

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 7th Ordinary Meeting of the
109th UQ Union Council, 2020

4 PM

Wednesday 23 September 2020

Innes Room, Union Complex

Chair: Mitchell Ablett-Nelson

a) **The Meeting was declared open at 4:12 pm by Secretary Thornton.**

b) **Credentials**

The following were present:

Councillors

Barclay McGain
Bradley Plant
Chloe Ainscow
Guohang Ding
Ian Trinh
Jack Dugdale
Matthew Pereira
Mitchell Ablett-Nelson (Chair)
Myah McGinity
Oula Shihan
Priya De
Tim Heffernan

Student Executive & Officers

Brodie Fennell
Christian Rizzalli
Emily Coggan
Ethan Van Roo Douglas (President)
Rebekah Thornton (Secretary)
Rowan Evans
Zane Higgins

Others

Alicia Steele
Amy Sienkiewicz-Grob
Anna Redshaw
Ben Kozij
Bradley Stone
Elias Blanch
Ella Gutteridge
Glenda Jacobs
Hao Li
Jack Barton
Jack Conkey
Jiancong Wang
Joseph McDouall
Karen Da Silva (Minutes)
Liam Heseltine
Lucas Schaber
Matthew Johnson
Michael Walker
Shirley Moo
Utkrist Paudyal
William Ketter

The following members were absent:

- Daniel Boyle

The following apologies were received:

- Ash Zeller
- Ethan Van Roo Douglas (President) – late arrival

- Georgina Quayle
- Ji Davis
- Jia yi Wang
- Justin Gane
- Lachlan Hardie
- Nathan Kerr
- Olivia Nguyen
- Rifki Sanahdi
- Thomas Landy (Treasurer)
- Tierna Parker
- William Kugelman
- Yunying Su

On leave:

Nil.

The following proxies were received:

Ash Zeller to Oula Shihan

Georgina Quayle to Ben Kozij

Ji Davis to Amy Sienkiewicz-Grob

Jia yi Wang to Jiancong Wang

Justin Gane to Matthew Johnson

Lachlan Hardie to Bradley Plant

Nathan Kerr to Emily Coggan

Olivia Nguyen to Jiancong Wang

Rifki Sanahdi to Hao Li

Tierna Parker to Oula Shihan

William Kugelman to Elias Blanch

Yunying Su to Guohang Ding

Resignations:

Nil.

It was moved

THAT THE CREDENTIALS FOR THE 7TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 109TH UQ UNION COUNCIL BE ACCEPTED.

COUNCIL 109/124

THORNTON/ABLETT-NELSON

CARRIED

c) The minutes from the previous meeting

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 6TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 109TH UQ UNION COUNCIL HELD ON 24TH AUGUST 2020 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED.

COUNCIL 109/125

ABLETT-NELSON/TRINH

CARRIED

d) Business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Nil.

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

Procedural motion to consider all reports en bloc.

CARRIED

f) Reports

It was moved

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

COUNCIL 109/126 THORNTON/ABLETT-NELSON CARRIED

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

COUNCIL 109/127 LANDY/ABLETT-NELSON CARRIED

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

COUNCIL 109/128 FENNELL/ABLETT-NELSON CARRIED

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

COUNCIL 109/129 COGGAN/ABLETT-NELSON CARRIED

THAT THE COLLEGES OFFICERS' REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED.

COUNCIL 109/130 DALTON & CHANDLER/ ABLETT-NELSON CARRIED

THAT THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS' REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED.

COUNCIL 109/131 YAN & OREN/ABLETT-NELSON CARRIED

THAT THE POSTGRADUATE OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED.

COUNCIL 109/132 RIZZALLI/ ABLETT-NELSON CARRIED

The President's report and question time was moved to later in the meeting.

g) Matters arising from the Reports of the Elected Officers

Nil.

h) Reports of Union Bodies

Nil.

i) Business which has been proposed

International Student Services Centre

Cr Pereira explained that International students do not know who to approach for help and with queries. The solution identified was the setting up of a dedicated Student Centre to specifically address the needs of International Students.

It was moved

THAT A UNION RUN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES CENTRE BE SET UP,
TO AID INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

COUNCIL 109/132

PEREIRA/AINSCOW

CARRIED

Getting Started Program To Include Work Rights

Cr Pereira explained that International Students are not aware of their work rights in Australia and are often exploited in employment. They suggested the inclusion of information about work rights in Australia in the UQ run Getting Started Program for International Students to ensure awareness and information on who to approach to lodge complaints.

Cr De stated that laws make International Students vulnerable, the bigger problem is misinformation and encouraged all students to join trade unions.

Cr Shihan highlighted that there is a separation between international and domestic workers with restrictions. Where exploitation happens, workers put up with it or risk losing their visa. solidarity is needed across both sectors of the workforce.

It was moved

THAT THE GETTING STARTED PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
SHOULD INCLUDE WORK RIGHTS FOR THEM IN AUSTRALIA SO THAT THEY
WOULD NOT BE EXPLOITED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS.

COUNCIL 109/133

PEREIRA/AINSCOW

CARRIED

UQ Union Endorses the Climate Strike on Friday 25 September 2020

Gutteridge and Bradshaw explained that it was essential for endorsement of upcoming climate actions and that students care about the process and proved it in 2019 where school strikes in Australia were proportionately the largest in the world with around 40,000 participating in Brisbane.

They drew attention to the wildfires currently ravaging California; the most ferocious and far reaching that the state has ever recorded in history. Images mirror those of the bushfires in Australia during the 2019-2020 bushfire season.

They also stated that world leaders had failed to make significant changes to halt the effects of climate change and address global warming issues. In response, students and young people worldwide have organised strikes for the climate.

In discussions the following was highlighted:

- Lack of Government preparation for the upcoming bushfire season.
- Increased funding for fire-fighting services required.
- Bushfire smoke could increase the spread of COVID-19 this summer.
- Natural disasters were increasing in frequency because of global warming.
- Scientists have declared a state of climate emergency with increasing temperatures and rising sea levels which would see this affecting the Asia-Pacific region earlier.
- Students care about the climate process.
- Cr McGain stated that California also had the largest amount of renewable energy supplies and that water security and scarcity needed to be addressed.
- America is not taking any action to address global warming.

It was moved that

THE UQ UNION RECOGNISES THE URGENT NEED TO PROTEST FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH STUDENTS DOING SO INTERNATIONALLY.

THE UQ UNION RECOGNISES ACTION ON THE CLIMATE IS URGENT, THAT MASS PROTESTS ARE AN ESSENTIAL WAY OF STRUGGLING FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE, COMPLICITY OF THE GOVERNMENT IN DESTROYING THE CLIMATE AND ENDANGERING LIVES OF MILLIONS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE.

THE UQ UNION DEMANDS THE GOVERNMENT TO PREPARE FOR FIRE SEASON BY FUNDING FIREFIGHTERS, REMOVING SUBSIDIES FOR FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES AND CEASING ALL MINE AND GAS MINING.

THE UNION DEMANDS THAT THE UNIVERSITY DIVESTS FROM FOSSIL FUEL AND CUTS TIES WITH THE INDUSTRY.

COUNCIL 109/134

GUTTERIDGE/REDSHAW

CARRIED

Justice for Aunty Sherry

Aunty Sherry Fisher-Tilberoo died on 10 September 2020 while in custody in a Brisbane watch house while awaiting transfer to a correctional facility.

Cr Shihan spoke out against police racism and negligence and related deaths in custody.

Higgins stated that Aunty Sherry's case indicates that racism and deaths in custody are not confined to towns and no one should be happy that people are dying in prison cells; they said that this would be a great opportunity for all people to take a stand.

Cr McGain said that we should stand against all police brutality.

In discussions, the following views were expressed:

- Queensland Police condemned for racist policing.
- 441 indigenous people have died in custody since the Royal Commission into Indigenous Deaths in Custody.
- Aunty Sherry was not connected to any crime.
- It is the ignoring of the needs of indigenous people that leads to deaths.
- 100% of youth detained in NT are indigenous.
- The only reason the police officer was suspended was because of the protests.
- Indigenous people make up 3% of the population and they are targeted.

It was moved

THAT THE UQ UNION STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE FISHER-TILLBEROO FAMILIES AS THEY DEMAND JUSTICE FOR AUNTY SHERRY.

THE UQ UNION CONDEMNS THE QUEENSLAND POLICE FORCE FOR THEIR RACIST POLICING.

THE UQ UNION STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO END BLACK DEATHS IN CUSTODY.

THE UQ UNION RECOGNISES THAT ANY JUSTICE FOR BLACK LIVES NEEDS TO BE FOUGHT FOR AND CALLS ON STUDENTS TO ATTEND ANY FURTHER PROTESTS THAT ARE HELD DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR AUNTY SHERRY.

UQ UNION WILL ENDEAVOUR TO ADVERTISE SUCH EVENTS.

COUNCIL 109/135

SHIHAN/HIGGINS

CARRIED

Ethan Van Roo Douglas joins the meeting.

UQ Union supports the right to protest and stands with the campaign in NSW

Cr Heffernan expressed agreement with reasonable quarantine measures but not total hypocrisy as is happening in NSW and the indefinite unjustifiable ban of protests under NSW health orders. In discussion, the following was raised:

- NSW is pressuring VIC and other states to open borders
- NSW has a stadium to open (whereby 10,000 are permitted to attend NRL matches)
- No cases of COVID have been linked to protests but links to stadiums, universities and other areas have been confirmed, indicating the ban on protests is not about reasonable measures but political issues around Australia.
- These measures are continuing to spread across Australia.
- People are being denied the right to mourn; this is a motion re: civil liberties.
- The government is allowing casinos, etc. without masks but restricting protests and using COVID restrictions to break up protests.
- UQU should stand in solidarity with this campaign.

It was moved

THAT THE UQ UNION STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE *DEMOCRACY IS ESSENTIAL CAMPAIGN IN NSW*, FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT TO PROTEST WITHOUT STATE REPRESSION. THE UQ UNION WILL NOT STAND BY AND LET THE RIGHT TO PROTEST BE TAKEN AWAY FROM STUDENT ACTIVISTS. THE UQ UNION DEMANDS THAT PROTESTS BE DEEMED AN ESSENTIAL ACTIVITY AND RECOGNISE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT USE THE PANDEMIC TO STIFLE THE RIGHT TO PROTEST SAFELY AND PEACEFULLY.

COUNCIL 109/136

HEFFERNAN/MCDOUALL

CARRIED

Censure – registration of the ticket name ‘Black Lives Matter’

Higgins expressed disapproval of the ticket name stating that it was misused to gain votes from supporters of the BLM movement.

It was moved

THAT THE UNION COUNCIL CENSURE CHAIR ABLETT-NELSON AND OTHER PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE REGISTRATION OF THE TICKET NAME ‘BLACK LIVES MATTER’. THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT IS A CRITICAL ISSUE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ITS SUBVERSION BY WHITE STUDENTS FOR POLITICAL GAIN IS A COMPLETE BASTARDISATION OF WHAT THE MOVEMENT STANDS FOR AND AFFRONT TO THE VALUES OF THE UNION AND THE STUDENTS OF COLOUR THAT IT REPRESENTS.

COUNCIL 109/137

HIGGINS/VAN ROO DOUGLAS

CARRIED

j) UQU President’s report

President Van Roo Douglas gave a verbal report:

- Business Trading: consumer numbers are low; leaner ways of operation are being looked into. In 109 years, 2020 has been the toughest year for the Union.

- The UQU President is working with the President of the Academic Board on academic integrity responsibilities.
- The UQU President was invited by the Federal Government to make a submission (due on 30 September) on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom. Van Roo Douglas had consulted with the President of the UQ Academic Board, UQs Chancellor and James Allan. Consultation and input is invited from all.
- Business as usual continues during these tricky times.
- We have Council elections to look forward to.

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

COUNCIL 109/138 VAN ROO DOUGLAS/ABLETT-NELSON CARRIED

k) Question Time

Question A

Online elections: Cr McGinity enquired why online elections were not discussed at the last Council meeting. President Van Roo Douglas responded saying that the Rules Committee minutes were circulated and the topic was missed in error.

Question B

Blanch requested for a meeting with the VP of the Queer Collective to discuss the minutes of the June meeting. It was suggested for Blanch to email any query to the VP and that a meeting would be set up.

Question C

Branding in elections: Johnson queried whether it was permissible to use branding in elections. The President said that is was a matter between the club and candidate.

Question D

Cr McGain queried whether there was a commonality between the practices in regards to the elections. The President advised that the politics is usually removed through cross-nominations with the goorie, abilities, international collectives. Blanch advised that Alisha Steele and Tilly Clarke are the abilities officers.

l) Other business

Board of Directors: The President advised of the appointment of 2 students (to the Board) by the UQU Council at its next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 5:03 PM.