

Well, that is it.

This year has been quite a year for UQCS. We celebrated our 10 year anniversary as a club! This is a true testament to everyone who has been a member, given talks, and most importantly to all of the exec who given their time up over the years for UQCS to get to this point.

This year, we have 376 members of the club. While a significant dip from last year's 495, it is still a solid membership base and should see those numbers grow next year as university life returns to some level of normality.

We once again topped the previous year's sponsorship number with a total of 17 sponsors. While it is fantastic to see UQCS being seen as a critical pathway for student and industry connections, I think we now have too many sponsors. The number of sponsors this year with our current structure caused some issues with organising HFN and limited the number of non-sponsor talks we could fit in across the year. Next year's committee should heavily consider reducing the number of sponsors and also look towards other industries like the video game industry for sponsorship opportunities.

Hackathon this year was another huge success, with way too much food and an all-around great time. Next year hopefully it will return to its earlier running date in August and get even more people coming along to build impressive things over a weekend. We can't not mention the UQCS Band, the Dijkstra's Algo-Rhythms, who once again put on a fantastic show on Sunday. Hopefully the band will continue to be a tradition into next year, as let's be honest they are a lot of fun. CodeJam in semester 1 was also a great event, it was great to see a lot of new and familiar faces. Hopefully we will see even more members coming along to try their hand at a new problem set next year.

We also had a lot of interesting technical talks this year, as well as attempting to increase the number of social events we do. We did finally manage to run laser tag after two failed attempts foiled by lockdowns. Going forward the future exec should look at striking a better balance between social events and technical talks, as we just didn't see the same attendance at talks this year as previous in person years have had. Social events and our flagship events seemed to be the most popular, they encourage people to talk, meet new people, and in turn provide a great environment. Cross society events are also fun and exciting ways to broaden the horizons outside of UQCS, hopefully next tech club BBQ is not in the windiest part of West End.

One of our big decisions that we made this year, was to finally move away from Slack to Discord. It has definitely not brought back the 12k weekly messages we once had in the Slack, but that was never the plan or the expectation. With the much lower barrier to entry and work that can be done by the next committee, we can continue to work towards building up a new place for members to hang out.

Lastly, I want to thank Sanni and Kenton for continuously being there to help push the society along with meeting minutes, bank transactions, room bookings, the additional event approval forms, emails, and the mountain of other T3 stuff that I've forgotten about. Of course, an important shout out to our general committee members this year as well; Sylvia, Paul, Tom, Darren, Madhav, Matt, Olivia, and Utkarsh who helped run The Router, organise speakers, send newsletters, connect with sponsors, take photos, order and deliver pizza, design merch, acquire stickers, and so much more.

It has been an honour and a privilege to have been the president this year, and I wish the next committee all the best. Here's to another fantastic year for UQCS.

Sincerely,



James Dearlove  
UQCS President

## Secretary's Report

I would first like to begin by saying thank you for electing me to be the secretary for UQCS, it has been an experience unlike any other. Being able to plan events from scratch and watch them come to fruition has been incredibly rewarding, fun, and awesome.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the 2021 UQCS committee for being as amazing as they are. We have planned 43 events this year, with about as many weekly meetings. In fact, we spent 2,485 minutes in meetings (41 hours and 25 minutes), with an average meeting spanning 62 minutes. The longest meeting ran for 109 minutes. Spoiler alert: it was not the handover meeting. However, what isn't captured in the weekly meetings are the thousands of messages that flit across #committee on a daily basis, whether that's me sending annoying pings, trying to find last minute catering because Subway St Lucia missed our order, or collectively bikeshedding over banner designs. It is truly the terrific hard work, dedication, and endless persistence (thanks Miss Rona), that is shown in every single UQCS event we've held.

Aside from sending countless pings in #committee, as secretary I've had the privilege of helping organise various events, such as the annual Hackathon, Code Jam, Industry Panel, High Frequency Networking (HFN), and more. Throughout all of this planning I've learnt one thing: I have terrible time management. More seriously, I've learnt to be more patient and forgiving, two things I am not well-known for.

Something that I've been passionate about since even before I joined committee has been increasing diversity in UQCS, and though I believe we still have strides to go, I do believe UQCS is headed in the right direction. We've donated money to organisations like MINUS-18 and tried to be more critical about the talks we organise and the implicit messaging we are giving our members via the events that we run.

Another thing that I really wanted to change was more social events. I felt like post-talk pizza simply wasn't enough time for the members to get to know each other, and I remember in my early days as a member I was quite intimidated to talk to anyone. For this reason and more, we introduced events like the traffic light party at the start of the year, laser tag, which we kept having to postpone and re-plan because we went into a lockdown each time, online games night, and the upcoming pool night which is being run in conjunction with MSS and PAIN. I hope the next committee continues in this vein.

Furthermore, we felt that two events a week really stretched the limits of all the committee members, and we felt that it was more appropriate to reduce the number of events a week to zero or one during busier times of the semester, such as in the week leading up to the mid-semester break and week 13. This helped alleviate a lot of stress for not just the T3 execs but the entire committee as we could all focus on uni assignments and work without needing to worry about getting pizza or livestreaming.

However, this year has not been completely smooth-sailing. There were COVID restrictions that required postponing various events, re-organizing and lot more hours being spent on going over the same details multiple times. There were also times when it felt like some committee members were pulling their weight more than others. It is for this reason that I would like to recommend no more than five general committee members for the upcoming committee.

Nonetheless, I would like to leave by giving kudos where it is due. I'd like to give special thanks to James and Kenton for often being my sounding boards and occasionally my voice of reason, on top of all the amazing work that they've already done for UQCS. Thank you to the entire committee for helping put up so many events, even sacrificing assessment to bring some fun for our members.

I wish the next committee nothing but the best. I genuinely cannot wait to see what the coming year will bring for UQCS. It truly has been an honour and a privilege.

Thank you,  
Sannidhi Bosamia  
UQCS Secretary

# Treasurer's Report

University of Queensland Computing Society

Kenton Lam

Thursday 7th October 2021

Greetings UQCS,

It is my great pleasure to report that UQCS has passed audit for the 2020 financial year. We opened the financial year on 1 September 2020 with \$16,345.41 and closed on 31 August 2021 with \$32,239.79. This is a net gain of \$15,894.38, made up of \$39,980.79 in income and \$24,086.41 in expenses (as tracked through the society's Commonwealth Bank account).

The society's income and expenditure for the year are tabulated below.

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Sponsorships	\$ 33,217.32	Catering	\$ 6,300.29
Grants	\$ 3,736.00	Merchandise	\$ 5,131.02
Membership Fees	\$ 1,331.45	Prizes	\$ 3,480.00
Sales of Tickets	\$ 1,078.37	"Festivities"	\$ 2,679.20
Cash Floats	\$ 190.00	Pizza	\$ 2,573.75
Merchandise Sales	\$ 142.70	Equipment	\$ 1,318.21
Entertainment	\$ 100.00	Competitions	\$ 745.00
Equipment	\$ 99.95	Fees & Permits	\$ 470.14
Joint Events	\$ 85.00	Marketing	\$ 339.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 39,980.79</b>	Donations	\$ 309.75
		Stationery	\$ 233.16
		Postage	\$ 216.25
		Cash Floats	\$ 190.00
		Entertainment	\$ 100.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,086.41</b>

Starting with this year, transactions were also (somewhat) categorised into events. Revenue and costs for each of the tracked events are below. The large revenue from the uncategorised event is due to sponsorship payments.

Additionally, the only hackathon in this financial year was the one in October 2020. This calendar year's hackathon was delayed (again) to September so will be in the 2022 audit period. As a rough estimate, its cost was very similar to 2020's.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Costs</b>	<b>Net</b>
(Uncategorised)	\$ 36,105.22	\$ 7,260.47	\$ 28,844.75
Hackathon	\$ 2,069.57	\$ 8,906.08	\$ (6,836.51)
Social Event	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,414.20	\$ (2,314.20)
Weekly Semester One	\$ -	\$ 1,321.85	\$ (1,321.85)
End of Semester	\$ 85.00	\$ 1,182.30	\$ (1,097.30)
Weekly Semester Two	\$ -	\$ 724.91	\$ (724.91)
Welcome Event	\$ -	\$ 581.88	\$ (581.88)
Market Day	\$ 685.00	\$ 758.72	\$ (73.72)
CodeJam	\$ 936.00	\$ 936.00	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 39,980.79</b>	<b>\$ 24,086.41</b>	<b>\$ 15,894.38</b>

## Treasurer's Comments

This is quite a substantial gain, even compared to last financial year's monumental "massive net gain". This is for several reasons discussed here.

This year, we received significantly more money from sponsorships than past years (2019 and 2020 received \$18,690.95 and \$12,276.15, respectively, in sponsorships). This was a combination of both having more sponsors and some sponsors from last year only paying in this financial year. The amount of sponsorship money expected from this year alone would have been approximately \$23,250.

Generally lower in-person attendance than past years led to reduced catering costs, particularly at weekly events<sup>1</sup>. A small amount of the surplus was used to provide higher quality food for special events. Some catering options explored were Arrivederci Pizza for the Welcome Trivia night and Pizza Caffè for Hackathon pizza.

Despite this, we still closed at a significant net gain which falls to the next committee to manage. It is my recommendation to not rush to spend this money. Personally, I believe these funds should be spent on investments which will offer long-term benefit to the society (e.g. streaming or equipment) instead of short-term expenses like food or excessive amounts of alcohol. Additionally, this surplus allows the incoming committee to be more

<sup>1</sup>This year, we ordered 391 pizzas from Domino's, 20 garlic breads, and 7 cheesy garlic scrolls. A not insignificant number was ordered from other pizza restaurants.

discerning in the choice of sponsors for more diversity of industries and backgrounds.

In other news, use of Xero has significantly improved the bookkeeping process giving us access to powerful reporting (albeit through a complex interface) and automatic rules for faster reconciliation. In future, more events and categories could be added to more precisely report on the society's financials. Xero did come with its complications, particularly around our use of Stripe and having to receive payouts from Stripe after fees are deducted<sup>2</sup>.

Reimbursement time this year was quite varied but generally never quick. This was not ideal, particularly when committee members are missing large sums of their own money for weeks at a time. A more regular or predictable schedule of reimbursements would be beneficial.

On more than a few occasions, we over-catered for events, including both regular talks and things like hackathon. This left us with large amounts of food leftover which would have to be taken home or given away. This was improved towards the end of the year by more precise orders placed as late as possible. This was partly due to overestimating people's eating capacity, but more importantly because we expected more attendance at events than we had.

In general, it seems that the society has struggled to attract and retain new members. Initially, this was attributed to COVID-19 and online university policy, though as the year progressed it became clear there was something more behind this (and using COVID-19 as an excuse has been counterproductive at times). In my opinion, this stems from a disconnect between the events we ran and what members would've liked. Technical talks, while interesting for more advanced students, saw consistently low attendance (in the range of 10–20 per event), whereas social events were much better-attended.

In future, more of these social events and possibly even regular casual gatherings in-person or online would go a long way to fostering a vibrant sense of community which has been missing from UQCS. It is my hope that an executive committee with a fresh perspective will be able to overcome these issues.

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<sup>2</sup>More specifically, Stripe accounts exist in Xero separate from the Commonwealth Bank account. These accounts receive credits from payments and have Stripe fees deducted before being paid to the main account. We need to track these fees as part of expenses but because this happens before it reaches our bank account, the total income and expenses reported in Xero differ from the number reported in our bank statements and audit.

## Closing Remarks

As I finish my final year of university, it has been my great pleasure to serve as UQCS treasurer. I first became aware of UQCS after meeting Cameron Aavik at a Microsoft coding competition in my first semester. Since then, I've been involved with UQCS to varying degrees throughout my time at UQ. The many people I've met and the experiences I've had as part of this club have been hugely influential in taking me to where I am now.

With this in mind, I thank James and Sanni for their constant leadership and support of the committee. I thank all members of the committee for their tireless and continuous work throughout the semester—especially the work which goes on behind the scenes to keep things going. It truly is a team effort and every contribution has helped. I'd like to thank all the UQCS members of old for their guidance and support and for laying the foundations of what we have today. Finally and most importantly, I thank the members who have attended and engaged with us this year. UQCS is a society for the students and we would be nothing without our members.

To the next generation, I hope UQCS has been—and continues to be—a positive experience for you like it has been for me.

For all UQCS, always.



Kenton Lam  
*Treasurer*



Hey The University of Queensland Computing Society

**Congratulations, your audit has been received and your club has been marked as compliant.**

**The approval was supplied with the following notes (if any):**

Well done!

You may now go ahead and organise your AGM. Please remember that you are required to give your members 14 days' notice and the C&S department 5 days' notice (date, time and location of meeting). They will advise you if they have the intention to attend.