



WOLLONGONG
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

President: Chloe Rafferty
General Secretary: Madison Lord
Email: ml1394@uowmail.edu.au

Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday, 11th March 2019

Time: 6:00pm

Where: WUSA Offices, (located on the ground floor of building 19)

Apologies

Minutes of Previous Meeting

See attached.

Business Arising

Correspondence

President's Report

Representative's Reports

Treasurer

General Business

Motion to Tear up the MOU with the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation

Preamble

'Stop the Ramsay Centre at UOW' campaign group has kicked off activism for this semester with successful organising meetings, banner paintings and working bees, coverage in local and international media, and a protest at the end of O-Week on the 1st of March.

The rally on the 1st of March was a huge success, drawing in students, staff, supporters and grabbed media attention from multiple stations. A staff member and the Education Officer from the University of Sydney spoke of the campaign on their campus to fend off the Ramsay Centre. Building solidarity

and collaboration with other activists at Universities that Ramsay is trying to establish itself at is an important element in building the strength of our campaign. The speaking list also included NSW Parliament Greens MP David Shoebridge and the National Union of Students President Desiree Cai. Also featured were UOW staff and the NTEU President Georgine Clarsen, speaking of their outrage at Vice Chancellor Paul Wellings for undermining academic integrity protocols to secure the Ramsay deal behind closed doors.

Of particular concern at the rally was the Memorandum of Understanding drafted between UOW and the Ramsay Centre. Due to mounting public pressure surrounding the secrecy of the deal, UOW was compelled to release the MOU. The document reveals the outrageous overstep of power the Ramsay Centre has been given over academic freedoms and a fair, equitable higher education system.

The MOU outlines that classes from the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation will not permit the usual 20-30 that most other tutorial classes have to endure during a period of rapid Neoliberalisation and privatisation of our Universities, stifling the level of interactive engagement and quality of education. Rather, Ramsay students will be privileged to class sizes of 8-10, forging a path towards a two-tiered style higher education system where the next generation of social conservative cadre grouped around Howard and Abbott can pursue an advanced level of education not available to other students. In addition, UOW has agreed to build the “Ramsay lounge” for exclusive use of Ramsay students and staff.

Ramsay will have overriding control over what is taught, who is taught and who is teaching the degree in Western Civilisation. The MOU gives rights to the Ramsay Centre to send in observers to classes, in classic Orwellian style, to make sure the correct line of Western supremacy propaganda is being upheld. The MOU discusses the set up of the Ramsay Selection Panel, which will feature UOW academic staff, nominated representatives, and representation from the Ramsay Centre. This panel will determine which students are permitted to study the degree based on a list of requirements including: Just finishing year 12 or having graduated year 12 no more than 12 months earlier, 95+ ATAR and “Ramsay attributes”. Ramsay is also sidelining the opposition and independence of UOW staff by planning to hire 10 new full-time academic staff that will be appointed by a selection committee, which will include “two suitably qualified academics nominated by Ramsay”.

Platform

1. The MOU between UOW and the Ramsay Centre gives unprecedented powers to the Ramsay Centre which undermine the academic freedoms of students and staff
2. The MOU gives Ramsay hire and fire power, degrading workplace rights for staff members
3. The MOU gives Ramsay unsolicited and discriminatory rights on the selection of students ranging from age to appropriate “attributes”
4. WUSA recognises the MOU as an attack to academic freedom and integrity
5. WUSA recognises the MOU and the Ramsay Centre as an attack on the public education system, wanting to pave the way for an American-style, privatised two-tiered higher education system
6. WUSA demands that UOW tear up the MOU with the Ramsay Centre
7. WUSA is committed to a publicly funded higher education system

Action

1. WUSA will endorse and advertise for the next ‘Stop the Ramsay Centre at UOW’ rally on April 12th

2. WUSA calls on the University Council and the Academic Senate to reject the Ramsay Centre deal
3. WUSA will produce a press release in relation to Action 1 & 2
4. All WUSA councillors who have endorsed 'Stop the Ramsay Centre at UOW' by voting up WUSA's support of it will actively contribute to building the campaign. This includes advertising via social media, postering and leafleting while also attending rallies

Moved: Isabelle Liddy

Motion: SSAF should fund clubs & student democracy - make UniLife membership free!

Since the abolition of Universal Student Unionism under Howard, student clubs, unions and student culture has been under attack. The Students Services & Amenities Fee is an inadequate replacement but even this has been eroded by University management. Students pay the SSAF to fund our student clubs and student unions but increasingly UOW management has been defunding these student run institutions.

UOW has now introduced a user-pays approach to clubs, charging students a mandatory \$20 fee for UniLife membership. This membership is a prerequisite for participating in student clubs. This is an outrageous attack given the university has largely spent SSAF on infrastructure projects which should come from the university's own revenue. Students are already charged \$303 SSAF every year, we should not be charged to join clubs in addition to this fee. SSAF funding should be spent on student clubs, WUSA, WUPA and other student-run initiatives that provide student control over student affairs.

SSAF revenue brought in \$5,700,000 in 2019 alone. So far not a single cent of this has been allocated to WUSA or WUPA and there have been cuts to student run clubs. SSAF should pay for student-run and led activities, advocacy and activism, not the capital works projects that could be paid from UOWs enormous surplus.

On top of introducing club membership fees, UOW is now defunding the popular UniMovies program. This clearly shows the university is not interested in 'Uni Life' but wants to introduce a user-pays approach rather than SSAF funded student initiatives and services.

WUSA condemns the university's introduction of UniLife fees. We call on the university to make UniLife free, to increase SSAF funding for student-run clubs and release SSAF funding for WUSA & WUPA's budgets.

Platform:

WUSA stands for Universal Student Unionism and free participation in student-led clubs.

WUSA opposes fees for UniLife membership.

WUSA will defend SSAF from any moves by the Liberals to abolish it.

WUSA stands for student control over student affairs.

Action:

WUSA will share the petition to make UniLife membership free again.

WUSA calls on all office bearers to share the petition with their collectives and departments.

WUSA will release a press statement based on this motion calling on the abolition of UniLife fees and the release of SSAF funding for student association budgets.

WUSA will call on the university to reinstate UniMovies.

WUSA will support any initiatives by clubs to make UniLife free.

Moved: Chloe Rafferty

WUSA - Solidarity with the Wollongong NTEU

Preamble:

Staff at the University of Wollongong suffer extreme levels of casual and insecure work. Compared to the national average for universities which is already 43.8%, UOW has an astounding rate of 76% job insecurity, which is worse than McDonalds.

After being undermined, disregarded and harassed by management during their EBA period, in which management were trying to further erode secure work and conditions, staff took industrial action for the first time in 14 years. The first action was a 2-hour stop-work that drew in hundreds of staff, students and supporters. The second action a few weeks later was a 24-hour strike in which students and staff picketed outside of university entrances.

UOW management have tried to intimidate staff by sending an email illegally demanding that every union member had to individually report to management their intent to strike. Management have also tried to diminish student support by emailing all students to attend classes during the strike day.

WUSA representatives organised student strike support on the pickets and a contingent to the staff rally. Student unionists endorsed the strike and spoke to local media about student's solidarity with the NTEU.

Platform:

WUSA offers its full support to all branches of the NTEU fighting against campus-based attacks from university management.

WUSA recognises the slogan of the NTEU, "staff working conditions are student learning conditions" as it reflects the need for student and staff collaboration in fighting for better quality of education.

WUSA recognises that university management are always committed to reducing the conditions and security of work for staff as universities are run as for-profit businesses. WUSA should be combative against the role of university management, and always be on the side of the staff.

WUSA recognises the vital role strikes play in fighting for and achieving workers rights. By collectively withholding labour power and cutting off the flow of profits to university management, staff have the ability to halt the functioning of university. With this pressure, staff can win their demands.

WUSA understands the supportive and active role students can play in helping to promote staff issues. Student unionists should encourage the broader student community to support industrial action, attend picket lines during strike action and offer moral support.

WUSA stands against union busting tactics and opposes scabbing. Student unionists should never cross a picket line and should always promote staff strikes through lecture announcements, emails, leaflets etc.

Action:

WUSA will release a statement of support for the Wollongong branch of the NTEU during their EBA campaign endorsing their campaign for fair pay, secure work and respect.

WUSA will endorse any form of industrial action taken by the Wollongong branch of the NTEU, and will encourage local students to join the picket line.

WUSA representatives and office bearers will attend the industrial action and show solidarity with their staff in the fight for “fair pay, secure work and respect.

Moved: Darcy Turner

Motion — Stop the Liberals War on Young People

WUSA condemns the Liberal State government’s war on youth culture and repression of young people.

The NSW Liberals have unleashed a series of attacks on young people and youth culture, attacking festivals, nightlife and refusing to implement life-saving pill testing. The state of NSW is now reminiscent of the town in Footloose with a lock out on fun and rampant over-policing.

The Berejiklian Liberal government is forcing through laws that not only destroy the viability of an average night out, but are actively destroying large music festivals. In addition to attacking the general fun that young people want to have after a long, fruitless day struggling to find stable employment, the State government is risking our lives by denying pill testing in favour of a ‘law and order’ approach to drugs.

Lockout laws within the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross precinct have drastically damaged the vibrant nightlife of the city. Now the Liberals have plans to try to introduce lock out restrictions in Wollongong. Lockout laws were implemented in a misguided attempt to curb alcohol related violence. But it seems there is one law for young people and another for rich casino patrons. One area that is conspicuously outside the lockout zone is the Star Entertainment Group’s Star Casino. A den of exorbitant wealth and massive exploitation, Star Casino has been found to only report a third of violent assaults on its premises, with an assault rate more than ten times that of the most violent pub in NSW. Unless you have stacks of disposable income you’re willing to gamble, and a willingness to be attacked, you’re not entitled to a night out.

If a regular night out is off the cards, then a music festival may suffice. That is until the Berejiklian government decides to arbitrarily deem certain festivals ‘high risk’ slapping festivals with expensive restrictions. In some cases festivals have been asked to fork out hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay for mandatory over-policing for their event and licences for hosting patrons under 18. The opposition to these changes is so high that a movement called ‘Don’t Kill Live Music’ has emerged calling for an end to the Liberal government.

Pricing young people out of festivals was not enough, the Liberals are determined to endanger our lives. Berejiklian has made it her mission to ensure that conservative ideology gets in the way of stopping preventable drug deaths. Instead of health and harm minimisation the Liberals have

responded with more police, tougher sentencing and a refusal to listen to experts who recommend pill testing, including the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners & the Australian Medical Association.

In 2013, a survey of young people between 16 and 25 showed 82% support pill testing, while a smaller survey in 2019 showed only 24% of people reject it. A clear majority of young people want health and harm minimisation, not criminalisation. While the overwhelming majority of drug deaths Australia wide come from alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs, these are not the targets of the NSW Liberal Government. It seems that the government is concerned with appeasing the moguls of Pfizer and Philip Morris while criminalizing the majority of young people who surveys show participate in recreational drug use.

Yet another rally to accompany the litany of protests against Berejiklian and the NSW Liberals is the 'Fix NSW' campaign. Originally concerned with the massive investments being made in supporting the fossil fuel industry and toll roads, whilst public transport decays - it has now become a call to action to rid NSW of the problems of environmental exploitation, unaffordable housing, and the forced removal of children from Indigenous families. Supported by various activist movements, and unions like the NTEU, the rally attracted thousands who are sick of the State government's attacks.

Platform —

1. WUSA supports the abolition of lockout laws and zones throughout the entirety of Sydney CBD, Kings Cross precinct, and NSW;
2. WUSA condemns any further regulation that either deters live music from being held, or creates a system of 'user pays' for music festivals in NSW;
3. WUSA supports the immediate introduction of a health and harm minimisation approach to drugs in NSW, including the introduction of pill testing spaces in festivals and other venues,;
4. WUSA condemns the increased investment in toll road infrastructure while public transport is neglected and privatised in NSW; and
5. WUSA condemns any further actions taken by any political party to further regulate and privatise the above, and condemns any political party that does not support such platforms.

Action —

1. WUSA encourages all office bearers to promote and support the 'Fix NSW' and 'Don't Kill Live Music' campaigns on campus.
2. WUSA will release a public statement condemning lock out laws, attacks on music festivals and the refusal of the NSW government to introduce pill-testing.

Moved: Chloe Rafferty

Student Question Time



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**Minutes of the WUSA Council Meeting of the 11th March, 2019 held
at the Wollongong UOW campus**

*****Meeting opened at 6:04pm*****

Request made for permission to live stream meeting by River McCrossin

Attendees:

- Madison Lord, General Secretary
- Chloe Rafferty, President
- Alexander Hall, Tertangala Coordinator
- Joshua Bell, Treasurer
- Kirrily Carrington, Welfare Officer
- Isabelle Liddy, Education Officer
- Nicholas Ritchie, Environment Officer
- Imogen Draisma, General Representative
- Jordan Humphreys, General Representative
- River McCrossin, Journalist
- Patrick Andersson, Visitor
- Claire Dunning, Visitor
- Olivia Pierson, Visitor
- Taani Hendricks, Queer representative
- Emerson Burke, General representative
- Darcy Turner, General Representative
- Luke Niforos, Disability Representative
- Anica Sarmiento, General Representative
- James Caulfield, Visitor

Apologies:

- Bilal Zafar Khan
- Joshua Clarke
- Isabelle Jones

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Taken as read, distributed by General Secretary via email with current meeting agenda.

Moved: Chloe Rafferty

Seconded: Imogen Draisma

Business Arising:

None.

Correspondence In:

- Sexual assault working group meeting notice distributed via email.
- Chloe Rafferty opened questions for Student Advisory Council meeting.

President's Report (Chloe Rafferty):

- O Week
- Ramsay protest
- Over 100 sign ups to WUSA
- Biggest presence that WUSA has had at any o week for many years, 5 stalls
- Interest was really high
- Building school climate strike
- Emailed uni to ask for permission to leave classes on 15th march - like Sydney uni
- Negotiate ssaf, 2 meetings with governance. Uni is fighting pretty hard on ssaf.
- Position they are trying to make is that ssaf has been spent for this year
- The budget for this year will be finalised after the April meeting with university council.
- Administrative - minutes dating back to 2005 are being scanned and recovered
- The University governance have made a commitment to continue to negotiate the budget further with WUSA
- Memorandum of understanding- WUSA has no money as it is not independent to the University
- Taani Hendricks asked about funding for the Queer Collective:
- Queer collective are able to request for more funding from WUSA.
- State of WUSA - does not have financial independence and cannot commit.
- Taani Hendricks: **why does the queer collective have no funds?**
- WUSA are perfectly happy to fund the collective.
- Jordan Humphreys: Student advisory committee, ask questions about ssaf funding
- River McCrossin: **contingency fund on website?**
- Chloe Rafferty: rollover spending, legally the university has to publish how ssaf is being spent
- 2019 funding has been allocated: breakdown has been made. Does not allocate a cent to WUSA or WUPA.
- Only funding for admin assistants.
- 2% contingency
- Alexander Hall: **when approaching clubs about ssaf WUSA have to be careful so they don't get disaffiliated.**
- Chloe Rafferty agreed.
- Imogen Draisma: **5 groups that ssaf needs to be distributed. That needs to be our main argument.**
- Advocacy: democratic nature of student representation. "Anything for students"
- Jordan Humphreys: University makes bureaucracy too complex so nobody has any responsibility over funding of clubs and student societies.

Representative's Reports:

- Education Report (Isabelle Liddy)

Ramsay campaign

Climate strike.

Claire Dunning: support for stop Ramsay campaign.

Darcy Turner: Ramsay support

Jordan Humphreys: Ramsay support

Imogen Draisma: staff? How will the vote at academic senate be conducted to protect staff?

Chloe Rafferty: apply to observe the meeting with the academic senate

Jordan: staff, nteu campaigns are important.

- Tertangala Report (Alexander Hall)

O week

Almost out of first edition terts

Next theme: debauchery

1000 copies handed out - not sold.

Front covers messed up by printing company.

Chloe Rafferty: **plans for tert when there's no o week?**

Podcasts getting set up

Darcy Turner: **first years?**

- Queer Rep Report (Taani Hendricks)

More members

No activities as of yet, waiting on ssaf

March 31st vigil for trans day of visibility

- Luke Niforos: Newtown rally for equal rights same day

- Welfare Report (Kirrily Carrington)

Has events but no direction, working on it

Chloe Rafferty: suggestion union have had some minimum wage information they've been providing.

Pass on some materials

Be a point to report wage theft - suggested motion to assist students in reporting wage theft

- Environment Report (Nicholas Ritchie)

Climate strike on Friday, says everyone has to come

Police presence

Luke and Laura from Smith's Hill have been organising

Emailed Wellings - asking for exemption from classes, no response as of yet.

Acknowledgement of country

Luke Niforos: geography departments want to know more about strike.

Isabelle: spare material

Jordan Humphreys: support

Chloe Rafferty: email sizeable membership list and other connections

- Ethnocultural Report (Anica Sarmiento)

International concession opal cards

Antisemitism definition adoption

- **Disabilities Report (Luke Niforos)**

Looking at services

More staff on team

No minds left behind Petition:

- <https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/no-mind-left-behind?fbclid=IwAR0IGDZ5glgikwA2tWDb2wLz7mzSFbkUrxlkQnc5raefxwIFAmNXio9f42A>

Data collection on university accessibility

River McCrossin: **stats on?**

With lectures and subjects, more often than not they are recorded and accessible. Older lecture rooms have issues 75-80% have equipment to make accessible

Remaining section is concerning.

Alexander Hall: lecturers turn off microphones

Chloe Rafferty: concerned about automation and working conditions of staff, need to differentiate between the need to have accessibility and the requirement to protect staff at the university.

Chloe Rafferty made acknowledgement of country.

General Business:

Motion to tear up MOU with the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation

Moved: Isabelle Liddy

Seconded: Olivia Pierson

Jordan Humphreys: general discussion, mou,

Chloe Rafferty: mou exercises veto power, press releases

Motion Carried

Motion: SSAF should fund clubs & student democracy - make UniLife membership free!

Moved: Chloe Rafferty

Seconded: Claire Dunning

Jordan Humphreys: petition or press release

Josh Bell: supports unilife fees

Darcy Turner: disagrees

Luke Niforos: not everyone has \$20

Alexander Hall: don't target unilife for having fees

Kirrily Carrington: pointed at ssaf

Imogen Draisma: clubs don't want to continue their presence on campus

Jordan Humphreys: perks don't outweigh costs of unilife

Nicholas Ritchie: supports motion

Isabelle Liddy: university is conscious of issue

Chloe Rafferty: right of reply

Condemning the university

Motion Carried

Motion: WUSA - Solidarity with the Wollongong NTEU

Moved: Darcy Turner

Seconded: Isabelle Liddy

Jordan Humphreys: UOW college
Chloe Rafferty: support for industrial action

Motion Carried

Motion — Stop the Liberals War on Young People

Moved: Chloe Rafferty

Seconded: James Caulfield

Darcy Turner: Support

Luke Niforos: Support

Nicholas Ritchie: Support

Isabelle Liddy: Support

Imogen Draisma: Support

Darcy Turner: Labor hasn't supported

Alexander Hall: Labor has supported

Jordan Humphreys: Bob Carr is a racist

Chloe Rafferty: right of reply

Motion Carried

Emergency Motions:

Motion to support Unimovies

Moved: Alexander Hall

Seconded: Darcy Turner

Motion to discuss: carried over 2/3

Motion carried

Motion to change meeting dates:

Moved: Alexander Hall

Motion withdrawn

Motion to appropriate money for the all sorts queer collective

Moved: Alexander Hall

Seconded: Taani Hendricks

Move to discuss: Carried over 2/3

Motion Carried

Student Question Time

Kirrily Carrington: Indigenous reps; where are we up to?

Chloe Rafferty: moved motion to fill casual vacancy in first meeting

Alexander Hall: Woolyungah does not always act in indigenous people's best interests

Kirrily Carrington: set locations for meetings?

Chloe Rafferty: when we have a confirmed regular time we can book rooms in advance and advise of locations.

River McCrossin: have you (president) begun receiving honorarium payments?

Chloe: no

Alexander Hall: Pro life club with graphic depictions of aborted fetus’.

Chloe Rafferty: “day of the unborn child” event on March 25.

River McCrossin: what does the president do to earn \$15000?

Chloe Rafferty: campaign around student rights and social justice, many hours of week.

Jordan Humphreys: every Student Union in the country has honorariums.

River McCrossin: how many hours do you put into it per week?

Chloe Rafferty: 20. Meetings, stalls, etc. More positions than just president should be paid.

River McCrossin: any plan if ssaf is not granted?

Chloe Rafferty: yes, getting money from the university’s own budget.

River McCrossin: delegate registration fee?

Chloe Rafferty: \$5000 budget for NUS to cover reaffiliation but also for registration for delegates as well as their flights to and from NUS events.

River McCrossin: clarification over what environment and education departments are and what they would do?

Chloe Rafferty: the main things discussed in this meeting outlined that.

Kirrilly Carrington: direct you straight to the constitution.

River McCrossin: last meeting the agenda and meeting records would be published on facebook, why has this not been completed?

Chloe Rafferty: because we don’t know how, Alexander Hall will complete.

*****Meeting closed at 8:43pm.*****