

# UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the 110<sup>th</sup> UQ Union Council, 2021

5:00PM

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Innes Room, UQ Union Complex

Chair: Ji Davis

a) The meeting was declared open at 5:37PM

b) Credentials

The following members were present:

## Councillors

Annabel Bartley  
Anastasia Georgiou  
Darcy Creighton  
Julia Bejleri  
Kyle Clunies-Ross  
Michael Walker  
Myah McGinity  
Ella Gutteridge  
Thomas Stephen  
Zoe Goss  
Elloise Campbell  
Tim Heffernan  
Ji Davis  
Jordan Mark  
Sam Adams  
David McGovern

## Elected Officers

Alicia Steele  
Benjamin Kozij  
Emily Scott  
Emily Searle  
Elias Blanch  
Kurt Tucker  
Liam Heseltine  
Ryan Jover  
Oula Shihan  
Ti Parker  
Matthew Johnson  
Lisa Pham

## Others

Alex Smock  
Bradley Stone  
Bradley Plant  
Christopher Stewart  
Claire Sturm  
Emma Goodwin  
Jack Barton  
Jean Cotterell  
Cara Rowe  
Phoenix Campbell  
Priya De  
Matthew Pereira  
Anna Redshaw  
Joseph Morrison  
Barclay McGain  
Natasha Brettell  
Edward Uzelin  
Glenda Jacobs

The following proxies were received:

Jiancong Wang to Edward Uzelin  
Chamal Abeytungu to Matthew Pereira  
Gabby Callow to Anastasia Georgiou  
Kurt Munckton to Darcy Creighton  
Stuart Moss to Elloise Campbell

**c) Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting**

Vice President Tucker requested two minutes to read over the minutes.

Councillor Creighton raised that for members of Council who work, five hours is not enough time to read over the previous minutes/elected officers' reports. The Union Secretary accepted that this was reasonable.

Vice President Tucker asked for a recorded vote

*Recorded vote:*

Annabel Bartley *For*  
Hamish Barnett *For*  
Darcy Creighton *For*  
Kurt Munckton proxied to Darcy Creighton *For*  
Elloise Campbell *For*  
Stuart Moss proxied to Elloise Campbell *For*  
Samuel Adams *For*  
David McGovern *Against*  
Myah McGinity *For*  
Zoe Goss *For*  
Kyle Clunies-Ross *For*  
Anastasia Georgiou *For*  
Gabby Callow proxied to Anastasia Georgiou *For*  
Thomas Stephen *For*  
Chamal Abeytunga proxied to Matthew Pereira *For*  
Michael Walker *For*

*It was moved that*

THE MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 110<sup>TH</sup> UNION COUNCIL BE CONFIRMED

110/135

DAVIS/TUCKER

CARRIED

**d) Business arising from the previous meeting**

**e) Requests for starring/noting of the items not starred en bloc:**

The President's, Campus Culture, Students Rights, Environment, International and Goorie Berrimpa Reports were starred.

**Goorie Berrimpa**

It was raised that the NAIDOC Ball arranged with the Goorie Berrimpa name is actually arranged by the University's AT SIS unit. There doesn't seem to be UQ Union branding on the event, nor is it advertised on the Facebook page. This was taken on notice.

**International Students Officers**

Councillor Adams asked if there was a report from the meeting of the International Students Collective. It was confirmed that there had been a quorate meeting, and minutes were forthcoming.

**Campus Culture**

A student asked for an update on the Winter Carnival. VP Tucker admitted there could have been better marketing as attendance was low. There was also an overlap with the Red Room, which was full the entire time. It was unfortunate that there was such internal competition. There were also some problems with the University. There was an estimate of a \$50,000 loss, but it will probably come in closer to \$30,000-40,000. UQ used its 'sense of belonging' fund to reduce ticket costs from \$10 to free.

A Councillor asked about why lights that were set up weren't lit. Vice President Tucker stated that the University wouldn't allow the Union to light up lights in the bar area, so instead of a risk of an electrical issue, there was an added risk of a tripping hazard in the dark.

A student asked for clarification about what interference there was in the planning. Vice President Tucker said that the planning phase was fine, but the lighting issue came through at the last moment. The Union had beautiful festoon lighting, but it could not be used beyond decoration that could only be seen in daytime.

A student asked what could be learned from the event. Vice President Tucker responded that the Union should do better marketing, get infrastructure sorted sooner and try not to compete with the Red Room.

A councillor noted that there was little understanding of what a Winter Carnival is, and had to explain it to students in their position as a student orientation coordinator. VP Tucker agreed that these are good things to market. The University only informed the Union that this was a free event with one week in advance. The Union couldn't advertise any price before the approval came in.

VP Kozij said that any person who attended the event yesterday would say that this made them feel a sense of belonging.

*It was moved*

THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT (CAMPUS CULTURE) REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

110/136

DAVIS/TUCKER

CARRIED

### **Student Rights**

It was requested that comments be given above and beyond the report. Vice President Heseltine said that this week was the first return to Morning Marmalade and Kampus Kitchen. There was consistency in individuals attending from Semester One to Semester Two. COVID has meant there is a new intake that aren't as easily made aware what is going on on campus. There has been organic reach. There has been some TikTok advertising as well, and this has helped.

Vice President Heseltine then spoke on behalf of Vice President Vu, saying that in general, there have been many disadvantages to students including course cuts, and in some instances, the reasoning seems quite poor and narrow.

A student asked for an update on dietary requirements at Kampus Kitchen and Morning Marmalade. Vice President Heseltine confirmed that at Wednesday dinners, the vegetarian dinner is also vegan, but there has been trouble with providing for all dietary needs at all times.

A councillor asked if VP Heseltine had just said that course cuts were justified. VP Heseltine confirmed that he was talking about a course where there was one enrolment in the past three years. The councillor expressed that this was indicative of a view that the University is justified in profit-seeking behaviour.

A student asked what the Student Rights portfolio was doing in regards to the narrowing of breadth in options for majors. VP Heseltine said that VP Vu was actively engaged through the AAN, and agreed that it was not ideal.

A student asked which courses were being cut. VP Heseltine reported that there had been some courses cut. Several generalist introductory courses are being cut in the Engineering program, and in particular a restructuring of the Masters of Engineering (Professional), which was divided into eight separate Masters programs, and the creation of several introductory courses.

VP Tucker added that there was a list of courses made available on the University website. There is now a prescriptive plan in the Bachelor of Arts. The range of courses allowed in an Arts degree is cut as well. A student asked for clarification on whether there are new course cuts other than those from last year.

VP Heseltine said that there are a number of “suspensions pending review”, which examines enrolments, student feedback, the majority of which get recommenced after some restructuring of the course.

A councillor raised that there was not much a student representative can do, based on experience in a student staff partnership. While the cuts were large and disappointing, in some cases they represent only what we know, and is almost entirely limited to the Arts degree, despite Science also having a number of cuts.

Vice President Tucker raised that many courses are left as “ghost courses” where they were clearly only last offered in 2016. These aren’t removed from course lists, despite effectively being cut. There have also been amalgamations and was previously only an Australian History and Australian War History course, but now they have been merged. The student asked that these be investigated.

A councillor noted that there are new courses being introduced, and are supposed to cover the same academic content as courses that have been removed. The question of whether they are newer and better remains to be seen.

*It was moved*

THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT (STUDENTS RIGHTS) REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

110/137

DAVIS/HESELTINE

CARRIED

## **Environment**

A student asked if the Environment officers had investigated a cost on the environment of burning paper mache effigies. The Environment Officers responded that they weren’t involved in the protest being referred to.

## **f) Appeal of a Union Body Decision- Disaffiliation of Labor Left Club**

An appeal against the decision of the Clubs and Societies Committee to disaffiliate the Labor Left Club was put before Council. Vice President Kozij and Cr Bartley had moved that the Labor Left Club be disaffiliated.

VP Kozij raised that there were 89 members and only \$32 received in membership moneys. There was a further observation that money disappeared and an executive member seemed to have disappeared with the money. VP Kozij raised that there must be two signatories to remove money from the bank, and so this seemed inappropriate.

The seconder spoke in response to the submitted appeal. As a commerce student, in her opinion, numbers do not lie. She read a segment of the motion in response to the disaffiliation.

A speaker against then raised that VP Kozij had incorrectly looked at a membership list at the halfway point of the year, and confused it with another membership list at the end of the year. The membership numbers and the bank moneys increased in the intervening period, and the numbers aligned by the end of the year. The Club had voluntarily informed the Committee that they had found their own misalignment of funds of \$24 and rectified it in the Review process. The speaker raised that the C&S Committee had a substantial makeup of LNP members, and that Labor Right as well was competitive against the Left.

A speaker raised that by a similar logic to the makeup of the C&S Committee being made up of LNP members, that as a Labor member, the previous speaker should then not be voting on the motion. The speaker continued that this is not a political decision, there are a number of clubs that have been added over the years, and few have been disaffiliated. The Union needs to trim the fat, so to speak, because the Union spends thousands of dollars on clubs, and get little return on these clubs. Clubs have been disaffiliated for things far less egregious than financial mismanagement. The speaker said that

A speaker raised that Labor Left is subject to regulations that means it gets less funding than the average club.

A councillor asked for further clarification on what had meant people were disaffiliated other than financial mismanagement.

Student Bradley Plant listed failure to submit AGM documents, not having a T3 that were all students, and similar problems.

A student asked if we are looking at disaffiliated a club because \$30 went missing that was later put back in.

VP Tucker said that in 2019 they didn't have an appropriate AGM.

The same student asked if this reaches the bar for disaffiliation. VP Tucker said that the fact they hadn't submitted true and accurate documents over a period of years reaches the bar.

The same student asked for clarification on what the individual issues are. Chair of Clubs and Societies Committee, Matthew Pereira answered that misappropriation of funds is reason enough. It is a constant problem for the C&S Committee that executives change every year, and so does the makeup of the committee. It is not an action taken simply against Labor Left.

VP Tucker said that at the previous meeting, the decision was unanimous at the first meeting, but not the second meeting. A student clarified that under R158.1b), there must be a "tacit or explicit endorsement" for misappropriation of funds to amount to grounds for disaffiliation.

A councillor raised that this was typical behaviour of the LNP club to cancel their political opponents. They do not want to take on clubs politically. This amounts to bullying political clubs for kicks.

C&S Committee member Bradley Plant raised that no membership lists are received after an AGM, and was puzzled as to why

Matthew Johnson left the meeting at 6:17pm.

A councillor raised that the disaffiliation seems to have been based on spurious grounds. VP Tucker said that the clubs were reviewed in accordance with the review process. The councillor raised that the submission was sound as it was put to Council, and finds it curious that C&S Committee rejected the arguments. The councillor opined that VP Tucker has been bringing new arguments to Council that weren't considered as the original reason for the disaffiliation.

VP Tucker said that the process was clearly not followed properly.

A speaker against the disaffiliation said that they were happy to clarify at the original C&S meeting if there were any questions. QPay pays the memberships in blocks, regardless of when the members actually sign up. The speaker clarified that the Club has never failed an audit. The speaker said that members are bringing new reasons that were not the original reasons for disaffiliation. It would be more appropriate for the C&S Committee to open another disaffiliation proceeding, rather than litigating that at Council. The money was never in the account, so it was not subject to the signatory requirements that VP Kozij had raised earlier. The Club had not had access to the account at the time, because COVID had reduced access to the bank in 2020. The speaker again said that they were not asked further questions at C&S.

VP Tucker was named for interjecting.

A speaker raised that there were 100 clubs that are being investigated, but only one of them was being discussed at this Council. He added that it is difficult for his Libertarian Club to access C&S resources. There needs to be leniency across the board, especially to the other 99 clubs that are not receiving coverage at Council.

A student asked whether there were punishments other than disaffiliation considered, and why they were not chosen.

VP Tucker said that often there are remedies suggested, but if there is no remedy possible, then disaffiliation is the only option. The administration is cumbersome, and hard to manage. The goal is to reduce the number of clubs, and this is achieved by reducing the number of clubs that are beyond saving.

The same student asked for clarification as to whether they are looking for clubs to punish. VP Tucker confirmed this was the case.

A speaker against disaffiliation asked why, given that the disaffiliation motion was passed at C&S by a minority bloc, that the Committee clarify why they are not willing to work with clubs to fix the problems.

C&S Committee Chair Matthew Pereira said the Committee had originally voted unanimously to disaffiliate. He said that if taking money out and keeping it in cash is accepted, then it presents a big problem for other students. Grant money needs to be given to students on a trust basis.

The same speaker explained that the cash was never deposited.

VP Tucker then asked for clarification on whether this meant a third party had deposited the money.

A speaker against the motion explained that there was not unanimous agreement to disaffiliate the club, but to move to disaffiliate the club. This was also on the basis of accusations that are not the same as those under current consideration.

A councillor then raised that C&S should not be moving disaffiliation motions on the grounds of \$30 going missing, and being put back at a later date. There are many clubs who are not privy to the proceedings of Council.

*It was moved that*

DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE APPEAL PRESENTED REGARDING THE UQ LABOR LEFT CLUB HAVING A DIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH SOME MEMBERS OF UNION COUNCIL, COUNCIL DIRECTS MEMBERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE UQ LABOR LEFT CLUB OR/AND AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY TO RECUSE AND ABSTAIN FROM THE VOTE

110/138

KOZIJ/BARTLEY

FAILED

A procedural motion was carried that the appeal be tabled until the next meeting.

**g) Executive Business**

Cr Heffernan and student Priya De spoke to the motion, and said that it would be beneficial to democratic participation. Vice President Tucker stated that he was against the motion, but declined to elaborate.

*It was moved*

THAT R.77.2 (G) BE AMENDED TO (G) MULTIPLE SHEETS OF PAPERS USED TO FORM AN OVERALL POSTER LARGER THAN A1

110/139

DE/HEFFERNAN

FAILED

Secretary Jover raised that the motion was to stop overly long ballot papers, and undemocratic behaviours.

Vice President Tucker moved that the motion be split and that each amendment be voted upon separately. The mover was amenable.

*It was moved*

(I) INSERT AT END OF R74.23: "NO PERSON MAY APPEAR AS AN UNGROUPED CANDIDATE ON ANY BALLOT IF THEY ALSO APPEAR AS A CANDIDATE IN AN ELECTORAL GROUP ON THE SAME BALLOT."

110/140

JOVER/ROWE

CARRIED

*Recorded vote:*

Annabel Bartley *Against*  
Hamish Barnett *For*

Darcy Creighton *Against*  
Samuel Adams *For*  
Elise Northcote proxied to Jordan Mark *For*  
Julia Beljeri *Against*  
Kyle Clunies-Ross *Abstain*  
Michael Walker *For*  
Myah McGinity *For*  
Kurt Munckton proxied to Darcy Creighton *Against*  
Anastasia Georgiou *Abstain*  
Ella Gutteridge *For*  
Jiancong Wang proxied to Edward Uzelin *For*  
Thomas Stephen *For*  
Zoe Goss *For*  
Elloise Campbell to Benjamin Kozij *Against*  
Gabby Callow proxied to Anastasia Georgiou *Against*  
Tim Heffernan *For*  
Jordan Mark *For*  
Chamal Abeytunga to Matthew Pereira *For*  
David McGovern *For*  
Stuart Moss proxied to Elloise Campbell *Against*  
Finn Wedge proxied to Bradley Plant *Against*

*It was moved*

(II) AMEND R74.2(C)(II): "AT LEAST 6 CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF COUNCILLOR IN THE ANNUAL ELECTIONS, AT LEAST 80% OF WHOM ARE NOT LISTED AS COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES OF ANOTHER ELECTORAL GROUP PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED IN THE CURRENT ANNUAL ELECTIONS;AND/OR"

110/141

JOVER/ROWE

FAILED

*Recorded vote:*

Annabel Bartley *Against*  
Hamish Barnett *For*  
Darcy Creighton *Against*  
Samuel Adams *For*  
Elise Northcote proxied to Jordan Mark *For*  
Julia Beljeri *Against*  
Kyle Clunies-Ross *For*  
Michael Walker *For*  
Myah McGinity *For*  
Kurt Munckton proxied to Darcy Creighton *Against*  
Anastasia Georgiou *For*  
Ella Gutteridge *For*  
Jiancong Wang proxied to Edward Uzelin *For*  
Thomas Stephen *For*  
Zoe Goss *For*  
Elloise Campbell to Benjamin Kozij *Against*  
Gabby Callow proxied to Anastasia Georgiou *For*  
Tim Heffernan *For*  
Jordan Mark *For*



Chamal Abeytunga proxied to Matthew Pereira *Against*  
David McGovern *For*  
Stuart Moss proxied to Elloise Campbell *Against*  
Finn Wedge proxied to Bradley Plant *Against*

*It was moved*

(III) INSERT R68.3 “IF AN ELECTORAL GROUP THAT IS FOUND INELIGIBLE TO STAND WOULD HAVE BEEN ELIGIBLE TO STAND BUT FOR THEIR PROPOSED NAME, THE RETURNING OFFICER MUST CONTACT THE ELECTORAL GROUP’S CAMPAIGN MANAGER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER CLOSE OF NOMINATIONS TO PROVIDE A DIFFERENT NAME. THE ELECTORAL GROUP MAY CONTEST THE ELECTION UNDER THE NEW NAME.”

110/142

JOVER/ROWE

CARRIED

#### **h) Treasurer’s Report**

Rather than a monthly report, a Year to Date - June report was given.

There was a favourable variance of \$544k in projected loss. Student Services had a \$34k favourable loss. Operating expenses were \$295k lower than projected, partly because of a reduction in spending on Clubs and Societies grants and student promotions.

Clubs and Societies had a year to date underspend of \$134k.

Expenditure will be higher in the coming months because of expected payments for UQIC being paid out, as well as the running of Oktoberfest.

A student asked for clarification on what student promotions would normally be spent on.

Treasurer Pham explained that many big ticket events haven’t been factored in yet, including things like NAIDOC Ball. But there have also been savings by changing things like Academic Advocacy Network from having badges instead of embroidered shirts to identify them.

The same student asked if the actions of Council were responsible for pulling the Union out of the dire straits it seemed to be in at the start of the year.

Treasurer Pham said that there is likely to be expenses in Clubs and Societies despite the successes, so would not take credit for this yet.

A student said that we shouldn't lowball in the future.

## Funding Services Agreement

Treasurer Pham asked whether the FSA and SSAF provisions were sufficient for the Union. The current FSA was premised on the Union having a building that will no longer exist in two years. The Union needs further guidance on what needs to be in future FSA negotiations.

The Funding Services Agreement draws bright lines around Union responsibilities and University responsibilities. It includes terms that provide for the Lolly Shop and the Book Shop.

President Scott added that the new Terms of Engagement in negotiation with the University will allow a renegotiation of the FSA.

The General Manager Glenda Jacobs added that there are unachievable KPIs in the FSA that need to be reconsidered, and the Terms of Engagement will allow for this

Annabel Bartley left the meeting at 7:15pm and proxied to Kurt Tucker.

Treasurer Pham opened the floor to opinions. The following were raised:

- That the Lolly Shop is a bad investment, and the Union should move away from the model.
- The draw card for our current offerings is placement, and the Union needs to guarantee similar placement.
- That the Union should ask for more space. The space that the Union has now was originally built for a University of half the population.
- Amenities for students is important, but working space for Union employees as well.
- Lockable space is necessary for the Clubs and Societies storage room.

During this discussion, President Scott raised that the Union President is newly a permanent member of a committee on the new Union building that they had previously been left out of. The process is now going to tenders for architects. In terms of space, the Union has outlined what they currently use spaces for. This includes kitchen space and event space. This is not about specific outlets, but ensuring certain uses can be provided for.

President Scott said that the Union has already raised that there needs to be more performance spaces, for instance, to meet the needs of Street Groove and the Law Revue.



The mover spoke to Mr Liveris's history as the CEO of Dow Chemical which, before he was CEO, manufactured Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. Today, Dow Chemical is a major polluter of plastic.

The seconder said that the Union should oppose the practice of allowing polluters to buy large buildings on campus to clear their name. This is especially true when the building in question is a sustainability institute. Dow Chemical has never acknowledged its past involvement in the Vietnam War.

A councillor argued that this would be cutting off the nose to spite the face. Andrew Liveris is among UQ's most successful people, and is among the few people who have gone onto immense success and come back to the University to improve its facilities because he likes the University. It is important not to turn away high net-worth alumni. The Union is also looking at the same strategy, every single

The Chair moved that the motion be put.

*It was moved*

UQ UNION RECOGNISES THAT ANDREW LIVERIS IS A CLIMATE CRIMINAL AND OPPOSES THE GREENWASHING OF HIM. THE UNION ASSERTS THAT CLIMATE CRIMINALS SHOULD NOT BE WELCOMED ONTO OUR CAMPUS. THE UQ UNION ENDORSES THE PROTEST CALLED BY THE ENVIRONMENT COLLECTIVE TO PROTEST THE EVENT.

110/146

SHIHAN/PARKER

CARRIED

### **Question for the Abilities Officer**

A student asked Officer Steele for an update on the Disabilities Royal Commission.

Officer Steele raised that the University needs to move to in-built rather than reactive accessibility systems. Tertiary education needs to be redesigned from the ground up. If course coordinators design with the expectation that a blind person was in the course, or that a person who will need to miss classes will be in the course, then they do not get surprised after the fact and have to attempt to redesign the course on the fly. This also becomes a problem for the student because they have to seek out the SAPD after the beginning of the course. People with disabilities may be able to do the job at the end of the degree, but can't finish the degree and therefore can't do the job. Officer Steele will be speaking on this matter to the Senate and the Academic Board.

### **Solidarity with NTEU Members at UQ**

The University of Queensland has suspended negotiations for twelve months. It was moved that the Union call on the University to continue negotiations with the NTEU. The University is pushing to shift it twelve months away.

The mover said that a majority of NTEU members wanted to continue negotiations.

The seconder said that the NTEU were well and truly allies of the Union.

A student asked what reason was given for the delay.

The mover said that there was no clear answer, but in general, delays are cost-saving measures to avoid inevitable pay rises.

That the Union calls on the University to resume negotiations with NTEU.

*It was moved that*

UNION COUNCIL NOTES THAT UQ ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED A SUSPENSION OF BARGAINING FOR TWELVE (12) MONTHS. UNION COUNCIL NOTES THAT THE NATIONAL TERTIARY EDUCATION UNION HAS CALLED ON UQ MANAGEMENT TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NTEU. UNION COUNCIL STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE NTEU, AND CALLS ON UQ TO RETURN TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NTEU.

110/147

SMOCK/SCOTT

CARRIED

A student asked that it be minuted that the previous motion passed unanimously, but the minuter responded that they should have called for a recorded vote.

### **Religious Freedom Bill**

Councillor Gutteridge raised that freedom of religion is a disguise for attacks on abortion, and LGBT rights. The same people who endorse the motion are also Islamophobic. The rights of bigots should not come before other groups in society. Without a campaign against this, the bill will pass. The Union should mobilise.

A speaker against the motion raised that voting against the motion was to attack freedom of religion. It did not make sense to stand behind Muslims and also take away safeguards for them to practice their beliefs. Many people in the world believe seriously that they are going to Hell if they do not follow their religion, and they should have legal safeguards to not force them to

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put.

*It was moved that*

THE UQ UNION OPPOSES THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BILL AND ENDORSES THE PROTEST ON AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>

110/

GUTTERIDGE/DE

CARRIED

The meeting was closed at 8pm.