

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 3rd Extraordinary Meeting of the
107th UQ Union Council, 2018

6:00PM

Tuesday 05/09/2018

UQ Union Boardroom

Level 4, Union building (Bld. 21A), St. Lucia Campus

Chair: Matthew Diamond

The meeting opened at 6.02pm

a) Welcome by Union Chairperson

b) Credentials

The following members were present:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| • Aaron Barker-Smith | • Nicholas Comino | • Matthew Diamond |
| • Rowan Evans | • Coen Harnischfeger | • Duncan Hart |
| • Paige Howard | • Nathan Kerr | • Benjamin Kozij |
| • Kelsie McArthur | • Georgia Millroy | • Samuel Ngugi |
| • Adelaide Power | • Ethan Van Roo | • Gloria Woods |

The Following Members were absent:

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| • Nerissa Aitken | • Rebecca Bennett | • Lachlan Bon |
| • Connor Haddad | • Jimmy Jin | • Elif Kaya |
| • Samuel Kiernan | • Kulkarawa Kukoyi | • Brandon Lo |
| • Jeremy Lwin | • Lianne Mellin | • Keira Murray |
| • Lulu Nkwazi | • Samuel Pulsford | • Matthew Qiu |
| • Jackson Rees | • Zach Schafferius | • Emma Shayler |
| • Zil Silvester | • Paul Taylor | • Kevin Tian |
| • Kenny Tran | • Lili Wackwitz | • Olivia Winchester |

- Michelle Zhang

Apologies were received from the following members:

- Brandon Lo
- Jeremy Lwin
- Kiera Murray

The following proxies were received:

- Olivia Winchester to Georgia Millroy
- Emma Shayler to Aaron Barker-Smith
- Zil Silvester to Duncan Hart
- Nerissa Aitken to Ethan Van Roo

The following others were present:

- Ambrose Boylan
- Phoenix Campbell
- Thomas Campbell
- Jean Cotterell
- Mitch Dougall
- Jordan Duffey
- Brodie Fennell
- Wilson Gavin
- Eloise Martin
- Aimee Van Gulik
- Aaron Vass

It was moved

THAT THE NOTED APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED AND LEAVE BE GRANTED TO ALL APPLICANTS

COUNCIL 107/214

DIAMOND/WOODS

CARRIED

c) Elections

Nil

d) The Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and no amendments were suggested.

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 7th ORDINARY MEETING BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 107/215

DIAMOND/WOODS

CARRIED

e) Business Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

The chair starred the Union Treasurer's report for discussion.

g) References

Nil

h) Reports of the Elected Officers

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer noted that he had only received the business trading numbers the day prior to the Council meeting. While the figures were sent out with the business pack, accompanying commentary is yet to be written. Council were advised that the complete review budget will be ready for the next meeting.

The Treasurer gave a general overview of the business trading figures to Council. It was noted that the businesses have not done as well as expected. Despite this, they are still expected to make a consolidated net surplus by the end of the year. The budgeted amount was a surplus of \$740k. In reality, this will amount to around \$211k. It was explained that, while this is a very large variance, the Union are still on track to beat last year's figures.

The chair asked for clarification on the budget variance. The Treasurer identified a number of reasons for the discrepancy. Firstly, Pizza Caffè underperformed and this was attributed to the sale of smaller size pizzas and the decision to end pasta sales, as pasta proved to be labour-intensive and not sufficiently profitable for the time involved. Secondly, the businesses went through a period of instability in the middle of semester one when the former Head of Food Services resigned. The Grab 'n' Go and kitchen production systems he had implemented were dropped after his resignation. The combination of these changes have meant the aggressive budget target was ultimately unachievable. On the plus side, sales of the membership card have been very positive and this has increased the marketing budget. Schonell functions will have a \$70k positive variance and the Schonell Theatre will make money for the first time in recent history.

The chair queried who stepped into the role of Head of Food Services. The Treasurer advised that, after the Food Services Manager resigned, an existing staff member stepped in as General Operations Manager to oversee all business operations and this has been working well.

Councillor Hart queried how many My UQU Rewards cards have been sold in total. The Treasurer took the question on notice.

Aaron Vass queried the current cash position of the Union. The Treasurer advised that this is \$1.685m, with another 1m in a fixed-term deposit. It was noted that this is the first year since Reform were elected that the Union will run a net surplus overall.

The Treasurer's report was tabled until the full review budget has been provided.

THAT THE UNION TREASURER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED
COUNCIL 107/216 DIAMOND/WOODS TABLED

i) Matters Arising from the Reports of the Elected Officers

Nil

j) Question Time

Academic Teams Funding Board

Aaron Vass queried the amount of funding allocated to the Academic Teams Funding Board. In response, the Treasurer explained that the budgeted amount for the board was \$35k and the amount the board has allotted so far is \$19k. The \$19k was approved for UQDS. It was noted that those in the Academic Teams Funding Board were under the impression that the budget was over \$135k after a grant application of \$110k was submitted to the University. This did not eventuate and, as a result, they were misinformed. Subsequently, the board granted the funding on the basis that the funding pool was much larger. By the time this misunderstanding had been corrected, UQDS had already spent the funding. It was explained that UQDS will now be undergoing an internal means testing process to assess the financial needs of the students involved, though it is likely the Union will end up paying the full \$19k.

Clarification was sought on the equity process. Queer Officer, Nicholas Comino, explained that, if there is a person in need, the club will allocate discretionary funding to that person so they are able to attend an event.

It was queried why UQDS were chosen as the recipients of the funding. The Treasurer noted that they were the only ones to submit an application. Details of the application process was requested. It was explained that, while the application process was publically advertised, it is possible that students were advantaged through their personal connections with those on the board. However, the Secretary noted that members of the board ranged from a number of clubs and societies including UQLS, UNSA and UQDS and people were encouraged to spread the word outside of their immediate networks. It was noted that one of the resolutions following the incident was that a much larger effort would go in to spreading the word in the future.

Zach Thomas entered the meeting at 6.14pm.

Promotions

Aaron Vass queried how much the Union has spent thus far on promotions, including the amount spent on staff to promote the My UQU Rewards Card and UQU events, as opposed to hiring volunteers. The Treasurer took the question on notice.

The Treasurer pointed out that the sales of the rewards card operate like sales at any other outlet and forms part of the Union's regular business trading. It was explained that, for student services events such as the Great Court Party, student volunteers will have been utilised. Campus Culture VP, Paige Howard, confirmed this to be the case. However, rewards cards sales fall under business trading and would be coordinated by Union staff.

The chair noted that the amount of man hours spent selling rewards cards would be significantly higher than selling tickets for parties and it would therefore be unlikely that volunteers would be willing to dedicate this amount of time for free.

Great Court Party & Snow Party

Student, Tom Campbell, queried the attendance to, and profit or loss, of the Great Court Party and Snow Party. The Treasurer responded that the Great Court Party and the Snow Party were both funded in part by UQ. The Great Court Party received \$110k and the Snow Party received

\$90k from UQ. It was noted that originally the Union had budgeted \$40k for the Snow Party and the additional funding had allowed them to expand their plans and make the event bigger. However, the Union Secretary explained that part of the funding agreement was the condition that the Snow Party event would be free for all students and the Union broke even overall.

It was raised that the profits from the Great Court Party are harder to establish as some of the money for tickets came from rewards card sales. The Treasurer advised that he would take this question on notice to ascertain the exact figures.

Clarification was sought on the grants received from UQ. The Treasurer advised that both of the grants were received from the UQ Welcome and Induction Committee.

Campus Culture VP, Paige Howard, stated that attendance for the Great Court Party was approximately 4,500, while the Snow Party sold out with a rolling crowd of 3,500. However, attendance figures for the Snow Party are more difficult to quantify as the event was free and therefore the incentive to attend was lower. It was explained that 4000 registered overall, though people were turning up that hadn't registered and students were coming and going for the duration.

Education Vice-President

Aaron Vass queried the number of campaigns the Education VP has run this year. The Union Secretary advised that he has been assisting with the development of the Academic Advocacy network and has also been dealing with academic disputes relating to assessment.

Councillor Hart queried whether it is the case that the Union Secretary has undertaken most of the work this year that would typically fall under the remit of the Education VP. The Union Secretary responded that she has in fact received a lot of assistance.

It was questioned whether academic disputes fall under the remit of SHOC. The Union Secretary responded that the student executive assist students with all kinds of issues whenever they are able. Zach Thomas clarified that if a student has an individual grievance, they can contact SHOC. If it is a broader issue, for example medical students had concerns about the way in which their courses were structured, this is not an issue you could bring to a SHOC advisor. For these broader issues, student representatives are able to discuss and advocate for students in the committees they sit on.

Councillor Hart queried how many days of the week the Education VP, Zach Schafferius, is in the office. The Union Secretary responded that he hosts Kampus Kitchen every Wednesday.

Councillor Hart queried whether payments have stopped to the Women's Officer as she has not attended enough hours in the office. The Secretary confirmed that, as with all VPs, it was agreed that they would be paid for the hours that they work, up to the specified amount. When the officers work the required hours, they are remunerated.

Councillor Hart asked for the specific working hours of the Women's Officer this semester. Semper editor, Rowan Evans, noted that Council would have to go in-camera to discuss. Councillor Millroy raised that there may be extenuating circumstances that have impacted on the Women's Officer's ability to come into work this semester and cautioned against the line of questioning.

eSports Financials

Aaron Vass queried whether the university has contributed any funding to the eSports gaming room. Zach Thomas explained that the university are considering a grant application for funding upwards of \$500k. The Managing Director of ESL in the Asia Pacific recently came to campus to assist with the pitch, as did student services. The DVCA has also expressed an interest in providing a grant for a high school program that could include additional staff members for the Union. However, as of yet, the Union has received no grant funding from UQ.

Council queried how much has been spent on the eSports room by the Union overall. The Treasurer stated that this amounts to around \$40k so far. A sponsorship agreement with ASUS and partnership with ESL is in place that assisted in the set-up of the room, and the team are looking into additional partnerships with Sennheiser and Red Bull. The eSports room is expected to generate around \$80k of profit for the Union. It was noted that this will mean it is one of the few student services that helps subsidise and fund other student services. It was noted that the forecast is not based on confirming the additional sponsors and any future sponsorship agreements would be in addition to this forecasted amount.

Environment Budget

Councillor Hart queried how much of the Environment Officer's budget had been spent. The Treasurer noted that the Environment Collective have just held the Thrift Ball so, while the collective has underspent, it is not by a significant amount. The question was taken on notice in order to provide exact figures.

Rowan Evans left the meeting at 6.36pm and immediately went to the Red Room.

k) Reports of Union Bodies

l) Appeals

Nil

m) Executive Business

Nil

n) General Business

Nil

o) Notice of Business Proposed

Labor Left O-Week Party

Queer Officer, Nicholas Comino, spoke for his motion. He raised that Union Council had reached their 3rd extraordinary meeting and only now are the Labor Left attending and showing an interest. He noted that the student executive answered all questions honestly and openly, unlike in previous years when former executives have lied and been evasive. He stated that Council should be condemning the club for their lack of effort in organising O-Week parties, to disastrous effect. He urged Council to vote the motion up if they are in favour of quality and successful events.

Procedural motion that the motion be put

CARRIED

Recorded Vote:

HASS Councillor: Ethan Van Roo	<i>In Favour</i>
HASS Councillor: Olivia Winchester Proxied to Georgia Millroy	<i>In Favour</i>

HASS Councillor: Duncan Hart	<i>Against</i>
BEL Councillor: Georgia Millroy	<i>In Favour</i>
BEL Councillor: Benjamin Kozij	<i>In Favour</i>
BEL Councillor: Zil Silvester Proxied to Duncan Hart	<i>Against</i>
EAIT Councillor: Coen Harnischfeger	<i>In Favour</i>
EAIT Councillor: Aaron Barker Smith	<i>In Favour</i>
HLBS Councillor: Emma Shayler Proxied to Aaron Barker-Smith	<i>In Favour</i>
Science Councillor: Nerissa Aitken Proxied to Ethan Van Roo	<i>In Favour</i>
Science Councillor: Gloria Woods	<i>Against</i>
Science Councillor: Adelaide Power	<i>Against</i>

It was moved

THAT THE UNION CONDEMN LABOR LEFT CLUB FOR LECTURING ANYONE ON A SUCCESSFUL O-WEEK PARTY

COUNCIL 107/217

COMINO/THE SEMPER EDITORS

CARRIED

Amendments to Regulations

Chair of the Rules Committee, Zachary Thomas, noted that the proposed motions have all been considered by the committee in depth for months. However, Council were advised that, if they did not wish to consider the motions before the next election period, they are not required to do so.

Councillor Hart raised that there have been no in-depth discussions on the changes. In response, the councillor was advised that the proposal had been copied verbatim from a Google doc that had been sent to the councillor for consideration and he has had over a month to read and comment on the document.

It was noted that, while the electoral rules can be passed this year, they will not come into effect this electoral period. The only motion that was described as time urgent is the first motion on the Board of Directors and Council were advised that a significant amount of consultative input has been provided on this.

Councillor Hart raised that, relevant to the first motion, R34.8 should read as follows:

REPLACE

‘Union Council has the ability to dissolve the full and entire membership of the Board by a unanimous special resolution with no present voting abstentions, and act as a Board until the new board is appointed’

WITH

‘Union Council has the ability to dissolve the full and entire membership of the Board by a 75% special resolution with no present voting abstentions, and act as a Board until the new board is appointed’

The mover was amenable to the amendment.

Procedural motion to wave standing orders in order to vote on the proposed regulatory amendment

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE BE REPEALED AND REFORMED AS THE UQ UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO BRING US IN LINE WITH INCORPORATION REQUIREMENTS.

CURRENTLY ELECTED ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPS WILL COMPLETE THEIR TERM AS MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

COUNCIL 107/218

LWIN/MILLROY

CARRIED

It was suggested that the second motion, on changes to the elected officer positions, be tabled for discussion at a later date as it is a large document to review at short notice.

It was moved

THAT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES BE MADE TO THE ELECTED OFFICER POSITIONS, CONTINGENT ON THE REFERENDUM QUESTION RELATING TO VPS POSITIONS BE PASSED, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

COUNCIL 107/219

THOMAS/LWIN

TABLED

It was noted that the changes to councillor elections from faculty to general was passed by referendum last year. While this was passed in the constitution, the electoral rules are currently in conflict with the constitution. Therefore, it was explained that this motion is to bring the electoral rules in line with the constitution.

It was moved

THAT THE ELECTORAL RULES BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH THE REFERENDUM PASSED LAST YEAR EXPANDING COUNCIL AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS RAISED BY THE NEW RETURNING OFFICER

COUNCIL 107/220

THOMAS/MILLROY

CARRIED

Amendments to Constitution

Council considered the three referendum questions.

Kelsie McArthur left the meeting at 6.46pm.

Question 1:

Councillor Hart noted that the constitution available online has no quorum requirement for a general meeting. This appears to have been an error made in the process of amending the constitution after the referendum last year. If the proposed change goes through and the constitution can be amended through a general meeting, there needs to be a specified quorum requirement. In response, student Zachary Thomas explained that he had checked the question uploaded to the Union noticeboard, and this stated that the quorum requirement would be changed, not abolished. This was the question that was published on ballot papers and posted in the windows of outlets, and should therefore be the one that counts.

The councillor was advised that this would be reviewed and the necessary amendments made.

Kelsie McArthur entered the meeting at 6.50pm.

Procedural motion to wave standing orders

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THE FOLLOWING QUESTION BE CONSIDERED BY REFERENDA:

‘QUESTION 1: SHOULD THE CONSTITUTION, EXCLUDING C54, BE ALTERABLE BY BOTH REFERENDA AND GENERAL MEETING OF THE STUDENT BODY?’

COUNCIL 107/221

MCARTHUR/THOMAS

CARRIED

Question 2:

Councillor Hart asked for an explanation on the elected officer changes. The Union Secretary explained that the new positions would ensure that there is greater role direction. Cultural norms have developed around the positions and these changes will make the roles and responsibilities much clearer.

Councillor Hart advised Council that the changes had been put forward after discussions with the university and UQ will be providing the additional funding required.

Queer Officer, Nicholas Comino, spoke in favour of the motion. He explained that during the Queer Collaborations conference held at UQ, a motion was passed to reaffirm the autonomy of collectives. The proposed changes to the diversity and welfare position will empower the collective as the officer will be autonomously elected. It was noted that, in the past, individuals have been installed into the collective one month out from the election and this does not help collectives with continuity. The Officer noted that he would not be in his position if this change had been implemented last year. However, he endorses the changes as sensible.

Aaron Vass queried whether there will be any requirements as part of the changes for the Diversity and Welfare Officer to identify with a particular subset of the student population, such as has been the case with the Women’s and Queer Officer positions. It was explained that the officer will be a member of the Welfare and Diversity Committee. As such, the officer must identify as either a female student, a queer student, an indigenous student, or a student with a disability.

Councillor Hart asked for confirmation that the elected officer changes will not be implemented until the following electoral period. It was explained that the role descriptions for the VPs are in

the rules, not in the constitution. The requirements for running and the names will remain the same for this election and the changes will be implemented in subsequent elections. However, in practice, the roles will be shifted immediately to begin implementing the changes.

Councillor Hart questioned why the university would value the proposed roles over the current positions. The Union Secretary explained that the changes give UQ more continuity and the lines of communication are clearer. It also aligns UQU more closely with Unions in the UK that have a closer relationship with their universities and subsequently have more of their programs funded.

Councillor Millroy noted that the current roles have not been updated in years and are broad, wide-ranging VP categories. As such, the changes will provide some clarity on the positions.

Aaron Vass asked for an explanation on the Campus Affairs position. Queer Officer, Nicholas Comino, noted that the Union often receives negative feedback from Gatton Board and other external campuses. The Campus Affairs role ensures that the Union is not only focused on the St. Lucia campus. The second component of the role is to ensure that miscellaneous projects not covered by other VP roles are fulfilled.

Aaron Vass asked for more details on the day to day responsibilities of the Campus Affairs officer. Zach Thomas noted that, as in the role descriptions, they will be regularly visiting external campuses, including Gatton, Herston and PACE, to ensure those campuses are well represented. They will also be overseeing new programs not assigned to other VPs, for example, the eSports room did not fall neatly under any specific portfolio and this would have been the responsibility of the Campus Affairs VP.

Councillor Hart expressed concern that the tone of the changes reflects a general shift in the Union away from advocacy towards positions that reflect UQ's requirements. For instance, the abolition of the Gender and Sexuality and Student Rights VPs to officers that are focused on creating a sticky campus. The councillor suggested that the new roles could end up binding people into bureaucratic positions and leave less room to advocate for students.

Councillor Millroy countered that the positions allow more room for advocacy as there will be a VP dedicated to working with all four collectives on a monthly basis. This provides a much more direct channel from the collectives to the elected officers.

Zach Thomas noted that the portfolio would have an additional eight hours of paid time. While there will be more dedicated roles not necessarily related to advocacy, advocacy opportunities have also been increased. Furthermore, it was raised that students now consider student services just as important as advocacy and it is important that the Union continues to deliver the services students are asking for.

Councillor Hart noted that, while he appreciates that there will be more pay for certain positions, the funding from UQ will mean UQU is tied to a particular form of student unionism as advocated by those on the right, rather than a more progressive vision.

In response, it was noted that the pay for the VPs currently comes from the profit of the Union outlets and other miscellaneous revenue. With UQ paying VP wages, revenue from outlets is freed up to feed back into any services or advocacy the elected officers wish to implement.

The Union Secretary noted that, regardless of the discussion at hand, the question will be put to the students who will be the ones making the decision.

Procedural motion that the motion be put

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THE FOLLOWING QUESTION BE CONSIDERED BY REFERENDA:

‘QUESTION 2: SHOULD THE ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE UNION BE CHANGED TO THE BELOW:

PRESIDENT, UNION SECRETARY, TREASURER, VICE-PRESIDENT (COMMUNITY), VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC), VICE-PRESIDENT (SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT), VICE-PRESIDENT (CLUBS AND SOCIETIES), VICE-PRESIDENT (DIVERSITY AND WELFARE), VICE-PRESIDENT (CAMPUS AFFAIRS), POSTGRADUATE OFFICER, TURBOT STREET OFFICER, MEDICAL STUDENTS OFFICER, GATTON CAMPUS OFFICER, COLLEGES OFFICER, AND UNION NEWSPAPER EDITOR (SEMPER FLOREAT)’

COUNCIL 107/222

MCARTHUR/THOMAS

CARRIED

Question 3:

Zach Thomas raised that another key change the university administration have been keen to implement is for elected students to take a sabbatical year to dedicate all of their time to their elected position. Currently, with the part-time roles split amongst two people, the VP position becomes secondary to other jobs and studies. It was noted that, in the UK, almost all of the Union student representatives have just graduated or have taken a year off their studies.

Aaron Barker-Smith left the meeting at 7.11pm.

Procedural motion that the motion be put

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THE FOLLOWING QUESTION BE CONSIDERED BY REFERENDA:

‘QUESTION 3: SHOULD PAID STUDENT UNION EXECUTIVES BE ABLE TO TAKE A ‘SABBATICAL’ YEAR, DEFERRING STUDIES FOR THE PERIOD OF THEIR TERM WHILST STILL REMAINING ELIGIBLE TO HOLD THEIR POSITIONS?’

COUNCIL 107/223

MCARTHUR/THOMAS

CARRIED

p) Any Other Business

Nil

The meeting was declared closed at 7.20pm