



Guild President 2023 September Report

Dylan Botica

President's Representation Board Report

Covering Dates: 15/08/2023 – 14/09/2023

Submitted to: September Representation Board

Leave: Nil

University / External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/08/2023	Leadership Matters – Premier Roger Cook	
16/08/2023	COO - Parking Meeting	Parking updates are below
17/08/2023	Academic Board Executive	
18/08/2023	Hilton Hotel Tour	15% Discount secured for Guild members and improved rates for clubs.
21/08/2023	NUS Small and Regional Officer	
22/08/2023	SSAFEAC	
23/08/2023	Global Leaders Summit Meeting	GLS has been cancelled for 2023
24/08/2023	A/DVC-G Meeting	
24/08/2023	Library Staff Catch-Up	
25/08/2023	GROK Meeting	To discuss pre-election matters
25/08/2023	Academic Board	
29/08/2023	Academic Freedom and Foreign Interference	
29/08/2023	Sexual Harm Primary Prevention for Students	
4/09/2023	2023 VC's Excellence Awards - Nomination Review	

4/09/2023	Misconduct Rules Discussion	
7/09/2023	2023 VC Excellence Awards Committee meeting	
7/09/2023	BDE – Palestine Meeting	
14/09/2023	DVC-A Meeting	

1. Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/08/2023	Deadnaming Project Catch Up	
16/08/2023	Queer Officer Catch Up	
17/08/2023	Higher Education	
17/08/2023	Representation Board	
21/08/2023	Legal Committee	On by-law amendments necessary for Regulation amendments.
22/08/2023	Operations Committee	
23/08/2023	Executive Committee	
23/08/2023	Academic Board Briefing	
24/08/2023	Guild Council	
25/08/2023	Club Project Update	
25/08/2023	Executive x MD	Item arising from Guild Council
28/08/2023	President x MD	
28/08/2023	President x Student Engagement	
29/08/2023	Student Engagement Brainstorming	
31/08/2023	Dissolved Club Bank Account Discussion	
4/09/2023	President x MD	
4/09/2023	President x Student Engagement	

7/09/2023	Student Assist Catch Up	
7/09/2023	Staff Awards	
8/09/2023	Guild Ball	
11/09/2023	Executive Committee	
13/09/2023	Finance and Risk Committee	
14/09/2023	Branding Meeting	With all Student Engagement team members
14/09/2023	Higher Education	

2. Items of Significance

2.1. SSAF Survey

Based on the Government requirement for consultation of SSAF projects myself and the Academic Registrar launched a SSAF survey that has garnered over 800 responses, signaling strong engagement from our students. The majority of respondents express a positive sentiment toward SSAF. Jon is finalizing a letter to the Department, and I have expressed interest in commencing the Academic Calendar review process. We will keep the board updated as developments occur.

2.2 Student Housing

I've made significant progress in addressing the concerns raised by students not covered by the Residential Tenancy Act. The Minister for Education, Dr. Tony Buti MLA has corresponded with the Vice Chancellor asking for an investigation and response. We are currently reviewing the response provided by the University and have identified several factual discrepancies that we plan to address in our follow-up communication. Chantal from Make Renting Fair WA (which the Guild is a member of) suggested that we include specific examples of third-party providers' actions that contradict the information provided, and she recommended involving Minister Ellery in this conversation, given her responsibility for RTA reforms. To further strengthen our position, Chantal also proposed the possibility of collaborating with other university guilds to jointly address the issue and emphasize our collective request for student accommodation inclusion in RTA reforms. We will keep you updated as we progress in our advocacy efforts.

In light of the substantial increase in student housing rent, Student Assist and I are committed to addressing this issue on behalf of our students. To initiate a resolution, we will first conduct a thorough analysis of the rent hike, including its impact on students. We've had a response from the University to understand the rationale behind the increase. We will focus on negotiating fair and transparent rent adjustments, while also seeking additional financial support options for affected students including returning the subsidy for specific equity / rural / regional groups.

2.3 Academic Calender

Senior university sources have indicated a strong likelihood of the return of tuition-free weeks, with the review process seemingly a mere formality. Over the past month, we have made significant progress in our efforts to address this matter. The University has initiated the review of the academic calendar, and we have successfully focused its scope on the specific changes from the previous calendar, particularly the removal of tuition-free weeks. This strategic approach limits the University's ability to reintroduce trimesters without due consideration. I have also recommended the inclusion of Guild representatives on the review panel, a suggestion that is currently under active consideration. We will continue to monitor this situation closely and provide further updates as the review progresses.

2.4 Parking

We have made significant progress, with Curtin University planning to introduce ongoing 'Food for Fines' and volunteering initiatives in response to our advocacy efforts and the support of nearly 8,000 students and staff who signed our petition. While these initiatives are promising, it's important to note that the University's fundamental stance on parking remains unchanged, with them believing that the current system is fit for purpose. We will continue to push for improvements and keep you updated on our progress.

4 Travel

Nil

Vice President – Education

Representation Board Report – 11/08/2023 – 8/09/2023

Veronika Gobba – She/Her

Date	Meetings	Comments
11/8/23	Office Bearer Sem 2 check-in (2 nd session)	
14/8/23	Voice to parliament explainer + Q&A with Dr Britta Biedermann for lecture	
	VPE x FBL rep Check-in	
	Respect at Curtin Specialist Advisory Committee	Reviewing Curtin's naming and definition of SA/SH in policy
16/8/23	Sustainability stall with DIY coffee scrub give-away	
17/8/23	VPE x Health Sci rep Check-in	
	Higher ed	
	Representation Board	
21/8/23	VPE x PSC President Check-in	
22/8/23	Curtin Interview Panel for Manager, Student Misconduct	
23/8/23	VPE x QO Meeting	
	Exec Committee	
	SAP Check-in	
25/8/23	Academic Board	
	Clubs Project Meeting	
	Executive Committee	
28/8/23	VPE x FBL Check-in	
29/8/23	Student Assist & AO Check-in	
30/8/23	Student Voice Australia Student Network Session, Accords Interim Report session	Besides the chair, I was the only other student attending and then a few university staff members from around Australia joined as well. Disappointing to see that SVA has very little understanding of the Accords and had

		not made any submissions and are not planning to make any submissions that push issues that students care about.
31/8/23	Enrolment drive Mt Lawley ECU	
	Enrolment drive Curtin Bentley	
1/9/23	Enrolment drive Joondalup ECU	
4/9/23	VPE x PSC President Check-in	
	Enrolment drive Joondalup	
5/9/23	University Courses committee	
6/9/23	VPE x QO Check-in	
	Enrolment drive Curtin	
7/9/23	Student assist & ISC President Check-in	
	VPE x Health Sci Rep Check-in	

Unit Outline Review

288 out of the sampled 481 units have been preliminarily assessed by a team of the fac reps + two members of the PSC.

Australian Universities Accords

The Curtin Student Guild has submitted a response to the interim report.

Please note I will be on leave from 11/9/23 – 21/9/23.

BUSINESS & LAW - Representative Board Report #9

For the Representation Board held on Thursday the 14th of September

Summary Of Meetings

Meeting	Date	Type of Meeting	Comments
SDP Meeting	11/8/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 9 cases
FBL SCC	14/8/2023	Faculty Committee	Faculty courses committee training for the student reps, a design studio framework seeking to invigorate innovation and collaboration in reference to some topics pertinent to the faculty and student experience.
VPE X FBL Catch up	14/8/2023	Guild	Check in with the VPE, topics covered: - Assessment framework redesign to make the transition to university easier for first years - Academic misconduct prevention, potential for mandatory draft turnitin portals.
FBL Student Engagement Team x Guild Rep catch up	17/8/2023	Faculty	Discussion as to the logistics of the Angazi Fryday and the upcoming cultural immersion execution to Northam. Critical feedback for the SCC training.
SDP Meeting	18/8/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 11 cases
Meeting x Leigh	18/8/2023	Faculty	A catch up with Leigh smith,

Smith			Director learning and teaching - Law School. We discussed the Law Schools process for academic misconduct findings and the importance of ensuring the sanctity of the discipline.
Angazi Fryday collective discussion	21/8/2023	Guild x Faculty	A collection of myself, Athina, Tanya and Hannah Wilkinson. Some may say the Avengers... We nussed out the logistics of getting the Angazi Fryday event off the ground and produced a framework both parties were happy with.
Meeting x Felix Chan + Dr Kim Nguyen + KT	23/8/2023	Faculty	A collective meeting which largely consisted of catch ups. Inquiring about the school resulted in light being shed on the schools progress in their strategic plan. I raised a student concern that had been passed onto me from Student Assist.
SDP Representatives Meeting and catch up	24/8/2023	Committee x Rep check in	Open discussion about consistency, changing perspectives and tackling case loads for SDP. Results were to push for greater regulatory frameworks and consistency at a school or faculty level when tackling cases on subjects such as AI
SDP Meeting	25/8/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 13 cases
VPA X FBL Catch up	28/8/2023	Guild	Finalizing details for the headache that has been the Angazi Fryday...
VPE X FBL Catch up	28/8/2023	Guild	Discussion of management and marketing moving to flipped units
FBL SCC	30/8/2023	Faculty Committee	Pilot discussion on Generative Intelligence and the regulation of AI.
FBL SAP Redesign: Economics	30/8/2023	SAP x Faculty	Continuation of the work undertaken by the Excellence in assessment research team to

			redesign assessment rubrics in a way that will boost utility and engagement on behalf of students transitioning to uni life from year 12 or international, this undertaking saw us redesign for the economics discipline.
SAP Project Christina Do meeting	30/8/2023	SAP x Faculty	Meeting to sort out travel to the national roundtable for Students as Partners. Including flights and accommodation.
SDP Meeting	31/8/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 10 cases
FBL Student Engagement Team x Guild Rep catch up	31/8/2023	Faculty	Discussion of the key takeaways from the session on Gen AI, marketing for the Angazi Fryday.
FBL SCC	4/8/2023	Faculty Committee	Discussion of the First year student experience, and how to improve student engagement and club registration. (one person said to bring back the commerce club...)
Catch up director teaching & learning M&M	4/8/2023	Faculty	Discussion on flipped units within Management and Marketing.
SDP Meeting	6/8/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 14 cases
Meeting x Narrelle Morris	6/8/2023	Faculty	This discussion pertained to efforts to make operations more sustainable within the school

Final Notes:

- I have meetings planned with the Heads of School for next month and therefore updates shall be provided on a school basis.
- The next month will likely see me increasingly pressure the faculty to do more on the grounds of sustainability. This will include meetings with the directors of teaching and learning on the basis of inclusion of SDGs and ESGs in tuition beyond tokenistic iteration in common core units.

- I have begun work on a student reflective perspective into a paper produced on behalf of an independent research group that I have been involved with in the faculty and will present on this paper in Melbourne at the end of the month.
 - The SCC re-design got underway and has been launched and concluded for this semester. Some really insightful policies produced as a result.
 - New staff within the faculty have been warm and receptive to meeting me, offering student inclusion where possible and enabling a Guild student perspective at the table.
-

Science and Engineering faculty Report

Zhongzheng (Max) Zhang (He/Him)

Representation Board – September 2023

Date	Event type	Event to note	Comments
11/08/2023	Meeting	OB fire up meeting	Discussed goals and projects for Sem 2, as well as feedback for Guild exec as fac rep.
14/08/2023	Meeting	Faculty Executive Meeting	Discussed student experience program and how it affects the faculty, and planned future actions.
15/08/2023	Meeting	SDP Meeting	
21/08/2023	Meeting	SDP Meeting	
23/08/2023	Meeting	Faculty Research and Development Meeting	
24/08/2023	Meeting	SDP Catch up	Discussed approach to GenAI and various other topics about the SDP process, as well as the backlog of cases and slow progress due to the number of cases.
25/08/2023	Meeting	SDP Meeting	
28/08/2023	Meeting	Faculty Executive Meeting	<p>Discussed foreign interference and influence on campus and in research, as well as certain problem groups of students who report to their home country's embassies about other student activities.</p> <p>Dean Learning and Teaching discussed approval of new courses starting 2024, establishment of UN SDGs working group, teaching quality and delivery, and impact of Gen AI on course/unit/assessment design.</p> <p>Director Student Engagement discussed national and state recognition of SciEng outreach activities and the faculty's university leading retention statistics of 87%, as well as the diversity challenge in the faculty, especially regarding activities that only appeal to certain groups of students.</p>
05/09/2023	Meeting	SDP Meeting	
06/09/2023	Meeting	Learning and Teaching Council Meeting	Discussed heavy usage of library, around 8000 visits per day, development of basic Gen AI guide on UniSkills page, discussed adding IEEE referencing guide on library page, which is used by at least 70 units and does not currently have support/materials on the library website.
07/09/2023	Meeting	Faculty Graduate Studies Committee	

HUMANITIES FACULTY REPORT – SEPTEMBER

JUDE SOUSSAN

DATE	WHAT	NOTES
18/09/2023	Student Disciplinary Panel	
21/09/2023	Humanities Watercolours event	Great turnout with mostly international students!
22/09/2023	Meeting with Humira and Athina	Spoke about the watercolours event and some misconduct cases.
24/09/2023	SDP reps meeting	To discuss how to deal with generative AI cases more cohesively and fairly.
24/09/2023	HUM LSEC	My first time attending! I presented a guild report that was received positively.
25/09/2023	Interview with Dhanya from Grok on Love week/Watercolours event	
06/09/2023	Ongoing work on unit outline reviews	
06/09/2023	Catch up with student senior partner	Discussed issues with misconduct cases

September 2023 Representation Board Report – Student Assist

Case statistics for Student Assist is as follows:

	June	July	August
Academic sessions	289	337	301
Financial Counselling sessions	21	41	34
LifeHacks	75	99	138

Academic sessions in the month of August were mainly in relation to complaints and academic misconducts.

Welfare

Student Assist provided emergency relief to 1 domestic student through our Hardship Grant.

12 Loan Laptops were loaned out in August.



PSC President's Report

SUBMISSION DATE: 11/09/2023

FOR MEETING DATE: 14/09/2023

NAME: Mitch Craig

POSITION: PSC President

GUILD MEETINGS/EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Comments
10/09/2023	Journey Through Academia	Event aimed at research candidate, approx. 40 people attended, 3 panellists, was very well received by attendees
17/08/2023	Higher Ed	Higher education updates
17/08/2023	Reps Board	See Minutes
21/08/2023	Catchup w/Veronika	Update on current postgrad issues
23/08/2023	exec	
24/08/2023	Guild Council	Attended as an observer
25/08/2023	Academic Board pre-meeting	Met w/Veronika, Dylan & Bhaarath to go through AB agenda pack
25/08/2023	Exec x MD	
30/08/2023	Equity Festival & ISC/PSC BBQ	I was BBQ captain, the BBQ was efficient, well received, and tasty.

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Comments
25/08/2023	Academic Board	Discussed student experience, how the university is performing in specific initiatives, made recommendations for improvements
01/09/2023	3 Minute Thesis – Curtin Final	I was the Master of Ceremonies for the 3MT Final. It was an excellent showcase with some fantastic presentation by PhD candidates
04/09/2023	Science & Engineering Graduation	

PROJECTS/General

- Has been quiet in terms of university meetings
- Delivered some fantastic events for postgrads
- I had a lot of positive feedback from those that attended the "Journey Through Academia" panel event

- I have continued to work on my projects including:
 - Software for HDRs
 - Improvement to the Milestone processes
 - Better resources and information for postgrads around their requirements and the processes
 - Improved Travel procedures for students
 - Improved supervisor training
 - Additional free training for HDRs

KPIs

- Making excellent progress on my projects/campaigns
- Delivered 2 events for postgrads
- Have responded to emails promptly
- I have attended all required meetings

tl;dr

Not too many meetings but very productive on my projects. Delivered some fantastic events!

QUEER OFFICER'S Report
Representation Board Meeting 10/2023 – 14.09.23
07.09.2023



GUILD MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Notes
Weekly	VPE x QO Check-in	Check in's and updates on what I'm up to and where everything is at
11.08	Fire-up Meeting	
15.08	Deadnaming Project Page Meeting	Planning to create a page on the Guild Projects webpage to keep students up to date on what is happening regarding this project
16.08	QO Deadnaming Check-In with President	Update for the president on where the deadnaming and we all need to pee projects are after the meeting with the DVCA
16.08	QO x VPA	Planning for Curtin Pride parade and for the Guild's upcoming Equity festival
23.08	Executive Committee	Sat in to talk about the changes made to the Guilds Gender Affirmation Policy
27.08	Meeting with Womens Officer	Drafting Item for GEIAG Agenda
01.09	Queer Collective Meeting	Catch up and discussion on current projects (deadnaming and we all need to pee) and planning/discussing upcoming Curtin Pride Event

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Notes
15.08	Curriculum Queering Community of Practice #2	UWA Medical Student presenting on Case-based learning for LGBTQIA+SB health education and inclusive care
16.08	Catch up with Sheldon Smith	Catch up on how the projects are going and organising ourselves to prepare for the meeting with the DVC-A
16.08	Monthly Meeting with DVCA, Sheldon Smith and QO	Updating Paul (DVC-A) on the QD's projects (specifically deadnaming and we all need to pee) as well as the Curtin Pride Parade.
29.08	Sexual Harm Primary Prevention for Students	The first of a few meetings. Everyone was bringing forward the issues

		currently faced on campus and some potential fixes and ways forward.
01.09	Meeting with Women's Officer, Robyn Westgate and Sheldon Smith	Discussion around the MATE Bystander training and potential ways of bringing it to students
01.09	Meeting with Bri McKenzie (Professional Learning Designer)	Discussions on how to provide teaching staff with training/awareness on issues surrounding deadnaming and misgendering of students
07.09	Gender Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group	First proper meeting for this group. Main take away was the agenda item around bathrooms on campus (coming out of we all need to pee project). Was good to hear how others might be able to contribute to potential future fixes.

OTHER MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Notes
23.08	Wear it Purple Dinner Event Briefing	Met with St Catherines Associate Dean to discuss the upcoming Dinner event and what to expect
24.08	Interview w/ Journalism Student	Talking about Wear it Purple Day and it's importance
29.08	St Catherine's Wear It Purple Day Dinner Event	A very fancy dinner where I got the opportunity to speak to the students there about the importance of self-expression and individuality (this year's themes).
05.09	Graduation Ceremony – Student Rep	

PROJECTS

Deadnaming: The business analysts are currently settling into their role and getting ready to begin working towards identifying long-term solutions for all of Curtin's systems. In the meantime, we now have a dedicated project page on the Guild website for the deadnaming project so that students can keep up to date on the current focus of the working group and what has already been resolved. This will allow us to keep students informed and up to date on what is happening regarding this project. There are still a few issues with Microsoft display names not updating for students who have updated their preferred name, however I have set up a form for students to provide me with their Student ID's so that I can direct DTS to fixing it on a case-by-case basis.

We All Need to Pee: There has not been another meeting since the last month, however, there has still been some progress made. I was able to discuss the campaign and its issues up with the DVC-A and we now have confirmation that we will be meeting with him and other members of senior leadership towards the end of the semester to properly present these issues and the potential solutions to those with the ability to implement the required changes. Also, in collaboration with the Women's Officer, we brought this campaign and the related issues with bathrooms on campus held by the Women's department to the Gender Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group to both bring the group into the loop on what the issues are and to also see if any of the members have the ability to assist on these issues.

OTHER

Equity Festival: Unfortunately, I was not able to attend due to my health, however from the sounds of it was very well received and a fun day for everyone.

Curtin Ally Micro-Trainings: Sheldon and I have worked together to create a training booklet to go along with three sessions of Ally training focusing on deadnaming and misgendering for Curtin Connect. These cover inclusive language, pronouns (including neo-pronouns), misgendering and deadnaming and give guides and outlines on how to not only be more inclusive but also how to correct themselves when mistakes are made. This came out of the deadnaming project and will hopefully expand and be given to other student facing areas of Curtin and people will be credited as Ally Level 1 upon completion of all three sessions.

IMARI MORRIS (He/They)
QUEER OFFICER

Women's Officer Report - Representation Board

14/09/2023

Date	Meeting	Comments
22/08/2023	Pad Run with QO	
24/08/2023	Love week	Went amazing!
25/08/2023	Love week	
25/08/2023	HEAPPS Event	Got to talk to some amazing people within the university and other universities.
29/08/2023	Sexual Harm and Primary Prevention for Students	Good discussion; next meeting to be on 20 th September.
30/08/2023	Equity Festival	Amazing turnout!
31/08/2023	MATE Bystander Training at Respect at Curtin	Further Information Below.
01/09/2023	Meeting with Sheldon and Robyn	Further Information Below.
7/09/2023	Gender Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group	Talked about Bathroom issues on campus.

Equity Festival

For the Equity Festival, I facilitated decorating and potting plants. It was really popular, and we ended up finishing the pots and succulents not long into the event. I also learned how to pot plants in the process! It was a shame we ran out so quickly as there was much interest in taking part, but nevertheless, it means that people enjoyed it. As many people loved it and thought it was a really cute thing to do, I think this will be well received in future years as well (with more pots and succulents!) if reps want to continue doing it. A big thank you to Athina, the VPA, for making this happen and for all the effort she put into this.

MATE Bystander Training

I sat in for the VPE at the Respect at Curtin Committee, where we were presented with a condensed version of the MATE Bystander Training. I found it very comprehensive and helpful, and later, I reached out to Sheldon and Robyn, who were running the training. We had a chat and how to bring it to both students, reps and teaching staff. I intend on working with them to bring more support to students who have been victims of Family and Domestic violence, as well as helping to make sure that Guild staff not only have the appropriate training to help students but to also keep themselves safe in the process.

Pads

With the help of the Queer Officer, we updated the stock of pads for the equity rooms and are monitoring them for the rest of the semester and how quickly they are used up.

Gender Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group

We had the first official GEI Advisory Group Meeting, where the Queer Officer and I talked about the issues with bathrooms on campus, and the group took it on board and will be communicating with relevant parties in their own fields on what is to be done before the next meeting.

TLDR;

Equity Festival, MATE Bystander Training, Pads, Gender Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group.

Aleena Shaji

Women's Officer 2023

Submitted 11/09/2023.

Accessibility Department

Representation Board Report: September 2023



University/External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
15/08	Student Advocacy Meeting	Notes below
16/08	DIBC 3	Had to leave early due to class
21/08	AC@C	
23/08	Meeting RE: Radiation Therapy Equity Classes	Notes below
04/09	Lab Access Discussion with Linda	Notes Below

Guild/Student Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
16/08	VPE Check-in	Cancelled
29/08	Student Assist 3-month check in	
30/08	VPE Check-in	Cancelled
30/08	Equity Fest	

Additional Information

Student Advocacy Meeting

A student contacted me regarding their UC refusing to implement reasonable adjustments for labs and tutorials on the grounds of alleged OHS risks, inherent requirements, and graduate competency standards. The student had previously had the same inherent requirements implemented in the labs for the same unit with no issues in a prior study period. No evidence was provided by the UC to substantiate the refusal (i.e. no risk assessments were provided), and the inherent requirements were not publicly available. We accessed the graduate competency standards from the accrediting body and found nothing that would be incompatible with the proposed adjustments. The student, myself, and the student’s advocate met with the deputy head of school and placement coordinator for the course. The result of this meeting was to move the student to a smaller class where their adjustments would be implemented.

This issue is consistent with other reports from students who have had issues with staff citing Inherent Requirements of the course when denying reasonable accommodations, despite no such inherent requirements existing that would be applicable to the specific circumstances. I have notified AAS about this issue and will engage in further advocacy as required.

Meeting RE: Radiation Therapy Equity Classes

I was approached by a tutor in the CMS regarding running a session for Medical Radiation Science students. The first session will focus on Accessibility and Disability in practice, and is planned for

[Document title]

September 21st. The second session will take place on October 12th and will centre around Queer Inclusivity in practice (I offered to run this second session as Imari was unavailable). I'm really looking forward to this.

Lab Access Discussion with Linda Adnyana

This meeting was set up for me to provide information regarding my experience as a wheelchair user in Chemistry Labs between 2021 and present, as well as for me to be updated on the university's progress and plans to manage lab access going forward. Reportedly PFD has now built a process to initiate changes to lab access, and the university will engage an external lab advisor to review any changes. Lab access will be a key focus of the Universal Design Subcommittee for at least the next 12 months. I was asked for the Accessibility Department to be a key point of contact for students to report lab access issues (including refusal of reasonable adjustments by UCs due to alleged inherent requirements) – I refused this for the following reasons:

- Few students engage with the AD at the time of the incident, and we are limited in our reach. This is particularly relevant when the main chemistry building is as far away from the Guild Precinct as possible, reducing student contact with the Guild.
- It should not be the responsibility of the AD to receive complaints about the university's failure to meet its legal and ethical obligations. My role is in advocating for students, not in collecting feedback on behalf of the university.
- The AD being a key point of contact relies on students coming forward with complaints after the fact (i.e. after the ableism has already happened), and hinges on the student having the knowledge, bravery, and capacity to both recognise that the university has done something wrong, and where to go to report it. It also relies on the position of AO being filled on an ongoing basis, and that the student in the role of AO has the capacity to perform ongoing reporting to the university about an issue that may or may not be within their area of expertise or interest.
- The proposed reporting through the AD is a reactive system that, by its nature, cannot capture the required information in a timely enough manner to ensure lab access for a given student in a given study period.

Instead, I advocated for mandatory training of all staff around what an Inherent Requirement actually is (e.g. it is not an inherent requirement to stand in a lab just because you don't currently have chairs in there) and the obligations of the university to provide reasonable adjustments. The university must also ensure that Inherent Requirements are published publicly for all degrees, and ensure that students are aware of their rights and where to report breaches of legal obligations.

Other Stuff Happening

- ADHD Senate Inquiry submissions have been published and give consistent and comprehensive feedback on the shortfalls of ADHD diagnosis, treatment, and care in Australia. I am hopeful that these submissions will be used appropriately to improve the lives and experiences of people with ADHD.
- The Accessibility Audit of all general teaching spaces has been completed and the resulting report is due to be tabled at the next meeting of the Universal Design Subcommittee.
- The Universal Design Working Group is being disbanded and replaced by the Universal Design Subcommittee. I am not sure how this changes anything, but the first meeting is due to happen towards the end of November.

Ongoing Projects

- ~~Students/Staff with Disability Procedures Review~~
 - ~~CAP De-Medicalisation~~
- ACROD Parking Review
- ~~Accessibility Audit~~
- Chemistry Laboratory Accessibility
 - ~~B316 Consultation~~
 - ~~B314 Consultation~~
 - ~~B500 Consultation~~
 - ~~B204 Consultation~~
- CSMP/CSG Stability
- DIBC
- ~~NUS HyFlex Campaign~~
- ~~ADHD Senate Inquiry Submissions~~

Events

AD x QD PowerPoint Party – 22/09/2023 @ 5-8pm in The Tav

Equity Festival – 30/08/2023

TL;DR – Main focusses this month have been on advocacy regarding Lab Access and publication of inherent requirements. The PowerPoint party has now got a final date. I'm going to teach a couple of classes.

Glossary:

- **AAS:** AccessAbility Services – the university body that organises and coordinates CAPs
- **AC@C:** Accessibility Collective @ Curtin. This is the University body for staff with disabilities to find social and advocacy support.
- **CAP:** Curtin Access Plan. A personalised document entitling students to reasonable adjustments to their studies enabling equitable access to education for those with specific access requirements.
- **CMS:** Curtin Medical School
- **CMS DIB:** Curtin Medical School Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Working Party.
- **CoP:** Community of Practice
- **COMPAS-S:** Checking On Mental health and Providing Alternatives to Suicide - for Students
- **CSG:** Curtin Social Group – A social group run during common free time on Wednesdays for Autistic and ADHD students who are involved in the CSMP.
- **CSMP:** Curtin Specialist Mentoring Program. This program allows Autistic students to engage in a weekly social group (CSG), as well as access to an Honours or Postgraduate Psychology student as a mentor. The mentor is there to help their Autistic mentee to navigate University and develop skills in self-advocacy, confidence, and other areas.
- **DIBC:** Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Committee
- **DVCA:** Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic.
- **DTS:** Curtin University Digital and Technology Solutions.
- **GPG:** Gender Pay Gap

[Document title]

- **GTL:** Geoff Tucker Lab – B300.204
- **LAWG:** Laboratory Accessibility Working Group
- **NUS:** National Union of Students
- **PFD:** Properties, Facilities, and Development
- **UAT:** Universal Access Toilet
- **UDWG:** Universal Design Working Group. The University committee tasked with improving disability access across Curtin.
- **VP-E:** Vice President – Education

Higher Education Representation Board September 2023

Australian Research Council grants return \$3 for every \$1 spent

Money invested by the Australian Research Council in university research returns over \$3 for every dollar spent, according to a new study.

Economic consultants ACIL Allen found that each dollar the federal government spends on the ARC's competitive grants program leads to a \$3.32 GDP boost compared to using it for general government expenditure.

The study, which was commissioned by the ARC, examined the impact of the \$17.6 billion (in 2022 dollars) in competitive grants which the council awarded to university researchers in the 20 year period from 2002 to 2021.

The report, titled Impact Assessment of ARC-funded Research, also said that an average of 6571 full-time equivalent jobs will be created each year up to 2046 as a result of the ARC grants. The peak employment impact will come in 2029 when about 15,000 full-time equivalent jobs are expected to be created.

It also said that 216 start-up companies were formed using ARC-funded research projects.

[media release](#)

[publication](#)

Action to end rorts in international education

26 August 2023

The Albanese Government is today announcing a package of measures to support integrity in the international education system and to support genuine international students.

International education is our fourth largest export industry and maintaining the quality and integrity of this sector is critical for the Australian economy and our relationships in our region.

The Government has closed a loophole which allows education providers to shift international students who have been in Australia for less than six months from genuine study to an arrangement designed to facilitate access to work in Australia.

There has been a sharp uptake in the use of the concurrent function in 2023 – in the first half of 2023, 17,000 concurrent enrolments were created, compared to approximately 10,500 for the same period in 2019 and 2022 combined.

Recent investigations have identified this misuse of 'concurrent enrolment' as an integrity issue for the international sector. This change takes effect immediately.

The Government will also increase the amount of savings international students will need in order to get a student visa. This requirement has not been indexed since 2019 and needs to increase to reflect higher living expenses. From October 1 2023, international students will need to show evidence of \$24,505 in savings, which is a 17% increase on current levels. This increase accounts for indexation since 2019.

The Government will also consider using its powers under Section 97 of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act (ESOS Act) to issue suspension certificates to high-risk education providers. A suspension certificate means providers would not be able to recruit international students.

This would be the first time an Australian Government has used this power.

Australian Government response to: Trusting Australia's Ability: Review of the Australian Research Council Act 2001

On 20 April 2023, the panel's final report – *Trusting Australia's Ability: Review of the Australian Research Council Act 2001* – was publicly released, and included ten recommendations which aim to:

- provide greater clarity of the contemporary role and purpose of the ARC through its enabling legislation
- advance support for Indigenous Australian academics through better consultation and additional fellowships
- strengthen governance by establishing an ARC Board
- reduce legislative burden and increase accounting flexibility through the ARC Endowment Account
- reform the evaluation of research excellence and impact.

The Government has agreed or agreed in principle to all the panel's recommendations.

<https://www.education.gov.au/higher-education-reviews-and-consultations/resources/australian-government-response-trusting-australias-ability-review-australian-research-council-act>

University costs escalate while government funding remains static. The Australian

Universities Australia has told the federal government's [higher education review](#) that university running costs escalated by 35 per cent over a decade while government funding went up by only 2 per cent.

In its latest submission to the Universities Accord review UA called on the government "to adequately fund the shared ambitions of the government and the sector".

"Universities are critical to the nation's future, and can't do more with less," the university peak body said in its submission on the [Accord's interim report](#)

UA also called for at least an extra \$750m a year in funding for universities to pay for more of the indirect costs of research, such as research infrastructure and support services.

The group said this was the minimum amount necessary to maintain Australia's research capability and would mean universities would receive 50c for every dollar of direct government research funding, up from 20c at the moment.

In its submission the Group of Eight universities called on the government to fund the full economic cost of research within a decade and recommended a detailed bench-marking exercise to determine the economic cost of doing research, including differences in cost by discipline and differences in cost at each university which took into account quality and impact of the research product.

UA, which represents 39 universities with widely differing interests – and thus often cannot resolve its position on key issues – did not offer a view on the [controversial levy on international student fees](#) which was put forward as an idea to consider in the Accord interim report.

However the Go8 universities, which dominate the international student market and gain the most in international student fees, condemned the proposed levy as an "envy tax".

"This redistributive tax would create countless unintended consequences, damage our higher education sector and international reputation," said Go8 chief executive Vicki Thomson.

The levy was originally proposed by University of Technology Sydney vice-chancellor Andrew Parfitt and University of Newcastle vice-chancellor Alex Zelinsky, both from the Australian Technology Network subgroup of Universities.

In its submission on the Accord the ATN did not specifically endorse the international student levy but said it would require "a long-term, stable and matched Commonwealth funding commitment" otherwise the money raised will be unlikely to achieve equity and sustainability goals".

However another university subgroup, the Innovative Research Universities, opposed the levy in its submission. However the IRU did said it supported "a mechanism for redistribution of public funding to areas of greatest need and impact".

"Accord agreements should be used in this way and take into account other (non-government) sources of university revenue when prioritising the allocation of public funds," the IRU submission said.

The seven member IRU is clearly saying that universities with high levels of international student income – such as the University of Sydney which earned \$1.4bn in international student fees in 2022 – should have these earnings taken into account when government higher funding is distributed.

In its submission the ATN called on the government to put a “high priority” on supporting the learning needs of under-represented students such as those with a disability, who are indigenous, who are first in family at university or from a regional or remote area.

Education Minister Jason Clare has already made clear his commitment to raise the level of higher education attainment by making make university available to tens of thousands of students from under-represented groups

However the ATN warned that such support was expensive, pointing to a recent study which found the average annual cost of an undergraduate full-time student from a low socio-economic group was \$109,430, compared with an average annual cost of \$17,360 for medium and high SES students. The ATN said it supported a block payment to universities to meet the needs of such students instead of a formula approach based on numbers of students.

It said that university funding should recognise the institutions which “are doing the hard work to improve participation and attainment of under-represented groups.”

In its submission UA did not take a view on a key issue emerging in the Accord review – establishing a Tertiary Education Commission to oversee universities. However, UA said that if it was recommended it should be a medium-term – rather than a short- term – action because it would be complex to establish and do well.

In the past 30 years universities became top-heavy with senior staff. The Australian

Australian universities are top-heavy with senior staff compared with how they were three decades ago, and junior staff university staff have paid the price.

A new study of the higher education workforce has found that professors made up one in seven academic staff in 1989 but the ratio had shifted to one in four by 2020.

The study, [Three Decades of Change in Australia's University Workforce](#), found that the ranks of professional staff also became top-heavy across the 30-year period, in part driven by technological change that removed the need for many low-level staff in less-skilled roles, and also because of increased use of external

“At the same time, there was an increase in the proportion of the most [senior leadership roles](#) within universities, with the number of senior executives per staff member more than doubling,” says the study by Gwilym Croucher of the Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education.

It also found a significant reduction in the proportion of tenured academic roles. In 1989 about nine in 10 positions at the C, D and E levels (middle to senior roles) were tenured, but this proportion is now down to about seven in 10.

Across the 30-year period tenured positions at B level went from six in 10 to five in 10, while tenured positions at the most junior A level remained at one in 10.

The study found on a full-time equivalent basis the proportion of academics employed on a [casual basis](#) went from one in 10 to two in 10, with the vast majority in casual teaching-focused roles and most of those roles occupied by women.

It also found that in 2020 women were under-represented in senior academic positions (level D and E) despite the fact they made up more than half the academic workforce and about 60 per cent of the total university workforce.

Consultation for new uni hubs

<https://ministers.education.gov.au/clare/next-step-bringing-university-outer-suburbs>

In response to the Universities Accord Interim Report, the Government will establish up to 20 additional Regional University Study Hubs, and up to 14 new Suburban University Study Hubs.

This builds on the 34 existing Regional University Study Hubs located across the country.

To support the delivery of the new Suburban University Study Hubs, a consultation paper has been released today seeking feedback on the design of the new Hubs.

The Suburban University Study Hubs will be established in outer suburban areas without a significant physical university campus and where the percentage of the population with university qualifications is low.

The Hubs will provide spaces to support students, including those from low socio-economic backgrounds, First Nations students and people with disability.

The consultation paper seeks feedback from communities, students, state and territory governments, potential hub hosts including educational institutions and local governments, and other stakeholders.

The consultation paper and information on how to provide feedback is available [here](#). Submissions will be open until 2 October 2023.

There will be further consultation and engagement leading to a competitive application process to establish Suburban University Study Hubs in areas with an identified need for additional higher education support.

Applications for the new Suburban University Study Hubs are expected to open early next year and applications for the additional Regional University Study Hubs are expected to open later this year.

Higher Education Support Amendment (Response to the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report) Bill 2023

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bid=r7060

- 3rd reading House of Representatives
- Second reading Senate

Amends the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* to: expand eligibility for places in demand driven higher education courses to First Nations students; and remove the current requirement that students must pass 50 per cent of the units they study to remain eligible for a Commonwealth supported place and FEE-HELP assistance and instead require higher education providers to support students to successfully complete the units of study in which they are enrolled.

Kick elite out of Sydney University colleges' to beat student housing crisis. The Australian

The body representing Sydney University students is pushing to shut down the campus's "unsafe and elite" \$500-a-week residential colleges and replace them with \$110 a week accommodation to deal with a "really dire" student housing crisis.

The Student Representative Council – made up of 41 members – is supporting a campaign to "Abolish the Colleges", which can cost up to \$30,000 a year, and replace them with "co-operative housing".

The current “STUCCO” housing model for Sydney University students located in nearby Newtown costs just over \$100 a week.

“The Usyd Residential Colleges exclude those who come from lower-income backgrounds, gatekeeping access to the advantages and opportunities provided in the elite echelons of the colleges (and) recreating generations of networks for conservatives and the rich,” the SRC wrote in a motion that passed in August.

SRC president Lia Perkins said the current structure of colleges and the institutions was “unsafe” as a result of sexual violence and “elitist and should be abolished”.

“We would like student-owned and publicly run housing for students on campus, in the sites the colleges are on, but not run by the same institutions they are now owned and run by,” she said.

“Students are living in small pods and youth hostels ... because they can’t afford anywhere else to stay. All of the uni-owned accommodation is full. Private accommodation is full. It’s a really high time of crisis for students. (That’s) why this has particular pertinence at the moment.”

Ms Perkins said a transformation into co-op housing would be “pretty straight forward” but since many of the colleges were established under an act of state parliament, they could only be abolished that way.

The Greens have backed the students’ calls, saying “so much sexual violence on campus stems from (colleges)” and they could instead “create genuinely affordable and safe housing for students”.

St Andrew’s College principal Rob Leach, previously deputy principal at the University of Melbourne’s Ormond College, said it was “not true” that colleges were elite or unsafe.

He pointed to the fact that one-quarter of the 380 students at St Andrew’s were on means-tested support, including several on full scholarships. For those then receiving extra pastoral and educational support from the college, it was “cheaper” and “much more than some students would be getting” in a share house.

“The university and government need to come to this and increase student housing, improve the quality of it, and try to provide more pastoral care and educational support ... It’s a government issue,” he said.

He also rebuffed suggestions colleges were dangerous places for women: “(Compared to) ABS figures for sexual assault in Australia for 18-24 year-olds, it’s about twice as safe.”

The 2017 Broderick review found 6 per cent of women across the university’s colleges were sexually assaulted.

“We’re absolutely committed to prevention and creating a culture where everyone is safe, but it’s not true we’re dangerous and it’s not true we do nothing,” Mr Leach said. “But any numbers of sexual assaults is 100 per cent too many,” he added.