



WOLLONGONG  
UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION

# MARCH MEETING

## AGENDA

**Date:** 29 March 2020

**Time:** 18:00

**Location:** 19.1004

Wollongong Campus

**President:** Taani Hendriks

**General Secretary:**

Imogen Draisma

## February Meeting Agenda

### MEETING OPENED 18:13

#### Acknowledgement of Country

**Apologies:** Arlo Hatzis, Alex Oluk, Dylon Tomasi and Liam Douglas

**In Attendance:** Imogen Draisma, Taani Hendriks, Alec Hall, Jye Langley, Aish Cowgill, Jamie Caulfield, Jasmine Duff, Kaia Cox, Aish Cowgill and Katherine Minns,

**Matters Arising from the February Minutes:** N/A

#### Correspondence Incoming:

National Union of Students - NUS affiliation for WUSA completed for the 2020/21 financial year. Re-affiliation for 2021/22 will occur towards the end of the year.

#### Correspondence Outgoing:

- Email Woolyungah and Governance regarding the casual vacancies

#### President's Report

- Meeting with the collectives and has met with UOW Governance. WUSA has completed its first quarter report.

### Representative Reports

**Environment Officer** - 19th Climate Strike - around 300 people were present. May 21st School Strike will be the next event.

**Education Officer** - Refugee (Palm Sunday) Rally happened in the weekend it was successful.

### General Business

#### Motion in Support the March4Justice Protests

**Moved:** Imogen Draisma

**Seconded:** Katherine Minns

#### Preamble:

On March 15 over 115,000 women across Australia marched for justice in response to series of alleged sexual assaults that have come to light over the last three months, as well as the fundamental failure of the Morrison government to address gender inequality, gendered violence and domestic violence.

The police play a role in persecuting women and not be accepted as part of the movement. They routinely take aboriginal children from their mothers, contribute to black deaths in custody and have the highest rate of domestic violence rate of any profession.

Dozens of women have come forward to share their stories about the continuing culture of sexism and misogyny that festers within the halls of Australian parliaments - we hear you and we believe you.

The wom\*n of Australia deserve better. While such a such culture continues to exist in government it is legitimised everywhere, especially within the workplace culture of Universities. We stand with victims and call for change.

#### **Platform:**

- 1.WUSA endorses the demands of March4Justice:
  - Full independent investigations into all cases of gendered violence and timely referrals to appropriate authorities. Full public accountability for findings.
  - Fully implement the 55 recommendations in the Australian Human Rights Commission's Respect@Work report of the National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces 2020.
  - Lift public funding for gendered violence prevention to world's best practice.
  - The enactment of a federal Gender Equality Act to promote gender equality. It should include a gender equity audit of Parliamentary practices.
2. WUSA notes the importance of the intersectionality of the March4Justice movement, which that bringing indigenous, POC, transgender and disabled wom\*ns voices to the front.
3. WUSA opposes the involvement of the police in movements for women's rights and does not see the police as the solution to this problem.
4. WUSA condemns the Morrison government in its failure to meet with march organisers and agree to the demands of the movement.

#### **Action:**

- 1.WUSA continues to support the March4Justice movement and future protests.
- 2.WUSA will contact SARC as so representatives can receive First Level Responder training.
- 3.WUSA calls on the University of Wollongong to adopt all the recommendations of the Respect@Work immediately.

MOTION CARRIED

#### **Motion about Job Cut Figures**

**Moved:** Imogen Draisma

**Seconded:** Aish Cowgill

#### **Preamble:**

The University of Wollongong NTEU branch has come forward with figures about job redundancies which number over 200.\* The University has disputed these claims but has refused to release the actual figures.

\*See Illawarra Mercury article, 'Anger over disputed UOW job cut figures', 26 March 2021.

#### **Platform:**

1. WUSA reaffirms its condemnation over further job cuts at the university as students continue to see a decrease in the quality of teaching and student services.
- 2.WUSA is deeply concerned that UOW has allegedly breached the goodwill agreement negotiated with management last year.
- 3.WUSA calls on the University for transparency over the job cuts and that it release the official figures of both redundancies and contracts that have concluded since March 2020.

**Action:**

- 1.WUSA will continue to hold staff and student meetings on job cuts, with the next meeting occurring 8 April 2021.
- 2.WUSA will release a statement on its Facebook page calling on the University to release figures on job cuts.

MOTION CARRIED

**EMERGENCY MOTIONS**

**Motion to Discuss Emergency Motions on Block** (Moved: Imogen Draisma, Seconded: Taani Hendriks) MOTION CARRIED

**Motion to Call for Nominations for Casual Vacancies**

**Moved:** Taani Hendriks

**Seconded:** Alec Hall

**Platform:**

- 1.Casual vacancies are now declared open for Tertangala Coordinator, Treasurer, Ethno-Cultural, General Representative positions following the resignations of office bearers.

**Action:**

- 1.Clr Hendriks and Draisma will be in contact with governance to arrange an election to fill these positions.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion to Ratify the Minutes of the January and February Meetings**

**Moved:** Taani Hendriks

**Seconded:** Imogen Draisma

**Platform:**

- 1.Governance has requested the minutes of the January and February be ratified.

**Action:**

- 1.WUSA ratifies the minutes of the January and February Meeting Minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion to Support the May 21st Climate Strike Called by School Strike 4 Climate and Organised in Wollongong by the Illawarra Climate Justice Alliance**

**Moved:** Claire Dunning

**Seconded:** Kaia Cox

**Action:**

- 1.WUSA assists the ICJA in organising and promoting the May 21 climate strike by promoting it on the WUSA Facebook Page and have representatives speak in media releases.
- 2.WUSA will set aside \$200 from the Environment Office budget to print leaflets, posters and sponsor the FB event to help build the strike

## **Motion: Cops out of May Day!**

### **Preamble:**

The Illawarra May Day committee plans to invite police to participate in and march at the front of the 2021 May Day march.

The police have no place in May Day. They are a force which exists to persecute and discipline workers and the oppressed.

The police force has consistently been an enemy of the union movement since its conception. Over 1,000 of them attempted to defeat the 1998 waterfront dispute. When in 2012 thousands of construction workers, members of the CFMEU, blockaded the Myer Emporium site in Melbourne to protest for the right to have union-appointed safety reps and shop stewards on construction sites operated by Grocon, they were pepper sprayed by police and charged with horses.

When Victorian nurses struck in 1986, police dragged picketers at the Royal Melbourne aside across the gravel, bruising and choking them. Police attempted to escort scans across the picket line.

In November last year, police raided the offices of the CFMMEU across NSW.

In particular, the police force oppresses Aboriginal people in Australia. Black deaths in custody continue to rocket upwards, with over 400 Aboriginal people killed in custody since the royal commission in 1991. In March, three Aboriginal people were killed while in police custody in only a six day period. The Black Lives Matter movement, which has highlighted the oppressive role of the police in America, saw protests of over 100,000 nationwide in Australia last year.

When Northern Territory cop Zachary Rolfe was charged with the murder of Indigenous man Kumanjaji Walker, the national police union stood by him. Scott Weber, chief executive of the Police Federation of Australia, said: "It was absolutely shocking for police officers around the country to see someone out there doing their job, protecting the community, get charged with murder".

The police routinely persecute Muslims and Arabs in Australia. At the People's Hearing into Racism and Policing in 2013, 22 year old Abdul told his story, the likes of which was echoed by many of the participants:

"I had run for 10 minutes, I was exhausted ... I came to a stop because I couldn't go any further ... the police officer that had been chasing me catches up, when he catches up it wasn't good at all. He started beating the hell out me from the back. He started screaming 'This is what you get you black dog for running.' He was laying into me, my head, my back ... I was ... It's hard for me to explain how I was feeling, I was like, it was over."

### **Platform:**

- 1.WUSA supports workers rights and the union movement in full
- 2.WUSA does not consider the police force to be part of the labour movement. Rather, it is an enemy of the labour movement.
- 3.WUSA does not think that police unions have any place being affiliated to Australian peak union bodies
- 4.WUSA calls for police to be banned from marching in May Day in the Illawarra

### **Actions:**

- 1.WUSA's education officer will publish a press release detailing the above
- 2.The photo will be taken of the motion supporters at the end of the March Meeting.
- 3.This motion will be published on WUSA's Facebook page

MOTION CARRIED, TWO ABSTENTIONS

**Motion: WUSA endorses UOW fightback campaign**

**Moved:** Jamie Caulfield

**Seconded:** Imogen Draisma

**Preamble:** last week, staff and students met on campus to begin a serious campaign against attacks upon staff and students.

**Actions:**

1. The WUSA education officer's budget will allocate \$1000 for printing materials as well as Facebook advertising and other campaign expenditure
2. WUSA endorses the demands made by the campaign.

MOTION CARRIED

**Motion to Fill Casual Vacancy of Indigenous Office Bearer**

**Moved:** Aish Cowgill

**Second:** Alec Hall

**Platform:**

1. WUSA believes the proper representation of the indigenous community within the student union

**Action:**

1. WUSA will contact Woolyungah to be the representative collective to elect the Indigenous Representative for WUSA.
2. WUSA will be in contact UOW Governance to confirm this process.

MOTION CARRIED

**MEETING CLOSED 07:01**