

# UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

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From the 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the  
110<sup>th</sup> UQ Union Council, 2021

5.30 PM

Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021

**Innes Room, Union Complex**

Chair: Emily Scott

a) **The Meeting was declared open at 5:41 pm.**

b) **Credentials The following were present:**

**Councillor**

Anastasia Georgiou  
Annabel Bartley  
Darcy Creighton  
David McGovern  
Elise Northcote  
Elloise Campbell  
Gabby Callow  
Hamish Barnett  
Jason Wang  
Jordan Mark  
Kyle Clunies-Ross  
Michael Walker  
Myah Davis  
Sam Adams  
Stuart Moss  
Thomas Stephen

**Student Executive**

Alicia Steele  
Benjamin Kozij  
Emily Scott  
Emily Searle  
Kurt Tucker  
Liam Heseltine  
Lisa Pham  
Ryan Jover

**Others**

Alex Smock  
Andrew Betts  
Anna Heale (Minutes)  
Barclay McGain  
Cara Rowe  
Claire Sturm  
Clint Wooler  
Cloey Cupewell  
Christopher Stewart  
Edward Uzelin  
Fleur Kingham  
Glenda Jacobs  
Jack Barton  
Matthew Pereira  
Rowan Evans  
Tristan Murdoch

**The following apologies were received:**

*Nil*

**On leave:**

*Nil*

**The following proxies were received:**

Elise Northcote to Cara Rowe (7.15pm onwards)  
Kurt Munckton to Stuart Moss  
Elisha Gutteridge to Ryan Jover  
Zoe Goss to Myah McGinity  
Tim Heffernan to Ryan Jover  
Chamal Abeytungu to Matthew Pereira  
Tyson Etri to Tristan Murdoch  
Ji Davis to Darcy Creighton  
Gabby Callow to Anastasia Georgiou (6:37pm onwards)

**Resignations:**

*Nil*

**c) Elections**

*Nil*

**a) Confirmation of the minutes from the previous meeting**

*It was moved*

THAT THE MINUTES FOR THE 3<sup>rd</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 109<sup>TH</sup> UQ UNION COUNCIL BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED  
COUNCIL 110/103 SCOTT/ADAMS CARRIED

*It was moved*

THAT THE MINUTES FOR THE 1<sup>st</sup> EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE 109<sup>TH</sup> UQ UNION COUNCIL BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED  
COUNCIL 110/104 SCOTT/ADAMS CARRIED

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

Cr Adams advised that the motion to censure Bradley Plant could not be substantiated and was withdrawn.

*It was moved*

THAT BRADLEY PLANT IS TO BE CENSURED AND AT THE NEXT MEETING OF UNION COUNCIL SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION PURSUANT TO C8 FOR

1. IMPROPERLY USING HIS POSITION TO ATTEMPT TO GAIN ADVANTAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH C33.1(A&B)
  - A. ON MARKET DAY 2021
  - B. INSIDE THE RED ROOM
2. ACTING IN BAD FAITH IN DISCHARGING DUTIES PURSUANT TO

C34.1(A)

A. ON MARKET DAY 2021

IF THE ALLEGATIONS ARE PROVEN, BRADLEY PLANT MUST BE REMOVED FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED ROLES PURSUANT TO C8.1

COUNCIL 110/31

ADAMS/JOHNSON

WITHDRAWN

*Procedural motion to move in camera at 6.55pm*

CARRIED

*The meeting moved ex camera at 7.18pm.*

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

The Board of Directors, Campus Culture, President's and General Manager's reports were starred for discussion.

*Procedural motion to consider all other reports en bloc.*

CARRIED

**d) Reports**

*It was moved*

THAT THE UNION SECRETARY'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 110/106

JOVER/SCOTT

CARRIED

THAT THE UNION TREASURER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 110/107

PHAM/SCOTT

CARRIED

THAT THE STUDENT RIGHTS (COMMUNITY WELFARE) REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 110/108

HESELTINE/SCOTT

CARRIED

THAT THE STUDENT RIGHTS (ACADEMIC) REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 110/109

LE/SCOTT

CARRIED

THAT THE GENDER AND SEXUALITY (WOMEN'S OFFICER) REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 110/110

SEARLE/SCOTT

CARRIED

THAT THE GENDER AND SEXUALITY (QUEER OFFICER) REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 110/111

BLANCH/SCOTT

CARRIED

THAT THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS' REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 110/112

DING/SCOTT

CARRIED

THAT THE POSTGRADUATE OFFICERS' REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 110/113

LEE/SCOTT

CARRIED

THAT THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICERS' REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 110/114

SHIHAN/SCOTT

CARRIED

THAT THE COLLEGE OFFICERS' REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 110/115

CAMPBELL/SCOTT

CARRIED

**e) Matters arising from the Reports of the Elected Officers, General Managers & Board of Directors**

*Procedural motion to suspend standing order to allow the Board of Directors report to be presented*

CARRIED

**Board of Directors Report**

Board of Directors Chairperson, Fleur Kingham, and independent director, Andrew Betts, were introduced to Union Council.

Council members were advised that the Board was fully constituted in February this year and was created to assist the executive and council to strengthen their voice on campus. The proposed redrafted regulations, as part of the business to be considered, clarify and reaffirm that the Board are not decisionmakers. Rather, they are to be an independent source of advice, acting in an advisory role.

Council were informed that the focus so far has been on clarifying the role of the board and on planning at a strategic level, with the intention of developing a secure foundation for UQU into the future. As part of this, the VC was invited to attend a meeting of the board to discuss the relationship between UQU and UQ and their individual and shared strategic priorities.

The Board of Directors members advised that they would be happy to attend any future council meetings as required. Requests are to be made through the executive team.

Cr Adams asked for further details on the meeting with the VC.

Chairperson Kingham explained that the focus was on the redevelopment of the union complex and the governance of that process, including at what points the Union is represented. The Union President presented a concise summary of the guiding principles for the Union, focusing on student control of spaces and student-facing spaces.

Chairperson Kingham noted that their understanding of the student voice was in relation to the Union. It was unexpected, therefore, to find the university has its own 'student voice' consultation processes outside of the Union. This points to a fundamental lack of acceptance by UQ of the Union as student representative voice – and this is something the Board intends to assist the Union in addressing. A follow-up meeting will be convened to start work on forming shared terms of engagement, as these are currently lacking clarity and commitment.

Cr Georgiou queried whether the Board perceives the Union as having sufficient bargaining power. Chairperson Kingham responded that, on appointment to the role, she had met with the DVCA, head of student services, and has met with the VC twice already, and these are promising signs.

Officer Steele raised that there has been a pattern of service duplication from UQ, leading to confusion over which organisation students should approach. For example, different groups providing the same service within the advocacy space. They queried whether the Board have a solution for these issues.

In response, Chairperson Kingham suggested that solutions can begin with clarifying the terms of engagement. Students were encouraged to identify what they expect from UQ/UQU and where the lines should be drawn.

President Scott suggested a meeting be scheduled with the wider executive team to gather input on the proposed terms of engagement.

Student, Rowan Evans, asked for further details on the meeting with the DVCA.

Chairperson Kingham advised that they had met in January, and it was an opportunity for her to gain an understanding of the student services directorate. Student Services Director, Andrew Lee, was also in attendance. It was noted that the Board intends to keep discussions at the right level, by getting the message direct to the VC as much as possible.

Student, Rowan Evans, queried whether the Board can see a future in which the executive at UQ will engage with the Union's elected representatives in a meaningful way.

Chairperson Kingham raised that, previously, the relationship between both was strong, with mutual respect. During her tenure as Union President, the Union fought for and won student

representation on nearly every committee. The impact of VSU is continuing to be felt by the Union. However, the Board are hopeful the relationship can be rebuilt.

Director Andrew Betts raised that the student experience remains crucial to a successful university, and should be highly considered in university decision-making.

*It was moved*

THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT BE ACCEPTED  
COUNCIL 110/116

SCOTT/ADAMS

CARRIED

#### Campus Culture Report

Cr Adams raised that they had not seen any advertising for the Eurovision event. They suggested that spending student money for largely non-students to attend a piss-up is not justifiable.

VP Kozij noted that the event was an almost sell-out, with a number of tickets sold on the door. The event was advertised extensively on socials in collaboration with the marketing team.

*It was moved*

THAT THE CAMPUS CULTURE (EVENTS AND CLUBS) REPORT BE ACCEPTED  
AND CONFIRMED  
COUNCIL 110/117

KOZIJ/SCOTT

CARRIED

#### Union President's Report

Cr Creighton noted that President Scott made reference to the executive steering committee. The councillor asked for details on discussions at these meetings, specifically surrounding the Schonell Theatre and the President's personal opinion on the future of the theatre.

President Scott responded that they do not yet have any information on UQ's plans for the theatre. It was noted that the staff member responsible for the redevelopment in the strategic program office has resigned, and this is likely to delay progress.

The President hopes to save the Schonell, assuming it is deemed safe from electrical hazards and asbestos within six weeks, and is fixable at reasonable cost without wasting student money. This will depend on the outcome of the reports. If this is not possible, the Union will be advocating strongly for a student-run theatre. It was noted that, during the meeting with the Board, the VC conceded that the theatre would be student-run. The Union intends to hold the VC to this assurance.

Student, Tristan Murdoch, queried the future of the Red Room in the redevelopment plans. The General Manager, Operations, advised members that it remains part of the funding services agreement that a student bar will be placed in building 41, above the amphitheatre. However, the future of the building 41 development is unclear. It has been suggested that a

Union bar could be built near the student residences, which would potentially be more beneficial for the Union. Regardless, a student bar is a definitive part of the decant strategy.

*It was moved*

THAT THE UNION PRESIDENT'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED  
COUNCIL 110/118 SCOTT/ADAMS

CARRIED

### General Managers Report

The General Manager, Student Affairs, presented a report to Union Council. The following items were discussed:

- A new 3-person marketing team (at reduced cost) will be revising the Union's approach to retail, events and social media engagement
- Reworking of photography freelancers' agreements, preferencing UQ students
- Working on Union visibility - on-campus and online
- Revising the SSAF distribution model
- Challenging UQ monopolisation in multiple areas
- Renegotiating the financial services agreement and reassessing outdated KPI criteria
- Developing terms of engagement for the UQU/UQ relationship

Cr Mark queried what the numbers for the FSA KPIs had originally been based on. General Manager, Student Affairs, explained that the figures were chosen three years ago and it is unclear how some of the criteria was chosen. A student consultative group meeting is scheduled for this week, and this will be an item for discussion.

Student, Tristan Murdoch, requested that, where possible and where information is not commercial-in-confidence, General Manager's reports be provided in writing 48 hours prior to Council meetings. The General Manager confirmed they are happy to do so.

*It was moved*

THAT THE GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED  
COUNCIL 110/119 SCOTT/ADAMS

CARRIED

### **f) Business which has been proposed**

#### Board of Directors - R3

*It was moved*

THAT THE R3.6 OF THE UNION REGULATIONS BE AMENDED TO READ:  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITY FOR:

A) PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND TO UNION

COUNCIL, INCLUDING THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESOLUTIONS, ON  
ISSUES OF GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY

B) MONITORING THE ACTION TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO RESOLUTIONS MADE BY  
THE BOARD

COUNCIL 110/120

JOVER/SCOTT

CARRIED

Disabilities Collective/Disabilities Officer

Officer Steele noted that the change in name from ‘Abilities’ to ‘Disabilities’ will be a gradual process of rebranding, such as the marketing of the abilities room etc. Members were advised to expect a changeover period.

*Procedural motion that the motion be put*

CARRIED

*It was moved*

THAT R19, R22, R27 AND R49A OF THE UQ UNION REGULATIONS BE AMENDED  
TO CHANGE REFERENCES TO ABILITIES COLLECTIVE AND THE ABILITIES  
OFFICER TO DISABILITIES COLLECTIVE AND DISABILITIES OFFICER

COUNCIL 110/121

STEELE/SCOTT

CARRIED

**H) General Business**

Disabilities Collective - Kindergarten space

Officer Steele stated the following:

- The current room is not large enough to fulfil the varied needs of the disabilities collective members, such as having low-sound and low-light areas for autistic students which remaining accessible for students who use mobility aids such as wheelchairs.
- There is no kitchenette which means it cannot be a fully functional student-accessible medication room.
- Student who would wish to use the current room as a sanctuary tend to avoid it because its position near Main Course and the Red Room requires passing through the busiest part of campus to access.
- The kindy building already has decent accessibility, including a ramp.
- The university has fewer quiet spaces available for students who are feeling overwhelmed to retreat to. This space would provide a place for them.
- A new larger space would allow the union to cater not just to students who fit the stereotypical idea of “disability”, but also students who experience neurodiversity such as autism and ADHD, and students with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.



- The university will not hand the kindergarten space back to the Union without good reason. Making campus more accommodating for students who experience disability, chronic illness, mental illness, and neurodiversity is a good argument for UQU use of the old kindergarten space.

*It was moved*

THAT COUNCIL DIRECTS THE STUDENT EXECUTIVE TO INVESTIGATE THE VIABILITY OF AND PETITION THE UNIVERSITY TO MAKE SPACE IN THE OLD KINDERGARTEN AVAILABLE FOR THE USE OF THE DISABILITIES COLLECTIVE, TO REPLACE THE EXISTING “ABILITIES ROOM” WHICH IS NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE

COUNCIL 110/122

STEELE/SCOTT

CARRIED

#### Irish Society funding decision

Mover, VP Searle, explained that at the last Clubs & Societies committee meeting, the Irish Society funding was capped at \$300 due to being a ‘well-known political club’. It was noted that the original funding amount was \$302, and this is therefore not the main concern. VP Searle contested the club’s designation as ‘political’ and noted that most members of the society have Irish heritage.

VP Tucker noted that the decision was not politically motivated and was a regulatory one. Clubs must not have substantially similar memberships to existing clubs. The Irish Society has over 50% of members in the ALP club. The regulations indicate the club should be disaffiliated, but the committee made the decision to instead cap the grant funding amount.

The seconder waived their right to speak.

Cr Adams asked how ‘substantially’ is defined. VP Tucker responded that, while this is not made clear in the regulations, 50% or over seems to be a reasonable figure.

Council suggested the motion be tabled to investigate the membership of the Irish Society.

*It was moved*

THAT UQU COUNCIL CONDEMNS THE C&S COMMITTEE’S DECISION TO CAP THE IRISH SOCIETY’S FUNDING.

ACTION: THIS DECISION BE OVERTURNED IMMEDIATELY

COUNCIL 110/123

SEARLE/WALKER

TABLED

#### Censure of International Officers

Student, Matthew Pereira, noted that R10 of the Union's regulations, as referenced in the motion, relates to International Student Collective meetings. The international officers have failed to call a meeting so far this year.

The seconder waived their speaking rights.

Student, Rowan Evans, queried whether the mover had spoken directly to the officers. The mover confirmed that they had raised the issue without success.

CONFIRMED



Cr Adams suggested the motion be amended to read ‘encourages’ the Semper Editor, as opposed to ‘calls upon’.

The mover was amenable to the amendment.

Mover, Barclay McGain, raised that Michael Daley’s comments have already been detrimental to the Asian community. The party has issues with multiculturalism and should not be endorsing a candidate that is openly Sinophobic. There is a large population of Asian students at UQ and Council should come out in opposition.

The seconder waived their speaking rights.

*Procedural motion that the motion be put*

CARRIED

*Recorded vote:*

Annabel Bartley *Abstain*  
Hamish Barnett *Abstain*  
Darcy Creighton *Abstain*  
Elloise Campbell *Abstain*  
Elise Northcote proxied to Cara Rowe *Abstain*  
Samuel Adams *For*  
Julia Bejleri *Abstain*  
Kyle Clunies-Ross *Abstain*  
Michael Walker *Abstain*  
Myah McGinity *Abstain*  
Kurt Munckton proxied to Stuart Moss *Abstain*  
Anastasia Georgiou *Abstain*  
Elisha Gutteridge -  
Jiancong (Jason) Wang *Abstain*  
Thomas Stephen *Abstain*  
Zoe Goss proxied to Myah McGinity *Abstain*  
Elloise Campbell *Abstain*  
Gabby Callow proxied to Anastasia Georgiou *Abstain*  
Tim Heffernan -  
Ji Davis proxied to Darcy Creighton *Abstain*  
Jordan Mark *Against*  
Chamal Abeytunga proxied to Matthew Pereira *Abstain*  
David McGovern *For*  
Stuart Moss *Abstain*  
Tyson Etri proxied to Tristan Murdoch *Abstain*

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQ UNION COUNCIL ENCOURAGES THE SEMPER EDITOR, MATTHEW JOHNSON, TO WRITE A PUFF PIECE FOR ASPIRATIONAL NSW LABOR LEADER CHRISTOPHER MINNS IN THE HOPE THAT IT WILL ASSIST HIM IN DEFEATING MICHAEL DALEY, A SINOPHOBIC BIGOT WHO HAS ALREADY BEEN A TOTAL DISASTER FOR THE VIBRANT AND DIVERSE ASIAN COMMUNITY OF NSW, WHILST ALSO BEING DIABOLICAL FOR NSW LABOR'S POLITICAL FORTUNES. THE ARTICLE IS TO BE DIRECTED AT RANK-AND-FILE ALP MEMBERS (I.E PRIMARY AUDIENCE OF SEMPER FLOREAT) AND SHALL CONGRATULATE CHRISTOPHER MINNS ON HIS INTELLIGENCE, PASSION AND GOOD LOOKS. IT MUST ALSO REAFFIRM OUR SUPPORT FOR ASIAN COMMUNITIES IN WHAT IS NO DOUBT A TOUGH TIME FOR THEM THAT WILL CONTINUE TO GET WORSE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MICHAEL DALEY  
COUNCIL 110/126 MCGAIN/ADAMS CARRIED

Student Voice Week

Mover, Rowan Evans, explained that the unsuccessful candidate of the 2020 student rights election is running a student rights event in collaboration with UQ. This effectively means the opposition is receiving significant amount of funding despite losing the election and being rejected by the student body. UQ should be providing this funding to the winners of the election and anything else is anti-democratic.

The seconder raised that the move is one of the many ways UQ undermines the Union's democratic process.

VP Tucker suggested the motion be amended to change the wording from 'loser' to 'unelected student'. They noted that Council should not be turning on individual students, but rather renouncing the actions of UQ.

The mover was not amenable to the amendment on the grounds that it would substantially change the motion.

The first motion was withdrawn by the mover and alternative motions submitted.

*It was moved*

THAT COUNCIL RECOGNISE THAT THE UNIVERSITY HELD A "STUDENT VOICE WEEK", WHICH WAS RUN BY THE LOSER OF THE 2020 ELECTION FOR STUDENT RIGHTS VP.

THIS IS ANTI-DEMOCRATIC BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS A BIGGER FUNDING POOL FOR PEOPLE WHO FEWER STUDENTS WANTED TO RUN THESE KINDS OF EVENTS.

COUNCIL 110/127

EVANS/ROWE

WITHDRAWN

The following motions were presented:

*It was moved*

THAT COUNCIL REGRETS THE UNIVERSITY'S PRACTICE OF FUNDING, TO SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER PROPORTIONS, UNELECTED STUDENTS TO DUPLICATE THE SERVICES THAT THE UNION RUNS

COUNCIL 110/128

EVANS/ROWE

CARRIED

Evans raised that the practice becomes particularly antidemocratic when the losers of the election receive more funding than those elected to the position by the student body. This poses a problem to the Union's very existence in the future if allowed to continue unfettered.

VP Tucker raised that, while they agreed in principle that the unelected student rights candidate should not be empowered by UQ, they countered that it could be seen as preferable that UQ choose a student who received 49% of the Student Rights vote, as opposed to a student entirely unrelated to student rights on campus.

Cr Adams raised that it is particularly egregious that they have chosen a student that ran and failed to be elected. It would be preferable that there be a proper hiring process, so that they might choose someone qualified for the role.

Officer Steele raised that the student in question had approached the University with the idea for the event, rather than being chosen by UQ, and had assumed the Union would be involved in the event.

In response, Evans noted that this is indicative of the wider issue. The democratic process is undermined once students believe they can access more funding by approaching the university directly, rather than running in the annual student elections.

*Procedural motion that the motion be put*

CARRIED

*It was moved*

THAT COUNCIL BELIEVES THIS PRACTICE IS PARTICULARLY HEINOUS WHEN THE STUDENTS ARE THOSE THAT RAN FOR ELECTIONS AND FAILED TO BE ELECTED

Eurovision party

Mover, Cr Adams, raised that while he acknowledges the event is a regularly scheduled one that has been running for several years, VP Tucker has argued strenuously against smaller amounts for other portfolio events, while spending \$4k on a party with a large proportion of non-students in attendance.

Seconder, Cr McGinity, questioned why the event had been planned to anticipate a loss.

In response, VP Tucker explained that they had budgeted for \$4k, with actual expenditure about \$2.5k, and the event was run as close to cost as possible. This was made more difficult by the COVID-safe requirement to limit numbers to a maximum of 100. Money was recovered from tickets and sponsorship, with the total loss amounting to around \$17 per student in attendance. They noted that this is not especially egregious when compared to an event like Neon. Furthermore, the Union is not in the profit-making business, but in the student service business.

*Procedural motion that the motion be put*

CARRIED

*It was moved*

THAT IN KEEPING WITH THE ETHOS OF SOUND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT,  
THE CAMPUS CULTURE VICE-PRESIDENTS BE CENSURED FOR THEIR  
WASTEFUL SPENDING WITH REGARD TO THE EUROVISION VIEWING PARTY  
COUNCIL 110/130 ADAMS/MCGINITY NOT CARRIED

Hack control

*It was moved*

THAT THE HEAD-KICKERS, APTLY NAMED "SHARKS", BE DIRECTED TO SIT  
DOWN FOR COVID-SAFE REASONS  
COUNCIL 110/131 MCGOVERN/MCGAIN WITHDRAWN

**g) Question Time**

*Nil*

**h) Other business**

*Nil*

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 PM.

DRAFT