

Vice President – Education

February Representation Board (5/01/2023 – 8/02/2024)

Veronika Gobba (she/her)

University / External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
11/1/24	Self certs chat w/ Academic Registrar	
16/1/24	Exec meeting w/ DVCA, VC, COO	
18/1/24	EROC Draft Action Plan Briefing	
22/1/24	ISSU post-grad orientation presentation	On behalf of PSC president
31/1/24	NUS national exec meeting	Attended as general executive member
	DVCA Learning & Teaching vision/strategy workshop	
6/2/24	Courses Committee	
8/2/24	First Year Advisor meeting	To see where we can be collaborative and to avoid clashes in giveaways/activities

Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
8/1/24	Intro meeting with WO	Support while VPSW on leave
	Chairing meeting	
11/1/24	Exec committee	
	Health Sci Rep check-in	
	Representation Board	
12/1/24	HUM rep check-in	
17/1/24	Juicebox brand strategy workshop	
18/1/24	HUM rep check-in	
23/1/24	Exec & PMs meeting	
24/1/24	Student Assist Officer interviews	
25/1/24	Health Sci rep check-in	
	HUM rep check-in	
	Exec committee	
	Student engagement digital catch-up	
1/2/24	FBL rep check-in	
6/2/24	Health Sci rep check-in	
7/2/24	Student Housing meeting w/ Pres & VPSW	
8/2/24	HUM rep check-in	
	Exec Mallokup re-strategise w/ commercial	

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. We have submitted our response to this plan:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_y-O1FOWa4sfBxV1A9mTNfyii4ciUFvd/view?usp=sharing

Potential Loss of Services – Curtin Dietician Services UPDATE

Our last communication from the Director, Operating Engagement Services informed us that the dietetic service is “not sustainable and is providing a small and targeted service to small number of students and members of the community”. The service is planned to cease at the end of April and there are “transition plans” to refer students to “community-based” care. According to the director, this decision was made in consultation with their medical practitioners, however it was the clinic’s dietician who brought this issue up to us in surprise. Other sources also say that clinic staff are worried. The Guild is still querying further and will continue to push on this unfair and harmful decision. Grok has reached out and are interested in investigating this story as well.

Guild O-day Representation Stall

The Guild representation stall is going to have a focus on Palestine and anti-war/AUKUS campaigns. IPAN has generously donated lots of pro-Palestinian liberation posters and stickers, and we have been communicating with other Guild clubs and other WA Guilds to share some of these resources. I have also been communicating with VP-SW on starting to build on the housing/cost-of-living campaign for her stall.

Representation Board Motion Portal operational and active

As per the changes to Representation board, any student may submit a motion to Representation Board through the Guild website: <https://guild.curtin.edu.au/theguild/committees/councilmotion/>. This has currently been communicated through Guild social media.

Other

I am still active on University Admissions Committee (all committee business is done through emails), I have been working with the Faculty reps and PSC President to support their work and am keeping in touch regularly with them. Myself, the President and VP-SW are staying on top of communications the NUS has for welfare/education campaigns and starting to plan how we are going to coordinate with those.

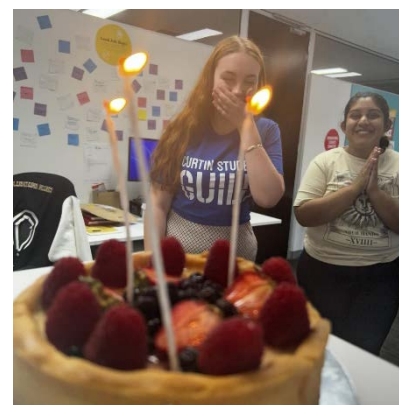
Aside: My Favourite Photos from this reporting period:



Iconic Jasmyne Tweed moment



Iconic Jacquie Bicanic moment



President's birthday

Vice President – Sustainability & Welfare

January Representation Board (15/11/2023 – 07/02/2024)

Jacque Bicanic (she/they)

University / External Meetings:

Date	Meeting	Comments
4/12/23	Curtin Student Mental Health/Wellbeing Resilience Framework - Group Discussion	Discussed how <i>The Cozy Corner</i> initiative can better support students. Representative from UWA who implemented <i>The Living Room</i> was in attendance to provide advice. *Note, this initiative has since been discontinued (funding removed).
11/12/23	Humanities - Project re: Content Warnings	I joined a meeting that Imari (Humanities Rep) had organised with faculty members to discuss content/trigger warnings in unit content.
16/01/24	Meeting with incoming Guild Executive with VC, DVCA and COO.	
29/01/24	University Health and Safety Committee	
30/01/24	Uni Workshop – Student Experience	
31/01/24	Uni Workshop – Student Experience	
01/02/24	New Learning and Teaching Vision and Strategy workshop	
05/02/24	Respect at Curtin Specialist Advisory Committee	

Guild Meetings (Or Guild-Related Meetings):

Date	Meeting	Comments
5/12/23	Meeting with Student who brought up student welfare issues.	Student called Safer Communities during a panic attack and found their main response was to call an ambulance. Discussed the possibility of expanding training of Safer Communities to triage panic attacks (i.e. not defaulting to calling an ambulance). *I advised the student I was about to go on leave but would attend to this upon my return.
6/12/23	Exec Committee	

7/12/23	Accessibility Officer – check in	Discussed their goals, projects and how I could best support them in my role and as a line manager.
7/12/23	Queer Officer – check in	Discussed their goals, projects and how I could best support them in my role and as a line manager.
17/01/24	Health Sciences Rep	Met with Nini and discussed her plans for 2024 and areas that might overlap with Welfare.
17/01/24	Juicebox Brand Strategy Workshop	
17/01/24	Health & Safety Committee	
23/01/24	International Student President	Discussed their role, best ways to reach students, who to talk to for social media support and ideas for O-Day.
23/01/24	Exec Committee and Portfolio Manager Meeting	
23/01/24	Accessibility Officer	Check in & Discussed KPIs
25/01/24	Exec Committee	
25/01/24	Respect at Curtin Week	Working Group
25/01/24	Student Engagement digital catch up	
26/01/24	Invasion Day Rally	
31/01/24	Operations Meeting	
01/02/24	Meeting – Caitlin Agostino (FBL Projects Coordinator)	Met with Caitlin to discuss areas of overlap between projects and ways we can work together to deliver a more sustainable campus in future.
01/02/24	Respect at Curtin Week	Working Group
01/02/24	Meeting with Advancement Team at Curtin	Met with Caroline Robson to create a contact point for the Advancement Team and the Guild. Discussed ways we could work together in future.
05/02/24	Higher Education Meeting	
07/02/24	Met with owner/manager at Andrews Succulents to discuss donations for O-Day	
07/02/24	Met with President and VP Education to discuss Student Housing	
08/02/24	M-Files Training	
08/02/24	Meeting with Tanya re Mallokup	

Leave Taken:

- 12/12/2023 – 15/01/2024



Faculty of Business and Law Representative Report

Name: Hannah Northey

Meeting: 15th February 2024

Updates:

Date	Meeting/Event	Comments
8/1/24	Chairing Meeting	
9/1/24	Health Sciences rep x FBL rep meeting	Discussions about a stall including students in our faculties in order to provide support for double degree students
11/1/24	January Representation Board	
16/1/24	Student Discipline Appeals Board case	
19/1/24	Monthly meeting with PVC Vanessa Chang	Further discussions around greater assignment feedback and I mentioned the idea of all essential textbooks being available through the library. There were no objections raised.
26/1/24	Invasion Day Rally	Great turn out
1/2/24	HUM rep x FBL rep meeting	Discussion around working together to achieve greater assignment feedback for students
1/2/24	VPE x FBL rep check in	Updates on what I have been up to
5/2/24	FBL clubs and societies welcome to 2024 gathering	FBL student engagement and some FBL club student members got together to introduce themselves and talk about club goals for this year
8/2/24	Fortnightly Student Engagement team catch up	

Additional Information:

- Orientation planning is full steam ahead
- I have established my KPIs
- My O Day stall plan is coming together

Hannah Northey
2024 Business and Law Faculty Representative

55th Guild Council – 3/ RB

FACULTY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	DELIVERABLES	STATUS
Attendance at 80% of required meetings		Ongoing
Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress toward KPIs		Ongoing
Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign)		Ongoing
Completion of handover report for successor		Ongoing
Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training		Complete
Update the FBL Facebook page at least fortnightly with Guild news, events and workforce/ internship/		Ongoing

networking opportunities for students		
Host a Guild stall on the law school city campus		Ongoing
Advocating for essential textbooks to be released through the library and for unit outlines to be released earlier.		Ongoing
Advocating for greater feedback for student assignments		Ongoing
Maintain links with the FBL staff through the year		Ongoing
Host a pop up stall to increase visibility of Guild support available to double degree students, and collate issues specifically concerning double degree students		Ongoing

Science and Engineering faculty Report

Thane Roberts (They/Them).

Representation Board.

Date	Event type	Name	Comments
29/01/2024	Meeting	Meeting with Dean of Learning and Teaching.	Discussed trends in teaching for the upcoming year.
1/02/2024	Meeting	Faculty Graduate Studies Committee	<p>Decrease in HDR students due to cost of living pressures was discussed.</p> <p>Concerns raised over HDR students using leave to complete thesis, and being encouraged to do so by supervisors.</p> <p>The need for more face to face discussions raised. Incentives for students to attend non-mandatory check ins and events discussed.</p> <p>The need to grow links to industry for HDR students. Internships need to be encouraged.</p>
5/02/2024	Meeting	Science and Engineering Faculty Executive Team	<p>The need for there to be a director of diversity and inclusion on relevant meetings was discussed.</p> <p>The faculty's successes on the Athena Swan inactive was discussed, the lack of success likely is the result on overly ambitious goals.</p>

			<p>ECU was mentioned as they exceeded their goals, which were less ambitious by comparison.</p> <p>Mental health training for staff discussed. There was concern that staff might become a point of call after receiving such training and concerns that they would be considered mental health first aiders.</p> <p>In health and safety there was an issue two weeks back of a power cable through a sliding door.</p> <p>In Kalgoorlie there was a power outage that caused students to become trapped as doors were electronic.</p> <p>Concerns over the increasing number of engineering students and declining number of science students were raised.</p> <p>The Possibility of weekend classes was discussed as engineering has late labs tutorials etc that often end late at night one exam was said to have ended at 11:30.</p>
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The cost of living and mental health training are the two main issues that have been affecting the students and staff. The cost of living pressures has affected the growth in student numbers with science shrinking and engineering growing. These pressures have also reduced the amount of HDR students. Mental health is an area that Curtin is looking to improve offering training to staff that choose to. This will help address the mental health needs of students and staff.

Thane Roberts
2024 Science and Engineering Representative

55th Guild Council – 03 / RB

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	DELIVERABLES	STATUS
Attendance at 80% of required meetings		
Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress toward KPIs		
Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum two (2) events per semester (either portfolio events and/or Guild events)		
Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign)		
Completion of handover report for successor		
Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training		

<p>Push to broaden the faculty's mid-semester feedback form to more students in the faculty and advocate for better actioning practices concerning the results</p>		
<p>Work on improving the atmosphere at Curtin, particularly on the south side of campus for sci-eng students, including at least 2 meet and greet stalls.</p>		
<p>Maintain or improve student engagement via the Faculty of Science and Engineering Facebook group through consistent posting.</p>		
<p>Work with the VPA to have a curated sci-0eng activation during stress less weeks.</p>		
<p>Maintain or improve relations with sci-eng clubs via attending club events and regular communications.</p>		

**HEALTH SCIENCES REPRESENTATIVE Report
REPRESENTATION BOARD Meeting – 15/2/24
Submitted 8/2/24**



MEETING/TASK	DATE	NOTES
Introductory meeting with student assist (Jo-Ann Naidu) to discuss how to progress with issues within the schools	15/1/24	This was a meeting to catch me up on student issues and progressions, notably placements and issues with oral health therapy. Jo-Ann suggested to leave the problems of OHT with her but keep an eye on the incoming and current cohorts to see if they come to me with any issues, and I should focus on student engagement this year to encourage students to not be hesitant to speak up by emphasising that there are protections and confidentiality in place. She also suggested to contact her and have a gameplan before going to Curtin staff about a student issue throughout my term. I have read through the short reports that JoAnn sent about current issues brought to student assist by health sciences students to gain a further understanding should similar problems arise during my term.
Meeting with VPE to draft KPI goals	11/1/24	Reviewed previous year's KPI's before making a list of my KPI's for 2024 and had it reviewed by VPE Veronika. Adjusted based on our discussions and recommendations to ensure that it is a SMART goal.
Progress with FBL x Health Sci rep joint meet and greet	9/1/24	Met with FBL rep Hannah and decided to set on Wednesday 20 th of March 12-2pm to host an outdoor stall on the northside of campus to reach more students in our faculties and reach students who study double degrees that fall into both of our faculties. Liaised with VPA Max about what we require on the day. Our aim is to increase awareness of both of our

		faculties, online methods of communication like the faculty Facebook pages and emails, and the opportunity to know/learn about Curtin Guild as an organisation.
Invasion day rally with Curtin Guild	26/1/24	
Introductory Meeting with Shaye Marefat (student engagement)	17/1/24	Introductory meeting to discuss the upcoming year including what projects I will be working on and how I will be engaging students, and how I will be in contact with them should any issues arise. Discussion about orientation week plans and the possibility of hosting a joint stall once or twice a semester.
Introductory Meeting with Lynne Emmerton (Medical School)	17/1/24	Introductory meeting to discuss the upcoming year including what projects I will be working on and how I will be engaging students, and how I will be in contact with them should any issues arise. She advised me how the medical school has several disciplines based consultative committees, and I have contacted Lisa Tee to discuss being involved ad-hoc in those committees.
Completing orientation presentation slides and meeting with VPE for reviewing the presentation	11/1/24 – 6/2/24	Completing my presentation for orientation following previous year's examples and the guild style guide. Ensuring to review the slides with VPE Veronika to discuss any areas of improvement and adjust as needed. Also adjusted the slides based on stylistic and marketing recommendations by Ben Adams.
Introductory Meeting with Tracey Moroney (School of Nursing)	16/1/24	Introductory meeting to discuss the upcoming year including what projects I will be working on and how I will be engaging students, and how I will be in contact with them should any issues arise. I discussed the possibility to be involved in forum 405 student consultative committee ad-hoc to see if nursing students bring up issues that I can get involved in.

Tav Photoshoot with Ben Adams	25/1/24	
Resources collection from DiabetesWA for the O-day stall and other events	15/1/24	
Discussion about O'day updates with VPA	11/1/24	Discussion about budgets and extra requirements for my O'day stall.
Creating Canva templates and QR codes/linktree for social media and promotional material	12/1/24 – 12/2/24	Making templates using Canva that I can use throughout the year to pre-plan my posts, because a KPI that I have is promoting student engagement using Facebook and in-person methods. Creating a QR code with a linktree for the FBL x Health Sci rep joint stall, FHS x student engagement joint stall and the orientation presentations/stalls for distribution and easy access to social media channels.
Submission on Action Plan Addressing Gender-based Violence in Higher Education	22/12/23 – 20/1/23	Added a few more notes on the submission.
Continuing contacting non-profit health organisations for the provision of resources and giveaways at the orientation stall and	6/12/23 – 18/2/24	Continuing contacting more non-profit health organisations to gather resources and giveaways for both semester 1 and 2 o-day and other faculty stalls I will be hosting. Some of the mental health and wellbeing resources are being shared with VPSW to promote student welfare. I also shared some LGBT+ resources with QD. I believe I have gathered enough merchandise for semester 1 and 2 O'day, and spares to distribute during pop-up stalls/other events

other stalls throughout the year		throughout the year. VPA has been CC'd on all communications.
Monthly catch up with Shaye Marefat and Marina Ciccarelli	29/1/24	Continued 2023 Health Sci Rep Hiba's schedule of monthly meetings on the last Monday of each month with Shaye Marefat and Marina Ciccarelli to discuss any student engagement/project progress. Shaye was absent for this meeting so it was an introductory meeting with Marina. I invited her to the student engagement joint stall and discussed how we will work together and ideas for increasing student engagement.
Meeting with Kieran Ball from St John WA for a giveaway opportunity	23/1/24	Meeting to discuss receiving a donation from St John WA for 5 first aid kits that I will be using as a giveaway opportunity in exchange for students completing a survey to give feedback about how their course is going (the giveaway may possibly be done in semester 2 but may also do one giveaway for each semester, as well as a competition for o-day). and distribution of flyers/collateral at O'day and other stalls that outline discounted first aid courses for students. In exchange, I will be posting ad-hoc about the first aid courses throughout the year on my Facebook page. The idea of this collaboration is to increase student engagement and incentivise providing feedback to the guild, so I can help students when they need it.
Resources collection from Foodbank for O'day and other events	23/1/24	
Catch-up with VPSW Jacqui	17/1/24	Discussion about how I can get involved in sustainability and welfare ideas, especially improving Curtin counselling. I let VPSW know that I am here to give support and new ideas for the projects.

Catch-up with VPA Max about hosting a joint stall with student engagement Shaye Marefat and Marina Ciccarelli	17/1/24	Discussed the feasibility of hosting a joint stall with student engagement either once or twice a semester. VPA Max approved of this opportunity, and I will be in contact with student engagement to set a date and liaise with VPA Max about what we need on the day. Student Engagement is happy to use their own budget to supply incentives, although I am most likely to have incentives left over from merchandise gathered from non-profits for O'day.
Meeting with Ben Adams	31/1/24	Meeting to go over my orientation slides and see if anything needs improving on a stylistic sense, and if there's additional things I should talk about. Also discussed making Canva templates to use them throughout the year for social media posts, and how to increase my audience and engagement on my posts.
Introductory Meeting with Rosa Alati (public health)	15/2/24	Introductory meeting to discuss the upcoming year including what projects I will be working on and how I will be engaging students, and how I will be in contact with them should any issues arise.
Faculty courses committee	13/2/24	Attended my first faculty courses committee.
Introductory Meeting with Angus Buchanan (allied health)	31/1/24	Introductory meeting to discuss the upcoming year including what projects I will be working on and how I will be engaging students, and how I will be in contact with them should any issues arise.
Introductory Meeting with Sarah Kearney	31/1/24	Introductory meeting to discuss my role and the procedures in the faculty courses committee and diversity, inclusion and belonging meetings.
Progress with Health Sciences Rep x Health Sciences Student	25/1/24	Decided to set on a date for the joint outdoor stall with Shaye Marefat and Marina Ciccarelli on the northside of campus and checked with VPA. Our aim is to increase awareness of our faculty, online methods of communication like the faculty Facebook page and

Engagement joint Stall		email, including Shaye and Marina's contact, and the opportunity to know/learn about Curtin Guild as an organisation.
M-Files training for faculty representatives	8/2/24	
Meeting with VPA	25/2/24	Meeting to discuss collaboration with St John WA and the best way to go about the giveaway opportunity.
Introductory meeting with ISC	25/2/24	Introductory meeting to discuss how best I can support international health sciences students. Kim suggested to mention Visa and migration session workshops during my orientation presentations.
Meeting with VPE	25/2/24	Discussed what I talked about/learned from Student Assist. Looked over my final KPI's so that it is ready for submissions. Looked over my orientation slides to ensure I had the right content.
Curtin Medical School Graduation ceremony	6/02/24	
Started developing a 2024 semester 1 and semester 2 feedback form for students to understand issues within their studies	31/01/24	Making a feedback form using google forms. The idea is to incentivise this with a first aid kit giveaway, and this form will help me see if there are any issues I can assist students with.
Helpingminds resources collection for o-day and other events	5/2/24	
Developing a canva template for the first aid kit giveaway	5/2/24 – 18/2/24	

Asthma WA resources collection for o-day and other events	7/2/24	
Introductory meeting with PSC	8/2/24	Introductory meeting to discuss how best I can support postgraduate health sciences students this year. Arifin discussed potential issues I may come across this year and how to support postgrad students on them. This included post-grad study work visa's, scholarship fundings, unpaid internships, supervisor issues, and mental health issues.
Resources collection from St John WA for o-day stall and other faculty events	13/2/24	

Other notes:

I have not yet attended an SDP because Cassandra Doherty is still on leave and there are still some draft work that they are doing, however I have contacted all relevant staff about SDP and hope to hear from them soon. I believe these will pick up once the semester starts. My focus over Jan/Feb was to conduct an introduction meeting with Curtin staff and student assist and begin event planning and social marketing to start promoting student engagement with the Guild.

Nini Siddiqua
2024 Faculty of Health Sciences Representative

55th Guild Council – 3 / RB

FACULTY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	DELIVERABLES	STATUS
Attendance at 80% of required meetings		
Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress toward KPIs		
Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign)		
Completion of handover report for successor		
Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training		
Promote student engagement through the Facebook faculty		

<p>page using posts about guild events and updates, job/research/internship/volunteer opportunities, support services available, and using polls/chats functions on a regular basis</p>		
<p>Host a joint meet and greet with Faculty of Business and Law Representative</p>		
<p>Resource, network and maintain regular contact with Guild and Curtin staff to aim for positive changes for students</p>		
<p>Respond proactively to collective/student concerns throughout my term via email and in-person or online meetings</p>		
<p>Host a joint meet and greet with Health Sciences Student Engagement Manager</p>		
<p>Introduce myself both in-person at faculty events and online with posts in the Health Science Faculty group page to build connection with students.</p>		
<p>Create an online form for students to give feedback about issues within their studies and provide the opportunity to go into the draw to 'Win a St John First Aid Kit' as an incentive for providing feedback.</p>		

Faculty of Humanities Report Representation Board Meeting – 15.02.24

Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
Weekly	VP-E Check-in	Update on what's happening and where projects are at
18/01	Higher Ed	Sat in on Higher Ed to listen to and contribute to discussion on school of education and pracs.
31/01	Discussion with Mentor Teacher for new Graduates in teaching	Discussed their experience and feedback on what it is like for education students on pracs. and recently graduated teachers in schools and how prepared they feel
01/02	HUM x FBL Reps Meeting	Discussions around assignment feedback within the faculties and how we can potentially work together going to the university to work towards improving quality and timing of feedback for students
08/02	M-Files Training for Reps	Refresher on how to use M-Files and exploring the different functions within it.

University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
19/01	Meeting with Leanne Haggart	Discussion of content warning project and how Leanne can help as the manager of equity and inclusion (student life and community) to look into the policy and procedure side of implementing content warnings.
01/02	Directors Learning and Teaching – Education Meeting	Met with Sonja Kuzich and Sally Lamping (Directors Learning and Teaching School of Education) to discuss my concerns with the re-introduced Graduate Diploma in Education and they explained how they plan to support students through it.

		We also set up a monthly meeting between myself, them and the unit coordinators within the school to discuss any issues or concerns as they come up throughout the year. *More info below*
07/02	HUM Student Experience Meeting	Meeting with Humira and Nicole to discuss all of my upcoming projects and where I can work with the student experience and LSEC Humanities team on these topics. *More info below*

Projects

Content Warnings: Everyone I have spoken to regarding this has agreed that content warnings are a good idea for a number of reasons (including but not limited to being respectful of lived experience and the fact that some first-year students are still minors) and have been willing to work with me on this. I have made progress creating a draft good practice guide to explain content warnings and how to use them in the hopes that it can be brought in line with what LITEC currently has before being shared with staff. Alongside this I have been looking into the policy side of implementing content warnings and will soon be working to incorporate the practical and policy aspects of this together.

School of Education: With the current teaching shortage that WA is experiencing Curtin has brought back the one-year Graduate Diploma in Education “to get aspiring educators into classrooms faster.” This course does not meet the criteria to be accredited as a national teaching qualification, however graduates would be eligible for provisional registration with the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia (TRBWA), enabling them to teach in Western Australia only. The the units for this course are across 4 special study periods (following the four primary and secondary school terms), with three prac’s: 10 days, 15 days, and 20 days.

There are concerns surrounding this course, especially regarding the overall quality of teaching as well as the welfare of students going through this course. Not only this a lot of content to be ran through in only 12 months, giving students less time to process and revise the content, but it also is a lot of mandatory prac’s in close proximity to each other, where students are not able to work and therefore be paid. Along with these concerns, there is also the concern that given the current teachers shortage, prac students are going to have even more responsibilities, duties and pressures put onto them during their prac that they are not prepared or qualified for, opening them up to potentially be exploited throughout their mandatory pracs. There is also the concern that once students graduate this course, they won’t have had enough practice/experience before going into schools/classrooms or enough support during those first years out of the course.

One sentiment that was repeated across a number of people I have spoken to, both within the university and in-service teachers, is that this course was de-activated for a reason.

When speaking with the Dean of Learning and Teaching – Humanities and the Directors of Learning and Teaching – School of Education, it was repeated that the only reason that the previous course

was de-activated and universities (including Curtin) moved from 1-year GradDip's to 2-year Masters is because the legislation changed, however this answer doesn't acknowledge any of the reasons why the legislation changed and the one year course was deemed no longer good enough to meet the nationally agreed Accreditation Standards and Procedures.

With the current cost of living crisis, and ongoing impacts to students mental and physical health being seen across the board there is a large concern that students are not going to be adequately supported throughout this course. This is especially concerning regarding equity students from various backgrounds as not only is there the financial and "physical" concerns there is also the fact that when working on such as strict timeline, reasonable accommodations such as those found in CAP's are going to be harder to follow.

When I have raised these concerns, I have been informed that like any other course, students can choose to do the GradDip part-time, however given the strictness of placements/pracs, a part-time workload would take 2 years to complete and while that is still faster than the 2-year masters part time, it comes across as counter productive to the rational behind the push for the one year degree.

When discussing this with Sally and Sonja (Directors of Learning and Teaching – School of Education), they spoke about how they are developing resource packets for students that will list available supports for them, which I have asked for a copy of. They also assured me that they are working with the department of education and regional graduate student mentor hubs to ensure that graduate students will have the support and professional learning opportunities to fill in any potential areas that they feel they are lacking in.

From my conversations and meetings so far I have also found a lot of support for the idea that students should be paid for their pracs, however the way it has been described to me is that the reason that paid pracs haven't been implemented (outside of a few exceptions) is because of the "concern that if students are paid then they will be put in a position to take on workloads greater than is suitable for them and they are at risk of being exploited because they are paid staff" which I disagree with. However, there has also been conversations about how to increase pre-existing scholarship support to prac students, with the faculty wanting to focus on equity students first – specifically regional/remote, low SES and First Nations students.

What I'm doing about all of this: I have spent the past month trying to get as much information as I can about how this course is being set up and run, as well as what supports are being put in place by the School of Education already. I am also working on getting my face/name out there, making contact with the Education Student Society club and trying to increase awareness of the Guild and myself to all students but especially these GradDip students so that they are aware that they have other support options available and hopefully to stay up-to-date on the experiences of the students in this course as it starts up and as the year goes on. I have also started looking into what scholarships are currently available at Curtin for placement students, and any other scholarships that might be useful, in the hopes of increasing that financial support where possible, and increasing awareness of what already exists.

I am hoping that as semester starts and I am able to make myself known to these education students that I can also stay up to date on any issues as they arise and work to advocate for solutions.

Other

O-Day Prep: I have designed and ordered 9 new stickers for the faculty of humanities to give out at O-Day which have recently arrived. Along with this I have the majority of what I need for my raffle and give away of a notebook with one of the new stickers on the cover and a pencil case with some stationery in it. All that is left for me to do for O-Day is finish up with some more of my flyer/handouts and we should be all set.

Humanities Rep Updates: I have started drafting up the first of my update “newsletters” in order to not only keep humanities students in the loop with what I am doing and what is happening within the faculty but also to try and increase engagement and awareness of the guild and what I as the Humanities Rep can do for them. I am still working on when the best time to send it out will be, as well as some of the more aesthetic details, but overall it is going well and looking like it will hopefully be another helpful way to communicating with students.

Imari Morris (they/she/he)

Faculty of Humanities Rep



Imari Morris
2024 Faculty of Humanities Rep

55th Guild Council - 3 / RB

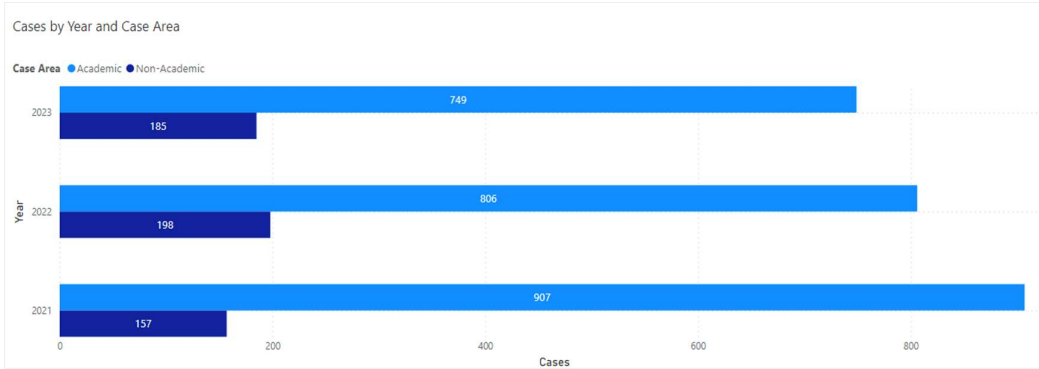
FACULTY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	DELIVERABLES	STATUS
Attendance at 80% of required meetings		
Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress toward KPIs		
Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign)		
Completion of handover report for successor		
Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training		
Work to Implement Content Warnings on potentially confronting or triggering course and class content		

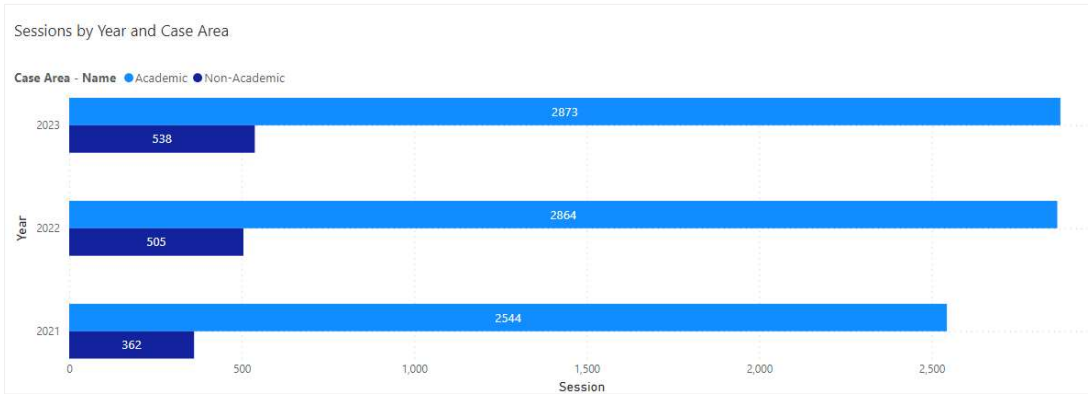
<p>School of Education – stay up to date on issues and advocate for solutions to issues emerging within the school, especially in the face of the current teachers shortages.</p>		
<p>Timely feedback on assignments – especially presentations</p>		
<p>Humanities Rep Updates - Keep students up to date on what is happening and what I am doing via email “newsletter” updates across the faculty</p>		

STUDENT ASSIST 2023 OVERVIEW

Each student is assigned a *Case* that's either *Academic* and/or *Non-Academic*. This is further divided into specific *Case Types* such as Complaints, Misconducts, Appeals etc. Each case is recorded as a series of *Sessions*.



Total number of Cases for 2023: **914 Cases**

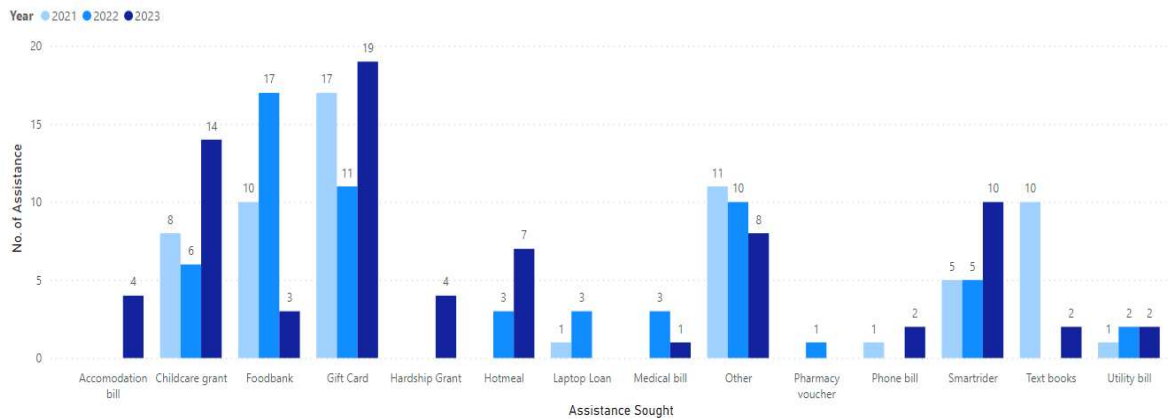


Total number of Sessions for 2023: **3,316 Sessions**

You will note that the number of cases has decreased from 2021 to 2023, but the number of sessions has increased. This is due to the increase in complex cases that has required more contact with the student and Curtin departments to resolve.

Non-academic cases include harassment, tenancy issues, financial support, etc. The average monetary support per student increased by 69% from 2022 to 2023.

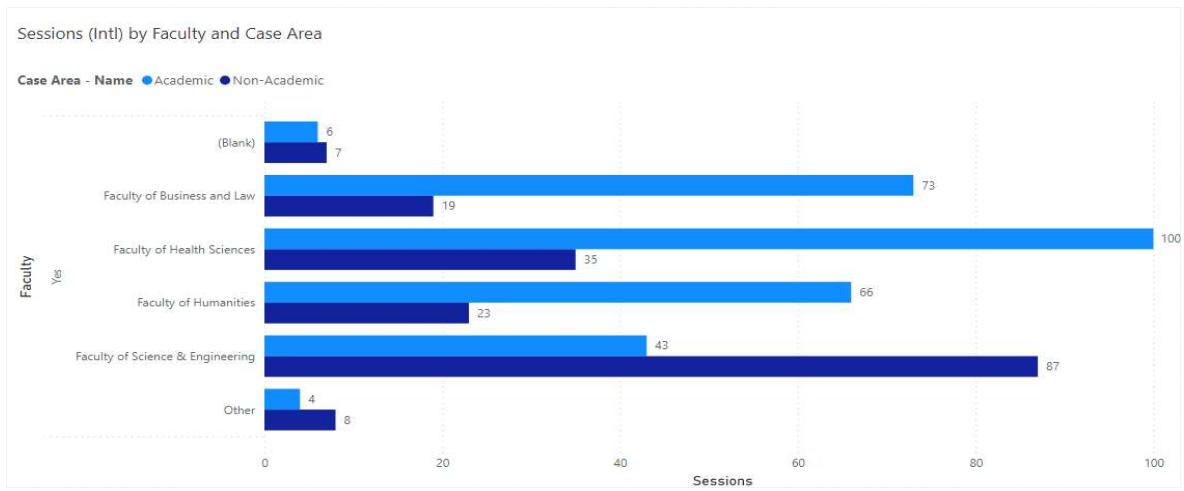
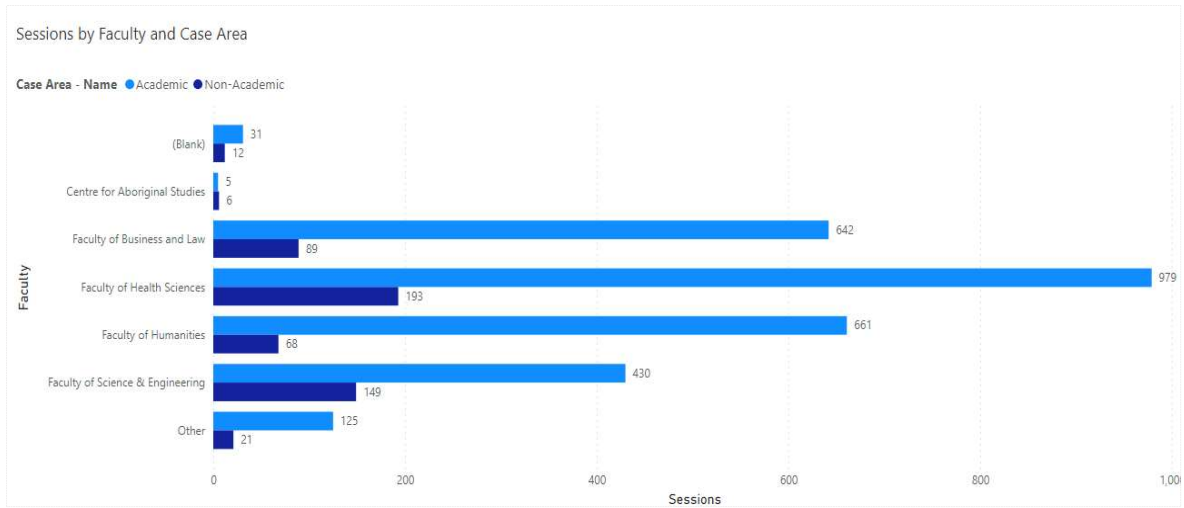
Assistance Sought by Year



Total number of Assistance given for 2023: **76**

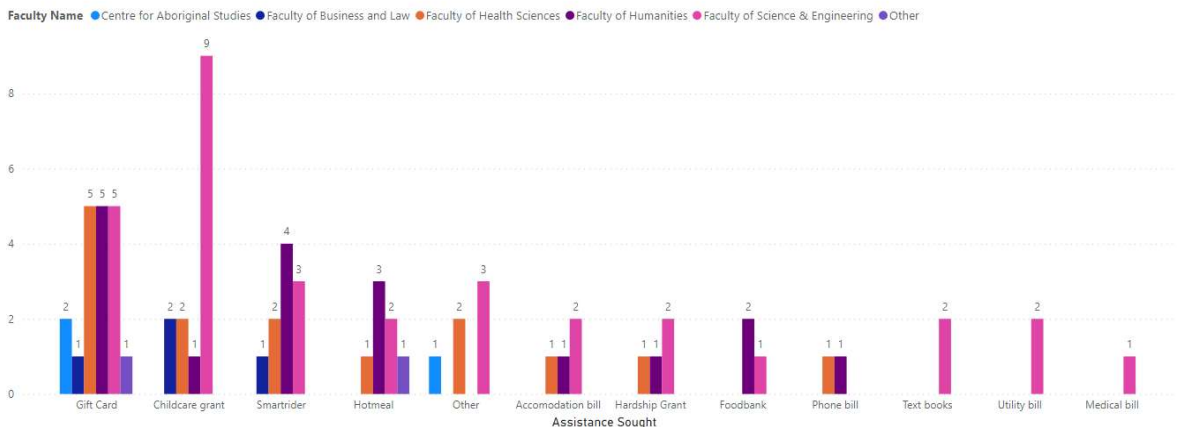
Faculty Overview 2023

The Faculty of Health Sciences was yet again our top customer including among the international student cohort!



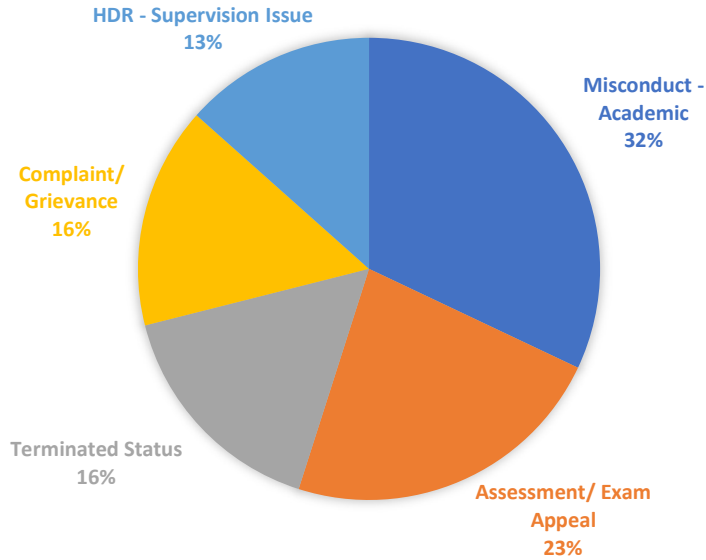
Students seeking financial support were significantly higher in Science and Engineering, mostly in the form of childcare grants.

Assistance Sought



Top 5 Case Types

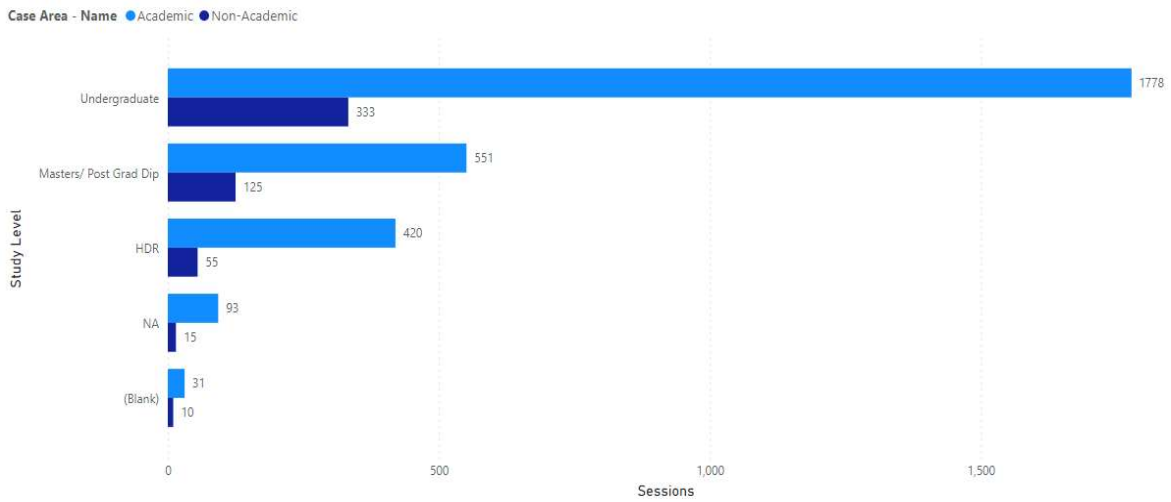
Assistance with responding to the allegation of Academic Misconduct was the most sought-after support from the Business and Law faculty. Assessment/ Exam appeals and Complaints/ Grievances were mostly from Health Sciences.



Of interest to note is that support for Placement appeals/ issues was predominantly from Humanities (School of Education) compared to Health Science. This did not make the top five (it's the 6th), as only Health Science and Humanities students have reached out for support in this area.

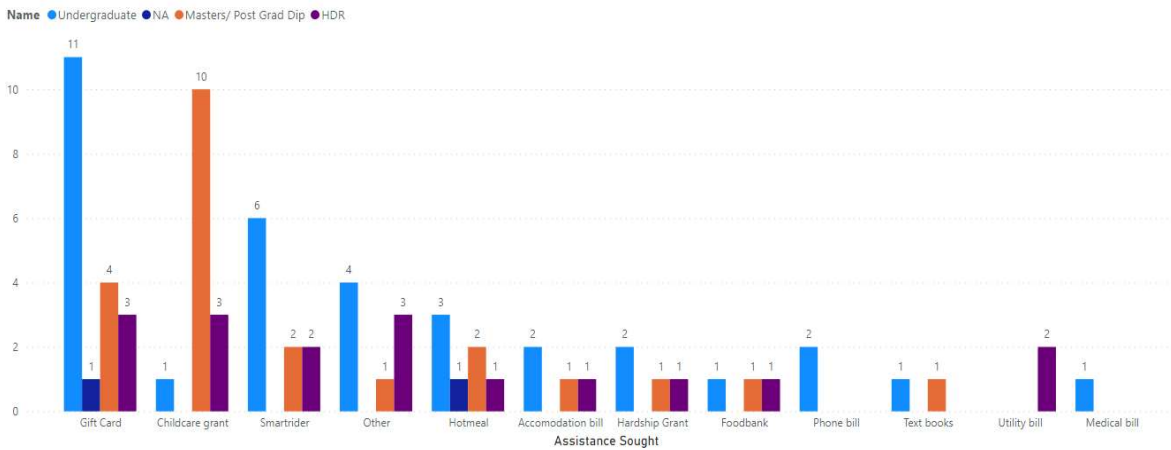
Study Level Overview 2023

Sessions by Study Level and Case Area



International Students make up 64% of the cohort provided with financial assistance. The majority of Masters/ Post Grad Diploma students seeking child care support were from Science and Engineering.

Assistance Sought



February 2024 Representation Board Report – Student Assist

January overview:

Academic sessions were mainly in relation to responding to Academic Misconducts and Termination appeals.

Non-academic sessions were focused on providing information to domestic students looking for support with paying their tuition fees and international students seeking financial support.

	November	December	January
Academic sessions	408	156	171
Non – academic sessions	47	12	36
Total	448	168	205

Total may not tally as case management system calculates sessions with both case areas as a single session.

Both the Lifehacks and Loan Laptop programs were on hold for January.

	November	December	January
Lifehack participants	65	57	0
Loan laptop	0	1	0

Welfare

Student Assist provided emergency relief to three students through our grants.

	Intl Student?	Study level	Faculty	Total
Childcare grant	Yes	Masters/ post grad Dip	Science & Engineering	2
Hardship grant	Yes	Masters/ post grad Dip	Business and Law	1

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Date	Event	Notes
22/01	Meeting with Digital Engagement Officer and Student engagement officer at Curtin Student Guild.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions on the types of educational and informative content aimed toward helping first semester international student - Information will be sent through EDMs to international students before orientation and during the semester.
23/01	Meeting with Café Connect organisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion to organise a café connect event for international students in March 2024 - We discussed marketing and details of the event. - VPA to book the space for the day.
23/01	Migration events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further discussion with VPA and Barry from Pathway migration (organisers) to finalise dates and strategies to get better engagement this semester - Three informative sessions to occur in sem 1 2024.
01/02	Orientation day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning O day stall with ISC committee members - I will present at International Student Orientation during O-week in collaboration with Curtin Orientation Team

Proposed upcoming events from the ISC for Sem 1 2024

Orientation day – ISC Stall on the guild O day and Presentation delivered by the president

I will receive the committee members names and contacts and we will together run the stall on orientation day which is scheduled for the 21st February from 1100-1430. The presentation will be delivered on the 20th February for first sem international students.

Global Village Stall

ISC committee to organise a stall in collaboration with organisers of the annual Global Village. The event will occur on the 11th of March.

Café Connect

This event will take place on the 19th of March from 1400-1500 for international students to network and get to know guild representatives. Guild clubs will be reached out to have a stall as part of the event.

Regards,

Kimberley Pinto

ISC President



Kimberley Pinto
2024 ISC President

55th Guild Council – 3 / RB

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	DELIVERABLES	STATUS
Attendance at 80% of required meetings		
Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress toward KPIs		
Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum two (2) events per semester (either portfolio events and/or Guild events)		
Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign)		
Completion of handover report for successor		
Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training		

<p>Create a post, story or a reel tailored for international students on a frequent and consistent schedule</p>		
<p>Deliver an ISC stall at O-days and orientation presentations for new international students in 2024</p>		
<p>Collaborate with Curtin University staff to organise support services for International Students</p>		
<p>Work with Guild staff to expand marketing of Pasar Malam to international students</p>		
<p>Engage with the international student committee outside of monthly meetings and provide support to help the members.</p>		

Bustanul Arifin
PSC President

Reports: February 2024

Postgraduate Students Committee Report

Students' Academic & General Issues

- The PSC President also received some emails from some faculty representatives to communicate regarding postgraduate students' issues in their faculties.
- 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.

Events

- The PSC conducted a meeting with the Guild VP for Activities and the International Student Committee (ISC) to collaborate on the Beach Bonanza event for 2024.
- The PSC is scheduled to do a presentation at the HDR orientation 2024 for new students. I have prepared the presentation slides which will be presented on 22nd February.
- The PSC has also communicated and registered for the O-Day that will be held in February 2024.
- I have communicated with the Guild VP for Activities to prepare some kinds of stuff for the PSC stall at the O-Day.

External Activities

- I have attended the general meeting of the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) in January 2024.
- I will be attending the next meeting of CAPA in February/ March to re-discuss about the organisation.

General Activities

- I have communicated with the Faculty of Business and Law regarding their 2024 handbook for postgraduate students. So, would like to put information related to PSC on their handbook.
- The PSS has received the invitation from the Academic Board to attend the meeting on Friday, 23 February 2024.



Bustanul Arifin
2024 PSC President

55th Guild Council – 3 / RB

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign)		
Completion of handover report for successor		

<p>Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training</p>		
<p>Assisting postgraduate students when presented with issues</p>		
<p>Engaging with external student organisations for the benefit of Postgraduate students, including CAPA</p>		
<p>Engaging with Curtin internal offices to improve information and processed for postgraduate students</p>		



QUEER OFFICER’S REPORT
Representation Board Meeting 15/02/2024
 Zavier Wileman (they/them)

GUILD MEETINGS (since 11/01)

Date	Meeting	Notes
26/01/2024	Invasion Day Sign Painting & Rally	

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS (since 11/01)

Date	Meeting	Notes
23/01/2024	Deadnaming Working Group	See notes below
1/02/2024	Meeting w/ Sam Owens re: Ongoing Student Issue	See notes below
1/02/2024	GEIAG Darlington Statement Briefing	See notes below
6/02/2024	GEIAG meeting	See notes below

PROJECTS

We All Need To Pee: No updates from this month.

Deadnaming Working Group: Without many significant updates regarding the business case, this meeting largely focused upon discussing the issue with updating Student ID cards with preferred names. Apparently, the Gallagher system – which ID cards operate with – means that updating ID cards with preferred names is “too high of a risk” to the system. However, the current workaround for this is proving effective. Curtin Connect can print cards with preferred names on them on request. For now, this is the solution for this issue. However, the group is hoping that the Gallagher system can be updated in the next few months, but more information on that is pending.

OTHER BUSINESS

GEIAG: Following on from last month, the GEIAG has decided to continue forward with developing a case to present to the Senior Executive Team. The GEIAG has flagged some important days for this year – such as Autism Awareness Day and International Women’s Day – and I believe it is important to ensure the Curtin Student Guild is invited to collaborate on events for these days. As a member of the GEIAG and representative from the Student Guild, I will strive to ensure we are included in discussions around these days.

ONGOING STUDENT ISSUE: Following on from last month, myself and Imari (2023 Queer Officer) met with Samantha Owens (Head of Gender Equity & Inclusion) to discuss the student issue regarding transphobic comments made during a lecture. Sam Owens supported us in our stance on the issue, and will be meeting with several involved members of staff over the next few weeks to iron out the issue. Further updates pending.



Zavier Wileman
2024 Queer Officer

55th Guild Council - 3 / RB

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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Completion of handover report for successor		
Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training		

<p>Investigate and develop logistics for the implementation of permanent LGBTQIA+ pride flags on campus, followed by the implementation of an established plan</p>		
<p>Investigate and develop logistics for the creation of an LGBTQIA+ resources hub for teaching staff to access, followed by the implementation of an established plan</p>		
<p>Continue advocating for the 'We All Need To Pee' campaign and lobby the University to commit to a plan for more gender-inclusive bathrooms on campus.</p>		
<p>Investigate and develop logistics for facilitating a regular drop-in space in the QD's Equity Room, and strive to be regularly available for discussions & meetings with students</p>		
<p>Seek to develop good working relationships with LGBTQIA+ services across Perth, to facilitate connecting students with relevant community supports</p>		

Women's Officer Report

Representation Board Meeting #3/2024, February 15th

Submitted February 8th, 2024

Guild Meetings

Attended Finance & Risk Committee Meeting #1 (7/02/2024)

- Noted and discussed Guild financial documents including current balance sheet, financial ratios, expenditure receipts and utility costs

University Meetings

Attended a meeting with Fiona Notley together with Jasmyne Tweed (19/01/2024)

- Discussed current plan to implement free period product vending machines on campus
- Jasmyne provided examples of other university campuses with similar arrangements, and also presented to Fiona the organisations that can provide or sponsor these machines (Libra, Share the Dignity)
- Fiona seemed to like the idea and stated that she was interested in helping this idea be implemented on campus once we have a solid plan of action

Attended Gender Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group Meeting #4 (6/02/2024)

- Chair briefly discussed meeting with Imari Morris and Sheldon Smith regarding pushing the University to endorse the Darlington Statement on Intersex Human Rights
 - Commented that this was to provide longevity to Curtin's support past the advocacy of a handful of individuals within the organisation
 - Also spoke to the relevance of the Darlington Statement to the ongoing We All Need to Pee campaign
- Micah Wilson discussed, regarding University's marketing, the recognition of some additional significant dates of celebration, awareness and/or reconciliation (on top of the ones Curtin currently recognises and organises events for)
 - Micah provided a list of some important equity days already recognised by the marketing team, including:
 - Transgender Day of Visibility
 - Close the Gap Day
 - World Autism Awareness Day
 - IDAHOBIT
 - The National Apology
 - National Reconciliation Week
 - NAIDOC Week
 - Equal Pay Day
 - RUOK Day
 - Trans Awareness Week
 - WA PrideFEST Parade
 - International Day of People with Disabilities
 - GEIAG has the authority to recommend more days to be recognised

- Amy Dobson indicated that they believe the marketing team's KPIs should be updated to better include and reflect advocacy for minority groups
- Discussion of Curtin's International Women's Day Brunch event (previously discussed in GEIAG #3 as being controversial given Curtin's apparent perception of it solely as a commercial or PR event) was bypassed via direct request from the Vice Chancellor

Projects

Implementation of period product vending machines on campus in planning phase – still conducting research.

Other

Nothing of note.



Cadence Gant
2024 Women's Officer

55th Guild Council – 3 / RB

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign)		
Completion of handover report for successor		
Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training		

<p>Investigate the logistics and practicality of installing free sanitary product vending machines on campus, and work together with Curtin to implement them across campus.</p>		
<p>Review current reporting requirements and involved procedures for victims of domestic abuse/violence at Curtin and the Guild.</p>		
<p>Review Curtin Counselling services to assess whether counsellors are adequately trained to detect and deal with gender-based violence</p>		
<p>Advocate for the destigmatisation of women's reproductive health and menstruation.</p>		
<p>Investigate the ways in which ALLY training sessions can be made more visible/accessible to students, followed by implementing the findings of this investigation.</p>		



Representation Board Report February 2024

UNIVERSITY & COMMITTEE MEETINGS		
Date	Meeting	Notes
16.01.2024	Change the Age - 2024 Welfare Officers Induction Session	Attended the zoom meeting on behalf of Jacquie Bicanic (Welfare Officer)
23.01.2024	COMPAS-S (Previously known as 'Advisory Board of the Curtin Wellbeing Survey')	Working together to increase the visibility of the Program through O-Day – they are providing flyers for O-Day Stall
23.01.2024	NUS Disability National Meeting	First zoom meeting for introductions

GUILD MEETINGS		
Date	Meeting	Notes
11.01.2024	Reps Board Meeting	
08.02.2024	M-Files Training	

EVENTS		
Date	Event	Notes
12.01.24 – 07.02.24	O-Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned and prepared Self-Care Hamper Giveaway • Finalised Accessibility Flyer Design • Finalised disability sticker designs • Designed artwork & Qr Code • Preparing decorative stall elements
07.02.2024	Graduations	Attended the School of Population Health Graduations as the Guild Student Representative

OTHER		
Date	Topic	Notes
18.01.2024	Accessibility Equity Room Makeover	New Additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decorative and functional items

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mascot (Ursie) refilled with hobby-fill. • Re-positioned furniture to create a more open space • Created Artwork for the wall. • Bought a disability pride flag and awaiting its arrival.
01.02.2024	Multi-Faith Services: Mediation Classes	<p>Got in-touch with Ariel Wee the officer of the 'Multi Faith Services' at Curtin to discuss how to promote the mediation classes on the Guild Accessibility social media platforms.</p> <p>Ariel forwarded me onto the new Multi Faith Officer Janet Augustinsen whom I am due to hear back from and discuss possible strategies.</p>
08.02.2024	<p>'Comfort Corner'</p> <p>Run by: Ben Milbourn & Phoebe Simpson</p> <p>About: Comfort Corner is a weekly student mentor wellbeing session where students drop in for a chat with a peer, feel welcome and meet other students. Everyone is welcome. These student-led sessions are informal, with the opportunity to get involved in social games, relax, have a bite to eat, or chat with a trained student mentor. Staff are also there offering guidance.</p>	<p>Ben Milbourn got in touch with me to promote the 'Comfort Corner' in the upcoming semester. Their focus for this year is to support Equity & Diversity students.</p> <p>I am eager to support the program and am currently setting up a time to meet with them to discuss strategies.</p>

Filiz Keles
Accessibility Officer 2024

55th Guild Council - 3 / RB

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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Completion of handover report for successor		
Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training		

<p>Sensory Room</p> <p>Advocate for a dedicated sensory room at Curtin and ensure diverse disabled students' input when it's implemented.</p> <p>Design surveys to get student input of what they would like to see in a sensory room</p> <p>Research what other universities have done in similar spaces</p>		
<p>Social Media</p> <p>Increase Instagram followers from 426 to 1000 by the end of my term.</p> <p>Create highlights which inform students of some of the more commonly asked questions.</p> <p>Make posts regularly that are designed with a cohesive appearance.</p>		
<p>Accessibility Room Makeover</p> <p>Overall Aim: Improve the functionality of the space to be more sensory friendly</p>		
<p>Collective</p> <p>Overall Aim: Engage with and build a supportive collective, through consistent communication and consultation.</p>		

Murdoch University offers shortened bachelor degrees in an attempt to reduce WA nursing shortages. The West Australian

Murdoch University will offer a shortened nursing course from early February in an effort to reduce widespread shortages across WA's healthcare sector.

The Enrolled Nursing Accelerated Pathway will allow enrolled nurses — who already have a nursing diploma — to keep working in the healthcare system while completing a more condensed Bachelor of Nursing.

Murdoch is the first university in the State to offer the 18-month degree, which is six months shorter than the usual course for enrolled nurses looking to become registered nurses, in a bid to meet staffing demand.

The course will blend online learning with on-campus intensives, meaning students would only need to attend university one day a week.

It comes as WA Health revealed in August that more than 5000 nurses and doctors were needed in the next decade to meet the skyrocketing healthcare demand.

Murdoch University will offer a shortened nursing course from early February in an effort to reduce widespread shortages across WA's healthcare sector.

Last year, the Department of Health projected the aged care sector would be facing a shortage of about 8100 nurses in 2023-24.

"We hope to assist enrolled nurses in areas like aged care where we are needing to have more registered nurses working in those areas," Ms Berlinger said.

The first students in this [course](#) will get an orientation on January 25 before starting the degree in early February.

The University of WA to crack down on students faking medical certificates under proposed new policy. The West Australian

A dramatic increase in students applying for extra time on assignments or to defer exams — with some backed by fake medical certificates — has prompted the University of WA to overhaul its special consideration policy.

UWA reviewed its procedures after applications for special consideration nearly doubled, ballooning to 45,396 applications lodged by 10,945 students in 2022, up from 25,886 lodged by 9397 students the previous year.

Special consideration was designed as a last resort option for those affected by illness, injury or misadventure during their studies.

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Special consideration was designed as a last resort option for those affected by illness, injury or misadventure during their studies.

A report by a UWA working party found that even though 80 per cent of students made only limited use of special consideration, 20 per cent had applied multiple times.

Numbers peaked in May and October of 2022, when most assessment items were due. Nearly half the applications — 19,600 — related to individual assignments.

"Another issue relates to the gradual growth in students falsifying medical certificates supporting their special consideration application," the report said.

The report said a 2022 staff forum on special consideration had warned the exponential rise in the volume of extensions sought could undermine the academic integrity of assessments, while creating enormous workloads for staff.

In a proposal now out for consultation, reviewers recommended scrapping the term “special consideration” and replacing it with “exceptional variation of assessment”.

Approval would be limited to exceptional circumstances beyond a student’s control deemed severe or unavoidable.

New strategies would be implemented to prevent students from falsifying medical certificates, such as requiring them to be accompanied by a UWA verification form signed off by a health professional.

The report did not reveal how many UWA students had been caught falsifying medical certificates, though it noted that in 2017 the University of Sydney banned 65 students, of which 10 were expelled, for faking doctor’s certificates.

Universities lose out to private schools in education funding. The Australian

Universities’ share of the commonwealth education budget is being dramatically eaten away, while the share of the pie going to private schools is rising, a key university group has told the Albanese government.

In its 2024-25 [federal budget submission](#), the seven-strong Innovative Research Universities group said its analysis of the 2022 budget papers showed that in the 2016-26 decade, government funding for universities would drop from 28 per cent to 22 per cent of the federal education and training budget.

Over the same period the share of the education and training budget used to fund private schools is set to rise from 32 per cent to 37 per cent. In effect, funding is being removed from universities and transferred to the private school system, and the gap between the two is growing enormously.

To drive home the point, the IRU said that university fees for commonwealth-funded student places could be abolished altogether making universities free if another \$6bn a year was injected into university funding. But this amount is less than half of the commonwealth’s annual funding for private schools.

The IRU did its analysis by looking back at actual government spending since 2016, as well as the forward estimates of what future funding will be up until to 2026, assuming no policy changes.

The IRU represents James Cook University, Griffith University, Western Sydney University, the University of Canberra, La Trobe University, Flinders University and Murdoch University.

The IRU said in its submission that it did not support a [tax on university revenue](#) to fund new university programs, such as the proposed tax on international student fees, which the government’s Universities Accord review is considering.

Universities Australia wants Government to match \$493 million funding commitment to TAFE for unis

Universities Australia’s call for the government to match its \$493 million funding commitment could support up to 20,000 fee-free university places for Australians in areas of critical skill shortages.

Enrolments at Australia’s universities fell 5% from 2021 to 2022.

Universities Australia’s call for the government to match its \$493 million funding commitment could support up to 20,000 fee-free university places for Australians in areas of critical skill shortages.

In its 2024-25 pre-budget submission, Universities Australia is also calling on the government to:

- gradually increase the number of Commonwealth-supported university places to meet Australia’s future skills needs

- provide cost-of-living support for students undertaking compulsory placements and greater financial assistance for PhD students, and
- increase funding in research and development to support the delivery of national priorities and maintain Australia's world-class research reputation.

Read Universities Australia's full [2024-25 pre-budget submission](#).

Unis to charge more for degrees in 2024 as HECS architect blasts banks over loans

University fees will soar 7.8 per cent this year, as the architect of Australia's student loans scheme blasts banks for "unfairly" counting the debt in home loan applications.

Degrees in law, accounting, commerce and communications will cost \$16,323 this year — \$1181 more than students were charged last year.

The inflation-based fee hike could cost students an extra \$3500 for a three-year degree.

The cheapest degrees – in nursing, teaching, mathematics and agriculture — will rise by \$321 this year to \$4445 for one year of study.

Students will pay \$8948 this year — \$647 more than last year — to study engineering, allied health, computing, environmental studies or science.

Five or six-year degrees in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science will cost nearly \$1000 extra this year, after the federal Education Department revealed fees of \$12,720 to cover the cost of subjects taken this year.

Students can borrow money to pay their fees through the federal government's HECS-HELP university loan scheme.

But high inflation will hit them with a financial double-whammy, as both tuition fees and outstanding student debts jump in line with the CPI (consumer price index) this year.

The architect of HECS, Emeritus Professor Bruce Chapman - who has been commissioned by the federal government to review the 35-year-old scheme – declared yesterday that banks should not include student debts in home loan applications.

National Union of Students president Ngaire Bogemann said it was wrong that young graduates trying to buy their first home were being slugged with HECS repayments, when baby boomers enjoyed a free tertiary education with lower housing costs.

HLB Debt Advisory mortgage broker Betty Preshaw said that outstanding HECS-HELP debts reduce borrowing power.

"If you've got HECS debt, it's treated like any other debt such as a personal loan or a credit card, and it absolutely impacts on your ability to borrow," she said.

Graduates must start paying back the loan when they earn \$51,550 a year, when 1 per cent of their income is repaid through the tax system.

Once graduates earn an average wage of \$96,000 a year, they must pay 6 per cent of their income towards their HECS-HELP debt.

Those earning \$150,000 a year have 10 per cent of their income levied to repay their student debts.

Nearly 3 million graduates owe a total of \$78 billion – an average of \$26,500 each.

Debts are indexed each year in line with inflation and are on track to rise 5 per cent this year, following last year's 7.1 per cent increase.

Professor Chapman, who is an economist at the Australian National University, is advising the government's [Universities Accord review on the affordability](#) of higher education, including HECS-HELP debts.

He identified flaws in the scheme yesterday, pointing out that the annual indexation rate calculated at the end of June each year can “scare” graduates who suddenly saw their debts balloon.

Last year’s 7.1 per cent CPI increase added \$5.3 billion to total student debts, averaging \$1800 per graduate.

Professor Chapman said it would be too expensive for the government to abolish indexation, which ensures that debts are pegged at their real value over time.

“It would be pretty unfair to get rid of indexation when the cost of that is borne by taxpayers.

The Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS), introduced by the Hawke-Keating Labor government in 1989, marked the end of free university education.

It was rebranded the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) in 2005.

The Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS), introduced by the Hawke-Keating Labor government in 1989, marked the end of free university education.

It was rebranded the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) in 2005.

How much will you pay for your degree?

The federal government subsidises university degrees for Australian students, who are required to pay a “student contribution” for each year of study.

The contribution for study units taken in 2024 has risen 7.8 per cent, to a maximum of:

\$16,323

Law, accounting, administration, economics, commerce, communications, society and culture

\$12,720

Medicine, dentistry, veterinary science

\$8948

Engineering, surveying, environmental studies, science, pathology, allied health, built environment, computing, visual and performing arts, professional pathway psychology or social work

\$4445

Nursing, education, English, mathematics, statistics, Indigenous and foreign languages, agriculture, postgraduate clinical psychology.

With a cost-of-living crisis and HECS rising, how do high school graduates of 2023 feel about their future? ABC

Peter Hurley, director of Victoria University's Mitchell Institute, said there's been a "sentiment shift" in 2023 school leavers — many are asking if tertiary education, and the debt that it brings, is worth it.

After three decades of growth, the number of university enrolments has plateaued in recent years.

[Between 1989 and 2016, the percentage of Australians who were university students by age 19 doubled, from 20 to 40 per cent](#), according to a report released late last year which tracked higher education policy and trends.

The participation rate has stayed about the same since.

"The environment of the school leavers of 2023 is very different to the environment that their parents experienced," he said.

"Absolutely, you're better off going to university, but maybe not in the same way that you would be 30 years ago."

The cost of living is "compromising" students' learning as they have to consider not only HECS but how they will support themselves through study, Dr Hurley said.

"That's really problematic and something that perhaps is felt more in this generation than in generations passed," he said.

Then there's "credential creep", where students have to study for longer or do higher level courses for the same return as past students, Dr Hurley said.

International student visa numbers fall amid migration squeeze. The Australian

The number of international student [visa holders](#) approved to come to Australia is on track to plummet by more than 90,000 this financial year, as the federal government rejects an increasing number of applicants to curb the high levels of temporary migration.

The number of [visas](#) granted to offshore students dropped to 139,132 in the first half of the financial year, figures from the Department of Home Affairs reveal, with nearly 20 per cent of all applicants rejected. If the approval rate continues 91,715 fewer overseas students will arrive in 2023-24 compared with the past year.

While the rate of overseas Chinese university students being granted visas offshore remained steady at about 97 per cent, grant rates for offshore higher education students from India, Australia's second-biggest market, dropped from 74.2 per cent in 2022-23 to 60.8 per cent this financial year. Grant rates for the third-biggest market, Nepal, went from 65.2 per cent to 48.8 per cent in the same period.

A global push is under way to limit student migration, with Canada seeking to curb its numbers by announcing a two-year cap on foreign students that will cut numbers by 35 per cent, and Britain barring foreign students from bringing dependants.

Migration expert and former immigration department official Abul Rizvi said the decline in student visa approvals reflected a bid from the government to lower net migration and ease the pressure on infrastructure and the housing market.

"The reason I think the government is targeting students right now is to get net migration down to a more sustainable level," he said. "And in our history, whenever net migration has hit or approached around 300,000, problems have occurred in terms of congestion, inadequate infrastructure and housing, but also many government services start to strain at that level of net migration.

"And of course last year, we hit over 500,000, which is the highest in our history and not surprisingly, all of those things are under strain as a result."

Deborah Terry awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia. The Australian

Professor Terry, who was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia - the nation's highest civil award in the Australia Day honours list

Professor Terry has spent nearly her whole career at the University of Queensland, only leaving to lead Curtin University in Western Australia as its vice-chancellor from 2014 to 2020.

She was the chair of national body Universities Australia from 2019 to 2021.

Coalition will reject Labor's Australian Research Council overhaul

The federal Coalition will oppose the Albanese government's planned reforms to the Australian Research Council that will strip ministers of the power to veto funding for individual research projects, except on national security grounds.

In debate in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, opposition science spokesman Paul Fletcher defended the decisions made by past Coalition ministers to reject ARC funding recommendations and said the opposition would not back the government's amendments to the ARC Act.

NUS Natcon 2023 report - Danica Scott

As of December 11, 2023, the first day of the NUS National Conference, more than 18,000 Palestinians had been murdered in Israel's genocidal assault and invasion of Gaza, including over 7,000 children. There had been mass internal displacement of well over a million people within the Gaza strip towards the south, by then the main target of bombing despite its previous designation as a "safe zone". None of this horror has stopped since, the dead now numbering above 28,000 and mass starvation and disease spread sweeping the still-besieged population. Health services, in the few places where they still exist, are barely functioning. A majority of buildings in the entire Gaza strip have been destroyed in the indiscriminate and deliberate bombing, detonation, and demolition by Israel.

At the same time, a mass movement has been taking place in Australia, like nothing seen before in support of Palestine. Every single weekend since October 7 in most major Australian cities, thousands have rallied against the genocide, and against the Australian government's unambiguous in-practice support of Israel.

This is the context in which the NUS National Conference 2023 took place, and took on a particular importance. The NUS, with a budget of over a million dollars, an ability to reach almost a million students around the country, and a tangible social weight behind it, could play an important role in making a firm stand against the genocide in Gaza and being a part of the ongoing movement.

Several motions in support of Palestine and against the war on Gaza were passed unanimously, but the dominance of Student Unity meant that many motions were held back, and the ones that passed watered down by removing action points and softening language. Disgracefully, members of their leadership were not condemned for their participation on a junket to Israel earlier in the year.

Motions being passed in support of Palestine was significant, and was the most important outcome of Natcon, not just for NUS itself but for the student body, including Curtin's. However, words spoken inside a closed room in Ballarat are cheap. Since the conference, the NUS has put out no public position against the genocide – the official social media platforms are completely silent on the question – let alone made any real attempt to mobilise students to or otherwise support the weekly demonstrations. The same is true of student unions around the country, including Curtin's, aside from one statement put up during the conference.

Given the ongoing genocide in Gaza, there was an intense urgency for NUS to take a position in support of Palestine. Despite this, the National Labor Students, including most of Curtin's delegates, wasted almost an entire day of the conference by pulling quorum in protest of a motion condemning election rigging in the La Trobe Student Union elections. This childish decision served only to waste time that should have been spent debating the immediately pressing questions related to Palestine and the cost-of-living crisis, the other major political backdrop to the conference.

It is plainly obvious that the federal Labor government is overseeing – that is, actively implementing – the biggest attack on living standards in a generation. Real wages are falling for almost all workers, rents are allowed to skyrocket completely unchecked, welfare remains at poverty levels. Meanwhile, the government is handing out tax cuts to the rich (expanded though they may be, the rich still are the main beneficiaries), spending hundreds of billions on nuclear submarines and other military purposes, doing nothing to address the housing crisis that worsens every day, and refusing to increase the desperately underfunded welfare and healthcare systems.

Given this, it is clear that the NUS needs to take an oppositional stand towards the government. Almost two years into this term, Albanese has demonstrated that his Labor Party has no interest other than ruling for the rich, throwing out a few crumbs for workers, students, and the poor to get some good PR every now and then.

Instead, NUS resolved to continue its sycophantic sucking-up to the ALP. Labor Left students may have leveled some criticism of the government, but again, words are cheap. It is in the interests of students that NUS is a fighting body willing to stand up against attacks, not roll over. Nowhere could this be clearer than with the University Accords process, reaffirmed at Natcon. NUS's consultative rather than combative approach amounts to acting as a rubber stamp for the government, who we have no reason to believe will do anything other than rule for the interests of big business and the university bosses. Instead of making our demands and putting up a fight for them, NUS will ask politely from a position of weakness.

There can be no question that Curtin's participation in the NUS and Natcon are essential for being an effective student union, and I see my personal participation in the conference as part of being an activist student unionist. Curtin students, and all students for that matter, will be best off with a political student Guild and NUS willing to throw themselves into activist movements and make a stand for student interests. Backing, building, and organising in the still-going Palestine solidarity movement would be a good start.

National Conference 2024 Report Athina Hilman

I was lucky enough to be selected as a delegate for the National Union of Students National conference this year, which took place in Melbourne. It was an honor to represent students at a larger scale, so we can fight for issues that concern Curtin students. This year as a delegate, I chose to align myself with the National Labor Students (NLS). While I was elected on an independent ticket for Guild elections, I thought my vote would go a long way in a larger pre-existing student party. I also felt their values were the ones that closely aligned with mine.

As I chose to be part of NLS, I also took up a position within NLS as their BIPOC co-convenor. Being BIPOC co-convenor was important to me because I knew the issues that BIPOCs face on campus, I understood their academic issues and I was going to do my best to try and fix them. As co-convenor, I oversaw motions and policies that concerned BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) and ensured they were ready to be voted on by delegates during the conference. With the help of the NLS Caucus, we came up with several policies that I believed would be good for BIPOC students.

As I have been to a National Union of Students National conference before, I knew what to expect. I knew there would be various students from different student political parties there. I knew that our ideologies were not similar and that while we are all fighting for the common good of students, not all of us believed in the same approach to get to that point. I found some student political parties really utilised the conference to make it all about them. I found they spoke above everyone else's opinion and I just don't think that this is the arena to do so. I think when you're representing students, you need to represent students on all matters and not just one particular "hot topic" issue. This was really evident on our first day of conference.

One particular student group, SAlt really wanted to speak about Palestine issues because of the genocide in Gaza. And while I'm a staunch supporter of Palestine, I felt discussing Palestine from the get go was probably not the best idea as there are a lot of opinions on this subject and there were other things that we could discuss that weren't too contentious. On our first day, the conference floor tried speaking about union policies and we couldn't even get through all of that because SAlt constantly wanted to speak about Palestine. It was decided early on by organisers that Palestine was just going to be spoken about on a different day so that we could all get through topics that were less contentious to give Palestine the space that it deserves.

One of the policies we spoke about on student unionism was sausage sizzles and how having them on campus, particularly during election, can make people come out to vote in student guild elections. I spoke on the policy and said I thought it was a good idea to get more people on campus to be interested in student politics. Getting people interested in student politics is what we want ideally for the student cohort, and I thought that this was quite simple outreach. I think sausage sizzles are quite an inexpensive way to get people interested, but as per usual, there were a lot of people from opposing parties who believe this was not the case. David Hallam, a nothing proxy from UWA said sausage sizzles were just a Band-Aid problem to fix things. He said if you really want people to vote for you, they should be able to vote for you based on your ideas and your beliefs. While I completely agree, I am also someone who understands reality. It is already extremely hard to get young people engaged in politics. We already see this with the actual federal election and how people were more excited about the sausage sizzles and baked goods they could get while voting. Therefore, I do think that giving them an incentive such as sausage sizzle would be a really good way to increase and create buzz for student elections on campus.

Unfortunately, on the first day, there was a motion presented to conference floor regarding campus elections. In the motion, a campus was mentioned in a disparaging and unprofessional way which members of NLS disagreed with. The party holding majority, Unity, refused to buckle down on the policy therefore we walked out in protest. I believed this was the right thing to do. The campus in question was being accused of making it difficult for other political parties to win on their campus, but based on the evidence this accusation had no merit. Attacking a paying union organisation is not something the NUS should condone, and unfortunately the parties could not reach an agreement and quorum for the first day was lost. SAlt also walked off, not for the same reason but because they wanted to be able to discuss Palestine.

The second day of the conference was in limbo, as NLS was still protesting the unfair motion to sanction a member campus. Fortunately, by midday, all the student factions were able to reach an agreement for NLS to return. As an incentive for SAlt to return, conference floor were allowed to speak on 5 topics to do with Palestine. All motions regarding Palestine were approved, which was great as there needs to be strong student mobilisation on the Palestine topic. One of the more important things that happened on the second day was the abolishment of the NUS policy book. NUS office bearers must complete, or tick off, issues and motions that have been decided on at National conference. By abolishing the book, it takes away the accountability of the NUS to do its work. It was disappointing to see this motion passed, with the help of WA Independent delegates from University of Western Australia and Murdoch Guild. As NUS office bearers salaries are paid by university affiliation, I strongly urge the Curtin Guild to reevaluate affiliation or to insert clauses to ensure office bearers are doing the work.

Onto our third day where we discussed various topics, including BIPOC motions. As POC co convener I was busy negotiating changes of the motion with other student parties. I was particularly proud as I wrote 5 of motions of my own which passed. The motions I wrote were in support of BIPOC students which included establishing mentoring groups for BIPOC students, training for BIPOC students who were wanting to get more involved in politics, standing up against anti migrant policies as well as tightening up laws around workplace abuse, especially for international students who are unaware of industrial laws.

We discussed queer and disability chapters on the last day, and this proved to be very messy. While people who identified with a disability were talking about their motions such as lobbying for more NDIS support, or creating safe spaces on campus for people with sensory issues, certain students from SAlt were heckling, screaming and belittling those who spoke up. Their argument is NDIS is "evil" and should not exist. SAlt delegates also kept hijacking conversations on disability and using the space to talk about Palestine. As important as Palestine is, it does not come at the expense of other issues that affect other students. SAlt delegates would not stop shouting, which led to so many disabled delegates walking out of the conference room in tears. As people walked out, quorum could not be reached and the conference ended prematurely.

There are a few things I wanted to say about the experience, but I feel one of the most pressing issues of the conference was accessibility. There was a disabled delegate whose accessibility needs were not met. They were not able to stand for long periods of time, and was forced to lug around a plastic chair they found on conference floor as the organisers did not organise one for him. The walk from the bus to the conference was an occupational health and safety issue, and I watched two delegates fall on top of each other on the stairs. It was slippery, inaccessible with the amount of stairs and people were forced to carry their belongings. The food hall area had a huge steep hill, making it hard for someone with a wheelchair to navigate their way around. There was also only one screen for everyone to read motions, a screen so small which was blocked by many delegates who were awaiting their turn to talk. The sound from the microphone was so poor and impossible for

CONFIDENTIALITY

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55th Guild Council - 3 / RB**REPRESENTATION BOARD – 15th FEBRUARY 2024****DARLINGTON STATEMENT**

Submitted: Zavier Wileman (Queer Officer)
Moved: Zavier Wileman (Queer Officer)
Seconded: Imari Morris (Humanities Representative)

Preamble:

The Darlington Statement is a joint consensus statement by Australian and Aotearoa/New Zealand intersex organisations and independent advocates, created in March 2017. It sets out priorities for human rights and legal reform, health and wellbeing, peer support, allies, education, awareness and employment. People with an Intersex variant are medicalised, seen as a curiosity, and may have their human rights violated, often through invasive surgery. The Darlington Statement seeks to reinforce that people with Intersex variation are born that way, do not need surgery to be “fixed” and deserve the same human rights as endosex (non-intersex) people. 1.7% of people are born with an intersex variation. This means, statistically, there are more than 1000 Curtin staff and students with an intersex variation. Despite this, there are no people at Curtin openly speaking about their experience of having an intersex variation. This is a sad reflection of the stigmatisation, ignorance, prejudice, and discrimination that comes with being an open intersex advocate. As student representatives, it is our responsibility to fiercely advocate for intersex rights all across this country, and an easy first step in this journey of allyship is to become a signatory of the Darlington Statement.

Motion:

That the Representation Board:

approves the Curtin Student Guild endorsing and committing to the Darlington Statement.

Actions:

Actions recommended as part of this item include:

1. The Curtin Student Guild will become a signatory of the Darlington Statement
2. The Curtin Student Guild will advocate for the full adoption of the human rights and legal reform, health and wellbeing, peer support, education, awareness and employment objectives of the Darlington Statement
3. The Curtin Student Guild will strive towards active and tangible allyship with the Curtin intersex community – and the greater community of intersex people both nationally and globally – without tokenism, or instrumentalising or co-opting intersex as a means to other ends



Background:

'Intersex' refers to individuals who do not fit the medical definitions of 'female' or 'male' bodies. Intersex variations can refer to differences in internal sex characteristics, external sex characteristics, hormones, and chromosomes. Intersex individuals are not a homogenous group – indeed, there are at least 40 different intersex variations, including androgen insensitivity syndrome, Klinefelter syndrome, and congenital adrenal hyperplasia. People can discover they are intersex at any point in their life – commonly, people discover their intersex status either at birth, during puberty, or as a result of fertility difficulties.

Intersex variations are a natural and normal part of human diversity – however, intersex status is heavily stigmatised in society and intersex people face violence, discrimination, prejudice, and victimisation. People born with intersex variation are often subject to invasive, irreversible, medically unnecessary 'corrective' surgeries, to make an intersex baby appear more 'male' or 'female'. Individuals with intersex variations face body shaming and stigmatisation in many aspects of their lives, including in education, healthcare, sport, and the workplace.

The Darlington Statement is a document that came out of a retreat in Darlington, Sydney, in 2017. At this retreat, over 20 intersex advocates from both Australia and Aotearoa (so-called 'New Zealand') came together to discuss the issues currently facing intersex people in both countries. Together, they formulated a list of priorities for law reform and social change, to address the discrimination and stigmatisation currently faced by intersex people.

The University of Melbourne Student Union is a current signatory of the Darlington Statement, however, no Western Australian university guild or student union is a current signatory. This illustrates how as the Curtin Student Guild, we have a unique opportunity to trailblaze intersex allyship and advocacy and set an example for other WA universities. Not only should we become a signatory of the Darlington Statement, but we should use this as an opportunity to reflect on how our organisation is currently listening to intersex voices and advocating for the rights of intersex students. And, wherever we can – whether that be through protests, petitions, policy submissions, or everyday conversations with students – we should be advocating for the full implementation of the Darlington Statement and pushing for a more equitable future for all intersex people.

Attachment/s:

Attachment A Darlington Statement

Darlington Statement

March 2017



Joint statement by Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand intersex community organisations and independent advocates, including the Androgen Insensitivity Support Syndrome Support Group Australia (AISSGA), Intersex Trust Aotearoa New Zealand (ITANZ), Organisation Intersex International Australia (OIIAU), Eve Black, Kylie Bond (AISSGA), Tony Briffa (OIIAU/AISSGA), Morgan Carpenter (OIIAU/Intersex Day Project), Candice Cody (OIIAU), Alex David (OIIAU), Betsy Driver (Bodies Like Ours), Carolyn Hannaford (AISSGA), Eileen Harlow, Bonnie Hart (AISSGA), Phoebe Hart (AISSGA), Delia Leckey (ITANZ), Steph Lum (OIIAU), Mani Bruce Mitchell (ITANZ), Elise Nyhuis (AISSGA), Bronwyn O'Callaghan, Sandra Perrin (AISSGA), Cody Smith (Tranz Australia), Trace Williams (AISSGA), Imogen Yang (Bladder Exstrophy Epispadias Cloacal Exstrophy Hypospadias Australian Community - BEECHAC), George Yovanovic.

Preamble

- A. Intersex people are born with physical or biological sex characteristics (such as sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, hormonal patterns and/or chromosomal patterns) that are more diverse than stereotypical definitions for male or female bodies. For some people these traits are apparent prenatally or at birth, while for others they emerge later in life, often at puberty (see UN definition¹). We recognise our diverse histories and use the word intersex inclusively, and acknowledging our right to self-determination.
- B. We observe that, despite the best efforts of intersex human rights defenders, discrimination, stigmatisation and human rights violations, including harmful practices in medical settings, continue to occur in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand.
- C. We observe the 2013 Senate Community Affairs References Committee report, *Involuntary or coerced sterilisation of intersex people in Australia*,² and the 2016 Family Court of Australia case, *Re Carla (Medical procedure)*.³ We observe the *Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of New Zealand* by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2016.⁴
- D. We recognise the international obligations of our countries, having signed the *Convention against Torture*, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the *Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*, and the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.
- E. We note that intersex peer support remains largely unfunded, advocacy funding remains precarious and limited, and intersex-led organisations rely on volunteers to address the many gaps in services left by other, well-resourced health, social services and human rights institutions.
- F. We acknowledge the kind support for this event from the National LGBTI Health Alliance,⁵ Twenty10,⁶ Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice,⁷ and an anonymous donor.
- G. Recognising these issues, this gathering of Australian and Aotearoa/New Zealand intersex community organisations and individuals in March 2017, meeting on Gadigal Land in Darlington, Australia, acknowledges and respects the work of support organisations and human rights advocates over past years and acknowledges -

1 <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20739&%3BLangID=E>

2 http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Involuntary_Sterilisation/Sec_Report/index

3 *Re Carla (Medical procedure) [2016] FamCA 7*

4 http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CRC/Shared%20Documents/NZL/INT_CRC_COC_NZL_25459_E.pdf

5 <http://lgbtihealth.org.au>

6 <http://twenty10.org.au>

7 <http://astraeafoundation.org>

those hard of hearing to comprehend. This was a disappointing conference and I expected better from Sheldon Gait, who was the NUS Secretary responsible for all.

I was also disgusted by SALT's behavior of heckling those with lived in disability issues. I would like to ask them why they hate disabled people so much? Why they don't allow disabled people to speak their truth. While I am disgusted at what is happening in Palestine, to hijack every motion to speak on it was out of line, out of touch and plain disruptive. I also want to call out Unity for using this conference as their personal weapon, trying to demonise a paying NUS university member because they couldn't win an election. It was an eventful NatCon and I wish we got through all the chapters, but I am glad BIPOC students got a win this year.

We acknowledge

1. The **Malta Declaration** of the Third International Intersex Forum in 2013.⁸
2. That intersex people **exist in all cultures and societies**, throughout history, and that the existence of intersex people is worthy of celebration.
3. The **diversity of our sex characteristics** and bodies, our identities, sexes, genders, and lived experiences. We also acknowledge **intersectionalities** with other populations, including same-sex attracted people, trans and gender diverse people, people with disabilities, women, men, and Indigenous - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Tangata Whenua - and racialised, migrant and refugee populations.
4. That the word 'intersex', and the intersex human rights movement, **belong equally to all people born with variations of sex characteristics**, irrespective of our gender identities, genders, legal sex classifications and sexual orientations.
5. Our rights to **bodily integrity, physical autonomy and self determination**.
6. Our opposition to **pathologising terminology** such as "disorders of sex development", not only because such labels are inherently disordering, but also because this promotes the belief that intersex characteristics need to be "fixed".

Human rights and legal reform

7. We call for the immediate **prohibition as a criminal act** of deferrable medical interventions, including surgical and hormonal interventions, that alter the sex characteristics of infants and children without personal consent. We call for freely-given and fully informed consent by individuals, with individuals and families having mandatory independent access to funded counselling and peer support.
8. Regarding **sex/gender classifications**, sex and gender binaries are upheld by structural violence. Additionally, attempts to classify intersex people as a third sex/gender do not respect our diversity or right to self determination. These can inflict wide-ranging harm regardless of whether an intersex person identifies with binary legal sex assigned at birth or not.

Undue emphasis on how to classify intersex people rather than how we are treated is also a form of structural violence. The larger goal is not to seek new classifications but to **end legal classification systems** and the hierarchies that lie behind them. Therefore:

- a. As with race or religion, sex/gender should not be a legal category on birth certificates or identification documents for anybody.
- b. While sex/gender classifications remain legally required, sex/gender assignments must be regarded as provisional. Given existing social conditions, we do not support the imposition of a third sex classification when births are initially registered.

⁸ <https://oii.org.au/24241/public-statement-by-the-third-international-intersex-forum/>

- c. Recognising that any child may grow up to identify with a different sex/gender, and that the decision about the sex of rearing of an intersex child may have been incorrect, sex/gender classifications must be legally correctable through a simple administrative procedure at the request of the individual concerned.
 - d. Individuals able to consent should be able to choose between female (F), male (M), non-binary, alternative gender markers, or multiple options.
9. We call for **effective legislative protection** from discrimination and harmful practices on grounds of **sex characteristics**.
 10. We call on governments and institutions to **acknowledge** and **apologise** for the treatment of people born with variations of sex characteristics, and provide **redress and reparation** for people born with variations of sex characteristics who have experienced involuntary or coercive medical interventions. There must be no time limit on access to redress and reparation.
 11. We call for an end to **genetic discrimination**, including in insurance and employment.
 12. We call for all adults to have the **right to marry and form a family** irrespective of their sex characteristics.
 13. We note the difficulty that many intersex people have when **travelling**, including experiences of discrimination and harassment due to their bodily diversity, through the requirements of gendered documents, gendered screening and restrictions on travel with pharmaceutical prescription documents. We call on our governments to work with states, countries and international regulators to resolve these issues.
 14. We call for meaningful **participation** by, and **consultation** with, intersex people and community organisations in all issues and policies affecting us.

Health and wellbeing

15. We acknowledge the **long-term physical and psychological implications of harmful and continuing medical practices**, and limited access to support and peers.
16. Current forms of **oversight of medical interventions** affecting people born with variations of sex characteristics have proven to be inadequate.
 - a. We note a lack of transparency about diverse standards of care and practices across Australia and New Zealand for all age groups.
 - b. We note that the Family Court system in Australia has failed to adequately consider the human rights and autonomy of children born with variations of sex characteristics, and the repercussions of medical interventions on individuals and their families. The role of the Family Court is itself unclear. Distinctions between “therapeutic” and “non-therapeutic” interventions have failed our population.

17. We call for the implementation of advisory bodies to develop appropriate **human rights-based, lifetime, intersex standards of care** with full and meaningful participation by intersex community representatives and human rights institutions.
18. We call on the Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group⁹ and other medical/health bodies to stand alongside intersex-led community organisations to develop **human rights-based lifetime standards of care**.
19. We recognise that **intersex people have health and medical needs**, sometimes related to having an intersex variation, and sometimes not. We recognise that for people with an intersex variation, misconceptions and associated stigma can act as barriers to treatment. Current practices are often based on the needs of other populations.
20. We recognise access limitations in **rural, regional and remote** settings.
21. We call for **resourced access to necessary and appropriate health, medical and allied services and treatment**, including surgeries and hormone treatment, psychosocial, psychosexual and psychological support, and including reparative treatments. **Standards of care** must support reparative treatments, and must not require conformity with stereotypical and clinical norms for female or male bodies, women and men, nor impose inappropriate psychiatric eligibility assessments.
22. We call for the provision of alternative, independent, effective **human rights-based oversight mechanism(s)** to determine individual cases involving persons born with intersex variations who are unable to consent to treatment, bringing together human rights experts, clinicians and intersex-led community organisations. The pros and cons for and against medical treatment must be properly ventilated and considered, including the **lifetime health, legal, ethical, sexual and human rights implications**.
23. Multi-disciplinary teams must operate in line with **transparent, human rights-based standards of care** for the treatment of intersex people and bodies. Multi-disciplinary teams in hospitals must include human rights specialists, child advocates, and independent intersex community representatives.
24. Some people need pap smears, some people need prostate examinations or mammograms, and some people need a combination of these. **National screening programs and computerised systems** must recognise the needs of people born with intersex variations.
25. We call for an end to the use of IVF and other forms of **genetic selection** to de-select variations of sex characteristics.
26. We call for **access to reproductive services** and fertility counselling for all intersex people, with protection of our reproductive autonomy, regardless of whether or not our capacity for fertility is considered to be in line with our legal sex.

27. Intersex-led organisations must be resourced to develop **patient rights and human rights toolkits** for intersex people and our families to improve access to healthcare, and ensure enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
28. Children with intersex variations require clear, **age-appropriate disclosure** of their intersex variations, and affirmative support, including peer support.
29. We call for regular **public disclosure of accurate summary data** on all medical interventions to modify the sex characteristics of children, and disclosure of historical data.
30. We call for more research, including **clinical, sociological and psychological research, led by community input**. Clinical research, including longitudinal research, requires true, non-medicalised controls.
31. We call for improved and ongoing **education of health, welfare and allied professionals** in issues relating to intersex bodies, including human rights issues.
32. Children with intersex variations should never be subjected to **medical photography** and display.
33. We call for respect for the **privacy, integrity, and security of our medical records**.
34. Recognising the difficulty that some intersex people have in accessing childhood medical records, we call for **full access to medical records**. Paediatric hospital records should be kept indefinitely. The medical records of people with whole-of-life medical issues should also be kept indefinitely.
35. We call for **access to sport** at all levels of competition by all intersex persons, including for all intersex women to be permitted to compete as women, without restrictions or discriminatory medical investigations.
36. Hormone treatment is required for a lifetime after sterilisation or in cases where gonads do not produce adequate hormones. However, people with intersex variations face **unnecessary costs and challenges in accessing and managing appropriate hormone treatment**. These include access to sex hormones, the unfair and undisclosed cost of treatment required as a consequence of unwanted medical interventions, accessing testosterone and estrogen at the same time, changing from one sex hormone to the other, accessing screening, and travel restrictions, including travelling with medication and physical screening. We call for national and clinical standards to address these issues.
37. We call for the implementation of **adequate clinical transition pathways** from paediatric to adult services.
38. We call for equitable access to social and welfare services for people with intersex variations. The needs of people with intersex variations in **aged care, home care, state care, and disability services** require further investigation, with full and meaningful participation by intersex-led organisations.

Peer support

39. We recognise the **trauma and mental health concerns** caused by the unnecessary medicalisation of intersex people, as well as stigmatisation of intersex characteristics that has resulted in a legacy of isolation, secrecy and shame.
40. We recognise the fundamental importance and benefits of **affirmative peer support** for people born with variations of sex characteristics.
41. Our peer support organisations and other peer communities need resourcing and support to **build communities and networks** inclusive of all intersex people. No intersex person or parent of an intersex child should feel they are alone, irrespective of their bodily variation or the language they use.
42. We recognise the needs and lived experience of **youth**, and of people coming from varied **cultural and faith backgrounds**. We recognise these experiences as valid and legitimate.
43. We recognise the fundamental importance and benefits of **peer support for parents, caregivers, and families** of people with variations of sex characteristics. We recognise the importance and benefits of **peer support for friends, partners, and others** who support intersex people in their day-to-day lives.
44. **Peer support must be integrated** into human rights-based multi-disciplinary medical approaches, teams and services.
45. We call for **public, governmental, and philanthropic support** for funded, affirmative peer support.
46. We acknowledge that intersex people are the **experts** on our own lives and lived experience. Intersex people are experts in understanding the long term effects of medicalisation and medical interventions.

Allies

47. Intersex is distinct from other issues. We call on allies to actively **acknowledge** our distinctiveness and the diversity within our community, to **support** our human rights claims and **respect** the intersex human rights movement, **without tokenism**, or instrumentalising, or co-opting intersex issues as a means for other ends. "Nothing about us without us."
48. We encourage all organisations and bodies that support the intersex movement to **recognise this Darlington statement**.
49. We call for intersex people, and the intersex human rights movement, **to be allies** to the LGBTQ, disability, Indigenous, anti-racist, and women's movements.
50. We call on intersex people to recognise our own diversity, and call for **intra-community dialogue and mutual support**.

Education, awareness and employment

51. We acknowledge that **stigma is often the result of misconceptions** about intersex which is compounded by a lack of education and awareness.
52. We recognise that the stigmatisation and pathologisation of people born with variations of sex characteristics **hinders self-acceptance, access to community, help-seeking, and accessing of services** including healthcare.
53. We acknowledge the impacts of stigma, trauma and unwanted medical interventions on access to **education** and on **employment**, and consequences that include high rates of **early school leaving, poverty, self-harm and suicidality**.
54. We call for the inclusion of accurate and affirmative material on bodily diversity, including intersex variations, in **school curricula**, including in health and sex education.
55. We call on education and awareness providers to develop content with intersex-led organisations, and promote delivery by intersex people.
56. We call on **employer groups, governments, institutions and trade unions to develop affirmative policies and practices** to support employees with intersex variations.
57. We call for policies in **educational institutions and employment** to recognise that some people born with intersex variations may benefit from **accommodations and reasonable adjustments**, including special needs requirements, workplace adjustments, job access assistance, and provisions for medical leave.
58. We acknowledge the **vital importance of positive stories and role models** and the existence of some positive media coverage of intersex people. We acknowledge that much media work unfortunately perpetuates the stigmatisation of intersex people and bodies. We call on the **media to work with intersex-led organisations** to improve their understanding of intersex people and our human rights issues.
59. We call for an **end to the stigmatisation and unnecessary pathologisation** of intersex bodies.

- ends -

Contributors:

<http://aissga.org.au>

<http://ianz.org.nz>

<http://oii.org.au>

<http://intersexday.org>

<http://beechac.com>

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55th Guild Council – 3 / RB

REPRESENTATION BOARD – 15.02.2024

ALL STUDENTS STRIKE FOR PALESTINE NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

Submitted: Jasmyne Tweed (President)
Moved: Jasmyne Tweed (Moved)
Seconded:

Preamble:

The NDA is opportunity for students across Perth and other cities in Australia to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine and demand Australia cut ties with Israel.

Motion:

That the Representation Board:

Endorse the National Day of Action on Friday the 1st of March for all students to attend the Strike for Palestine rally organised by Students for Palestine WA.

Actions:

1. The Curtin Student Guild post about the NDA on social media.
2. The Curtin Student Guild hang posters in the Guilds poster frames.
3. That Representatives of the Curtin Student Guild attend the NDA.

Background:

High schoolers and university students are walking out of class to protest for Palestine as part of a national day of action to say: stop the genocide, lift the seige on Gaza, end the occupation of the West Bank, and demand Australia cut ties with Israel

Attachment/s:

Attachment A

[NDA Event Page Link](#)

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55th Guild Council - 3 / RB

REPRESENTATION BOARD – 15.02.2024

NUS ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Submitted: Jasmyne Tweed (President)
Moved: Jasmyne Tweed (Moved)
Seconded:

Preamble:

One of the Key Performance Indicators that the Guild has set for the NUS is that every years Annual Report and Financial Report be sent to Member Organisations.

Motion:

That the Representation Board:

notes the NUS Annual Report & Financial Statements.

Actions:

Background:

A contingent for the re-affiliation of the Curtin Student Guild to the National Union of Students is that organisation send its Member Organisations an Annual Report of the activity throughout the year and for the NUS to have an independent auditor produce a Financial Report.

Attachment/s:

Attachment A 2023 National Union of Students Activity Report

Attachment B 2023 National Union of Students Financial Report

2023
NUS Annual Activity Report

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National President - Bailey Riley

2023 has been one of the biggest years for NUS in recent memory, successfully getting students invested in their education and the issues that affect their journey through tertiary education. We started off the year with our massive campaign against HECS indexation, a part of the HECS system that many students across the country had no clue was being applied to their already large HECS debts. This campaign became a national issue, with parents & grandparents calling up the NUS to show their support and sharing the hundreds of articles that talked about the issue.

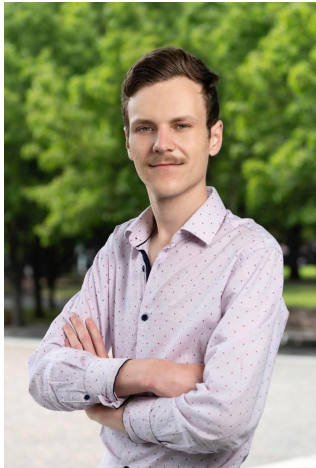
While HECS Indexation was the largest issue we fought for this year, it was far from the only one. We fought for a range of issues and have won many big concessions that will greatly improve the lives of students in tertiary education, these battles include.

The Australian University Accord: Working together with many of our member unions, NUS has made 3 submissions and appeared at 3 Ministerial reference groups lobbying for drastic reform in the university sector. Our key wins already include the abolishment of the 50% pass rule and legislation that puts the onus on universities to support their struggling students. There is still more to fight for, especially with the final report set to come out early next year. The NUS must hold the government accountable and organise to make sure all of our recommendations end up legislated by Labor.

Student Ombudsman and Response to Sexual Assault on Campus: Working alongside EROC, The Stop Campaign & Fair Agenda, NUS ran a large social media campaign that put sexual assault & harassment in our Universities at the forefront of Australian media. Through this, we got pledges from the Federal Education Minister that Legislation would be developed and co-designed with students, victim-survivors and experts in the field. This was an intense process that occurred over 3 months, with recommendations coming out including a federal Student Ombudsman and a National Code that would apply to all universities & students

Budget Protest: NUS organised with many of our member organisations to stage a protest outside of Parliament House calling on the government to listen to students, raise the rate of youth allowance & change the age of independence. We were joined by members of the

General Secretary - Sheldon Gait



Comrades, Patriots and Regional Hero's - my name is Sheldon Gait and I have the extraordinary privilege of being your National Union of Students General Secretary for 2023.

Education is the driving force of social mobility in this country. It should be the right of every Australian to access the highest standard of education and the right of every student to be given the greatest chance to succeed in their studies.

Governance and Administration

This year I have been your main point of contact with the NUS for 2023. My role has included communicating with member organisations, coordinating conferences, accreditation and providing administrative support.

During this term of office, we have seen new campuses accredit for the first time in many years this includes the following campuses.

- University of Queensland,
- Victoria University,
- Western Sydney University,
- University of Tasmania and,
- Murdoch University



Lobbying and Campaigns

As a team we have met with over 30 Federal MPs and Senators including the Education Minister Jason Clare. We have used these meetings to advocate for Minimum SSAF for student organisations, changing the age of Centrelink and HECS indexation.

With indexation at a rate of 7.1% the average debt will increase by \$1,700 meaning that individual HECS debts will increase even if a student or graduate doesn't earn enough to pay it down. We have gained a lot of media attention around this issue with NUS being cited in over 40 newspaper articles, 8 Television interviews and 20 radio interviews.

Submissions and Reports

I have been involved with four reports this year. This has involved a substantial amount of research and reaching out to campuses and collating their issues and feedback. These have included the NUS submissions to:

- The University Accords
- The 23-24 Federal Budget
- The senate inquiry on international education sectors and,
- Post-budget analysis for campus leaders.

Events

In my role I am responsible for the logistics and coordination of conferences this includes catering, ticketing, room bookings, scheduling and booking travel for office bearers. In February we had a successful President's Summit. We had in attendance 80 student leaders from over 20 different campuses, including those who have not attended a National Union of Students event in several years.

I also planned and organised tendering and logistics for a successful Education Conference at the University of Queensland with 290 people in attendance where topics such as AUKUS and the University Accords were discussed.

The last 2 months of my year oversaw the planning of the National Conference with over 300 people in attendance including 120 overnight on campus. Thank you to Federation University for hosting us and I hope you have all enjoyed Ballarat.

Campus Visits

So far this year I have had the privilege of visiting 21 member campuses. This includes: ANU, Newcastle University, UTS, University of Sydney, UNSW, Western Sydney University, QUT, University of Queensland, University of South Australia, Melbourne University, RMIT University, Deakin University, Swinburne University, Victoria University, Monash University, La Trobe University, University of Tasmania, UWA, Curtin University, Murdoch University and Edith Cowan University

National Education Officer - Xavier Dupe

We're in the midst of a global movement against racism and war. Weekly Palestine rallies across Australia have drawn tens of thousands, including students. Over ten thousand Palestinians, including over 4000 children, have been killed in bombings and thousands more displaced by Israel's invasion of Gaza. Israel's crimes are fully backed by the Australian government. Australia refused to even vote for a ceasefire in the UN and are still bound to Israel and the US.

I've been organising students to oppose this historic atrocity. This is about being on the right side of history. When the media are justifying and apologising for this genocide, students are taking to the streets to challenge the status quo. We're not sitting by while children are bombed in our name.

This is a vindication of the approach I've taken in the Education Office this year. The role of student unions is to challenge the system, not to suck up to the rich and powerful who treat ordinary people like dirt.

That's why I joined striking university staff this year, including the historic strikes at Melbourne University. These staff have held multiple week-long strikes to demand above-inflation pay rises and secure jobs. They should be an inspiration to every unionist. And they were supported by a dynamic student solidarity campaign. I spoke to the media, including the Age, ABC and Guardian, to spotlight this historic strike, with ABC quoting my comments that "It's the largest university strike in memory... You could feel the anger in the air." I joined strikes at Deakin, RMIT and La Trobe and promoted NTEU actions across the country.

My Get A Room! Campaign, which made headlines after Sydney students targeted the Reserve Bank, put the blame for the housing crisis where it belongs - with the banks and investors ripping off students, and the ALP who've demolished public housing and refused to freeze rents. We also protested the universities who've sold off student accommodation to for-profit providers and left students paying hundreds for shoebox rooms. Students rallied around the country and the joint NUS-Greens rally in Sydney I spoke at drew hundreds demanding a rent freeze. The Guardian and Australian also quoted my comments that Labor's was a "budget for the rich" that left students drowning in HECS while the rich get tax cuts.

While letting students struggle in poverty, Labor's overseen the AUKUS deal. This has bound us closer to the US bloc that props up Israel's war crimes in Gaza, and is pushing us towards a disastrous US-China war. It's already cost \$313 billion on nuclear submarines that could have been spent on making education free, providing public housing or raising welfare above the poverty line. That's why I organised students around the country to demand welfare not warfare. We demanded our universities cut ties with AUKUS - education should be for people, not war.

This was also the theme of this year's Education Conference, which featured Greens MP Max Chandler-Mather among other guests. NUS debated issues that will continue to affect students, including the US alliance, the housing crisis and the role of the ALP. We also debated how to fight racism in this country. The defeat of the Voice referendum is a victory for the political right, and it makes it all the more urgent that anti-racists join the movement for Palestine - the biggest sustained movement against racism in years.

NUS has an opportunity to stand on the right side of history. To connect with the thousands of students who are sick of all of this - of the war crimes, the racism, the climate crisis and the poverty. I urge everyone in NUS to join that fight.



Womens Officer - Emily Searle

Hi everyone,

What a big year it has been in the women's portfolio. I want to extend a huge thank you to the Women's collectives and student activism groups that have been at the forefront of fighting for change at your own campuses.

As we approach the end of the year, it is important to both assess the strides we've made and the challenges that lie ahead in our ongoing commitment to address the pervasive issue of sexual assault and harassment (SASH) in university settings. Our commitment to holding universities accountable for their responses remains unwavering.

Our overarching campaign for 2023, in collaboration with End Rape on Campus, Fair Agenda and the Stop Campaign, was a resounding call for an independent federal Taskforce dedicated to overseeing and ensuring accountability in addressing SASH. The #IDESERVESAFETY campaign attracted attention from media and politicians alike and jump started a national conversation on the inadequacies of our current system.

We kept the pressure on the government through petitions and social media campaigns as recommendations were handed down from the Accords process and have seen some very promising results such as the government's draft action plan to address gender-based violence in higher education released on the 22nd November which contains potentially transformative recommendations.

Our campaign persists, and we urge more students to join us in this crucial effort. Our collaboration with Women's Officers across the country empowers them with the tools to form a collective national voice. Together, we advocate for campuses to be safe spaces and for those who perpetuate violence to be held accountable.

Throughout the year, I was honoured to participate in the broader NUS campaigns, including the 50% SSAF, Change the Age and HECS/HELP Indexation. I was part of the social media team during the Protest the Budget Rally during budget week in Canberra and engaged with MPs, Senators, and Ministers to explain the gravity of these issues.

Multiple appearances in the media provided platforms to discuss the inefficiencies of university consent training, the disproportionate impact of HECS indexation on women, and the initiatives student unions are implementing to address the cost-of-living crisis. We also made a submission to the Senate Consent Inquiry, advocating for federally mandated affirmative consent laws.



More projects undertaken this year were:

- Being part of the organising team for Edcon, liaising with the UQU Office Bearers
- Hosted a national meeting with Women's Officers from across that country that proved invaluable for fostering discussions that strengthened our collective efforts
- Participated in the “UN Youth Global Student Forum – On the Status of Women” as the Australian Youth Representative
- Captaining the UQ Students For Yes Campaign
- Contributing to and assisting with the development of the Accords Interim Report
- Encouraged members of the NUS National executive to show their support for the #IDESERVESAFETY campaign (pictured)
- Collaborating with researchers at Southern Cross University to understand and provide recommendations on consent education in the Australian tertiary context, with a particular focus on student accommodation settings.



As the year comes to an end, I want to express my gratitude for the collective efforts and dedication demonstrated by students, officers, and organizations involved in our initiatives. The journey continues, and I encourage everyone to stay engaged and reach out with any insights or concerns. Together, we are making strides toward safer and more accountable university environments.

Indigenous Office - Patrick Taylor

This year we had a hard-fought referendum for the voice to parliament unfortunately, it did not pass, but as the student population, we were able to come together in support of the students for Yes where we saw events happening at universities all over the country.

I was not able to travel as much as I thought I would this year, but my travel for the year was to Adelaide, where myself and the University of Adelaide student union did a talk about the voice to parliament. While also in Adelaide, I was able to meet with the attorney general of South Australia Kyam Maher, to talk about issues facing First Nation students at the university

Also, had I had the opportunity to go up to Canberra earlier this year and talk to a few MPs about the Students for Yes campaign

Did a few talks at Edcon around the students for yes and the voice to parliament.

Throughout the year, I worked closely with the Victorian Trades Hall on their Voice to Parliament working group and the Young Workers Center, both doing a talk at their solidarity night and the Young Workers conference.

Was able to travel back to Adelaide to go to Ethnocon and hear from amazing POC students from around the country talking about things that are affecting them with their university life. I was also able to do a talk on how we need to make universities a culturally safe space for First Nations student

Just wanted to finish off by thanking everyone who had a hand in the Students for yes campaign this year or helped out with their local yes campaign group

Students for Yes will be transforming into a platform to fight for First Nations justice and reconciliation over the next few months



Ethnocultural Officer - Ben Naiju

My name is Ben Naiju and I have had the honour of being your NUS National Ethnocultural Officer for 2023. This has been an amazing experience working with office bearers around the country of a range of POC issues. The highlight of my year defiantly has been Ethnocon and all the amazing people who presented. In leaving this role I wish my successor all the best and am eager to see all they accomplish.



Across the Nation

I have had the pleasure of travelling to as many universities to meet with numerous NUS Student leaders. My first trip was the Victoria as part of the Presidents Summit where I got to meet a whole range of campus leaders alongside the NUS leadership team. During this opportunity I was fortunate to see the POC Safe Spaces provided by UMSU and the UMSU POC Collective. Hiba, Mohamad and Disha have done an amazing job alongside their team in setting such a high standard for the country to follow.



While in Western Australia I was lucky enough to meet with campus leaders from all across the great State. I spent time meeting with other Guild leaders from ECU, UWA, Curtin and Murdoch while talking about a whole range of Ethnocultural issues and how we as a national union can support our friends in the west.



I was also fortunate to meet with the President and Equity Vice-President at the University of Tasmania to speak on the amazing work they do in supporting their students and how advocacy of minority groups need to be better supported across every university. Across the year, through conferences and visits I was able to meet many more leaders and hear their concerns and what their unions and collectives have achieved! It is amazing to see the hard work each of these student leaders achieve!



Education Conference

One of the highlights of my time in the NUS is running the Safe Spaces workshop alongside my two great friends and strong students' leaders Mohamed and Nour. Alongside Mohamed Hadi, the UMSU POC Officer and Nour Al Hammouri, the President of UTSSA, we spoke about the importance of POC spaces on campuses across the country. This presentation saw discussions about how different unions have built their space and connected student leaders who were eager to implement this on their campuses.



Following on, alongside Disha Zutshi, the Gen Sec of UMSU, we hosted a workshop in the important role student unions have in combatting racism. During this discussion we heard from a range of POC voices on what questions needed to be asked. We explored the importance of Racism Reports taking the ANUSA BIPOC Department and UMSU POC Collectives work as an example of how student unions fight for the voices and experiences of POC students.



OUR VOICES | OUR SAPCES| OUR RIGHTS

Ethnocon was hosted on Kaurna Land at Tandanya, the place of the red kangaroo. There has never been a more important time to talk about the importance in realising the Uluru Statement and its goals of Voice, Treaty and Truth in their entirety. During this conference, the NUS reaffirmed its position and fight in delivering the Uluru Statement in full!

Thanks to the help of NUS South Australian SBP and USASA President Issac Solomon, NUS Welfare Officer Grace Franko and their amazing South Australian team, students leaders across the country descended on the University of South Australia for Ethnocon.

The conference saw participants from across many universities come together to celebrate in our diversity, to hear the voices of our people of colour students, to ensure there is a safe and supportive platform for us to express what we want done and to commit to fighting for this movement not as merely a gesture, but as the unquestionable fight to deliver what is a right!

Ethnocon saw a whole range of discussion surrounding through; the Voice to Parliament YES23 Plenary, Cultural Safety for Indigenous students hosted by the NUS First Nations Officer, Patrick Taylor and a Yarning Circle hosted by the NUS President, Bailey Riley. Across the week, there were a range of workshops on; Lets talk Palestine, the Sudanese Crisis, POC Regional Students, Jewish Students in Activism, Ethnic Biases and AI and Global Student Forum. Plenaries were held on; Australian Youth Law – International Students and Union Leaders, Refugee Resettlement, Tertiary Refugee Student Network and UNHCR,

Throughout the conference panels were held with student leaders from all walks of life sharing their experience and guidance. These topics included Safe Spaces, More than a business: International Students Matter, Murdoch Guild: Are we doing enough, Culture & Cultural Appropriation, Racism Report Case Studies and a panel with the NUS 2023 Office Bearer team.

I hope to see the National Ethnocultural Conference run bigger and better in the years to follow! Hearing POC voices is important, fighting for what is right alongside them is even more so! I wish the next NUS Ethnocultural Officer and the 2024 NUS team the very best and look forward to seeing all that you achieve!

National Disabilities Officer - Isabella Harding

What a year! This year has been a whirlwind for the disabilities portfolio with the Royal Commission into the Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of people with disabilities being handed down this year and the Australian University Accords both presenting an unprecedented opportunity for change.

This year I had several key goals:

- Nothing with us, without us: I wanted to bring a disabilities perspective to all the work the NUS does.
- Bringing our community together: I was very keen on creating a stronger disability office-bearer network and bringing us all together to share our stories and knowledge.
- Translate reports into action: Make the recommendations in the 2022 in the NUS-ALSA-AMSA Report 'Disability and Higher Education' a reality by creating a Disability Education Commissioner.
- Duty of Care: Making universities and TAFEs responsible for student safety and welfare, especially for their discriminatory and ableist attitudes and practices, through establishing a duty of care was so important to me.
- Dealing with Student Accommodation: I wanted to compile a report into inaccessibility in on-campus accommodations, which I unfortunately didn't get to do this year. (On a side note, check out the National Code and national action plan proposed by the government for sexual assault and harassment which will also apply to residences and came about a result of strong student-centred advocacy from the NUS, the Stop Campaign and End Rape on Campus).

We Need Both:

The first challenge presented itself before I even began the role with the return of in-person, on-campus learning with no virtual alternative for those of us who needed it. This had disproportionate impacts on immunocompromised people and wheelchair users as well as regional students and survivors of violence or sexual assault and harassment on campus. Myself and many disabled campus office bearers (OBs) launched the 'We Need Both' campaign to fight for learning to be accessible. Special shout out goes to Jordy and Sian at UQ for working super hard on this campaign.

We got some media work, including an article in the Age and an ABC radio interview. Shout out to the wonderful Alison for going on the record about their experience of being refused in in-person learning at Victorian University. Check the article out [here](#).

We had a small speak-out in front of Minister Jason Clare's office that, due to some freaks of nature, (including my bus to Sydney being cancelled at 1am the night before eek) had a small turnout. Protesting for people with disabilities can be exhausting and inaccessible, so having some other options for accessibility such as email writing and phone-banking was helpful. Thank you to the Disability Officers at University of Sydney, including SUPRA, University of New South Wales and University of Technology Sydney for being so supportive.

Duty of Care: the Accords and the lot:

We realised that We Need Both didn't go far enough and we needed to campaign for the higher level legislative changes to ensure our learning was accessible for everyone. As such I proudly launched the "Duty to Care" campaign for a student-led duty of care model on universities for student safety, wellbeing and anti-discrimination. This was endorsed by the NUS and referenced in our submissions to the Accord. I also submitted personal submissions and worked with other high profile disabilities organisations such as All Means All: Australian Alliance for Inclusive Education to submit to the Department of Education's consultation paper on 'Guidelines for Supporting Students.'

A list of all my contribution to this year's submissions are below:

- [Joint NUS Submission to the Australian Universities Accords Panel about the Discussion Paper:](#) I developed the sections about Universal Design of Learning, Hybrid Learning and the Disability Standards for Education
- [Private submission to the Australian Universities Accords Panel on the Duty of Care Outline.](#)
- [Joint NUS Submission to the Australian Universities Accords Panel about the Interim Report:](#) I co-wrote the section 'Student Priorities for the National Student Charter.
- [Australian Medical Students Association's submission about the Interim Report:](#) referenced our Duty of Care recommendations.
- [Submission to the Department of Education on the "Support for Students Policy"](#)

Our submission was discussed in the Australian Accords Interim Report, compiled by the Accords Panel. The Duty of Care, and in particular, the recommendation to allow the Commonwealth Ombudsman to be able to receive complaints from students at public universities got some traction.

We were also invited to the Roundtable on Disability in Higher Education hosted by the Accords panel, where we made many arguments for a strong student ombudsman and Disability Education Commissioner. Many other organisations got on board which was wonderful to see.

We've managed to get tertiary education and accessibility on the agenda. We are now a part of All Means All: Alliance for Inclusive Education as the only tertiary education organisation. We have had extensive support this year on these issues from so many organisations, it's impossible to name them all but there are some people I'd particularly like to thank.

- Andrew from Australian Law Students Association
- Tishapaa from Australian Medical Students Association
- Sharna from End Rape on Campus
- Catia from All Means All: Alliance for Inclusive Education
- Skye and Sue from Children and Young People with Disability
- Paul Harpur, the Representative for Disabilities on the Ministerial Reference Group for the Accords.
- Darlene from Australian Disability Clearinghouse for Education and Training
- Alistair from the Public Interest Advocacy Centre

- Cathy from Australian Tertiary Education Network on Disability
- Dr Deanna Grant-Smith

The Disability Royal Commission (DRC):

The DRC was something that previous office-bearers had put lots of work in developing submissions for. The Commission handed its final report and recommendations down this year. It was very disappointing to see tertiary education, and some key student issues such as the rate of the Disability Support Pension (DSP) not discussed at all. However, some very positive recommendations have come out for the disabled community at large that we are very pleased to see. Some of the key ones are:

1. Create a Disability Rights Act in line with the CRPD (the CRPD has a right to access tertiary education so a new area to explore there)
2. Reform the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) to include:
 - a) a positive duty to prevent all forms of discrimination, harassment and victimisation against people with disability on duty holders defined in the DDA.
 - b) protections against vilification and offensive conduct on the basis of disability
 - c) a stand-alone duty to provide adjustments that do not incur unjustifiable hardship.
3. Establish a federal Minister for Disability Inclusion that is responsible for the Department of Disability Inclusion and Equality, transferred from the Department of Social Services

These changes start the shift of perspective that d/Disabled people are an autonomous community capable of agency but requiring a legislative push against entrenched ableist practices and attitudes.

Wins this year:

Something I am very proud of this year was continuing my previous office-bearer, Georgie McDaid's efforts to put disabilities on the map. By collaborating with a variety of different NGOs and building off the amazing report Andy Shim and Georgie McDaid made together, we've begun to see a government shift to a pro-disabilities rights stance. But there have been some small wins along the way that I am happy to announce.

1. After consultations with the Department of Social Services, the NUS and many other student organisations have expanded the eligibility of the DSP to include ADHD and fluctuating conditions. A GP is sufficient to give medical evidence too, so less expensive appointments with a specialist.
2. Our wonderful Accessible Activism resource has been updated to include pandemic protests, because our activism can't stop with a lockdown. Check it out and share it around!
3. After lots of hard political debate, ANUSA has decided to fully affiliate to the NUS! It's so important that our stronger student unions help out to take the burden off our more vulnerable ones. The university sector campaigns on the national level and so should we. ♥[heart emoji].
4. Protest attendance: Honestly, I really pushed myself to attend as many student-led protests as I could. As a working student who eventually wants to graduate, it can be

hard to fit everything in with balancing my health. From the stunt at the ANU Commencement Speech about the importance of climate action to attending and speaking at two Budget Day protests, it was a lot of work but I'm glad I did it.

Some Thank you-s:

Firstly, I really want to thank the Office-Bearer team and National Executive this year. So many of you supported me and challenged me. Special thanks to Bailey and the other NLS OBs for supporting me this year and trying to make sure that the disabilities portfolio was included. Thank you Sheldon for making time to pick my calls about some administrative drama. I've really appreciated your insight this year. Love you Grace Franco, Ben Naiju and Cheyne for being the amazing forces of nature you are! Your kindness and good vibes kept me almost sane this year!!

Our Disabilities OB community really came together this year and there were some wonderful activists that I am excited to see go far. Big shout outs to those who came to our organising meetings, who were active in the NUS Disability Action Group page and helped with all the campaigns. You do the most and are the backbone of the NUS!

Thank you to my NLS disabled comrades, in particular Jordy, for supporting me and helping so much with the 'We Need Both' campaign. Your experience and your no-bullshit attitude has really kept everything in perspective! I'm so excited to see what you do next!

Thank you to previous office-bearer/ anti-ableist battler Georgie McDaid. Your incredible work last year helped me so much in developing our duty of care. The fact that you always picked my calls with a new perspective really kept me going through some of the fuckery this year.

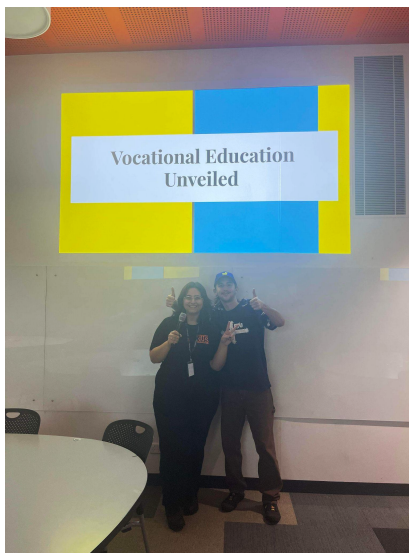
The biggest thank you goes to the incredible Andrew Shim, the Australian Law Students' Association' Disability Officer. The work you put in this year and the passion you have is truly inspiring. Honestly, I don't think I could have done this role without you, your constant hype and depth of knowledge. Thank you!

National VE Officer - Salwa Kilzi

Hey Everyone!

As we round off the year, I want to reflect on the highlights of my time as the Vocational Education Officer for the National Union of Students (NUS).

From the beginning, I focused on laying a solid foundation. This involved reaching out to TAFEs across Australia, creating a dedicated Facebook page for communication, and thoroughly researching student unions. These initial steps were crucial for fostering a more connected and informed approach to addressing the unique challenges faced by TAFE students.

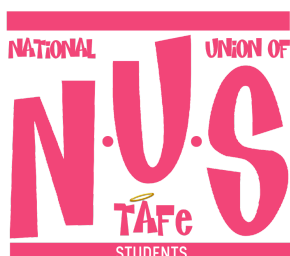


One notable highlight this year was my participation in EdCon and Presssummit, where I had the opportunity to speak about the importance of TAFE. It was an enriching experience connecting with others, sharing insights, and contributing to the conversation about the future of education.

I also attended EthnoCon, where I discussed global injustices and discrimination within the TAFE system. Addressing these issues is essential for creating an inclusive and equitable educational environment. Through a thorough analysis of existing systems and proactive suggestions for improvement, we've taken meaningful steps toward creating an environment that supports the diverse needs of all students.

Another significant project revolved around addressing inconsistencies in the quality of education across different certificate and diploma programs. Our survey aimed to gather data on issues such as messy timetables and chaotic class schedules, emphasizing the importance of improvements for the benefit of all TAFE students. Link to survey <https://forms.gle/5ZTj6BYQPfUF74d3A>

Efforts to raise awareness about student unions among TAFE students have been rewarding. Providing guides on how to unionize and discussing Learning Access Plans are steps towards empowering students to have a voice in shaping their educational experience and future careers.



Active participation in meetings, collaboration with research companies, and contributing to a submission to the Standing

Committee on Employment, Education, and Training on the perceptions of vocational education have enriched our understanding and enabled us to actively engage in conversations that drive positive change.

As the year concludes, I want to express my gratitude for everyone that remembered to include VET and TAFE students in the conversation. Let's remember that TAFE is not just an educational institution; it's a lifeline for many. It plays a pivotal role in providing accessible and practical education to a diverse range of students, empowering them with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in the workforce. #UPTHETAFES #UNIONISETAFE



Wishing you a wonderful end of the year.

Salwa Kilzi
(she/her)
Vocational Education Officer, NUS

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS INC.

Reg No. AO1837

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

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NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS INC.
Reg No. AO1837
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE'S REPORT
For the Year ended 30 September 2023

Your National Executive submits the financial report of the National Union of Students Inc. for the year ended 30 September 2023.

National Executive Members

The names of the National Executive members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

2023

Bailey Riley, Sheldon Gait, Xavier Dupe, Grace Franco, Emily Serie, Damien Nguyen, Grace Hill, Patrick Taylor, Isabella Harding, Koushik Mukherjee, Ben Naiju, Cheyne Howard, Salwa Kilzi, Isaac Solomon, Guleid Abdullahi, Aidan O'Rourke, Luke Manning, Benjamin Myatt, Dylan Botica, Ngaire Bogeman, Georgia Thomas, Caleb Watts, Cara Rowe, Devanschu Arora, Ravindra Sudewo, Jedd Dryden, Disha Zutshi, Alexander Knowles, Hannah Horton, Julie Dickson, Nidzam Shah Hussain.

2022

Georgie Beatty, Emily Sagolj, Luc Velez, William Zimmermann, Jacqueline Price, Eleanor Hickey, Jordy Duffey, Zebadiah Cruickshank, Georgie McDaid, Dhruv Sabharwal, Akshay Jose, Jonathan De La Pena, Isaac Solomon, Beatrice Co, Emma Hogan, Beatrice Tucker, Faizan Akram, Adam Steiner, Alex Nancarrow, Grace Hill, Guleid Abdullahi, Isobel O'Dwyer, Jeremy Gilchrist, Kedar Krishnan, Kelly Cvetkova, Sabrine Yassine, Sinead Winn, Tiana Myers, Trisha Banga.

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the National Union of Students Incorporated (the Association) during the financial year was the provision of student service facilities to its members at all levels within Australia.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of this activity occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The net profit of the Association for the year ended 30 September 2023 amounted to \$166,116

Signed in accordance with a resolution for the National Executive by:

Bailey Riley
President

Dated: 12/12/2023



Sheldon Gait
General Secretary

Dated: 12/12/2023



National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Statement of Financial Position
For the Year ended 30 September 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	957,944	755,226
Trade and Other Receivables	3	306,109	696,738
Total Current Assets		1,264,054	1,451,964
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	4	0	0
Total Non-Current Assets		0	0
Total Assets		1,264,054	1,451,964
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	5	123,736	78,338
Employee Benefits	6	10,210	6,745
Total Current Liabilities		133,947	85,083
Total Liabilities		133,947	85,083
Net Assets		1,130,107	1,366,881
Members' Funds			
Retained Profits		1,130,107	1,366,882
Total Members' Funds		1,130,107	1,366,882

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the Year ended 30 September 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Income from Ordinary Activities		
Revenue	755,818	717,574
Less Expenditure		
Administration Expenditure	58,759	61,168
Conference Expenditure	146,684	40,551
Office Bearers Expenditure	39,387	14,021
Employment and Oncosts	344,871	296,019
Total Expenses	589,702	411,760
Net Surplus / (Deficit) before Tax*	166,116	305,815
Retained Profits at the beginning of the financial year	1,366,882	1,053,388
Retained Profits at the end of the financial year	1,130,107	1,366,882

* Note the association is exempt from income tax

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Cash Flow Statement
For the Year ended 30 September 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash receipts from customers	1,146,446	498,784
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	(943,730)	(377,881)
	202,717	120,903
Government Subsidies	0	0
Net cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities	202,717	120,903
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Prepayments	0	(2,167)
Purchases of Plant & Equipment	0	0
Net Cash Flows used in Investing Activities	0	(2,167)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash Held	202,717	118,736
Cash at beginning of financial year	755,227	636,491
Cash at end of financial year - Note A	957,944	755,227

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Cashflow Statement
For the Year ended 30 September 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Note A - Reconciliation of Cash		
For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money markets. Cash at the end of the year is shown in the cash flow statement and is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:		
Cash at bank	481,676	278,959
Deposits - Interest Bearing	476,268	476,268
	957,944	755,227
	957,944	755,227
Note B - Reconciliation of Net Cash used in Operating Activities to Profit / (Loss) after Income Tax		
Profit / (Loss) after income tax	166,116	305,814
Non- cash flows in profit / (loss) after income tax:		
Depreciation		
Changes in Assets & Liabilities:		
(Increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	390,629	(218,790)
Increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables	45,398	24,033
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefits	3,465	0
	605,609	111,056
Net cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities	605,609	111,056

The Association has no credit stand-by or financing facilities in place.

There were no non-cash financing or investing activities during the period.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Detailed Income & Expenditure Statement
For the Year ended 30 September 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Earned Income:		
Affiliation fees	516,541	654,909
Other Earned Income	65,089	14,361
National & other conference income	146,647	24,351
Education Conference	19,265	4,966
Presidents Summit	2,400	9,521
Ethnocon	5,875	4,716
Project Grants Inc	0	4,750
	755,818	717,574
Administration Expenditure		
Strategic Planning		2,850
Subscriptions	1,004	5,095
Building Maintenance & Cleaning	0	0
General Expenses	0	0
Insurance	3,937	3,736
Office Equipment	204	14
Office expenses	1,837	1,672
Rent	35,881	24,584
Computer costs	15	16
Advertising and marketing	0	3,000
Internet	0	0
Interest	0	559
Photocopier expenses	0	0
Printing	0	0
Stationery	0	0
Telephone	0	567
Accounting and Audit	8,094	7,686
Bank fees	155	145
Discount allowed	0	2,151
Legal costs	4,623	7,564
Utilities	1,080	1,470
Training	1,930	0
Sundry	0	60
Website Expenses	0	0
Total Administration expenditure	58,759	61,168

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Detailed Income & Expenditure Statement
For the Year ended 30 September 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Conference Expenditure		
National conference	62,247	22,703
President summit	58,065	4,764
Education conference	18,291	5,470
National Conference Fares (Secretarial)	1,984	0
Ethnocon	3,593	4,358
Conference Expenses - Other	2,505	3,257
Total Conference expenditure	146,684	40,551
Office Bearers' Expenditure		
Conferences	4,107	0
Mobile phones	1,537	758
Travel & Accomodation	28,808	5,494
Campaigns	2,409	956
State Officer Expenses	1,777	0
Project Grants	0	6,650
OB Expenses - other	750	163
Total Office Bearers' Expenditure	39,387	14,021
Employment and Oncosts		
Wages	314,280	268,961
Superannuation	25,585	27,058
Workcover	5006.45	0
Employee entitlment provision	0	0
Union fees	0	0
Total Employment and oncosts	344,871	296,019
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	589,702	411,760
Net Surplus / (Deficit) before Tax*	166,116	305,814

* Note the association is exempt from income tax

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year ended 30 September 2023

1 . STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation ACT 1991. The National Executive has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The Association was incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory on 2 May 2005.

The financial report has been prepared on accrual basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non- current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(a) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Plant and equipment are brought to account at cost. The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

(b) Income Tax

No income tax has been paid, as the Association is exempt from income tax pursuant to section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment ACT 1997, as amended.

(c) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Contributions made by Association to an employee superannuation fund are charged as expenses when incurred.

(d) Leases

Lease payments under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

(e) Accounts of Branch Organisations

These accounts do not include any of the accounts of branch organisations.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year ended 30 September 2023

(f) Comparative Figures

Where required, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in accounting policies and presentation for the current year.

(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the assets and liabilities statement are shown inclusive of GST.

(h) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(i) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short- term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

2 .	CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2023	2022
		\$	\$
	Cash at bank	478,214	278,602
	Prepaid Master Card	3,463	356
	Deposits - Interest Bearing	476,268	476,268
		957,944	755,226
3 .	TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
	Trade Debtors	306,109	694,571
	Prepayments	0	2,167
		306,109	696,738
4 .	PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
	Plant and Equipment - at cost	0	0
	Less: Accumulated Depreciation	0	0
		0	0
5 .	TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
	Trade Creditors and Accruals	-	916
	PAYG Withholding Tax	12,474	10,730
	GST	111,262	66,692
		123,736	78,338

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year ended 30 September 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
6 . EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		
Provision for Annual Leave	0	0
Provision for RDO'S	0	0
Provision for Redundancy	0	0
Provision for Long Service Leave	0	0
Payroll Liabilities	1,226	0
Superannuation	8,984	6,745
Union	0	0
	<u>10,210</u>	<u>6,745</u>

7 . RELATED PARTIES

There were no related party transactions that required disclosure in the financial statements

8 . SEGMENT REPORTING

The Association operates in the student organisation sector providing student service facilities to member of the Association within Australia.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
For the Year ended 30 September 2023

The National Executive has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements

In the opinion of the National Executive the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 10

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Union of Students Inc. As at 30 September 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the National Union of Students Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the National Executive and is signed for and on behalf of the National Executive by:

Bailey Riley
President
Dated: 12/12/2023



Sheldon Gait
General Secretary
Dated: 12/12/2023



NUS Natcon 2023 report - Danica Scott

As of December 11, 2023, the first day of the NUS National Conference, more than 18,000 Palestinians had been murdered in Israel's genocidal assault and invasion of Gaza, including over 7,000 children. There had been mass internal displacement of well over a million people within the Gaza strip towards the south, by then the main target of bombing despite its previous designation as a "safe zone". None of this horror has stopped since, the dead now numbering above 28,000 and mass starvation and disease spread sweeping the still-besieged population. Health services, in the few places where they still exist, are barely functioning. A majority of buildings in the entire Gaza strip have been destroyed in the indiscriminate and deliberate bombing, detonation, and demolition by Israel.

At the same time, a mass movement has been taking place in Australia, like nothing seen before in support of Palestine. Every single weekend since October 7 in most major Australian cities, thousands have rallied against the genocide, and against the Australian government's unambiguous in-practice support of Israel.

This is the context in which the NUS National Conference 2023 took place, and took on a particular importance. The NUS, with a budget of over a million dollars, an ability to reach almost a million students around the country, and a tangible social weight behind it, could play an important role in making a firm stand against the genocide in Gaza and being a part of the ongoing movement.

Several motions in support of Palestine and against the war on Gaza were passed unanimously, but the dominance of Student Unity meant that many motions were held back, and the ones that passed watered down by removing action points and softening language. Disgracefully, members of their leadership were not condemned for their participation on a junket to Israel earlier in the year.

Motions being passed in support of Palestine was significant, and was the most important outcome of Natcon, not just for NUS itself but for the student body, including Curtin's. However, words spoken inside a closed room in Ballarat are cheap. Since the conference, the NUS has put out no public position against the genocide – the official social media platforms are completely silent on the question – let alone made any real attempt to mobilise students to or otherwise support the weekly demonstrations. The same is true of student unions around the country, including Curtin's, aside from one statement put up during the conference.

Given the ongoing genocide in Gaza, there was an intense urgency for NUS to take a position in support of Palestine. Despite this, the National Labor Students, including most of Curtin's delegates, wasted almost an entire day of the conference by pulling quorum in protest of a motion condemning election rigging in the La Trobe Student Union elections. This childish decision served only to waste time that should have been spent debating the immediately pressing questions related to Palestine and the cost-of-living crisis, the other major political backdrop to the conference.

It is plainly obvious that the federal Labor government is overseeing – that is, actively implementing – the biggest attack on living standards in a generation. Real wages are falling for almost all workers, rents are allowed to skyrocket completely unchecked, welfare remains at poverty levels. Meanwhile, the government is handing out tax cuts to the rich (expanded though they may be, the rich still are the main beneficiaries), spending hundreds of billions on nuclear submarines and other military purposes, doing nothing to address the housing crisis that worsens every day, and refusing to increase the desperately underfunded welfare and healthcare systems.

Given this, it is clear that the NUS needs to take an oppositional stand towards the government. Almost two years into this term, Albanese has demonstrated that his Labor Party has no interest other than ruling for the rich, throwing out a few crumbs for workers, students, and the poor to get some good PR every now and then.

Instead, NUS resolved to continue its sycophantic sucking-up to the ALP. Labor Left students may have leveled some criticism of the government, but again, words are cheap. It is in the interests of students that NUS is a fighting body willing to stand up against attacks, not roll over. Nowhere could this be clearer than with the University Accords process, reaffirmed at Natcon. NUS's consultative rather than combative approach amounts to acting as a rubber stamp for the government, who we have no reason to believe will do anything other than rule for the interests of big business and the university bosses. Instead of making our demands and putting up a fight for them, NUS will ask politely from a position of weakness.

There can be no question that Curtin's participation in the NUS and Natcon are essential for being an effective student union, and I see my personal participation in the conference as part of being an activist student unionist. Curtin students, and all students for that matter, will be best off with a political student Guild and NUS willing to throw themselves into activist movements and make a stand for student interests. Backing, building, and organising in the still-going Palestine solidarity movement would be a good start.

National Conference 2024 Report

Athina Hilman

I was lucky enough to be selected as a delegate for the National Union of Students National conference this year, which took place in Melbourne. It was an honor to represent students at a larger scale, so we can fight for issues that concern Curtin students. This year as a delegate, I chose to align myself with the National Labor of Students (NLS). While I was elected on an independent ticket for Guild elections, I thought my vote would go a long way in a larger pre-existing student party. I also felt their values were the ones that closely aligned with mine.

As I chose to be part of NLS, I also took up a position within NLS as their POC (People of Colour) co-convener. Being POC co-convener was important to me because I knew the issues that POCs face on campus, I understood their academic issues and I was going to do my best to try and fix them. As co-convener, I oversaw motions and policies that concerned BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) and ensured they were ready to be voted on by delegates during the conference. With the help of the NLS Caucus, we came up with several policies that I believed would be good for POC students.

As I have been to a National Union of Students National conference before, I knew what to expect. I knew there would be various students from different student political parties there. I knew that our ideologies were not similar and that while we are all fighting for the common good of students, not all of us believed in the same approach to get to that point. I found some student political parties really utilised the conference to make it all about them. I found they spoke above everyone else's opinion and I just don't think that this is the arena to do so. I think when you're representing students, you need to represent students on all matters and not just one particular "hot topic" issue. This was really evident on our first day of conference.

One particular student group, SAlt really wanted to speak about Palestine issues because they believed that Palestine issues mattered because of the genocide in Gaza. And while I'm a staunch supporter of Palestine, I felt discussing Palestine from the get go was probably not the best idea as there are a lot of opinions on this subject and there were other things that we could discuss that weren't too contentious. On our first day, the conference floor tried speaking about union policies and we couldn't even get through all of that because SAlt constantly wanted to speak about Palestine. It was decided early on by organisers that Palestine was just going to be spoken about on a different day so that we could all get through topics that were less contentious to give Palestine the space that it deserves.

One of the policies we spoke about on student unionism was sausage sizzles and how having them on campus, particularly during election, can make people come out to vote in student guild elections. I spoke on the policy and said I thought it was a good idea to get more people on campus to be interested in student politics. Getting people interested in student politics is what we want ideally for the student cohort, and I thought that this was quite simple outreach. I think sausage sizzles are quite an inexpensive way to get people interested, but as per usual, there were a lot of people from opposing parties who believe this was not the case. David Hallam, a nothing proxy from UWA said sausage sizzles were just a Band-Aid problem to fix things. He said if you really want people to vote for you, they should be able to vote for you based on your ideas and your beliefs. While I completely agree, I am also someone who understands reality. It is already extremely hard to get young people engaged in politics. We already see this with the actual federal election and how people were more excited about the sausage sizzles and baked goods they could get while voting. Therefore, I do think that giving them an incentive such as sausage sizzle would be a really good way to increase and create buzz for student elections on campus.

Unfortunately, on the first day, there was a motion presented to conference floor regarding campus elections. In the motion, a campus was mentioned in a disparaging way which members of NLS disagreed with. The party holding majority, Unity, refused to buckle down on the policy therefore we walked out in protest. I believed this was the right thing to do. The campus in question was being accused of making it difficult for other political parties to win on their campus, but based on the evidence this accusation had no merit. Attacking a paying university member is not something the NUS should condone, and unfortunately the parties could not reach an agreement and quorum for the first day was lost. SAlt also walked off, not for the same reason but because they wanted to be able to discuss Palestine.

The second day of the conference was in limbo, as NLS was still protesting the unfair motion to sanction a member campus. Fortunately, by midday, all the student factions were able to reach an agreement for NLS to return. As an incentive for SAlt to return, conference floor were allowed to speak on 5 topics to do with Palestine. All motions regarding Palestine were approved, which was great as there needs to be strong student mobilisation on the Palestine topic. One of the more important things that happened on the second day was the abolishment of the NUS policy book. NUS office bearers must complete, or tick off, issues and motions that have been decided on at National conference. By abolishing the book, it takes away the accountability of the NUS to do its work. It was disappointing to see this motion passed, with the help of WA Independent delegates from University of Western Australia and Murdoch Guild. As NUS office bearers salaries are paid by university affiliation, I strongly urge the Curtin Guild to reevaluate affiliation or to insert clauses to ensure office bearers are doing the work.

Onto our third day where we discussed various topics, including BIPOC motions. As POC co convener I was busy negotiating changes of the motion with other student parties. I was particularly proud as I wrote 5 of motions of my own which passed. The motions I wrote were in support of BIPOC students which included establishing mentoring groups for BIPOC students, training for BIPOC students who were wanting to get more involved in politics, standing up against anti migrant policies as well as tightening up laws around workplace abuse, especially for international students who are unaware of industrial laws.

We discussed queer and disability chapters on the last day, and this proved to be very messy. While people who identified with a disability were talking about their motions such as lobbying for more NDIS support, or creating safe spaces on campus for people with sensory issues, certain students from SAlt were heckling, screaming and belittling those who spoke up. Their argument is NDIS is "evil" and should not exist. SAlt delegates also kept hijacking conversations on disability and using the space to talk about Palestine. As important as Palestine is, it does not come at the expense of other issues that affect other students. SAlt delegates would not stop shouting, which led to so many disabled delegates walking out of the conference room in tears. As people walked out, quorum could not be reached and the conference ended prematurely.

There are a few things I wanted to say about the experience, but I feel one of the most pressing issues of the conference was accessibility. There was a disabled delegate whose accessibility needs were not met. They were not able to stand for long periods of time, and was forced to lug around a plastic chair they found on conference floor as the organisers did not organise one for him. The walk from the bus to the conference was an occupational health and safety issue, and I watched two delegates fall on top of each other on the stairs. It was slippery, inaccessible with the amount of stairs and people were forced to carry their belongings. The food hall area had a huge steep hill, making it hard for someone with a wheelchair to navigate their way around. There was also only one screen for everyone to read motions, a screen so small which was blocked by many delegates who were awaiting their turn to talk. The sound from the microphone was so poor and impossible for

those hard of hearing to comprehend. This was a disappointing conference and I expected better from Sheldon Gait, who was the NUS Secretary responsible for all.

I was also disgusted by SALT's behavior of heckling those with lived in disability issues. I would like to ask them why they hate disabled people so much? Why they don't allow disabled people to speak their truth. While I am disgusted at what is happening in Palestine, to hijack every motion to speak on it was out of line, out of touch and plain disruptive. I also want to call out Unity for using this conference as their personal weapon, trying to demonise a paying NUS university member because they couldn't win an election. It was an eventful NatCon and I wish we got through all the chapters, but I am glad BIPOC students got a win this year.

Ngaala kaaditj Wadjuck Nyungar moort, kura wer yeye, keyen kaadak nidja boodja. We acknowledge the Wadjuck Nyungar people as the original custodians of this land.

The National Union of Students (NUS) Conference brought together student leaders nationwide, providing a platform for passionate advocacy on crucial issues affecting students. As an accredited observer, I was honoured to contribute to discussions on various motions to improve the educational experience.

One of the key issues I addressed was the call for free education for international students. The motion sought to emphasise the importance of accessible education for students worldwide, recognising the value they bring to our campuses and communities. The constructive dialogue around this motion highlighted the need for inclusivity and equality within our educational institutions.

Addressing the Gaza humanitarian crisis and the assault on Palestinian human rights were also pivotal points in the conference agenda. Advocating for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, we aimed to bring attention to the urgent need for humanitarian intervention in Gaza. The discussions were impassioned, reflecting the commitment of student leaders to stand in solidarity with those affected by the crisis.

The role of our Curtin Guild President Jasmyne as a delegate was inspirational in ensuring the smooth flow of the conference in their work at negotiating with factions. Her leadership and organisational skills were evident throughout the event, contributing to the overall success of the NUS Conference. I extend my appreciation to them for their dedication and hard work in representing our Curtin Student Guild.

Curtin University's NUS delegates Athina, Dylan, Veronika, Hiba, and TAFE officer Salwa were crucial in shaping the conference discussions along with fellow leaders of the country. In her capacity as the POC convener, Athina demonstrated a strong commitment to issues of diversity and inclusion. Dylan, Salwa, and Veronika

presented impactful motions that added depth to the conversations, showcasing the diversity of perspectives within our student body.



A special acknowledgment goes to Salwa, whose motion addressing the Palestinian cause garnered a standing ovation. This recognition is a testament to the power of student voices in advocating for justice and human rights on a global scale. I would like to express my gratitude to the Curtin Student Guild for giving me this opportunity to attend this conference. The experience has been enriching, and it has underscored the importance of active student participation in national-level discussions. I encourage all future NUS delegates from our institution to seize this opportunity, as it serves as a platform to champion the interests of fellow students on a federal level.

In conclusion, the NUS Conference was a forum of collaboration, inspiration, and impactful decision-making. As student leaders, we have the responsibility to continue advocating for positive change, and the conference provided us with the tools and motivation to do just that. I highly recommend Curtin Student Guild NUS delegates to attend future NUS conferences, contributing to the collective effort of building a better, more inclusive educational landscape for all students.



In Solidarity!!!

Hameed Mohammad,

Guild Councillor 2023, Student Advocate, Cultural Ambassador 2024

Hiba's NatCon 2023 Report

Name of Event: 2023 National Conference

Date of Event: 11 - 14 December 2023

Location of Event: Federation University, Mt Helen Campus.

Conference Summary

The National Union of Students, originally founded in 1987, meets annually in December at the National Conference “to elect new office bearers, consider the audited statement of accounts, consider reports of the National and State Officers, and discuss amendments to the NUS standing policy platform.”¹

I would like to firstly begin with extending my gratitude to the Student at Curtin for electing me to this position and allowing me the opportunity to attend the 2023 NUS National Conference (NatCon23).

This was my second time attending a student-politics run conference and I must admit that it felt like my first. I was very surprised by the way the conference itself was organised. In saying that, I cannot fault the organisers and I commend them for their hard work.

I would also like to congratulate my Curtin comrades for being elected to NUS positions. I'm certain that the students in WA will be in great hands.

Day 1

Day one of NatCon23 began with unity proposing to shift discussions on Palestine to the ethnocultural chapter, angering Socialist Alternative (SAIt). Unity also passed a motion allowing speakers to be suspended for irrelevant comments, but this rule wasn't enforced.

Some motions, including minor bureaucratic changes, were revisited due to past minute errors. Later, a contentious motion advocating for universal student unionism and rejecting SSAF as a funding model sparked heated debate. Despite differing opinions, the motion failed, with Unity voting against it.

On this day, NLS pulled quorum.

Day 2

The conference of day 2 resumed at 2:50pm after NLS returned.

¹ Cited from <https://nus.asn.au/index.php/2022/11/02/2022-national-conference/>

Discussion focused on various motions, notably those related to Palestine, smoking areas on campuses, housing affordability, and private lobbying in educational institutions.

Unity's majority led to the passing of motions condemning "scab unions," shifting discussion on Palestine, and rejecting smoking area removals. Unity's stance on housing favored free market principles, while SAlt criticized the Labor Party's role in student poverty.

The conference also saw procedural motions, including playing Subway Surfers and amending motions regarding private gifts and the University Accords.

Despite tensions and ejections, the majority carried motions aligned with Unity's position. The day concluded with varied reactions as attendees retired for the night.

Day 3

Day 3 discussions centered on the education platform for the upcoming year. A motion to abolish HECS and provide free university education failed, with Unity opposing it. Conversely, a Unity-backed motion supporting HECS passed despite opposition from NLS.

A procedural motion banned student media from disclosing details about speakers on a motion condemning India's Modi government, which ultimately failed.

During the afternoon session, women's issues took the forefront. A motion addressing gender inequality passed unanimously, while a procedural ban on cis men speaking received Unity's support.

In the evening, amendments to motions, particularly those concerning Palestine, were hotly debated. Unity-led amendments passed despite criticism from SAlt.

Notably, a caucus was held by Bunny Action delegates advocating for free carrots on campus.

Ethnocultural issues were also discussed, with a motion limiting reporting on sensitive topics passing. Security intervened during a debate on condemning a neo-Nazi group, leading to a subdued yet cooperative atmosphere for the remainder of the night.

The conference concluded with a minute of silence and cheers in solidarity with Palestine.

Day 4

Day 4 equalled ballot day.

After the announcement of new NUS members, outgoing General Secretary Sheldon Gait fielded inquiries about financial matters, addressing spending surpassing income due to outstanding payments and increased conference costs.

In the afternoon, discussions shifted to transgender issues, with a motion commemorating victims of transphobic violence and resistance to transphobia passing unanimously. The disabilities chapter ensued, marked by heated exchanges over NUS's stance on NDIS. Despite passionate speeches, the motion failed, leading to tense confrontations and SAIt members being removed, eventually causing the conference to lose quorum.

Unity accused SAIt of ableism, and emotions ran high as students left the conference venue. SAIt departed Ballarat following the loss of quorum, leaving Unity, NLS, and a few Grindies behind to wrap up with a "ballot night party."

Conclusion

In conclusion, the 2023 NUS National Conference, held in Ballarat, showcased the fervent debates and diverse perspectives within the student political landscape. Throughout the four days, delegates engaged in discussions ranging from Palestine to education funding, highlighting the complexities and challenges faced by students across Australia.

The conference underscored the importance of unity and collaboration in addressing pressing issues such as housing affordability, student welfare, and equality. While disagreements were inevitable, the passion and dedication of participants to advocate for their beliefs were evident in every session.

The conference also served as a platform for networking and building alliances among student representatives from various universities and factions. It provided an opportunity for individuals to exchange ideas, share experiences, and work towards common goals aimed at improving the student experience and advocating for their rights.

As the conference concluded with the announcement of new NUS office bearers and the departure of delegates, the impact of the discussions and decisions made during NatCon23 will undoubtedly reverberate within the student community. It is imperative for elected representatives to uphold the values of inclusivity, transparency, and accountability as they continue to serve the interests of students nationwide.

In reflecting on the experiences and outcomes of NatCon23, it is evident that the National Union of Students remains a vital platform for student activism, advocacy, and empowerment. As we look towards the future, may the lessons learned and the connections forged during this conference guide us in our collective pursuit of a better, more equitable education system for all.

NUS 2023 National Conference Report

Veronika Gobba, she/her

CW: ableism, transphobia & gender-based violence

I would like to thank the Curtin Student Guild for providing me with the means to attend the NUS national conference and the Curtin students for electing me as a delegate.

I went to the NUS conference, excited to hear what would be the priorities of the NUS in the coming year, eager to pass some policy I had co-written about the future of AI in education and war & militarism truth-telling in universities. This was the first conference I had attended where one faction (Student Unity – SU) had a majority of the votes on the floor.

I have split my report into highlights that stuck out to me, and I believe are most significant during the conference. If you wish to learn more about the details of the conference, I recommend reading the posts on X under #nusnatcon23 as well as the summaries written by student media that attended.

Palestine

Despite the first few days, SU shamefully voted down motions in support of Palestine, on the last day all major factions came together to agree that the siege and genocide of Palestine should be loudly opposed by the NUS. This is not without apathy from SU leadership who shames their Palestinian and ally members for speaking up for Palestine and have actively suppressed pro-Palestinian sentiment on their campuses and in the NUS. I do hope that while SU has a majority in the NUS national exec in 2024, they stick to the conclusions that were made at this conference and ensure the NUS publicly is a part of the Pro-Palestinian liberation movement. As an elected member of the general executive in the NUS for 2024, I will be pushing for this.

NUS Policy Book

A very unfortunate part of this conference was when Unity presented a motion to abolish the NUS policy book, an integral piece of accountability in the NUS. Socialist Alternative (Salt) shamefully supported this motion as well. From now on, every year, very meaningless urgency policy can be moved for the year at NatCon.

A ban on gifts and corruption

In 2023 two Student Unity NUS office bearers took a sponsored trip to Israel. In response to this, a motion was introduced at Natcon to put a ban on gifts. A campus count was called for this motion as there was word that some SU members were willing to break ranks to pass this motion. When the campus count was called, all SU members (including sadly WA's Murdoch Guild President and Vice President – Education), the smattering of Liberal students voted against, except one SU member with a bare minimum moral backbone who broke rank and abstained. The cult-like grip the faction of Student Unity has over their members such that they all in shame and sadness stood on the side

against preventing corruption and defending their members taking a propaganda trip by an organisation that enables genocide. It is shocking that students and campuses have enabled these right-wing students to weaken the NUS and push it towards being a dysfunctional and meaningless organisation.

Disabilities chapter

The disabilities chapter started well, with students talking about their interactions with national disability support and their experiences in universities. The conference agreed that this part of the chapter would be zero heckling and no clapping or shouting to be sensory friendly to those who put effort into presenting the policy in this section with low-sensory needs. However, it was soon derailed by a disgusting display by SAIt who were screaming in the faces of those who had requested a peaceful chapter. Salt shouted over members with the expertise of the NDIS and NDIA, and attempted to hijack the chapter to re-hash their arguments about Palestine.

A lot of the accessibility problems of NUS conferences were brought to light at this one, this year a solution was proposed as it was found that the NUS General Secretary Sheldon Gait failed to consider and respond to many members' accessibility needs. The solution was that each faction would have a representative with a budget to help support their faction members with anything they needed to make the conference more accessible for them. At the end of the conference, there was a discussion for a major review of how they go forward in making these conferences more accessible.

Trans-Solidarity

Trans delegates and allies, especially from the Grindies, had to push SU for the inclusion of a motion for Trans remembrance and resistance. ANU Grassroots member, Skye Predavec delivered an incredibly important and moving speech memorialising the trans people in her life that she had lost. This came after a difficult Women's chapter when Student Unity tried to move that only women could speak during that chapter, leaving those who cannot be public about their gender having to out themselves if they wished to speak on these motions. During this chapter, members of SAIt were also heard saying disgusting jokes such as "anyone can be a woman these days" and encouraging a man from National Labor Students (NLS) to identify as trans/non-binary/gender-diverse so he could speak during the Women's chapter.

Final thoughts

Despite much of the awful behaviour from particular factions at this conference, I see a chance at a productive year for the NUS in 2024 operationally, with delegates across the conference still coming together in general agreeance that some of the biggest issues students are facing- cost-of-living and housing are of the utmost importance for the NUS and I do believe that the officers elected for 2024 will work to deliver on those campaigns. I have faith that Ngaire Bogemann (NLS), a strong leader, Gunaikurnai woman and former Women's officer at the University of Melbourne Student Union, will be an excellent spokesperson for the NUS and keep up the work that previous President Bailey Riley did to build the NUS' legitimacy to the broader Australian public. It is the unfortunate power of right-wing

students, who have deceived their campuses that they believe in progress, that undermine the potential of the NUS. Thankfully not holding any positions in the national exec, the Liberals who attended the conference were a prime example of why conservatives have no place in the NUS. It is sad to see even a minority of students electing these anti-union thugs to attend a national union conference, who absolutely could not care less about the plights of students and make a mockery of the work the NUS does to advocate and fight for students' rights and autonomy, as well as broader societal issues. The voices and votes of left-wing students, and delegates from the autonomous and mighty Curtin Student Guild are the individuals who reflect the best of student unionism and the purpose of the NUS.

CONFIDENTIALITY

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55th Guild Council - 3 / RB

REPRESENTATION BOARD – 14.02.2024

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS KPIs 2024

Submitted: Jasmyne Tweed (President)
Moved:
Seconded:

Preamble:

Each year, the Curtin Student Guild affiliates to the National Union of Students (NUS). Key Performance Indicators guide the final affiliation amount to be paid to the NUS. KPI assessment is done to ensure that our significant contribution to the NUS has been satisfactory results for Curtin students, and that the NUS was functioning effectively and transparently. The Curtin Student Guild has consistently strongly supported a powerful and active National Union and believes that KPIs are important in ensuring that all students reap the benefits of the Guild's NUS accreditation.

Motion:

That the Representation Board:

recommend to Guild Council the approval of the 2024 National Union of Students Key Performance Indicators and initial affiliation.

Actions:

Actions recommended as part of this item include:

1. Approval of the Key Performance Indicators
2. Monitoring and engagement with the national union by all Guild officers
3. Upon approval by Guild Council, that the Secretary correspond with the General Secretary of the NUS these KPIs.

Background:

The Representation Board has responsibility to oversee its relationship with the NUS. In 2020, the Chair of Guild Council referred future assessment of the NUS Affiliation for consultation with the Representation Board prior to Guild Council approval.

It is recommended that the Representation Board discusses its establishment of these KPIs and any other considerations of performance of the NUS in 2024 and agree upon an initial amount of affiliation contribution to provide to the Guild Council.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) outlined in the attached document are divided into two categories; "exit" and "discretionary". Each category shall have its own assessment criteria and associated consequences for failure to meet KPIs in that category.

These KPIs apply in full from the election of the first NUS National Executive following approval by the Guild Council. The Exit KPIs apply immediately following the closure of the Guild Council meeting where these KPIs are accepted.

These KPI's will remain in force until changed or revoked by Guild Council. Any change or revocation must immediately be communicated to the NUS; changes to Discretionary KPIs cannot be used in accreditation fee consideration until the next NUS National Executive takes office. The Secretary 'is expected to inform the NUS Executive at the commencement of their terms about these KPIs, however failure to do this will not invalidate the KPIs nor impact accreditation fee considerations.

Exit KPIs

Assessment

KPIs in this category shall be assessed by the Representation Board in consultation with NUS Delegates and any other relevant parties. Exit KPIs are assessed as pass or fail.

Outcomes

Failure to comply with an Exit KPI shall require the Curtin Student Guild to immediately cease payment of any accreditation fees to the NUS until the Representation Board determines that the KPI has been met. The Representation Board must inform Guild Council of the breach and may recommend to Guild Council that the Curtin Student Guild pursue disaffiliation from the NUS. However the decision to disaffiliate shall be at the discretion of the Guild Council in accordance with Guild Regulations and the NUS Constitution.

Discretionary KPIs

Assessment

KPIs in this category shall be assessed using a grading system. Grades shall range from "A" to "E" where:

- "A" means complete compliance with the criterion, a passing grade;
- "B" means substantial compliance with the criterion, a passing grade;
- "C" means partial compliance with the criterion, a passing grade;
- "D" means developing compliance with the criterion, a failing grade, and;
- "E" means no compliance or movements towards compliance with the criterion, a failing grade."

Each KPI shall be assessed by the relevant office bearer or committee. This person or group shall provide a report to the Representation Board detailing the reasons behind the grade awarded.

Key Performance Indicators relating to "reasonable level of support" may include the following considerations:

- Contact from the National Office Bearer/s
- Visits from the National Office Bearer/s
- Engagement through social media or other media or email
- Involvement in national campaigns
- Advice or support for individual issues
- Support for wider collaboration be it state or federal

The Representation Board shall present a report to Guild Council, at or before the August Guild Council Meeting, detailing the grade awarded to each Discretionary KPI as well as an overall average grade for the NUS's performance to be reached by averaging all the grades as per the procedure above. That report shall contain a summary of the reasons behind the grades awarded, and shall then

be presented to the NUS Executive. The report shall include a recommended minimum accreditation fee payable to NUS based on the KPIs, it shall also provide notice to the NUS Executive that failure to address any failing KPIs may adversely affect payment of future accreditation fees.

The Representation Board shall conduct a further review of the Discretionary KPIs, tracking the changes in grading over a two year period and present a final report to the November Guild Council meeting. The Curtin Student Guild will, at the discretion of the Guild Council, budget for additional accreditation fees that reflects the grade awarded.

If over a two year period a particular KPI or particular NUS Department receives only failing grades the Representation Board must request of the NUS a formal explanation of their performance. The Representation Board must include the response in their final report.

Attachment/s:

Attachment A NUS Affiliation Key Performance Indicators Spreadsheet

No	Performance Indicator	Deadline	Penalty for Non-Completion	Penalty for Partial Completion	Fully Fulfilled	Partially Fulfilled	Not Fulfilled	Grade
1	That the NUS hold a National Conference, which include the of NUS Officer Bearer and approval of the financial statements (Exit Indicator)	By 31 December		n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	That Member Organisation Delegates have full and proportional rights to vote in the election of the NUS Office Bearers, and on policy proposals to the NUS at the NUS National Conference. (Exit Indicator)	By 31 December		n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	That the NUS does not condone the use of violence and takes all reasonable steps to minimise the rise of violence at NUS endorsed protests. Reasonable steps may include: - Where an NUS endorsed protest becomes violent, conduct a review of the event detailing how the violence could have been avoided; - Ensuring that suitable event management processes are followed	By 31 December	-\$2,000	-\$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	That the NUS reasonably accommodate to the accessibility needs of the attendees of all conference the NUS holds	At all times	-\$1,000	-\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	All National Executive agendas are sent to campus president in accordance with B61.	At least one week prior to each National Executive meeting	-\$800	-\$400	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	All National Executive reports and minutes are sent to campus presidents in accordance with B64	Within one week of each National Executive meeting	-\$800	-\$400	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	That the minutes of the 2023 NUS National Conference and policy passed are sent to campus presidents in accordance with B43.	By 01 April 2024 (up to one month late)	-\$800	-\$400	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8	That the NUS shall conduct an independent annual audit of their finances. (Exit Indicator)	By 31st October (B88.4 of the NUS constitution states that the latest date to set the budget is 1st of October)		n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9	All National Executive minutes and Office Bearer reports are made available on the NUS website.	Within one week of each National Executive meeting	-\$800	-\$400	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10	That the NUS shall otherwise comply with the NUS constitution, regulations, and by-laws.	At all times.	-\$800	-\$400	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	That the paid NUS Office Bearers meet, either in person or via telephone (or other common communication channels), the equivalent Member Organisation Office Bearer at least once every academic period.	At all times.	-\$800	-\$400	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12	That the paid, full-time, NUS National Office Bearers provide a reasonable level of support to the equivalent Members Organisation Office Bearer.	At all times.	-\$800	-\$400	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13	That the part-time paid and volunteer NUS National Officer Bearers provide a reasonable level of support for the equivalent Member Organisation Office Bearer.	At all times.	-\$400	-\$200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14	That the NUS National Office Bearers attend all student conferences related to their portfolio.	At all times.	-\$800	-\$400	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15	That the NUS National Office Bearers provide ongoing updates on their actions and campaigns in a reasonable and consistent manner to the equivalent Member Organisation Office Bearer.	At all times.	-\$800	-\$400	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16	That the action and policy of the NUS are substantially in line with the interests of the Member Organisations student body. These interests may include Member Organisations policy, stances and values.	At all times.	-\$1,000	-\$400	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		17	That, on balance, the NUS has made substantial progress towards achievements of its stated policy goals.	At all times.	-\$5,000	-\$2,500	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		18	That the NUS establish a policy platform that provides its Member Organisation with a clear statement of the NUS beliefs, values and program.	By 31 December	-\$5,000	-\$2,500	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		19	That the NUS website be kept up to date with the most recent policy documents, minutes and NUS Office Bearer details.	At all times.	-\$1,000	-\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Equivalent Office Bearer	
	National Union of Students	Curtin Student Guild
	President	President
	General Secretary	Secretary
	Education Officer	Vice President - Education
	Welfare Officer	Vice President - Sustainability and Welfare
	Women's Officer	Women's Officer
	Queer Officer x2	Queer Officer
	First Nations Officer	First Nations Officer
	Disabilities Officer	Accessibility Officer
	International Officer	International Student Committee President
	Ethnocultural Officer	Nil
	Small and Regional Officer	Vice President - Sustainability and Welfare
	Tafe Officer	Nil