

Meeting opened: 11.04 am

Attendance: Simon Osborn (Chair), Mark Von Nida (Branch Secretary), Rory Thomas McCabe (Victoria), Justin Hunter (Brisbane), John Ring (NQ), Jimmy Young (NSW), Wes Garrett (SA), Chris Jones (WA), Mick McDonald (NSW), Zac Van Loenhout (NT) and Melita Bozin (Legal).

Apologies: Tim Limmer

Acknowledgement to Country – Justin Hunter

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Minutes of Previous meetings

Moved John Ring Seconded Wes Garrett

That the Minutes of the BCOM meeting held on 16 April 2021 be received.

CARRIED

Moved John Ring Seconded Wes Garrett

That the Minutes of the BCOM meeting held on 16 April 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED

Correspondence – Nil**Outstanding items, payments etc.**

Nil.

Updates**Branch Secretary****WA Trip**

The Branch Secretary reported that members in WA were generally happy with the visit by himself, Rory McCabe and Tim Limmer, although Perth has a number of issues.

He referred to the last Workplace Delegates meeting and a letter on asbestos which he will send as soon as possible.

He also mentioned a survey of members for the log of claims for the next Enterprise Agreement.

Federal Election

The Branch Secretary suggested a meeting with Catherine King to discuss a number of issues.

F10's

He tried to contact Ryan Gould re F10. It has been difficult to meet and will give him another call. There will be F10's for cancer screening, handover/takeover, the FC checklist and DoctorDoctor paperwork.

Hamilton Island/Proserpine

On 7 May there will be a zoom meeting with Hamilton Island and Proserpine. Allison will also participate. Paperwork has been sent to her for advice re the Federal Court or Fair Work. Allison to discuss a timeline, [REDACTED]

Use of transportation

The EA talks about reasonable use of transportation for FIFO's and this has come up in a few Codes of Conduct. The transport being used for first aid responses has no equipment storage.

Advanced Diploma

Advanced Diploma announcement on Horizon from Purcell saying anyone can have a go at this. The Branch Secretary said he would contact Eugene White who ran our case. Looking at the job descriptions it hasn't changed.

Driver Training Package

Wes Garrett had been contacted and said Comcare would be visiting Adelaide shortly.

Combined Facilities

The Branch Secretary hadn't heard back from Wes yet re Adelaide. Maybe do once nationwide and he wasn't sure if Wes had received a response to his letter.

PQI Qualifications

Justin Hunter reported that members were getting worried about this.

Thermal Engineering;GAMS and DSU

[REDACTED] Now getting from somewhere else but are over the five-year lifespan.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] This is critical equipment and they are spending money on diversity agenda.

[REDACTED]
Simon Osborn asked re a timeframe and discussion followed.

The Branch Secretary to prepare a press release and discuss with Peter.

Mick McDonald agreed and suggested raising the integrated locker room situation as well.

John Ring agreed with the media release and urged caution re wording. In Townsville the facilities for female members are in a separate demountable. This raised further concerns after a recent incident at the base. The demountables aren't up to standard either. Shared facilities should be added to the media release.

Rory McCabe suggested that TRA and Cat 5 issues be included. He is currently dealing with an issue involving approved leave, which is set out clearly in the EA.

Justin Hunter stated that operational equipment has to take priority. Airservices have ceased sending us invitations to the TRAs. When Purcell was approached, he said that the schedule had been sent. Justin requested a direct invitation from Ryan Gould.

The Branch Secretary had spoken to Ryan Gould who said we should be getting invitations and Rory reported that it was two months since we had received one.

Wes Garrett stated that inclusive facilities is where we need to focus. Dorms and locker rooms are a priority.

Jimmy Young joined the meeting at this point.

The Branch Secretary stated that the initial media is about them spending money on optional items, as opposed to essential equipment.

Media release was approved.

Rory McCabe reported that Port Hedland tried to have a meeting.

Discussion followed.

Wes Garrett asked if we had a written record of trying to consult and added that we should throw everything into Fair Work.

Advanced Diploma

John Ring raised the Advanced Diploma and suggested not enough women applied for the roles. Complained they want to do it but don't get opportunity to progress.

Discussion followed re this opening up to non-firefighting staff, Emergency Management Qualifications and Advanced Diploma.

John Ring reported that Hamilton Island and Proserpine asked that he be included. The Branch Secretary will send to Mick McConnell and Paul Grey and maybe whole the station will be invited.

Handover/Takeover

John reported that the handover/takeover is now in Townsville, paid from the last pay. The Study Group is coming to Mackay in the next week or two. Need feedback from members.

Simon Osborn suggested that re the Adelaide Joint Users facilities, they should go to Fair Work on non-consultation.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] A list of issues has already been raised and if no result, will see them in Fair Work.

Wes Garrett added that when you don't consult, you end up with a very adversarial situation.

Discussion followed.

Joint Facilities

Simon Osborn noted that Wes was told there will be a response shortly. Wes to provide details to the Branch Secretary.

Airhook

The Branch Secretary reported that this is CIRRUS-able because it hasn't been maintained. Asked for an audit. If not in use it can be disposed of. John Ring added it should be taken out of service as there was a safety alert a couple of months ago. John to send report to the Branch Secretary.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Wes to discuss further with the Branch Secretary.

Legal

Melita Bozin updated the BCOM on a number of matters due early next week. She had 5/6 statements and hopefully the person involved will get a good result.

A Fair Work matter attended on Tuesday is going to be resolved. Need to be mindful that there are concerns about getting matters up and running. Can be potentially listed within a day or two. Commissioners want matters resolved and want us to provide resolutions there and then. Witness statements etc need to be ready to go.

Comcare matters

Template for members to fill out and database to be created. There are two retired members with significant cancers. Both have had excellent reports from their doctors. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Justin Hunter added that if Commissioners are expecting to have results within 24 hours, we need to give our Legals the ability to make decisions on the spot.

Discussion followed. Justin stressed our position has to be determined before we lodge an F10.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Further discussion followed.

Simon Osborn advised the meeting that he needed to leave at 12 noon.

Joining/Rejoining

Simon Osborn reported that Melita Bozin and Allison Ballard had applied to join the Union. He checked the rules which as far as he understood, clearly states they are eligible to become members of the Union.

Discussion followed regarding Melita and Allison being on the ticket of the Branch Secretary for the current election and whether the rules provide for them to become members. Concerns were also raised that as employees of the Union they are being used as a campaign tool and would be seen as supporting one side. They should not be used as a marketing tool.

Rory McCabe stated that he wished to defer.

Justin Hunter added that the applications are in line with the rules.

Wes Garrett stated he was happy to consider their applications but did not want to make a decision today.

MOTION

Moved Justin Hunter

That the membership applications from Melita Bozin and Allison Ballard be considered now.

Seconded Mark Von Nida

Heated discussion followed.

Simon Osborn read out the rule re eligibility.

Justin Hunter wanted to vote now on whether Melita and Allison are accepted as members. It has to be proven that they are unfit if the BCOM is going to say no.

Wes Garrett wanted to apply due diligence.

The Branch President stressed that if we put up a motion now and the vote goes against, we must have a reason for not allowing someone to join the Union.

The Branch Secretary indicated he was happy to discuss in General Business.

Wes Garrett stated he wished to defer and suggested that the motion be put up next week.

Discussion followed regarding eligibility rules. Wes thought BCOM were being asked not to apply due diligence.

John Ring agreed that for this to be considered properly, we need due diligence and a motion in writing. He raised concerns as to motives.

Simon Osborn reminded BCOM that the motion has been put. Discussion followed.

Justin agreed to put the motion in writing.

Further discussion followed re Melita and Allison being on the ticket.

Melita responded that they were only asked by one person. Everyone had the opportunity to ask. She worked as professionally and impartially as possible and wanted to work with everyone.

John Ring considered that by appearing on the pane, she was supporting only one side which was inappropriate.

Moved Justin Hunter

That the BCOM accepts Melita Bozin and Allison Ballard as members of the UFU Aviation Branch.

Seconded Mark Von Nida

Discussion followed.

John Ring deferred.

Chris Jones was happy for them to be members of our Union. However, it does look like you are voting for a package and if you don't vote for Members First, then you're not going to get the lawyers who are employed by the Union.

Rory McCabe was concerned that the reasons behind them becoming members is to get around them appearing on the ticket. The resources of the Aviation Branch can't be used to advantage your campaign.

The Chair referred back to the Motion and asked each BCOM for their decision.

Five voted yes.

Three voted no.

The proxies from Tim Limmer and Zack Van Loenhout were disputed.

Wes Garrett raised a point of order. You can't phone in a proxy. Discussion followed around delegates for that location to proxy at the meeting and vote on your behalf.

On being put and the motion was CARRIED.

Rory McCabe and Wes Garrett expressed their disgust with what has been done here today.

Discussion followed.

Simon Osborn suggested that John Ring writes out his motion.

Chris Jones asked how this would look to members if Wes and Rory get elected? Does this mean that the people we employed are not supporting them? What has happened today is damaging.

Simon Osborn departed the meeting at 12.25 pm.

Rory McCabe in the Chair.

May Day

John Ring had encouraged Townsville members to join in the march in Townsville and requested that he be given approval to provide hospitality for members attending in Townsville. He would submit receipts for reimbursement.

Checks and Standards

Checks and Standards were conducting remote audits which required FC staff to video staff training for submission to C&S. John Ring asked if this has happened at any other station? What is our position with this? Mick McDonald said he had no information on this.

Rory McCabe reported that they were in Melbourne about 4 months ago. He had had previous discussions with Von.

John Ring advised it was happening in Townsville next week.

[REDACTED]

MOTION

Moved John Ring

That the UFUA Aviation Branch candidates in the upcoming Branch elections on any side will not use our union lawyers as a face on their ticket, flyers or campaign materials. As a legal team of all members, it is inappropriate for them to favour any one side in Union elections.

Discussion followed.

Seconded Wes Garrett

Yes votes – 5

No votes – 4.

Discussion followed regarding proxy votes.

On being put, the motion was CARRIED

Zack Van Loenhout joined the meeting at this point.

Justin Hunter confirmed that the material will be removed this afternoon.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.37 pm.

SIMON OSBORN
BRANCH PRESIDENT

PARKED ITEMS from 16.4.21

EA Log of Claims – Items to be included

Unfair Dismissal – Code of Conduct – Exit Strategy

████████████████████

Election Program/Candidate Parameters

3 Minutes to Live type Campaign (Mick McDonald)

FCC issues (Tim Limmer)

3 yearly medicals (Open)

Union Complaint

Blue against Blue

Protection for Union Officials

Gathering confidential information from members (Simon Osborn)

Merchandise Pricing (Tim Limmer)

Log of Claims (Simon Osborn/Jimmy Young)

Motion on Notice (Wes Garrett)

Locker room (Simon Osborn)

DAMP Ballina

For discussion 23.4.21 - Cancer Screening/Health Checks

Merchandise (Tim Limmer)