

# UNION COUNCIL

## MINUTES

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From the 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the  
104<sup>th</sup> UQ Union Council, 2015

4 :13PM

Tuesday 24/11/2015

**Holt Room**

Level 3, Union building (Bld. 21), St. Lucia Campus

Chair: Michael Lucas

### a) Credentials

The following members were present:

- Kathryn Cramp
- Amy Jelacic
- Nicholas Tong
- Laurence McLean
- Jaya Prasad
- Matthew Kim
- Tom O'Connor
- Gabrielle Menolotto
- Damien De Haan
- Danielle Lovell
- Jason Wang
- Amanthi Fernando
- Matthew Hales
- Shilpa Datta
- Michael Lucas
- Amanda Lamb
- Ange Ou

The Following Members were absent:

- Isabel Manfield
- Shannon Fogarty
- Amy MacMahon
- Anthony Chepurin
- Josephne Coddington
- Murrawah Johnson
- Tom Davies
- Laura Howden
- Melanie Keyte
- Kyle Jenson
- Patrick Bowman
- Gabrielle Starr
- Annie Danks
- Joshua Roser
- Alexandra Brown
- Jaime Goodwin
- Dion Lee
- Tom Millroy
- India Anderson
- Aroha Liebhart
- Blair Ivens
- Genevieve Ash
- Jacob Kay
- Nicholas Pratt
- Daren Tan
- Andrew Simpson
- Roberto Frago
- Michael Wellington
- Jahmayne Coolwell
- Thompson Wong
- Eithandee Aung
- Olivia Anderson
- Mike Hopkins
- Alistair Meldrum
- Dominic Smith

Apologies were received from the following members:

- Patrick Bowman
- Shannon Fogarty
- Alisdair Meldrum
- Gabii Starr
- Dion Lee
- Jacob Kay
- Isabel Manfield
- Nicholas Pratt

The following applications for leave for the previous meeting were received:

- Amanthi Fernando
- Matthew Kim
- Joshua Roser
- Shannon Fogarty
- Jacob Kay
- Amanda Lamb
- Dion Lee
- Shilpa Datta
- Gabrielle Menolotto

The following applications for leave for this meeting were received:

- Nicholas Pratt
- Alisdair Meldrum
- Dion Lee
- Gabii Starr

The following proxies were received:

- Alisdair Meldrum to Thomas Robertson
- Nicholas Pratt to Thomas Robertson
- Jacob Kay to Laurence McLean
- Patrick Bowman to Danielle Lovell
- Gabii Starr to Amanthi Fernando

The following others were present:

- |                    |                |                   |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| • Thomas Robertson | • Conor Ruane  | • Kate Watson     |
| • Ismaël Gonot     | • Carl Jackson | • Duncan Hart     |
| • Kat Henderson    | • Thomas Parer | • Lauren Bicknell |

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the land

*It was moved*

THAT THE NOTED APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED AND LEAVE BE GRANTED TO ALL APPLICANTS

COUNCIL 104/205

MCLEAN/FERNANDO

CARRIED

## **b) Elections**

Nil

## **c) Appeals from Decisions of Union Bodies**

Nil

#### d) Reports of Elected Officers

The Secretary's report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> extraordinary meeting and the 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary meeting was starred for discussion.

It was agreed that the Treasurer's report would be considered under business which has been proposed.

*It was moved en bloc*

THAT THE REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT RIGHTS BE  
ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/206                      MCLEAN/FERNANDO                      CARRIED

THAT THE REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER BE ACCEPTED AND  
CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/207                      MCLEAN/FERNANDO                      CARRIED

THAT THE REPORT OF THE POSTGRADUATE OFFICER BE ACCEPTED AND  
CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/208                      MCLEAN/FERNANDO                      CARRIED

THAT THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OFFICER BE  
ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/209                      MCLEAN/FERNANDO                      CARRIED

THAT THE REPORT OF THE TURBOT ST OFFICER BE ACCEPTED AND  
CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/210                      MCLEAN/FERNANDO                      CARRIED

THAT THE REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL STUDENTS OFFICER BE ACCEPTED  
AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/211                      MCLEAN/FERNANDO                      CARRIED

A proxy was received from Patrick Bowman to Danielle Lovell at 4:18pm.

#### Union Secretary's Reports

The Union Secretary welcomed questions on his reports.

Questions raised by student, Thomas Robertson, regarding when the newly formed constitution will be available and whether it will be available to take home for perusal.

The UQ Union Secretary responded that the latest versions will be available at the next meeting of the Legislative Consultative Committee. The UQ Union President explained that the draft constitution will not be available to take home at this point, at the request of the Union's lawyers. The Union Secretary added that he was happy to answer broad

questions about the draft constitution at this meeting and highlighted that some frequently asked questions have been answered in an article, which can be found on the Union's website.

Council members were encouraged to send their availability to the Union Secretary to attend meetings of the Legislative Consultative Committee.

Question raised regarding the splitting of the Vice President positions and how the Union intends to make those decisions.

The UQ Union President responded that the past two sets of Vice Presidents have split the responsibilities of the role. The new structure will be based on how the role has been divided in the past.

Question raised regarding the process of making amendments to the new constitution once it is enacted.

It was explained that amendments will be made through the support of 75% of the Councillors on council. There are, however, certain clauses which will have a higher benchmark for change, such as the clause that states the Union is not for profit.

Question raised regarding whether the independent tribunal will be made up of volunteers or whether they will be remunerated.

The Union Secretary responded that with the electoral tribunal, for instance, there is an option for remuneration, however, those members often do not ask for remuneration.

It was suggested by a councillor that it may come down to how onerous the roles will be.

There was a suggestion to include a student ambassador from the Queensland Law Society on the Independent Tribunal.

Question regarding how the positions on the Independent Tribunal will be appointed.

It was explained that the members will be appointed by their external bodies.

Question raised by student, Carl Jackson, regarding whether the Union will be accrediting to the NUS.

The UQ Union Treasurer responded that it has not been budgeted for.

Kat Henderson entered the meeting at 4:33pm

Questions raised regarding how final the current draft of the constitution is.

It was explained that it can still be edited and re-drafted. Students were encouraged to attend the Legislative Consultative Committee, read the article on the Union's website and to contact the Union Secretary with any questions.

Question raised regarding whether the constitution will be voted in by sections or whether it will be voted in as a whole.

It was explained that it will be voted in as a whole.

Question raised regarding the remuneration of officers.

The Union Secretary and the Union President responded that the Independent Tribunal will be responsible for determining the remuneration of officers. It was further explained that more office bearer positions will be paid positions, but the Vice Presidents will be paid for fewer hours.

Question raised regarding whether the Gatton Officer will be a paid position.

The President responded that it won't be at this stage but Council could look to increase it in the future.

Duncan Hart entered the meeting at 4:38pm.

Question raised regarding whether the Faculty Consultative Committee will have formal powers.

The UQ Union President responded that the committee will help students on various boards to communicate with each other and the Union in order to create focussed communication between all parties and bring the most pertinent issues to the Union's attention.

Question raised regarding whether other Unions have incorporated.

The UQ Union President responded that the bigger Unions usually incorporate.

THAT THE REPORTS OF THE UNION SECRETARY BE ACCEPTED AND  
CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/212

LAMB/FERNANDO

CARRIED

### **e) Matters Arising from the Reports of Elected Officers**

Nil

### **f) Question Time**

Question raised regarding the changes to the Union complex.

The UQ Union President responded that the Abilities Room, the Women's Room and the 24 Hour Study Space has been built.

Question raised regarding the tabling of the affiliation of the AUJS club.

The Vice President Campus Culture, Daren Tan, responded that the minutes submitted by the club were not complete and there were a few issues in their constitution that needed to be addressed before the committee could affiliate the club.

Question raised regarding a request for club funding to purchase t-shirts for the socialist alternative club which has not yet been approved.

The Treasurer, President and Vice President of Campus Culture responded that they had not been made aware of the request. They explained the request has not been rejected and they can look into it.

Question raised regarding whether councillors can have a copy of the draft constitution to view.

The Union Secretary responded that the Union is hoping Councillors will attend the next meeting of the Legislative Consultative Committee.

The UQ Union President added that she was happy to organise meetings to allow councillors several hours to look over the constitution. She added that the lawyers have requested the Union does not distribute it widely yet, as it is their intellectual property.

Student, Carl Jackson, requested that the minutes of the previous legislative consultative committee be made available.

It was suggested that an availability document be created in order to plan an appropriate time to meet regarding incorporation.

Question raised regarding the funding which was allocated to electronic voting.

The Union Secretary responded that the licence with the electronic voting company has been extended.

Question raised regarding whether the Union will be sending students to the NUS national conference.

The UQ Union Treasurer responded that he had not received any requests for funding.

*Procedural motion to end question time.*

CARRIED

### **g) Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meetings**

Council members reviewed the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary meeting of Union Council. A spelling error was noted on page 17 of the business pack.

*It was moved*

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF UNION  
COUNCIL BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED WITH SPELLING AMENDMENTS  
COUNCIL 104/213                      MCLEAN/FERNANDO                      CARRIED

Council members reviewed the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary meeting of Union Council. It was noted that Amanthi Fernando was not present at the meeting.

*It was moved*

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 2<sup>ND</sup> EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF UNION  
COUNCIL BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED WITH AMENDMENT OF  
MEMBERS PRESENT  
COUNCIL 104/214                      LOVELL/PRASAD                      CARRIED

### **h) Business Arising From the Minutes**

It was explained that the noted amendments to the spelling and attendance would be made to the minutes.

### **i) Reports of Other Union Bodies**

No reports were starred for discussion.

*It was moved en bloc*

THAT THE REPORTS OF THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE BE  
ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED  
COUNCIL 104/214                      MCLEAN/KIM                      CARRIED

THAT THE REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE BE  
ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED  
COUNCIL 104/215                      MCLEAN/KIM                      CARRIED

THAT THE REPORTS OF THE ABILITIES COLLECTIVE BE ACCEPTED AND  
CONFIRMED  
COUNCIL 104/216                      MCLEAN/KIM                      CARRIED

THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND  
CONFIRMED  
COUNCIL 104/217                      MCLEAN/KIM                      CARRIED

## j) Business Which has Been Proposed

### i) September and October 2015 Financial Results

The UQ Union Treasurer invited questions from Council regarding the results.

Question raised by student, Thomas Robertson, regarding the sales revenue write downs in the financial results.

The UQ Union Treasurer responded that the crux of the issue came down to budgetary shortcomings at the beginning of the year. He highlighted that there was a budgeted increase in Gross Profit margin from 54% to 58% as well as a 5% reduction in wages. He further explained that the person who finalised the budget is no longer with the Union and is not here to speak to those plans.

Laurence McLean left the meeting at 5:04pm and quorum was lost.

The Treasurer explained that the sales have been softer but some recent spending will soon be reimbursed through SSAF funding.

Question raised by student, Thomas Robertson, regarding what the Union plans to do in order to address the current financial position.

The UQ Union Treasurer responded that the Union will budget for leave going forward. He explained that the Executive are gaining more institutional knowledge and the Finance Manager is refining his processes. The Treasurer added that the Union will start accounting for wastage, as well as look into other marketing options.

He further added that outlets such as Guzman y Gomez give the Union a percentage of their profits, which is not reflected in the Profit and Loss statement. That money will go into a structural fund to be used in areas such as capital works.

Question raised regarding the Union's profit projection processes.

The Union Treasurer explained that the processes have already begun where the Union goes through the budget line by line, while considering the performance of previous years, specific past and future circumstances or external factors.

Question raised regarding the End of Year position. The UQ Union Treasurer responded that the end of year position would be proposed at a later date.

Laurence McLean entered the meeting at 5:09pm and quorum was regained

*It was moved*

THAT THE TREASURER'S REPORTS BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/217

MCLEAN/LOVELL

CARRIED



**k) Notice of Business to be Proposed**

- i) November 2015 Financial Results
- ii) Annual Audit

*The meeting was declared closed at 5:10PM*

THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF THE UNION COUNCIL AND ARE TO BE TAKEN AS DRAFT UNTIL SUCH A MEETING OCCURS.

Confirmed