

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 9th Ordinary Meeting of the
110th UQ Union Council, 2021
5.30pm, Monday, 25th October 2021
Innes Room
Chair: Ji Davis

The Meeting was declared open at 5:44 pm.

a) **Credentials**

i) **Members present:**

Councillors

Hamish Barnett
Darcy Creighton
Samuel Adams
Elise Northcote
Julia Bejleri
Kyle Clunies-Ross
Michael Walker
Kurt Munckton
Jiancong Wang
Thomas Stephen
Zoe Goss
Jordan Mark
David McGovern
Stuart Moss

Elected Officers

Emily Scott
Ryan Jover
Emily Searle
Alicia Steele
Eli Blanch
Kurt Tucker

Others

Rowan Evans
Jack Barton
Bradley Stone
Alex Smock
Christopher Stewart
Yi-Hung Chan
Max Thompson
Dylan Thomas
Kore Opie
Anna Redshaw
Louisa McCarthy
Laura Nolan
Vishnupriya De
Ben Muirhead
Austin Schmidt
Carib Phillips
Benjamin Myatt
Greta Simpson
Bronte Ruegg

ii) Apologies and leave:

Gabby Callow
Julia Bejleri
Finn Wedge
Kurt Munckton
Chamel Abeytungu

iii) The following proxies were received:

Annabel Bartley to Darcy Creighton
Anastasia Georgiou to Kyle Clunies-Ross
Jiancong Wang to Edward Uzelin
Zoe Goss to Sam Adams
Chamel Abeytungu to Matthew Pereira
Gabby Callow to Kurt Munckton
Finn Wedge to Matthew Pereira
Elloise Campbell to Julia Bejleri
Tim Heffernan to Zierna Parker

iv) Resignations:

Nil.

b) Elections

Nil.

c) Confirmation of the minutes from the previous meeting

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FOR THE 8TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 110TH UQ UNION COUNCIL
BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

110/190

DAVIS/JOVER

CARRIED

d) Business arising from the last meeting.

Censure of Kurt Tucker

Cr Clunies-Ross remarked that he was disappointed at VP Tucker's actions from the 7th Ordinary meeting which he states to be in violation of the union standing orders as VP Tucker misled council on what forms of debate were acceptable. Standing Order 19 is about forms of debate, Cr Clunies-Ross argued that VP Tucker misled council as to the forms of debate he tried to argue that being an informal debate meant no time limits applied to him while speaking.

Secondly, Standing Order 28.2 states a procedural motion can be moved at any time. VP Tucker tried to argue you could not interrupt this form of debate while there was a procedural motion which is not the case.

Cr Clunies-Ross stated that under Standing Order 28.5 specifically lists procedural motions that may be moved at any time. VP Tucker argued you could not suspend a person from council and a motion that a speaker not be heard. It was not exactly clear what he was trying to say. It was either they were not procedural motions or even if they were they could not be moved at any time despite Standing Order 28.5 states specifically lists those that may be moved at any time.

VP Tucker stated that the other members of council should be censured instead as it is not his fault that other members of council believed his understanding of the Standing Orders. Adding he is not the Secretary and is not in a position of authority. He also remarked that he disagreed with certain aspects of Cr Clunies-Ross's interpretation of the Standing Orders. VP Tucker stated that he pleads not guilty and the only thing he is guilty of is being a "trustworthy guy."

It was moved

THAT THIS COUNCIL OF THE UQ UNION CENSURE KURT TUCKER, VICE PRESIDENT OF CAMPUS CULTURE, FOR ENGAGING IN DISORDERLY CONDUCT AT THE 7TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE UQ UNION COUNCIL.

IN ADDITION TO THIS DISORDERLY CONDUCT, COUNCIL CENSURES TUCKER FOR MISLEADING COUNCIL ON THE MEANING OF THE UQ UNION STANDING ORDERS, SPECIFICALLY, S19, S28.2 AND S28.5.

110/191

CLUNIES-ROSS/GEORGIU

CARRIED

Amendment of S38

Cr Clunies-Ross put a motion up which had been through Rules Committee to fix a minor grammatical error in Standing Order 31.1.

It was moved

THAT S38.1 BE AMENDED TO FIX UP A GRAMMATICAL MISTAKE (SPECIFICALLY THROUGH COUNCIL ADDED "BE" TO S38.1 AND IS THEN TO READ:

"IT MAY BE MOVED, 'THAT (INSERT NAME OF MEMBER OR PERSON) BE SUSPENDED FROM SERVICE OF THE (INSERT NAME OF UNION BODY) FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING.

110/192

CLUNIES-ROSS/GEORGIU

CARRIED

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

The President Report was starred

President Scott apologised for the Terms of Engagement section being missing from her report and stated that Secretary Jover was fixing this error and this will be distributed to Council members.

Environment Officer, Oula Shihan stated that it is preposterous council members are only seeing the Terms of Engagement regarding the UQU redevelopment today. Overall, the redevelopment and negotiations are extremely far down the line and the council should have been consulted earlier on the redevelopment of the union complex and cannot be expected to make any decisions tonight.

VP Tucker interjected and stated that firstly, the Terms of Engagement had nothing to do with the redevelopment of the union – these are terms of Engagement of how the union should deal with negotiations with anything to do with the university. Secondly, these were approved by the Vice Presidents and Office Bearers at a meeting that the Environment Officer was invited to and did not attend. There was ample time to consult.

President Scott stated it is just an outline that states the university must consult with the union. Obviously, we are going to make sure they consult with us about our licenses to occupy the complex. However, this is not about an agreement about the complex it is how the university must consult with us about the complex. There had been no final decisions made about the union complex redevelopment to date and all information that she has received is provided in the report. UQ has not finalised what will be included in the complex redevelopment. The Terms of Engagement does not even have a signature on it yet.

Priya De questioned said the council should not be expected to vote on this issue tonight as they had only heard about them for a few hours.

President Scott re-iterated that her report did not have much to do with the redevelopment. This is not a binding agreement.

Cr Creighton stated that the council should read the Terms of Engagement and will table it if they do not feel comfortable voting on it in this meeting.

De re-iterated that she found the actions by President Scott to be unacceptable.

De was named by the Chair.

Cr Adams asked whether given that the current SSAF procedure was unlawful, will anyone be held to account?

Glenda Jacobs stated that the Government had been given a time-frame with which to fix the current governance of SSAF but that should not mean we cannot push the university for reimbursement.

Cr Adams asked what it means in the Code of Conduct that students can be punished for what they may do in the future.

President Scott answered that it was put in due to a situation in a different university and had issues with this clause and many other clauses in the SIMP policy.

VP Tucker expressed concerns that the university was attempting to assert themselves as a quasi-judicial body despite previous misadventures in this area.

Rowan Evans stated that the purpose was not to be about restricting liberties but that UQ should be able to change students out of tutorials for the reason of interpersonal misconduct.

Scott stated this clause would give UQ the power to remove students from classes or be able to move students to different tutorials throughout the year.

VP Tucker said President Scott should tell the university at Senate Appeals Committee that the creation of a body to exclude students who are not performing well should not be allowed. Many students have failed a course and then are not allowed to be on these important UQ committees.

President Scott said failing a course has nothing to do with disciplinary conduct but she could see reason a student who had failed a course would not be allowed on committees where show cause notices were discussed.

Scott stated that the terms of engagement was not a binding document and that she had a similar question because the UQ negotiators put in language that would get them out of trouble had the document be legally binding.

Cr Clunies-Ross questioned the position of the shared objectives and that his interpretation of the wording implies that UQ does not have to consult with UQU about retail decisions.

VP Tucker stated that this section should be moved to make the intention clearer.

Priya De stated that the terms of engagement sucked and that no UQU councillor should pass them. De stated we should not agree to respectful relationships with them because they make deals with climate criminals, and fire staff. She stated that council should not agree to a contract which would not allow them to fight tooth and nail to fight for student's rights. De brought in the importance of the Schonell Theatre and the importance of saving it.

Chair moved that the Priya De no longer be heard.

Officer Shihan stated that the Terms of Engagement do not allow the UQU to be independent and that these terms should not be agreed to.

Cr McGovern asked President Scott whether UQ admin would be involved with the union complex. Scott agreed that UQ Student Services should not be involved with the complex and that they should not have office space, especially in the complex. She also stated that Prentice was intended to be temporary and that Student Services would move to the union complex. As President Scott stated in her report the Union's position should be to not allow this.

Cr McGovern stated that some asbestos from Schonell should be preserved as part of the Union history.

Cr Adams asked President Scott about the Student Integrity and Misconduct Policy Suite whereby students could be punished for misconduct. Rowan Evans stated that it is not about punishing people it is asserting that they have a certain level of behaviour management process. In the case President Scott is talking about is one where a student chose the same tutorial as someone they previously sexually assaulted. The university should be able to assert that they have the power to say that that student cannot be in that tutorial.

It was moved

THAT THE UNION PRESIDENT’S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED
COUNCIL 110/193 SCOTT/JOVER CARRIED

f) Reports of Elected Office bearers

The Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer, Lisa Pham, gave an oral report.

It was moved

THAT THE UNION TREASURER’S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED
COUNCIL 110/194 PHAM/SCOTT CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THE GENDER AND SEXUALITY (WOMEN’S) REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED
COUNCIL 110/195 SEARLE/JOVER CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER’S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED
COUNCIL 110/196 SHIHAN/JOVER CARRIED

g) Question time

Cr Mark questioned the Campus Culture VP’s reasons for not affiliating the Political Science and International Relations Society. VP Tucker stated that he was not at the meeting. Matthew Periera stated that the reason was that complaints had been made from PPE and UNSA that the club was too similar to their existing clubs.

Cr Mark asked whether the C&S Committee had any authority to ask people to leave the room while they are deliberating. VP Tucker said they did not but that is how C&S committee operates. Students may stay if they wish.

Cr Adams asked the environment officer for the names of people responsible for doing research with mining companies.

VP Tucker believes council should encourage these types of partnerships.

Cr Adams questioned the Campus Culture VPs why clubs have been denied ratification without cause stated. VP Tucker stated that certain clubs have not given enough reason for existing. VP Tucker encouraged all councilors and spectators to attend the C&S committee tomorrow. VP Tucker encouraged him to try again at the meeting tomorrow and stated that he has also faced several clubs not being affiliated.

Matthew Pereira asked the International Officer's regarding the upcoming badminton tournament. Officer Mo explained that the badminton tournament would occur for two hours on both days it is scheduled for.

Officer Lee inquired after the Disabilities Collective new logo and Officer Steele held up a picture. Steele also introduced the new Disabilities Officer Anthea Burton.

h) Business which has been proposed

Rejecting Fossil Fuels at UQ

Officer Parker noted the dire political and climate situation. She stated that UQU should take a position on this issue and all councilors who cared about the climate crisis should vote in favour of the motion.

Ben Muirhead concurred with what Officer Parker stated and re-stated its importance.

VP Tucker submitted an amendment to the motion which was not amenable to the original mover. VP Tucker used his rights as a mover to speak on the motion stating that he opposed taking on a target of net zero by 2050. He stated everyone supported radical action against climate change.

Louisa McCarthy stated that the liberals do not care about climate action and that the motions need to be heard together because 2050 is not radical enough as opposed to "too radical" as VP Tucker stated.

Debate for original motion resumed.

Cr Mark stated that the motion had an "abject lack of nuance." Cr Mark stated that he agreed with the motion.

VP Tucker stated that he agreed with the motion.

Motion was put by Cr Creighton.

It was moved

THAT THE UQ STUDENT UNION REJECT THE 2050 NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS TARGETS TAKEN UP BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND VARIOUS WORLD GOVERNMENTS. THE UQ UNION ADVOCATES FOR MORE RADICAL ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE, SUCH AS THE TOTAL ABOLITION OF FOSSIL FUELS AND A COMPLETE TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

110/197

PARKER/MUIRHEAD

CARRIED

Solidarity with those indefinitely detained

Anna Redshaw stated that many refugees have been put in a hotel/prison which has now had a covid outbreak. Conditions have worsened and the virus had spread, isolation is not available and the whole situation is an attempt to consciously dehumanize refugees. Council should demand permanent citizenship and should stand in solidarity with all refugees and asylum seekers.

Louisa McCarthy stated that the importance of this issue cannot be overstated. It is a conscious choice to ignore the conditions in these places. The conditions are barbaric, cruel and inhumane. Refugees should be allowed to work and become a permanent citizen.

The Chair named Ella Guttridge and Ti Parker three times.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE DETAINED IN HOTELS BY THE GOVERNMENT AND CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE FREEDOM.

110/198

REDSHAW/MACARTHY

CARRIED

Support for International Student Coordinator 2022

Cr Pereira stated that there should be staff dedicated to international student welfare to pass on knowledge to each year of elected IO's.

Cr Beljuri stated that this was important for international students.

Treasurer Pham stated that if you do this for international students then you would have to do the same for each portfolio.

It was moved

THAT UQU REQUEST THAT COUNCIL ENDORSES THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' COORDINATOR FOR THE YEAR 2022.

110/199

PEREIRA/BEJLERI

CARRIED

There is no room for Young Liberals at UQ

Cr Walker re-iterated the title of the motion.

Secunder waived their right to speak.

Motion passed.

It was moved

THAT THERE IS NO ROOM FOR YOUNG LIBERALS AT UQ.

110/200

WALKER/BRETTELL

CARRIED

UQ Paranormal Researchers and Truthers and UQ Political Science and International Relations be heard by C&S

The Chair ruled this motion out of order.

UQU Rejects Terms of Engagement

Cr Adams agreed with the terms at first but that we need to stay vigilant and reject the terms of engagement to ensure no more power is taken away.

Officer Shihan re-iterated that the terms were the UQU effectively sacrificing their autonomy by agreeing with being more respectful and less combative. The UQU should

Cr Creighton and VP Tucker praised President Scott for her hard work.

President Scott rejects the idea that people with separate political views to her are “speaking on her behalf”. She believes that the people putting up the motion are misguided about the intention behind the terms of engagement. She passionately listed the accomplishments that the UQU has made this year with her way of negotiating with UQ.

Cr Creighton called for the motion to be put. Motion was passed.

Priya De called for a recorded vote.

Annabel Bartley proxied to Darcy Creighton *Against*
Hamish Barnett *Abstain*
Darcy Creighton *Against*

Samuel Adams *For*
Elise Northcote *Against*
Julia Bejleri *Against*
Kyle Clunies-Ross *For*
Myah McGinity -
Kurt Munckton *Against*
Anastasia Georgiou proxied to Kyle Clunies-Ross *For*
Ella Gutteridge -
Jason Wang proxied to Edward Uzelin *Against*
Thomas Stephen proxied to Natasha Brettell *Against*
Zoe Goss proxied to Samuel Adams
Elloise Campbell proxied to Julia Bejleri *Against*
Gabby Callow proxied to Kurt Munckton *Against*
Tim Heffernan proxied to Ti Parker -
Ji Davis -
Jordan Mark *Against*
Chamal Abeytunga proxied to Matthew Pereira *Against*
David McGovern *For*
Stuart Moss *Against*
Finn Wedge proxied to Matthew Pereira *Against*

It was moved

UQU REJECTS THE PROPOSED “TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT” DOCUMENT. UQU REJECTS ANY IMPLIED COMPROMISE ON THE UNION’S ACTIVITIES, RESOURCES AND INDEPENDENCE, IN THE CONTEXT OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE UQU UNION COMPLEX REDEVELOPMENT IN PARTICULAR.

UQU AFFIRMS THAT OUR ROLE AS A STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE BODY IS TO OPPOSE UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT , SEEING THE ADMINISTRATION AS ENEMIES OF STUDENTS.

110/202

ADAMS/SHIHAN

FAILED

Condemn UQBA for electing known racist Barclay McGain

It was moved that

UQ UNION COUNCIL CONDEMNS UQBA FOR ELECTING KNOWN RACIST, BARCLAY MCGAIN, AS AN OFFICER AT THEIR 2021 AGM

110/203

UZELIN/MCGOVERN

WITHDRAWN

Formal motion by Alicia Steele, Disabilities Officer to become paid Office Bearers

Chair moved for standing orders to be suspended. Motion passed.

Officer Steele stated that Disabilities Officer be paid the same way as International Officers. The Collective still wishes that the Disabilities Officer be cross-nominated in accordance with a vote in the collectives' meetings. Making it a new VP position was discussed but the Collective thinks it is important that there be two officers due to the nature of having a disability. The Disabilities Collective is losing talented members to student staff partnerships and other paid positions within the disabilities space. Paying the officer would make this position more desirable.

Anthea Burton stated that the role is demanding and time-consuming and should therefore be paid.

VP Tucker complimented Steele on her arduous work over the year but that paying someone will effectively mean the role will become filled with “hacks and stacks.” He stated that everyone will join the collective if the position becomes paid. VP Tucker stated that other Office Bearers who get paid have historically at times not performed well in the role. He stated that the Collective would be politicised and genuine independent students will no longer be allowed to do it because they will not have the backing of the major parties.

VP Blanch stated that Tuckers issue was not a collective officer but a union problem. They state that the collective demands the same amount of work as the Gender and Sexuality VP's so should be paid.

Barclay McGain stated that the points of Tucker and Blanch were sound, however, that the problem of officers not doing their job would worsen if the role was to be paid.

Officer Steele re-iterated that the role was a lot of work.

Cr Clunies-Ross stated that the money is not an incentive to get people into the role but a necessity because the people who would be good cannot afford to study and do the role if they must support another job.

Officer Steele stated that the role was at least a subject worth a semester each and that officers would have to drop down at least one subject.

Rowan Evans stated that VP Tucker had been misleading council because under R57, it comes that incredibly talented people will run for positions and resign as they do not get paid. Evans stated that Disabilities Collective is one of the most active that of the union. The prediction that people who are not disabled would turn up to meetings is flawed because it would become noticed and receive media attention.

Evans stated that this would engage people with the political process.

Cr Adams stated that council has the option to take payment away and that this option is available if necessary.

VP Blanch stated that not every office bearer should be paid and that if they want to be paid they can bring it up before council.

Officer Lee disagreed with the argument that other office bearers be paid as each officer should be argued on a case-by-case basis. Lee stated that you cannot make a judgement call on whether someone is or is not disabled and they should not be judged on appearances. Lee stated that this was the best Disabilities Collective that he has seen and that the politicisation of it is not necessarily bad as collectives should be inherently political and fight for the rights of students.

Officer Steele corrected that by “apolitical” she meant non-partisan.

Cr Creighton stated that we should uphold the status quo because paying a role based on one person performing well in the role sets a negative precedent.

VP Tucker agreed with Officer Lee that the Disabilities Collective as being non-partisan but political. He said that this will be hyper partisan. He disagreed with Cr Mark’s assertion that everyone agreed in principle, and further reiterated that the T3 should be remunerated and nobody else. Other boards do not remunerate their members. The union does not exist to make jobs for students. VP Tucker said he would happily pass a motion in Officer Steele’s recognition, or erect a statue. Recognition like those given to Officer Steele would be welcomed but does not warrant pay.

VP Tucker moved that the motion be put.

Rowan Evans apologised for assuming Cr Creighton and Cr Barnett did not have a disability.

It was moved that

THE UNION COUNCIL AMENDS 56.3 OF UNION REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE DISABILITIES OFFICERS. THE ROLES OF DISABILITITES OFFICERS THEN BECOME PAID OFFICER, IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS, PAID AT THE SAME RATE FOR 10 HOURS PER WEEK EACH, BEGINNING IMMEDIATLEY OR AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

110/203

STEELE/BURTON

FAILED

k) **General Business**

Meeting was closed at 8:04pm