

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES

From the 3rd Ordinary Meeting of the
108th UQ Union Council, 2019

5:00PM

Monday 29/04/2019

Innes Room 2

Union Building (Bld. 21C), St. Lucia Campus

Chair: Kurt Tucker

The meeting was declared open at 5:05pm.

a) Welcome by Union Chairperson

b) Credentials

The following members were present:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| • Benjamin Kozij | • Ian Trinh | • Bradley Plant |
| • Alexander Asher | • Nicholas Rowan | • Priya De |
| • Jehiel Lomaz | • Kurt Tucker | • Campbell Ray |
| • Nellie Gordon | • Ambrose Boylan | • Sarah Doyle |
| • Connor Morin | • Rowan Evans | • Georgia Millroy |
| • Ethan Van Roo Douglas | • Nathan Kerr | • Kaiyin Wu |
| • Isabella Scattini | • Tom Landy | • Amy Sienkiewicz-Grob |
| • Swin Su | | |

The Following Members were absent:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| • Georgia Boon | • Lili Wackwitz | • Joseph Krebs |
| • Gustavo Pazo | • Coen Harnischfeger | • Jordan Duffey |
| • Lachlan Thomson | • Tom Campbell | • Moe Basir |
| • Chloe Ainscow | • Kate Andersson | • Sari Simawy |
| • Radin Manafi | • James Perkins | • Jesse Tong |
| • Ezra Taliv Mo | • Bethany McLeod | • Murrawah Johnson |

- Lucas Schober
- Georgia Baird
- Tiantian Zhao
- Bek Thornton
- Selene Cannelli
- Roxxanne MacDonald
- Emil Hansen
- Phillip Janowicz
- Finnian Sonter

Apologies were received from the following members:

Nil

The following proxies were received:

- Georgia Boon to Amy Sienkiewicz-Grob
- Coen Harnischfeger to Isabella Scattini
- Joseph Krebs to Bradley Plant
- Tom Campbell to Mitch Dougall
- Gustavo Pazo to Benjamin Kozij
- Jordan Duffey to Zainab Darbas
- Moe Basir to Zainab Darbas
- Lachlan Thomson to Mitch Dougall

The following others were present:

- Ash Zeller
- Selina Dowd
- Tierna Parker
- Alex Smock
- Elizabeth Flaherty
- Bradley Stone

Resignations:

- Tiantian Zhao
- Daniel Silva

The Union Secretary explained that Daniel Silva has resigned from the International Officer position. Consequently, Tiantian Zhao offered her resignation in order to elect the joint position in accordance with the regulations. Swin Su and Tiantian Zhao will be elected unopposed to the position later in the meeting.

c) Elections

- Election of interim Returning Officer

It was moved

THAT ETHAN VAN ROO DOUGLAS BE NOMINATED AS INTERIM RETURNING OFFICER FOR THE 3RD ORDINARY MEETING OF UNION COUNCIL

COUNCIL 108/63

SCATTINI/TRINH

CARRIED

- ii. Appointment to Casual Vacancy: International Students' Officer

The interim returning officer announced Tiantian Zhao and Swin Su elected unopposed to the position of International Officer.

- iii. Appointment to Casual Vacancy: Clubs and Societies Committee

The interim returning officer explained that the appointment for the vacant position on Clubs and Societies Committee would be dependent upon the regulatory amendment (R56.2) to be discussed later in the meeting, as the sole nominee would only become eligible if the amendment passes.

d) The Minutes from the Previous Meeting

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 2nd ORDINARY MEETING OF THE 108TH UNION COUNCIL BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 108/64

KOZIJ/TRINH

CARRIED

e) Business Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Nil

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

The Student Rights report was starred for discussion.

The Union Secretary's report was starred for discussion.

It was moved en bloc

THAT THE UNION PRESIDENT'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 108/65

VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT

CARRIED

THAT THE UNION TREASURER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 108/66	VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT	CARRIED
THAT THE REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT (GENDER & SEXUALITY) BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED		
COUNCIL 108/67	VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT	CARRIED
THAT THE REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT (CAMPUS CULTURE) BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED		
COUNCIL 108/68	VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT	CARRIED
THAT THE ABILITIES OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED		
COUNCIL 108/69	VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT	CARRIED
THAT THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED		
COUNCIL 108/70	VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT	CARRIED
THAT THE POSTGRADUATE OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED		
COUNCIL 108/71	VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT	CARRIED
THAT THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED		
COUNCIL 108/72	VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT	CARRIED
THAT THE GOORIE BERRIMPA OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED		
COUNCIL 108/73	VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT	CARRIED
THAT THE MEDICAL STUDENTS OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED		
COUNCIL 108/74	VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT	CARRIED
THAT THE TURBOT ST OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED		
COUNCIL 108/75	VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT	CARRIED
THAT THE GATTON OFFICER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED		

g) References*Nil***h) Reports of the Elected Officers**Union Secretary's Report

Mitch Dougall asked for confirmation that the entire cost of the referendum had been written off following negotiations with Computershare. The Union Secretary confirmed that all referendum-related costs have been written off. He explained that, while he is happy to provide further financial detail, this would have to be in camera as the information is commercial-in-confidence.

It was moved

THAT THE UNION SECRETARY'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 108/77

VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT

CARRIED

Student Rights Report

Mitch Dougall queried which employers had attended the UQU Work Rights Session. The Student Rights VP noted that a recruitment agency had attended, along with UQU staff from HR and the food and beverage team.

It was moved

THAT THE REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT (STUDENT RIGHTS) BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 108/78

VAN ROO DOUGLAS/PLANT

CARRIED

i) Matters Arising from the Reports of the Elected Officers*Nil*

j) Question Time

Nil

k) Reports of Union Bodies

Procedural motion to consider reports en bloc.

It was moved

THAT THE RULES COMMITTEE REPORTS BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED
COUNCIL 108/79 TRINH/SCATTINI CARRIED

THAT THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE REPORTS BE ACCEPTED AND
CONFIRMED
COUNCIL 108/80 TRINH/SCATTINI CARRIED

THAT THE GATTON BOARD REPORTS BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED
COUNCIL 108/81 TRINH/SCATTINI CARRIED

l) Appeals

Nil

m) Executive Business

The Chair noted that in order to vote on the proposed regulatory amendments, standing orders would need to be suspended in order to waive the required notice period.

i. Regulatory Amendment: R7.1

The Union Secretary explained that the regulatory amendment would extend nominations for the Clubs and Societies Committee to club secretaries and treasurers in the year immediately prior.

The Union President advised Council that the Union has difficulty in finding legitimate nominees for the committee every year. Club presidents are often in their last year at UQ and this reduces the number of students that apply. It was noted that the Clubs & Societies committee is an important one and there should therefore be a diverse pool of candidates to choose from. Council were advised that a number of nominees were ruled ineligible this year due to the current regulations and they have proven to be a significant barrier to involvement.

Student, Bradley Stone, queried how subsection R7.1(c) would apply for those that are on the executive of multiple clubs. In particular, would an application by someone in this position prevent the rest of the executive team on all of the clubs from applying. The President responded that these circumstances are unique and this would be reviewed on a case by case basis where necessary.

Procedural motion that the motion be put

CARRIED

Procedural motion to suspend standing orders to vote on the proposed regulatory amendment

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT COUNCIL AMENDS R7.1(B) OF THE REGULATIONS TO: 'SIX STUDENTS ELECTED BY THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM STUDENTS WHO WERE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OR TREASURER OF A UQU-AFFILIATED CLUB FOR THE TERM IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'.

AND THAT COUNCIL INSERTS SUBSECTION (C) INTO R7.1 TO READ: '(C) ONLY ONE ELIGIBLE NOMINEE TO CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE IS PERMITTED PER CLUB OR SOCIETY'.

COUNCIL 108/82

VAN ROO DOUGLAS/THORNTON

CARRIED

The interim returning officer declared Benjamin Kozij elected unopposed to Clubs and Societies committee, pursuant to R7.1.

ii. Regulatory Amendment: R56.2

The President explained that the regulatory amendment would allow the International Officer to be paid part-time as an elected officer for 20 hours per week. The hours will be split between the two international officers elected to the joint position.

It was raised that international students make up 33% of the student body at UQ and this is expected to rise to 40% in the next five years. The international officers represent a large portion of the student body and this can often involve a lot of emotional labour when dealing with visa and immigration issues. If they are to commit to the role, they need to be renumerated.

Councillor Tucker queried the events the international portfolio has hosted so far. The President noted that events had included Cultural Fiesta and the employment workshop, in conjunction with the Student Rights VP.

Councillor Tucker queried whether the international officers deal directly with visa and immigration issues. President reiterated that the International Officers represent 33% of the student body, many of whom are dealing with issues surrounding visa requirements and exploitation from their employers. Councillor Tucker noted that the decision should be based on the work the officers do, not the percentage of the student body they represent.

Councillor De queried whether there are any legal restrictions on the work the international officers can undertake. The President confirmed that the work will be capped at 20 hours per fortnight, as per the legal requirement. She noted that senior management within the Union are in agreeance that that this would be the best way forward and the role is likely to become more significant as international numbers increase at UQ.

Procedural motion that the motion be put

CARRIED

Procedural motion to suspend standing orders to vote on the proposed regulatory amendment

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT COUNCIL AMENDS R56 OF THE REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL CLAUSE SUBSEQUENT TO R56.2, TO INCLUDE THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' OFFICER AS AN ELECTED OFFICER PAID PART-TIME, AT 20 HOURS PER WEEK.

COUNCIL 108/83

MILLROY/SIENKIEWICZ-GROB

CARRIED

n) General Business

General Meeting – Ramsay Centre & Schonell Theatre

The Union President explained that UQ have been dismissive of UQU's voice on the Ramsay Centre and the Schonell Theatre. She advised Council that she would provide more information in camera. The intention for the General Meeting is to open up the democratic process to students outside of election time. She encouraged all councillors to assist the Union in reaching quorum at the General Meeting, regardless of their personal views.

Councillor De raised that the VC has ignored staff opinion on the issues and there has been a lack of student consultation. She noted that quorum is 300, but previous UQU events have demonstrated that the Union has the power to mobilise large numbers of students.

It was moved

THAT THE UQ STUDENT COUNCIL CALLS FOR A GENERAL MEETING TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. SHOULD UQ ACCEPT A DEAL WITH THE RAMSAY CENTRE FOR WESTERN CIVILISATION?
2. IF A NEW THEATRE IS TO BE DEVELOPED TO REPLACE THE CURRENT SCHONELL THEATRE, SHOULD IT CONTINUE TO BE RUN BY THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT UNION?

COUNCIL CALLS ON THE UNION SECRETARY TO SCHEDULE THE GENERAL MEETING FOR MAY 29 AT 5PM.

COUNCIL CALLS ON THE UNION SECRETARY TO BOOK THE VENUE AND GIVE NOTICE PURSUANT TO C12(A) BY MAY 1.

COUNCIL 108/84

MILLROY/DE

CARRIED

Anti-Semitism (MILLROY/VAN ROO DOUGLAS)

The Union President explained that she had been approached by AUJS to publicise the IHRA definition. It was noted that the definition has been embraced by other student unions around Australia and NZ, as well the NUS. They wish UQU to signal that they stand with Jewish students and against anti-Semitism.

The seconder waived their right to speak.

Councillor De raised that it is very apt for the Union to pass a motion relating to anti-Semitism, which is a growing problem in society rising in tandem with the far-right. However, the motion that has been presented relates to the problematic IHRA definition. The full IHRA working definition of antisemitism and a statement by Jewish Voice for Peace were distributed to members of Council (see appendix 1 & 2).

Councillor De noted that the author of the definition, Kenneth Stern, has distanced himself from the definition and lamented the way it has been used to crack down on free speech. It was explained that three of the working examples in the IHRA definition suggest that supporting Palestinian civil and political rights is anti-Semitic. The definition puts the blame for antisemitism on the left, when it is in fact coming from white supremacist fascists on the right. She noted that it would be a dangerous precedent for the Union to adopt this definition. The IHRA definition denies the legitimate anti-racist criticisms it is possible to have about the state of Israel, which have been made by non-Jews and anti-Zionist Jews for decades.

The President queried which alternative definition the councillor wishes the Union to adopt. She noted that a concrete definition is more effective than a broad statement against anti-Semitism. Councillor De responded that part of the problem with the IHRA definition is that muddies where the source of anti-Semitism is. The alternative motion that the Councillor has put forward has examples of anti-Semitism occurring both in Australian campuses and in the broader community and this more specifically identifies the source of anti-Semitism. The

working examples and the broader context of the definition make it problematic. In trying to make an anti-racist statement it silences the voices of other anti-racists.

Mitch Dougall raised that it is possible to condemn antisemitism without going into detailed examples. He noted that the motion in question excludes those who are against antisemitism but also anti-Zionist.

The Union Secretary asked Council not to focus on the semantics. He noted that antisemitism does not have a political ideology, is insidious, pervasive and has existed in many societies on both the left and the right. He therefore expressed his support for the unedited definition put forward by the peak representative body for Jewish students.

Councillor De suggested that the motion be amended to include the words: 'UQU recognises the voices of anti-Zionist Jews and Palestinians who have struggled for civil, political and basic human rights. We do not consider all criticism of Israel to be anti-Semitic.'

The mover was not amenable to the amendment.

Councillor De spoke for the amendment. She raised that the IHRA definition has been used to slander those who support civil, land and political rights. If the motion is sincerely concerned with opposing anti-Semitism it shouldn't be incompatible with the amendment.

The seconder of the amendment waived their right to speak.

Rowan Evans raised that the motion as it stands does not preclude the sentiment expressed in the amendment.

Councillor Lomaz raised that it would be shameful if UQU adopted a motion that silences the voices of anti-Zionist Jews who spend their lives campaigning against all forms of racism. The author of the definition has himself stated that the definition is a threat to political activism and has been used opportunistically by those who wish to oppress anti-racist activism.

The Union President stated that she believes the definition simply delineates the boundaries around which you can have the debate. She raised that at a certain point, criticism of Israel ventures into anti-Semitism. However, criticism of Israel's foreign policy is not inherently

anti-Semitic. However, the motion does not prevent discussion surrounding Israel's foreign policy.

Zainab Darbas queried why, if members agreed that not all criticism of Israel is anti-Semitic, they would not make this explicit in the motion through the amendment.

In response, the Union Secretary raised that the peak representative body for Jewish students has asked the Union to adopt this definition and it therefore carries weight. Changing the motion substantively would go against their wishes and would be problematic.

It was moved

THAT THE MOTION BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE THE WORDS:

'UQU RECOGNISES THE VOICES OF ANTI-ZIONIST JEWS AND PALESTINIANS WHO HAVE STRUGGLED FOR CIVIL, POLITICAL AND BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. WE DO NOT CONSIDER ALL CRITICISM OF ISRAEL TO BE ANTI-SEMITIC'

COUNCIL 108/85

DE/DOUGALL

NOT CARRIED

Procedural motion that the motion be put

CARRIED

Recorded Vote [COUNCIL 108/86]:

Benjamin Kozij	<i>In Favour</i>
Georgia Boon Proxied to Amy Sienkiewicz-Grob	<i>In Favour</i>
Ian Trinh	<i>In Favour</i>
Joseph Krebs Proxied to Bradley Plant	<i>In Favour</i>
Bradley Plant	<i>In Favour</i>
Gustavo Pazo Proxied to Benjamin Kozij	<i>In Favour</i>
Coen Harnischfeger Proxied to Isabella Scattini	<i>In Favour</i>
Lachlan Gillespie	<i>In Favour</i>
Alexander Asher	<i>In Favour</i>
Nicholas Rowan	<i>In Favour</i>
Campbell Ray	<i>In Favour</i>
Priya De	<i>Abstain</i>

Jehiel Lomaz	<i>Abstain</i>
Sarah Doyle	<i>Abstain</i>
Connor Morin	<i>Abstain</i>
Nellie Gordon	<i>Abstain</i>
Mohammed Al-Basir Proxied to Zainab Darbas	<i>Abstain</i>
Ambrose Boylan	<i>Abstain</i>
Tom Campbell Proxied to Mitch Dougall	<i>Abstain</i>
Lachlan Thomson Proxied to Mitch Dougall	<i>Abstain</i>
Jordan Duffey Proxied to Zainab Darbas	<i>Abstain</i>

It was moved

THAT

1. THE UNION CONDEMNS ANTISEMITISM IN ALL ITS FORMS AS DEFINED BY THE GLOBALLY RECOGNISED INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE (IHRA) DEFINITION. THIS IS THE WORKING DEFINITION USED BY BOTH AUSTRALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE BODIES. IT STATES THAT: “ANTI-SEMITISM IS A CERTAIN PERCEPTION OF JEWS, WHICH MAY BE EXPRESSED AS HATRED TOWARDS JEWS. RHETORICAL AND PHYSICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTISEMITISM ARE DIRECTED TOWARD JEWISH OR NON-JEWISH INDIVIDUALS AND/OR THEIR PROPERTY, TOWARD JEWISH COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS AND RELIGIOUS FACILITIES”.
2. THE UNION COMMITS TO WORKING WITH THE AUSTRALASIAN UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS (AUJS), AS THE PEAK REPRESENTATIVE BODY FOR JEWISH STUDENTS ON CAMPUS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, TO ENSURE ACTIVIST SPACES, EVENTS AND PROTESTS ARE INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING OF JEWISH VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES. THERE SHOULD BE NO PRE-QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY FOR JEWISH STUDENTS TO ATTEND AND/OR FEEL INCLUDED.
3. GOING FORWARD, THE UNION WILL FORMALLY RECOGNISE AND PUBLICISE JANUARY 27, AS DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AS INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY; AND WORK WITH

AUJS IN EITHER PARTNERING OR SHARING MATERIAL DESIGNED TO
EDUCATE AND COMMEMORATE THE ATROCITIES OF THE HOLOCAUST.
COUNCIL 108/86 MILLROY/VAN ROO DOUGLAS CARRIED

Anti-Semitism (DE/DOUGALL)

Councillor De urged members to vote up the motion, despite passing the previous motion on the same subject, as it provides more concrete examples of the source of anti-Semitism. As an aside, she noted that it was hypocritical of Council to pass a motion condemning anti-Semitism while simultaneously appointing as the Chair of Union Council someone who has stated that he would have been a member of the Nazi party in the 1930s.

The seconder of the motion, Mitch Dougall, noted that anti-Semitism is a phenomenon of the far-right and the motion makes this clear.

Councillor Kozij suggested the motion be amended to read ‘Green ~~and~~ Labor *and coalition* parliamentary candidates have had their corflutes graffitied with swastikas’.

The mover was amenable to the amendment.

Procedural motion that the motion be put

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT UQU STANDS AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

PREAMBLE:

ANTI-SEMITISM IS ON THE RISE IN AUSTRALIA, WITH A SHARP INCREASE IN ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS TAKING PLACE IN RECENT YEARS. THIS INCREASE IS LINKED TO THE GROWING CONFIDENCE OF EXTREME FAR RIGHT AND FASCIST ORGANISATIONS.

FAR-RIGHT POLITICS IS ON THE RISE IN AUSTRALIA. IT IS INCREASINGLY REPRESENTED IN PARLIAMENTARY POLITICS, AND INTERNATIONAL FAR-RIGHT LEADERS ARE TOURING AUSTRALIA MORE AND MORE FREQUENTLY.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, QUEENSLAND SENATOR FRASER ANNING JOINED A RALLY OF NEO-NAZIS IN ST. KILDA. IN RECENT WEEKS IN QUEENSLAND AND ELSEWHERE, GREENS, LABOR AND COALITION PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES HAVE HAD THEIR CORFLUTES GRAFFITIED WITH SWASTIKAS.

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS PROVE THAT THE GROWTH OF THE FAR-RIGHT GOES HAND-IN-HAND WITH THE REVIVAL OF ANTI-SEMITISM, EVEN WHEN THE MOST PROMINENT FIGUREHEADS OF THE FAR-RIGHT ARE NOT EXPLICITLY ANTI-SEMITIC. CONSPIRACY THEORIES ABOUT GEORGE SOROS, "CULTURAL MARXISM", AND OTHER SHADOWY FIGURES ARE COMMON IN EXTREME CONSERVATIVE POLITICS. THEY LAY THE BASIS FOR MORE EXTREME AND EXPLICIT ANTI-SEMITIC THEORIES.

AS SHOWN BY THE FASCIST MASSACRE OF JEWS IN PITTSBURGH IN LATE 2018, AND IN CALIFORNIA ON APRIL 27, PREVENTING THE GROWTH OF THE FAR RIGHT AND THE REVIVAL OF ANTI-SEMITISM IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.

FAR RIGHT GROUPS ARE SEEKING TO INFLUENCE STUDENT LIFE. IN 2018, FASCISTS AND NAZI SYMPATHISERS ATTEMPTED TO INFILTRATE THE NSW YOUNG NATIONALS. THEY IDENTIFIED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSITY CAMPUS CLUBS AS A SHORT-TERM GOAL. THE NAZI ORGANISATION ANTIPODEAN RESISTANCE FREQUENTLY TARGETS UNIVERSITIES AND HIGH SCHOOLS IN ORDER TO ATTRACT ATTENTION FROM STUDENTS WHO THEY AIM TO RECRUIT.

ISOLATING AND COMBATING FAR-RIGHT POLITICS IS THEREFORE A PRESSING QUESTION FOR STUDENTS, AND A NECESSARY PART OF FIGHTING AGAINST ALL FORMS OF RACISM, INCLUDING ANTI-SEMITISM.

PLATFORM:

1. UQU IS AN ANTI-RACIST ORGANISATION.

2. UQU OPPOSES ANTI-SEMITISM.
3. UQU THEREFORE STANDS AGAINST THE FAR RIGHT, AND SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF COALITIONS THAT WILL STAND UP TO FAR-RIGHT AND FASCIST POLITICS.
4. UQU CONSIDERS THAT THESE MATTERS ARE URGENT FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS, AND FOR STUDENT UNIONS.

ACTION:

1. UQU COMMENDS AND OFFERS ITS SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO ORGANISE PUBLICITY, RESEARCH, EDUCATIONAL FORUMS, CAMPAIGN MEETINGS, AND PROTESTS AIMING TO COMBAT THE RESURGENCE OF FAR-RIGHT POLITICS.
2. UQU CALLS ON ALL AFFILIATE BODIES TO SUPPORT ANTI-FASCIST ORGANISING ON CAMPUS, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF ACTIVIST COALITIONS THAT CAN UNITE STUDENTS AND STAFF AGAINST FAR-RIGHT, FASCIST, AND NAZI POLITICS.

COUNCIL 108/87

DE/DOUGALL

CARRIED

Assessment Due Dates

Councillor Trinh explained that he has been approached by students who have assessment due dates during the mid-semester break and the intention of the motion is to seek Union backing before taking the issue to Academic Board. He noted that it is a mental health issue.

The seconder waived their speaking rights.

Councillor Asher raised that this could have the knock-on effect of moving assessment due dates to just prior to mid-semester break, which would be an added stress for students. The Union President responded that, regardless, mid-semester break should be a break for students and expressed her support for the motion.

It was moved

THAT UQU TAKES AN OFFICIAL POLICY TO OPPOSE ASSESSMENT DUE DATES DURING MID-SEMESTER BREAK AND URGES THE UNIVERSITY TO AMEND THE PPL TO REFLECT THIS.

COUNCIL 108/88

TRINH/WU

CARRIED

G.O.T

Procedural motion that the motion be put

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT COUNCIL CENSURE ETHAN VAN ROO DOUGLAS FOR CALLING COUNCIL ON THE NIGHT OF GAME OF THRONES. THIS COUNCIL CALLS ON MR DOUGLAS TO COMMIT TO HAVING NO MEETINGS ON ANY OF THE NEXT THREE (3) MONDAYS

COUNCIL 108/89

EVANS/KOZIJ

NOT CARRIED

Procedural motion that the meeting move in camera

CARRIED

Procedural motion that the meeting move ex camera

CARRIED

The meeting was declared closed at 6.19pm.

OUR APPROACH TO ZIONISM

“Solidarity is the political version of love.”

– *Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz,*

Jewish American lesbian feminist, author and activist (1945-2018)

Jewish Voice for Peace is guided by a vision of justice, equality and freedom for all people. We unequivocally oppose Zionism because it is counter to those ideals.

We know that opposing Zionism, or even discussing it, can be painful, can strike at the deepest trauma and greatest fears of many of us.

Zionism is a nineteenth-century political ideology that emerged in a moment where Jews were defined as irrevocably outside of a Christian Europe. European antisemitism threatened and ended millions of Jewish lives — in pogroms, in exile, and in the Holocaust.

Through study and action, through deep relationship with Palestinians fighting for their own liberation, and through our own understanding of Jewish safety and self determination, we have come to see that Zionism was a false and failed answer to the desperately real question

many of our ancestors faced of how to protect Jewish lives from murderous antisemitism in Europe.

While it had many strains historically, the Zionism that took hold and stands today is a settler-colonial movement, establishing an apartheid state where Jews have more rights than others. Our own history teaches us how dangerous this can be.

Palestinian dispossession and occupation are by design. Zionism has meant profound trauma for generations, systematically separating Palestinians from their homes, land, and each other. Zionism, in practice, has resulted in massacres of Palestinian people, ancient villages and olive groves destroyed, families who live just a mile away from each other separated by checkpoints and walls, and children holding onto the keys of the homes from which their grandparents were forcibly exiled.

Because the founding of the state of Israel was based on the idea of a “land without people,” Palestinian existence itself is resistance. We are all the more humbled by the vibrance, resilience, and steadfastness of Palestinian life, culture, and organizing, as it is a deep refusal of a political ideology founded on erasure.

In sharing our stories with one another, we see the ways Zionism has also harmed Jewish people. Many of us have learned from Zionism to treat our neighbors with suspicion, to forget the ways Jews built home and community wherever we found ourselves to be. Jewish people have

had long and integrated histories in the Arab world and North Africa, living among and sharing community, language and custom with Muslims and Christians for thousands of years.

By creating a racist hierarchy with European Jews at the top, Zionism erased those histories and destroyed those communities and relationships. In Israel, Jewish people of color – from the Arab world, North Africa, and East Africa – have long been subjected to systemic discrimination and violence by the Israeli government. That hierarchy also creates Jewish spaces where Jews of color are marginalized, our identities and commitments questioned & interrogated, and our experiences invalidated. It prevents us from seeing each other — fellow Jews and other fellow human beings — in our full humanity.

Zionist interpretations of history taught us that Jewish people are alone, that to remedy the harms of antisemitism we must think of ourselves as always under attack and that we cannot trust others. It teaches us fear, and that the best response to fear is a bigger gun, a taller wall, a more humiliating checkpoint.

Rather than accept the inevitability of occupation and dispossession, we choose a different path. We learn from the anti-Zionist Jews who came before us, and know that as long as Zionism has existed, so has Jewish dissent to it. Especially as we face the violent antisemitism fueled by white nationalism in the United States today, we choose solidarity. We choose collective liberation. We choose a future where everyone, including Palestinians and Jewish Israelis, can live their lives freely in

vibrant, safe, equitable communities, with basic human needs fulfilled.
Join us.

Appendix Two

Working Definition of Antisemitism

In the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration that states: “With humanity still scarred by ...antisemitism and xenophobia the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils” the committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial called the IHRA Plenary in Budapest 2015 to adopt the following working definition of antisemitism.

On 26 May 2016, the Plenary in Bucharest decided to:

Adopt the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.

- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property — such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries — are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to

others and is illegal in many countries.

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