

QUT Guild Council Meeting Minutes

6 PM Monday 22nd of June 2020 – Grove Bar, C Block, Level 4 at QUT Kelvin Grove Campus

1. Opening and Credentials

The meeting was opened by QUT Guild Council Chairperson, Camille Etchegaray, at 6:02 PM.

The following members were present, with (R) marked for remote access, meeting quorum:

- Cameron Mackie
- Olivia Brumm
- Liam Blair
- Sarah Balmer
- Ramisa Raya (R)
- Harrison Pie
- Alicia Tonio
- Maximilian Fox
- Zachary Noble
- Hannah Smith
- Seren Wyatt (R)
- Jennifer Barnaby
- Nikka Turangan (R)
- Dieu Linh Hoang (arrived 6:10 PM)
- Emily Readman
- Jasmin Graves
- Ashleigh North
- Anahita Ebrahimi
- Samuel White
- Genevieve Hitzke (R) (arrived 6:10 PM)
- Hamish Killen
- Saskia Mathers (R)
- Tully Grimley (arrived 6:10 PM)
- Eleanor Rogers

The following members were absent, with (A) marked for apologies sent:

- Megha Prasad
- Jonathan Easton
- Dominique Lew
- Jeffrey Wang
- Suraj Nijjar
- Nelson Reed-Banyard
- Rusha Joshi

The following others were present, with (NS) marked for non-students and (R) marked for remote access:

- Zoe Vaill
- Declan Kerr (R)
- Bailey Palk (R)
- Alex Smock (NS)
- Harry Thompson
- Sel Dowd (R)
- Camille Etchegaray (Chairperson)

The Chairperson began the meeting with an Acknowledgment of Country and confirmed that there were no leaves of absence and no apologies received. All remote attendees were confirmed under R4.4 of the QUT Guild Regulations.

2. Additions/ Deletions to the Agenda

The Chairperson called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. SEF Faculty Councillor, Saskia Mathers, asked to remove the Faculty Councillor Report from Agenda item five (5), citing low engagement from other Faculty Councillors in developing this report.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Council Meeting of the Guild

The Chairperson asked if any person who attended the last meeting of Guild Council would like to bring any amendments to the minutes. No amendments were brought.

Motion: To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting to Council.

Aye – Cameron Mackie, Olivia Brumm, Liam Blair, Zachary Noble, Sarah Balmer, Ramisa Raya, Alicia Tonio, Maximilian Fox, Harrison Pie, Hannah Smith, Seren Wyatt, Jennifer Barnaby, Nikka Turangan, Emily Readman, Jasmin Graves, Anahita Ebrahimi, Ashleigh North, Samuel White, Eleanor Rogers, Saskia Mathers (12.5).

No – 0, Abstentions – 0.

Motion carried.

The minutes of the previous meeting of Guild Council were confirmed.

4. Election and Appointment of Members

The Chairperson confirmed that one (1) nomination was received in advance for the position of QUT Guild Health Faculty Councillor. No further nominations were received. As the single nominee, Katherine Nguyen, was not in attendance, the Chairperson invited Guild Secretary, Cameron Mackie, to read Katherine's statement of suitability for the role.

Motion: To elect Katherine Nguyen as the Guild Health Faculty Councillor.

Mover – Cameron Mackie, Secunder – Olivia Brumm

Aye – Cameron Mackie, Olivia Brumm, Liam Blair, Zachary Noble, Sarah Balmer, Ramisa Raya, Alicia Tonio, Maximilian Fox, Harrison Pie, Hannah Smith, Seren Wyatt, Jennifer Barnaby, Nikka Turangan, Dieu Linh Hoang, Emily Readman, Jasmin Graves, Anahita Ebrahimi, Ashleigh North, Samuel White, Tully Grimley, Hamish Killen, Eleanor Rogers, Saskia Mathers, Genevieve Hitzke (15).

No – 0, Abstentions – 0.

Motion carried.

Katherine Nguyen was confirmed as the QUT Guild Health Faculty Councillor.

5. Presentation of Reports and Papers

This item was deleted from proceedings as per agenda item two (2).

6. Question Time

As no questions with notice were submitted, the floor was opened to Council for any questions without notice. Student Rights Vice-President, Sarah Balmer, asked Liam Blair, Guild Treasurer, for an update on the recent education fee hike and the protest to occur on Friday 26th of June, 2020. Blair replied that he intends to bring a motion without notice addressing this question during agenda item eight (8). The question was tabled

7. Motion with Notice

One motion with notice was received, and the Chairperson called on Guild President, Olivia Brumm, to speak for this motion to approve the new QUT Guild revised policy documents. Brumm explained that the QUT Guild recently hired an external Human Resources consultant who has so far created several policy documents to govern the QUT Guild internally. The motion was moved en bloc.

Motion: To confirm all policies.

Mover – Olivia Brumm, **Seconder** – Cameron Mackie

Aye – Cameron Mackie, Olivia Brumm, Liam Blair, Zachary Noble, Sarah Balmer, Ramisa Raya, Alicia Tonio, Maximilian Fox, Harrison Pie, Hannah Smith, Seren Wyatt, Jennifer Barnaby, Nikka Turangan, Dieu Linh Hoang, Emily Readman, Jasmin Graves, Anahita Ebrahimi, Ashleigh North, Samuel White, Tully Grimley, Hamish Killen, Eleanor Rogers, Saskia Mathers, Genevieve Hitzke **(15)**.

No – 0, **Abstentions** – 0.

Motion carried.

8. Motions without Notice

The Chairperson called for any motions without notice. Guild Treasurer, Liam Blair, brought a motion confirming the QUT Guild's intention to campaign against the recent announcement of university fee changes. Blair spoke briefly about the history of university funding changes under the current government, and the importance of campaigning against these changes. This motion called for the QUT Guild to implement three main action items. The full motion will be included as appendix 1 to this document.

The Chairperson asked if any attendees would like to speak for or against this motion. Declan Kerr confirmed that they would like to speak for the motion. Kerr stated that any change to education funding impacts students and creates headway for governments that have an agenda to make high-quality education less accessible for working-class students. Kerr stated that education is a right, not a privilege and that student unions have a

responsibility to fight back against changes such as this to advocate for fair and inclusive education for their students.

Motion: For the QUT Guild to run a campaign against the recent university fee changes.

Mover – *Liam Blair*, **Second** – *Cameron Mackie*.

Aye – *Cameron Mackie, Olivia Brumm, Liam Blair, Zachary Noble, Sarah Balmer, Ramisa Raya, Alicia Tonio, Maximilian Fox, Harrison Pie, Hannah Smith, Seren Wyatt, Jennifer Barnaby, Nikka Turangan, Dieu Linh Hoang, Emily Readman, Jasmin Graves, Anahita Ebrahimi, Ashleigh North, Samuel White, Tully Grimley, Hamish Killen, Eleanor Rogers, Saskia Mathers, Genevieve Hitzke (15)*.

No – 0, **Abstentions** – 0.

Motion carried.

9. Closure

The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and advised that the Guild Secretary, Cameron Mackie, will supply the details of the next meeting once established. The meeting of QUT Guild Council concluded at 6:20 PM.

APPENDIX 1: Motion without Notice

'The QUT Guild shall campaign against the increases to student fees'

Mover – Liam Blair, **Seconder** – Cameron Mackie

On Friday, Education Minister Dan Tehan announced increases to fees for certain degrees deemed saturated and non-essential in a post-COVID-19 Australia. Under the proposal, student fees for degrees like Law and Business will go up 28% and more than double for Communications and Humanities, making these degrees more expensive than a medical degree. Meanwhile, student fees for education, agriculture, languages, and others will decrease substantially.

Rather than outwardly cutting funding to university fees, which would be nationally unpopular, this method instead re-allocates government funding to make student contributions much higher for Law, Business, Communications, and Humanities, and lower for education, agriculture, and languages. This is part of a campaign against education from this government.

The LNP has over the years, attacked the education sector and student union movement wherever possible. Be it VSU in the 2000s or the attempts at deregulation of university fees under Tony Abbott; the LNP continue to disregard students and dismantle our education and our union movements. This is just the latest attack on a long list.

Students and QUT and UQ have already begun to organise action this Friday, 5:00 PM, in King George Square to protest the fee hikes, but more needs to be done to shed light on this injustice.

Action items:

1. As soon as is practically possible, the QUT Guild shall announce their opposition to the fee hikes on social media platforms with information about the Friday rally and the fees changes.
2. The QUT Guild shall provide whatever support possible to the Brisbane-based campaign and distribute information and media targeted towards QUT students, encouraging further action and protest.
3. The QUT Guild shall work with student unions in Brisbane and the NUS to coordinate campaigns and share resources where necessary.