

Minutes of the 6th Ordinary Meeting of the UQU

Clubs and Societies Committee 2021

Monday 21st June 2021 at 11:30am

Chair: Matthew Pereira

The 6th Ordinary Meeting of the 110th Clubs and Societies Committee opened at 11:33am

1. Attendance

I. Members Present

- Bradley Stone
- Matthew Pereira (Chair)
- Raphael Wixted
- Bradley Plant
- Jaafar Jabur
- Benjamin Kozij
- Ryan Jover

II. Apologies and Leave

- Annie Bartley

III. Proxies:

Nil

IV. Others Present:

- Anna Heale (Minutes)
- Emily Ryan
- Ryan Jover
- Liam Heseltine

2. Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous meeting

It was raised that Benjamin Kozij should be listed as an apology at the 5th Ordinary meeting.

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE 5th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE UQU CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 MAY 2021 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED PENDING AMENDMENT

C&S 110/51

PEREIRA/WIXTED

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil

4. Reports of Elected officers

The Clubs and Societies VP reported:

- They have been attending as many club events as possible to get an idea of awards for the end of the year.
- Club reviews have been underway with several noncompliant clubs emailed since the last meeting.

It was moved

THAT THE REPORT OF THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES VP BE ACCEPTED

C&S 110/52

PEREIRA/STONE

CARRIED

5. Matters Arising from the Reports

Members queried whether there has been any backlash from clubs regarding the clubs' review. The VP noted that the Irish Society expressed their unhappiness with the committee's decision to label them as a political club.

A member raised that the committee should not retroactively be determining whether clubs are political based on the political affiliation of their members. This sets a precedent that future committees may abuse.

In response, it was explained that the committee had considered whether they are contributing to campus culture solely as an Irish international club in their decision-making.

Liam Heseltine entered the meeting at 11.41am.

It was raised that the UQ Labor Left club have objected to the determination that their goals and membership overlap with that of the ALP club. A club representative will attend the meeting to respond and has been asked to provide a 2020 membership list.

A member suggested that stricter standards be applied to clubs that are seeking to affiliate in future to avoid these kinds of issues. However, the committee should not be making retroactive determinations about existing clubs that have been around for years. Furthermore, political clubs should not be subject to the same rules as other clubs because they are not competing for the same funding, with a different funding model applied to them for this reason.

6. Business which has been proposed

i. Clubs for ratification

UQ Social Lawn Bowls

It was noted that the club were disaffiliated voluntarily in December 2020 after failing to find an executive. However, there is now renewed interest.

It was moved

THAT UQ SOCIAL LAWN BOWLS BE RATIFIED AS A UQU CLUB

AIESEC in UQ

It was raised that AIESEC were previously disaffiliated in 2019. They were often delaying in submitting documentation and were only infrequently active.

VP Tucker entered the meeting at 11.49am.

Members noted that the application lists a QUT student number. As the application has not been submitted by a UQ student, it is invalid and should not be considered.

It was suggested that the executive be linked with existing clubs focused on leadership programs.

It was moved

THAT AIESEC IN UQ BE RATIFIED AS A UQU CLUB

UQ Saudi Students

The representatives entered at 11.55am.

It was noted that the club was disaffiliated in 2019. In 2020, the executive was unable to call a meeting with 30 students in attendance.

The committee queried how the executive intended to engage students unable to enter the country due to COVID restrictions. The executive explained that their main aim is to create social events to address the mental health issues caused by COVID. They will also focus on linking current and incoming students with more senior students in their field of interest and consider how to attract more Saudi students to UQ.

The representatives queried whether club members are able to attend the IGM via Zoom, as they are likely to face the same difficulties as last year regarding quorum requirements. The committee advised that Zoom attendees do not count towards quorum, as per the regulations. There is not scope for the committee to change this requirement.

The representatives left the meeting at 12.06pm.

Members noted that international clubs contribute positively by engaging prospective students at home and creating support networks for students studying remotely.

Annie Bartley entered the meeting at 12.09pm.

It was moved

THAT UQ SAUDI STUDENTS BE RATIFIED AS A UQU CLUB

ii. Affiliations

It was moved

THAT THE FOLLOWING CLUBS BE AFFILIATED AS UQU CLUBS:

- FORMULA RACING SOCIETY
- UQ WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

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PEREIRA/KOZIJ

CARRIED

iii. Disaffiliations

A) Clubs review

Graduate Union of Taiwanese Students (GUTS)

The committee were advised that the student membership requirement was not met.

The representatives entered the meeting at 12.19pm.

The committee queried whether the representatives had received the email sent on 25th May regarding the issues with the club's constitution and whether any action had been taken to address the issues raised.

The representatives confirmed receipt of the email and explained they had met to review the membership list. The list has been updated with additional members, and now includes graduation year and student numbers.

The charge for 3-year membership was confirmed as \$10. As most MA students only stay for 1 year, the membership reflects this.

The committee queried why there was no treasurer or secretary elected at the last AGM. The representatives explained that in previous years the president chose the secretary and treasurer. However, this is no longer the case, and the constitution has been amended to reflect this.

The committee noted that the term of membership must also be limited to one year. The representatives were amenable to the change.

It was suggested that the constitution be amended to better align with the model constitution to avoid potential regulatory issues in future. The C&S Manager advised that they would review the most recent constitution and contact the representatives with any required changes.

The representatives confirmed that they held an AGM last week and would send the relevant documentation to the clubs' email.

The representatives left the meeting at 12.30pm.

The committee noted that there has been a large increase in membership numbers in a relatively short space of time. It was suggested that the list be reviewed as a precautionary measure.

The committee agreed that any changes to the club's constitution must be complete by week 4 of semester 2.

UQ Labor Left

The committee were advised that there is a discrepancy between membership and audit documentation. In addition, the aims of the club overlap with those of the ALP club.

A member raised that political clubs follow a different funding model to other clubs. As part of the trade-off, these clubs are allowed to be in direct competition with other political clubs. The political environment is different and being in competition with each other does not harm campus culture in the same way that it would for hobby or faculty clubs, for example.

Claire Sturm entered the meeting at 12.45pm.

The committee noted that the 2019 membership numbers were not reflected in the audit. The representative advised the committee to contact the 2019 executive regarding this discrepancy. It was noted that this concern was previously raised in 2019 at a meeting of Union Council and was dismissed. All the students who attended the AGM last year were financial members.

The committee asked for the representative's response to the overlapping aims and goals with the ALP club. The representative noted that the two clubs have significant ideological differences, and the same political party can have very different factions. They asked for detail on the specific aims that overlap. In response, a member noted that having 'Labor' in the club's name is enough of an overlap. This allows one political party to have twice the funding and renders the funding cap ineffective.

The representative left the meeting at 1.04pm.

On further review, the committee noted that financial discrepancies are evident two years in a row – 2019 and 2020. The committee agreed to commence the disaffiliation process based on the club's consistent failure to supply accurate financial and membership records. The club will be given the regulatory five days' notice to lodge an appeal.

Australian South Asian Healthcare Association

The representative entered the meeting at 1.17pm.

It was explained that the club was inactive last year due to COVID. In addition, the executive team were fourth year medical students completing their degrees and the handover was not sufficient. These factors led to poor attendance at the AGM and the meeting was officially ruled inquorate.

The committee advised that the representative would need to hold an SGM in lieu of an AGM. As no executive have been officially elected, the C&S committee would need to call this meeting on the club's behalf. They would still need to sign up 30 members and 15% of members would need to attend the SGM.

The representative advised that finding 30 members is unlikely. Consequently, they asked for the club to be voluntarily disaffiliated.

The committee advised that, if the club would like to reaffiliate in the future, any funds will be held in their account for a period of 6 months.

The representative left the meeting at 1.23pm.

The committee noticed that the following clubs have failed to response to emails regarding regulatory discrepancies and will be disaffiliated; Chocolate Appreciation Society, Chinese

Association of Postgraduate Scholars (UQCAPS), UQ Wine and Cheese Club (WACC), Towards International Medical Equity (TIME) and Action Aid UQ.

It was moved

THAT THE FOLLOWING CLUBS BE DISAFFILIATED *EN BLOC*:

- CHOCOLATE APPRECIATION SOCIETY
- CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARS (UQCAPS)
- UQ WINE AND CHEESE CLUB (WACC)
- TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL EQUITY (TIME)
- ACTION AID UQ
- UQ LABOR LEFT CLUB (UQ LLC)
- AUSTRALIAN SOUTH-ASIAN HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION (ASHA UQ)

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PEREIRA/STONE

CARRIED

It was noted that there is no requirement to give TIME the regulated five days' notice.

The committee agreed that Students of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience Association (SIMBA), UQ Korean Medical Society (UQKMS), UQ Chile Association and Climate Action Now (formerly Fossil Free UQ) and PRESS should be removed from review. The discrepancies identified have been rectified and they have met all current requirements. The committee would review Community Garden club at the next meeting, following their IGM.

7. Any other business

a. Clubbies 2021

The C&S Manager queried whether the application process for Clubbies awards should remain the same as in previous years. It was explained that the usual process is for applications to be submitted via a weblink, which are then reviewed as a committee.

The committee agreed that the process should remain the same. However, it was suggested that clubs include photos in their applications, and more time be allocated for the committee's deliberations.

The C&S Manager advised that they would send out a list of awards and application questions prior to the C&S committee's July meeting.

b. International clubs – offshore engagement

A member suggested the clubs VP lobby UQ to provide funding to international clubs to engage offshore students unable to return to campus. This funding could be used to host events in their home countries and would help foster a sense of belonging.

c. Memberships outside of QPay

The C&S Manager queried how the committee would like to address club memberships purchased outside of QPay. They will not be timestamped and will therefore be more difficult to track. The committee suggested a random audit be undertaken on a frequent basis.

The meeting closed at 2.07pm.

X 

Matthew George Pereira
Chairperson