



WOLLONGONG
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

President: Chloe Rafferty
General Secretary: Madison
Lord

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**Minutes of the WUSA Council Meeting of the 7th May, 2019 held at
the Wollongong UOW campus**

*****Meeting opened at 6:02pm*****

President's Acknowledgement of Country

Attendees:

Madison Lord, General Secretary
Chloe Rafferty, President
Celestine Hampton, Indigenous Rep
Jordan Humphreys, Gen Rep
River McCrossen, Journalist
Darcy Turner, Gen Rep
Isabelle Jones, Women's Rep
Luke Niforos, Disabilities Rep
Taani Hendricks, Queer Rep
Emerson Burke, Gen Rep
Bilal Zafar Khan, International Rep
Nicholas Ritchie, Enviro Rep
Alexander Hall, Tert Rep

Apologies

Isabelle Liddy
Kirrily Carrington
Imogen Draisma
Luke Niforos

Business arising

None

Correspondence

- President: budget accepted (WUSA now has \$89,200.00)
- Still pushing for a report about SSAF for 2020

Representative's Reports

President

- Fully funded student association
- Second Ramsay protest was really successful
- NTEU announced that they are taking university to Supreme Court
- Preparing to go into the meeting with SSAF this week

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

- Sending next edition of Tertangala to designer next week
- Should be out by the end of semester
- Organising QC conference at the end of June

Queer Rep

- QOW week events went smoothly
- Meeting with Ron and Rowena this Friday to look through modules and give feedback on queer related issues on campus.

Women's Rep

- Overhaul on the consent matters module
- SASH working group
- Drink spiking issue
- Safe and respectful communities

General Business

Motion for WUSA to support the replacement of 'Consent Matters' with a more comprehensive and compulsory module

Moved: Isabelle
Jones

Seconded: Emerson
Burke

Preamble:

In 2017, at the request of Australia's 39 universities, the Australian Human Rights Commission has conducted a national, independent survey of university students to gain greater insight into the nature, prevalence and reporting of sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities.

In response to the AHRC recommendations in the 'Change the Course' report, the Safe and Respectful Communities team has been working hard to effectively respond and comply with its recommendations. An overhaul of the 'Consent Matters' module is part of this process,

specifically with the objective to make sure its reach and message are conveyed as comprehensively as possible.

This new module is currently being drafted, with guidance from other Australian universities with similar modules who've had success. The module is intended on being compulsory for all new undergraduate students; similar to the 'Start Smart' modules it will become a condition of the Student Charter. There is also discussion of making it mandatory for current students, and postgraduate students; although issues surrounding enforceability must be resolved.

Platform:

- WUSA supports the introduction of a more comprehensive and effective 'Consent Matters' module
- WUSA supports the module being made compulsory for incoming undergraduate students

Action:

- WUSA, via the Sexual Assault & Sexual Harassment Working Group, will represent UOW students in this drafting process to ensure it's an effective module
- WUSA will engage in negotiations with the university to make the module compulsory for current students, not just future students

Motion: Carried

Motion to run an awareness campaign to advocate WUSA services and encourage student feedback

Moved: Isabelle Jones

Seconded: Emerson Burke

Preamble:

WUSA has a growing presence on campus. To continue this trajectory, it is vital WUSA promotes awareness of its existence and capabilities. It is also important that WUSA is active in providing platforms for students to advise on what they'd like to see happen at university.

Platform:

- WUSA supports actively promoting our presence on campus
- WUSA supports encouraging feedback from UOW students in order to ensure we are being responsive to the needs of the students we represent.

Action:

- WUSA will run a forum for student issues to be heard
- WUSA will run a stall to promote WUSA's presence on campus

Motion: Carried

Motion: WUSA supports Welfare Department's Student Clothing Drive

Moved: Madison Lord

Seconded: Emerson Burke

Preamble:

The weather is getting colder, and clothes are damn expensive. We understand how hard it is juggling jobs and uni can be and hope to help our students in any way possible. We propose a clothing drive, run out of the WUSA Welfare Department, for students and by students. Students will be able to donate clothes, which will then be available for other students to come and collect.

Action:

- WUSA allocates \$150 of funding for advertising and organisation of this event
- WUSA will promote the event through social media and on campus advertising

Motion: Carried

Motion: Solidarity with NUW members at Ipsos call centre: reinstate Liz!

Moved: Darcy Turner

Seconded: Alexander Hall

NUW union members at Ipsos call centre in Melbourne have been leading a campaign to rebuild unionism among young workers. Their three women delegates have chalked up some impressive victories: they have recruited 98% union coverage, have campaigned to win hundreds of dollars of back pay, and have won the right for Ipsos workers to eat and read at their work desks. Their militancy on the job has included a wild cat strike to defend a co-worker facing the sack and many well attended union meetings. The Ipsos management are now trying to attack their union culture by sacking their lead delegate Liz. WUSA stands with Liz and demands her reinstatement!

It's vital that student unions stand up for trade unionists right to organise and right to strike. To fight against youth exploitation, casualisation and sexism on the job we need to rebuild union culture among young workers. Liz and the NUW delegates and members at Ipsos have been doing just that. We stand with Liz against bullying, harassment and union bashing by bosses.

Platform:

WUSA supports trade unionism as vital institutions that can stand up for young workers.

WUSA stand with Liz and the NUW members at Ipsos call centre.

WUSA encourages all university students to join their union

Action:

WUSA will send the NUW a message of solidarity as part of the campaign to reinstate Liz

WUSA will take a solidarity photo after this meeting to stand with Liz

Motion: Carried

Motion to purchase a megaphone, gazebo and vinyl banner for WUSA events

Moved: Jordan Humphreys

Seconded: Chloe Rafferty

It's important for student unions to revive a culture of protest, unionism and activism on campus to stand up for student rights and social justice. WUSA has already been playing a leading role in campaigns to stop the Ramsay Centre, support for the student climate strike, Queer activism and anti-racism. WUSA should have the resources to support progressive activism on campus and around Wollongong.

Action:

WUSA will release up to \$250 to print a vinyl banner with a WUSA logo

WUSA will release up to \$1000 to purchase a printed pop-up gazebo with a WUSA logo

WUSA will release up to \$150 to purchase a megaphone

All purchases will be stored at the WUSA office.

Motion: Carried

Motion to allow WUSA administrative staff to purchase stationery

Moved: Chloe Rafferty

Seconded: Isabelle Jones

WUSA's regularly needs to purchase paper, ink and toner, staples, and other general stationery items for our printing service and book bank. Currently our administrative staff have not been empowered with the ability to set up an ongoing account. WUSA approves of our admin staff setting up an ongoing stationery account/s without needing approval for every purchase.

Platform:

WUSA thinks Yas and Jen are great, thanks Yas and Jen

WUSA empowers our administrative staff to set up an account/accounts with relevant stationery suppliers

Action:

WUSA council permits our administrative staff to purchase up to \$500 of stationery each semester.

Motion: Carried

Motion: WUSA endorses the May 11 Nakba Protest to Stand with Palestine

Moved: Chloe Rafferty

May 15th 1948 marks the day that over 750,000 Palestinians were expelled from their homes and made refugees.

In 1948, the establishment of the Israeli state in Palestine through violent ethnic cleansing not only forced Palestinians from their homes, but also led to massacres of indigenous populations and the destruction of villages.

After 71 years this bloodshed has not been forgotten, nor the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland.

Palestinians and their supporters will be demonstrating this Saturday to commemorate 71 years since the Nakba (catastrophe) and to protest against the ongoing occupation of Palestine.

Platform:

WUSA stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people's ongoing struggle for self-determination, the right to return and an end to Israeli apartheid

WUSA opposes the 12 year long blockade on Gaza and the bombing attacks which have already killed 25 people in Gaza in the space of a few days

Action:

WUSA endorses the May 11 Nakba demonstration 'Protest: Commemorate Nakba - Stand with Palestinian Resistance!'

Motion Withdrawn.

Emergency Motions

WUSA motion - Climate Emergency

Moved: Darcy Turner

Seconded: Nicholas Ritchie

Preamble

In a damning report last year the IPCC declared that we have 12 years to limit the climate change catastrophe. The future of the planet and life as we know it depends on what measures we take in the next decade.

The catastrophe has already begun. The Sahara desert advances 20km south every year threatening the millions of people who live in the Sahel with the realities of drought, erosion and famine.

To the south, deforestation plagues these regions of equatorial Africa as well as Indonesia and the Amazon; areas that are also crucial hot-spots for the absorption of atmospheric carbon due to their location

and density of vegetation. In Australia, last year the Great Barrier Reef suffered its worst bleaching event in history and rural Australia was plagued with drought. Fires have raged across Europe and North America and storms, cyclones and hurricanes worldwide are becoming more intense and more frequent.

Around the world, the pressure for radical action is rising. Last year's IPCC report proved that the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement would not be adequate and was unlikely to be realised as politicians continue to help big businesses secure lucrative contracts for coal, oil and gas

extraction. In Australia the Liberal party have continued their overt love-affair with coal, best symbolised in their endorsement of the Adani Carmichael Coal Mine in the Galilee Basin. The ALP have also, despite claiming they are in favour of honoring the Paris Agreement and taking action on climate change, continued to support the proposed mine in Queensland on the false claim that it will bring 1000's of Jobs to rural Australians. This is despite 65% of Australians saying they are against Adani. This bi-partisan failure is added to by both major parties supporting exploration by big oil companies in the Great Australian Bight.

We as student representatives at the University of Wollongong, declare a CLIMATE EMERGENCY. We demand whoever wins the upcoming federal election ensure a complete transition to 100% renewable energy, end new coal, oil and gas projects and begin transferring and re-skilling all workers in this sector into the renewable sector. We recognise the efforts of activists and groups to raise awareness and fight against climate change and stand in solidarity with people around the world fighting for a liveable future on this planet.

Platform:

- WUSA declares a Climate Emergency.
- WUSA condemns both major parties for their inaction and negligence towards climate change
- WUSA commends all groups and activists who have been fighting for the planet. Such as the recent School Strikes and the Fight For the Bight Paddle Out at Nth Wollongong Beach.

Action:

- WUSA will publish a press release declaring a Climate Emergency
- WUSA reps will attend, promote and where appropriate speak, at all future actions, protests and meetings tackling the climate emergency.
- WUSA will commit funds, resources and time towards such progressive rallies
- WUSA will endorse future action by the High School climate strikers

Move to discuss the motion: Carried

Motion: Carried

Motion to stand in solidarity with “Mount View” disability residential facility

Moved: Alexander Hall

Seconded: Taani Hendricks

Preamble: The Mount View residential facility in Balgownie is under threat of being shutdown by the new NDIS plan, this facility is extremely significant as part of the Illawarra's disability support infrastructure.

Action Points:

1. WUSA agrees to stand in solidarity with Mount View in their fight to remain open.
2. WUSA if asked by Mount View will assist in any activist capacity within reason.
3. WUSA condemns the decision to close Mount View and demands that it continue to be funded indefinitely into the future.

Move to discuss motion: Carried

Motion: Carried

Student Question Time:

1. River McCrossin:
The extra \$10,000 was approved by SSAF?
Chloe: No, she does not know where the money was coming from
2. Madison Lord:
Exam prep workshop in works – will be emailing PASS coordinators etc.

***** Meeting closed at 7:03pm*****