



WOLLONGONG
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

President: Chloe Rafferty
General Secretary: Madison
Lord

Email:
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**Minutes of the WUSA Council Meeting of the 9th April, 2019 held at
the Wollongong UOW campus**

*****Meeting opened at 6:05pm*****

President's Acknowledgement of Country

Attendees:

Madison Lord, General Secretary
Chloe Rafferty, President
Celestine Hampton, Indigenous Rep
Kaia May Cox
James Caulfield
Claire Dunning
Robin Pierson
Jordan Humphreys, Gen Rep
River McCrossen, Journalist
Dominique Houzet
Dylon Tomas
Darcy Turner, Gen Rep
Isabelle Liddy, Education Rep
Mehmood Irfan
Imogen Draisma, Gen Rep
Joshua Mills
Samuel Noakes
Isabelle Jones, Women's Rep
Luke Niforos, Disabilities Rep
Taani Hendricks, Queer Rep
Kat Nelson-Smith
Joshua Bell, Treasurer
Kirrily Carrington, Welfare Rep
Emerson Burke, Gen Rep
Bilal Zafar Khan, International Rep
Nicholas Ritchie, Enviro Rep

Apologies

Anica Sarmiento
Joshua Clarke

Business arising

None

Correspondence

- Kirrily Woolyungah Apology
- Isabelle SARC meeting – proposed drink spiking forum
- Women’s collective up and running, pads and tampon dispensers in all bathrooms has been requested

Representative’s Reports

President

- Ramsay, academic senate voting down and university saying they don’t care
- May Day march details
- SSAF funding ongoing
- Campaigning against Islamophobia
- Logistically rearranging office space

Education Rep

- Ramsay: senate rejected MOU

Treasurer

- Finance either lied or told wrong information
- \$42,000 in bank

Disability Rep

- LHA seem really on top accessibility
- EIS not as easy to talk to and are having a meeting
- Have heard back from the business school
- Wants to put out a survey to the student body to get some opinions on where to use resources

Enviro Rep

- Instalment of the school climate strike
- Attended a climate kick start election campaign, stop adani, aycc and school strikers
- May 3rd climate walk out
- Paddle out event Wollongong

Tertangala Rep

- Rebranded online platform – more trendy
- Online platform

Queer Rep

- Trans day of visibility
- Safe space
- Regular events
- QOW – donations welcome for those to attend queer collaborations
- Chloe: now budgeted for queer collective

Women’s Rep

- SARC national survey at end of every year regarding sexual harassment and assault on campus
- Participation is a huge issue – ideas?
- River: make it compulsory? Consent matters
- Patrick: WUPA women's officer wants to promote women's space to graduates as well and wants to engage more
- Kat: proper channel for organising things for the women's space and starting a new collective?

General Secretary

- Josh Clarke absent for now four consecutive meetings, his general representative position is now a casual vacancy.

General Business

Motion: Christchurch Islamophobia and The rise of the far-right.

Moved: Darcy Turner

Seconded: Jordan Humphreys

On the 15th of March 50 people were killed in an far-right, white supremacist terrorist attack on two mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch. The attacker was an Australian national, who had been planning for two years and published a manifesto titled "the Great Replacement" which outlined his motives for targeting the mosques.

The attack was motivated by the ideology of white supremacy with the attacker labelling himself an "eco-fascist". This ideology has been responsible for terrorist attacks across the world that are growing in their violence and prevalence as a result of both the rightward trajectory of mainstream politics and political parties along with the emergence and growth of Far-right parties.

In Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro was elected last year on a platform of anti-worker, anti-indigenous peoples, anti-LGBTI+ and all the while boasting of the strength of the former military dictatorship. In the US Donald Trump has banned immigration from 7 predominantly muslim countries as well as fighting for a wall to be built between the US and Mexico to stop Immigration. Fascist parties have risen across Europe such as Lega in Italy which is also a reaction against muslim immigration and immigration in general.

In Australia Pauline Hanson's One Nation got a member elected to Senate in the recent State elections on the back of anti-immigration, anti muslim policies as well as demanding Aboriginal people be DNA tested to ensure they are "genuine." Last year Federal Senator Fraser Anning demanded a "Final Solution" to Muslim Immigration. He also attended a Far-right demonstration on St Kilda Beach earlier this year. Along with this media mogul Rupert Murdoch's papers printed over 2000 Islamophobic articles in 2018 in Australia alone.

This is the rise of the far-right. Whether its normalising Islamophobia and racism or openly calling for rallies against immigration and against muslims, the current global political climate is emboldening terrorist to commit acts of utter horror as we have seen in Christchurch.

An anti-racist movement must be built. Rejecting the narratives of racism and Islamophobia is the first step. But condemning and fighting against the systematic and structural oppressions of Muslims, minorities and oppressed groups is necessary. Students unionists need to play a leading role in mobilising young people and other students to stand in solidarity with the victims of Islamophobia, racism and far-right violence. We need to mobilise an anti-racist movement in our community and on our campus to fight back against the growing far right and the racist and Islamophobic mainstream ideas that have normalised this kind of discrimination.

Platform

- - WUSA condemns the Christchurch terrorist and is committed to standing alongside the victims, the wider muslim community as well as other minorities and oppressed groups against Islamophobia, racism and far-right violence.
- - WUSA recognises the growing Far-right around the world and condemns their role in the persecution of Muslims and oppressed peoples.
- - WUSA condemns the response of Senator Fraser Anning and the rejects that immigration is to blame for this attack.
- - WUSA recognises the role that mainstream media and politicians have played in creating a climate of intense Islamophobia and Racism that fuels attacks like Christchurch.
- - WUSA recognises the need to build an anti-racist movement to stand in solidarity with the oppressed and actively fight back against the systemic Islamophobia and racism in our society.
- - WUSA recognises the Palm Sunday Refugee Rally as the next important event for building anti-racist activism in the Illawarra.

Action

- - WUSA will endorse all future anti-racists campaigns and actions at the University of Wollongong and in the Illawarra.
- - WUSA will prioritise the funding of these campaigns and will be committed to promoting them, providing funds and resources for printing leaflets and posters as well as making banners.
- - WUSA office bearers and representatives will attend, promote and, when needed, speak at anti-racist actions and events to stand in Solidarity with Muslims.
- - WUSA office bearers and representatives will help build an anti-racist movement in Wollongong and the Illawarra.
- - WUSA office bearers and representatives will promote and attend the Palm Sunday Refugee Rally on Sunday April 14th.
- - WUSA will provide resources and funds for promoting this rally and materials to make posters and banners.

Motion: Carried

Motion to Apologise to UOW Woolyungah Indigenous Centre and the Indigenous Community of UOW

Moved: Madison Lord

Seconded: Kirrily Carrington

Preamble:

On Thursday the 21st March, 2019 members of the WUSA executive organised and carried out the UOW Stands With Muslims Against Racism BBQ and Speak-Out. It is acknowledged that events such as the Christchurch massacre demand quick and respectful action for the organisation of events. However, it must be paramount that we ensure these events do not cause offence to anyone either directly or indirectly. For this event in particular, there was a clash of location with the pre-booked Woolyungah Indigenous Centre 'Closing The Gap' Event on the McKinnon Lawn. Apologies have already been extended by the Welfare Officer on behalf of the association to the Director of the Woolyungah Indigenous Centre, however a formal, public apology of the WUSA council would be appropriate and necessary.

Platform:

- WUSA sincerely apologises for the insensitive planning of the UOW Stands with Muslims Against Racism BBQ and Speak-Out event.
- WUSA never intended to cause any offence to the Indigenous Community of UOW, and will ensure that future planning of events will be of utmost priority.
- WUSA should accept the motion in order to keep its reputation as a progressive organisation.

Action:

- WUSA will extend a formal apology in written form, signed by all members of the council to the director of the Woolyungah Indigenous Centre.

- A copy of this apology shall be made available on WUSA's official Facebook page and website addressed to the entire UOW Indigenous Community.

Motion: Carried

Motion to Establish an Event Planning Process

Moved: Madison Lord

Seconded: Imogen Draisma

Preamble:

In the planning of WUSA events, sensitivity to members of the UOW community and the successful management of such events is of paramount importance. In order to be effective, WUSA needs to cooperate with and include all members of the WUSA organisation. The establishment of a formal event planning process, without the requirement for a council meeting, must be established to ensure the transparency of the organisation and the smooth running of events.

The recent events run by the WUSA Council have regrettably been poorly managed. Examples have included;

- Criticism from the UOW community regarding the wording of the UOW Stands With Muslims Against Racism BBQ and Speak-Out,
- The lack of POC speakers at our events
- Poor planning and competing with other important events on campus
- Promoting a BBQ before securing appropriate facilities

Platform:

- WUSA commits to engaging in collaborative efforts in the planning of events with all council members
- WUSA commits to proper planning of events to ensure that any official WUSA activity is thoroughly researched, requisite opinions have been sought (beyond WUSA council) and recognises other relevant communities
- Future WUSA events must be as accessible as possible for the entire UOW community
- No WUSA event should speak for a marginalised group without representation of the group
- WUSA should accept this motion to ensure that all future activism is well organised and able to make a positive impact in the UOW community

Action:

- The WUSA Reps 2019 Facebook group will be utilised to encourage discussion about potential events and consult all members regarding the planning, wording and logistical elements of an event BEFORE any public announcement.
- All events will be approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of WUSA council members given reasonable response time of 48 hours (2 days) after event approval has been requested. *** amenable:
- ***3 or more express dissent goes to a vote
- Vote is a poll***
- Poll is open for 48 hours, or at least 24 hours if event is considered urgent.
- No event shall be double booked with another event on campus unless there has been direct consultation and the approval of the organisers of the other event.
- WUSA events, particularly those that support marginalised communities will make a conscious effort to have speakers of these communities as a priority over WUSA councillors.
- No WUSA event will go forward without at least one speaker of the marginalised group. *** Amenable: this action has been removed as often marginalised people may not be comfortable speaking on a public platform and the previous action covers the prioritisation of these people over WUSA councillors***

Amended Motion: Carried

Motion for WUSA to Remove Synonymy of Branding with Other Political Clubs on Campus

Mover: Madison Lord

Secunder: Isabelle Jones

Preamble:

The Wollongong Undergraduate Student Association has been criticised by the general student population, especially on the UOW Buy Swap and Sell Facebook group and the UOW Socialist Alerts Facebook group. In light of recent issues raised by the student population with the Socialist Alternative, it is critically important to establish a clear distinction between the UOW Socialist Alternative Club as well as other political campus clubs and WUSA for the integrity and independence of WUSA in the student community.

Where the political agenda of WUSA and student clubs on campus has reached consensus, there is no issue with WUSA supporting relevant campaigns to the student body.

Platform:

- WUSA wishes to maintain its independence and integrity on campus with the student body
- WUSA councillors should make conscious efforts to establish a distinction between political actions on campus and the actions taken by WUSA on behalf of the student population
- WUSA councillors should not be associated with a political campaign that they do not identify themselves with
- WUSA does not wish to exclude communities on campus due to predisposed opinions on ideologies of WUSA councillors
- WUSA is intended to represent all students and should thus be accessible by all students regardless of personal ideologies, any action to the contrary would be anti-progressive as it would promote exclusion

Action:

- WUSA should not promote the activities of any UOW club in a way that misrepresents the views and opinions of WUSA councillors
- WUSA councillors should not present any action on behalf of WUSA that has not been formally passed in a WUSA council meeting (for example, alluding to the future passing of motions or speaking 'on behalf' of WUSA).
- All WUSA councillors should make a concerted effort to separate WUSA events from their own organisational identities unless a collaboration has been agreed upon by means of a motion in a WUSA Council meeting

- Banner and shirts *** amenable

Amended Motion: Not carried

Motion for WUSA to Reassess Funding for the Palm Sunday 'Say Yes to Refugees'

Rally

Moved: Madison Lord

Seconded: Joshua Bell

Preamble:

The emergency motion presented in the February Council meeting titled, "WUSA Supports the Palm Sunday 'Say Yes to Refugees' Rally" was presented to the council without the final action;

"3. WUSA will allocate \$200 for colour printing to advertise the rally, including but not limited to; posters, leaflets and pamphlets." available to be seen on the screen.

The motion was passed without acknowledgement of the funding element being discussed by the council, and therefore was not passed appropriately.

Platform:

- WUSA promotes transparency in all funding commitments made by the organization
- From a bookkeeping perspective, it would be appropriate for this motion to be resubmitted to the WUSA council

Action:

- WUSA will readdress the "WUSA Supports the Palm Sunday 'Say Yes to Refugees' Rally" as an emergency motion.

Motion: Not carried

Motion: Support the CFMMEU in their EBA Campaign at Port Kembla Coal Terminal

Moved: Claire Dunning

Seconded: Alexander Hall

Preamble:

For the past year, the workers at Port Kembla Coal Terminal have been negotiating their EBA, calling for fair pay and better working conditions. PKCT has locked out full-time workers on and off over the past year, creating an unsafe working environment which tragically culminated in the death of Mark Roberts, a truck driver at the terminal, on the 26th of March.

PKCT has been locking out workers sporadically over the last year, resulting in safety standards declining dangerously. Safety issues noted by an investigation by Safe Work NSW and the CFMMEU found over 30 safety breaches in their inspection of only a quarter of the terminal. The key issues were noted as workers being alone and unsupervised in the terminal, the majority of workers being untrained particularly in first aid, a severe lack of communication with many workers not knowing where different parts of the terminal were, and a high risk of workers falling from heights or being hit by moving equipment. Locking out workers has also resulted in many safety officers not being on site, and in the case of Mark Roberts' death 3 out of the 5 designated safety officers were locked off of site.

The death at the terminal was a direct result of the union-busting PKCT bosses creating an unsafe work environment. Last June, an OHS representative reported his concerns of safety while industrial action was being undertaken, and this report was ignored. The death was not an accident, but instead was waiting to happen due to the profiteering actions of PKCT management.

Platform:

WUSA stands with the CFMMEU and workers at PKCT in their fight for better working conditions and pay in their EBA negotiations.

WUSA opposes the unsafe working conditions created by management at PKCT in locking out their workers.

Action:

WUSA will release a public statement based on this motion in support of the CFMMEU at Port Kembla Coal Terminal in their EBA campaign for fair pay and safe working conditions. *** WUSA will release a public statement congratulating*

WUSA will join the South Coast Labour Council in calling for the resignation of the general manager of the Port Kembla Coal Terminal Kurt Baumgart and the chair of the Port Kembla Coal Terminal board Mark Smith. WUSA will endorse any industrial action taken by the workers at Port Kembla Coal Terminal.

Motion: Carried

Motion: WUSA Endorses the April 12 Protest Against the Ramsay Degree

Moved: Isabelle Liddy

Seconded: Robin Pierson

Last month the UOW Academic Senate rejected Vice Chancellor Wellings' deal with the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation. Students and staff have overwhelmingly rejected the degree at UOW, UQ, the University of Sydney and ANU. Yet our Vice Chancellor has refused to recognise or respond to the opposition and has instead attempted to ram the degree through by bypassing or simply ignoring all consultation bodies.

It's time the Vice Chancellor recognised there is no mandate for the Ramsay Centre on campus. WUSA will be endorsing a protest on Friday April 12 at 1pm to call on the University Council to tear up the deal with the Ramsay Centre.

Platform:

-WUSA calls on the University of Wollongong University Council to tear up the MOU signed with the Ramsay Centre

-WUSA calls on the University of Wollongong to break all ties with the Ramsay Centre

-WUSA supports a pluralistic, critical, independent and publicly funded education system

Action:

- WUSA will endorse and promote the April 12 protest against the Ramsay degree
- WUSA will produce leaflets and posters to promote the rally
- WUSA office bearers will attend the protest on Friday at 1pm
- WUSA will hold a 'Stop Ramsay' promotion day this Wednesday to advertise the rally and broader campaign

Motion: Carried

Motion: WUSA opposes the rise of anti-Semitism and the far right

Moved: Chloe Rafferty

Seconded:

Preamble

1. Anti-Semitism is on the rise in Australia, with a sharp increase in anti-Semitic incidents taking place in 2018.
2. According to the recent report of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, this increase is linked to the growing confidence of extreme far-right and fascist organisations.
3. These far-right groups are seeking to influence student life. Fascists and Nazi sympathisers recently 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. We have seen a rise in stickers from the white supremacist 'Generation Identity' group on campus and around Wollongong.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. As shown by the terrorist massacre of Jewish people in Pittsburgh, preventing the growth of the far right and the revival of anti-Semitism is a matter of life and death.
7. Isolating and combating far-right politics is therefore a necessary part of fighting against all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism.

Platform

1. WUSA is an anti-racist organisation.
2. WUSA opposes anti-Semitism.
3. WUSA therefore stands against the far right, and supports the development of coalitions that will stand up to far-right and fascist politics.
4. WUSA considers that these matters are urgent for Australian students, and for student unions.

Action

1. WUSA 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. WUSA calls on all affiliate organisations 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.
3. WUSA will produce anti-fascist stickers to cover over the far right and fascist 'Generation Identity' stickers found on campus.

Motion: Carried

Motion: WUSA opposes the rise of anti-Semitism and the far right

Moved: Jordan Humphreys

Seconded: Chloe Rafferty

Preamble

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2. According to the recent report of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, this increase is linked to the growing confident of extreme far-right and fascist organisations.
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Motion: Carried

Emergency Motion to Open Nominations for General Representative Position

Mover: Madison Lord

Seconder: Chloe Rafferty

Preamble: In accordance with section 4.5 of the WUSA constitution, 4.5.1. A Representative position shall be vacated if the Representative in that position:

- (a) Dies.
- (b) Submits a written resignation from their position to the General Secretary.
- (c) Ceases to be enrolled as an Undergraduate Student at the University of Wollongong.
- (d) Fails to attend three (3) consecutive Council Meetings without apology.**
- (e) Fails to attend four (4) consecutive Council Meetings. This shall include meetings that fail to meet quorum, wherein names of those not in attendance following the expiring of time allowed for a meeting will be recorded.**
- (f) Is removed from the Council in accordance with Section 4.4 of this Constitution.

As one of the General Representatives of the current WUSA has failed to attend 4 consecutive council meetings, the position for General Representative has been declared vacant.

Action: The WUSA council therefore declares nominations open for the casual vacancy in accordance with the WUSA Constitution and the Election Regulations. As advised, in the past a Casual Vacancy has been advertised to the entire student body, and an application/expression of interest application process has occurred. The WUSA Council will meet to review the applications and vote on the casual vacancy. Both Governance and Student Services Division will assist to distribute the SOLS message and set up a process by where the Associations Assistant's act as the Returning Officers.

Motion: Carried

Student Question Time

Josh Bell: How was Celestine elected for her position?

Celestine: I was asked by the Director of Woolyungah

River: Darcy are you prioritising the new money for anti-racism campaigns?

Darcy: prioritised was not a good word, thinks we should be funding that, no it is not being prioritised

*****Meeting closed at 8:25pm*****