

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 2nd Ordinary Meeting of the
109th UQ Union Council, 2020

3:00PM

Friday 20 March 2020

Innes Room

Level 4, Union Building, UQ St Lucia

Chair: Mitchell Ablett-Nelson

a) The Meeting was declared open at 3:07pm by Secretary Thornton.

b) Credentials

The following were present:

Councilors

Allen Ding
Barclay McGain
Bradley Plant
Drew Pavlou
Georgina Quayle
Ian Trinh
Mitchell Ablett-Nelson (Chair)
Myah McGinity
Oula Shihan

Student Executive & Officers

Chicarnee Pickering
Christian Rizalli
Ethan Van Roo Douglas (President)
Gustavo Pazo
Lachlan Green
Rebekah Thornton (Secretary)
Tom Landy (Treasurer) *with
apologies for lateness*
Zane Higgins

Others

Glenda Jacobs
Hugo Reitano
Isabella Scattini
Roxanne Du
Tilly Clark
Yihong Xu
Karen Da Silva (Minutes)

The following members were absent:

Nil.

The following apologies were received:

- Annabel Genest
- Brodie Fennell
- Dakota Titmus
- Emily Coggan

- Lili Wackwitz
- Sai Wai Yan

On leave:

Nil.

The following proxies were received:

- Chloe Ainscow to Bradley Plant
- Daniel Boyle to Drew Pavlou
- Jack Dugdale to Ethan Van Roo Douglas
- Jennifer Wang to Yihong Xu
- Justin Gane to Isabella Scattini
- Lachlan Hardie to Gustavo Pazo
- Maddy Taylor to Mitchell Ablett-Nelson
- Marnie Stollznnow to Georgina Quayle
- Nathan Kerr to Gustavo Pazo
- Olivia Nguyen to Roxanne Du
- Priya De to Oula Shihan
- Sofia Zeller to Christian Rizalli
- Ti Parker to Christian Rizalli
- Tim Heffernan to Oula Shihan
- William Kugelman to Tilly Clark
- Yunying Su to Isabella Scattini

Resignations:

Nil.

c) Elections

Nil.

d) The minutes from the previous meeting

It was moved that

THE MINUTES FROM THE 1st ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 109TH UQ UNION COUNCIL
HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY 2020 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED.

COUNCIL 109/38

MITCHELL ABLETT-NELSON /PLANT

CARRIED

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

Nil.

f) **Requests for Starring/ Approval of the items not starred en bloc**

Procedural motion to push back the 2020 Budget to later in the meeting and in camera.

CARRIED

Procedural motion to consider the reports en bloc.

CARRIED

THAT THE UNION SECRETARY'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/39

THORNTON/ MITCHELL ABLETT-
NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE CAMPUS CULTURE REPORTS BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/40

GENEST & WACKWITZ/ MITCHELL ABLETT-
NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE STUDENT RIGHTS REPORTS BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/41

PAZO & FENNELL / MITCHELL ABLETT-
NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE GENDER AND SEXUALITY REPORTS BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/42

COGGAN & TITMUS/ MITCHELL ABLETT-
NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/43

GREEN/ MITCHELL ABLETT-
NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS' REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/44

OREN & YAN/ MITCHELL ABLETT-
NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE GOORIE BERIMPA OFFICERS' REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/45

HIGGINS & PICKERING/ MITCHELL ABLETT-
NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE POSTGRADUATE OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/46

RIZZALLI/ MITCHELL ABLETT-
NELSON

CARRIED

g) Matters arising from the Reports of the Elected Officers

Nil.

h) Reports of Union Bodies

Nil.

i) Business which has been proposed

Murders of Hannah Baxter and her three kids

It was moved that

THE 109TH UNION COUNCIL EXPRESSES ITS OUTRAGE AND GRIEF AT THE SENSELESS MURDERS OF BRISBANE WOMAN HANNAH BAXTER AND HER THREE CHILDREN LAST MONTH. IT REMINDS STUDENTS THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE AND CALLS UPON ALL MEMBERS OF THE UQ COMMUNITY TO COMBAT THE MISOGYNISTIC ATTITUDES THAT LEAD TO THESE TYPE OF TRAGEDIES.

COUNCIL 109/47

QUAYLE/PAZO

CARRIED

UQ shut down in response to COVID-19

Rizzalli stated that the one-week pause in teaching delivery was inadequate to address and contain the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Australia. UQ being the largest organisation in Queensland, a demand for re assessment of the situation with a complete closure (of all campuses) was stated, in a way to curb infection and protect the financial stability, and health and safety, of students and staff.

Cr McGain queried how the decision to reopen would be addressed and the how this semester could reflect closures and delays. Rizzalli and Cr Shihaan stated reopening to be as advised by Queensland Health (when we have a drop in numbers), negotiated between students, UQU, the University, NTEU any other union staff or hospitality staff or any other staff on campus. They also highlighted the impact

on the academic calendar where it could result in the current semester being 3 weeks longer at the minimum or waived entirely. It was suggested to carry forward Semester 1 classes to Semester 2.

It was moved that

ALL UQ CAMPUSES ARE COMPLETELY CLOSED UNTIL QUEENSLAND HEALTH DECLARES THE NUMBER OF INFECTIONS DROPPING, AND, WE DEMAND THAT THE CLOSURE IS IMPLEMENTED IN A WAY THAT PROTECTS THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF STUDENTS AND STAFF.

UQ SHOULD FURTHER EXTEND THE CENSUS DATE FOR STUDENTS TO WITHDRAW FROM THEIR COURSES WITHOUT ACADEMIC OR FINANCIAL PENALTY. NOT ALL COURSEWORK IS POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE ONLINE, AND THE DISRUPTION MAY IMPEDE STUDENTS' ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE.

COMPREHENSIVE EXTENSION ALLOWANCES MUST BE MADE FOR ANY RESEARCH STUDENTS (MPHIL AND PHD) WHOSE CANDIDATURE AND ASSOCIATED SCHOLARSHIPS (TUITION-FEE OFFSET AND LIVING ALLOWANCE) MAY BE IMPACTED BY CAMPUS CLOSURE.

UQ PUT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THEIR STUDENTS AND STAFF BEFORE THEIR PROFITS.

THE UQ UNION WILL EMAIL STUDENTS AND USE ITS SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS TO CAUTION AGAINST ATTENDING CAMPUS IF CLASSES WERE TO RESUME NEXT WEEK. THE UQ UNION WILL SHARE THE PETITION STARTED BY CHRISTIAN RIZZALLI ON MEGAPHONE.ORG, WHICH LISTS THE SAME DEMANDS AS THOSE OUTLINED IN THE ABOVE MOTION.

COUNCIL 109/48

RIZZALLI/SHIHAN

CARRIED

Guarantee of full protections for all workers throughout crisis: COVID-19 Special Leave

Rizzalli expressed concern of the impact of leave arrangements on staff and online delivery of classes announced by the University, which has resulted in an overwhelming increase/decrease in workload.

The University's profits-before-people view was highlighted. A demand was stated for regular wages until normal operations are resumed.

It was moved that

THE UQ UNION DEMANDS THAT ALL EMPLOYEES AT UQ'S ST LUCIA CAMPUS SHOULD BE GUARANTEED REGULAR WAGES FOR THE DURATION OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS, UNTIL THE UNIVERSITY RESUMES NORMAL OPERATIONS. THIS INCLUDES FULL-TIME, PART-TIME AND CASUAL MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF, THE CLEANING STAFF AND THE HOSPITALITY STAFF.

COUNCIL 109/49

RIZZALLI/SHIHAN

CARRIED

Support cleaning staff at UQ refusing to clean areas contaminated with Covid-19 without proper protective equipment

The lack of support and compensation for cleaning staff to decontaminate an area affected by COVID-19 was highlighted whereby cleaning staff refused to clean an infected area in the School of Psychology without proper safety equipment.

It was moved that

THE UQ UNION STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH CLEANING STAFF WHO ARE REFUSING TO CLEAN CONTAMINATED AREAS WITHOUT HAVING PROPER SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

THE UQ UNION DEMANDS THAT THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION PROVIDE CLEANING STAFF WITH ALL EQUIPMENT NECESSARY AND MEET ALL THE DEMANDS OF THE CLEANERS TO PREVENT AN INFECTION OF COVID-19.

UQ UNION CALLS ON THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION TO COMPENSATE STAFF WITH EXTRA PAY IF THEY CHOOSE TO TAKE ON THIS TASK.

COUNCIL 109/50

RIZZALLI/SHIHAN

CARRIED

Sign for Liu Xiaobo Conference Centre

Cr Pavlou requested for \$2000 towards a sign renaming the UQ Union Conference Centre as the Liu Xiaobo Conference Centre. President Van Roo Douglas suggested this request be addressed in discussions relating to the budget and that the UQ Union does not own this building.

Cr Pavlou suggested requesting funds from Guzman & Gomez, the Kebab Shop or the utilisation of funds from the recently shut down eSports room. Clark suggested in light of the global pandemic, the sale of razor rgb keyboards as a solution to raise funds and provide mental health services. Cr Plant advised that the keyboards were sponsored parts and not for sale. Cr Quayle enquired whether Cr Pavlou had looked into the cost of the signage. Cr Pavlou confirmed that his guestimate was near accurate given his business genes.

It was moved that

IN LIGHT OF MAJORITY VOTE TO RENAME THE UQ UNION CENTRE THE LIU XIAOBO CENTRE, THE UQ UNION PROVIDE \$2000 TO INSTALL A LIU XIAOBO SIGN.

COUNCIL 109/51

PAVLOU/CLARK

FAILED

Recorded vote:

Allen Ding	<i>Abstain</i>
Barclay McGain	<i>Against</i>
Bradley Plant	<i>In Favour</i>
Chloe Ainscow to Bradley Plant	<i>Against</i>
Daniel Boyle to Drew Pavlou	<i>In Favour</i>
Drew Pavlou	<i>In favour</i>
Georgina Quayle	<i>Against</i>
Ian Trinh	<i>Against</i>
Jack Dugdale to Ethan Van Roo Douglas	<i>Abstain</i>
Jennifer Wang to Yihong Xu	<i>Abstain</i>
Justin Gane to Isabella Scattini	<i>Abstain</i>
Maddy Taylor to Mitchell Ablett-Nelson	<i>Abstain</i>
Marnie Stollznnow to Georgina Quayle	<i>Against</i>
Mitchell Ablett-Nelson (Chair)	<i>Abstain</i>
Myah McGinity	<i>Against</i>
Olivia Nguyen to Roxanne Du	<i>Abstain</i>
Oula Shihan	<i>In Favour</i>
Priya De to Oula Shihan	<i>In Favour</i>
Sofia Zeller to Christian Rizalli	<i>In Favour</i>
Ti Parker to Christian Rizalli	<i>In Favour</i>
Tim Heffernan to Oula Shihan	<i>In Favour</i>
William Kugelman to Tilly Clark	<i>Abstain</i>
Yunying Su to Isabella Scattini	<i>Abstain</i>
The chair gave a casting vote against the motion.	

Sale of racing chair from the President's office

Cr Pavlou suggested the sale of the gaming room chair in President Van Roo Douglas' office to raise funds for the signage of the UQ Union conference room. The President stated that there was no such chair in the office and this was confirmed by Cr Shihan.

Cr Pavlou amended the item of sale to the President's personal desk.

It was moved that

ETHAN VAN ROO DOUGLAS SELL HIS RACING CHAIR STOLEN FROM THE ESPORTS ROOM TO PAY FOR THE LIU XIAOBO SIGN.

COUNCIL 109/52

PAVLOU/MCGINITY

FAILED

Recorded vote:

Allen Ding	<i>Against</i>
Barclay McGain	<i>Against</i>
Bradley Plant	<i>Against</i>
Chloe Ainscow to Bradley Plant	<i>Against</i>
Daniel Boyle to Drew Pavlou	<i>In Favour</i>
Drew Pavlou	<i>In Favour</i>
Georgina Quayle	<i>Against</i>
Ian Trinh	<i>Abstain</i>
Jack Dugdale to Ethan Van Roo Douglas	<i>Against</i>
Jennifer Wang to Yihong Xu	<i>Against</i>
Justin Gane to Isabella Scattini	<i>Abstain</i>
Maddy Taylor to Mitchell Ablett-Nelson	<i>Against</i>
Marnie Stollznaw to Georgina Quayle	<i>Against</i>
Mitchell Ablett-Nelson (Chair)	<i>Against</i>
Myah McGinity	<i>Against</i>
Olivia Nguyen to Roxanne Du	<i>Against</i>
Oula Shihan	<i>Against</i>
Priya De to Oula Shihan	<i>Against</i>
Sofia Zeller to Christian Rizalli	<i>Against</i>
Ti Parker to Christian Rizalli	<i>Against</i>
Tim Heffernan to Oula Shihan	<i>Against</i>

William Kugelman to Tilly Clark *Abstain*

Yunying Su to Isabella Scattini *Abstain*

After discussions, the seconder withdrew support and voted against the motion.

Total War Games

Cr Pavlou stated that several witnesses had seen the President playing Napoleon Total War in his office. Cr Scattini also had witnessed the same. The President said that it was during a lunch break. The President pointed out that Cr Pavlou's motion was factually incorrect in that the Battle of Austerlitz was fought between the French against the Austrians and the Russians, not the Prussians.

It was moved that

THE UQ UNION NOTE THAT CONSIDERING THE NUMBER OF HOURS WASTED BY ETHAN VAN ROO DOUGLAS PLAYING NAPOLEAN TOTAL WAR IN HIS OFFICES WHILE BEING PAID, ETHAN SHOULD BE A LOT BETTER AT IT AND MAYBE NOT BE CRUSHED AT AUSTERLITZ EVERY TIME BY THE COMBINED FORCES OF THE RUSSIAN, AUSTRIAN AND PRUSSIAN EMPIRES.

COUNCIL 109/53

PAVLOU/SCATTINI

FAILED

Recorded Vote:

Allen Ding	<i>Against</i>
Barclay McGain	<i>Abstain</i>
Bradley Plant	<i>Against</i>
Chloe Ainscow to Bradley Plant	<i>Against</i>
Daniel Boyle to Drew Pavlou	<i>In Favour</i>
Drew Pavlou	<i>In Favour</i>
Georgina Quayle	<i>Against</i>
Ian Trinh	<i>Against</i>
Jack Dugdale to Ethan Van Roo Douglas	<i>Against</i>
Jennifer Wang to Yihong Xu	<i>Against</i>
Justin Gane to Isabella Scattini	<i>In Favour</i>
Maddy Taylor to Mitchell Ablett-Nelson	<i>In Favour</i>
Marnie Stollznnow to Georgina Quayle	<i>Against</i>
Mitchell Ablett-Nelson (Chair)	<i>In Favour</i>
Myah McGinity	<i>In Favour</i>
Olivia Nguyen to Roxanne Du	<i>Against</i>
Oula Shihan	<i>Against</i>
Priya De to Oula Shihan	<i>Against</i>

Sofia Zeller to Christian Rizalli	<i>Against</i>
Ti Parker to Christian Rizalli	<i>Against</i>
Tim Heffernan to Oula Shihan	<i>Against</i>
William Kugelman to Tilly Clark	<i>In Favour</i>
Yunying Su to Isabella Scattini	<i>Against</i>

Lateness in presenting the 2020 Budget

Members expressed their disapproval of the late arrival of Treasurer Landy and the budget document.

It was moved that

THE 109TH UNION COUNCIL CONDEMN TREASURER TOM LANDY FOR SHOWING UP LATE WITH A BUDGET AND CALL FOR TREASURER TOM LANDY TO PUBLICALLY APOLOGISE FOR HIS CRIMES AGAINST DEMOCRACY.

COUNCIL 109/54

CLARK/PAVLOU

CARRIED

Fair Fees for Travel Bans

The UQ Union calls for The University of Queensland to compensate the fees of travel affected students in Semester 1 2020.

Xu highlighted that it was unfair for students from China to pay fees when affected by the disruptions to the semester caused by COVID-19 affecting their CoE and visas. Clark expressed strong support for Xu's statement.

Cr McGain stated that fee payment was addressed at the last meeting. Clark stated this was specifically for fees. Cr Shihan stated that International students were under much more strain and that in addition to compounding costs, it was increasingly evident that the present semester would not count.

It was moved that

THE COUNCIL CONDEMNS THE DECISION TO CONTINUE TO ACCEPT FEES FROM THOSE STUDENTS WHO CANNOT ATTEND CLASS IN THE UNIVERSITY.

THE COUNCIL APPEALS THE UNIVERSITY TO MAKE MORE CLASSES AVAILABLE IN SEMESTER 2 AND SUMMER SEMESTER.

COUNCIL 109/55

XU/CLARK

CARRIED

Care for the Collectives

The issue of the Queer Room shut down because of mold issues was discussed and students were being directed to use *Parents' Rooms* instead. Clark said that the students had fought for safe and accessible spaces on campus for a very long time and that not enough was done for an appropriate back-up space. Scattini commented on the not-so-great level of maintenance provided by the University and stated that alternative spaces were required for the Abilities, Mental Health and Queer groups.

Cr McGain stated that accessible spaces should not be limited to a particular room. Clark emphasised that the UQ Union had endorsed allocated places to exist and needed to ensure they were adequately usable. Cr Shihaan commented on the negligence that has led to this situation.

Clark informed the meeting that Cr Kugelman was quite unwell with COVID-19.

President Van Roo Douglas stated that the University was responsible for maintenance and many rooms were shut down because of the rains with no provision for alternative spaces and that the Executive were originally advised room cleaning would take only two weeks.

It was moved that

THE UQ UNION COUNCIL CONDEMNS UQ FOR FAILING TO PROVIDE SAFE SPACES FOR THE QUEER AND ABILITIES COLLECTIVES ON CAMPUS.

THE COUNCIL CALLS FOR THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE BEARERS TO PRIORITISE THIS ISSUE IMMEDIATELY AND PROVIDE WEEKLY UPDATES VIA THE UNION NOTICE BOARD.

COUNCIL 109/56

CLARK/SCATTINI

CARRIED

Care for the casuals

Clark made reference to the email of 19 March advising that casual staff in UQU outlets would be called in dependent on foot traffic on Monday 23 March. As support, compensation of two days' pay per week for casual staff affected was suggested. Scattini called for casual staff wages to be prioritised.

It was noted that the Pizza Café was closed indefinitely and that there would be skeleton staff at the Union offices.

Rizzalli agreed and added that UQU push for the University to compensate everyone who will be impacted by closure and for UQU to support the nationwide campaign should the University fail to pay.

The President assured the meeting that the situation was continually being reassessed, staff were asked to take leave instead, and the finance department were working tirelessly to provide the best outcomes for all staff.

4:30 pm Tom Landy joins the meeting.

Treasurer Landy stated that the University had not informed the UQ Union of decisions for the following week and that Union was looking at the worst case scenario.

It was moved that

THE UQ UNION COUNCIL CALLS ON THE UNION TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND CLARITY FOR CASUAL STAFF DURING THE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING COVID-19.

THE COUNCIL REFERS TO THE EMAIL SENT TO UQU STAFF ON 19 MARCH 2020 WHICH STIPULATES NO CLEAR PLAN FOR VULNERABLE CASUAL EMPLOYEES OF THE UNION.

COUNCIL 109/57

CLARK/SCATTINI

CARRIED

Care for the Councilors

Clark expressed disappointment at the Union executive for not exercising emergency powers to address the running of this Council meeting. Cr Shihan said that alternative meeting arrangements should have been made to address the unprecedented situation.

The Chair informed the meeting that as per the Constitution, a face-to-face meeting with a quorum of 8 councilors was required once a month from February to November with all physically present.

Cr McGain applauded the Executive on the social distancing considerations that had been taken for the meeting.

Cr Shihan requested the Executive to plan ahead in the event of University closure and to look into the option for an off-campus venue.

It was moved that

THE UQ UNION COUNCIL CONDEMNS REAL FOR GOING AHEAD WITH THE 2ND COUNCIL MEETING 2020, WITH DISREGARDS FOR THE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND STATIC GATHERING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

REAL HAS KNOWINGLY JEOPARDISED AT RISK COUNCILORS AND RESTRICTED ACCESSIBILITY FOR QUARANTINE OR TRAVEL AFFECTED STUDENTS.

THE UQU COUNCIL CALLS FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS TO BE HELD VIA ONLINE SERVICES FOR AS LONG AS THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND CONTINUES TO LIMIT ON-SITE TEACHING.

COUNCIL 109/58

CLARK/SHIHAN

FAILED

j) General Business

Nil.

At 4:43 pm the Chair moved the meeting to a session *in camera* to discuss the 2020 Budget; the observers left the meeting.

The *in camera* session ended and the meeting closed at 5:06 pm.