



WOLLONGONG
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER MEETING

MINUTES

Date: 11 November 2021

Time: 18:00

Location: Discord

October Meeting Minutes

MEETING OPENED: 18:06

President: Taani Hendriks

General Secretary:
Imogen Draisma

Acknowledgement of Country: Cr Draisma

Attendance: Liam Douglas, Imogen Draisma, Kaia Cox, Sean McLachlan, Jack Mansell, Alec Hall, Jamie Caulfield, Albert Leung, Dylon Tomasi, Jye Langley, Aish Cowgill,

Apologies: Katherine Minns and Taani Hendriks

Confirmation of the June Minutes: Moved: Kaia Cox Seconded: Alex Hall

Business Arising: N/A

Correspondence Incoming: Email to Finance confirming budget

President's Report: Meeting with SARC and provided a Presidents Report to University Council.

Representative Reports:

Education Officer: Ongoing campaign has been quite successful, looking forward to organising in person and building campaign about a safe return to campus.

General Business

Motion to pay the Tertangala Coordinator and Editors fairly

Moved: Alec Hall

Seconded: Imogen Draisma

Preamble:

UOW Finance has decided that the pay for Tertangala Coordinator and the Editors is paid on a “pro-rata” basis. This decision comes without support of WUSA and means that the current Coordinator and Editors are only paid a portion of what they earned this year. Eliza and the current editors have been working to keep the Tert afloat even before they officially received their titles.

Action:

1. WUSA Council moves to pay the Tertangala Coordinator and Editors the full amount outlined in the WUSA 2021 budget (\$6000) for their work.

MOTION CARRIED

UOW must ensure health and safety for staff and students

Moved: Jamie Caulfield

Seconded: Kaia Cox

Preamble:

Face-to-face learning is set to resume on campus next year; as such, UOW should take steps now to ensure that adequate health protections are in place. It is a basic right for workers and customers of any workplace to have adequate health and safety measures in place. That such measures may be onerous or expensive is no excuse not to implement them. It would be unthinkable to expect construction workers to enter a site without a hardhat. It would be unthinkable to expect healthcare workers to enter hospitals without state-of-the-art PPE. It should also be unthinkable for universities to expect their staff and students to attend a campus that has not taken all the measures it can to protect their health.

Vaccinations are a key part of any strategy of limiting the transmission and deadliness of COVID-19. A double dose of a TGA approved vaccine has been demonstrated to dramatically decrease a person's chance of either hospitalisation or death from the virus. The NSW government should implement a vaccine mandate for anyone entering the UOW campus. Barring this, UOW should require that students, staff, and visitors be fully vaccinated in order to attend campus.

On top of these demands regarding vaccination, we understand that research has indicated a vaccine-plus approach needs to be taken to ensure safety. Organisations such as OzSage have made clear that extra preventative measures need to be taken, such as addressing the poor ventilation systems that have facilitated the spread COVID-19. Vice Chancellor Patricia Davidson, a former nurse and health practitioner should understand the need for these measures at UOW.

The following demands aim to ensure that when students and staff return to campus, they can do so with minimal fear for their health and safety. Such demands should be the foundations of any campus policy that prioritises public health over profits.

Platform:

- WUSA demands that UOW implement an independent audit of air quality for every building, with the results made available immediately to the NTEU and WUSA, in addition to an independent audit of air quality for all student accommodation, with the results made available immediately to WUSA.
- WUSA demands that UOW ensures that all teaching spaces and other facilities are equipped with proper air filtering (HEPA filters), if buildings or rooms are found to be lacking.
- WUSA demands that constant air quality monitoring be introduced to buildings at UOW, and that buildings be vacated if CO2 levels get above 800 ppm.

- WUSA demands UOW make N95, or, failing that, KN94 respirators free and readily available to staff and students on campus.
- WUSA supports mandatory vaccinations (with the exception of genuine medical exemptions) as public health and safety should be the top priority of any union.
- WUSA demands UOW hire additional staff to cope with reductions in class sizes resulting from social distancing requirements, as smaller class sizes for lectures and tutorials will improve safety for students and staff.
- WUSA demands UOW hire additional cleaning staff to improve the sanitary condition of the campus, including the sanitising of classrooms and high touch surfaces, as well as COVID assistance officers to ensure students and staff on campus have adequate access to PPE and that social distancing can be enforced.

Action:

- WUSA will communicate these health and safety demands to the University administration, publicise that it has done so, in addition to publicising the demands on social media.
- WUSA will send a press release to Wollongong media outlets communicating that the student union is preparing to fight for COVID safety on campus in 2022.
- WUSA will campaign against any return of students or staff to any unsafe environment.

WUSA Supports Allocating Funds for Activism

Moved: Dylan Tomasi

Seconded: Sean McLachlan

Preamble -

1) Student unions are bodies that should, and do engage in activism. Members of WUSA have been involved in various activist campaigns including protesting against staff cuts at UOW, demanding the divestment of fossil fuel and military ties at the university, freedom for refugees, solidarity with the Muslim community, in support of Black Lives Matter, the rights of Palestinian people, campaigns and climate change, and demands for equal marriage to name a few.

2) Protest movements and campaigns are bolstered greatly by economic support from a number of community groups and individual activists, therefore it will be greatly beneficial for all activist campaigns to have more funds for advertising and materials to reach and facilitate participation for as many people as possible.

Platform:

1) WUSA supports its elected members being activists and supports their engagement in various activist campaigns.

2) WUSA recognises that students union all over Australia give material economic support to various activist campaigns.

Action:

1) WUSA will allocate money for the support of activist campaigns that members are involved with, which can be used to purchase items and services including but not limited to;

- a) thirty (30) metres of calico at no more than \$12 a metre;
- b) up \$150 of paint and brushes;
- c) two (2) megaphones at \$69.95

WUSA will look to invest in other resources that can be used by the student union ongoing.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING ENDED 18:38