

5th Ordinary Meeting of the 111th UQ Union Clubs and Societies Committee Minutes

12:00 PM

Friday 29 June 2022

Boardroom 21A-4

UQ Union Complex, St. Lucia

Chair: Rheanna Norris

The chair declared the meeting open at 12:06 PM

a) **Credentials**

Present:

Jess Mills(online)
James Hohl(online)
Rheanna Norris
Ajay Chungath
Josephine Zhang

Apologies and Leave:

Finn Larson
Bradley James Plant

Proxies:

Bradley James Plant to Natasha Brettell

Others Present:

Emily Ryan
Utkrist Paudyal
Rahul Samkruthyayan(minutes)

b) **Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting**

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE 2nd EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE CLUBS & SOCIETIES COMMITTEE BE ACCEPTED

C&S 111/57

NORRIS/CHUNGATH

CARRIED

c) **Business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

None

d) Reports of the Elected Officers

Vice President Campus Culture (Clubs & Societies)

The VP Campus Culture gave an oral report detailing the work done by the C&S committee and that the members will be updated and reached out to, to discuss the C&S committee functions and that sub-projects and model constitution will be revisited.

It was moved

THAT THE REPORT OF THE ELECTED OFFICER, VICE PRESIDENT CAMPUS CULTURE (CLUBS AND SOCIETIES) BE ACCEPTED

C&S 111/58

NORRIS/HOHL

CARRIED

e) Matters arising from the Reports of the Elected Officers

None

f) Business that has been proposed

Affiliations and Ratifications

1. UQ Fashion Club

The representative of the proposed club Ciara addressed the committee at 12:10 PM

The representative informed the members of the committee that the proposed club aims to collect recycled clothes, invite students to do handcrafted designs on the collected clothes and then conduct monthly fashion shows, where students can wear the clothes they designed, removing the aspects of the catwalk and the importance of looks, which a conventional fashion show usually focuses on.

The members of the committee queried the representative if affiliating with an existing club is more beneficial, as there is already a handicrafts club, and this proposed club intends to design clothes. The representative informed the members that having a club would give a platform to reach out to existing clubs and co-opt events where possible. Some of the proposed activities of the club were being part of existing balls, events, and film such events and upload online. The representative also informed that they propose to fundraise earlier, go to market day, and then expand further. To a query on the collection process of the clothes, the representative informed that they would put a box on the campus in a visible space and students can drop off their old clothes.

The members of the committee raised concerns regarding the hygiene of such collected clothes and the importance of volunteers being aware of the safety and cleaning processes required to make the clothes safe to use. The representative replied that Hygiene, donations, and maintenance aspects are still being formulated.

The representative left the meeting at 12:17 PM

The chair mentioned that there are existing clubs that work similarly to the proposed club, along with stalls during market day. James Hohl mentioned though the proposed club does feel niche, he observed it would be good if a club does the proposed activities during the

market day if the current stalls of such nature are by independents coming in solely during market day.

James Hohl also raised concerns regarding the organizational structure, planning and capacity of the proposed club. He observed that the committee should not outright reject the proposal but ask them to reapply with a better plan and direction. It will also give time for the committee to check with similar clubs in existence, by the time they reapply, to avoid conflict of interest or overlap. Ajay Chungath mentioned that the idea has merits but that the outlay at the meeting was ambiguous and concurred with James that it needs more work on the idea.

Emily Ryan queried if this was the same group of students as those who applied last year and, Natasha Brettell clarified that it is a different group of people.

It was moved

THAT THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY UQ FASHION CLUB TO BE AFFILIATED AS UQU CLUB BE RATIFIED ON THE CONDITION THAT AN ENHANCED PLAN IS FORMULATED AND REAPPLY AT A LATER DATE

C&S 111/59

NORRIS/ZHANG

NOT CARRIED

ACTION ITEM: Rheanna Norris to communicate with the representative Ciara, encouraging them to formulate an enhanced idea and plan and, to reapply later.

2. UQ Science Leadership & Communication Society

James Hohl mentioned that the proposed society representatives submitted a new pack, that it is a bit of a niche that does exist especially with regards to science journalism, and it would be useful if it is networked well. Utkrist Paudyal queried if this should instead be done by SASS than have a club and was answered by James Hohl that SASS found it hard to organize this and it was not being run the way it should. Utkrist observed that it can be a standalone club if legitimate interests can be shown but otherwise SASS should do it. James Hohl reiterated his neutrality on this but would welcome the society formation if the representatives can offer a clear blueprint, as there is a need with regards to Science Journalism.

The representatives of the proposed club Morgan and Jasmine entered the meeting at 12:31 PM and representative Hugo entered the meeting at 12:42 PM

The representatives mentioned that the proposed society intends to create awareness among students, improve science communication, and be a place of interest for the students to interact and communicate with. The chair queried the representatives on whether there is a direct need for such a body or can be co-opted along with SASS. The representatives replied that working under SASS during the first semester this year made it clear that their aims are different, and it would be more beneficial to have a separate body, as it is for a niche group of students, and it will be more effective to address and deliver to the said category separately.

To a query from James Hohl on the work underway and events planned, the representatives replied that they are planning three categories of events. They mentioned that some of the proposed events are Oral Science Competition, events similar in nature to Ted talks, events on written science communication, a career science network night to bring outside perspectives and, social events covering book/film/representation of science in fiction targeted towards students of science interested in communication, in a social setting.

The chair queried the representatives on the proposed level of interaction with existing clubs and the representatives replied that they will actively collaborate with existing clubs in spaces possible. James Hohl enquired about the external contacts the proposed society has, to work on communication events. The representatives mentioned that two professors have so far evinced interest in arranging and or conducting workshops. They further mentioned that Demotroupe has shown interest to collaborate and that few lecturers in Environmental Management Science have shown interest to participate.

To a query on the level of interest amongst executives to ensure continuity, the representatives replied that 3 out of the current 4 executives will continue next year and there are at least 6-7 other students who would like to be a part of the proposed society this year and continuing into next year.

Utkrist Paudyal asked the representatives why these events cannot be run by SASS itself as SASS already has a set audience and the proposed activities are mostly workshops. Morgan replied that science communication is an area that needs a distinct representation and voice, which SASS does not offer to the students showcasing interest. Utkrist further mentioned that he wishes the proposed society had a broader scope and Morgan replied that they are focused on skill development which might seem a single focus point, but it needs dedicated and focused representation. The Chair mentioned that she understands the impression of niche, but she can identify the strong goals and purpose of the proposed club. She further mentioned that if they are to operate as a sub-club, they will not have a voice or say in the vision they wish to deliver. Jasmine and Morgan mentioned that SASS cannot actively collaborate with sub-clubs.

Ajay Chungath asked the representatives about what the proposed society is looking for, from an affiliation with UQU. Hugo replied that affiliation with UQU would help them during market day, book rooms, be able to run workshops etc among other things and be a part of the science cohort. James Hohl encouraged the representatives to run some form of event to showcase interest amongst students for the proposed club and its objectives, to show that it proves the need for such a club as well as interest on the ground to run as a unique club.

The representatives left the meeting at 12:52 PM

Jess Mills mentioned that SASS often requests representation and numbers at every event they hold, which is a clear indication that SASS is not doing as well as they were hoping for. Hence, the proposed club should hold events and see how it goes as there is a need to show there is evinced interest for the proposed club before affiliating, and then can be ratified. Emily Ryan mentioned that rather than based on a single event, the ratification can be done based on events held over some time. The members of the committee agreed to consider the application based on what Emily Ryan proposed.

It was moved

THAT THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY UQ SCIENCE COMMUNICATION SOCIETY TO BE AFFILIATED AS UQU CLUB BE RATIFIED AT A LATER DATE AFTER THE SOCIETY HOLDS EVENTS OVER SOME TIME TO SHOW EVINCED INTEREST AMONGST STUDENTS

C&S 111/60

NORRIS/HOHL

CARRIED

Jess Mills left the meeting at 01:00 PM

2. UQ Middle Eastern Cultural Club

The representatives of the proposed club Mohammad Mustafa and Abdul Arshad joined the meeting online at 1:08 PM

The representatives were queried by the members of the committee on the idea and purpose of the club. The representatives mentioned that there is not much middle eastern representation or connectivity on the campus. They further mentioned that in the long run, they propose to encourage professional opportunities specifically for the middle eastern students, encourage them to network, and build on the connections which in their opinion do not exist right now.

The representatives were questioned on the level of interest regarding the proposed club. The representatives informed the committee that there were 80 signups within a week of the advertisement so far and a lot more showed interest. The representatives were asked if any events are planned by the proposed club or if they are affiliated with UQU. The representatives replied that the immediate idea is to introduce middle eastern cultural events, bring cultural food of the region at such events and encourage socialising amongst Middle Eastern Students. They mentioned that they are also looking at potential day trips to nearby beaches and islands.

James Hohl mentioned that there are already two cultural societies from the Middle East region in existence and hence asked the representatives how this proposed club is different from those. The representatives mentioned that the differentiating factor being the proposed club is to cover the entire Middle Eastern Culture not limited to the two specific cultures the existing clubs cater to. They aim to bridge the differences and unify the whole region and help students connect. Utkrist Paudyal queried on who specifically the proposed club is targeted towards and answered that it is more prioritised towards undergraduate students, considering the relatability and cohesiveness. Utkrist Paudyal further queried if the 80 signups were submitted and were answered that 30 signatures were shown to the committee, and the representatives agreed to share the signatures of sign up with the committee.

The representatives left the meeting at 01:17 PM

The Chair mentioned that the proposed club are encompassing a broader reach and it is better for them to collaborate with existing clubs. Emily Ryan queried on the current status of the ISS Club, as it was intended to be the main club for all Asian clubs and observed that the ISS club is to be contacted too. Emily Ryan further mentioned that the committee must discuss and formulate in future, on ratifying an umbrella club for every continent and the intention to umbrella it or not is to be checked. She opined that the representatives should be contacted to see if they can operate informally.

The committee decided to ratify the proposed club's expression of interest after checking with ISS, Saudi and Persian Societies for potential conflict of interest and if they can affiliate with existing clubs instead.

It was moved

THAT THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY UQ MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURAL CLUB TO BE AFFILIATED AS UQU CLUB BE RATIFIED ON THE CONDITION THAT ISS, SAUDI, AND PERSIAN SOCIETIES BE CONTACTED FIRST AND ENSURE NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST

C&S 111/61

NORRIS/HOHL

CARRIED

3. UQ Country Club

Emily Ryan mentioned that the legitimate interests or purpose needs to be stated and showcased clearly and that there are a lot of red flags in the process followed by this proposed club so far.

The representative of the proposed club was reached out to, through a phone call and was informed that they cannot communicate with the committee at this point due to scheduling conflicts.

ii. Disaffiliations

None

iii. Other Business which has been proposed

None

h) General Business

- Society Name Changes:

UQ Climate and Energy

The members of the committee discussed the proposed name change and agreed that the name change was more in alignment with their aims and objectives.

It was moved

TO ACCEPT THE NAME CHANGE OF STUDENT ENERGY NETWORK TO THE NEW NAME OF UQ CLIMATE AND ENERGY

C&S 111/62

NORRIS/HOHL

CARRIED

Menzies Society

Emily Ryan mentioned that the issue has been resurfacing for a few months now and that the proposed change does not match their constitution and was also not done correctly. James Hohl mentioned that communication can be sought to explain their position.

It was moved

THAT THE C&S COMMITTEE REACH OUT TO DARCY, OBTAIN INFORMATION AND THEN PROCEED FURTHER

C&S 111/63

NORRIS/HOHL

CARRIED

- C&S Grants by Application

The Chair informed the committee that the members will be updated later regarding the C&S grants by application.

It was moved

TO TABLE THE UQ COUNTRY CLUB UNTIL THE NEXT C&S COMMITTEE MEETING

C&S 111/64

NORRIS/CHUNGATH

CARRIED

There being no other business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 01:37 PM

DRAFT