



WOLLONGONG  
UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION

# MAY MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 24 May 2021  
**Time:** 18:00  
**Location:** 19.1067  
Wollongong Campus

**President:** Taani Hendriks

**General Secretary:**  
Imogen Draisma

## May Meeting Minutes

MEETING OPENED 18:13

**Acknowledgement of Country:** Cr Hendriks

**Suspension of Standing Orders to Conduct Election**

General Representative: Gabriella Wright

**Apologies:** Dylon Tomasi and Eliza Lourenço

**Confirmation of the March Minutes:** Moved: Kaia Cox Seconded: Liam Douglas

**Correspondence Incoming:** NUS Education Conference 28 June

**Correspondence Outgoing:** Media Release - TBC

**President's Report:** Attended the VC protest on Friday and has completed SA first responder training through SARC

### Representative Reports

**Cr Caulfield:** Protests throughout the week including the Climate Strike and VC protest on 21 May, as well as Palestine solidarity event 22 May.

**Cr Cox:** Spoke at the Climate strike on Friday.

**Cr Dunning:** Mirrored the comments of Crs Caulfield and Cox in the successes of the protests.

### General Business

#### Motion regarding the end of VC Wellings tenure and new VC Davidson

**Moved:** Jamie Caulfield

**Seconded:** Sean McLachlan

#### Preamble:

The tenure of University of Wollongong Vice Chancellor Paul Wellings has come to an end. Wellings has in his nearly ten years as VC overseen massive job cuts, the slashing of student services and the further neo-liberalisation of UOW. The incoming Vice Chancellor of UOW Patricia Davidson has so far made no indication that they intend to undo any of the damage done by the Previous VC.

## **Platform:**

WUSA reissues the following demands to the new Vice Chancellor Patricia Davidson:

- No pay cuts to Professional and Academic staff
- Convert all casuals to permanent
- Open the books to public scrutiny
- Reverse all cuts to student services and student support services
- No online classes unless necessary
- Total staff student representation on the University council
- Permanently Cut the pay of the University Executives/VCS

Plus three further demands of the new VC:

- All staff sacked as part of the One UOW restructures and all casuals let go in the corresponding time be rehired by the University in permanent positions.
- All student Fees are restored to pre 2020 rates.
- WUSA calls on the incoming VC to reverse the changes to the Academic Senate and agree to the Academic Senates demands for ongoing consultation, emphasising the need for quality educational standards.

## **MOTION CARRIED**

### **Motion to Discuss Emergency Motions on Block**

**Moved:** Imogen Draisma

**Seconded:** Taani Hendriks

## **MOTION CARRIED**

### **Solidarity with Palestine**

**Moved:** Kaia Cox

**Seconded:** Claire Dunning

### **Preamble:**

1. Recent weeks have seen the attacks on the Palestinian population living with Israeli occupied Jerusalem and West Bank increase. The storming of the Al-Aqsa mosque four times over the five holy days of Ramadan, the evictions of the residents of Sheikh Jarrah within Jerusalem a blatant attack on the Palestinians right to be on their land. This violence is not isolated, but part of the logic of settler-colonialism driven by Israel since the Nakba in 1948;
2. As the global media decries violence on both sides, it is imperative to acknowledge that the violence of the oppressed is in no way comparable with the violence of the oppressor. To date, 248 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed by Israel's attacks, including 66 children, and 1,948 have been wounded. Neutrality in a situation of injustice is support for the oppressor. The plight of Palestine is one such example;
3. In response to the violence, Palestinians across historic Palestine and the diaspora have put up inspiring resistance to colonisation. A general strike across historic Palestine ground key sectors of the economy to a halt, and demonstrations occurred in cities, both within the 1948 borders, and in Gaza and the Occupied West Bank;
4. Mass protests in solidarity occurred all over the world last week, with millions of people standing with Palestinians against the ethnic cleansing being brutally conducted by Israel. On the 22nd of May Students for Palestine – Wollongong Uni helped organise a highly successful protest in solidarity with this struggle.

**Platform:**

1. WUSA condemns the current violent campaign being waged against Palestinians by the IDF and settler gangs;
2. WUSA condemns the colonisation of Palestine by the apartheid State of Israel;
3. WUSA stands in solidarity with the struggle of Palestinian people, in historic Palestine and through the diaspora;
4. WUSA defends the rights of Palestinians to return to their homeland, to self-defence, and to citizenship;
5. WUSA affirms that anti-Zionism is not anti-Semitism, and that Jewish people are not responsible for or synonymous with the State of Israel.

**Action:**

1. WUSA will take a photo at the end of this meeting to be posted from the WUSA page to demonstrate our support for Palestine;
2. WUSA will also assist and initiate further actions of solidarity (e.g. further protests) with the Wollongong Palestinian community and Students for Palestine – Wollongong Uni.

**MOTION CARRIED****Emergency Motion - Police Presence on Campus**

**Moved:** Sean McLachlan

**Seconded:** Alec Hall

**Preamble:**

There have been multiple instances now of police being invited on campus to repress staff and students protesting, with last Friday being a shocking example that should be concern to all those who hold the right to protest on campus as important.

On 21st of May staff and students protested outside of a private dinner being held at the University Hall in honour the outgoing Vice-Chancellor Paul Wellings. The protestors were expressing their opposition to the staff and student condition that occurred under the direction of Paul Wellings. In response to the organised protest a police force numbering over 20 officers - this included riot squad, mounted police and non-uniformed detectives were deployed on campus to 'control the protest'.

From the beginning of the event, when less people had gathered, police began singling out staff and students by grabbing and/or pushing them without provocation. These rough-handed discriminate acts became indiscriminate and more violent as the staff and student led protest grew in size. People were thrown to the ground and threatened with pepper spray by police officers that carried batons, with some carrying metal batons. In one instance, a student was push over a metre into a bush by a police officer who then proceeded to pull out their pepper spray and aim it threateningly at surrounding protestors.

The actions taken by the police violent and can in no way be justified as ensuring the 'safety' of staff, students or attendance of the event in University Hall. They attacked staff and students who were carrying out their right to protest on campus. The aggressive acts carried out by police against protestors makes evident the outrageousness of inviting police onto university campus in the first place. For this, onus must be placed on those at the University of Wollongong who want to establish their presence on campus, as was seen last month when a smaller protest was also met by uniformed and non-uniformed police. Both the actions of police on the 21st of May and the increasing presence of police on campus should be a great concern to staff and students at UOW. University campuses should be of great concern to staff and students at UOW. University campuses should be a police free zone and UOW staff and students ought to be able to carry out their right to protest without fear of being repressed by NSW Police Force.

**Action:**

1. WUSA will release a statement condemning the NSW Police Force and campus security for their actions taken against UOW staff and students protesting on campus Friday night
2. WUSA calls on University management to stop collaboration with police and campus security to repress protests
3. WUSA supports the right to protest on campus free from police interference - particularly when students and staff are protesting attacks to their condition here at the University of Wollongong.

**MOTION CARRIED**

MEETING CLOSED 18:53

**Platform:**

1. WUSA supports the right to protest on campus free from police interference - particularly when students and staff are protesting against attacks to their conditions here at the University of Wollongong.

**Action:**

1. WUSA will release a statement condemning the NSW Police Force for their actions taken against UOW staff and students protesting on campus 21 May 2021.

**MOTION CARRIED**

MEETING CLOSED 18:53