

# UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

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From the 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the  
109<sup>th</sup> UQ Union Council, 2020

3 PM

Friday 24 July 2020

**Innes Room, Union Complex**

Chair: Mitchell Ablett-Nelson

a) **The Meeting was declared open at 3:13 pm by Secretary Thornton.**

**b) Credentials**

**The following were present:**

**Councillors**

Allen Ding  
Ash Zeller  
Barclay McGain  
Bradley Plant  
Ian Trinh  
Jennifer Wang  
Lachlan Hardie  
Maddy Taylor  
Mitchell Ablett-Nelson (Chair)  
Myah McGinity  
Oula Shihan  
Priya De  
Rifki Sanahdi  
Swin Su  
Ti Parker

**Student Executive & Officers**

Brodie Fennell  
Christian Rizzalli  
Ethan Van Roo Douglas  
(President)  
Gayle Tan  
Lachlan Green  
Rebekah Thornton (Secretary)  
Rowan Evans  
Sai Wai Yan  
Thomas Landy (Treasurer)  
Zane Higgins

**Others**

Amy sienkiewicz-Grob  
Anthony Deacon  
Bradley Stone  
Caspian Russell  
Elias Blanch  
Emily Scott  
Glenda Jacobs  
Harry Rogers  
Jason Wang  
John Bryant  
Joshua Cooper  
Karen Da Silva  
(Minutes)  
Matthew Johnson  
Matthew Kairl  
Simeon Oneel  
Yun Ying Su

**The following members were absent:**

- Daniel Boyle

**The following apologies were received:**

- Emily Coggan

**On leave:**

*Nil.*

**The following proxies were received:**

- Chloe Ainscow to Amy sienkiewicz-Grob
- Georgina Quayle to Lachlan Hardie

- Jack Dugdale to Ethan Van Roo Douglas
- Justin Gane to Matthew Johnson
- Marnie Stollznow to Bradley Plant
- Nathan Kerr to Amy sienkiewicz-Grob
- Olivia Nguyen to Yun Ying Su
- Oula Shihan to Priya De
- Tim Heffernan to Priya De
- William Kugelman to Elias Blanch

**Resignations:**

*Nil.*

*It was moved*

THAT THE CREDENTIALS FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 109<sup>TH</sup> UQ UNION COUNCIL BE ACCEPTED.

COUNCIL 109/81

THORNTON/MITCHELL ABLETT-NELSON

CARRIED

**c) Elections**

● **Appointment to Casual vacancy**

A casual vacancy to replace Drew Pavlou: It was noted that Pavlou's suspension was in the media and on Facebook posts and the Union Secretary was not under obligation to inform Council. In response to a query, it was confirmed that penalties from the Senate Disciplinary Appeals Committee take immediate effect.

Three nominations were received:

1. Elisha Gitteridge
2. Ji Samuel Davis
3. Matthew William James Kairl

Returning Officer Peter Travers announced Ji Davis to the position of Councilor in the 109<sup>th</sup> UQ Union Council.

It was noted that casual nominations are on student-basis only and not as per ticket.

● **Appointment to Rules Committee**

The following five were elected members of Rules Committee:

1. Allen Ding
2. Bradley Plant
3. Ian Trinh
4. Myah McGinity
5. Priya De

**d) The minutes from the previous meeting**

*It was moved*

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 109<sup>TH</sup> UQ  
UNION COUNCIL HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED.

COUNCIL 109/82

TRINH/McGAIN

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 consider all reports en bloc.*

CARRIED

**g) Reports**

*It was moved*

THAT THE UNION PRESIDENT'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED.

COUNCIL 109/83

VAN ROO DOUGLAS/ ABLETT-NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE UNION SECRETARY'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED.

COUNCIL 109/84

THORNTON/ ABLETT-NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE UNION TREASURER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED.

COUNCIL 109/85

THORNTON/ ABLETT-NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE CAMPUS CULTURE (C&S) REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED.

COUNCIL 109/86

GENEST/ ABLETT-NELSON

CARRIED

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

COUNCIL 109/87

FENNELL / ABLETT-NELSON

CARRIED

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

COUNCIL 109/88

COGGAN / ABLETT-NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE COLLEGES OFFICERS' REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/89

DALTON & CHANDLER/ ABLETT-  
NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND  
CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/90

GREEN/ ABLETT-NELSON

CARRIED

THAT THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS' REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/91                      OREN & YAN/ ABLETT-NELSON                      CARRIED

THAT THE POSTGRADUATE OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/92                      RIZZALLI/ ABLETT-NELSON                      CARRIED

THAT THE SEMPER FLOREAT EDITOR'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 109/93                      EVANS/ ABLETT-NELSON                      CARRIED

**h) Matters arising from the Reports of the Elected Officers**

*Nil.*

**i) Question Time**

**Question A**

Cr Shihan enquired of the University's plans to discontinue 45 courses.

The Union President advised that the information they had was the same as published on the UQ website on *Program Architecture*.

**Question B**

Cr Trinh asked for alternative options considered for the 2021 elections and stated that the preference is for on-campus elections. The Union Secretary explained that the Union would follow precedence set by government.

**Question C**

Blanch queried why the Queer Collective meeting time was not negotiated. The Union President advised that the Vice President of the Collective would be advised of the query.

**Question D**

Cr McGain asked whether there was any avenue for the UQ National Club to become a club on campus again. The Union President stated that there was no additional avenue to appeal the decision and that if anyone wanted to form a club, the process would be as defined by the Clubs and Societies Committee.

**j) Reports of Union Bodies**

*Nil.*

**k) Business which has been proposed**

**Restore C&S Grant Funding for the year of 2020**

In support of funding for clubs and societies, Cr Plant stated that grants make up a significant portion of a club's monies and that the C&S Committee were working on plans for grants to be released on consideration of applications. Cr Trinh brought to the attention of Council the petition in support of readily accessible grant funding for 2020.

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQ UNION PROVIDE/RELEASE GRANT FUNDING FOR THE YEAR OF 2020 AND HAVE IT READILY ACCESSIBLE FOR SEMESTER 2.

COUNCIL 109/94

PLANT/TRINH

CARRIED

**The UQ Union Opposes University Fee Hikes and Funding Increases**

The funding fees directive announced by Education Minister Dan Tehan was referred to. Rizzalli expressed opposition to increased student contributions in the higher education crisis that would see domestic students making up the shortfall. Cr McGain stated support of the funding fees directive, seen as a way to manage HECS debt. They stated that the Government was presently funding a majority of a person's Arts degree that had lower employment outcomes as opposed to other (STEM) degrees and that other degrees would address what employers are looking for. The Union had released a statement on its Facebook page.

Actions:

1. The UQ Union to publish this motion on their Facebook page.
2. The UQ Union hosts a public student rally *No Course Cuts! No Fee Hikes!* on 7 August (at 1 pm on the Grassy Knoll and an event on Facebook).
3. The UQ Union to periodically publish promotional graphics that inform students about the proposed changes to higher education and promote the student rally.
4. The UQ Union to promote the rally on its notice boards (poster supplied).

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQ UNION OPPOSES THE PLANNED FEE INCREASES AND FUNDING CUTS ANNOUNCED BY THE EDUCATION MINISTER DAN TEHAN. THE UQ UNION RECOGNISES THAT THESE PLANS ARE AN ATTACK ON HIGHER EDUCATION THAT WILL SEE STUDENTS PAY EXORBITANT AMOUNTS OF MONEY FOR A LESSER QUALITY OF EDUCATION. THE UQ UNION IS VEHEMENTLY AGAINST INCREASING STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS, WHICH UNDER THESE PLANS WILL SEE STUDENTS' CONTRIBUTION RISE TO 48 PER CENT. THE UQ UNION OPPOSES THE 113 PER CENT INCREASE IN COST FOR ARTS AND HUMANITIES DEGREES. THE UQ UNION REJECTS THE IDEA THAT STEM STUDENTS WILL BE BETTER OFF, AS THESE COURSES WILL FACE FUNDING CUTS UNDER THE PROPOSED CHANGES. THE UQU RECOGNISES THAT HIGHER EDUCATION IS IN CRISIS, AND IS PREPARED TO OPPOSE STAFF

AND COURSE CUTS. THE UQU MAINTAINS THAT SMALLER CLASSES AND FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING IS THE BEST WAY TO BE EDUCATED, AND EMPHASISES THAT STAFF TEACHING CONDITIONS ARE STUDENT LEARNING CONDITIONS.

COUNCIL 109/95

RIZZALLI/SHIHAN

CARRIED

### **UQ Union Opposes Cuts to HASS**

Cr Shihan stated that 45 courses in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences were to be discontinued. Rizzalli highlighted the enormous stress staff and students have been under and expressed opposition for the decision made by UQ and Council.

Action: The Council directs the Union executive to publish the text of this motion on the Facebook page by the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> July.

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQ UNION OPPOSES THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT UQ WILL CUT COURSES OFFERED BY THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES. UNDER THESE PLANS THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 45 COURSES PERMANENTLY AXED, WHICH WILL BE OFFERED FOR THE LAST TIME THIS SEMESTER. THIS INCLUDES COURSES LIKE *WORK PLACEMENT IN INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN STUDIES*, *TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY ART AND ADVANCED LINGUISTICS RESEARCH*, WHICH ARE COMPULSORY FOR MANY PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION TO THESE ANNEXATIONS THE UNIVERSITY HAS CHOSEN TO CUT PROGRAMS LIKE *GENDER, SEXUALITY AND SOCIETY: AN INTRODUCTION AND POWER*, *POLITICS AND SOCIETY* WHICH OFFER A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SOCIETY. THE VARIETY OF KNOWLEDGE WHICH STUDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO AND CAN STUDY WILL BE GREATLY DIMINISHED. COURSE CUTS WILL ALSO INEVITABLY LEAD TO STAFF CUTS – CASUAL STAFF HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO LOSE WORK AS A RESULT OF THE CUTS. THIS WILL RESULT IN AN EXPANSIVE RESTRUCTURE OF PROGRAMS TO DO AWAY WITH PREVIOUSLY CORE COURSES. NOTABLY, THESE PLANS FOLLOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED FEE HIKE FOR HUMANITIES COURSES. ALL IN ALL, THIS MEANS THAT STUDENTS WILL BE PAYING MORE FOR THEIR DEGREES WHILE THEY FACE INCREASINGLY LIMITED CHOICES AND AN OVERALL DECREASE IN FUNDING. THE UQ UNION OPPOSES THESE ATTACKS ON HIGHER EDUCATION THAT WILL SEE THE QUALITY OF OUR EDUCATION DIMINISHED WHILE WE ARE EXPECTED TO PAY MORE. THE UQ UNION ASSERTS THAT HUMANITIES ARE VALUABLE AVENUES OF STUDY AND SHOULD NOT FACE ANY CUTS.

COUNCIL 109/96

SHIHAN/RIZZALLI

CARRIED

**The UQ Union stands in solidarity with the refugees held in indefinite detention in the Kangaroo Point Hotel, and with the protest movement to free them.**

The following was noted in discussion:

- The UQ Union stands in solidarity with the refugees held at the Kangaroo Point Hotel. Some were in the PA hospital. They are confined to tiny hotel rooms and fed frozen meals.
- The same government does not have money to pay for education and is paying millions of dollars to lock up refugees.
- Student Action has participated in visits and protests and is continuing to support the movement to free the refugees.

Action:

The UQ Union should publicly announce their support of the protests and solidarity with the refugees via the Union Facebook Page, and continue to publicise any further protests or actions that occur concerning this campaign. The Council directs the Council directs the Council to publish the text of this motion under the heading 'motion' on their Facebook page as a separate status by 25 July.

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQ UNION STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE REFUGEES AT KANGAROO POINT. THE UQ UNION SUPPORTS THE ONGOING CAMPAIGN TO FREE THE REFUGEES, AND CONDEMNS THE AUSTRALIAN OVERNMENT FOR THEIR ONGOING INHUMANITY CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF REFUGEES. THE UNION OPPOSES THE CRUEL POLICY OF INDEFINITE DETENTION.

COUNCIL 109/97

SHIHAN/PARKER

CARRIED

*4:12 pm Lachlan Hardie leaves the meeting and proxy's to Maddy Taylor.*

**Online Voting Platform for 2020 Union Elections (a change in current Rules and Regulations)**

*It was moved*

THAT ALL UQ UNION ALLOW FOR ONLINE BALLOT FORMS AS AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF VOTING IN ADDITION TO THE CURRENT IN-HOUSE POLLING POLICY. THIS IS DUE TO COVID-19 AND IS A RESPONSE TO THE ONGOING CHANGES IN COURSE STRUCTURES EXPECTED IN SEMESTER 2 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND. THESE COURSE STRUCTURES ARE PREDOMINANTLY IN FAVOUR OF ONLINE TEACHING AND WILL NATURALLY DECREASE STUDENT ACTIVITY ON CAMPUS. THIS DECREASE IN STUDENT ACTIVITY MAY LEAD STUDNETS TO BE LESS INCLINED TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR UNION AND WILL LIKELY INCREASE THE POOR VOTING TURN OUT RATES. BECAUSE OF THIS,

COUNCIL 109/98

McGINITY/McGAIN

TABLED

**Reconsider interpretation of Academic Rules and Regulations pertaining to policing gendered language.**

Cr McGain called for rules and regulations on gender neutral language when writing articles and essays. They stated that a plethora of people were being marked down by UQ for the use of gender specific language (e.g. he, him or his) in academic work. It was political correctness gone mad, stifling general conversation between people.

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQ UNION COUNCIL CALLS UPON THE RELEVANT BODIES TO REWRITE OR RECONSIDER THEIR INTERPRETATION OF ACADEMIC RULES AND REGULATIONS PARTICULARLY PERTAINING TO POLICING THE USE OF GENDERED LANGUAGE.

COUNCIL 109/99

MCGAIN/PLANT

FAILED

**UQ Alumni John Bryant's coverage of political issues – Kangaroo Point**

(Cr Plant waived his right to speak.)

Cr McGain spoke against the violence targeted at unbiased journalist John Bryant who was covering the protests at Kangaroo Point campaigning refugee rights.

Crs Shihan and Zellar spoke against the motion saying that Cr McGain did not support refugee rights and is deeply conservative.

Johnson asked to amend the motion to say 'UQ Union supports the protest'.

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQ UNION COUNCIL CONDEMN THE ACTIONS OF THE RADICAL SECTION OF THE OTHERWISE PEACEFUL PROTESTS IN KANGAROO POINT AND STAND WITH UQ ALUMNI JOHN BRYANT IN HIS RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND ABILITY TO COVER POLITICAL ISSUES WITHIN BRISBANE AND THE SURROUNDS.

COUNCIL 109/100

MCGAIN/PLANT

FAILED

*4:30 pm Rizzalli and Crs Shihan and Parker leave the meeting.*

**Academic Advocates Network Takeover**

Crs Plant and Trinh strongly advocated for the growing of the network that would include student representation from every faculty and school in The University, and regular reporting



to the UQ Union Vice President Student Rights (Academic). The wide network would ensure representatives in 2021 and a possibility of expanding to include year level per school/degree.

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQ UNION COUNCIL DELEGATES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ORGANISING/MANAGING THE UQ UNION ACADEMIC ADVOCATES NETWORK TO UQ UNION COUNCILORS BRADLEY PLANT, IAN TRINH AND TRISTAN MURDOCH FOR THE YEAR OF 2020 EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

COUNCIL 109/101

PLANT/TRINH

CARRIED

### **Wilson Gavin Memorial**

The President said that in the wake of the death of Wilson, we were at a point to take a step back and look at their contribution to UQ Union. Wilson's death was tragic for many in the community.

The Level 5 balcony was their favourite, and in recognition, it was proposed to rename the balcony. In support of the motion the following was noted:

- Cr McGain said it was a touching tribute. It was the first time in living memory that a UQ councilor had passed away in office. The renaming of the Level 5 Deck would be a nice tribute in to remember someone.
- Bryant said that one would not want to memorialise suicide but preserve the memory of Wilson's good traits.

*It was moved*

TO RENAME THE LEVEL 5 BALCONY OF THE UNION COMPLEX IN HONOUR OF COUNCILOR WILSON GAVIN. THE PROPOSED NAME IS, 'THE WILSON GAVIN MEMORIAL DURRY DECK' IN RECOGNITION OF THE MANY HOURS WILSON SPENT THERE, SMOKING, DRINKING, AND DEBATING WITH HIS FRIENDS.

COUNCIL 109/102

VAN ROO DOUGLAS/SIENKIEWICZ-  
GROB

CARRIED

*Procedural motion that the meeting move in camera.*

CARRIED

4:38 PM Non-elected members left the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 4:58 PM