

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 9th Ordinary Meeting of the
111th UQ Union Council, 2022

5:30 PM
Monday October 31st, 2022
Innes Room
UQ Union Complex, St. Lucia
Chair: Samuel Adams

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:46 PM and acknowledged the traditional owners and custodians of the land, paying respect to their elders' past, present, and emerging.

a) Credentials:

The following were present

Councillors	Student Executives and Officers	Observers
Utkrist Paudyal	Emily Searle	Logan Bean
Austin Smidt	Cara Rowe	Ryley Calvert
Ella Gutteridge	Radhika Peddibhotla	Rowan Evans
Natasha Brettell	Justin Chen	Will Sim
Louisa McCarthy	Marisha Robinson	Kore Opie
Mitchell Ablett-Nelson	Greta Simpson	Diana Elizabeth Aswan
Gabby Callow	Elias Blanch	Ryan Jover
Carib Phillips	Jake Coleman	Joshua Todd Cooper
Elise Northcote	Samara Paradine	Dylan Thomas
Matthew Burgin		Elias Blanch
Jack Feng		TJ Reupena
Max Thompson		
Anna Redshaw		

Apologies and Leave:

None

The following proxies were received:

- Helen Craze to Diana Aswon
- Shenalle Jiang to Ryley Calvert
- Edward Uzelin to Logan Bean
- Zwe Htet Aung to Ben Myatt
- Anna Redshaw to Kore Opie
- Laura Nolan to Will Sim
- Daniel Dawes to Mitchell-Ablett Nelson

b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were corrected to reflect the removal of typos and to reflect that whether or not the returning officer finds it cumbersome to attend to accessibility access during elections

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 8TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 111TH UQ UNION COUNCIL HELD ON SEPTEMBER 5TH 2022 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 111/ 86

CARRIED

c) Business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting :

None

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

Ella Gutteridge starred the Secretary's report

It was moved

TO ACCEPT ALL OTHER REPORTS EXCEPT FOR THE STARRED, EN BLOC

COUNCIL 111/87

CARRIED

Ella Gutteridge starred the Secretary's report and queried on the online elections. Secretary Cara Rowe informed the council on the discussions held with University officials towards the same. She further explained on how the electronic voting presents a myriad of problems, as seen at other universities. She also spoke on the constant pressure from the university regarding the election process and turnout percentages and how the increase in voting percentage at satellite campuses and during academic board elections indicates a positive sign of student participation and interest in the election process. She informed the council members that a mechanism to allow for increased usage of postal votes is being actively considered.

It was moved

TO ACCEPT THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

COUNCIL 111/88

CARRIED

Disabilities Officer Alicia Steele gave a verbal report on the Disabilities Officers Report :

Alicia Steele spoke to the council on the difficulties encountered by the disabilities Officers in getting the issues affecting disability students be taken under consideration and with the importance it deserves, by the Academic board. She further spoke on the frequent changes that went into the scheduling of the presentation by the disabilities officer at the academic board meeting, which unfortunately means that it will be sometime next year, and it has already been pending since the initial timeline of 2021. On a positive note, she informed the council that the draft of the Disabilities collective's survey report is ready in its draft form.

e) Matters Arising from Reports of Elected Officers

None

f) Question Time

Secretary Cara Rowe queried for the names of students who signed up for the volunteer program for SES and got affirmation from Ben Myatt and Austin Schmidt

g) Reports of Union Bodies

Nil.

h) Business which has been proposed

PACE Officer Regulations :

Secretary Cara Rowe queried the council on seeking approval for the regulations changes required for the election of PACE Officer . she informed the council that the regulation changes are contingent on the referendum being passed which seemed likely at the time of the meeting.

In response to a query from the Chair, the Secretary clarified that the position starts from 2023.

The members of the council discussed on the appropriate time for the position to start functioning and agreed that the decision can be considered by the council after the referendum results are called.

It was moved

THAT THE PACE OFFICER REGULATIONS BE TABLED TILL THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING AFTER THE REFERENDUM RESULTS ARE CALLED AND THAT THE NEXT COUNCIL VOTE ON THE OFFICER ROLE

COUNCIL 111/89

SCMIDT/THOMSON

CARRIED

Red Room Policy - last day of Voting Week

Rowan Evans spoke on the motion to the council regarding the Red Room policy which resulted in students wearing campaign t-shirts being denied entry into the Red Room, on the last day of the elections after the voting has closed. The council members agreed in unison that it is not a good policy and expressed sentiments expressing the same.

It was moved

THAT THE RED ROOM POLICY OF, DENYING ENTRY TO STUDENTS WEARING CAMPAIGN SHIRTS AND/OR ASKING THEM TO WEAR THEIR SHIRTS INSIDE OUT TO BE ALLOWED ENTRY, ON THE LAST DAY OF ELECTIONS AFTER THE VOTING HAS CLOSED, BE STRUCK OUT

COUNCIL 111/90

EVANS/ROWE

CARRIED

Adding Interruption Presidential Debate to Prohibited Conduct :

Secretary Cara Rowe informed the members of the council that the interruption to presidential debates falling under prohibited conduct was discussed at the rules committee meeting, but it was unfortunately inquorate. Rowan Evans explained to the council on the authority of RO to exercise powers to discipline any such situation during presidential debates.

Matthew Pereira mentioned that it is about the appropriate timing as question time already allows for any questions to be had or answered.

Alex Smock disagreed with the proposal saying that defining what qualifies as disruption is ambiguous and not easy to decide.

Matthew Burgin suggested that it is up to the interpretation of the Returning Officer the moderator of the debate can make a recommendation to the RO on what it's the disruptive behaviour noticed/seen.

Ben Myatt mentioned that the premise is important, but enforcement is vague and open to lot of unintended consequences. Diana disagreed saying that enforcement is not vague and security personnel are present to enforce it. Ben Myatt further mentioned that disruption will not automatically mean ejection from the room thereby not achieving the purported intention of the motion in his opinion.

Changes to Election Voucher Regulations

The chair explained to the council that 5-dollar vouchers are usually given to the students who vote during the UQU Elections but considering the rise in inflation and increasing prices, it is not worth giving at the same amount anymore. The Chair further mentioned that the general opinion is to give 10-dollar vouchers, the Union can afford to do that and the increase in value of vouchers would go towards ensuring increased voter participation.

Asha Coles disagreed saying that the union should undertake more advocacy and campaigning for the students rather than spending money on vouchers or food and drinks, as that will further depoliticise the elections and getting students to vote based on free food is a bad idea.

Secretary Cara Rowe spoke in favour of the motion and clarified to the members of the Student Action that while she agrees with the sentiment

expressed by them, having a Union Voucher will not depoliticise the union as such. She highlighted to the members of the council, the regulations I7.1 which state the voucher is redeemable at any Union outlet, which causes issues at Satellite Campuses. She mentioned that it would be appropriate to strike the redeemable at any Union outlet part and simply change five dollars to ten dollars.

The motion is tabled for the next meeting

Moving Election Dates Forward

Secretary Cara Rowe spoke to the council on the idea of forwarding the election dates by two weeks as it gives time to redesign the ballot paper and it also means the postal ballots can be sorted in time.

Ben Myatt clarified to the members of the council that the campaign week and election week timespan will still be the same and only the nomination timeline that will be moved forward.

Alicia Steele mentioned that the proposal makes sense but also wishes to see greater advertisement regarding the election process and nominations.

Various members expressed the sentiments that anything that involves participation in the election process requires greater care and consultation and this needs further elaborate discussions.

General Business :

UQU stands in solidarity with the popular uprisings against the Iranian Regime

Asha Coles and Ti Parker spoke on the recent murder of a 22-year-old Kurdish woman, Mahsa Amini, in Iran, which led to a popular growing revolt from the people demanding their rights and freedom for women. These protests are inspiring thousands of people, and the student unions should take inspiration from the students who are playing a major role in the current protests in Iran. They further mentioned on how this is an example of the powerful role student bodies can play and student bodies across the world should express solidarity.

They further opined that the union should voice its solidarity with the Iranian people and support the massive rallies that are being held in solidarity with them.

It was moved

THAT THE UQ UNION VOICES ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE
NATIONWIDE PROTESTS IN IRAN AND STANDS WITH THE
STUDENTS DEMANDING THE FALL OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC AND
FOR AN END TO THE OPPRESSION OF THE WOMEN AND WORKERS
IN IRAN

COUNCIL 111/91

COLES/PARKER

CARRIED

ACTION: UQU shares future Brisbane solidarity protests on Facebook and encourages their members to attend

Justice for Cassius Turvey

Will Sim and Asha Coles spoke on the horrific murder of Cassius Turvey, a 15-year-old teenage boy murdered in a racist lynching and aggrieved at the terrifying nature of the crime and its impact. They spoke on cynical response of the state which reflects the neglect of the government towards justice for black people and urged the council to oppose the racist scaremongering whipped up by various political parties. Asha Coles mentioned that there have been 500 deaths of black people since the royal commission, and it is the state indeed that generates this kind of racism. She highlighted the amount of police budget in Queensland and how indigenous population are incarcerated in disproportionate numbers despite making only 6 % of the population. She opined that the police need to be defunded and protest the youth detention centres in Cairns

President Emily Searle mentioned that it is an important issue that needs to be informed and advertised better and the Union will include everyone in the process.

Alex Smock expressed his disappointment at the treatment of indigenous and aboriginal people in Australia, stressed on the importance of a student Union expressing solidarity and supported the motion.

Parker mentioned that that every election cycle has seen a tough posturing on crime by political parties and governments and highlighted the need to talk about the government positions on such and also that defunding and eventually abolishing the police forces is the right move.

It was moved

THAT

- A) THE UQU CONDEMNS THE HORRIFIC RACIST LYNCHING OF CASSIUS TURVEY
- B) UQU OPPOSES THE RACIST SCAREMONGERING ABOUT THE ABOIRIGINAL YOUTH CRIME WHIPPED UP BY THE LIBERALS AND LABOUR GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING IN QUEENSLAND AND ARE IN SUPPORT OF DEFUNDING THE RACIST INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE POLICE AND PRISONS
- C) UQU STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGNEOUS ACTIVISTS AND COMMUNITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY AS THEY DEMAND JUSTICE AND MOBILIZE NATIONWIDE DEMONSTRATION FOR CASSIUS ON THE 2ND OF NOVEMBER
- D) UQU ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO ATTEND THE BRISBANE WING OF THE PROTEST MOVEMENT AT A VIGIL AT 6PM ON 2ND OF NOVEMBER IN KING GEORGE SQUARE

COUNCIL 111/92

SIM/COLES

CARRIED

ACTION : UQU will share the event on Facebook and will encourage the members to attend on social media.

Labour's budget isn't working for the Students

Kore Opie spoke on the proposed motion mentioning how the recent budget by the labour government is hurting people across the board and urged the Union to fight for student rights rather than just offering services to the students and to advocate for students including rental caps.

Various council members expressed sentiments endorsing the motion

It is noted in the minutes that Diana Elizabeth Aswon has admitted on the floor of the council to being a registered member of Liberal National party.

It was moved

THAT THE UQU CONDEMNS LABOUR'S NEW BUDGET FOR IT'S TOTAL LACK OF ACTION IN ADDRESSING STUDENT POVERTY AND DEMANDS THAT THE LABOUR PUTS AN END TO TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH AND USE THAT MONEY TO

ADDRESS THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS INCLUDING RISE IN WELFARE,CUTTING THE COSTS OF FUEL AND PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO EVERYONE

COUNCIL 111/93

KANE/OPIE

CARRIED

UQU condemns COP27 and endorses the global protests against the conference

Kore Opie spoke on the motion questioning the intent or purpose of the conference with no tangible actions so far and that the student union should take a stand on this and call out the sham campaign for what it is.

Ella Gutteridge spoke on the irony of a climate criminal nation like Australia being invited to such conferences and while such conferences have been held for decades promising little and there is recently a series of countries have announced reopening the coal mines and exploration of oil wells among other things and urged the council to endorse the protest and also encourage the members to attend.

TJ mentioned that COP27 is a COP too many but that any forum that helps amplify the voices for climate change action is important and expressed support in principle for the motion.

There was a procedural motion that the motion be put

It was moved

THAT THE UQU CONDEMNS COP27 AS A GREENWASHING SCHEME AND ENDORSES THE GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION PROTESTING THE CONFERENCE

COUNCIL 111/94

OPIE/GUTTERIDGE

CARRIED

ACTION : UQU will promote the protest against COP27 on the November 5th and share the event on social media.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM