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| **Legislative Consultative Committee**  **Minutes** | |
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| **From the 1st Ordinary Meeting of the 2014**  **UQ Union Legislative Consultative Committee** | |
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| 5:30PM  Thursday 21/08/2014 | |
| **Innes Room 1**  Level 4, Union Complex (Bld. 21), St. Lucia Campus | |

The meeting was declared open at 5:48pm

1. **Credentials**

**The following members were present:**

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| * Fiona Gipps | * Brendan Morris | * Laurence McLean |
| * Conor Ruane | * James Carrol | * Jared Peut |
| * Thomas Robertson | * Clare Manton | * Rachel Paterson |
| * Isabel Manfield |  |  |

**Apologies were received from the following members:**

Nil

**The following proxies were received:**

Nil

**The following others were present:**

* Bicknell, Lauren

1. **Elections**

An election was held for the following positions:

1. Chairperson of Legislative Consultative Committee

Voting was conducted by simple majority

*It was moved*

THAT RACHEL PATERSON BE ELECTED AS CHAIR OF THE MEETING

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| LEG 103/01 | ROBERTSON/MCLEAN | CARRIED |

1. **Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meetings**

Nil

1. **Business Arising From the Minutes**

Nil.

1. **Reports of the Elected Officers**

Nil.

1. **Matters Arising From the Reports**

Nil

1. **General Business**

Members were presented with a draft set of motions and given time to review them. the motions would make amendments to the regulations to allow parties to run for positions on just Semper Floreat or just Council or just the Executive of a combination thereof.

Clare Manton left the meeting.

Isabel Manfield left the meeting.

**It was raised that there is currently no regulation ensuring that a party will be advised if their electoral name has already been registered when they submit their nomination**

* Currently regulations only insist that the returning officer publishes a list of names at the beginning of the nominations period
* The committee agreed it would be good to ensure that this problem is covered in the Regulations.

**The Committee was presented with the proposed ballot (schedule 19)**

* Question raised over what happens if a voter fills out a ballot paper in both “above the line” and “below the line” fields.
* This was considered and will need to be accounted for. There will need to be amendments around this issue.

**A draft set of motions regarding electronic voting regulations were discussed**

* It was explained that one company may be able to help run the upcoming election with an online vote. This online vote would only be accessible through particular polling stations but instead of a piece of paper, the voter will be using a computer.
* The committee agreed that this could help with accuracy of counting and help to avoid informal votes and double voting
* The committee agreed that they do not want a live count.
* It was raised whether an election could include a paper ballot in some locations and an electronic vote in other locations.
* It was explained that the election would need to be run with one system across all locations.
* It was raised whether voters will still be able to complete an absentee vote.
* It was explained that they will be able to do this.
* Discussion on the logistics behind having enough polling stations over several locations.
* It was explained the union executive have only just begun talking with the election company and that they do not yet have answers on some of the questions surrounding the possibility of an electronic vote.

1. **Business Which Has Been Proposed**
2. **Discussion of regulations pertaining to the Returning Officer**

Discussion on the safety of information from nomination forms

It was suggested that the regulations could incorporate a separate location from the Union Building, if practicable, for the Returning Officer

1. **Discussion of regulations pertaining to Publicity**

**It was suggested that the Returning Officer could have power to authorise and investigate online materials.**

Jared Peut enters the meeting.

* It was suggested that a small comment would not need authorisation but any substantive content would need authorisation.
* Committee discussed that this idea is currently ambiguous but examples from other unions who have good online policies could be used.
* It was raised that this could also be difficult to police.
* It was suggested that the Returning Officer could be given administration privileges on party websites and social media pages.
* Discussion on how much content would require approval and whether this is practical.
* It was raised that such amendments mostly comes down to giving the Returning Officer more powers so that they can make more decisions on content.

**Discussion on disciplinary powers of the Returning Officer.**

* Examples were given, such as the ability to ban a candidate from campaigning for an hour or, in extreme cases, making someone’s candidacy invalid. Prohibition on publishing was also given as an example.
* Question raised whether the electoral tribunal would receive more powers along with the Returning Officer.
* It was explained that in order to give more powers to the electoral tribunal, there may need to be a change to the constitution.

1. **General Business Resumes**

**Discussion on potential amendments to bolster the Code of Conduct during the elections**

* It was suggested that a code of conduct could be signed at the beginning of the nominations period
* It was raised that if the code of conduct does not encapsulate all obligations written into the regulations, candidates may fail to understand all of their obligations.
* It was raised that a code of conduct may not actually change the reality of campaign behaviour.

**Discussion on restricting the hours of physical campaigning on campus**

* It was raised that in past years candidates have been campaigning very actively from 7am in the morning and this hasn’t been conducive to campus culture. A restriction of starting after 9am was suggested.
* Question raised on what would actually constitute campaigning and what would be restricted.
* It was raised that campaigning has already been cut down by a day as there is a public holiday during the campaigning week.
* It was suggested that campaigning hours should be the choice of the campaigners
* It was suggested that the restriction would be conducive to the health of campaigners, and it would favour smaller parties who have a smaller backing and are less able to commit to long hours of campaigning.

**Discussion on polling times**

* It was raised that certain polling times are out-dated and impractical.
* The committee agreed that this is worth revising especially in Darwins, Physiol and Gatton locations.
* It was raised that Gatton polling time possibly needs to be increased to three days.

**Discussion on the wearing of student cards while campaigning**

* It was raised that this would prevent people who are not UQ students from campaigning. Campaigners would need to be able to present their student card to the Returning Officer if requested.
* The committee did not raise any problems with this idea.

**Discussion on changing the venue for voting**

* It was raised that when polling stations are set up in the refectory, a lot of seating space is lost, causing congestion in the area. It’s also potentially damaging for the surrounding businesses.
* The committee agreed that other central locations would be appropriate.

**Discussion on removing above the line voting for the Council Election**

* Suggestion to make it clear whether a candidate is affiliated with a party or if they are an independent candidate but to only offer “below the line” voting in order to give independent candidates more of a chance
* It was raised that enforcing a more complicated and lengthy voting procedure may discourage people from voting at all.

**Discussion on running a multi-member election for Semper Floreat.**

* It was raised that such a structure would be more politically diluted and less biased.
* It was raised whether this sort of structure is necessary.

1. **Notice of Business to be Proposed**

***The meeting was declared closed at 6:53pm***

**THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND ARE TO BE TAKEN AS DRAFT UNTIL SUCH A MEETING OCCURS.**