

Summary of the QPSU Council meeting
30 March 2010

QPSU Council met on Tuesday 30 March 2010. 231 delegates were in attendance, plus observers. Council met at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane.

Union elections – Executive

The President Vivienne Doogan welcomed all new and returning members of QPSU Council and announced the results of the recent Senior Executive ballot. These are:

President:	Vivienne Doogan
General Secretary:	Alex Scott
Assistant General Secretary:	Kate Flanders
Senior Vice-President:	Sandy Donald
Junior Vice-Presidents:	Peter Cattach, Penny Toland and Angela Walsh
Honorary Treasurer:	Peter Devey
Assistant Honorary Treasurer:	Gordon Murray

Plan for our union in 2012 and possible amalgamations

An extensive discussion took place within Council about the plan by the new Executive to increase our strength into 2012, the year of the next state election and a possible change in government.

Among the priorities for the next two years are: greater financial security (in particular, continuing to reduce the number of QPSU members who pay their fees by payroll deduction), and more support and resources for union delegates, including a Delegate's Handbook, training courses, and a specialised delegates-only section of the QPSU website.

In addition Executive members reported on discussions that had been taking place on how to involve more members outside the South-East Corner in democratic union structures and decision making.

Among the discussions that took place was an examination of the possibility of amalgamating with one or both of the LHMU or the ASU (Central and Southern Queensland Branch).

The Union Executive has endorsed a statement of principles that will guide negotiations between the QPSU and other unions over an amalgamation. This statement includes provisions that focus on maintenance of democratic control by members.

Any firm proposal that arises as a result of these negotiations will be put to Council members at the next meeting in June for a decision on whether the proposal should be put to a ballot of all QPSU members.

More information about amalgamation and what it could mean will be provided to QPSU members. For more information you can email alex@qpsu.org.

Secondment of the President

After discussion Council delegates agreed that it would be appropriate to second President Vivienne Doogan into the QPSU Brisbane office to better enable her to carry out the responsibilities of President. Council also decided that the President will not receive an honorarium during the period of her secondment.

QPSU Council Committees

After discussion it was resolved that the QPSU Council Committees for 2010 be:

Industrial Committees:

- Collective Issues Committee
- Individual Representation Committee

Corporate Committees:

- Finance Committee
- Rules Committee
- Awards Committee
- Staffing Committee

Ombudsman Committee

Strength and Politics Committees:

Community Engagement Committee

2012 Committee

Climate Change Committee

Each of these Committees will be chaired by a member of Senior Executive and the Deputy Chair will be a member of other Executive as chosen by Council.

Honorariums for office-holders were adjusted in line with the new committee structure.

Regional Conference and Regional Issues Committee

A Regional Conference will be held during May to help regional delegates and activists plan strategies to grow and strengthen our union outside the South-East Corner. Following that conference and its recommendations, the future of the Regional Organising Committees will be discussed at the June Council meeting.

Women's Organising Network

The Council approved a change to the structure of women's organising within the QPSU. Rather than continue with the QPSU Women's Committee existing as a sub-committee of Union Council, thus limiting the numbers of women delegates and activists who could formally participate, it was recommended and endorsed by Council that a new Women's Organising Network be created, open to participation from all QPSU women members. The Network will still be chaired by a member of Executive and will report to Council as previously with the Women's Committee. A similar motion was moved in respect to a Men's Organising Network.

Annual General Meeting

The date and format of the QPSU's Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2010 was set at the Council meeting. The meeting will be held at 12:30pm at 27 May at 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane. All QPSU members are welcome to

attend. The QPSU Annual Report will be made available prior to the meeting. The Council recommended to the AGM the reappointment of the Union's current auditors and that the AGM award Life Membership of the QPSU to Mr Terry Crimston and Mrs Fay Jeppesen.

After discussion a motion was passed at Council to trial the feasibility of holding the 2011 and subsequent AGM's in a regional area, such as Cairns or Townsville.

Financial statements and mortality benefit

The QPSU financial statements for the months of October and November were confirmed. Financial statements for 2009 will be made available on the QPSU website prior to the AGM in May.

The Council also voted to extend the QPSU mortality benefit to \$1,000, effective immediately.