



Guild President Report

January 2024

Jasmyne Tweed

Presidents Representation Board Report

Covering Dates: 23.11.2023 – 04.01.2024

Leave: 19.12.23 sick leave

23.12.23 Guild holiday closure period

Travel: 09.12.23-18.12.23 National Union of Students 2023 National Conference

1. Meetings Log

| University Meetings | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Date | Meeting | Comments |
| 23.12.23 | DVCA Monthly Meeting | Introduction meeting with the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic to discuss upcoming Guild projects for 2024. |
| 27.12.23 | President x Vice Chancellor monthly meeting | Myself and Dylan (outgoing President) had an introductions meeting where I discussed some of the projects and plans the Guild has for 2024 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving Curtin Counselling - Free Period Product Vending Machines on Campus - Addressing Student Accommodation Issues - Providing Students a Duty of Care |
| | Students as Partners Meeting | |
| 30.12.23 | Academic Board | Observed Academic Board and presented the 2024 Guild Vision. |
| 04.12.23 | DVCA Monthly Meeting | From this meeting I have an upcoming meeting with the Curtin Volunteers Team to see areas of collaboration with the Guild. |
| | Student Services and Amenties Fees Expenditure Advisory Committee | The Guilds projects were approved but due to over spend the Universities SSAF projects had to be revised and approved via circular resolution. |
| Guild Meetings | | |
| Date | Meeting | Comments |
| 27.12.23 | President x Managing Director catch-up | Meeting with the Managing Director to cover continuing and new Guild projects for 2024. |

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|----------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 29.12.23 | Executive Committee | The last Executive Committee Meeting of the 54 th Guild Council. |
| 30.12.23 | Higher Education | |
| 01.12.23 | Guild Induction Day | |
| 05.12.23 | Orientation Communications Discussion | Veronika and I had a discussion with the Guild Student Engagement team about the orientation communication timeline and content we would on the socials. |
| | President x Managing Director Meeting | |
| 07.12.23 | Higher Education | |
| 20.12.23 | Executive Committee | |
| 21.12.23 | Higher Education | |
| 22.12.23 | Executive Committee Goals Meeting | Assigning projects for the year. |

2. Dignity Vending Machines

During my introductory meeting with the VC, I mentioned that one of the Guilds projects for 2024 would be the installation of free period product vending machines that can be accessed on campus 24/7. The VC recommended that I reached out to the COO as this project would fall under properties and would also be well received by Fiona Notley. A meeting has been organised between myself, the Womens Officer, the COO and Curtin's Director Commercial to discuss the project and possibility of installing Dignity Vending Machines on Campus.

The Guild currently work with Share the Dignity in providing free period products to students from the Womens department. The key issues in providing the products this was is that students can only access the products on weekdays 9am-4pm in the Guild's Equity Departments and the Womens Officer has to regular monitor the supplier of products. Across Australian university campuses Share the Dignity service Dignity Vending Machines, that all free 24/7 access to period products, which is what the Guild is working to get introduced on campus in 2024.

3. University Reviews

There has not been any updates released to the public as to when the Western Australian Universities Review final paper will be released.

The Chair of the Australian Universities Accord Panel provided a final update on the 28th of December. The Chair updated that the final report contains 47 recommendations for change and that the government plans to release the final paper 'in due course'.

4. Consultation on the Draft Action Plan Addressing Gender-based Violence in Higher Education

In November the Education Minister released a draft action plan addressing gender-based violence in higher education and it is currently open for further consultation. The Guild will be providing a submission during this consultation process. I have reached out to the National Union of Students President and the NUS will also be making a submission.

The first action proposed in this draft plan is to introduce a National Student Ombudsman. A separate consultation is occurring for the first action and the Guild will be providing a separate submission on this proposal.

5. National Union of Students 2023 National Conference

A comprehensive report will be provided by all NUS delegates and accredited observers who attended the conference to represent Curtin Students will be included at the February Representation Board meeting for approval.

In summary, NatCon 2023 was highly unproductive and the behaviour of certain factions was shameful. The second motion passed during the conference with the support of Student Unity (the Labor Right), Socialist Alternative and some independence was to abolish the NUS Policy Book. The Policy Book was one of the key accountability mechanism the NUS had in guiding the organisation in what it believes in and advocates for at a National level. Without the Policy Book there is no continuing Policy that guides the NUS and everything has to be passed again, every year at NatCon. It will be interesting to see how this will affect the efficacy of National Conference.

6. Club Governance

The new Clubs Charter and Clubs Policy are ready for review for the Guild Council. A number of updates have been made to reflect changes in the Guild By-laws that were made at the end of last year. Based on the decision of the 54th Guild Council the charter and policy will be sent to Guild Council for feedback prior to the Executive Committee approving.

TLDR;

The Guild Executive Committee has hit the ground running with the 2024 projects and submissions. This year will start off busy with the release of the final University Accord Paper and the WA University Review findings. It has been fantastic to see Reps already coming into the office and having their intro meetings and I am sure many wins for students will be delivered!

Vice President – Education

January Representation Board (15/11/2023 – 4/01/2024)

Veronika Gobba (she/her)

University / External Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|------------------------|--|--|
| 15/11/23 | Youth Strategy Consultation – Aus Gov Dept of Education, Office for Youth | |
| 22/11/23 | PVC Health Sciences Selection Panel | |
| 30/11/23 | Academic Board | |
| 4/12/23 | PVC Health Sciences Panel meeting | |
| 5/12/23 | AI Taskforce Meeting | Curtin to test a pilot with Graide, to see if it can aid with quality and efficient marking. |
| 8/12/23 | PVC HS Panel Meeting | |
| 11/12/23 – 14/12/23 | NUS National Conference | |

Guild Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|----------|---|------------------------------|
| 16/11/23 | Finance & Risk - auditors Representation Board | Attended as acting President |
| 17/11/23 | SLAYA AGM | Attended as external chair |
| 20/11/23 | Legal Committee catch-up | |
| 23/11/23 | Guild Council | |
| 29/11/23 | Exec Committee | |
| 30/11/23 | Higher Ed | |
| 1/12/23 | Induction Day | |
| 4/12/23 | Handover meeting w/ VP-SW | |
| 5/12/23 | Orientation – Student Engagement | |
| 6/12/23 | Exec Committee | |
| 20/12/23 | FBL Rep Check-in Exec Committee | |
| 21/12/23 | Higher Education | |
| 22/12/23 | Exec Check-in | |
| 4/1/24 | Health Sci Rep Check-in Higher Ed | |

Leave Taken

- 24/11/23 – 27/11/23
- 13/12/23 - 15/12/23
- 23/12/23 – 2/1/24 (PH & Guild closure)

National Draft Action Plan to reduce Gender-based violence in Higher Education

Coming out of the Universities Accords is the Draft Action Plan addressing gender-based violence in higher education. The Department of Education is now accepting consultation until the end of January. We are now in the process of making our submission.

Potential Loss of Services – Curtin Dietician Services

It has been brought to our attention that Curtin plans to cease its Dietician Services through the Curtin healthcare centre. Curtin staff will be able to receive dietician services through an external service but there is no plan to provide a substitute for students. There are currently many Curtin students engaging with these services and it could be dangerous and put these students in vulnerable positions if this service is taken away. I am concerned about Curtin's duty of care for students. Students are vulnerable to developing dietetic issues during their time at university, combatting issues such as eating disorders is an important part of this service. A free/affordable dietician service can mitigate much harm. We are escalating this issue with members of the senior executive team

Student Partnership Agreement

There is a delay in the signing of the refreshed SPA. The VC has requested for the signing to be delayed until the final paper of the Accords is released as it may contain recommendations surrounding student representation in university governance. This may impact a certain clause in the proposed agreement. Currently, we are still operating under the 2020 SPA.



Faculty of Business and Law Representative Report

Name: Hannah Northey

Meeting: 11th January 2024

Updates:

| Date | Meeting/Event/Task | Comments |
|----------|--|--|
| 8/11/23 | Introductory meeting with Pro Vice Chancellor Vanessa Chang | A chance to introduce myself |
| 14/11/23 | Faculty Courses Committee | Attended the last FCC for 2023 to get an understanding of what it involves before my term officially starts |
| 14/11/23 | Online meeting with Dean of Teaching and Learning Associate Professor Subra Ananthram | A chance to introduce myself |
| 16/11/23 | Introductory meeting with Mr Leigh Smith (Director Teaching and Learning: Law) and Dr Narelle Morris (Deputy Head of the Law School) | A chance to introduce myself |
| 22/11/23 | Introductory meeting with Associate Professor Michael Baird (Director Teaching and Learning: Management and Marketing) | A chance to introduce myself |
| 22/11/23 | Introductory meeting with Professor Felix Chan (Head of School: Accounting, Finance and Economics) | A chance to introduce myself |
| 1/12/23 | Induction day and handover dinner | Officially now the FBL rep |
| 4/12/23 | Meeting with PVC Vanessa Chang | Discussion around the second tuition free week now that it is being brought back, greater assignment feedback and a possible focus group to begin this |

| | | |
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| | | process and finally, contacts for further meetings |
| 11/12/23 | Introductory online meeting with Professor Julia Richardson (Head of School: Management and Marketing) | A chance to introduce myself |
| 13/12/23 | FBL Orientation 2024 meeting with FBL Student Engagement | Discussion over plans for orientation in the stadium and an hour long gathering/ festival afterwards for first year students to meet new people, network and enjoy some vibes |
| 19/12/23 | FBL Orientation 2024 meeting with FBL Student engagement | A further discussion on the layout of orientation as well as ensuring I have a designated slot to speak |
| 20/12/23 | VPE x FBL rep catch up | Updating the VPE on what I have been up to |
| 21/12/23 | Fortnightly Student Engagement team catch up | Information about post-graduate and online orientation was provided for me to be a part of |

Additional Information:

- So far I have just been settling into my role for the year
- I've started planning my O- Day stall

Science and Engineering faculty Report

Thane Roberts (They/Them).

Representation Board.

| Date | Event type | | Comments |
|-----------|------------|------------------------|---|
| 4/12/2023 | Meeting | Faculty Executive Team | <p>Discussed upcoming commonwealth supported placements for Mechanical and Electrical engineers.</p> <p>The growth in EFY due to more new students and transfers from multidisciplinary science.</p> <p>Community reactions to potential research shifts were considered.</p> <p>Health and safety issues were discussed, there was a chemical smell in 301, a burned staff member in a lab, and a lab flooding.</p> <p>Laser safety training was discussed. Was talked about briefly.</p> <p>The Athena Swan initiative was discussed, trying to increase women in the academic pipeline.</p> <p>The vandalism of LGBTIA+ poster in 314 was briefly discussed.</p> |
| 6/12/2023 | Meeting | 215 Reopening | <p>Discussed the reopening of 215, with consideration of recent events and the needs of the space for the future.</p> |

There have been several concerning safety issues in the faculty. The harm to staff, students and property is concerning. The consensus on how to address this issue is that more training is needed, particularly in working with equipment used in labs and research.

The reopening of 215 after the tragic event that occurred in 2023 is set to take place in the next 6 months. The space will be redesigned with the popular pool table remaining, but the furniture and layout changing. A temporary photograph of Harrison will be displayed in a visible location in the space.

There are likely to be more students particularly in EFY. This will present challenges as more students means more pressure on teaching staff.

Health Sciences Representative – **Representation Board Report 11th January****Representation Board Meeting**

| Meeting/Task | Date | Comment |
|--|---------------------|---|
| Completed onboarding and induction tasks like signing documents | 6/12/23 | Signed onboarding documents and agreements (Apologies for the delay, I was away from Perth and did not have laptop access) |
| Social Media session and updates | 13/12/23 | Updated the Guild website (new photograph with Ben Adams and writing the about me section), then did an introductory post on Facebook. Also sent Ben answers to the planned introductory posts for the Guild Instagram on the 3/1/24. |
| Contacting non-profit health organisations for the provision of resources and giveaways at the orientation stall | 6/12/23 – 31/12/23 | Contacted different non-profit health organisations like Cancer Council, Breast Cancer WA, SHQ, WA School Canteen Association, and Diabetes WA to gather resources and giveaways for the Health Sciences stall. Some companies are shipping the resources to my house, while others I had to arrange to pick it up from their office. I have CC'd VPA for all communications. I am continuing to research and get in contact with more non-profits to gather resources for O'day. |
| Completing the training modules | 15/12/23 – 27/12/23 | Working through the online training modules to complete them before the due date of 29 th January. |
| Resources collection from WA School Canteen Association for the o-day stall | 4/1/24 | |
| Meeting with VPE Veronika to discuss KPI and goals for | 4/1/24 | Planned an introductory meeting with Veronika and Max to help me understand my role more |

| | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| <p>the year, and meeting with VPA Max to discuss O'day and events for the year</p> | | <p>and discuss my plans for the year. Some things to discuss are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration with FBL rep Hannah for a meet and greet to reach double degree students - O'day stall planning including merch from non-profits, guild voucher competition whereby you have to be part of the faculty FB page and having snacks. - Arranging a first aid course opportunity - SDP procedures - Realistic KPI's - Arranging a grill the guild day and pop up stalls - Increasing student engagement through sharing research opportunities and participation at the Curtin research institutes within the faculty health sciences. Also plan on sharing internship and volunteer opportunities related to health sciences. - Plans for tackling the issues around placements and course issues within oral health therapy - Plans for campaign support |
| <p>Meeting with FBL rep Hannah to discuss collaborating on a joint faculty meet and greet session</p> | <p>9/1/24</p> | <p>Discussion about ideas on setting a date and venue for a joint meet and greet to reach more students who study double degrees that fall into both of our faculties and organising liaising with VPA about this opportunity.</p> |

| | | |
|---|--------------------|---|
| Resources collection from Diabetes WA for the o-day stall | 15/1/24 | Planned day to collect resources for O'day |
| Notes on Action Plan Addressing Gender-based Violence in Higher Education | 22/12/23 – 20/1/24 | Reviewing, making notes, and contributing ideas to the National Student Ombudsman submission about gender-based violence in higher education. |
| Ordered staff ID | 28/12/23 | Staff ID will be mailed. |
| KPI document | 3/1/24 | Started brainstorming ideas in the KPI document, I will get VPE Veronika to review before February report. |

- In December 2023, I spent time reading through the documents and understanding the issues facing Oral Health students and placements.
- In December 2023, I spent time reading about my role and responsibilities and planning for the year ahead using the guild website and my handover report.
- In December 2023, these meetings were cancelled: faculty courses committee, Update from the Dean, Gender Equity, Inclusion and Diversity, and HS Guild monthly catch up with Shaye Marefat. So, December 2023 was quiet in terms of meetings.
- In December 2023, I sent out emails for an introductory meeting request with the deans in the faculty of health sciences. I am awaiting a reply and I need to arrange new regular monthly meeting times.

Faculty of Humanities Report Representation Board Meeting – 11.01.24

Guild Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Notes |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 21.12 | VP-E Check in | Check in on whats going on so far in the year. |

University Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Notes |
|-------------|--|---|
| 08.12 | Humanities Student Engagement Meeting | Meeting to discuss potential new scholarship for regional and low SES students with Humira |
| 11.12 | Humanities Inclusion and Belonging Committee | First introduction with the majority of the committee members and starting to look at what projects and issues the committee will look address next year |
| 11.12 | Content Warning Project – LITEC Meeting | Speaking with a number of members from digital learning and design and Learning and teaching to discuss what already exists in terms of content warnings at Curtin and how we could start to introduce the use of content warnings going forward. |

Projects

Content Warnings: I have started talking to people within the faculty and LITEC to scope out what already exists in terms of content warnings and we have begun to plan the best way to begin implementing them. So are we are still just gathering as much information as possible both to figure out the best way of doing things and also to make sure we aren't just redoing something that is already being done.

Other

Humanities Inclusion and Belonging Committee: This is quite a new committee which seems to have a large focus on creating actual change and on intersectionality. It is too early to tell how successful it will be in this goal, but so far seems to be a diverse group of people with a lot of passion and ideas for how to make the faculty more inclusive for students and staff.

O-Day: I've started planning what I want to do for Semester 1 O-Day and have been passing my ideas through the VP-A to see what is best and most practical/doable.

Imari Morris (they/she/he)

Faculty of Humanities Rep

Higher Education Report Representation Board January 2024

WA's decline in ATAR course enrolments fuel fears over the 'dumbing down' of universities. The West Australian

The Opposition has raised fears about the "dumbing down" of universities with ATAR course enrolments continuing to plummet.

The Department of Education revealed in estimates earlier this year that the number of students enrolled in ATAR fell by 11,912, or 17.9 per cent, between 2018 and 2022.

ATAR ranks Year 12 students in comparison to their peers and is used by universities and TAFEs to assess applications.

The decline has been felt in crucial STEM courses, with human biology enrolments declining 21.3 per cent, from 5009 students in 2018 to just 3940 last year, and accounting and finance dropping by nearly a third.

Other subjects to be hit hard include English (36 per cent decline) and media studies, which plunged by 40 per cent in four years -- more than any other course with at least 500 people enrolled in 2018.

In the three core mathematics subjects there has been a drop of 14.6 per cent.

Only a few courses bucked the trend, with business management and enterprise increasing 5.6 per cent and literature up 3.3 per cent.

Liberal MLC and chair of the Budget estimates committee Peter Collier uncovered the drop in courses through questions to the department.

A former ATAR teacher and education minister in the Barnett government, he said alternative pathways to employment — such as Vocational Education and Training courses — were to be applauded, but he was concerned universities were offering them to boost their numbers while dropping their standards.

"The ATAR courses have been in terminal decline and students are choosing alternative pathways to university," Mr Collier said.

"I think we are witnessing the dumbing down of university entrance. We've compromised standards to attract numbers.

"Tertiary education has become so globalised and universities are doing everything they can, including compromising their standards, to attract students."

Universities trumpet several pathways into university, such as through TAFE, enabling courses, bridging courses or entry through a portfolio.

Mathematics lecturer and education consultant Dr John West said the decline in mathematics had been ongoing for about 30 years

"Fewer and fewer students are actually choosing the more mathematically demanding courses, which is a real problem for the pipeline of students that feed into all of the STEM industries," he said.

"While there's a real social stigma attached to not being able to read or write, it's almost cool to say 'I'm not good at mathematics'. So our society has a problem in the way it perceives maths."

Education Minister Tony Buti said WA offered many opportunities for young people and many pathways for students to reach their goals.

“We are currently reviewing senior secondary school pathways to ensure all Western Australian students can succeed whether that is post-school study, training, or employment pursuits,” Dr Buti said.

“The review will explore whether current pathway options are effectively preparing students for the full range of further study, training, and work options available to them.”

He said the review would investigate if current certification and university entry requirements helped students to make the best study choices and identify the barriers they faced.

New Requirements to support students come into effect

[Education Minister Jason Clare](#) has pushed back the deadline for the Support for Students Policy Guidelines to come into effect from New Year’s Day to April 1, after he quietly released the final version of the policy with significant changes earlier this month.

The guidelines were introduced as part of the government’s [response to the University - Accord](#), which retracted a requirement implemented under the Morrison government to withdraw federal funding from students who fail 50 per cent of their subjects.

The draft version of the guidelines was criticised within the sector for being too onerous, difficult to implement and curtailing the freedom of academics to exercise their judgment, leaving universities scrambling to meet the requirements or risk facing fines of \$18,700.

Under the draft guidelines, higher education providers were required to implement a policy which included processes to identify and support students at risk of failing their studies including those in need of targeted literacy and numeracy support.

In the final version universities now only required to publish on a website ‘information describing’ their current set of student support policies.

The final guidelines have introduced a March 1, 2025, deadline for the first report.

The opposition said that the final guidelines no longer required universities to report on the academic outcomes of students requiring support including HECS loans accrued for failed units of study.

As well the opposition said that there were no minimum standards of support that universities must provide including for those who are victims of sexual violence or suffer mental health challenges.

The [Higher Education Support Amendment \(Response to the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report\) Act 2023](#) bill was passed in October implementing several recommendations from the report including the abolishment of the 50 per cent pass rule, strengthening accountability for higher education providers and introducing a requirement on institutions to implement a support for students policy.

A spokeswoman for Mr Clare said the government should be “helping students to succeed, not forcing them to quit”, adding that legislation required higher education providers to have support policy from January 1, with further detail to be included from April 1.

<https://www.education.gov.au/new-requirements-support-students>

<https://www.education.gov.au/support-students-policy-frequently-asked-questions#April2024>

University offers for 2023 graduates. WA Today

The [Tertiary Institutions Service Centre](#) received a total of 11,203 applications, nearly 2000 more than last year, with 10,387 offered a place.

Chief executive Andrew Crevald said this was mostly due to Murdoch and the University of Western Australia requiring all year 12s to apply through the centre this year.

However, the number of non-West Australian Certificate of Education applications through the centre decreased.

Including mature-aged students and interstate students, just over 84 per cent received an offer and 77 per cent had an offer for their first preference.

WA student offers for 2023

The total number of university offers to WA students as of December 2023. More offers will come through in January.

| | Curtin | ECU | UWA | Notre Dame | Murdoch |
|---|--------|------|------|------------|---------|
| Total offers for WACE 2023 graduates | 3980 | 1515 | 3168 | 543 | 1181 |
| Total offered first preference | 3188 | 1234 | 2577 | 360 | 909 |

New service joins myGov. Jason Clare media statement

The Unique Student Identifier (USI) has been added to Australia's largest authenticated government platform as the 16th service people can choose to link to their myGov account.

The USI is an individual education number that stays with you for life. It's used for university, TAFE or other nationally recognised training, and more than 14.9 million Australians have one.

"If you've linked your USI account to myGov, you don't have to log in to the USI Student Portal separately to view or share your vocational education and training (VET) transcript, or to retrieve and provide your USI number to an education or training provider."

International students and new migration policy

On 11 December this year, the federal government revealed a new [migration strategy](#), indicating a closer scrutiny of student visa applications.

This announcement has come after a review conducted by Dr Martin Parkinson, which concluded that Australia's migration program was not aligned with its intended objectives.

The latest strategy comprises various initiatives focused on international education, with the government asserting that these measures will guarantee the contribution of foreign graduates in addressing skills shortages.

Starting next year, the English language criteria for international student and temporary graduate visas will be increased.

According to the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), candidates seeking a Graduate visa will now need a score of 6.5, up from the previous requirement of 6.0.

Similarly, applicants for a student visa must achieve a score of 6.0, compared to the previous requirement of 5.5.

The government also plans to introduce a new Genuine Student Test for all international students which will replace the existing

Genuine Temporary Entrant requirement.

The government will also increase scrutiny of individuals seeking a second visa and onshore, so-called 'visa hopping' will be restricted.

The strategy noted that extending the duration of a graduate visa did not enhance career outcomes for graduates. Consequently, the government has suggested modifying the duration and eligibility criteria for post-study work rights.

Those on student visas will also need to prove their Australian study will further either their career or learning.

Under this change, the [Subclass 485 Temporary Graduate visa](#) will shorten post-study work rights for Master's by coursework degrees from three to two years and for PhDs, from four to three years.

Apart from this, the maximum age for international students to qualify for a temporary graduate work visa will be lowered from 50 to 35 years old.

The work experience requirement for a Temporary Skills Shortage visa (and future Skills in Demand visa) will be changed to give Temporary Graduates visa holders more opportunities to move on to skilled visas.

The government forecasts net overseas migration will fall from 510,000 in 2022-23 to 235,000 in 2026-27, with a total reduction of 185,000 fewer people over five years as a result of its policies.

The Government has not ruled out a cap on the number of international students to Australia.

Other stories

[International students left in limbo as new migration strategy reduces eligible age for graduate visa](#)

[Clare O'Neil won't rule out international student cap as part of visa crackdown](#)

[Australia announces crackdown on student visas](#)

[We are hurtling towards a million international students in Australia – migration changes will only slow this growth, not stop it](#)

Planned 35 yo age limit on temporary graduate visas is poor policy. The Australian

Academics at Deakin Uni have criticised the 35 yo age limit on temporary graduate visas saying it fails to recognise that international students are key contributors to Australian postgraduate research outputs and innovation.

Australian universities have become increasingly reliant on international students for research degrees, building our research capacity and the nation's scientific development.

The article says that the recommendation to reduce the maximum eligible age for a TGV from 50 to 35 will severely impact Australia's research and development capacity.

Nearly 50,000 Indian students can avoid visa clampdown. The Australian

Nearly 50,000 Indian students now in Australia will escape a key measure in the federal government's clampdown on international student visas because of a Morrison government agreement with India that guaranteed the conditions applying to post-study visas for Indian students.

The migration package says post-study visas for international students who do a masters degree by coursework will be cut from three years to two years and for PhD degrees from four years to three years.

However these two measures could not be applied to Indian students because of a commitment in the Australia-India free-trade agreement signed by then trade minister Dan Tehan in April 2022, just before the Coalition lost the May 2022 election.

A tax on international student fees is now a near certainty. The Australian. Tim Dodd

Australia's international education industry is preparing itself for the inevitable – a tax on international students that could raise as much as \$1bn annually to help pay for the expansion of the university system that is a key priority of federal Education Minister Jason Clare.

A tax, or levy, looks very likely to be a recommendation of the final report of the government's Universities Accord review due to be released in February, which would lead to it being enacted in next year's federal budget.

At this time of rising house prices and high rents and growing fear about high migration levels, taxing international students is a political positive for the Albanese government. It helps fend off opposition attacks on high levels of temporary migration, of which students are a major source, which Liberal leader Peter Dutton is trying to turn into an issue to win the 2025 election.

The tax recently won [a notable endorsement](#) from Australian National University economist Bruce Chapman, who is the architect of Australia's much admired HECS student loan system.

Chapman also has the ear of Clare, who has declared several times that he is consulting the economist about his higher education changes.

For Clare, a decision to back a tax would be easy. He wants to expand the university system to take in more of the students who currently miss out – those from low socio economic backgrounds, Indigenous communities, and rural and regional areas. He also wants to undo the Morrison government's university fee system which puts high \$16,000 annual fees on some courses – law, humanities, business and social sciences – while others are a quarter as much. He can't do it without raising more revenue.

International student fees are worth about \$10bn a year so the maths shows that a 10 per cent levy would bring in \$1bn.

To try to assuage universities and other education providers who enrol international students, the government is likely to promise to spend it in the sector.

Inevitably some universities will lose. Key losers are the big five, which enrol the lion's share of high-fee-paying Chinese students – Sydney, UNSW, Melbourne, Monash and Queensland. Although if Chapman is right about price elasticity, they might not lose too much.

In fact it's more likely students from poorer countries such as India who will be more sensitive to a tax-induced price rise. This could badly hurt bottom to mid tier universities that have a lower price point and are attractive to students from India and other less wealthy countries.

One of their industry groups, the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia, is campaigning hard against the tax. It could make Australian education less affordable and damage the country's reputation, it says.

One thing certain is that such a tax, if introduced, will never go away. And, once there, it can easily be diverted to general revenue and its initial purpose, of funding worthwhile programs in higher education, could be lost.

Universities sign on to charter on sexual harm

Key points:

- Universities have signed on to a charter committing to public reporting and education on sexual harm
- Students say the commitments are just recycling promises made six years ago
- The government has welcomed the charter, but says there is more to be done

A new charter on sexual harm has been agreed to by Australian universities, with the document bearing significant resemblance to commitments already made by institutions in 2017.

Signatories to the new charter have agreed to nine points, including:

- Publicly reporting annually on the number of reported instances of sexual harm at institutions
- Clearly educating uni communities on where and how to report incidents
- Strengthening, developing and implementing policies that make clear that sexual harm is unacceptable

The points in the document appear to very closely reflect previous commitments, with universities having already promised to take similar actions half a decade ago under the Change the Course report.

Students, safety advocates and victim-survivors have been scathing in their assessment of the announcement from Universities Australia.

In a joint statement, representatives from End Rape on Campus, the National Union of Students, the student-led Stop Campaign and Fair Agenda described it as another inadequate measure.

It comes ahead of state, territory and federal education ministers meeting next week to discuss how to respond to the sexual violence crisis at universities.

They will be considering, among other proposals, [establishing a national student ombudsman](#) where students can raise complaints around how universities handle this issue.

Australian Research Council Amendment (Review Response) Bill 2023

The ARC amendment (Review Response) Bill 2023 was introduced to the House of Representatives on 29 November.

The legislation will abolish the ministerial veto on Australian Research Council grants.

The legislation implements recommendations from the [Review of the ARC Act](#).

The Bill establishes an independent ARC Board to approve grants under funding guidelines set by the Minister - putting these decisions at arm's length from politics.

The legislation also enshrines the key role of the Australian Research Council to fund discovery research in the ARC's purpose.

Science & Technology Australia welcomed the bill.

"These changes will restore confidence in research funding, strengthen certainty for Australia's outstanding researchers, and prevent Ministerial meddling in complex research funding decisions," said Science & Technology Australia CEO Misha Schubert.

"The sector is deeply grateful to Education Minister Jason Clare for implementing the review recommendations and to the panel for their thoughtful blueprint for modernisation."

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=r7130

TEQSA release AI Guiding principles

TEQSA has published guiding principles and propositions to support the sector in considering the risks and opportunities of generative artificial intelligence (genAI).

Assessment Reform for the Age of Artificial Intelligence (Assessment Reform Guiding Principles).

Bustanul Arifin
PSC President

Reports: January 2024

Postgraduate Student Committee Reports

Students' Academic & General Issues

- Some students' academic issues were received through the PSC president's email during the last month. Those issues were forwarded to the Student Assist successfully.
- PSC President also received some emails from students complaining about Australian immigration reform for international students. We have replied to those emails and explained our position against the proposed immigration plan.

Events

- The ISSU contacted the PSC to attend their event to welcome Australian Awards' awardees. Unfortunately, I cannot come to the event because I will be in Indonesia during the event. So, I have forwarded the email to Veronika, and she plans to attend the event on my behalf.
- The Research Office has also contacted PSC to attend the HDR Orientation that will be held in February. I replied to their email and said I would attend and do a presentation at the HDR orientation.
- I have also registered and filled in the O-Day registration form for the PSC stall.
- I have also filled in the form for the PSC T-shirt request.
- I have also replied email to VP Activities about my plan for PSC O-Day.

External Activities

- I have attended the annual meeting of the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) in December.
- I will be attending the next meeting of CAPA in January to re-discuss about the organisation.

General Activities

- I have signed a joint statement with other universities to reject the proposed immigration plan for international students from the Australian government. This joint statement is organised through CAPA.



QUEER OFFICER'S REPORT
Representation Board Meeting 11/01/2024
 Zavier Wileman (they/them)

**GUILD MEETINGS**

| Date | Meeting | Notes |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 24/11/2023 | President & QO | Debriefed the DVCA meeting and Dylan (President 2023) suggested a queer mural on Campus. |
| 1/12/2023 | Official handover & induction day | Preliminary planning & KPI formulation |
| 1/12/2023 | Representation Board | N/A |

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS

| Date | Meeting | Notes |
|-------------|--|--|
| 26/10/2023 | Introduction to Sheldon (from Diversity Inclusion and Belonging) | Attended with Imari (QO 2023) to make connections with Sheldon in preparation for our meeting with the DVCA |
| 16/11/2023 | Prevention of Sexual Harm Working Group | Shadowed Imari (QO 2023) to learn about the group |
| 23/11/2023 | Deadnaming Working Group | Shadowed Imari (QO 2023) to learn about the group |
| 24/11/2023 | DVCA monthly meeting | Attended w/ Imari (QO 2023) and chatted about DVCA's support for more queer visibility on-campus (flags, etc.) |
| 30/11/2023 | Introduction to Bri Mckenzie (from Teaching Excellence) | Attended w/ Imari (QO 2023) to connect with Bri and chat about the upcoming year. Bri |

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| | | supported the idea of a queer resources hub for teaching staff allies to access. |
| 04/12/2023 | Gender Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group | See below |
| 04/12/2023 | We All Need To Pee | See below |
| 13/12/2023 | Deadnaming Working Group | See below |

PROJECTS

We All Need To Pee: Due to delays in 2023, I will be going forward with the student bathroom survey, to get a realistic understanding of the current bathroom situation for students. This will be occurring as soon as practicable. In the meeting on 04/12, we discussed taking our proposal for a Gender-Inclusive Curtin to the relevant people (DVCA, Provost, COO). We discussed refining this strategy to simply address the issue of gender-inclusive bathrooms, however, this has yet to be resolved one way or another. I will be briefly informing the DVCA about our intentions with this proposal in our next meeting.

Deadnaming Working Group: We are still a long way away from receiving a business case on this issue – in the words of one of the business analysts, “the more we dig, the more we find”. We are meeting again in January and then again in mid-Feb, so hopefully more positive updates are to come here. Sheldon (from DIB) shared that the first phase of changes being made to the Ally training are likely to be made available by the end of the first quarter this year. These changes will hopefully make the ally training more relevant and specialised for Curtin staff. More updates to come.

OTHER BUSINESS

GEIAG: We discussed the Darlington statement and the GEIAG wants the University to affirm the statement – I am interested to know whether there is scope for the Curtin Student Guild to affirm the statement as our organisation, to provide further support. Additionally, we discussed the ongoing work into improving Curtin’s media strategy surrounding key LGBTQIA+ dates, to move away from tokenism – I hope to solidify within my role that I will challenge tokenistic media opportunities that the University offers me. Additionally, a status update was provided on the Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (DIB) Framework review. In particular, the desire for the University to develop a summary statement by March 2024. I would like to ensure students get the opportunity to contribute to this statement, not just staff.

ONGOING STUDENT ISSUE: Continuing on from an issue raised by a student ally and investigated by Imari in 2023, the conversation between the Queer Officer and the Head of the School of Molecular and Life Sciences has further evolved. Essentially, a lecturer was using

language which the Guild determined to be stigmatising towards transgender and gender diverse individuals. However, the Head of School continues to dismiss our concerns, and after discussing this issue with Imari and Veronika, this issue will be passed onto the Director of Gender Equity & Inclusion. Pending further updates.

Women's Officer Report
Representation Board Meeting #2/2024, January 11th
Submitted January 4th, 2024

Guild Meetings

No meetings held yet

University Meetings

Attended Gender Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group Meeting #3 (4/12/2023, 1315-1415)

- Discussed Curtin's media strategy with regard to highlighting the work and achievements of queer students/staff
- Suggestions to urge Curtin to support the Darlington Statement on Intersex human rights and recognition
- Discussed proposal of new DIB Student Inclusion & Equity Framework to Curtin
 - Provided feedback and brainstorming ideas on what the framework needs to address
- Discussed International Women's Day 2024
 - Issues with Curtin seeing it as a commercial/PR opportunity rather than what it is meant to stand for
 - Other advisory group members suggested boycotting Curtin's official event on the day
 - Other advisory group members suggested the Guild host our own event later (~March) to allow for more planning time

Projects

No details of note yet

Other

Working with Max Zhang (VP-Activities) to resolve ideas for Women's Department O-Day stall in February

Name Cadence Gant
Position Women's Officer



Representation Board Report
January 2024

| UNIVERSITY & COMMITTEE MEETINGS | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Date | Meeting | Notes |
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| | | |

| GUILD MEETINGS | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Date | Meeting | Notes |
| 01.12.23 | Guild Induction Training Day | |
| 11.12.23 – 22.12.23 | Meeting with Ben Adams | Met with Ben several times to discuss aspects of managing social media accounts, such as design, content, and frequency. |

| EVENTS | | |
|------------------------|--------|--|
| Date | Event | Notes |
| 11.12.23 – 22.11.23 | O-Week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulted with Max (VPA) several times on O-Week stall requirements and expectations. Consulted with Max & Maryanne, and Veronica on a potential sponsorship with Loop Ear plugs. With their support, I emailed Loop Ear Plugs and await a reply. |
| 03.01.24 | O-Week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sent an email to Max detailing the Accessibility O-Week Stall |
| 31.12.23 – 03.01.23 | O-Week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing O-Week Goodies (Positive messages document) |

| OTHER | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Date | Topic | Notes |
| 11.12.23 – 03.01.24 | Social Media Accounts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing and planning future posts. Began posting on social media. |

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|--|
| 20.12.23 | Grok Interview: Vyvanse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon consulting with the Guild Executive team, I participated in an article written by Noah for Grok Magazine regarding the current Vyvanse shortage in Australia. |
| 03.01.24 | KPI's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Began writing out KPI's |