



WOLLONGONG
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Date: 29 November 2021

Time: 18:00

Location: Discord

President: Taani Hendriks

General Secretary:
Imogen Draisma

November Meeting Minutes

MEETING OPENED: 18:08

Acknowledgement of Country: Taani Hendriks

Attendance: Liam Douglas, Imogen Draisma, Kaia Cox, Alec Hall, Taani Hendriks, Jamie Caulfield, Albert Leung, Dylon Tomasi, Jye Langley and Aish Cowgill.

Apologies: Katherine Minns and Sean McLachlan

Confirmation of the June Minutes: Moved: Dylon Tomasi Seconded: Liam Douglas

Business Arising: N/A

Correspondence Incoming: N/A

President's Report: Organised a meeting with Governance to discuss the year, particularly the motion to give the full Tertangala honorarium to the current office bearer. Induction for the new WUSA Council 8 December 2021.

Representative Reports:

Education Officer: Successful year in light of the circumstances. Campaign for staff conditions needs to continue with the announcement that universities are introducing KPIs for academic staff.

General Business

WUSA Supports Funds for Promoting Activism

Moved: Dylon Tomasi

Seconded: Jamie Caulfield

Preamble —

1) Activism is a cornerstone of WUSA's work. Promoting protests, demonstrations, and public meetings is integral both to growing the membership of WUSA, but also engaging with the student body in a meaningful way.

(2) The protest against COP26 in Wollongong on 6th November was the first in person event that many officebearers of WUSA participated in. To build the protest, it was necessary to promote it heavily, both in print and online, in order to get the most community engagement and awareness possible.

Platform —

(1) WUSA supports using portions of its budget for promotion for activist events such as protests, demonstrations and public meetings.

Action —

(1) WUSA will reimburse Dylon Tomasi, the Education Officer \$370 for promotion for the event which included posters and flyers.

MOTION CARRIED

WUSA Endorses “Protest the Religious Discrimination Bill”

Moved: Jamie Caulfield

Seconded: Kaia Cox

Preamble

1) The Liberal Government is moving to undermine LGBTI rights and legitimize bigotry under the new guise of “religious freedom”. Draft legislation, which is likely to be moved in parliament in the next week, has revealed that this bill is nothing but a counterattack from the right on the advances made by all those who fought to win marriage equality.

2) The “Religious Discrimination Bill” will override state legislation that protects LGBTI workers from discrimination, strengthening religious institutions in their ability to discriminate against workers if their sexuality conflicts with the “religious ethos” of the employer. Further, this bill will protect “statements of belief” under federal law meaning homophobia, transphobia and sexism will not face legal consequences. Far from protecting “marginalised people of faith”, the bill defends the rights of bigots to be bigots.

3) Shamefully, the Labor Party has come out to support the bill so long as it “doesn’t come at the cost of reducing protections for other forms of discrimination”. But this is precisely what the bill is intended to do, authored and signed off by the culture warriors in the Liberal Party and the Australian Christian Lobby.

4) It is clear that we cannot rely on the Labor Party to protect LGBTI people from attacks by the right. LGBTI rights have never been won or defended by parliamentary politics. Our strength is in our ability to mobilise against all forms of oppression, the campaign for marriage equality being the most notable victory in recent years. This is what the rally organized by Community Action for Rainbow Rights on the 5th of December intends to do. WUSA should endorse it fully and continue to condemn all attacks on the rights of LGBTI people.

Platform

1) WUSA condemns the “Religious Freedom Bill” as an attack on LGBTI rights.

2) WUSA endorses the rally on the 5th of December.

Action

(1) WUSA will share posts on Facebook to promote the event.

(2) WUSA will reimburse Education Officer Dylon Tomasi \$250 for materials used to build the event.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to Purchase Portable Air Filters

Moved: Jamie Caulfield

Seconded: Dylan Tomasi

Preamble:

1.The State of NSW now effectively reopened to business despite the continued presence of Covid in the community. Covid will not disappear anytime soon as long as bodies like the State and Federal Governments refuse to take action towards elimination.

2.Furthermore it is essential that entities like UOW do what they can to protect their staff and students through measures such as the installation of HEPA air filters in the campus buildings. As they have yet to install such devices and have no clear plans to do so in the next few months WUSA should purchase 2 portable HEPA Air Filters to ensure our ability to meet safely in future and set the precedent that we expect nothing less than a covid safe environment at the University.

Platform:

1.WUSA Supports the installation of Covid safe HEPA Air Filters throughout the university as well as any other measures required to ensure Covid Safety at the University and condemns the lack of action taken so far in that regard.

2.Until the University does the above point WUSA Supports taking action to ensure the safety of its members including the purchase of Portable Air Filters for WUSA meetings and events.

Action:

1.WUSA supports in principle the purchase of 2 Covid Safe Air filters With a budget of \$1000 dollars to go towards purchasing the Filtration units (Valued upwards of \$300 each) and any remaining money in that budget to go to the additional purchase of replacement filters for the devices, which needs to be discussed and budgeted by the future WUSA Council.

MOTION CARRIED

MEETING ENDED 18:33