

UNION COUNCIL

MINUTES

From the 9th Ordinary Meeting of the
105th UQ Union Council, 2015

6:00PM

Thursday 27/10/2016

UQ Union Boardroom

Level 5, Union building (Bld. 21), St. Lucia Campus

Chair: Sebastian Campbell

The meeting opened at 6:04pm

The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land

a) Credentials

The following members were present:

- Michael Lucas
- Olivia Amsden
- Kate Watson
- Guy Morgan
- Thomas Wiltshire
- Elliot Steel
- Conor Spence
- Andrew Mylonas
- Nora Abdalla
- Thomas Parer
- Ismael Gonot
- Roxanne Coleman
- Sachin Perera
- Dylan Kerr
- Harry Spicer
- Zachary Thomas
- Gabii Starr
- Ange Ou
- Bernadette Steinmann
- Monica Farrelly
- Michael Quirk
- Sebastian Campbell
- Coen Harnischfeger
- Darcy Bermingham

The Following Members were absent:

- Riley Williamson
- Rosie Katunar
- Jahmayne Coolwell
- Murrawah Johnson
- Molly Frankham
- Sabina Rooney
- Rose Richani
- Blair Ivens
- Mike Hopkins
- Tristan Heiner
- Sunita Kashyap
- Kwong Bolithon
- Madeline Price
- Barani Ganapathi
- Eden Tam
- Jasmine Knight
- Penelope Webster
- Georgia Millroy
- Matt Lucas
- Ben Quick
- Natassja Bertram
- Amanda Lin
- Laura L Anderson
- Emil Canita
- Chao Chen
- Samuel Kiernan
- Michael Wellington
- Claudia Farhart
- Cat Le Poidevin
- Alynna Wong
- Nick Baker
- Alex Smock
- James Carroll
- Fei Ren

Apologies were received from the following members:

- Madeline Price
- Tristan Heiner
- Natassja Bertram
- Sunita Kashyap
- Amanda Lin
- Ben Quick
- James Carroll
- Sabina Rooney

The following applications for leave for this meeting were received:

- Madeline Price
- Tristan Heiner
- Sunita Kashyap
- Amanda Lin
- James Carroll

The following proxies were received:

- Sunita Kashyap to Andrew Mylonas
- James Carroll to Guy Morgan
- Tristan Heiner to Kurt Tucker
- Amanda Lin to Coen Harnischfeger
- Angus Douglas to Kurt Tucker

The following others were present:

- Kurt Tucker
- Tom Millroy
- Kelsie McArthur
- Joshua Roser
- Domenico Sottile
- Josip Vidakovic
- Bradley Stone
- Rowan Evans
- Tianna Roberts
- Peter Travers

Resignations:

Nil

It was moved

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

COUNCIL 105/190

KERR/HARNISCHFEGER

CARRIED

b) Elections

Ballot for MABS Councillor

Two candidates stood for the position of the MABS Councillor. The Returning Officer explained that proxy votes would be accepted and a first-past-the-post counting system will apply.

Voting took place via a secret ballot.

The Returning Officer verbally declared that Angus Douglas was the successful candidate with seven votes, with Amanthi Fernando receiving 6 votes.

Question raised regarding whether the verbal declaration was effective immediately.

The Returning Officer responded that they would take office immediately, as the election has been declared, albeit not on paper.

Peter Travers left the meeting at 6:17pm.

c) Appeals from Decisions of Union Bodies

Nil

d) Reports of Elected Officers

Student Rights and Campus Culture reports were starred for discussion.

Procedural motion to move all other reports en bloc.

CARRIED

It was moved en bloc

THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 105/191 HARNISCHFEGER/MYLONAS CARRIED

THAT THE UNION SECRETARY'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 105/192 HARNISCHFEGER /MYLONAS CARRIED

THAT THE REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT (GENDER & SEXUALITY) BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 105/193 HARNISCHFEGER /MYLONAS CARRIED

THAT THE ABILITIES OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 105/194 HARNISCHFEGER /MYLONAS CARRIED

THAT THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 105/195 HARNISCHFEGER /MYLONAS CARRIED

THAT THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 105/196 HARNISCHFEGER /MYLONAS CARRIED

THAT THE GOORIE BERRIMPA OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 105/197 HARNISCHFEGER /MYLONAS CARRIED

THAT THE TURBOT ST OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED
COUNCIL 105/198 HARNISCHFEGER /MYLONAS CARRIED

THAT THE MEDICAL STUDENTS OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED
COUNCIL 105/199 HARNISCHFEGER /MYLONAS CARRIED

THAT THE UNION NEWSPAPER EDITOR'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED
COUNCIL 105/200 HARNISCHFEGER /MYLONAS CARRIED

Report of the Vice President of Campus Culture

Question raised regarding why the recent Food Truck event was not highlighted in previous reports to Council.

The Vice President of Campus Culture, Thomas Parer, explained that it was not an active decision to leave the event out of the reports. He explained that he had a period of bad health and was not as involved with the production of the recent report, which was mostly put together by the other Vice President of Campus Culture.

He further explained that it was unclear whether it would go ahead and when it might happen due to conflicting dates with other events and other various delays in the planning.

It was moved

THAT THE REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT (CAMPUS CULTURE) BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED
COUNCIL 105/201 SPICER /MYLONAS CARRIED

Report of the Vice President of Student Rights

Questions raised regarding whether the Student Rights portfolio has been as active as previous years.

The Student Rights Vice President, Olivia Amsden, responded that the portfolio has focussed on the expansion of Morning Marmalade, which took a significant amount time in the planning and execution of the expansion. She explained that she cannot compare this year's hours of work with previous years as she is unsure of how much time was involved in the execution of previous initiatives.

Question raised regarding whether students were campaigning during morning marmalade and whether the volunteers are held accountable.

Student Rights Vice President, Olivia Amsden, responded that volunteers were told not to campaign and it is not condoned.

It was moved

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

COUNCIL 105/202

HARNISCHFEGER/THOMAS

CARRIED

e) Matters Arising from the Reports of Elected Officers

Nil.

f) Question Time

Schedule One Form

A motion was received from the floor regarding the creation of an online platform for submitting motions to the Secretary. It was raised that the current system is unnecessarily complicated and a simplified method would be preferable.

It was suggested that the Union could provide a version of the form in a word document format which can be edited to insert the wording of the motion.

It was moved

THAT SCHEDULE 1'S BE MADE AVAILABLE AS A GOOGLE FORM OR OTHER PLATFORM FACILITATING ONLINE SUBMISSION.

COUNCIL 105/203

EVANS/THOMAS

CARRIED

Impact of Student Elections on Businesses

The mover of the motion raised whether the Union should investigate the impact of campaigning during student elections upon campus businesses.

The seconder of the motion explained that he seconded that motion as a matter of procedure to allow the motion to be heard.

Councillors and proxy holders raised that a formal investigation would be a waste of money and time and the elections need to happen regardless.

It was raised that the Union has a duty to gather information.

Question raised regarding whether the executive have a view on the matter.

The Union President responded that a similar question was recently asked of the DVCA and the reality is that free speech was prioritised.

Procedural motion to put the motion

CARRIED

BEL Councillor: Harry Spicer *Against*
BEL Councillor: Thomas Wiltshire *Against*
HASS Councillor: Alex Smock *Absent*
HASS Councillor: Dylan Kerr *Abstention*
HASS Councillor: Conor Spence *Abstention*
MABS Councillor: Angus Douglas proxied to
Kurt Tucker *Against*

Lockout Laws

A motion was received from the floor which would condemn inaction of the Union to fight against lockout laws.

The mover of the motion- student, Kurt Tucker, raised that the Union has been inactive on campaigning against lockout laws when compared to the campaigns against the Tertiary Transport Concession Card and University Fee De-regulation.

Question raised regarding to what extent a student Union should involve itself in political matters.

It was raised that if a student Union gets involved, it should be involved consistently.

It was raised that many students work in hospitality and the lock out laws are also detrimental to students who enjoy going out at night.

Ismael Gonot left the meeting at 6:51pm

It was raised that Council directed the executive to campaign on the issue.

UQ Union President raised that the Union invited 'No Curfew' to market day in semester one; and wrote to the State Attorney General. He raised that the response from the Attorney General was shown to Council and there were no further comments from the people in the room. He argued that complete inaction is an unfair statement.

The motion was amended to read 'inaction' rather than 'complete inaction'.

It was raised that the response to the lockout laws is not adequate when compared to previous campaigns.

It was raised that the response to the issue was commensurate with the significance of the impact upon students.

Procedural motion for the vote to be conducted with a secret ballot

NOT CARRIED

Procedural motion for the motion be put

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT COUNCIL CONDEMNS THE INCUMBENT REOFRM EXECUTIVE FOR THEIR INACTION ON FIGHTING QUEENSLAND'S UNFAIR LOCKOUT LAWS.

COUNCIL 105/206

TUCKER/SPICER

NOT CARRIED

Election of MABS councillor

A motion was received from the floor regarding the process of electing a MABS councillor.

It was raised that the ballot should have taken place at one of the two previous council meetings as per the constitution and that students from that faculty have been under-represented.

It was raised that the Returning Officer conducts the elections.

It was raised that the Returning Officer cannot act outside of the rules.

Procedural motion to put the motion to a vote

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT COUNCIL CENSURES THE INCUMBENT REFORM EXECUTIVE FOR DENYING MBS STUDENTS FAIR REPRESENTATION BY FAILING TO CONDUCT A BY-ELECTION WHEN CONSTITUTIONALLY REQUIRED.

COUNCIL 105/206

TUCKER/THOMAS

CARRIED

CUB Contract

A motion was received from the floor for the Union to investigate what it would cost to breach the contract with Carlton United Breweries.

Nora Abdalla left the meeting at 7:05pm

Procedural motion that the motion be put

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THE TREASURER INVESTIGATE THE COST OF BREACHING CONTRACTS RELATING TO THE SALE OF CUB, AND REPORT TO COUNCIL. COUNCIL CONDEMNNS THE CUB STAFF SACKINGS AND STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUB WORKERS.

COUNCIL 105/207

KERR/HARNISCHFEGER

NOT CARRIED

Recorded Vote

HABS Councillor: Amanda Lin proxied to Coen Harnischfeger *In Favour*
HABS Councillor: James Carroll proxied to Guy Morgan *Abstention*
HABS Councillor: Sunita Kashyap proxied to Andrew Mylonas *Against*
EAIT Councillor: Coen Harnischfeger *In Favour*
EAIT Councillor: Guy Morgan *Abstention*
Science Councillor: Andrew Mylonas *Against*
Science Councillor: Zachary Thomas *Abstention*
Science Councillor: Darcy Bermingham *In Favour*
BEL Councillor: Tristain Heiner proxied to Kurt Tucker *Abstention*
BEL Councillor: Harry Spicer *Against*
BEL Councillor: Thomas Wiltshire *Against*
HASS Councillor: Alex Smock *Absent*
HASS Councillor: Dylan Kerr *In Favour*
HASS Councillor: Conor Spence *Abstention*
MABS Councillor: Angus Douglas proxied to Kurt Tucker *Abstention*

National Union of Students Delegates

A motion was received from the floor requiring that if the Union decides to send any student delegates to a National Union of Students conference as delegates, those delegates should be elected proportionally by the UQ Union Council.

The mover of the motion raised that this would allow for better representation of students.

The seconder of the motion raised that it would ensure transparency, accountability and better representation.

Procedural motion for the motion to be put.

CARRIED

Nora Abdalla entered the room at 7:08pm

It was moved

THAT ANY DELEGATES OR OBSERVERS OR STUDENTS THAT THE UQ UNION APPOINTS OR PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ATTEND ANY NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS EVENT MUST BE ELECTED PROPORTIONALLY BY UQ UNION COUNCIL.

COUNCIL 105/208

TUCKER/THOMAS

CARRIED

Procedural motion to end question time

CARRIED

g) Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meetings

It was noted that Kurt Tucker's name was misspelled in a motion from the 2nd Extraordinary Meeting of Council.

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 2ND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING AND THE 8TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 105TH UQ UNION COUNCIL BE ACCEPTED PENDING AMENDMENTS.

COUNCIL 105/209

KERR/WILTSHIRE

CARRIED

h) Business Arising From the Minutes

Nil

i) Reports of Other Union Bodies

The Clubs and Societies Committee and Administrative Committee Reports were starred for discussion.

Procedural motion to move all other reports en bloc

CARRIED

It was moved en bloc

THAT THE ABILITIES COLLECTIVE REPORTS BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 105/210

WILTSHIRE/HARNISCHFEGER

CARRIED

THAT THE WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 105/211

WILTSHIRE/HARNISCHFEGER

CARRIED

Clubs and Societies Committee Report

Question raised regarding the motion to hold the General Assembly.

Vice President of Campus Culture, Thomas Parer, explained that would be a better question for the other Vice President of Campus Culture.

Question raised regarding a motion which tabled the decision regarding the potential expulsion of a club member.

Vice President of Campus Culture, Thomas Parer, explained that the decision is subject to mediation. As the details of the matter are of a sensitive nature, it was suggested that the meeting move in camera.

Procedural motion to move in camera

CARRIED

Procedural motion to allow Lauren Bicknell to remain in the room

CARRIED

All non-members left the room

Meeting moved in camera at 7:17pm

Meeting moved ex camera at 7:27pm

Domenico Sottile, Rowan Evans, Bradley Stone, Tianna Roberts and Kelsie McArthur entered the room.

It was moved en bloc

THAT THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 105/211

SPICER/TUCKER

CARRIED

Attendance Requirements

A motion was received from the floor seeking to make inquorate meetings counts towards attendance requirements.

Student, Kurt Tucker, raised that this is a matter previously ruled on by the Chair of Council. Previous Chairs have ruled that inquorate meetings do not count towards attendance requirements.

The UQ Union President raised that it would be better to write a Standing Resolution on Policy if Council seeks to change the current approach to the rule.

It was raised that such a policy should not be enacted retrospectively.

Procedural motion to put the motion

CARRIED



It was moved

THAT INQUORATE MEETINGS COUNT TOWARDS ATTENDANCE
REQUIREMENTS

COUNCIL 105/212

EVANS/WILTSHIRE

NOT CARRIED

Administrative Committee Reports

Question raised regarding the changes made to overtime and TOIL policies.

The UQ Union President explained that the changes were primarily to make the associated forms easier to read and understand.

It was moved

THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS BE ACCEPTED AND
CONFIRMED.

COUNCIL 105/213

HARNISCHFEGER/TUCKER

CARRIED

j) Business Which has Been Proposed

I. August and September 2016 Financials

The Union Treasurer noted that the August financials were sent to members for the previous meeting and the September financials have been printed for members at this meeting. She outlined that she will take the August results as read and noted that sales for that month were very good.

September Financials

The Treasurer outlined that sales were softer than in August, but exceptional compared to earlier parts of the year. She explained that the Union is keeping wages as low as possible and added that bank charges have been a big cost, but are also unlikely to change.

Question raised regarding whether the Union Treasurer would like the opportunity to respond to comments made during the elections.

The Union Treasurer responded that she did not and added that allegations made against the Union's finances were false and she encouraged all members to discuss any concerns they may have with her.

Question raised regarding why wages are the easiest thing to keep down.

The Union Treasurer responded that wages are the most controllable thing. She explained that areas such as supply contracts and electricity are harder to control or predict.

Question raised regarding whether the Union is budgeting too optimistically.

The Union Treasurer responded that there are things that could be improved with the Union's accounting mechanisms but also noted the change in income due to new outlets such as Guzman y Gomez and Kenko Sushi.

Question raised regarding bank charges and professional fees.

The Union Treasurer explained that bank charges were discussed earlier and relate to payWave fees. She explained that professional fees include the legal advocate from SHOC.

Ange Ou entered the meeting at 7:44pm.

A potential error was noted in the consolidated income was noted by the Treasurer. She agreed to take the question on notice.

In response to a series of questions, the Union Treasurer explained that wages are generally ahead of budget, although leave can be unpredictable. She explained that a budget does not need to be precise but agreed to look into expenditure on photocopying and printing.

It was suggested that further questions to the Treasurer could be sent to her in writing.

It was moved

THAT THE TREASURER'S REPORTS BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED.

COUNCIL 105/213

TUCKER/ HARNISCHFEGER

CARRIED

The Union Treasurer invited councillors to arrange a meeting with her if they have any further questions and encouraged specific questions to be emailed in advance.

II. Regulatory amendments

Council Agenda

A motion to re-structure the Agenda was considered by Council.

The mover of the motion noted that a few changes to the proposed structure have been suggested by the President. He invited the President to raise those changes with Council.

The Union President noted that 'Others President' should be changed to 'Others Present'.

He raised that the minutes of Union Bodies should be removed. He explained this will avoid excessively lengthy business packs. He added that members can request minutes if they choose to see them and Councillors can already see the motions from those meetings.

He suggested that Elections should be prior to the confirmation of the minutes.

Student, Kurt Tucker, suggested that elections should be after the confirmation of the minutes to allow for an immediate election if a casual vacancy arises due to a confirmation that a position holder has missed too many meetings.

The Union President explained that the suggestion is in order to have the elections earlier in the meeting to avoid taking up too much time of the Returning Officer.

It was explained that an immediate election would not be an option, as sufficient notice needs to be given to allow candidates to nominate for the position.

The President recommended changing 6.2 k) from 'Reports of Union Bodies for Decision' to 'Reports of Union Bodies'.

He also recommended re-numbering the section accordingly for the removal of 6.2 l).

The mover and seconder of the motion were amenable to all changes.

The President recommended grammatical changes to the proposed insertions to the definitions and interpretation in Regulation 32. He raised capitalisation of Union Bodies and noted that 32.4 is repeated. The second clause was amended to read '32.5'

The mover and seconder of the motion were amenable to those changes.

The mover of the motion highlighted that the new agenda will make meetings more efficient by accepting all un-controversial reports at the beginning of the meeting

Procedural motion for the motion to be put

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT 1. UNION COUNCIL RESOLVES BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNEX 1: NOTICE OF MOTION TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS (RE-STRUCTURE OF THE AGENDA)

COUNCIL 105/214

KERR/THOMAS

CARRIED

Rules Committee

A series of amendments to create a rules committee were presented and discussed. The mover of the motion outlined that the rules committee would help to ensure that any regulatory amendments in the future will be considered in detail to avoid grammatical errors and inconsistency. He raised that the current regulations are poorly written due to a series of ad-hoc amendments made without enough consideration.

An amendment to remove the Chair's power to exercise a casting vote under section RXX.8 a) was agreed to.

RXX.8 a) was changed to 'in the case of a tied vote, a recommendation fails.'

Joshua Roser entered the meeting at 8:09pm

Amendment to RXX.5 d) changing 'Seven' to 'Five' was agreed to, as seven would be too high a threshold.

It was agreed to capitalise 'Union Bodies' and to authorise the Union Secretary to amend any other grammatical errors.

Amendment to RXX.1 agreed to changing 'is responsible for' to 'is delegated general responsibility for'.

RXX.7 was removed and replaced with 'Union Council may invite any student to one or multiple meetings of the Rules Committee as an observer. Any observer will be considered a non-voting member for the duration of their invitation.'

It was agreed that if there are any substantial issues with the proposal, the proposal will come back to Council prior to January 1st.

Procedural motion that motion be put

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT

1. UNION COUNCIL INCORPORATE THE EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSING TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS AS THE MOVER'S SPEECH.
2. UNION COUNCIL RESOLVES SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNEX 1: NOTICE OF MOTION TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE AND OTHER RELATED PURPOSES).
3. UNION COUNCIL RESOLVES TO AUTHORISE AND DIRECT THE UNION SECRETARY OR THEIR DELEGATE TO RENUMBER THE REGULATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMENDMENT AND INSERT RXX RULES COMMITTEE AFTER ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE IN THE REGULATIONS.
4. UNION COUNCIL RESOLVES TO AUTHORISE AND DIRECT THE UNION SECRETARY OR THEIR DELEGATE RECOMMEND A DRAFT SCHEDULE X DISCHARGE PETITION TO BEST GIVE EFFICACY TO THE INTENTION AND WORDS OF THE AMENDMENT AND PURPOSE AS BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT UNION COUNCIL.

COUNCIL 105/215

KERR/THOMAS

CARRIED

A. Explanatory Note (Establishment of the Rules Committee)

Purpose

To establish a union body to carefully consider in detail any proposed amendment to the Regulations and to proactively review and make recommendations to Union Council on the Regulations, the Standing Orders or the Schedules.

Rationale

- a) The state of the Regulations needs no explanation.
- b) The Rules Committee would be a union body with the responsibility to carefully consider and make recommendations on notices of motion to amend the regulations by Councillors or students.
- c) The Rules Committee will replace the Legislative Consultative Committee, and subsequently abolish it as a consequential amendment to the amendment proposed.
- d) Opportunities for Union Council in establishing a Rules Committee:

- i) *Constant review of the drafting of the regulations.* A Rules Committee once established may resolve to adopt a schedule of working party reviews into the Regulations by Part.

e.g –

Working Party Review into Part 1: The Standing Orders

Every 3 months a working party review should be completed into reform of a particular Part of the Regulations (at the discretion of the Chair of the Committee).

- ii) *Consideration in detail.* A Rules Committee would second guess the mover and seconder of the notice of motion to amend the Regulations in order to check spelling, consistency with the Regulations as a whole, or whether the amendment is effective or not, and invite other students to make submissions in relation to the amendment in a consultative process.
- iii) *Working parties for drafting.* For a complex and detailed amendments either proposed by the Executive or a student, the Rules Committee may commission a working party review to propose detailed alterations and recommendations in relation to the amendment. A Working Party Review could also include the mover and the seconder of the amendment, to possibly achieve consent to alteration of the amendment when it reaches consideration by Union

Council.

- iv) *Proactive recommendations to amend the Regulations.* There is currently no union body or Elected Officer besides the Union Secretary who proactively reviews and recommends amendments to the Regulations. The Union Secretary has many other duties and responsibilities, and it is unworkable for the Union Council and students to rely just on the Union Secretary to propose common sense amendments to clean up the regulations. The Rules Committee within the scope of Council's competence, will assume this proactive role and recommend amendments to the Regulations on the committee's own volition, or by recommendation or submission by any student or the Union Secretary. I believe a Council Rules Committee would be well placed to assume this responsibility.
 - v) *Bipartisanship.* Admittedly, this is something that really does not exist in student politics. However, the Regulations are the rules of the game and should not really be the function of high politics. Therefore, I cannot emphasise enough how important it is to incorporate the views and ideas of all groups in student politics and elected to the Union Council.
 - vi) *Education of Councillors and further integration of Union Councillors into the day to day affairs of the union.* I think most Councillors agree that they are separated from the day to day business of the Union. This will provide an opportunity for Councillors to learn and understand the Regulations, union governance and a committee process.
- e) Speaking analogously, I think its important to note that the Rules Committee will act as a fence on the side of the cliff to safeguard the Union from adopting hap hazard amendments to the Regulations without careful consideration. Although, obviously some things may slip through the fence through a *failure of process*. However, it is the duty of the Rules Committee and the Union Council to ensure the strength of the committee as a fence. The stronger and more durable the fence is, the less chance things will slip through. Further, in the event that something inevitably slips through the fence either through human error or manipulation of process for an ulterior purpose, there are measures that act as an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. The ambulance may rarely be used, but it is there – *just in case*. Therefore, I have outlined a detailed consideration of anticipated problems that may slip through the fence, so to speak:
- i) *An amendment will get buried in committee, never to be seen again by anyone.* To compensate this, the amendment has also included a regulation and additional schedule to allow for discharge of the amendment as an item of business by either lapse of time (3 months, this is reading in the rule in *Joskes' Law*) or by petition of four Councillors. Meetings of the Rules Committee are also

public to ensure accountability and transparency.

- ii) *The committee will be inquorate and Councillors will not be interested in attending.* If Councillors are not interested in the committee's work, they should not express interest in appointment. If there is an insufficient number of Councillors interested, then the amendment has also included flexibility to appoint interested students, who are not Members of Union Council. I think this would provide valuable experience for those Councillors interested in the committee's work or learning more about it.
- iii) *The committee will just be dominated by one group.* The amendment introduces measures to safeguard this. Although the Council Chairperson appoints members to the Rules Committee, a unanimous resolution of Union Council is required to confirm the appointments. If agreement can't be reached, the Returning Officer must conduct a proportional election.
- iv) *Amendments will be hidden from Union Council.* The amendment also includes a new agenda item for Council called 'References.' This means all new notices of motion to amend the Regulations that are received by the Union Secretary must be laid on the table and referred to the Rules Committee. Therefore, it is tabled for all Councillors to note, and then referred to the Rules Committee. This ensures transparency of process and guarantees the centrality of Union Council in determining the content of the Regulations. However, I would encourage (as I think many Councillors would agree) that the Union Secretary set up of a SharePoint with access to minutes, agenda papers and tabled documents to guarantee ease of access and the option for Councillors to indicate a preference to just receive papers digitally. For example, the Union Secretary could simply list notices of motion to amend the Regulations to be referred by operation of the Standing Orders, then include the documents in a SharePoint accessible to all councillors.
- v) *The process will take too long.* I think there needs to be a balance between carefully considered drafting of amendments to the Regulations and a quick and timely process. The amendment includes an obligation to be quick and timely. Also, as a matter of policy, I believe that having a Rules Committee is an appropriate balance for an organisation of this size.
- vi) *Urgent regulatory changes cannot be passed quickly.* The Rules Committee may meet extraordinarily, or the Union Secretary may circulate proposed amendments digitally to informally provide advice and consent. As a matter of procedure, the amendment has placed the obligation on Union Council to lie on the table and refer all notices of motion to amend the Regulations in the Standing

Orders. Therefore, in general business or business proposed, the mover of an amendment or the Union Secretary may simply move a procedural motion to suspend standing orders *so as to urgently consider their motion without reference to the committee*. Suspensions of standing orders can either be limited, specific or general. This action would be a specific suspension so as to consider a single (or multiple) amendments to the Regulations.

- f) I recommend Union Council resolve by Special Resolution to adopt this amendment to the Regulations and establish the Rules Committee.

k) General Business

Nil.

l) Notice of Business to be Proposed

- I. Election to appoint observers to the NUS conference, pending the decision of the Union to send delegates.**

The meeting was declared closed at 8:16PM