

6th Ordinary Council Meeting of the 51st Student Association 12pm Thursday 26th August 2021

PRESENT:

Emily Mulroy (President), Thomas Sherrington (Vice President), Emily Gamze (Townsville Campus Officer), Cherie Lai (International Student Officer), Aaminah Khan (Equity & Diverse Officer), Peter Loa (Postgraduate Officer), Kimberly Thornley (Staff Representative), Garrett Swearingen (Cairns Campus Officer), Theresa Priddle (Council Secretary)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Meeting opened at 12.04pm Wednesday 26th August 2021 by Emily Mulroy (President, Chair)

Acknowledgment of Country

1. Apologies and Proxies

Maree Dinan-Thompson (DVC Nominee)
 Alison Edwards (General Manager),

2. Declaration of Conflicts Of Interest

Nil

3. Approval of Unstarred Items

The Chair will invite members to indicate which unstarred items they wish to star. Thereupon, all unstarred items will be deemed to have been approved or noted as approved or noted as presented.

4. Confirmation of Minutes & Flying Minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 5th Ordinary Meeting of the 51st Student Association Council – Monday 19th July 2021

4.1.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 4th Special Meeting of the 51st Student Association Council – Thursday 12th August 2021

4.1 – 4.2 Moved On block

Moved TS
 Second EG
 All in favour

5. Legal Matters

Nil

6. Reports

- 6.1 Finance Officer Report
- 6.2 President's report
- 6.3 Vice President report

Report to Council (the Ordinary Council Meeting – 26/08/2021) POSITION NAME

EVENT / ACTIVITY	DATE	FEEDBACK / OBSERVATIONS
JCUSA Free Brunch	13/08/2021	For a Friday, it was a very busy, many students lining up over an hour
Clubs and Societies Induction Night	26/07/2021	Lower attendance than we would have wanted
Market Day	28/07/2021	Surprisingly busy day for a second semester market day
Speed Friending	21/07/2021	Higher attendance for Second Semester
The Strand Trip	1/08/2021	Higher attendance than expected for Second Semester



MEETINGS ATTENDED:

- 5/08/2021 – Clubs and Societies Committee Meeting
- 12/08/2021 – Management Committee Meeting
- 9/08/2021 – Joint Consultative Committee
- 26/08/2021 – Management Committee Meeting

COMMENTS / PLANNING

- Productive response and engagement from students over trimesters, we hope that it can be a driving force towards stopping them
- Looking forward to seeing if we get any nominations for the appointed office bearers

6.4 Cairns Campus Officer report

Report to Council (6th Ordinary Council Meeting – 26/08) POSITION: Cairns Campus

Officer NAME: Garrett Swearingen

EVENT / ACTIVITY	DATE	FEEDBACK / OBSERVATIONS
Speed friending	21/07	Equivalent numbers to SP1 2021.
Movie night	21/07	Very low numbers and movie was quite intense – a more relaxed option may have been preferable.
Club & Societies Induction	26/07	Good attendance – all affiliated clubs attended minus 1. Had good conversations around JCU Respect.
Market Day	28/07	Good numbers, good opportunity to interact with students.
Toga Night	30/07	Very low numbers on the bus.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

- Campus officer check-ins: 07/07
- Ordinary meetings: 19/07
- Clubs and Societies Committee Meetings: 14/07
- 05/07/21 – Meeting with Holly from TropEco to discuss sustainability plans for Cairns campus.
- 07/07/21 – Meeting with college of public health researchers to discuss plans for dogs/animals on campus.
- 12/07 - Face to Face classes campaign meeting

COMMENTS / PLANNING

- 26/07 – Meeting with LTSE to coordinate plans for events on Cairns campus in SP2 2021.
- At the start of the month Emily G and I did some in depth planning on how we'd create the campus officers kit.
- Had a discussion re dogs on campus with JCU researchers.
- Planning at the start of the month focused on o-week, brunches, clubsoc reform and an online classes campaign.
- Towards the end of July work focused on planning brunches, grant workshops, the ClubSoc induction etc and doing the communication needed with clubs to achieve that.



- Event applications have started to come through at the end of July.
- LTSE seem to be more amenable to working together this semester.

6.5 Townsville Campus Officer report

Report to Council (6th Ordinary Council Meeting – 26th August) POSITION: Townsville

Campus Officer

NAME: Emily Gamze

EVENT / ACTIVITY	DATE	FEEDBACK / OBSERVATIONS
Speed Friending	21/7	Ran this event with Emily, Thomas, Aaminah & Cherie. It ran well, students got lost and were a bit late. About 16 students turned up. My recommendation is that signs are put up to assist students in finding the location. Only 2 or 3 councilors are needed for this event.
Hot Dog & Movie Night	21/7	Ran this event with Emily and Cheire. Only a few students rocked up. Food and movie was great!
Touring Townsville	22/7	Ran this event with Emily and Thomas. Super relaxing event, students all marked off their bingo sheets and seemed to enjoy the bus ride around town and the stop at the Strand.
C&S Induction Night	26/7	Ran this event with Emily and Thomas. It went super well. I personally felt like I was able to answer more questions compared to last semester's C&S Induction Night. We were expecting more attendees, but those who turned up were great!
Market Day	28/7	Busy day, as always, but not as busy as Sem 1. I had a great time and students and clubs alike seem to also enjoy themselves!
Pop-up Bookstore	29/7	Ran this with Emily and Aaminah. We only sold around 10 textbooks. In my opinion it was a lot of work trying to transport all the textbooks over for so little sales.
Strand Trip	1/8	Ran this event with Emily and Thomas. We could not find a table with shade, so it was pretty hot. Only had about 6 students turn up. We seemed to have a lot of drinks, and beach toys for such a small group. Overall, students seem to have a great time, and there was no issues with the bus being at the wrong location this time.
Free Brunch	4/8	Christian Students ran free brunch this week.
Free Brunch	18/8	Amnesty ran free brunch this week.
CLBG BBQ – First Year Law Student Catch Up	18/8	Emily and I ran this event. It ran super well, had heaps of food.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

- 19/7 – Management Committee Meeting

E. Michay

- 5/8 – C&S Meeting
- 5/8 – Face 2 Face Class Campaign Meeting
- 12/8 – 4th Special Meeting
- 12/8 – Management Committee Meeting

- 6.6 International Student Officer report
- 6.7 Equity & Diversity Officer report
- 6.8 Postgraduate Student Officer report
- 6.9 Sport and Recreation Officer report
- 6.10 Advocacy report

7. General Business

- 7.1 20210510 Motion Regulation Fax amendment 2nd Vote
- 7.2 20210512 Motion to approve Regulations- Minutes amendment 2nd vote
- 7.4 20210602 TS Regulation Committee amendment 2nd vote
- 7.5 20210602 Amendments to Constitution re Gender Neutral Pronouns 2nd vote

The above motions were not voted on in consecutive meetings as per the Constitution Part 11 Regulations, 11.1 Constitutions Part 13, and 13.1c so they have been moved back for the 1st vote. They will be put on the agenda for the next special meeting to have the 2nd vote.

- 7.1 20210510 Motion Regulation Fax amendment 1st Vote
- 7.2 20210512 Motion to approve Regulations- Minutes amendment 1st vote
- 7.4 20210602 TS Regulation Committee amendment 1st vote
- 7.5 20210602 Amendments to Constitution re Gender Neutral Pronouns 1st vote

Moved TS
Seconded AK
All in favour
KT Abstained

- 7.3 Motion to amend Constitution (Optional Preferential Voting) 2nd Vote
Motion to the James Cook University Student Council DATE: 30/07/2021 FROM Emily Mulroy

(President) Motion to Council:

That Part 8.3 of the James Cook University Student Association Constitution be amended from

“All elections, including Annual elections, shall be conducted as an electronic election and in accordance with the “first past the post” voting system.”

to

“All elections, including Annual elections, shall be conducted as an electronic election and in accordance with the “optional preferential” voting system.

Issue:

First past the post can lead to situations where an Office Bearer could be elected with less than a majority of votes cast and are less democratic.

Background Information:

Optional preferential voting allows a more fair election where each voter is able to rank candidates from most preferred to least preferred and enables a candidate to become elected with definite majority support, different to how first past the post can allow for a candidate to win without majority support.

This system is widely used in Australia, for example the Federal Election for the House of Representatives and the Queensland State election both use this system. In order for a candidate to be elected under this system, that candidate must take over 50% of the vote when preferences are accounted for.

E. Mulroy

- (e) Townsville Campus Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association who is enrolled at the Townsville Campus of James Cook University, elected by and from the Ordinary members enrolled at the Townsville Campus;
- (f) Postgraduate Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association who is enrolled as a Postgraduate Student, elected by and from the Ordinary members who are enrolled as Postgraduate Students at large;
- (g) Equity and Diversity Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large.
- (h) First Nations Officer, an Ordinary member who identifies as having Australian First Nations Heritage, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large;
- (i) Environmental Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large;
- (j) Sport and Recreation Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association, who is enrolled at the Cairns or Townsville Campuses of James Cook University, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large;
- (k) Remote & External Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association who is enrolled as an External Student at JCU Online or enrolled at a study centre that is not Cairns or Townsville, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large.

Section 6.6.1 of the Association Constitution be amended to read:

Subject to 6.6.3, the following elected Office Bearers of the Association Council will hold office for a term of one (1) year from 1 November to 31 October of the following year:

- The President
- The Vice-President
- The International Student's Officer
- The Cairns Campus Officer
- The Townsville Campus Officer
- The Postgraduate Officer
- The Equity and Diversity Officer
- The First Nations Officer
- The Environmental Officer
- The Sport and Recreation Officer
- The Remote & External Officer

Issue:

Council has opened nominations to non-voting positions which are the equivalent of these positions. This is a positive step towards greater representation of First Nations, Environmental, Sport & Recreation and Remote & External Officers. However, the fact that these positions will not be voting members of Council represents an equity issue, particularly in the case of the First Nations and Environmental Officers. Not allowing these positions a vote may be considered subjugating these issues below other concerns, which is out of step with our values of Reconciliation, sustainability, and equal representation for students. By making these voting positions we will be taking a major step forward in providing equitable representation on future Councils to all JCU students.

Motion was moved with the following provisions:

- 1) That the Council acknowledges that these positions were voting positions in the past, and that this was changed due to a lack of student engagement;



In a local context, JCU students utilising this optional preferential voting system can chose to preference candidates from either Townsville or Cairns, where as previously with only one vote in the first past the post voting system the perception of a student from a particular campus would tend to use their vote for a candidate based in the same campus as them. Whereas JCU Students can utilise this system to preference a student from another campus higher than others as they can place candidates from most preferred to least preferred.

Moved EM
Seconded TS
All in favour
KT Abstained

Motion Passed

7.6 20210817 Motion to remove bank account

Motion to the James Cook University Student Council DATE: 17/08/2021

FROM: Thomas Sherrington (Vice President)

Motion to Council:

That the JCU Student Association approve the closure of the Westpac Savings Bank Account, Account Name: JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION, Customer ID: 8372 6180, Account number: 359643. The closing balance of Westpac account number 359643 is to be transferred to the JCUSA Everyday Business account at Bank of Queensland, Account name: JCU Student Association, BSB: 124-055 Account number: 22117878

Issue:

This bank account is no longer needed in the operations of JCUSA in either Townsville or Cairns.

Background Information:

The Westpac Account has been serving no purpose to JCUSA for the entirety of the 2021 academic year and is of no future benefit to the association either. Westpac currently continues to fund fossil fuel projects and there have been no suggestions that this will change. BOQ alternatively, is ceasing all lending to fossil fuel sectors by 2024 and is currently only investing \$16.4 million in this sector, all in coal mining. BOQ, at the current time is the most suited bank for the Student Association.

Moved TS
Seconded EG
All in favour
KT Abstained

7.7 20210819 Motion to amend Constitution re Additions to Council positions 1st Vote

Motion to the James Cook University Student Council

Garrett Swearingen

Motion to Council:

That the following amendments be made to the constitution.

Section 6.2.1 of the Association Constitution be amended to read:

There will be eleven (11) elected Office Bearers who will be voting members and who shall include:

- (a) President, an Ordinary member of the Association, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large;
- (b) Vice-President, an Ordinary member of the Association elected by and from the Ordinary members at large;
- (c) International Student's Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association, who is enrolled as an International Student, elected by and from the Ordinary members at large;
- (d) Cairns Campus Officer, an Ordinary member of the Association, who is enrolled at the Cairns Campus of James Cook University, elected by and from the Ordinary members enrolled at the Cairns Campus;

E. Milley

- 2) That the Council acknowledges that voting powers are not sufficient to engage students in these positions; and
- 3) That the Council acknowledges that increasing student engagement in these positions in the future will require additional incentives for applicants.

Moved GS
Seconded TS
All in favour
KT Abstained

7.8 20210819 Motion to move term deposit to Fossil Free Banking

7.8.1 Fossil Free Banks Comparison

Council had discussion regarding transferring funds to a Fossil Free Banking. All agreed that while it is a good idea more discussion and financial information was need before the Council would decide on which Bank to use.

The motion was moved to the next suitable Council meeting once the council had gathered more information from the Finance and Audit committee.

Letters from students regarding this motion will also be moved to next meeting

Moved TS
Seconded EG
All in favour

8. Question Time

Members of the Student Association may direct questions in writing to officers of the Student Association through the Secretary. Questions may be put on notice.

To the JCU Student Association Secretary,

Could you please pass on the following letter to the Association Council for Question Time in the 6th Ordinary Meeting of the 2021 Council?

--

Dear Councillors,

I understand that in the 6th Ordinary Meeting of Council you will consider a motion to begin divesting Association funds from fossil fuels. As an Ordinary Member of the Association, I urge you to vote in favour of this motion.

As my student representatives, I expect you to act in my best interests. The climate crisis is something that instils constant anxiety in my life. As a young person, I am very worried about the future of the earth and within my lifetime I have already seen the extreme changes to weather patterns and ecosystems.

Fossil fuels drive destructive climate change and we must all play our part in the global transition to clean energy. As an Association you can do this by divesting from fossil fuels. For decades financial institutions have known they needed to divest from fossil fuels, so any which haven't yet done so are those that delayed action at the expense of our futures.

I want you to join the global divestment movement to send a strong message to all banks – your fossil fuel investments are a liability and we will no longer stand by will you finance the destruction of our futures.

Will you stand up for my future and the future of my planet by voting for this motion?

Sincerely,

--

Holly Farnan
Bachelor of Science Student (Honours)
13605849



To the JCU Student Association Secretary,

Could you please pass on the following letter to the Association Council for Question Time in the 6th Ordinary Meeting of the 2021 Council?

--

Dear Councillors,

I understand that in the 6th Ordinary Meeting of Council you will consider a motion to begin divesting Association funds from fossil fuels. As an Ordinary Member of the Association, I urge you to vote in favour of this motion.

As student representatives, I expect you to act in our best interests. To me, the climate crisis had always revolved around the destruction of reefs, loss of habitat and erosion of our islands, as that was what I was exposed to in my home country. Having gotten the opportunity to study Environmental Practice at JCU, it has opened my eyes to the extent and severity of the different threats that we face today. Australia has since become a second home where I am living away from my family for the first time and I have a strong desire to do as much as I can for its environment and community – which is why I support this motion.

Fossil fuels drive destructive climate change and we must all play our part in the global transition to clean energy. As an Association you can do this by divesting from fossil fuels. For decades, financial institutions have known that they need to divest from fossil fuels, and the institutions that haven't yet done so are delaying crucial action at the expense of our futures.

I want you to join the global divestment movement to send a strong message to all banks – your fossil fuel investments are a liability and we will no longer stand by while you finance the destruction of our futures.

Will you stand up for our future and the future of our planet by voting for this motion?

Sincerely,

Ibrahim Azhan Mohamed.

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Meeting closed @ 1pm

Theresa Priddle
Secretary to JCUSA Council

