

# UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the  
112<sup>th</sup> UQ Union Council, 2023

5:30 PM

Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Holt Room**

**UQ Union Complex, St. Lucia**

**Chair: Alex Smock**

## a) Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:54 PM and acknowledged the traditional owners and custodians of the land, paying respect to their elders' past, present, and emerging, and extended the respects to the aboriginal and Torres strait islander people present at the meeting.

## b) Credentials:

**The following were present**

### **Councillors**

Jacinto Hedus  
Schenalle Jiang  
Claire Sturm  
Timothy Hirsch  
Max Thompson  
Lily Cooke  
Karsten Duvel  
Emma Goodwin  
Matthew George Pereira  
Lily Cooke  
Skye Stewart  
Claire Sturm

### **Student Executives and Officers**

Richard Lee  
Greta Simpson  
Joshua Marsh  
TJ Reupena  
Daniel Chancellor  
Laura Nolan  
Ella Gutteridge  
Jordy Duffy  
Brinda Gunashanhar  
Prabasha Thilakaratne  
Saumya Jain  
Jeryn Chang  
Erin Blyth  
Ryley Calvert  
TJ Polataivao- Reupena  
Angus McRae  
Ella Gutteridge  
Laura Nolan

### **Observers**

Michael Walker  
Benjamin Myatt  
Will Sim  
Jeanette  
Ryan McDonald  
Zore Chen  
Prachi  
Sam Adams

**The following proxies were received:**

Utkrist Paudyal to Sam Adams

Abraham Sunil to Prachi

Carmi More to Dan

Toby Abrahamson to Benjamin Myatt

Max Thompson to Jacinto Hedus

Oscar Green to Ryan Macdonald

Lily Cooke to Jeanette

**c) Elections:**

*None*

**d) Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and approved.

*It was moved*

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 8<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 112<sup>TH</sup> UQ UNION COUNCIL HELD ON 2023 BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 112/95

HEDUS/STURM

CARRIED

**e) Business arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting**

Matthew Pereira queried the treasurer on whether the profits from Atlas ball were remitted to the International Collective. Treasurer Joshua Marsh replied that the profits were remitted to respective clubs and the Union in proportion to the amounts invested towards the ball expenditures. He further informed the council that the financial details regarding the same will be shared at the next council meeting.

In response to the query regarding the goorie officers, the secretary informed the council that the information has been relayed to the returning officer.

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

*Matthew Pereira starred the Environmental officers report and Claire Sturm starred the treasurer's report*

*It was moved*

TO ACCEPT ALL REPORTS EN BLOC

COUNCIL 112/96

HEDUS/STURM

CARRIED

Matthew Pereira queried on the work done by the environmental collective in the recent past. Laura Nolan replied that the collective has been actively preparing the students on various environmental and student activism related events and plans.

Claire Sturm queried the treasurer on the significant underspend in the Queer collective and Colleges portfolios. Treasurer Joshua Marsh replied that the Queer collective budget would accurately reflect the spending after the upcoming Pride ball and that the Colleges budget has not been utilized as intended by the Union due to difficulty in engaging with the college officers for the year. He further mentioned that a grant has been sent to ICC instead to ensure the colleges budget allocated in the Union budget, are spent appropriately towards the colleges.

*It was moved*

TO ACCEPT THE STARRED REPORTS

COUNCIL 112/97

CARRIED

VP Campus Culture TJ gave an oral report in Samoan language, starting by paying respects to the traditional owners of the land, and informed the Council on the various events and activities taken up under the C&S portfolio. He thanked the members of the C&S committee for their significant contributions to the committee this year.

**g) Matters Arising from Reports of Elected Officers**

*None*

**h) Question Time**

Matthew Pereira queried the secretary on the absence of the agenda item related to LNS, from the circulated agenda and the Secretary replied that there was

confusion regarding the substance of the motion but that it can be considered as included in the agenda for the meeting.

In response to the query from Matthew Pereira regarding the goorie ball, The treasurer Joshua Marsh replied that even though the ball isn't going ahead as planned, the Union is working actively in co-ordination with ATSYS on holding an event and the money otherwise allocated by the Union for the venue of the ball will be utilised for this and that ATSYS would also contribute towards the same.

The Chair informed the council that the council proceedings will now be filmed for the Union documentary filming purposes.

*Secretary Greta Simpson left the meeting at 6:18 PM*

**i) Reports of Union Bodies**

*Nil.*

**j) Business which has been proposed**

**Incorporation:**

Treasurer Joshua Marsh spoke to the council on the proposed incorporation of the Union to be discussed by the council and that the lawyer John Payne from the firm Hall Payne who has been advising the Union in this proposal, will be speaking to the council upon which the Council can take an informed decision during the voting on the motion related to the incorporation of the Union.

John Payne informed the members of the council that as a governance lawyer who worked for various national and state level organizations in a very broad and diverging practice, and having involved with the attempts to incorporate the Union previously, he is better placed and has drafted the proposal keeping the student led voice and decision making process of the Union in mind.

He further mentioned that the goal has been to keep the process as simple as possible with minimal changes, ensure protection from liability, ensure continuance of existing structures of the Union. He also explained on the various benefits of the incorporation process for the Union and requested the members to carefully consider the proposal on a positive note keeping the future of the Union in mind.

In response to a query from Ryan, John Payne clarified that paying of SSAF by students would not automatically qualify them as members of the Union in an incorporated setup.

Matthew George Pereira queried on the actions possible when the officer bearers act against the interests of the Union and/or students and Joshua Marsh replied that financial penalties are higher for bad behaviour.

In response to a query from Logan Bean on the actual relationship of the members to the Union, John Payne replied that anyone who engages with the Union will be a member and it will be ascertained as such in the regulations changes if the referendum passes.

Treasurer Joshua Marsh read out the referendum question regarding the incorporation of the Union and requested the members of the council to make an informed decision and vote on the same.

*It was moved*

That the unincorporated association, the University of Queensland Union, incorporate using its current structures to:

- become a continuing legal entity which does not alter as its office bearers alter;
- provide for greater, more transparent, oversight;
- provide easier access to insurance for both it and its affiliated organisations (clubs and societies);
- own property in its own name; and
- protect its officers and student members from liability.

Council 112/98

MARSH/HEDUS

CARRIED

## **UQ LNS APPEAL**

Ryan McDonald spoke to the council about the recent decision of the C&S committee to approve the IGM held by the UQ LNC, and that the C&S committee should ask the UQ LNC to reconduct their IGM as it was not held during the academic days as defined by the Union constitution and that it cannot be interpreted differently.

VP Campus Culture TJ explained that as mentioned at the C&S committee meeting, the Union represents both undergraduate and postgraduate students, and the day on which UQ LNC had their IGM, it would count as an academic day as medical students also fall under the umbrella of the union as well as wider student body of UQ, and that it was under the same understanding the AGM was deemed valid.

Matthew Pereira mentioned that clarification can be ascertained from the UQ academic calendar, and the medical officers clarified that medical students do have an academic calendar split into Semester 1 and Semester 2.

VP Campus Culture TJ further replied that the UQ LNC club followed all the requisite procedures required of a club wanting to affiliate with the Union and requested the members not to judge the club based on differing timelines or definition of academic days.

Members of the Council opined that the definition of academic days should be interpreted under the Union constitution to avoid such instances and to ensure it is inclusive of all students across various cohorts.

Sam Adams mentioned that the subject of Academic days is not a matter of the definition of constitution but rather the interpretation of the constitution which can be put to a Council vote and that the interpretation of the constitution should be in a way that is appropriate and representative of all members. He further highlighted that if there are any issues with such an interpretation, future council and members can rectify that.

Claire Sturm mentioned that the idea is for the Union and its constitution to reflect and be inclusive of all students.

Ryan McDonald mentioned that it sets a dangerous precedent for the Union and that the proposed interpretation is being done with a particular narrative and intention in mind and that construing differently for events that happened in the past is wrong.

*It was moved*

THAT THE UQU COUNCIL INTERPRETS THE MENTION OF ACADEMIC DAYS IN THE UQU CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS AS TO INCLUDE POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS AND THAT THIS REFLECTS OUR MEMBERSHIP AND IS MORE APPROPRIATE



Karsten Duvel For  
Toby Abrahamson proxy Abstain  
Lily Cooke For  
Kore Opie proxy Abstain  
Max Thompson Against  
Oscar Green proxy For  
Abraham Sunil proxy Against  
Skye Stewart proxy For  
Alex Mcdowall Abstain  
Rehan Gulati proxy Against  
Emma Goodwin Against  
Utkrist Paudyal proxy Against  
Matthew George Pereira For  
Carmi More proxy Abstain

**Business Proposed :**

The standing orders were suspended to move en bloc all the proposed referendum questions except for those removed, i.e. renaming of PACE to DUTTON PARK and the members noted them as read and understood as shared with the Council.

Michael Walker mentioned that these are rightly needed changes and urged the council to endorse the proposed motions.

In response to a query from Matthew George Pereira, it was clarified that the change from disabilities officer to disability officer is a change pertaining only to the application and not for the position. Benjamin Myatt highlighted the fact that the nominations for the disability officer role have already been called for and received, and this change will only come into effect at the next year elections.

*It was moved*

**THAT THE UQU COUNCIL APPROVE THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM QUESTIONS RELATED TO**

- Amending Mentions of “disabilities” to “disability”
- Recognising the Disability officers
- C&S Committee- Changes to Regulations

- Amending R5.4 re Executive Committee
- Entitlements for Gatton Board Member
- Replacing Turbot with Herston in Union Regulations
- Advisory Board Responsibilities
- Amending Regulations pertaining to the Advisory Board

COUNCIL 112/102                      WALKER/MARSH    CARRIED

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- Mint My Desk

Will Sim spoke to the council on the proposed motion, and explained on the proposed strike in support of the workers of Mint my Desk who are horribly exploited and underpaid by the company devoid of any rights and benefits that are legally guaranteed to them. He further mentioned that the fair works commission should be condemned for their slow pace in taking action towards issues that affect workers' rights.

Asha Coles spoke to the council mentioning that it has been inspiring to see the support and fight in support of the workers of mintmydesk, and despite the non-responsive attitude of fair works commission for over an year, the workers stood their ground and fought through which has resulted in the reinstatement of the workers by the company.

Sam Adams mentioned that it is a fantastic work that has been done, through the series of actions and strikes signifying the power to institute change for good is in the hands of the people themselves and not fair works commission.

Claire Sturm mentioned that reports on the implementation of laws in industries where they ought to protect the workers and worker rights has not translated in the way the laws intend to, and these actions and strikes are a welcome move.

*It was moved*

**THAT THE UQU SUPPORTS THE MINTMYDESK WORKERS**

COUNCIL 112/ 103                      SIM/COLES                                      CARRIED

*There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9:05 PM*