

UNION COUNCIL

MINUTES

From the 3rd Ordinary Meeting of the
104th UQ Union Council, 2015

6:30PM

Thursday 23/04/2015

Holt Room

Level 3, Union Complex (Bld. 21), St. Lucia Campus

Chair: Michael Lucas

The meeting was declared open at 6:51PM

The chair acknowledged the past and present traditional owners of the land.

a) Credentials

The following members were present:

- Kathryn Cramp
- Tom O'Connor
- Matthew Hales
- Isabel Manfield
- Shannon Fogarty
- Annie Danks
- Gabrielle Menolotto
- Daren Tan
- Amy MacMahon
- Alexandra Brown
- Nicholas Tong
- Jaime Goodwin
- Lynda Maybanks
- Tom Millroy
- Damien De Haan
- Kyle Jenson
- Michael Lucas
- Jacob Pedersen
- Laurence McLean
- Patrick Bowman
- Amanda Lamb
- Jaya Prasad
- Jason Wang
- Jacob Kay
- Dominic Smith
- Gabrielle Starr
- Amanthi Fernando
- Mike Hopkins
- Shilpa Datta

The Following Members were absent:

- Amy Jelacic
- Anthony Chepurin
- Roberto Fragoso
- Michael Wellington
- Josephne Coddington
- Dion Lee
- Andrew Simpson
- Joshua Roser
- Danielle Lovell
- Alistair Meldrum
- Ange Ou
- Nicholas Pratt
- Tom Davies
- Laura Howden
- Melanie Keyte
- India Anderson
- Aroha Liebhart
- Thompson Wong

- Sophie Borzi
- Olivia Anderson
- Matthew Kim
- Blair Ivens
- Eithandee Aung

Apologies were received from the following members:

- Ange Ou
- Matthew Kim
- Nicholas Pratt
- Amy Jelacic
- Alistair Meldrum
- Danielle Lovell

The following applications for leave for this meeting were received:

Nil

The following proxies were received:

- Matthew Kim to Gabrielle Starr
- Alistair Meldrum to Fiona Gipps
- Nicholas Pratt to Thomas Robertson
- Ange Ou to Daren Tan
- Danielle Lovell to Laurence McLean
- Jaya Prasad to Fiona Gipps

The following others were present:

- Quentin Lancrenon
- Kane Solly
- Zachary Miller
- Jude Menon
- Georgia Woodroffe-Hill
- Nikki Kuper
- Charly Foly
- Thomas Robertson
- Fiona Gipps
- Brendan Morris
- John Slater
- Rohan McPhee
- Ashan Dahanayake

b) Elections

Nil

c) Appeals from Decisions of Union Bodies

Nil

d) Reports of Elected Officers

The reports of the President and Treasurer were starred for discussion.

The President's Report

The UQU President verbally presented her report which had been distributed amongst council.

John Slater left the meeting at 6:57pm

The UQU President invited questions regarding her report.

Question raised by student, Thomas Robertson, regarding updates on the Union's efforts to assess how it spends SSAF funding.

The UQU President responded that the motion requiring the Union to present findings in regards to SSAF funding specified that findings are to be presented at the May council meeting.

Thomas Robertson was invited by the UQU Treasurer to come into the UQU offices to ask further and more detailed questions regarding SSAF funding with the Treasurer and Finance Manager.

Question raised by student, Thomas Robertson, regarding whether there are any updates regarding the disciplinary motion directed at the UQU Secretary.

The UQU Secretary addressed council. He explained that he was sorry for wearing a Union t-shirt near a political confluence in a photograph. He explained that the t-shirt was not purchased with SSAF money.

It was raised by, student, Thomas Robertson that the Union can allocate SSAF funding retrospectively.

The UQU President explained that the Union undertakes a wide variety of activities that are eligible for SSAF funding and the funding it receives does not cover all of them.

Question regarding the use of the safety bus during the examination period, as Translink buses are often too full, especially in the Toowong area.

The UQU President responded that the University is in talks with Translink to consider scheduling extra buses during those weeks to accommodate the extra demand but if the problem persists the Union could look into what they can do to help the situation.

Question raised by, student, Thomas Robertson regarding the safety bus and whether the existing [Translink] services are unsuitable.

The UQU President responded that surveys have indicated students feel unsafe walking across the bridge at night to get to the Dutton Park train station. She explained that the Union is trying to address this but it will have to consider several logistical issues with using the bridge.

The Treasurer's Report

The UQU Treasurer noted an extra column in the budget which explains variance between 2015 and 2014 and also excludes the financial results of businesses which are no longer in operation for 2014

The UQU Treasurer explained an error. He clarified that the figure in the summary paragraph on page three was meant to be \$109,670 instead of \$107,863.

A question was raised by, student, Thomas Robertson regarding the sales income going down while the cost of sales have increased and what the Union will do to address it.

The UQU Treasurer explained that the Union is working towards rectifying the trend. He added that the variance is not too far out of line and the financial results are still strong.

The UQU Finance Manager added that the Union does not want to increase prices. The Union has been in the process of negotiating with current suppliers as well as contacting new ones. He added that hopefully the cost of goods will improve over the next few months.

Question raised by, student, Thomas Robertson regarding variances in the business trading section.

It was explained that there may be other positive variances affecting the bottom line of the business trading section. The UQU finance manager suggested looking into the question together in the coming days.

Question raised by, student, Thomas Robertson regarding the variance in the portfolios for Colleges and Clubs and Societies.

The UQU Treasurer explained that the two areas are likely to claim for the entirety of their grants but they may claim at a later date.

Question raised by, student, Thomas Robertson regarding the variance in Campus Culture.

The UQU Treasurer explained that the revenue towards campus culture was predicted to a different schedule. As a result, the previous month's financial result record a positive variance and the results for March indicate a negative variance. He explained that, as a whole, the campus Culture budget is on track.

Question raised by, student, Thomas Robertson regarding whether he could receive fully reconciled financial results from the Ignition event.

The UQU Treasurer agreed to the request.

Question raised by, student, Thomas Robertson regarding the negative variance in professional fees on page 16 of the Treasurer's report.

The UQU Treasurer responded that the variance is due to the wages of the migration advocate in the SHOC team.

Question raised by, student, Thomas Robertson regarding whether there has been any allocation for discretionary funding in the Clubs and Societies area.

The UQU Treasurer responded that there has not.

The chair noted that the motion to accept apologies had not been considered. He read out the list of apologies again to council.

It was moved

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

COUNCIL 104/45 MCLEAN/ BOWMAN CARRIED

It was moved en bloc

THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/46 MCLEAN/ STARR CARRIED

THAT THE TREASURER'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/47 MCLEAN/ STARR CARRIED

THAT THE UNION SECRETARY'S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/48 MCLEAN/ STARR CARRIED

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

COUNCIL 104/49 MCLEAN/ STARR CARRIED

THAT THE REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT (GENDER & SEXUALITY) BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/50 MCLEAN/ STARR CARRIED

THAT THE REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT (CAMPUS CULTURE) BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/51 MCLEAN/ STARR CARRIED

THAT THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER’S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/52 MCLEAN/ STARR CARRIED

THAT THE POSTGRADUATE OFFICER’S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/53 MCLEAN/ STARR CARRIED

THAT THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OFFICER’S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/54 MCLEAN/ STARR CARRIED

THAT THE GOORIE BERRIMPA OFFICER’S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/55 MCLEAN/ STARR CARRIED

THAT THE MEDICAL STUDENTS OFFICER’S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/56 MCLEAN/ STARR CARRIED

THAT THE COLLEGES OFFICER’S REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/57 MCLEAN/ STARR CARRIED

The Chair received a motion which he read aloud to council. The motion suggested the Union acknowledge the saving they have made due to the abolition of the carbon tax.

The mover of the motion, Thomas Robertson, spoke for the motion. He explained that the operating costs of the Union are down significantly since the abolition of the carbon tax.

Question regarding whether there is any data to correlate how the carbon tax affected the Union’s operating costs.

The UQU Treasurer explained that the savings the UQU has made in electricity is due to a recent deal with the University which was more generous than budgeted for.

Procedural motion to put the motion to a vote.

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THIS COUNCIL OF THE UQ UNION COMMEND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE CARBON TAX WHICH HAS RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS IN OPERATION EXPENSES FOR UQ UNION

COUNCIL 104/58

ROBERTSON/GIPPS

NOT CARRIED

The Chair received a motion which he read aloud to council. The motion suggested the Union support full fossil fuel divestment by the University of Queensland and support any campaigns in regards to the matter.

The mover of the motion explained that the fossil free divestment campaign has been gaining traction over the past two years and she believes now is the best time to move further with the idea.

Student, Thomas Robertson, raised that the University does not currently have the funds to afford such a decision.

It was raised that the University should be in the financial position to afford divestment.

Procedural motion to put the motion to a vote.

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THE UQ UNION SUPPORTS FULL FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT BY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AND FURTHER SUPPORTS ANY CAMPAIGN IN THE PURSUIT OF THE GOAL

COUNCIL 104/59

MACMAHON/BROWN

CARRIED

e) Matters Arising from the Reports of Elected Officers

Nil

f) Question Time

Question raised by, student, Thomas Robertson regarding when the next issue of Semper Floreat will be released.

Tom Millroy, Union newspaper editor, responded that the new issues were delivered earlier this afternoon and will be distributed tomorrow.

There was a discussion regarding the Legislative Consultative Committee between members and non-members of council. It was explained that the first meeting will cover the main areas to be addressed and considered by all subsequent meetings. The UQU

Secretary extended a welcome to all interested parties to attend the meetings and contact him with written submissions.

A question was raised regarding what progress the Union has made on incorporation.

The UQU President responded that the Union will be looking into new legal advice.

Discussion between members and non-members of council regarding the progress the Union has made in regards to College voting.

It was explained that the heads of college have approached UQU and UQ to state that they will not allow voting on colleges in 2015 and do not want this in the future.

It was suggested that the Heads of College could be shown the data regarding college voting.

It was raised whether the Union will consider offering an alternative to college voting if it cannot go ahead for 2015. It was also raised that college students live closest to the other polling booths compared to any other student and they will still be able to use those booths to cast their vote.

Question regarding the Easter celebrations.

The UQU Vice President of Campus Culture responded that the celebrations went well and were well received by both of the external campuses.

Standing orders for question time were suspended.

The chair read a motion aloud to council requiring the UQU Secretary to send the data from the Returning Officer's Report in 2013 to the Heads of College.

It was raised that the Union may not have access to the Returning Officer's Report from 2013. It was raised that if the 2013 report does not exist and the action cannot be fulfilled, the Secretary won't be held to account for that. An amendment to the motion was suggested in respect to the issue of whether the 2013 report exists. The mover of the motion was not amenable to the amendment.

It was moved

THAT THIS COUNCIL CALL ON THE SECRETARY TO SEND HEADS OF COLLEGE 2013
COLLEGE VOTING DATA ON 24/4/15

COUNCIL 104/59

ROBERTSON/GIPPS

CARRIED

Standing orders for question time resumed.

Question raised regarding the online booking system for SHOC

The UQU Secretary responded that the system has helped to remove the barrier of making a booking. He explained that the system facilitates better feedback and statistical analysis. He added that the feedback has highlighted that students have trouble finding SHOC and the Union has been focussing on increasing visibility of the service through signage and increased advertising online.

Question raised by, student, Thomas Robertson regarding steps the Union has taken to avoid political association with the UQU.

The UQU President responded that the Union engages in issues in a non-partisan way.

The Chair read a motion aloud to council regarding a call on the Union Secretary to resign.

The mover of the motion, student, Thomas Robertson, spoke for the motion, explaining that pursuant to the original censure motion, the Secretary should resign.

The UQU Secretary spoke against the motion explaining that he has apologised for wearing the t-shirt in an inappropriate place but he does not agree that the Union has been put in a tenuous place. He added that the day-to-day running of the Union is a priority. He explained that a mistake happened and the strong message which was sent from the censure motion has been received.

Procedural motion to move to a formal debate

CARRIED

There was a discussion regarding what it means for a motion to lie on the table.

Procedural motion that the motion lie on the table

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THIS COUNCIL OF UQ UNION CALL ON THE UNION SECRETARY TO RESIGN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS CENSURE AT THE 1ST EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE 104TH UQ UNION COUNCIL.

COUNCIL 104/60

ROBERTSON/GIPPS

LAID ON THE TABLE

The Chair read a motion aloud to council regarding a call on the Union President to release a public statement in support of the Union Secretary.

The mover of the motion, student, Thomas Robertson spoke for the motion. He explained that the public statement will ensure confidence in the Union.

Student, Fiona Gipps, raised that the student body should be aware that the Secretary was censured and has support of the President regardless.

It was raised by councillor, Patrick Bowman, that council holds the executive to account.

It was raised by, councillor, Dominic Smith, that the Union should be held to the same level of governance as federal and state Government

Procedural motion to move on to the next business

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT THIS COUNCIL OF THE UQ UNION CALLS ON THE UNION PRESIDENT TO RELEASE A PUBLIC STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE UNION SECRETARY IN SPITE OF HIS CENSURE AT THE 1ST EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE 104TH UNION COUNCIL.

COUNCIL 104/61

ROBERTSON/GIPPS

LAPSED

Question raised regarding the University's decision to move exam times on Saturday from an 8:00am start to a 9:00am start and whether they will consider moving the exams until a later point in the day.

The UQU President responded that the University needs to consider the finishing time of the examinations on Saturdays and how many sessions they will be able to fit into one day. She explained that the Union is suggesting they push the times later as students are less concerned about how to get out of UQ once the exam is over and are more concerned with the ability to make it to their exams on time.

Question from, student, Rowan McPhee, regarding whether there will be exams on ANZAC day.

The UQU President responded that there won't be.

The Chair read a motion aloud to council requiring the Union to support the campaigns and endeavours of individuals seeking employment in the fossil fuel industry.

The mover of the motion explained he believes that Union should affirm its stance on students seeking employment in the fossil fuel industry after it confirmed that it will be advocating for the University to divest from the sector.

It was raised that it is important for engineers to consider a broad range of jobs.

It was raised that Union endorsement of jobs is both important and positive and it should be recognised that the fossil fuel industry is a major employer.

Question raised regarding the motion and whether it is concerned that the divestment of the University will result in fewer jobs or whether the motion is just seeking to endorse students who are seeking those kinds of jobs.

The mover of the motion clarified that in light of the motion supporting divestment, importance should be placed on assuring students that they are supported in whichever career path they choose.

It was raised that the Union Council should support students in which ever field they choose as it is in the nature of a Union to support students.

It was raised that fossil fuel is not cheap, it involves a social and environmental impact and climate change is one of the biggest drivers of poverty. It was added that several reports indicate that fossil fuels are not a good way to take people out of poverty and jobs in the renewable energy sector are needed during the transition to cleaner energy.

The chair was asked to repeat the motion and it was then read aloud again.

It was raised that if the University divests, as the Union is advocating, it could create an attitude amongst employers to be disinclined to hire UQ graduates in that sector.

Procedural motion to put the motion to a vote.

CARRIED

It was moved

THAT COUNCIL OF THE UQ UNION SUPPORTS ALL CAMPAIGNS AND ENDEAVOURS FOR INDIVIDUALS TO BE EMPLOYED BY THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY

COUNCIL 104/62

PEDERSEN/SMITH

NOT CARRIED

The chair indicated that question time had finished.

The Chair read a motion aloud to council requiring council to affirm the Union's stance on climate change.

It was raised whether these sorts of motions are actually within the scope of Union Council and whether they are relevant to the meeting.

It was moved

THAT THE UNION RECOGNISES THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL, AND A SERIOUS ISSUE FOR OUR GENERATION, AND THAT THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY HURTS OUR ABILITY TO RECTIFY CLIMATE CHANGE

COUNCIL 104/63

MCLEAN/STARR

CARRIED

g) Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meetings

A correction to the recorded vote in the first extraordinary meeting was highlighted as the BEL councillor 2 was not present and gave no proxy. As such, the recorded vote should change to reflect that.

It was moved

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE 2ND ORDINARY MEETING AND 1ST EXTRAORDINARY OF THE 104TH UNION COUNCIL BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED. PENDING CORRECTIONS TO THE RECORDED VOTE AT THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY MEETING.

COUNCIL 104/64

STARR/MCLEAN

CARRIED

h) Business Arising From the Minutes

Nil

i) Reports of Other Union Bodies

A question was raised regarding why the Nuclear Club was not ratified.

The Vice President of Campus Culture, Daren Tan, explained that as per the referendum result found in appendix 1 of the Union Regulations, the Union does not support the Uranium mining industry. Following further questions, he explained that the Clubs and Societies Committee is not permitted to ratify a club which is inconsistent with the Union's

constitution, regulations or standing resolutions on policy. He explained that as the chair of the meeting, he does not contribute substantively to discussion and he abstained from all votes. He explained that the clubs and societies committee interpreted the regulations and followed the rules as best they could.

The chair recommended that interested individuals should communicate directly with the Clubs and Societies Committee regarding the matter.

It was raised that a clubs representative was available at the time of the meeting.

It was raised that their expression of interest could not have been ratified even with representation as the aims and objectives would need to change and the club would need thirty signatures with respect to the new aims and objectives.

Jaya Prasad left the meeting at 8:36pm

It was suggested by, student, Rowan McPhee, that the decision in the regulations be removed.

The UQU President explained that the decision would need to go to a referendum.

It was moved en bloc

THAT THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/65	MCLEAN/STARR	CARRIED
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THAT THE QUEER COLLECTIVE REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/66	MCLEAN/STARR	CARRIED
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THAT THE ENVIRONMENT COLLECTIVE REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/67	MCLEAN/STARR	CARRIED
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THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT BE ACCEPTED AND CONFIRMED

COUNCIL 104/68	MCLEAN/STARR	CARRIED
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j) Business Which has Been Proposed

i) March 2015 Financial Results

The March 2015 Financial Results were considered in the Treasurer's Report.

k) Notice of Business to be Proposed

April 2015 Financial Results.

The meeting was declared closed at 8:40PM