANY ATTEMPTS BY UQ TO HIRE CURIO IN FUTURE.

UQU condemns the widespread wage theft at UQ

Austin Smidt spoke to the council on the proposed motion explain that this is an issue that needs urgent focus and taken a stance with regards to. We should condemn not just executive wages but also highlight the low wages of the staff at UQ and there should be an overall push from Union towards having active campaigns. Carib Phillips mentioned that if

the emotional factor does not move the members present, impact on student education is to be noted.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU CONDEMNS THE WIDESPREAD WAGE THEFT AT UQ

COUNCIL 111/28

SMIDT/PHILLIPS

CARRIED

ACTION: Secretary Cara Rowe to contact NTEU Brisbane branch and to report at the next council meeting.

Hughston parle move that the UQU Secretary email the most up-to-date Constitution, Regulations and Standing Orders to all members of the Union Council and that the UQU Secretary also coordinates for UQU regulations and Meeting Minutes from each meeting of Union Council to be updated on appropriate website

Secretary Cara Rowe agreed to the proposed motion and the information requested through the motion will be updated and uploaded at the earliest.

ACTION: Secretary Cara Rowe to email an updated copy of these to council.

HALLOWEEN BALL

Diana Elizabeth Ashton spoke to the council on her proposed motion regarding Halloween ball that she be declared the queen of Halloween this year and at the Halloween ball to be hosted by the up-and-coming UQ Country Society be cast as the only official Halloween Event, priority in picking the photographer and that any other Halloween events be cast as copy of this event.

It was moved

THAT THE MOTION REGARDING HALLOWEEN BALL BE ACCEPTED AND APPROVED

COUNCIL 111/29

ASWON/BARCLAY

CARRIED

General Business:

The council was informed Secretary Cara Rowe that they are to meet with Jack Barton to discuss the drafting of letter of condolences to Queen Elizabeth.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM