

WOLLONGONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION

7th WUSA Council Meeting
16:30, Thursday July 24th, 2008
Room – WUSA Office

Minutes

Present

Brendan Cook (Secretary) - Chair
Luke McGregor (Treasurer) – *arrived 17:20*
Martin Laird (Disabilities)
Patrick Kennedy Bates (Education Campaigns)
Sarah Woodcroft (Events)
Tim Rouen (External Students)
Chris Monnox (Global Solidarity)
Bec Nash (Queer)
Allison Jeffares (Tertangala)
Jess Di Blasio (Welfare)
Hailey Sutton (Womyn's)
Catherine Garner (General Representative) – Minute person
Adam Knobel (General Representative)
Nikki Low (General Representative)
Kirri Piper (General Representative)
Toby Kell (General Representative)
Mark Putvinas (General Representative)
Brodie Galloway (General Representative)
Geoffrey Pidcock (General Representative) - *elected*
Paul Dunwell (General Representative) - *elected*

Observers

Jacq Dollard (Staff), Nick Rouen, Jeffrey Gock, Morgan

Meeting opened 16:50

08/CM07/01

PROCEDURAL MOTION

C. Garner

It was moved that Brendan Cook act as Chair for the meeting.

CARRIED unanimously

1. Apologies

08/CM07/02

P. Kennedy Bates

It was moved that apologies be accepted from Michael Dicker (General Representative), Dylan Harrison (General Representative), Kirri Piper (General Representative), Nick Kafer (General Representative), Hong (Henry) Jiao Shao (General Representative), and Charly Lindsay (General Representative).

WOLLONGONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION

CARRIED unanimously

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

08/CM07/03

S. Woodcroft

It was moved that the Minutes from the 6th WUSA Council Meeting be tabled, with an amendment to acknowledge apologies given by Nick Kafer.

CARRIED unanimously

3. Correspondence

08/CM07/04

PROCEDURAL MOTION

A. Knobel

It was moved that Jacq Dollard be granted speaking right for the duration of the meeting.

CARRIED unanimously

08/CM07/05

C. Garner

It was moved that the following correspondence be tabled:

Tom Hunt (Buildings and Grounds) – Attachment A

Ben Maxfield (NUS National General Secretary) – Attachment H

CARRIED unanimously

4. Standard Operations Business

08/CM07/06

PROCEDURAL MOTION

A. Knobel

It was moved that Jacq Dollard be appointed Returning Officer for the duration of the meeting.

CARRIED unanimously

There are vacancies for the following positions:

2x General Representatives

Nomination(s) received from:

- Jeffrey Gock
- Geoffrey Pidcock
- Paul Dunwell

- Geoffrey Pidcock was elected -

- Paul Dunwell was elected -

Luke McGregor arrived 17:20

5. Representatives' Reports

08/CM07/07

N. Low

It was moved that the following reports be tabled:

Bec Nash (Written Report) - Queer Collaborations conference (Attachment B)

Catherine Garner (Written Report) – NUS Education Conference (Attachment C)

Chris Monnox (Written Report) – NUS Education Conference (Attachment D)

WOLLONGONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION

Patrick Kennedy Bates (Written Report) – NUS Education Conference (Attachment I)

CARRIED unanimously

6. General Business

08/CM07/08

L. McGregor/ C. Monnox

It was moved that Council table Attachment E – Pricing Schedule (to be distributed during the meeting) as an outline of the goods and services provided by WUSA. This will result in more accountable decision-making and make it easier for WUSA staff to apply a consistent policy in pricing. It should be considered a work-in-progress and be updated as Council sees fit. The attachment should be uploaded to the WUSA website on the 'Regulations and Policy' page.

CARRIED

For: 19

Against: 1

Abstentions: nil

08/CM07/09

A. Knobel/C. Monnox

It was moved that the minutes from Staff Meeting 4 (29/05/08) be tabled as Attachment F.

CARRIED unanimously

08/CM07/10

S. Woodcroft/H. Sutton

It was moved that WUSA release up to \$500 to purchase microphones.

Budget line: Collectives budget - unallocated

CARRIED

For: 17

Against: 1

Abstentions: 2

08/CM07/11

PROCEDURAL MOTION

L. McGregor

It was moved that motion 08/CM07/12 be amended to include the following:

That WUSA requests KPMG amend audits for council changes that occurred in those years.

CARRIED unanimously

08/CM07/11

L. McGregor/C. Monnox

That WUSA Council endorses the Audits of years ended 31 December 2004, 31 December 2005 and 31 December 2006. WUSA Council agrees that the Audits carried out by KPMG Wollongong are a true and accurate record of the financial situation of WUSA for the respective years.

That WUSA requests KPMG amend audits for council changes that occurred in those years.

CARRIED unanimously

08/CM07/12

L. McGregor/C. Monnox

That Council table WUSA's expenditure to June 30th 2008 as Attachment F.

FAILED

For: 10

(B. Cook)

WOLLONGONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION

Against: nil
Abstentions: 10

08/CM07/13

L. McGregor/C. Monnox

That WUSA Council release \$16,500.00 (including GST) to KPMG invoice 13643 for audit fee for year ended 30th June 2006.

Budget line: Office and Administration Expenses/Financial Audit fees

CARRIED
For: 18
Against: nil
Abstentions: 2

08/CM07/14

PROCEDURAL MOTION

C. Garner

It was moved that Council now hear Emergency Motions.....

CARRIED
For: 18
Against: nil
Abstentions: 2

08/CM07/15

EMERGENCY MOTION

A. Jeffares/H. Sutton

That WUSA releases up to \$150 for the purchase of a Dictaphone for use on the Tertangala.

Budget line: Tertangala

CARRIED
For: 18
Against: nil
Abstentions: 2

08/CM07/16

PROCEDURAL MOTION

T. Rouen

Nick Rouen was invited to speak to Council.

CARRIED
For: 19
Against: nil
Abstentions: 1

08/CM07/17

EMERGENCY MOTION

P. Kennedy Bates/B. Cook

That WUSA extend the working hours of the Administrative Assistant to include 3 hours on Fridays to complete administrative tasks unfinished due to the book bank operation.

The period for which this amendment to the working hours continues will be decided by the next Council Meeting.

Budget line: Staff – Admin. Assistant/Front desk

CARRIED unanimously

08/CM07/18

EMERGENCY MOTION

P. Kennedy Bates/H. Sutton



WOLLONGONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION

WUSA release up to \$500 for the purchase of cans of soft drink to sell in order to support WUSA weekly barbecues. \$450 is to be allocated for drinks, \$50 for ice.

Budget line: Collectives - Unallocated

CARRIED unanimously

08/CM07/20 PROCEDURAL MOTION

H. Sutton

It was moved that motion 08/CM07/21 be put.

CARRIED

For: 8

Against: 6

Abstentions: 3

08/CM07/21 EMERGENCY MOTION

H. Sutton/T. Rouen

That WUSA release an amount of up to \$200 to support Leah Reid in attending the National Student Leadership Forum.

Budget line: Unallocated Grants and Donations

FAILED

For: 7

Against: 8

Abstentions: 2

08/CM07/22 PROCEDURAL MOTION

T. Rouen

It was moved that Morgan speak to Council.

CARRIED unanimously

Meeting closed 18:25

WOLLONGONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION

Attachment B

Bec Nash (Written Report) – Queer Collaborations conference

Queer Collaborations is a national conference for all students who identify as queer, lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, asexual, intersex, curious, and pansexual held in various locations around the country. This year's conference was held on campus at the University of Melbourne. QC ran from July 1st to 4th and was comprised of various workshops, lecture-style plenaries and social events.

Eleven members of the queer collective attended funded in part from funds raised by the collective and also paid for in part using funds from the unallocated collective's budget. These funds covered both the cost of registration and accommodation.

Collective members attended workshops on a variety of issues such as legal rights, being a trans ally, sex positivity and inclusivity in queer spaces. Hopefully the skills and information gained will enable Allsorts to further grow and strengthen as a collective.

Attachment C

Catherine Garner (Written Report) – NUS Education Conference

Education Conference was held at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. This year's focus was on the impact of technology in education and how that is changing approaches to education in universities and other tertiary education environments.

Whilst at EdCon I was able to co-facilitate a successful workshop on engaging with privilege in activist organising spaces. As a result of this I was able to network with other activists and get resources on challenging privilege which should be of great help in my work with both WUSA and Allsorts.

In addition to this I was able to spend time speaking with other conference attendees from small and regional campuses about how to expand and re-engage with the network of small and regional campuses through NUS. Given that the effects of VSU on these particular campuses is quite markedly different from the experience of metropolitan campuses this was very educational and will hopefully pay great dividends for WUSA and myself personally.

WOLLONGONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION

Attachment D

Chris Monnox (Written Report) – NUS Education Conference

The 2008 National Union of Students Education Conference was held between Wednesday the 18th and Friday the 20th of June at Kelvin Grove College, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane.

Q&A with Peter Noonan

The conference opened with an address from, followed by a question and answer session with Mr Peter Noonan, a member of the Rudd Governments Higher Education Review Panel. Questions and comments were mostly concern with the issue of university specialisation, as it relates to the Melbourne Model (whereby the University of Melbourne will gradually reduce the number of undergraduate courses on offer to six while moving its focus to graduate courses) and the recent elimination of Arts courses at some universities. Although questioning was repetitive at times these issues are worth discussing, as is the Higher Education Review more broadly.

Plenary Session: State of the Union with Angus McFarland

After a short break, Peter Noonan's address was followed by a shorter address from and question and answer with National Union of Students President Angus McFarland. Angus concern himself mostly with the 2007 Federal Budget and the NUS' response to it. He spoke favourably of the Rudd Government's abolition of domestic undergraduate full fee paying places but expressed considerable dissatisfaction over the Governments having chosen not to address the issue of Voluntary Student Unionism and student organisation funding. Several students criticised Angus and the Executive more broadly over their approach to the Rudd Government, suggesting that it is inappropriate for the NUS to rely on the Rudd Government and Senators such as Steve Fielding (Family First) and Barnaby Joyce (National). It is difficult to imagine, however, how adopting a confrontational approach to a popular government could benefit an organisation with no prospect of drawing support from the Liberal opposition. Cynicism regarding Senator Joyce also seems unwarranted in light of his previous decision to vote against his own party on the issue of VSU. Overall, I judged the approach of Angus McFarland and the National Executive to be sound and worthy of continuation in spite of the obvious setback of the Federal Budget.

NUS Welfare Department Report-back with Liz Larbalestier

This workshop, and others like it, was one of the more useful aspects of the conference. Students from all around the country discussed their universities welfare events with one another. I found that WUSA's approach was broadly consistent with that of other universities- that is mostly concern with raising awareness by giving away food. Also discussed was the degree to which future welfare campaigns should be nationally co-coordinated. Most students, myself included, thought that it was important for national campaigns to remain flexible so that student organisations are able to tailor them to their unique conditions.

Trade Unions and Working Students with Sarah Cole and Hayley Conway

This workshop was mostly concern with the identification of an issue- specifically the exploitation of students in the workforce. Some contributors appeared to be preoccupied with lamenting the end of a highly romanticised era of union power but others raised important issues regarding the union movement's relationship with students, most notably the extent to

WOLLONGONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION

which union dues can act as a disincentive for poor students seeking to become involved in their unions. Other participants, in particular those from La Trobe, noted a potential role for student organisations as a point of contact between students and the trade union movement. The ACTU has apparently been willing to assist some student organisations in this regard. Given the strong presence of the union movement in the Illawarra, this is an option well worth investigating.

Students in University Governance Bodies with Phuong Au

As an Academic Senator I found this workshop particularly interesting. National Union of Students General Secretary Ben Maxfield, who serves on the University Council of Monash University favoured my discussion group with an insightful and astute discussion of the tension that exists between University Council members obligations to their University and their obligations to students, while students from ANU spoke about a recent successful push to have the contact details of student representatives on faculty boards published in subject outlines. This is a practice that I believe should be emulated at the University of Wollongong. Given that individuals from other discussion groups chose to regale the workshop as a whole with statements to the effect that “universities are money making corporations” out to get students I suspect that I was fortunate in my choice of discussion group. It is worth reiterating, however, that this was a very worthwhile workshop.

Panel Discussion/ Q&A: NUS Campaigns 2008 with Lucy Saunders, Liz LARBalestier and James Vigus

This session had the potential to be a very productive discussion of the activities of the National Union of Students in the first half of 2007. The executive members on the panel made a commendable effort to this effect, as did many questioners. Some, however, confined themselves to repetitive carping to a quite disappointing degree.

Red Fascism

Intrigued by the name, I decided to attend the workshop “The Relevance of Marxism in the 21st Century”. It proved to be an experience that can only be described as harrowing. Predictions of imminent revolution in Australia and claims that the USSR was in fact a capitalist power were not altogether unexpected. I was shocked and appalled, however, at the refusal of certain Socialist Alternative apparatchiks to take questions from those who they suspected of harbouring patriotic beliefs and the capacity for free thought. Nor was I the only one. An enthusiastic student activist from Victoria, Carlo, complained to me after this workshop about the way in which patriotic students “were stared at, judged, and made to feel like (capitalist) pigs”. He told of how they had [their] faith in morality mocked, [their] belief in freedom dismissed” and how they “departed feeling less human, less Australian.”

The Radical History of NUS with Dave Barrow and Warren Roberts

This workshop featured speakers discussing the subjects of the Northern Territory intervention and the situation in Burma. I was particularly interested to here about Burma, and have contacted the universities Oxfam group to offer support for actions they may take in the upcoming semester concern with Burma and opposition to the Burmese junta.

The National Student Media Network with Liz LARBalestier

The most important reason for student organizations involving themselves with the NUS Education Conference is the opportunity it provides for comparing experiences with students

WOLLONGONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION

from other campus's all over the country. This was particularly true of this workshop, in which student publications were discussed. I found that WUSA was quite lucky to have a publication supported by the university. Student publications throughout Australia have consistently struggled for funding, with some finding their futures in serious jeopardy, particularly on smaller campuses. We discussed the establishment of a national content pool for student publications, and the existence of a content pool incorporating the publications of several Sydney universities. I strongly recommend that we investigate involving ourselves in this initiative.

Resolutions Session

The non-binding resolution session which marked the end of the conference was, overall, characterised by constructive and respectful debate, with motions concerning upcoming welfare and education campaigns and the work being done on a student media network being passed. Although the session was marred by some unduly long orations and a refusal on the part of Socialist Alternative to recognize the importance of Canberra and Adelaide it was generally a worthwhile exercise.

Conclusions

The National Union of Students Education Conference provides students with a unique opportunity to compare their experiences with those of their peers on other campuses. The scope of the conference is broad with no less than thirty-six different workshops being offered over the course of the three days catering to different student interests. The conference also provides an important opportunity to keep up to date with the activities of the NUS National Executive. In spite of some setbacks, based on my observations and discussion with executive members I believe that the National Executive is doing a commendable job. It remains the case, as I reported after the 2007 NUS conference, that:

“Only a nationally coordinated effort can bring about the changes in Government policy needed to ensure the long term viability of WUSA and to improve student's quality of life and the only organization capable of acting for students on a national scale is the NUS.”

In light of this and my experiences at the NUS Education Conference I strongly recommend continued WUSA involvement in the NUS and its Education Conference.

WOLLONGONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION

Attachment G

Staff Meeting 4 (Minutes) – held 29/05/08

Meeting Notes

Present

Jacq Dollard (WUSA Front Desk Receptionist)
Robyn Debbes (WUSA Office Administrator)
David (WUSA IT Support)
Brendan Cook (Office Manager/Secretary)

The meeting commenced at 2.30pm.

The following issues were discussed:

1. President/Office Manager

Brendan, Hailey Sutton and Chris Monnox attended a meeting with Chris Grange discussing Presidency issues. Chris Grange advised, from the understanding of the UOW Academic Registrar, the Motion removing Chris Pettett as President of WUSA was invalid. Chris advised that WUSA can resolve situation by appointing a Solicitor to read over WUSA Constitution to see if Motion is valid, or have Chris Pettett resign.

2. Copy Guard System

Jacq confirmed the following: the copy guard system is working, there is a few problems with system, she will delete quota already existing and that training will be organised for staff and Reps who assist with front desk enquiries.

Action: Discuss at WUSA Council Meeting 6 and decide on policy and Rep quota.

Action: Jacq to contact financial members to inform them that they have \$10 quota.

Action: Brendan to include on Council Meeting 6 Agenda – Policies and Quota

3. BookBank

David reported he would install partial systems by Monday 2nd Jul and other systems during next few weeks.

Jacq confirmed she is following the policy from the old BookBank.

Jacq advised Tim Rouen would be helping with advertising including organizing posters and advertising in Tertangala.

The meeting discussed the payment procedure to Students whose books have been sold. The meeting agreed a cheque run should go out once a month unless 5 or more books are sold. If 5 or more books are sold, cheque run should be done fortnightly.

Action: Robyn to discuss with Daley & Co - fast-tracking payments, i.e. fax details to Daley & Co rather than delivering in person.

Action: Robyn to email David a copy of the BookBank procedures.

4. JCC Meeting Update

Nominations received from Robyn and Jacq to be part of the JCC Committee. Nominations accepted by all. The meeting agreed that the JCC Committee meeting would be on 17th June at 10.30am.

WOLLONGONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION

Action: Jacq to prepare JCC Agenda.

Action: Brendan to discuss with Executive to see if any issues need to be discussed at JCC meeting.

5. Student Loans

Action: Robyn to send Jacq a copy of Student Loan register.

Action: Jacq to follow up payment for outstanding loans by post.

6. Membership Cards

Jacq advised we have a binding machine and David advised we have a laminating machine. The meeting discussed the prospect of WUSA making our membership cards.

Action: Robyn to find out laminating costs.

Action: Robyn and Jacq to estimate how much it will cost to make our own membership cards.

7. Kitchen

Brendan reported that WUSA Council Reps do not want to install kitchen at the WUSA office. WUSA will confirm a solid arrangement with Unicentre that allows WUSA staff to access staff facilities in the Unicentre Building. WUSA will fix the sinks and facilities already in the WUSA office and maintain their cleanliness. Any negotiation with the University and WUSA regarding any additional or proposed alternative space include the requirement for toilet and kitchen facilities. Jacq and Robyn said they would discuss at JCC Committee meeting.

Action: Brendan to organize cleaning of the mentioned area.

Action: Brendan to confirm solid arrangement with UniCentre.

Action: Jacq to include "Kitchen" as an Agenda item at JCC Committee meeting.

8. Staff Holidays

Jacq advised she would be out of office on 11th and 12th June and from 7th to 10th July. Robyn advised she would be out office from 14th to 17th July.

9. Honorary Solicitor

Brendan confirmed he is investigating.

Action: Brendan to appoint a Solicitor to represent WUSA.

10. New WUSA Council Initiatives

Brendan confirmed all new initiatives would be included in future WUSA Council Meeting Minutes.

Meeting closed at 4.15pm.