



Student Guild of Curtin University

Representation Board - Meeting #11

To be held at 5:30pm on Thursday the 19th of October
2023 In Council Chambers 100.301

Opened 5.30pm

Minutes

1. Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners

"The Curtin Student Guild would like to pay our respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of our community by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which the Bentley Campus is located, the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation; and on our Kalgoorlie Campus, the Wongutha people of the North-Eastern Goldfields. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this university, city and this region."

2. Attendance

- 2.1. Members Present; Jude Soussan, Mitchell Craig, Aleena Shaji, Veronika Gobba, Danica Scott, Max Zhang, Ryan Kirby, Athina Hilman, Veer Singh (online), Rey Nairn (online)
- 2.2. Others Present; Erin Russell, Joe Brim, Hiba Alsoeady, Dylan Botica (arrived xxx), Hannah Northey
- 2.3. Apologies and Leave of Absence; Bhaarath Kathiravan, James Cabrera
- 2.4. Absent; Imari Morris

3. Disclosure of any potential or perceived Conflicts of Interest. None

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Circular Resolution:

4.1. Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion: That the Representation Board approves the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 17/08/2023, as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved: Ryan Kirby
Seconded: Mitch Craig
Carried

4.2 Resolved Circular Resolution CR #2/23

Motion: That the Curtin Student Guild endorse the protest called by United Against Bigotry and Racism against Jacinta Price on Monday October 2, 6pm.

Moved: Danica Scott (Ordinary Representation Board Member)

Seconded: Mitchell Craig (PSC President)

Motion Carried

Overturned by Guild Council CR#3/23

Jasmyne Tweed reported to the committee the sequence of events that led to overturning of the resolution saying that the request had come from the Yes23 campaign as there were concerns it may have had a negative impact on polling. Danica Scott spoke at length about her disappointment at the decision.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes. None

6. Items Not for Discussion

7. Reports

Hannah Northey noted that Dylan Botica had requested a motion to move 7.1 to 7.13 and Motion 8.3 and 8.4 en bloc. However, as Dylan was not at the meeting as yet the motion would require a new mover and seconder.

Moved Mitch Craig

Seconded Aleena Shaji

Carried

7.1. President – Submitted

7.2. Vice President – Education – Submitted

7.3. Faculty of Business and Law Representative* – Verbal report

7.4. Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative – Submitted

7.5. Faculty of Health Sciences Representative – Not Submitted

7.6. Faculty of Humanities Representative – Submitted

7.7. Student Assist – Submitted

7.8. International Students Committee President – Not Submitted

7.9. Postgraduate Students Committee President – Submitted

7.10. Queer Officer – Submitted

7.11. Women's Officer – Submitted

7.12. Accessibility Officer – Submitted

7.13. Higher Education Developments – Submitted

7.14. Chair of the Representation Board - Verbal report. Helped out at an FBL event, Grill the Guild, and attended meetings.

Motion Reps Board notes the verbal report of Chair of the Representation Board

Moved Mitch Craig

Seconded Veronika Gobba

Carried

*FBL Representative has been on leave

8. Items for Discussion and Resolution

8.1 Curtin Student Guild Stands in Solidarity with Palestine

Motion: That the Representation Board approve the following policy on Israel-Palestine matters:

The Curtin Student Guild:

- stands against the Israeli occupation of Palestine and condemns the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestinians
- supports the self-determination of the Palestinian people and their right to engage in self-defence against their occupiers
- deems the use of Zionism to justify the illegal occupation of Palestine as racist and colonial
- recognises that Israel is an apartheid state in accordance with prominent human rights organizations like Amnesty International, B'Tselem, and Human Rights Watch.
- opposes the adoption of policies that prohibit criticism of Israel by Curtin University, including aspects of the IHRA definition of antisemitism
- condemns any and all forms of antisemitism and notes that the actions of the Israeli Government have been used to fuel anti-Jewish hatred.
- notes that Israel's actions are not representative of the Jewish community. Similarly, Israel's crimes are its responsibility alone and not that of Jewish people worldwide.

The Representation Board recommends to the Guild Council that it adopt the following resolution:

The Guild Council approves a boycott on companies that support and profit from the Israeli apartheid in line with the global BDS guidelines and create a register for all staff and Officers that lists 'boycotted companies'. The register's maintenance is to be delegated to the President.

The Representation Board will enact the associated actions in full.

Dylan Botica spoke to the motion saying that the Guild had long supported the Palestinians who were under occupation of the Israeli Government. Dylan said it was appropriate that the Guild take a formal stance on the issue. Dylan said it was important that Guild Council take active steps to boycott companies that were supporting or providing money to Israel. Dylan talked about the suffering of the Palestinian people, the IHRA definition of antisemitism and the coverage by the media. Jude Soussan spoke to the motion noting the VC's emails to students about the conflict did not acknowledge the impact to Palestinian students on campus. Aleena Shaji said that while she supported the motion she wanted to confirm that the Guild was not supporting the actions of Hamas, that they were different from the Palestinian people. The Guild did not condone the killings of all innocent civilians. Dylan said that he supported removing point two so as to avoid the risk of undue focus on that section rather than the Guild's support of the Palestinian people. Jude was in favour of removing point two.

The Chair Hannah Northey noted the motion removing point two. There were no other changes.

Moved by: Dylan Botica
Seconded by: Jude Soussan
Carried

8.2 Curtin Student Partnership Agreement 2024

Motion: That the Representation Board recommend that the Guild Council Approves the 2024 Curtin Student Partnership Agreement and the renewal of the Agreement.

Moved: Veronika Gobba (Vice President- Education)

Seconded: Mitch Craig

Veronika spoke to the motion noting the changes made to the agreement. Veronika said that the Guild needed to be recognised as the peak student body. Mitch Craig said the final document was much better than what the university had in mind. Rey Nairn raised an area of the document under collaboration and the partnership principle that they said should have Guild added for clarity. There was discussion that the Guild should have a standing invitation to the University Council. Legislation would not need to be changed for that to occur. Guilds of all other WA universities did this. Dylan Botica said that Guild representatives did not have the time to be involved in everything. Motion carried with discussed amendments.

8.3 Representation Board Constitution Amendments

Motion: That the Representation Board review the amendments to the Representation Board constitution

Moved: Dylan Botica (President)

Seconded:

(moved en bloc)

8.4 Demand Curtin make its military ties public information

Motion: That the Curtin Student Guild demands that Curtin University make public and easily accessible information regarding the extent of the University's ties to Defence and weapons companies, including but not limited to a list of all companies the University has partnerships with and the amount of funding the University receives from these companies and the Australian Government for the purposes of defence research.

Moved: Danica Scott (Ordinary Representation Board Member)

Seconded:

(moved en bloc)

8.5 Put the Protest back in Pride!

Motion: That the Curtin student Guild endorse and actively promote the protest called by Rainbow Rebellion WA and the UWA Student Guild Pride Department on November 25, 6 pm Forrest Chase against the rise of the far right and corporatisation of Pride.

Moved: Danica Scott (Ordinary Representation Board

Member) Seconded: Veronika Gobba

Carried

Danica Scott spoke to the motion noting the event had become very corporate and was out of line with the tradition of Pride marches. Aleena Shaji read comments from Imari Morris who while understanding and agreeing with the overall ideas and sentiments of the motion had concerns that the timing of the protest, the ambiguity of its objectives and some of its focus areas which could confuse people, especially the general public and the media. There was discussion about the motion's reference to the corporatisation of Pride.

General Business

Danica Scott spoke about the amendments to the Guild's constitution and wanted it recorded that these changes made the Representation Board less democratic as it was impossible for any minor parties or independents to be a member of the committee. Dylan Botica spoke about the change that would allow any member of the Curtin student community to put forward a motion.

9. Dylan Botica gave the meeting evaluation

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Action: For Dylan Botica to provide the meeting evaluation

10. Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Representation Board is Thursday, the 16th of November at 5:30pm to be held at Council Chambers. Documents and motions are to be submitted no later than 5pm on Thursday the 9th of November to chair.representation@guild.curtin.edu.au and secretary@guild.curtin.edu.au