

UNION CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

5th Ordinary Meeting of the 112th C&S Committee

12:00 pm

Friday 5/05/2023

UQU Boardroom

UQ Union Complex, St Lucia Campus

I. Credentials

The following were present:

Members

Michael Walker (Chair)

Utkrist Paudyal

Natasha Brettell

Kylie Ho

Barclay McGain

Tapenaga Reupena Jr

Alex Knight

Observers

Jacinto Hedus, Minute Taker

II. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

It was moved,

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 4th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

C&S 112/67	WALKER/PAUDYAL	CARRIED
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III. Business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Nil

IV. Reports of the Elected Officer

The Campus Culture (C&S) VP's report was tabled until the VP arrived at the meeting.

V. Affiliations

Affiliations for the UQ Wordsmiths Society and UQ Thai Society were tabled until the Campus Culture (C&S) VP arrived.

VI. Ratifications, Part I

i. Psych MD

Prior to the representatives arriving, there was discussion on whether there was a sufficient difference between the names of UQ Psych (UQ Psychology Students Association) and Psych MD, as well as noted the club was already holding frequent events.

Kirti and Christy represented Psych MD. They noted that when they had joined UQ, there was no psychiatry-focused club and they had wanted to form a club that would host events and make connections. Their success was demonstrated by the club running informally with 189 members, having hosted two events including a launch party and a panel event, and that they were already working with their faculty. They noted they had communicated with other relevant clubs, noting that one club was more focused on mental health support for students as opposed to their goal of career building.

A Committee Member raised the previously discussed concern of the name Psych MD vs UQ Psychology Students Association, to which the representatives felt the 'MD' was a sufficient differentiator given they were psychiatry focused, as opposed to the latter being psychology focused. Christy and Kristi left the meeting.

The Committee was pleased with the club's prospects and already considerable support.

Concerns on the club name were alleviated, as long as the MD in the name was emphasised.

12:21pm Alexandra Knight entered the meeting.

It was moved

THAT UQ PSYCH MD BE RATIFIED

C&S 112/68	WALKER/PAUDYAL	CARRIED
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ii. Neurotech, Part I

The Committee noted that the club had already announced its IGM for affiliation. Concern was raised that it would be a unique club and potentially too niche; however, it was also noted that they had already hosted a successful drinks event.

iii. Chinese Townsman Career Development Association, Part I

Several Committee members were unclear on the purpose of the proposed club. A member suggested it may refer to people from regional areas. A Committee Member raised the concern that there were already six Chinese clubs on campus, and whether the application provided sufficient differentiation from the other clubs.

The group discussed the element of 'Career Development' in their title and that their social media referenced only one event which revolved around food and was unclear whether it would cater to their aims. Given the number of Chinese clubs on campus, some of which were relatively small in relation to the number of Chinese students, the aims and objectives were not overly clear.

iv. Neurotech, Part II

Seijim Stokes and Reuben Richardson entered the meeting as representatives of Neurotech and presented an overview of their club. As electrical bioengineers, they intend to work with other science clubs that are relevant to neuroscience, such as the Psychology club or Biomedical Club. They briefly discussed their flagship event, a collaborative event with UQ MARS involving a mind-controlled bot race. They also noted external support, which was stated to not influence the club itself. Finally, they discussed how the United States already had several neurotech clubs in their major universities and that this club, if affiliated, would be the first in Australia.

The Committee inquired about longevity, to which the representatives stated they were confident that it would have long-term sustainability.

Before leaving the meeting, the representatives noted that they had planned their IGM for the Thursday following the meeting, and questions about a sufficient notice period were alleviated.

The Neurotech Representatives left the meeting.

It was moved,

THAT NEUROTECH BE RATIFIED

C&S 112/69	WALKER/PAUDYAL	CARRIED
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v. Chinese Townsman Career Development Association, Part II

Representatives Lucia and Matt spoke to their application noting the influx of Chinese students following COVID, and that students would be interested in work. The representative, as a regional individual, explained that when returning home, the students would lack opportunities and connections that would be difficult to obtain. In turn, they wished to have a club that could facilitate and create a tight-knit community between regional Chinese students. They further acknowledged there were many Chinese clubs already on campus, but then discussed how their club was different to existing UQ Union clubs and the relevant UQ Alumni Association. They discussed their aims, followed by explaining their strategies for obtaining these goals, ranging from community events to meet-up events.

A Committee member asked about whether there was potential membership overlap, to which the representative stated there would be little given they have little knowledge of the existing associations. The club noted the lack of Facebook and Instagram in China was a significant source of the lack of knowledge. A Committee Member enquired whether the Representative had been or thought of being an executive of one of the existing, to which the latter stated they had not.

The Committee enquired whether they could potentially provide a subgroup within an existing club. The club stated that they would be interested in opening the club up to non-Chinese students who would be interested in working in regional China. Additionally, they felt the events that the current Chinese clubs were not hosting events that catered to everyone, as they focused on cultural activities. A Committee Member enquired whether they had reached out to the current Clubs, to which a Representative confirmed and clarified there was no conflict, as the others were culturally focused. The Chinese Townsman Career Development Association Representatives left the meeting.

The committee supported the concept in theory but were concerned about its longevity. It was confirmed that two Chinese clubs were already catering to cultural interests, so the committee should contact them first and work out the extent of their overlap before going through with the current ratification. Two members felt that the issue should be tabled, to which another Committee Member disagreed unsure whether anything more would be found.

It was moved,

THAT THE RATIFICATION OF THE CHINESE TOWNSMEN CAREER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION BE TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING

C&S 112/70	WALKER/KNIGHT	NOT CARRIED
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It was moved,

THAT THE CHINESE TOWNSMEN CAREER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION BE RATIFIED

C&S 112/71	WALKER/KNIGHT	NOT CARRIED
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Feedback Summary: There was concern over club overlap, the club's longevity and whether an existing club could cover these issues.

vi. UQ Travellers Club

Srishti Agaiwal, Dipika Chawda, Anuj Vauadkan, Aditya Krishuakunsan and Max Thompson represented the UQ Travellers Club.

A Committee Member enquired about the club's purpose, and a representative expressed a desire to form a club that could make budget-friendly, pre-planned trips, as well as going to places that aren't the usual tourist destinations.

1:11pm Emily Ryan, Clubs and Societies Manager entered the meeting.

It was confirmed to the Committee that the Representatives had contacted the Tourism, Hospitality and Events Society (TH&E Society), but not the Queensland University Exchange Student Society (QUEST). The Representatives stated the former was more career-focused and felt that the latter had too few events that only went to common tourist locations. It was clarified that QUEST was not exclusive to exchange students, and that QUEST and other event-focused clubs were popular due to the social aspect. One representative brought up an example of a successful stargazing trip they had recently organised to the Committee's interest.

In response to several questions by the Committee, it was established that the club was interested in day trips, hosting smaller events, such as trivia, and a potential annual weekend trip. There was also interest in obtaining sponsorship from backpacker organisations, as well as Union grants. Finally, they addressed the issue of longevity, stating that they would be around to maintain the club's momentum for several years. The Travellers Club Representatives left the meeting.

It was moved,

THAT THE UQ TRAVELLERS CLUB BE RATIFIED

C&S 112/72	WALKER/PAUDYAL	CARRIED
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vii. Muslimah

Mariam Ahmed represented UQ Muslimah and began by introducing the club and providing an overview of the club's aims and history. Of note was the club's success prior to COVID, including awards and being invited to Parliament House for their achievements. They additionally clarified their distinction from the UQ Muslim Student Association as a women and social focused club. Addressing the issue of sustainability, they informed the Committee of their significant social media traction,

as well as the support of the Muslim chaplain at UQ. They also noted successful collaboration with both the Indian and Malaysian societies.

The Clubs and Societies Manager enquired into the club's confidence around funding, due to the removal of grant funding for religious and political clubs since COVID. Mariam confirmed they were confident given they had been reassured the old club's bank account still had money from prior to COVID. The C&S Manager also received clarification from Mariam that MSA and Muslimah had been and were currently separate entities. Mariam Ahmed left the meeting.

Committee discussion followed about whether clubs should be separated along gender lines. A Committee Member suggested that a precedence was already in existence.

It was moved,

THAT THE UQ MUSLIMAH BE RATIFIED

C&S 112/73	WALKER/PAUDYAL	CARRIED
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viii. Social Science Postgraduate Association

Ngairé Dowse, Camille Freeman and Zhaoxi Zheng represented the Social Science Postgraduate Association.

1:46pm Joshua Marsh entered the meeting.

A club representative advised that there was a lack of social science clubs for Postgraduate students, and they wished to form a club that could work with their faculty. They expressed that Social Science had a diverse range of disciplines which had little contact with each other and confirmed there were 100 individuals in their cohort, predominantly Criminology undergraduates.

The representative advised that there were student faculty representatives, however, would appreciate a formal club. They were keen to contact honours students who may be interested in going into postgraduate studies. As student representatives, they did not have Faculty support (funding), but there was grassroots support.

The committee asked if they could form a subgroup within the existing Social Science Club, to which a representative felt that the culture was different between undergraduates and postgraduates. Additionally, their club would be more career and postgraduate-focused. Finally, they noted the issue of postgrads tutoring that could create a conflict of interest when combined with undergraduates.

Joshua Marsh left the meeting.

1:56pm The UQ Social Science Postgraduate Association representatives left the meeting.

The committee discussed opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students but was concerned about the sustainability of a club with so few students and felt that the proposed club had little potential growth opportunity. It was agreed that while the intention was good, they would like to see the club operate informally to demonstrate annual growth and longevity before committing them to affiliation.

It was moved,

THAT THE UQ SOCIAL SCIENCE POSTGRADUATE ASSOCIATION BE RATIFIED

C&S 112/74	WALKER/KNIGHT	NOT CARRIED
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ix. Comann Albannach Scottish Society

Lachlan and Jonty joined the meeting to represent the Comann Albannach Scottish Society, summarising their interest in supporting Scottish cultures and institutions. A Committee Member enquired about membership, to which a representative responded that they were confident they would meet the thirty-signature quota, as there were many people in Australia, and UQ, with Scottish heritage.

2:12pm Lachlan Chadwick, Jonte-McKenzie-Hilston and Natasha Brettell left the meeting.

The C&S Manager expressed concerns over low membership; however, the Committee felt they provided a cultural interest in their application.

It was moved,

THAT THE UQ SCOTTISH SOCIETY BE RATIFIED

C&S 112/75	WALKER/PAUDYAL	CARRIED
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xi. UQ Tabletop Wargaming Society

Jason Small explained that the Wargames Society was focused on tabletop wargaming, such as Warhammer 40k or Conquest and that they had already collaborated with the QUT Tabletop Society, as well as hosting various games with other clubs. Jason clarified what wargaming is and the difference they perceived between UQ Sci-Fi Society & Fantasy Society (UQSFFS), having been a member for several years. They also stated they had reached out to the Queensland University Games Society (QUGS), but they hadn't received a reply.

The group discussed some thoughts regarding finances and bank accounts and safe methods of managing money while operating as an informal club.

The Clubs and Societies Manager advised the group that War Gaming had submitted an application in the previous year however they had not been successful in ratifying due to the previous committee feeling they could operate comfortably and easily without affiliation.

After Jason Small had left the meeting, the committee discussed concerns about Wargames being able to operate informally and potentially being too niche. A Committee Member expressed concern about clubs ignoring or circumnavigating affiliation and setting up as informal clubs on Market Day which creates poor precedent.

2:41pm Tapendaga Reupena Jr entered the meeting.

There was discussion about whether to table or move to ratify the UQ Tabletop Wargaming Club.

It was moved,

THAT THE RATIFICATION OF THE UQ TABLETOP WARGAMING SOCIETY BE TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING

C&S 112/76	WALKER/KNIGHT	NOT CARRIED
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It was moved,

THAT THE UQ TABLETOP WARGAMING SOCIETY BE TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING

C&S 112/77	WALKER/KNIGHT	NOT CARRIED
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2:45pm Michael Walker ceded the Chair to Tapendaga Reupena Jr.

VII. Reports of the C&S VP

Tapenaga Reupena Jr, the Campus Culture (C&S) VP reported briefly on the upcoming Arts Week and Cultural Fiesta. There was brief discussion about a potential event for executives in Semester 2.

It was moved,

THAT THE CAMPUS CULTURE (CLUBS AND SOCIETIES) VP'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED

C&S 112/78	REPUENA/WALKER	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
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VIII. Ratifications, Part II

i. Food Science

Representatives gave a brief overview on the club, their aims to bring Food Science students together, especially given that many were international students, as well as potential events. They also noted there had been a Food Science Club prior to COVID, given the significance of international students to the field. Finally, they clarified the difference between Food Science and other food- related fields, such as Agriculture.

It was moved,

THAT FOOD SCIENCE BE RATIFIED

C&S 112/79	REUPENA/WALKER	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
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ii. UQ Frisbee

There were no representatives. The Committee concurred that the club's aims were covered by a variety of existing clubs.

It was moved,

THAT UQ FRISBEE BE RATIFIED

C&S 112/80	REUPENA/WALKER	NOT CARRIED
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IX. Affiliation

i. Wordsmiths Writing Society

The C&S Manager and the Committee confirmed that Wordsmiths Writing Society had provided signatures from their AGM and that it was valid; therefore, affiliation could be carried.

It was moved,

THAT THE WORDSMITHS WRITING SOCIETY BE AFFILIATED TO THE UQ UNION

C&S 112/81	REUPENA/WALKER	CARRIED
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ii. Thai Student Association

The C&S Manager and the Committee confirmed the membership numbers observed in the provided photograph of their AGM were valid and that affiliation could be carried.

It was moved,

THAT THE THAI STUDENT ASSOCIATION BE AFFILIATED TO THE UQ UNION

C&S 112/82	REUPENA/WALKER	CARRIED
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X. Disaffiliations

Nil

XI. Other Business which has been proposed

i. Lifetime Membership

The Committee discussed concerns over Lifetime Membership, which was against regulations. Most clubs with 'lifetime membership' had them as honorary titles without voting rights. Additionally, an explanation was provided on EUS' use of Life Members that act as constitutional advisors only and that the club intends to amend the name to reflect that.

ii. The Enforcement of C&S Regulation Changes from the 2nd Ordinary Meeting of the 112th UQ Union Council

Discussion focused on the regulation changes passed at the 2nd Ordinary Meeting of the 112th UQ Union Council. These changes would have caused several clubs, such as SAS and the Film Appreciation Society, to be against the Regulations, but there had been no motion passed stating the Committee would punish retroactively.

It was moved,

THAT THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE WILL NOT ENFORCE R158.1 (n) and R162.3 WITH RESPECT TO AFFILIATED BODIES UNTIL SUCH TIME AS:

- a) THE AFFILIATED BODY HOLDS AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING; OR
- b) THE AFFILIATED BODY FILLS A CASUAL VACANCY ON ITS COMMITTEE IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THEIR CONSTITUTION.

THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE WILL BEGIN ENFORCING ALL OTHER REGULATIONS CHANGED DURING THE 2ND ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 112TH UQ UNION COUNCIL.

C&S 112/82	REUPENA/WALKER	CARRIED
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iii. Mid Sem event or activity

Discussion surrounded potential options, including opinions on the previous year's boat party. Options included escape room events and bowling with a proposal that Alexandra Knight and Kylie Ho would provide proposals and quotes for a Strike Bowling event to the following meeting.

iv. President / T3 get-together

The Committee and the C&S Manager held an interest in hosting a President or T3 Get Together at the RedRoom and that it was important to act as a handover. The UQ Union President is in the process of organising a regular meeting. and the C&S Manager provided supplementary information.

v. C&S Room improvement

A discussion was had on improvements to the C&S Room t, especially regarding possible future demolition. Discussions were held about the feasibility of access cards and the need for additional storage space, as well as fridges and the kitchenette. A Committee Member also noted various items that individuals had requested:

- Fixing the Aircon "a working aircon that does not actually smell (ie. proper ventilation)"
- Security Camera "Security cameras in the case that something unlawful happens with club merch"
- Honour board to show off the achievements of clubs
- Locked storage spaces
- Kitchen cleaning supplies
- Kitchen first aid and biohazard spill kit
- AV equipment (Microphones, power supplies etc, speaker, lights, etc.)
- Desktop computer, projector and camera
- Chairs and tables for clubs to borrow
- Printer
- Air freshener
- An eftpos machine
- E-sports room
- More space and tables
- " "After Hours" Access - we've held a handful of events with 6pm start times and can't return our club equipment (banner and other event marketing) after its completion (~8pm) as the room is locked and then exec have to take it home via public transport. "

3:31pm Emily Ryan left the meeting.

vi. Constitution

The Committee Member who had drafted the changes confirmed the entire committee was happy with the changes.

It was moved,

THAT THE CLUBS AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS AND RECOMMENDS THE CHANGES PROPOSED BY MICHAEL WALKER

C&S 112/76	WALKER/KNIGHT	CARRIED
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vii. Recap on mental health first aid

The Committee Member responsible for the event summarised that it had been highly successful and the organiser was interested in future collaboration. They also discussed how a significant amount of money allocated was not spent, the breakdown of the event's finances detailing the various items that had ended up cheaper than expected, as well as recommending the Committee run an additional event at the end of the year. Finally, there was a desire to organise a future event at UQ, rather than the CBD.

viii. C&S Handbook/affiliation guide

It was discussed that a total rewrite was heavily needed as the contemporary guide was outdated, such as in terms of RedRoom booking, significant errors and grammatical/spelling issues. The Committee Member agreed that this rewrite should wait until all significant Clubs and Societies related reforms were passed.

ix. Discounted C&S committee tickets to events

A Committee Member began a discussion about bias within the awarding of previous Clubbies awards, especially in terms of Faculty awards. The Committee hoped that by providing subsidised tickets, Committee members could access more events to have an improved and less biased judgement.

Discussion followed on how much tickets would be subsidised and what events they would encompass. Additionally, it was noted that information on Clubbies would soon be available.

A Committee Member flagged interest in providing two or three more awards to cater towards smaller clubs. The Committee had significant discussion on this topic, noting that large clubs dominated most awards, as well as winning several.

Meeting closed at 4:02pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ty R. Keup', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.