



*1st WUSA Council Meeting
12:00 Tuesday January 20th, 2009
Venue – WUSA Office*

Meeting Minutes

Present

Hailey Sutton (President) - Chair
Brendan Cook (Honorary Secretary) - Minutes
Daniel Crameri (Honorary Treasurer)
James 'Ollie' Tier (Education Campaigns Coordinator)
Vanessa Organo (Environment Representative)
Sarah Woodcroft (Events Coordinator)
Chris Meaney (External Students Representative)
Jess Di Blasio (Queer Co-Representative)
Kirri Piper (Queer Co-Representative)
Allison Jeffares (Welfare Coordinator)
Ryan Gould (General Representative)
Stef Greenshields (General Representative)
Warren Hudson (General Representative)
Christian Meek (General Representative)
Chris Monnox (General Representative)
Samita Rai (General Representative)
Katherine Ryan (General Representative)

Observers

Danial Morgan (Illawarra Committee for International Students)

Meeting opened at 12:15.

1. Apologies

09/CM01/01

PROCEDURAL MOTION

W. Hudson

It was moved that Council accept apologies from the following representatives:
Martin Laird (Disabilities Representative), Nathan Kennedy (Indigenous Co-Representative), Nyssa Murray (Indigenous Co-Representative), Annie Zhou (International Students Representative), Tim Rouen (Tertangala Coordinator), AJ Adams (General Representative), Martha Johnson (General Representative), Skye Parsons (General Representative), Mark Putvinas (General Representative), and Megan Zingel (General Representative).

CARRIED unanimously

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

NA

3. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

NA

4. Correspondence

09/CM01/02 PROCEDURAL MOTION B. Cook

It was moved that Council table the following attached correspondence:

Email to WUPA Council re Service Fee (18/12/08) – Brendan Cook (Attachment A)

Email from Chris Grange re Incorporation (10/12/08) – Brendan Cook (Attachment B)

Email from Chris Grange re Needle Exchange (24/10/08) – Brendan Cook (Attachment C)

CARRIED unanimously

5. Standard Operations Business

Casual Vacancies

3x WUSA Executive:

Sarah Woodcroft

Jess Di Blasio

Tim Rouen

Sarah Woodcroft, Jess Di Blasio, and Tim Rouen ELECTED UNOPPOSED

2x Joint Consultative Committee Delegates:

Hailey Sutton

Brendan Cook

Hailey Sutton and Brendan Cook ELECTED UNOPPOSED

1x OH&S Officer:

James Tier

James Tier ELECTED UNOPPOSED

09/CM01/03 PROCEDURAL MOTION B. Cook

It was moved that Council not dissent to any of these elections.

CARRIED unanimously

6. President's Report

09/CM01/04 PROCEDURAL MOTION B. Cook

It was moved that Council accept Attachment D as a written report from Hailey Sutton.

CARRIED unanimously

7. Representatives' Reports

09/CM01/05 PROCEDURAL MOTION B. Cook

It was moved that Council accept the following reports from Representatives:

NUS Conference report - Hailey Sutton (Attachment E)

NUS Conference report – Chris Monnox (Attachment F)

CARRIED unanimously

8. Annual Budget

09/CM01/06 PROCEDURAL MOTION B. Cook

It was moved that Council enter open discussion regarding motion 09/CM01/08.

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/07 PROCEDURAL MOTION B. Cook

It was moved that Council end open discussion.

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/08 D. Cramer/B. Cook

It was moved that Attachment G be accepted as the 2009 WUSA budget, and that it be tabled for the AGM when it will be approved by students.

CARRIED unanimously

9. General Business

09/CM01/09 B. Cook/D. Cramer

That WUSA Council release \$1540.00 (including GST) to pay Daley & Co invoice 12765 dated 30th November 2008 for Trustee fees for the period from 7th October 2008 to 1st December 2008.

Budget line: Pre-2009 Expenses

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/10 D. Cramer/B. Cook

It was moved that WUSA Council release funds upon receipt of invoices for the following expenses for the amounts indicated:

<u>Expense</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Up to</u>	<u>Budget line</u>
Cleaning	\$250/month	\$3 000	Cleaning
Phone (incl. line calls, internet, voice mail)	\$420/month	\$5 000	Phone and rental, Internet
Water	\$32/month + rental + cups	\$550.00	Water
Stationary and postage	\$40/month	\$500.00	Stationary and Postage
A4 + A3 white paper	\$75/month	\$900.00	Paper and Toner
Toner for laser printer	\$600/year	\$600.00	Paper and Toner
Photocopy usage and maintenance	\$70/month	\$840.00	Photocopier usage and maintenance
Security	\$100/quarter + alarm responses	\$645.00	Security

Budget line: Office Expenses

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/11 D. Cramer/B. Cook

It was moved that an honorarium of \$15 000.00 be released to Hailey Sutton, to be paid fortnightly.

Budget line: Honoraria - President

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/12

D. Crameri/B. Cook

It was moved that an honorarium of \$1 500.00 be released to Tim Rouen for the first quarter of 2009, to be made in a single payment on March 31st.

Budget line: Honoraria – Tertangala Coordinator

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/13

S. Woodcroft/J. Tier

That WUSA release the sum of \$350 to pay for the hire of the Lone Star for the O-Week Party.

Budget line: Events – O-Week

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/14

PROCEDURAL MOTION

B. Cook

It was moved that Council suspend the standing orders and invite Danial Morgan from the Illawarra Committee for International Students to speak.

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/15

PROCEDURAL MOTION

B. Cook

It was moved that Council resume operation of the standing orders.

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/16

S. Woodcroft/J. Tier

That WUSA release up to \$200 for decorations for the O-Week Party.

Budget line: Events – O-Week

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/17

B. Cook/J. Tier

In order to comply with the resolution passed at the November meeting of the University Council relating to Student Associations, WUSA Council resolves the following:

1. That section 4.3.1.18 of the WUSA Constitution took effect immediately from the time that it was approved by the University Council;
2. That all General Representatives elected in the 2008 WUSA election may remain in the positions they were elected to until such time as they resign or become ineligible; and
3. That casual vacancies for General Representative positions will not be advertised or filled as they arise, until there are fewer than five General Representatives (as outlined in s. 4.3.1.18).

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/18

B. Cook/J. Tier

It was moved that \$700 be released to cover weekly BBQs held by the Indigenous Collective at the Woolyungah Indigenous Centre.

Budget line: WUSA Collectives - Indigenous

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/19

J. Tier/B. Cook

It was moved that \$500 be released to cover BBQs and related food provision offered by WUSA.

Budget line: Student Services - Barbecues

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/20

J. Tier/B. Cook

That WUSA release the amount of \$200.00 to purchase safe sex products for the front office.

Budget line: Student Services - Safe Sex products

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/21

PROCEDURAL MOTION

D. Cramer

It was moved that the budget line for motion 09/CM01/22 be amended from "Office Expenses - BookBank" to "Office Expenses – Advertising"

CARRIED

For: 10

Against: 6

Abstentions: 1

09/CM01/22

J. Tier/B. Cook

That WUSA release the amount of \$340.00 to purchase coasters to advertise the BookBank and other WUSA services.

Budget line: Office Expenses - Advertising

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/23

J. Tier/B. Cook

That WUSA release an amount of up to \$200.00 to purchase a new BBQ that can be used by WUSA collectives and hired out to student groups on campus.

Budget line: Office Expenses - Strategic Assets

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/24

B. Cook/J. Tier

That WUSA release an amount of up to \$200.00 to purchase stickers to identify free members of WUSA in 2009.

Budget line: Student Services – Re-Branding

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/25

PROCEDURAL MOTION

B. Cook

It was moved that Council hear emergency motions 09/CM01/26 and 09/CM01/27.

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/26

EMERGENCY MOTION

K. Piper/S. Greenshields

It was moved that up to \$200 be released to cover Queer Collective activities during O-Week.

Budget line: WUSA Collectives - Queer

CARRIED unanimously

09/CM01/26

EMERGENCY MOTION

V. Organo/B. Cook

It was moved that up to \$200 be released to cover Environment Collective activities during O-Week.

Budget line: WUSA Collectives - Environment

CARRIED unanimously

Meeting Closed at 13:50.

Attachments A, B, and C were distributed during the meeting.

Attachment D – President's Report (Hailey Sutton)

President's Report

I would like to start by welcoming all of council to 2009. WUSA needs to do a lot of work this year to become more visible on campus and to make students realise how vital their student association is to the university community. I encourage all of you to build your collectives and get involved in any events or campaigns run by WUSA this year.

O-week 2009

The first way you can get involved is by participating in WUSA's o-week activities for 2009. A draft roster has already been sent out to all reps and is on display in the front office. There is still space to add anything that has not been included and we are looking into getting some reps around to the on-campus accommodation to promote WUSA as well. If you have any ideas for workshops or activities, which have not been included, please let us know ASAP.

We need as many reps as possible to be available during o-week because we have a lot going on; mostly we need people around on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Office bearers should plan to set up a stall promoting their collective and signing up people to their collective. Otherwise we need people helping in the front office, running the BookBank firesale, coordinating workshops, running bbqs and signing up new members at the membership table.

We will be running a BBQ each day from Monday to Friday. This is a good chance to talk to students about what WUSA does and encourage them to sign up as members. We will receive funding from the university of up to \$500 to run the BBQs.

President's Summit

Last week I attended the NUS President's summit. This is run each year by NUS, as a chance for president's from different universities to meet up and share ideas.

Over the three days of the summit we discussed the implications of the Bradley review, had panel discussions with members of the media to discuss how student associations should approach the media, and attended an indigenous workshop which advised us of how to be more inclusive of indigenous people at our university.

At the summit, each president was required to give a five-minute presentation outlining their association and its plans for 2009. This was the most valuable part of the conference. Each campus had different approaches to receiving funding, increasing membership levels, campaigning and engaging students. Hearing about what other president's were going to be doing in 2009 gave me many practical ideas for things we can be doing in WUSA. It was also really good to meet the other presidents and gain contacts so the student associations can remain in contact and continue to share ideas and support each other.

Space

At the end of this year WUSA will be moving to the new allocated space in building 19. Phase one of this move has already begun and the new Womyns' Space should be accessible by the beginning of o-week.

BookBank

The BookBank is currently functional within the WUSA office. We are hoping to put an electronic system in place by the beginning of o-week. This will make the BookBank easier and more efficient to run. However, there is still a lot of work to be done. We are continuing to collect books to sell from students. If any reps have books they would like to sell they should bring them in. As well as this you need to spread the word of the BookBank so students know it exists and that they can sell their books through us and buy their textbooks at a cheaper price.

It would also be good if we could establish a BookBank working group, so as to assist Jacq in stocktaking and marketing. If anyone is interested in being a part of this please let me know.

OH&S Training

An OH&S training session has been arranged for the 19th May 2009. Any reps and staff who have not previously done OH&S training for WUSA purposes must attend this session. I expect anyone who does not have class to attend as plenty of notice has been given. Please let me know of your attendance so I can let the university know how many people will be attending.

Attachment E - NUS Report (Hailey Sutton)

In 2008, the NUS national conference was held between Sunday 14th January and Thursday 18th January. WUSA approved money for five delegates to go to the conference, however, as NUS would not show understanding towards WUSA's financial situation we were unable to pay our affiliation fees. This meant that if our delegates did go to conference they would only have limited ability to participate, and would hold no vote towards the creation of policy and the election of positions. Really there was no point in our delegates going to national conference.

I only ended up going to the conference for two days. Originally I had planned on attending the conference but when it was found out that we weren't affiliated we decided not to attend. However when I found it had been paid for I thought it was best to attend for as long as I could.

Attending the conference turned out to be a waste of my time. I found out that the first day I had missed very little time had been spent discussing anything useful. In fact it wasn't until the first afternoon that everyone came together to meet. Most of the time I spent at the conference everyone was free to go off and do whatever they wanted. It seems unnecessary to me that we continue sending people to this conference and it seems that the cost of affiliating to NUS far outweighs the benefits we receive.

Hailey Sutton - NUS Delegate

Attachment F – NUS Report (Chris Monnox)

National Campaign - Success Thus Far

The early sessions of the 2008 National Union of Students Annual Conference focused on the National Unions annual campaign. Initially, the success of the 2008 campaign, known as “Demand a Better Future: Invest in Our Universities” (henceforth Demand a Better Future) were considered through the reports of the outgoing President (Angus McFarland) and Education Officer (Lucy Saunders).

It was apparent that the Demand a Better Future campaign had been remarkably successful, with positive changes in government policy occurring in three out of four of the areas of concern identified by the 2007 Annual Conference of the NUS.

1: Abolition of Domestic Undergraduate Full Fee Paying Places

This reform, identified as the first goal of the Demand A Better Future campaign, was introduced by the Rudd Labor Government as part of its May 2008 Budget.

2: Decrease HECS

There has been some movement towards reducing HECS in the areas of mathematics and science.

4: Repeal VSU

The Rudd Governments legalisation of compulsory university amenities fees of \$250 or less provides a much needed lifeline to struggling student services and is likely to be of considerable benefit to student organisations seeking to alleviate the damage caused by the Howard Governments VSU legislation.

National Campaign 2009

One of the most significant outcomes of the 2008 NUS Annual Conference was the outline for the National Union’s 2009 campaign. This campaign is to be a continuation of the 2008 “Demand a Better Future” campaign. This provides a welcome improvement on past practice whereby the National Union of Student’s would redesign its campaign annually, thus guaranteeing that it had little impact.

The main aims of the campaign are to be a reduction in tuition fees (HECS) and reform of Youth Allowance- the one plank of the 2008 campaign where no progress has been made.

Specifically, the following campaign demands were adopted:

a. Lowering the age of independence,

b. Lowering the income earned threshold for independence

c. Allowing students to earn a reasonable income before detrimentally affecting Youth Allowance payments

d. Loosening the restrictions in the parental means test to bring it into line with 2009 realities

e. Police university compliance with ancillary fee and course cost legislation.

This focus on issues of student welfare is a welcome change in direction on the part of the National Union of Students and is sure to broaden its appeal to its core constituency.

Financial Standing of the National Union of Students

This conference saw Ben Maxfield, 2008 General-Secretary of the National Union of Students, report on the National Unions budgetary position for the year 2008. Mr Maxfield has, for the first time since the introduction of VSU, produced a budget surplus- a considerable achievement.

This clearly demonstrates that, despite some ill-informed suggestions to the contrary, the National Union of Students is a viable organisation likely to retain its position in the medium to long term so long as its General-Secretary continues to practice prudent financial management with the support of its National Executive.

International Engagement

The conference also made the decision to amend the platform of the National Union of Students to formally recognise the importance of building “links with likeminded student organizations in

other countries, especially those facing similar challenges as NUS Australia”.

In practice the President during 2008 had already put a considerable amount of effort into building links with other peak student bodies during his term, and this policy served largely to formalize pre-existing arrangements. None the less, increased international engagement is a welcome step towards a more professional approach on the part of the National Office Bearer team. It is to be noted, however, that concerns were raised about the potential for this policy to be used to justify the frittering away of the NUS budget on international travel.

In short, it remains to be seen how this policy will operate in practice.

Regional Campuses and the Public Transportation Issue

The decision of the conference to commit the NUS to supporting small and regional campuses lobbying for either more frequent public transport services or the synchronization of public transport timetables was extremely welcome. Notably, this policy committed the NUS to deal with private public transport providers as well as state governments in this capacity.

As a regional university with a large catchment area and several satellite campuses which benefit from minimal public transportation options the Wollongong Undergraduate Students' Association would do well to take advantage of this policy.

Payment of National Office Bearers

This conference saw the constitution of the NUS amended to grant the National Indigenous Officer remuneration equivalent to the half-time Federal Minimum Wage and withdraw the equivalent remuneration from the National Environment Officer. This amendment, which required the support of a vote of 75% of the conference floor to pass, was made largely in recognition of the consistent and unpaid work of the National Indigenous Officer in past years, and represents a long overdue recognition of the importance of indigenous student representation by the NUS.

Accountability of the National Executive

The final policy session of the 2008 conference saw 2009 General-Secretary put forward a number of policies to improve accountability on the part of the NUS, including the adoption of more stringent reporting procedures and more effective strategic planning.

This approach on the part of the peak body of a sector where accountability can be sorely lacking is to be welcomed. It is hoped that the incoming NUS National Executive can live up to expectations in this regard, and that all NUS affiliates similarly commit themselves to a more stringent approach to accountability.

Progress of the National Union of Students in the Year 2008

No less than one hundred pages of policy, much of it both innovative and significant, was submitted to the 2008 conference of the NUS. This in its self speaks volumes concerning the ongoing viability, and indeed vibrancy, of this organization. This being said, it seemed that the number of policies debated in 2008 was less than that in 2007.

In spite of this, however, the 2008 National Conference should be seen as a considerable improvement over the previous conference in a number of other senses. First and foremost it is necessary to return to the issue of the NUS' finances. Both the importance and the difficulty of returning the NUS budget to surplus in a post-VSU environment should never be underestimated.

It is secondly worth noting that the conduct of delegates in 2008 represented a significant improvement over 2007. Quality of debate was quite similar across the two years, but 2008 importantly saw no repeats of 2007's attempts by some delegates to identify and verbally intimidate new delegates on conference floor.

Attachment G – Annual Budget

Balance

Description	Forecast amount	
Savings	468,972.00	
TOTAL		468,972.00

Income

Description	Forecast amount	
Interest	12,000.00	
Membership, Fundraising and Donations	1,000.00	
Bookbank	500.00	
University funding	30,000.00	
<i>Tertangala - Publication</i>	24,000.00	
<i>Tertangala - Honorarium</i>	6,000.00	
<i>O-Week</i>	1,000.00	
TOTAL		74,500.00

Expenditure

Description	Forecasted amount	Subtotal
<u>Honoraria</u>		
President		
<i>Honorarium</i>	13,700.00	
<i>Superannuation</i>	1,233.00	
<i>Tertangala Coordinator</i>	6,000.00	
SUBTOTAL		20,933.00
<u>Office Staff</u>		
Office Administration Officer		
<i>Superannuation</i>	36,050.00	
	3,244.00	
Front Desk		
<i>Superannuation</i>	20,470.00	
	1,840.00	
I.T Support		
<i>superannuation</i>	2,100.00	
	189.00	
Workers Compensation		
1.19% of all salaries	860.00	

Staff training	1,500.00	
SUBTOTAL		66,253.00
<u>Office Expenses</u>		
Stationary & postage	500.00	
Photocopier Usage and Maintenance	840.00	
Paper & toner	2,000.00	
Phone & Internet	5,000.00	
Cleaning Costs	3,000.00	
Security (Annual Cost)	644.00	
Strategic Assets	3,000.00	
Sundry Expenses	750.00	
Book Bank	2,000.00	
Advertising	2,000.00	
Water	550.00	
SUBTOTAL		20,284.00
<u>Administration Expenses</u>		
Bank Charges	500.00	
Trustee Management Fees	5,000.00	
Financial Audit fees	8,000.00	
Accountant Fees	500.00	
OH&S Compliance	1,000.00	
Solicitor Fees	1,000.00	
SUBTOTAL		16,000.00
<u>Student services budget</u>		
Tertangala	24,000.00	

Safe-Sex Products	2,000.00	
BikeBank Cooperative	2,000.00	
Barbeques	3,000.00	
Events		
<i>Social events</i>	7,000.00	
<i>O-week</i>	3,000.00	
<i>Sexuality Week</i>	1,000.00	
WUSA Collectives		
<i>Anti-Racism</i>	1,500.00	
<i>Disabilities</i>	1,500.00	
<i>Education Action</i>	1,500.00	
<i>Environment</i>	1,500.00	
<i>Indigenous</i>	1,500.00	
<i>International Students</i>	1,500.00	
<i>Media</i>	1,500.00	
<i>Mature Age Students</i>	1,500.00	
<i>Queer</i>	1,500.00	
<i>Social Justice</i>	1,500.00	
<i>Welfare</i>	1,500.00	
<i>Womyns</i>	1,500.00	
<i>Unallocated Campaign Expenditure</i>	8,000.00	
External students	1,500.00	
Rebranding	5,000.00	
Student Development		
<i>Conferences</i>	2,000.00	
<i>Executive Training</i>	1,000.00	
SUBTOTAL		77,500.00
Pre 2009 Expenses	2,000.00	
Subtotal		2,000.00
2009 Total Expenditure		202,970.00
2009 forcasted Surplus/Deficit		340,502.00