

UNION COUNCIL

MINUTES

From the 6th Ordinary Meeting of the
108th UQ Union Council, 2019

4:00PM

Monday 30/07/2019

UQU Boardroom

Union Building (Bld. 21A), St. Lucia Campus

Chair: Kurt Tucker

The meeting was declared open at 4:09pm.

a) Welcome by Union Chairperson

b) Credentials

The following members were present:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • Georgia Millroy | • Ethan Van Roo Douglas | • Nathan Kerr |
| • Bella Scattini | • Tom Landy | • Amy Sienkiewicz-Grob |
| • Rowan Evans | • Benjamin Kozij | • Lili Wackwitz |
| • Chloe Ainscow | • Gustavo Pazo | • Coen Harnischfeger |
| • Lachlan Gillespie | • Nicholas Rowan | • Priya De |
| • Jehiel Lomaz | • Kurt Tucker | • Campbell Ray |
| • Jordan Duffey | • Mohammed Al-Basir | • Sarah Doyle |
| • Connor Morin | | |

The Following Members were absent:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Kaiyin Wu | • Rebekah Thornton | • Georgia Baird |
| • Selene Cannelli | • Phillip Janowicz | • Tiantian Zhao |
| • Swin Su | • Roxanne Macdonald | • Finnian Sonter |
| • Kate Andersson | • Georgia Boon | • Sari Simawy |
| • Radin Manafi-Khosroshahi | • James Perkins | • Jesse Tong |
| • Ezra Taliv Mo | • Bethany McLeod | • Murrawah Johnson |
| • Lucas Schober | • Ian Trinh | • Joseph Krebs |

- Bradley Plant
- Tom Campbell
- Alexander Asher
- Nellie Gordon
- Lachlan Thomson
- Ambrose Boylan

Apologies were received from the following members:

Nil

The following proxies were received:

- Nellie Gordon to Mohammed Al-Basir
- Ian Trinh to Coen Harnischfeger
- Lachlan Thomson to Matilda Clark
- Tom Campbell to Jordan Duffey
- Joseph Krebs to Christopher Stewart

The following others were present:

- Anna Heale
- Olivia Winchester
- Christy Leung
- Erin Carroll
- Harrison Pocknee
- Oula Shihan
- Yvonne Lan
- Matilda Clark
- Ryan Jover
- Wilson Gavin
- Tori Holliday

Resignations:

Nil

c) Elections

Nil

d) The Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting of Union Council pending amendments.

e) Business Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Nil

f) Requests for Starring/ Approval or Noting of the Items Not Starred en bloc

g) References

Nil

h) Reports of the Elected Officers

Nil

i) Matters Arising from the Reports of the Elected Officers

Nil

j) Question Time

Union President Report

Councillor Duffey requested a verbal report from the Union President. The Union President reported that the Union have been busy with responding to the Hong Kong protests last Wednesday. The Union met with UQ and requested that they formulate a response to the protests. Since then, UQ have created a page on their website with key FAQ's.

Other developments more generally have been a brand new Union website and the renovations on the clubs and societies room.

Hong Kong Protests – UQ Response

Student, Christopher Stewart, asked for further details on the crisis meeting held with UQ and questioned what the Union's response has been to the university's lack of action for almost a week following the protests. The Union President explained that initially UQ did not appreciate or acknowledge that violence was used at the protest. They also were unaware that the rhetoric online had made those with anti-China views more vocal. This has led to an increase in anti-Chinese student sentiment being expressed online. The Union has attempted to make the university aware of the effect the protest has had on the Chinese community at UQ while remaining as neutral as possible.

Christopher Stewart queried why UQ has now responded to the violence at the protests on Wednesday, but are yet to respond to the violence after the SGM last month. In response, the Union President noted that the student involved in the violence following the SGM has been banned from Red Room for life. It

was noted that the current China/Hong Kong protests are not only controversial but could significantly impact on UQ's economy.

Councillor Ray raised that UQ's Director of Security had made comments to a number of demonstrators last Wednesday stating that protestors would be responsible for any violence that occurred and would be held accountable. He noted that UQ have commented on student conduct, but questioned whether they would be commenting on staff conduct. The Union President responded that they have reminded all staff of UQ's charter.

Christopher Stewart queried the Union's response to the Chinese consul-general's comments praising the Chinese students for their 'spontaneous patriotic behaviour' at the protests. It was noted that UQ recently named Xu Jie a visiting professor of Language and Culture. The Union President had no comment to make on the issue.

Market Day Membership Sales

Councillor Wackwitz noted that FMAA and UQBA executives had spoken to her regarding the impact the protest had on their membership sales, decreasing them significantly for the duration. The Union President noted that she had spoken to the President of UQBA after market day had ended and was informed that the impact was not as severe as they had originally anticipated, with membership sales comparable to previous years. However, she noted that she would check in with the FMAA executive to hear any concerns they may have.

k) Reports of Union Bodies

Nil

1) Appeals

Nil

m) Executive Business

Nil

n) General Business

Hong Kong Protests

Councillor De explained that the motion had been created in consultation with some of the key organisers of the Hong Kong protests at UQ in the last few months. She noted that the position UQU needs to take is to express their unreserved support for the Hong Kong students. Students have the right to protest democratically on campus and to do so without fear of repression. She noted that it was inspiring to stand side by side with the Hong Kong protestors last week who refused to cede their ground or apologise in the face of intimidation. She commended the demonstrators on not being cowed and in fact coming out in larger numbers for a protest in Brisbane city on Sunday. She urged UQU not to cede from their established position at the last meeting of Union Council of supporting the Hong Kong students and asked them to reaffirm this position by passing the motion.

The seconder of the motion, Christy Leung, reserved her right to speak.

It was moved

THAT COUNCIL CONDEMNS THE ACTIONS OF THE CHINESE NATIONALISTS WHO VIOLENTLY ASSAULTED STUDENTS AT MARKET DAY. SUCH ACTIONS RUN COUNTER TO THE UNION'S COMMITMENT TO UPHOLDING FREEDOM OF SPEECH FOR STUDENTS.

WE URGE THE UNIVERSITY TO ACT ON ITS OWN AVOWED COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH BY HOLDING ACCOUNTABLE STUDENTS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN VIOLENT ASSAULTS ON DEMONSTRATORS. THE UNIVERSITY SHOULD PROVIDE SUPPORT TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN THREATENED OR HARASSED AS A RESULT OF THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN DEMONSTRATIONS, PARTICULARLY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

WE OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT BY THE UNIVERSITY TO PREVENT FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS FROM TAKING PLACE, AS AN INTERFERENCE IN FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY FOR STUDENTS. POLITICAL ISSUES MUST BE ALLOWED TO PLAY OUT ON CAMPUS AND NOT SWEEPED UNDER THE RUG. WE ALSO OPPOSE THE UNIVERSITY IMPLEMENTING RESTRICTIONS ON THE ABILITY OF STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE BY DICTATING CLOTHING TO BE WORN OR THE LOCATION WHERE STUDENTS MAY GATHER.

FURTHERMORE, THE UNION REITERATES ITS SUPPORT FOR THE CAMPAIGN OF HONG KONG STUDENTS AND MAINLAND STUDENTS FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND WILL CONTINUE TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THEIR STRUGGLE.

COUNCIL 108/123

DE/LEUNG

CARRIED

The Union President raised that the Union will be releasing a statement written in collaboration with the Union's international officer who has been working with both Chinese and Hong Kong students in order to represent as many views as possible. The statement was read to Union Council. (See appendix 1).

The Union President raised that the Union will be running a SSAF survey in August. She urged those present to read the Semper article on the university's illegal use of SSAF funds and consider this when responding to the survey.

The meeting was declared closed at 4.45pm.

Appendix 1

STATEMENT FROM UQ STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT AND INTERNATIONAL OFFICER REGARDING UQ PROTESTS

One of UQ Student Union's key aims is to foster a sense of belonging and ensure that every student feels welcome and wanted at UQ.

Many UQ students are aware that on Wednesday, 24 July, student protests on campus resulted in confronting scenes which have circulated on domestic and international media.

Students may also be aware that another protest is planned for Wednesday, 31 July.

The UQ Student Union unequivocally supports **freedom of speech, the right of all students to protest peacefully on campus**, and engagement in political discussion and debate.

We **do not condone** violence, racism or intimidation.

We recognise that in the aftermath of these protests, some students may be feeling unsafe or unwelcome on campus or online.

We have been working with the University to ensure that the UQ campus remains a welcoming and safe environment for all students.

Our Student Advocacy and Support team is available for all students and can be reached at <https://www.uqu.com.au/supporting-u>. You can also make an appointment with Student Services counselling at <https://www.uq.edu.au/student-services/counselling-services>, or call their 24/7 helpline on 1300 851 998.

This Wednesday, the Union Hub will be open all day for students to relax, seek assistance, and chat informally with support staff.

We remind all students to show respect to members of the UQ community, and we call on all students to support each other however they can.

UQ Union's door is always open and we welcome suggestions on how, together, we can make our campus a welcoming place. Our email addresses are also below if you wish to make contact.

We are continuing to collaborate with the University and the student body to ensure that UQ remains a place of light, liberty and learning.

Georgia Millroy
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CONFIRMED