



# Guild President 2023 February Report

Dylan Botica

## President's Guild Council Report

**Covering Dates:** 01/12/2022 – 16/01/2023

**Submitted to:** February Guild Council

**Leave:** 09/01/23 – 20/01/23\*

NUS NatCon (Reduced Hours)

\*Salwa Kilzi's Hours were increased by one day per week to accommodate for two Executive Officers leave.

### 1. University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
05/12/2022	COO Meeting	Promoting measures to reduce smoking/vaping on campus.
06/12/2022	VC Monthly Meeting	
07/12/2022	Health Sciences PVC Office	Meeting to reduce impacts on students due to 408 closure.
19/01/2023	DVC – G Meeting	Regarding potential global branch in Sri Lanka.
23/01/2023	Properties	Guild Curtin Common Concept
08/02/2023	VC Awards Committee Debrief Meeting	
09/02/2023	Guild   Student Housing	
14/02/2023	Library walkthrough	
15/02/2023	Introductory meeting - Linda/Dylan	Director, Student Experience

### 2. Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
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01/12/2022	Representation Board	First Meeting
01/12/2022	Guild Council	First Meeting
01/12/2022	Executive Committee	First Meeting
05/12/2022	President x MD	
07/12/2022	Higher Education	
19/12/2022	President x MD	
21/12/2022	Higher Education	
21/12/2022	Executive Committee	
04/01/2023	Higher Education	
05/01/2023	Ashok Meeting	
05/01/2023	Executive Committee	
06/01/2023	President x MD	
23/01/2023	President x MD	
23/01/2023	President x Manager, Student Engagement	
25/01/2023	Higher Education	
30/01/2023	Higher Education	
30/01/2023	Student Housing Issues	With Student Assist, MD
30/01/2023	Legal Committee	
30/01/2023	Strategy & KPIs	
01/02/2023	Discussion Exec RE: Non-Union Ballot	
06/02/2023	Executive Committee	
06/02/2023	President x Manager, Student Engagement	
08/02/2023	Membership Discussion	
08/02/2023	MYOB Meeting	

08/02/2023	Executive Committee	
09/02/2023	Parking Campaign - What is our next priority	
09/02/2023	Representation Board	
10/02/2023	Meeting Potential First Nations Officer	
14/02/2023	President x Deputy MD	
15/02/2023	Higher Education	

### 3. Other Meetings/Activities

Date	Meeting	Comments
12/12/2022; 13/12/2022; 14/12/2022; 15/12/2022	NUS National Conference	Refer to attached agenda items for specific report.
30/01/2023	WA Guild Presidents Meeting & NUS State Executive	
09/02/2023	UK Gov (Student Engagement) x Curtin Guild	
11/02/2023	Graduation	

### 4. Items of Significance

#### 4.1. Induction and Handover

Due to changes to the Secretary portfolio last year, I was responsible for booking and arranging a large proportion of handover and induction activities. This included a full handover day with training and a dinner provided. I also arranged for handover reports to be provided to incoming representatives.

Following the new term further induction and handover responsibilities were given to the Secretary.

#### 4.2. National Union of Students

National Conference included a significant amount of lead up work. Please refer to additional attached report to January Representation Board.

I attended and participated in the annual Presidents Summit in Melbourne.

#### 4.3. eVALUate Replacement

We have been working with students to replace eVALUate with something (hopefully) better. The name is likely to be chosen by students via a competition. The metrics of assessment have been set by both teachers and students via survey and focus groups.

This is a hopeful improvement and key election priority developed in codesign with students.

#### 4.4. SLIIT Student Guild

Work from last year on establishing a Curtin Colombo student guild is in its final stages. The Student Guild is looking to launch within the next year. The constitution will progress through Council for approval.

Legal Committee has reviewed the matter and will seek advice.

#### 4.5. Residential Tenancy Acts

I have written to the Minister responsible lobbying for a change to the Residential Tenancy Act to protect student residents from the many problems caused by shoddy providers like UniLodge and the complete wiping hands of any responsibility by the University.

I have been working with Make Renting Fair to include these in their demands for immediate reform. I'm pleased to let all know that they have accepted our requests in the campaign and some tenancy reform is due to be introduced in Parliament this year.

#### 4.6 Student Housing Crisis

I have met with Fiona Notley in response to the the escalating student housing accommodation crisis. The Student Assist team has work closely with Safer Communities, Wellbeing, Curtin Connect and Curtin Counselling. They have advised that the scale of the problem is increasing. The Guild is concerned that the semester has not yet commenced and services are already overwhelmed and unable to house students. I convened a recent National Union of Students (NUS) summit where participating Guild Presidents wrote to Minister Templeman (International Education) about the issue.

The Guild clearly requested that the University advise students travelling to attend campus (rural, regional, international) not to travel until an accommodation is arranged and provide necessary accommodations.

The Guild continues to have families presenting without housing at reception.

#### 4.7 NTEU Industrial Action

The Curtin University New Employee Agreement (NEA) is an agreement between Curtin University and new employees that outlines the terms and conditions of employment. Unlike the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA), which is negotiated between the university and the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), the NEA is negotiated against the will of the union and is determined by the university alone.

The use of a non-union ballot means that Curtin University is bypassing the NTEU and directly asking employees to vote on the proposed New Employee Agreement (NEA) without union support. This is an attempt by the university to reduce the power of this NTEU and secure an agreement that offers workers real pay reductions over a period of 5 years, rejects the call for a 7% Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander employment target (which would underscore its commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan) includes no casual sick leave and rejected the NTEU's call for 17% superannuation.

Representation Board endorsed full solidarity with the NTEU on this matter.

I have organised the following actions in solidarity:

- Mass posterling (500+ posters around campus and Guild areas)
- Digital screens in Guild outlets
- Online messaging including videos and posts
- EDMs to all enrolled students and associates
- Submissions to online forums (e.g Yammer, Curtin Confessions)
- Regular consultation with the Curtin Branch.
- Flyering and stalls

I have declined to meet with the University on this matter as they sought to meet after calling the non-union ballot.

#### 4.8 Artificial Intelligence

I worked with the Academic Registrar Jon Yorke to provide guidelines to teaching staff about the acceptable use of AI in Unit Outlines. The Guild has also provided commentary on the increased prevalence of artificial intelligence at the University to the ABC, West Australian and community media.

#### 4.9 Student Discipline Panels

The Guild has sought nominations from eligible students interested in participating in a Student Discipline Panel and Student Discipline Appeals Board. Nominations close this month.

#### 4.10 Memberships

Following discussion with Guild Council members, the Executive team addressed concerns with the relevant Guild staff and is satisfied that a solution has been identified that will maximise the Guild's future membership opportunities.

This includes moving toward online memberships with ID card scanning in outlets to receive the Guild discount. A sticker is also provided for students and associates who prefer.

**Ordinary Membership** is automatic and opt-out as an enrolled student.

The method for activating **Financial Guild Membership** for 2023 is as either:

- A. The affixation of a 'guild sticker' (displaying the current year) by a representative of the Guild Council (officers, authorised staff or other delegated) to a current Curtin University Student Identification Card; or
- B. A student successfully registering an account with the Guild via the official Guild website at [guild.curtin.edu.au](http://guild.curtin.edu.au)

Setting of **Associate Membership** fees:

**\$5** for Students of Surrounding Higher Education Providers

**\$10** for Staff and Contractors (excluding University Council who will not be admitted in 2023)

**FREE** for NTEU Bargaining Team

**FREE** for Guild Staff

#### 4.11 Voice to Parliament

The Guild has formally endorsed the Voice to Parliament campaign and Uluru Statement from the Heart and is campaigning in favour of the "Yes" vote for The Voice to Parliament and will provide information to students and encourage them to enrol to vote.

I have worked with the member for Swan and Senator Sue Lines on the campaign and forums to be held at Curtin.

#### 4.12 Other Matters

Deeds for lease extensions have been signed for our outlets.

The Guild made a substantial submission to the University Accord. Thank you to Maryanne, Mitch and Veronika for their significant contribution.

A Curtin Common concept has been submitted to the University that was presented to Council. The scheduled meeting with Properties and Fiona Notley has occurred and I am awaiting request for actions.

University Committee appointments have been made largely unremarkable from previous appointments.

Delegated matters – Appointments of ISC / PSC until elections, termination of an ECA employee and waiving notice period for resignation of officer.

## 5 Travel

December 8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> – NUS National Conference

January 11<sup>th</sup> – Curtin Singapore

January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Presidents' Summit



# Guild President 2023 March Report

Dylan Botica

## President's Representation Board Report

**Covering Dates:** 16/02/2023 – 9/03/2023  
**Submitted to:** March Representation Board

**Leave:** 03/03/2023 – In Lieu of PH

### 1. University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
16/02/2023	Academic Board Executive (01/23)	
17/02/2023	VC Monthly Meeting	<p>Discussed the pressing issues with the housing shortage and the need for the University to do better.</p> <p>I raised issues with Curtin Connect and the ongoing Curtin Common proposal response.</p> <p>The VC indicated academic calendar reform is coming.</p> <p>The VC also criticised the Guilds solidarity with the NTEU.</p>
20/02/2023	Sem 1, 2023 O-Week Official Welcome	
23/02/2023	Curtin Academy: Students as Partners	
24/02/2023	eVALUate Steering Committee	
24/02/2023	Academic Board 01/23	
27/02/2023	Library Opening	
27/02/2023	VC & Guild President   Strategic University Review	Discussed areas of strategic alignment between the Guild and University with

		regards to the snap Universities Review in Western Australia.
08/03/2023	Students as Partners / Guild - catch up	
08/03/2023	SSAFEAC 01/23	

## 2. Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
16/02/2023	Guild Council	
20/02/2023	President x MD	
20/02/2023	Guild's stance on AI generators	
24/02/2023	Appointment of GROK Editors	Following multiple interviews over the week.
27/02/2023	President x Deputy MD	
27/02/2023	Executive Committee	
28/02/2023	Operations Committee	
01/03/2023	Higher education meeting	
02/03/2023	Meeting Student Assist Manager	RE: Demand increase / housing shortage
02/03/2023	Accessibility Officer x Exec	
06/03/2023	President x MD	
06/03/2023	President x Student Engagement Manager	
08/03/2023	Higher education meeting	
09/03/2023	Executive Committee	

## 3. Other Meetings/Activities

Date	Meeting	Comments
21/02/2023	Global Curtin meeting with Ms. Angelica Ojinnaka Australia's Youth Ambassador to UN	



22/02/2023	O-Day	
22/02/2023	Urgent Meeting RE: WA Government Review	With other Guild Presidents
24/02/2023	Swan Voice to Parliament Forum	
07/03/2023	B100 Council Chambers (Stakeholder Engagement)	With contracted company

#### 4. Items of Significance

##### 4.1. WA Government Universities Review

A significant item that has arisen in the last month is the State Government proposed merger of Universities in WA. A review has commenced that has the hallmarks of a forgone conclusion. We have worked with the other Guilds to prepare a stance and response.

The primary response thus far has been that the State Government cannot progress with a review that could affect the governance and operations of the Student Guilds (as a separate entity) without any members having relevant expertise.

We will continue to provide the student voice whether or not invited directly to do so.

The Ministers Officer has since called the Guild Presidents to assure them they will now be consulted.

##### 4.2. Student Partnership Agreement

This agreement is due for review at the end of the year. I've met with University parties and discussed the logistics of renewal. Refer to the item submitted to the Representation Board.

##### 4.6 Student Housing Crisis

The State Government has responded to our correspondence regarding the student housing crisis with the following commitments:

- Agreement to bring back the \$1500 student subsidy for International students to assist with the cost of housing.
- Review of the residential tenancy act / reform to not let UniLodge get away with exploiting students.

This is a significant win for the Guild but we must continue to put pressure on the University and Government to make structural change to the system.

##### 4.7 NTEU Industrial Action

We organised the following actions in solidarity:

- Mass postering (500+ posters around campus and Guild areas)

- Digital screens in Guild outlets
- Online messaging including videos and posts
- EDMs to all enrolled students and associates
- Submissions to online forums (e.g Yammer, Curtin Confessions)
- Regular consultation with the Curtin Branch.
- Flyering and stalls

As a result of the campaigning efforts of the Guild, NTEU, Staff and Students. Over 70% of eligible staff rejected the awful offer.

We have been working closely with the NTEU to support students and staff with the progression of industrial action.

#### 4.8 Student Discipline Panels

The Guild has provided from eligible students interested in participating in a Student Discipline Panel and Student Discipline Appeals Board.

A further nomination opening will be advertised to allow for more panel members later this semester.

#### 4.9 Voice to Parliament

The Guild assisted in the running of the Swan Voice to Parliament forum. We have commenced gathering materials and have established a website for students to find information about the referendum.

#### 4.10 Other Matters

- I published an article on Student / Staff solidarity to GROK
- We produced and distributed material on the IWWD action in the city.
- UWA Fever Pitch Music Festival – I have been working on an agreement to cross-promote.
- Library Café is open with a very fast turnaround by Tanya. Special recognition to Maryanne for producing all the tags!
- Appointments made to University equity and diversity group.

## 5 Travel

Nil

## Vice President – Education

Representation Board Report – 16/03/2023

Veronika Gobba – She/Her

### Meetings

Date	Meetings	Comments
3/2/23	VPE X QO Check-in	
	CAS orientation meeting	
	Forum on Generative AI	
6/2/23	Exec Meeting	
	University LSEC	
7/2/23	EBA Town Hall	
	University Courses Committee	
8/2/23	Higher Ed	
	Students as Partners with VPA	
	Guild Membership meeting with IT	
9/2/23	Check-in with Health Sci Rep	
	Representation Board	
10/2/23	Check-in with QO	
	Entrepreneur Hub x Faculty Reps (+PSC Pres)	
13/2/23	PSC Meeting	
14/2/23	Library walkthrough & photoshoot	
	Content filming with FBL rep	
15/2/23	Higher Ed	
	Panel for First Year Uni life orientation session	
16/2/23	Curtin College Orientation with VPA	Talked to Curtin College students about Guild and sold memberships. Low uptake due to students not having their student IDs.
	Guild Council	
17/2/23	DBE Graduation Ceremony attended as Guild stage party rep	
20/2/23	PSC Pres Catch up	
	Reps Generative AI Meeting	
22/2/23	O-day Representation Stall	I had the pleasure of running the representation stall at O-day alongside the First Nations Officer, we encouraged relevant students to join the First Nations collective and the first year

		reps team. Students took much interest in a Students Guide to Rights at Work flyer and our parking campaign. Zooper Doopers were also a hit.
23/2/23	Health Sci Rep check-in	
	Exec 'WA Gov universities review' meeting	
24/2/23	Check-in with QO	
	Academic Board	
	Swan Voice to Parliament Forum	
27/2/23	Exec Meeting	
28/2/23	Guild Operations Committee	
1/3/23	Higher Ed	
	AO Check-in	
	Accords submission meeting with FBL rep	
2/3/23	AO x Exec	
3/3/23	QO Check-in	
7/3/23	Courses Committee	
8/3/23	Higher Ed	
9/3/23	Exec Meeting	
	Humanities Faculty Lunch stall	
	Meeting with FN Officer	

## Projects

- **Students Guide to Rights at Work**
  - I created a flyer to give out at O-day which contained basic information about rights at work for young people in WA and international students. It also contained information on what is legal in terms of unpaid work. I included information on unionism and how to find the right union for you. I would like to take this further and have more information as a guide available on a page on the Guild website.
  
- **First Year Reps**
  - Expressions of interest are open for the first-year reps' team.
  - I have consulted with the Women's officer and Sci-Eng rep as they were both part of the first-year committee last year. I also consulted last year's Secretary who was head of the committee last year. I have taken their feedback and started planning how I will be organising the first-year reps.

- **Abolishing Hecs Indexation Senate Submission**

- We have sent in a submission in support of the Education and Other Legislation Amendment (Abolishing Indexation and Raising the Minimum Repayment Income for Education and Training Loans) Bill 2022. You may read it here:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Education\\_and\\_Employment/AbolishingIndexation/Submissions](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_and_Employment/AbolishingIndexation/Submissions)

- **Second Accords Submission**

The process of writing our second submission to the National Universities Accords is underway, there are 49 prompts that the committee has requested consultation on.

More information can be found here: <https://www.education.gov.au/australian-universities-accord>

## **BUSINESS & LAW - Representative Board Report #3**

For the Representation Board held on Thursday the 16th of March, 2023.

### Summary Of Meetings

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Type of Meeting</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SDP Meeting	03/02/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 20 cases
Meeting x Head of School - Therese Jefferson	03/02/2023	University	Discussion pertaining to the moving of student enquiries from central to faculties as opposed to being kept in the current central structure. Recommendation to raise with Vanessa the growing sentiment of constriction within the faculty.  - Update as to the closure of Building 408 and the relocation of School staff.
Forum on Generative AI (ChatGPT)	03/02/2023	University	Discussion surrounding the emergence of AI as a potential threat to tertiary outcomes led by John Yorke. Scaffolded pathway forward concerning UC discretion as a presiding authority as to the adoption of AI in learning.
Meeting x ProVice Chancellor - Vanessa Chang	06/02/2023	University	Introductory meeting: discussion pertaining to the Faculties plan for strategic longevity with a key focus on student experience. Expressed willingness to collaborate where possible to improve the tertiary experience of students.
Introductory Meeting x Curtin Accounting Association	06/02/2023	Clubs	Introductory meeting with the CAA, expression of interest to coordinate with other clubs for a large event at the end of semester. Cover plans for O-day and

			discuss the concerns of engaging 1st years as a means of achieving a strong foundation for the club's future.
Meeting x FBL Student Engagement Team	06/02/2023	Faculty	Discussion pertaining to the FBL Engagement Team's plans for the extended orientation period and the role of the guild within that framing.
Orientation Briefing Session with Curtin Mentors for FBL	09/02/2023	Faculty	Introduction to the Curtin Mentors who will aid the Faculty in Orientation Week, discussion of the logistics of setting up the UG Orientation and packing down the Orientation. Discussion of the new mode for delivery for UG orientation and the role each of the Mentors as well as myself will play in that.
SDP Meeting	10/02/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 15 cases
Entrepreneur's Hub Roundtable ft. other fac. Reps. x VPE	10/02/2023	External University Stakeholder	Discussion of how to boost student engagement as well as the opportunities that students can take advantage of by joining the Entrepreneurs Hub. Discussion of areas where the guild can assist and facilitate the promotion of these events.
Introductory Meeting x CSLS	13/02/2023	Clubs	Meeting the CSLS President Adriana, discussion similar to the discussion of other clubs. Pledge to coordinate with other clubs to improve the club ecosystem within FBL. discussion pertaining to the club's ability to remain active in the future with a key discussion of areas that the Guild can aid the club in remaining a flagship student organization within the Faculty.
Student Engagement Catch up x Hannah & Nurul	13/02/2023	FBL Rep x Student engagement	Initiating the conversation of where the guild and the Student engagement team can coordinate on future events such as the Pub quiz and the proposed end of Sem FBL Clubs bash.
Orientation Planning Meeting x VPA	13/02/2023	Guild	Discussion as to the plans for my FBL stall, including the trivia and spin wheel with the prize draw consisting of \$100 of curtin merch.

Meeting x Dean and Head of the Law School - Robert Cunningham	14/02/2023	Hos Meeting x Fac Rep.	<p>Discussion surrounding areas of affliction in the Law school including assessment feedback, mark consistency and budgetary constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The plan for the law school over the coming year and areas of the law school where Robert believes meaningful action can be implemented in 2023.</li> </ul>
Monthly Meeting x Deputy ProVice Chancellor - Sonia Dickinson	14/02/2023	University	<p>Discussion surrounding the Faculties objectives of strategic longevity whilst simultaneously achieving the best tertiary experience for students possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Part of which is derivative of greater funding delivery for student experience</li> <li>- Navigation of emerging challenges to the faculty and student experience.</li> <li>- Assurance of the faculties commitment to draw in and maintain the best staffing capability of any uni in WA.</li> </ul>
Faculty Courses Committee	14/02/2023	Committee	<p>Consider the changes to be made to the current streams offered at Curtin University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential creation of Masters of Corporate Governance and Leadership at the request of Industry.</li> <li>- Digital Finance and Law</li> </ul>
Introductory Meeting x Narelle Morris (Law School deputy Head)	14/02/2023	dHos x Fac Rep.	<p>Continued discussion of areas where the Guild may be able to advocate on behalf of Law students to improve their tertiary experience. Discussion of the plan to secure discounts for students who study on the Murray Street campus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request for preliminary date as to the enrollments. Not finalized.</li> </ul>
Law Graduation	14/02/2023	University	<p>Attendance to the Law Graduation, on behalf of the Guild. I was honored to be the <b>Mace Bearer</b> for the night. A distinction which means little but was pretty cool nonetheless.</p>



Introductory Meeting x FFP (Finance and Financial Planning)	15/02/2023	Clubs	Intro meeting with Rebecca, president of FFP. Discussion surrounding club administration and how to manage the role of club president and focus on longevity through the creation of a first year FFP committee. Expressed interest for greater club coordination on events and dialogue, specifically in relation to pitfalls clubs can face.
FBL Monthly Clubs Meeting x Annika	15/02/2023	Fac Rep. x FBL Engagement Team x FBL Clubs x Club Support	Broad discussion as to the role of clubs during O-day and orientation week. Attendance was fair, clubs seem hungry to solve the issues facing longevity such as boosting student engagement.
Introductory Let's Connect session for International Students x FBL Engagement Team	15/02/2023	Fac Rep. x FBL Student Engagement	I got to meet with international students who are studying under the Faculty for 2023. I shared a bit about my role and the role of the Guild as the primary resource for sorting our student concerns whether it be academic or exogenous to study.
Academic Integrity Forum (continuation from previous forum on AI) x John Yorke	15/02/2023	Internal University Forum	Discussion pertaining to the Universities emerging policy regarding AI. Partially attended by the PSC Pres. I shared concerns that I had heard from Law students (the only students on campus at this point from my Faculty) as to regulation consistency. John indicated he would like to meet. This is yet to be established.
Pre-Briefing Undergraduate induction x FBL Engagement Team	15/02/2023	Fac Rep. x FBL Engagement Team	General smoothing out of plans for Orientation. Finalized the Guild's section of the Quiz for UG Orientation. Realization that the plans are as big as Ben Hur. Lots of work to be done still.
SDP Meeting	17/02/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 18 cases
Assessment Rubric Workshop Finalisation; Christina Do	17/02/2023	University	Discussion of the finalized Assessment rubric for 1st year Law students to serve as a template for all other Rubrics in 1st year law classes. - Part of this design was accessibility oriented, breaking

			<p>up large text and color coordinating expectations as a visual aid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Included excess areas of feedback to be provided in addition to the area for the final holistic comment on feedback as a means of a second avenue of achieving in part my KPI of advocating for more student specific feedback.</li> </ul>
Industry Symposium: Digital Finance	17/02/2023	External University Forum	Symposium for Digital Finance: bringing industry such as CEO of Battery Metals and CEO of Pilbara Metals in addition to other stakeholders such as David Pannel (Ecological Economist) to a forum to share ideas as to how to effectively manage emerging issues and the benefits of commitment to focus on Digital Finance has in reference to value derived manufacturing and tackling the Climate Crisis.
FBL engagement team Orientation Pulse Check	20/02/2023	Fac Rep. x FBL Engagement Team	Preliminary run through of the O-day sequence. Inclusive of structure, handovers and transitions.
Guild Internal Discussion on AI	20/02/2023	Guild	Discussion of the emergence of AI in assessment and producing a cohesive position on AI from the Guild with a key adherence to consistency in policy and no additional hurdles to passing a unit.
Friend Speed Dating x VPA	21/02/2023	Guild	An engagement event seeking to foster new friendships amongst new students to Curtin University. Good fun.
<b>O-DAY</b>	22/02/2023	Guild	The O-Day stall near the library drew crowds from far and wide. A fun day with over 400 submissions into my giveaway. I knew FBL was the best faculty for a reason. Thanks to Hannah as well who assisted me in dealing with the swathes of eager students.
Postgrad. Orientation	22/02/2023	Orientation	Welcoming our new FBL Postgraduate students to the University. I spoke

			briefly on the role of the guild and how we can help postgraduate students throughout the duration of their studies.
FBL Engagement Team: UG orientation final checks	23/02/2023	Fac Rep. x FBL Engagement Team	Final checks and run through for the first newly designed UG Orientation
Undergraduate Orientation	23/02/2023	Orientation	I spoke to over 900 new FBL UG students who showed up, the Orientation was a resounding success bar the fact that it was super long. I spoke and took my BeReal on stage. Please refer to appendices at the base of the document.
Law Undergraduate Orientation	24/02/2023	Orientation	I spoke to over 200 new Law students on the role of the Guild and how we can act as a conduit to help law students throughout their time here at Curtin. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spruiked my plan to deliver discounts for students who study on the Perth Campus,</li> <li>- Illustrated the Guild's commitment to aid clubs like the CSLS to promote industry linkages.</li> </ul>
Undergraduate Orientation Fully Online	24/02/2023	Orientation	Spoke on behalf of the Guild to roughly 150 fully online students who attended the online Orientation. Illustrated the role of the Guild and how we can aid online students throughout their time at Curtin.
Masters Business Administration Orientation	24/02/2023	Orientation	Appeared before around 70 new masters students and conveyed the services the Guild offers to enrich and aid them in their tertiary experience.
Swan Voice To Parliament Forum	24/02/2023	Internal University Forum	Education as to the Voice to Parliament and what the proposal entails as well as the historical perspectives that underpin the proposal.
Meeting x Curtin Accounting Association	27/02/2023	Clubs	O- Day debrief and proposal to join the next club meeting. Shared grievance as to the location of the club on the day
Meeting x PVC Vanessa Chang	27/02/2023	University	Meeting with the PVC in which we discussed a range of topics including building 408 and the structural problem

			there, student engagement, Fiscal responsibility of the faculty to ensure student engagement and a proposal to increase the allocated funding for remunerated time allocated to staff to provide feedback.
FBL Engagement: Repeat Let's Connect ft. Bhaarath	1/03/2023	Fac Rep x FBL Engagement Team	The second let's connect sessions with Bhaarath, talking to international students of around 60. This was a slightly different setting to the first, nonetheless a fun event.
Meeting x VPE	1/03/2023	Guild	Discussion of the accords.
Catch Up Hannah Wilkinson	2/03/2023	Fac Rep x FBL Engagement Team	Catch up with Hannah, regarding the structure of the student engagement teams proposals for the upcoming semester. Discussion of the Pub Quiz and the potential for an FBL sundowner.
SDP Meeting	3/03/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 14 cases
Toga Party	3/03/2023	Guild	What a fun and well attended event. Great work to the VPA and events team for organizing.
SCC strategic re-design ft. FBL Engagement Team	8/03/2023	Fac Rep x FBL Engagement Team	Discussion of revamping the SCC and what role the Guild should play in aiding in the recreation of the SCC. (Student Consultative Committee)
FBL Extended Orientation Lunch	8/03/2023	University	Part of the extended Orientation program, slightly disappointed with turnout but not at all disappointed with the Paella.
International Women's Day sundowner, ft. WIB	8/03/2023	Clubs	Women In Business Sundowner, this event was well received with a high number for turnout.
International women's day Protest -Perth	8/03/2023	External	A gathering and movement for the preservation and expansion to Women's Rights.

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## Final Notes:

- The past 6 weeks have broadly consisted of whirlwind meetings, Orientation preparation and meeting over 2500 new students across the span of a week and a half. I have enjoyed the more open aspects of the role and have begun to make good headway on aspects of my Agenda for '23. As mentioned above, I have coordinated with the law school to present a combined effort to local business in an effort to secure students discounts on food, drinks and essentials within the immediate vicinity to the Law school. I will look to expand this coordination with those in the building up the road studying their Masters.
- Staff have been warm and receptive to meeting me, offering student inclusion where possible and enabling a Guild student perspective at the table when traditionally there has not been. Case in point the Law Orientation.
- Building foundational support in this realm is key to enabling me to leverage linkages and help complete aspects of my Agenda.
- I have liaised with students and voiced individual concerns regarding workload, content and on emergent issues.
- Next month I will advocate hard for my proposal for Greater Assessment Feedback because we know the inherent positive links between quality feedback and the promotion of future marks, as well as pushing for discounts for students on the Perth campus. Key to achieving this item as Jasmyne has mentioned is to liaise with Ben on opportunities for the Guild to secure discounts in Perth.
- The Business and Law Pub Quiz is coming up, and should be fun.

## KPI Progression:

KPI	Stalled/Not Started	In Progress	Completed
Coordination with clubs and FBL Student Engagement Team.		X	
Establish a roundtable consisting of club execs and the Guild co-chaired at wish by the Engagement Team.		X	
Host 2x Grill the Guild and 1x Faculty Event.	X		

Push for additional assessment feedback for students across streams.		X	
Attend 80% of all Meetings.		X	
Keep an open communication line with all relevant Staff.		X	
Aid the Guild with the Completion of Election promises and emergent policy.		X	
Stay frequent posting on the Faculty Social Media.		X	
Advocate for the establishment of an FBL Instagram Page.	X		
Advocate for discounts for students who study on the Perth Campuses.		X	

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**TLDR:**

- Lots of work done, lots of work still to be done. My key Agenda items are underway, with some progress being made in regards to assessment feedback and securing discounts for students on the Perth Campus. Has been a busy month and now with orientation done it is time to focus on the key Agenda items for '23 and action some quality representation on

behalf of students to improve the overall tertiary experience for students studying within the Faculty of Business and Law. For more specifics read above. 😊

## APPENDICES:



**Undergraduate orientation BeReal with over 900 students**



**Toga Party with some of the Guild Gang**



**Postgraduate student Orientation**



**Faculty of Health Sciences Report**  
**Hiba Alsoeady (she/her)**  
**Representation Board – March 2022**

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***Guild and University meetings, progress and planning***

<b>February</b>		
<b>10/2</b>	Round table with the Guild about Entrepreneurs Hub	
<b>14/2</b>	Faculty Courses Committee	
<b>14/2</b>	Curtin School of Allied Health's Award Ceremony	Missed - Got COVID
<b>16/2</b>	HS Student Discipline Panel	
<b>16/2</b>	Graduation Ceremony	Missed - Got COVID and couldn't attend in person. Mitchell Craig attend on my behalf. Thank you
<b>20/2</b>	Speeches	
<b>22/2</b>	O-Day Stall	
<b>23/3</b>	HS Student Discipline Panel	
<b>March</b>		
<b>01/3</b>	Fieldwork Forum	
<b>07/3</b>	Extended Orientation - Health Science Faculty Lunch	
<b>07/3</b>	Catch Up   Guild Rep, Alumni Relations and Consumer and Community Involvement	Great meeting! a lot of surprise events to come!

## Guild 2023 Key Performance Indicator Matrix

**Name:** Hiba Alsoeady

**Role:** Health Sciences Faculty Representative

**Status Key:**

<p>Incompleted</p> <p>(KPI is no longer applicable/was not completed for set task)</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>(KPI has not been completed and is not under progress)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>(KPI is continuing but is being actively practiced.)</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>(KPI has been met and no further work is required)</p>
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Key Performance Indicators	Status	Comments
1. Introduce myself both in-person at faculty events (O-Day & Wellbeing Fair) and online with posts in the Health Science Faculty group page to build connection with students.		Completed most tasks for semester 1 O-day event
2. Run a blood/bone marrow donation campaign		
3. Interact with students on Facebook through posts, polls and Guild content on the Health Science group page.		
4. Run a year long social media campaign		
5. Resource, network and maintain regular contact with Guild staff to achieve positive changes for students.		
6. Host group meeting for Health Science students to voice their concerns (online or in-person).		
7. Host semi-regular pop-up-stalls around different Health Faculty Schools to provide students a platform to bring forward their issues		Will begin towards the end of this month!
8. Respond proactively to collective/ student concerns throughout my term via email and in-person or online meetings.		
9. Host a meet & greet - CrossFit edition		Prep has begun - will take place towards Week 7 of semester 1 and 2 possibly
10. Host a joint meet & greet with FBL Rep		
11. Host a meet your union style event		Might occur in conjunction with Alumni Relations

## HUMANITIES FACULTY REPORT – March

JUDE SOUSSAN

DATE	WHAT	NOTES
03/02/2023	My first Student Discipline Panel meeting	
08/02/2023	Attended the Graduation ceremony as the student representative	Was able to use this opportunity to speak with more staff members within the Humanities faculty and introduce myself.
09/02/2023	Attended my first Humanities Health and Safety Committee Meeting	I asked them how students can file a health and safety issue especially if it's to do with a maintenance issue. I was also asked to keep an eye out from a student's perspective and bring it into meetings.
10/02/2023	Had the meeting about Entrepreneurs Hub	Spoke to them about how we could work towards reaching humanities students and getting them on board with this program. I will be reaching out to them to speak more about this and to think of strategies to reach out to humanities students more effectively.
15/02/2023	Created a Hayman Tour Video with the Theatre Coordinator and Ben	Ben is currently working on the video which will hopefully be posted within a week. We made sure to create the video in a POV style to make sure we make it as clear as possible as to how people can get to the theatre and know where it is on campus.
21/02/2023	Helped MC-ing the Friend Speed dating	
22/02/2023	O-day stall. Introduced myself and urged people to follow the Facebook page	Met heaps of new students specifically from school of education and creative arts. Was refreshing to see a lot of postgraduates. My soft dart board game was a success and people seemed to like the snack/drinks options.
22/02/2023	Attended the Entrepreneur Launch	
28/02/2023	Attended the Operations Committee meeting	Used this opportunity to discuss the lack of gluten free options on campus and how the staff should be trained more closely when it comes to food allergies.
03/03/2023	Meeting with Humanities staff	Organised a meeting with Humira and Nicole to introduce myself as well as an opportunity to get to know them. We spoke about working more collaboratively and on ways I can be more involved with the Humanities faculty. I also spoke about the things I have been currently working on and the event ideas I have in mind. We spoke about potentially doing a Humanities event at the Makers space or proceeding with the movie night idea but to be presented at the Hayman.

## Student Assist – Representation Board report – March 2023

Case statistics for Student Assist is as follows:

	Dec	Jan	Feb
Academic sessions	239	227	236
Financial Counselling sessions	16	29	45
LifeHacks	36	23	156

Academic sessions in the month of February were mainly focused on appeals and misconducts. Financial counselling sessions were mainly focused on students looking for long term accommodation, as well as support with tuition fee payment and living expenses.

### Welfare

Student Assist provided emergency relief to 9 students. Breakdown below:

Foodbank/Food vouchers - 3 international + 1 Domestic students

Smartrider Top ups – 1 international + 1 domestic students

Child Care Grants – 2 international + 1 domestic students

3 Loan Laptops were loaned out.

**ISC president Report**  
**Representation board**  
**Submission date: March 09<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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**COMMITTEE AND INTERNAL MEETINGS**

- Work with the International Student Support Group held at Counselling Services to enhance support and engagement activities for international students.
- Meeting with VPA to discuss the possibilities for seminar conducted by Pathway Migration consultancy to help students with their visa issues.

**Events**

- event: O-Day, February 2023. To welcome international students the ODay and recruit more members for the next IS committee
- Upcoming event: April 2023. Schedule a seminar for International students with Pathway Migration agency for better knowledge of visa process
- Upcoming event: March 2023. ISC and PSC are organising a event for new students this event is planned in the month of February.
- ISC election was conducted successfully and a new team of committee members are elected and we are planning to conduct our first committee meeting with the new team members soon

Recommendation: To have a personal meeting with all new ISC members and explain them their role and make them comfortable and then to conduct our first committee meeting in the following week

Bhaarath Kathiravan

ISC PRESIDENT  
PRONOUNCE HE/HIM  
ISC.PRESIDENT@GUILD.CURTIN.EDU.AU

## KPIs for International Student Committee President

- Stay in frequent contact with the ISC Committee and offer support for the members wherever possible.
- Complete the Guild induction training within the required timeframe.
- Provide induction activities and training to the ISC, to be able to effectively carry out their roles within the Guild policies and regulations.
- Work with the International Student Support Group held at Counselling Services to enhance support and engagement activities for international students.
- Continue to organise and improve the Pasar Malam event
- Hold at least 1 workshop each semester for International Students on various relevant topics in coordination with Curtin Counselling.
- Take part in coordinating an event organised by Curtin university called Café Connect to support international students.
- Frequently update and promote the ISC Facebook Page and Instagram.



**PSC President's Report**

SUBMISSION DATE: 08/03/2023

FOR MEETING DATE: 16/03/2023

NAME: Mitch Craig

POSITION: PSC President

**GUILD MEETINGS/EVENTS**

Date	Meeting	Comments
01/02/23	Meeting w/ PSC Health Sciences Rep	Explained role, how guild works etc.
08/02/2023	Meeting with student interested in joining the PSC	Explained roles, what the PSC does
08/02/2023	Memberships Meeting	Discussed digital memberships initiative
09/02/2023	Representation Board	
13/02/2023	WA Postgrad Meeting	Met with UWA Postgrad President, discussed postgrad issues in WA, trying to get Murdoch & ECU on board and make it a regular occurrence
13/02/2023	PSC Meeting	See Minutes
20/02/2023	Fortnightly Catchup w/ VP-E	Discussed current PSC happenings etc
20/02/2023	Guild stance on Generative AI	Meeting to discuss Generative AI & the Guild's stance on its use, University policy etc
22/02/2023	O-Day	Was G
23/02/2023	Friend Speed Dating	Helped Salwa & Aleena with friend speed dating
03/03/2023	Toga!	Attended toga w/ other guild reps. Was a good night, event was packed.
08/03/2023	Higher Ed	Attended Higher Ed w/Maryanne & Guild Exec

**UNIVERSITY MEETINGS**

Date	Meeting	Comments
06/02/23	LSEC	Very short, discussed generative AI & student housing crisis
07/02/2023	HREC	Took Hannah Pizzey (Research VP) who is replacing me on this committee going forward, I will act as her deputy
10/02/2023	HREC induction/handover meeting w/ Hannah (PSC) & ethics office	meeting w/ Hannah (PSC) & ethics office
10/02/2023	Entrepreneurs Hub	Meeting w/ entrepreneurs hub & other guild reps on what benefit for students/collaboration is possible with the hub

15/02/2023	Meeting w/ DVCR, ADVCR, ROC staff & Research VP	Meeting to discuss postgrad issues. Raise any major issues outside of formal committee. Productive discussion occurred.
15/02/2023	Academic Integrity Forum	Attended w/ Ryan Kirby, informative presentation on assessment Integrity & Generative AI.
16/02/2023	Graduation	Was Guild Rep for grad ceremony, Josh Cooper graduated 🎓 😊
21/02/2023	Undergrad Science Orientation	Gave presentation to the 1 <sup>st</sup> year science cohort on the guild.
22/02/2023	Postgrad Sci-Eng Orientation	Gave presentation on the Guild/PSC, spoke to a few students afterwards
23/02/2023	HDR Orientation	Gave presentation to new HDR students on the guild/PSC, went really well.
24/02/2023	Academic Board	Meeting went over time, we all contributed well and asked some tough questions. Discussed accord & WA Universities Review.
1/03/2023	Research Committee	Productive Meeting, new Research VP co-opted to committee, discussed draft HDR mentoring program. GRS looking into software requirements being met for HDR students.

### **PROJECTS/General**

- Made some progress on HDR mentoring program, in discussions w/ ADVCR & GRS.
- PSC elections occurred, filled the majority of roles.
- Having intro meeting with newly elected PSC office bearers.
- Fruitful discussions w/ DVCR & Research Committee on HDR software provision.
- Many many Orientation activities.
- Actually getting some movement on some stuff with the Uni.
- Beach Bonanza w/ ISC happening soon

### **KPI Progress**

- Filled 75% of PSC roles, will be at >80% soon.
- Supported new PSC members with introductory meetings & resources.
- Progress made on HDR mentoring implementation plan.
- 1 postgrad event happening very soon.
- Have responded to emails promptly.

### **tl;dr**

Lots of meetings. Lots of orientation stuff. Got new committee. Making good progress with a lot of postgrad issues.





## Student Guild of Curtin University

### Postgraduate Student Committee

#### Meeting #2

Held at 1600 on Monday the 13th of February 2023

In The Bridge

## AGENDA

### Meeting opened at 1606

1. Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners

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

2. Attendance

- 2.1. Members Present; Mitchell Craig (Chair), Tsz Tung Wong (Snow), Hannah Pizzey, Devahuti Chaliha, James Cabrera
- 2.2. Others Present; Andrew Cameron, Veronika Gobba (VP-E/Minute Secretary)
- 2.3. Apologies and Leave of Absence; None.
- 2.4. Absent; Ritesh

3. Disclosure of any potential or perceived Conflicts of Interest

None.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- 4.1. Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion: That the Postgraduate Student Committee approves the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 17/01/2023, as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved: Hannah Pizzey

Seconded: Tsz Tung Wong (Snow)

*Carried*

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

6. Items Not for Discussion

Nil

## 7. Reports

- 7.1. President – Submitted
  - Mitch added that he met with UWA postgrad president this morning, a productive chat.
- 7.2. Vice President – Research
  - Health sciences handover, catching up on a lot of emails.
- 7.3. Vice President – Coursework – Nothing to report
- 7.4. Secretary – Vacant
- 7.5. PSC Business and Law Representative - Vacant
- 7.6. PSC Science and Engineering Representative – Vacant
- 7.7. PSC Health Sciences Representative
  - Covering ethics committee, planning sitting on Q&A panels with ROC (Hannah)
- 7.8. PSC Humanities Representative – Nothing to Report
- 7.9. Student Assist
  - Not many postgrad issues coming through, reiterates the student housing crisis and that is the main problems students are coming to student assist for. Andrew notes that Curtin is not being upfront to international students about the crisis because they don't want to deter students from enrolling at Curtin. In the next few weeks there may be a large amount of students from China coming over because they are not allowed to study online in China, there may be a bit of panic during that time and the situation may be exacerbated.

Mitch notes that UWA is working directly with real estate services, Curtin is planning incentives for landlords to rent to students and potentially using Nesuto informally as emergency short-term accommodation.

Motion: That the Postgraduate Student Committee notes the reports.

Moved: Hannah Pizzey

Seconded: Devahuti Chaliha

*Carried*

## 8. Items for Discussion and Resolution

- 8.1. O-Day *for discussion only*

Mitch urges those who can attend to arrive from 10am and go to reception.  
Confirms everyone has a t-shirt  
Mitch notes we will have stickers and donut giveaway.  
Stall will be near the Koi pond.  
Veronika notes please bring a water bottle.

*James enters at 4:23pm*
- 8.2. Elections *for discussion only*

Mitch notes that if you want to nominate make sure you do before nominations close, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, elections will be online march 1<sup>st</sup> if election if contested. Refer to Jasmyne (Guild Secretary) if anyone has queries about the election.
- 8.3. PSC/ISC Event *for discussion only*

Mitch notes the event will be 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, may or may not have a pool. Mitch asks to contact him if anyone wants to be in the promotional video.
- 8.4. Emerging issues facing Postgraduate Students *for discussion only*

None.

9. General Business

None.

10. Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Postgraduate Student Committee is TBD. Documents and motions are to be submitted no later than 5pm on TBC to [psc.secretary@guild.curtin.edu.au](mailto:psc.secretary@guild.curtin.edu.au) and [psc.president@guild.curtin.edu.au](mailto:psc.president@guild.curtin.edu.au)

**Meeting closed at 1632**



**Student Guild of Curtin University**

**Postgraduate Student Committee**

**2023**

**Declaration of Approval of Meeting Minutes**

I declare that the minutes of the Postgraduate Student Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 have been approved and are true and accurate.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Craig".

Mitchell Craig  
Chairperson

**QUEER OFFICER'S Report**  
**Representation Board Meeting 3/2023 – 16.03.23**  
**09.03.2023**



**GUILD MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Weekly	Catch-up w/ VP-E	Check-in to look at what's coming up and what's going on currently
21.02	Meeting w/ Student	Overall, a good and productive discussion
03.03	Events w/ VP-A	Planning and Discussing ideas for upcoming QD Event at the Tav

**UNIVERSITY MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
24.02	Catch up w/ Sheldon Smith - Senior Advisor, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging	Introductory meeting and chance to go over plans for the year regarding past, present and upcoming projects

**PROJECTS**

Deadnaming: Students continue to come forward with concerns and instances of being deadnamed by Curtin's systems. By the time of this meeting I will have finished my written overview of the issue and will be in a position to take the next steps to hopefully get the ball rolling on this.

Curtin Ally Program: After speaking with Sheldon, I have begun the process of reviewing the current way that the program is run in order to see if/what changes can be made to improve it. I have also run a trial to ensure that students are also able to apply for the program if they wish as this is something that has had issues in the past.

**OTHER**

Guild O-Day: O-Day went really well, lots of students came up and were interested in the stickers and fun facts that were on offer. Quite a few stopped to have a chat both about general information and with more specific questions.

Queer Collective: Interest in the collective is high. At the time of submitting this there has been over 40 students fill out an expression of interest.

Discord: The discord server is as active as ever. I have not been able to fully roll out the username identification system just yet, as I want to ensure that it does not interfere with the current operation of the server too much outside what is necessary, however excluding that it is on track.

***IMARI MORRIS (They/She/He)***  
**QUEER OFFICER**

## Women's Officer Report - Representation Board

16/03/2023

Date	Meeting	Comments
21/02/2023	Friend Speed Dating	Helped out with hosting Friend Speed Dating
22/03/2023	O – day	This was quite fun
23/02/2023	Friend Speed Dating	Helped out with hosting Friend Speed Dating
23/02/2023	VPA * WO	Discussed what I can work on long-term and my focus for my project.
24/02/2023	Meeting with We are Womxn	Had a discussion on what they do and provided links for
28/02/2023	Operation Committee	

### **O – week**

O – day was great! We got around 20 expressions of Interest for the Women's Collective, which was good. I would've preferred a bit more engagement with the stall, but overall, it was not too bad. Next time, I think having something more dynamic, like toys, puzzles, or giveaways, might attract more people to come and check out the stall.

I also helped out at both Friend Speed Dating sessions on Tuesday and Thursday, which was quite fun.

### **We are Womxn**

I had a meeting with We are Womxn regarding the creation of posters for our university's sexual harassment and assault reporting processes. They will get the posters done in a few weeks; the purpose of these posters is to simplify information for students and make it easier to know what to do and where to go to report cases of sexual violence. They would also like to come in to provide consent education; the timings around this are yet to be discussed.

### **Product donation**

There has been a bit of delay with the donation of products as there were quite a few issues with finding the addresses of the residential centres of Pinchapoo, the charity we planned to donate products to. On the website, it lists three centres in WA; however, I was not able to get in contact with the people running the two centres that we could drive to. I contacted the organisation's founder, who informed me that only one centre in WA is currently running. I have contacted the

person running that centre and have secured the address. I am just waiting for a reply on their business hours, and then I can find a good time to drop the products off.

**Women's Collective**

I have posted an Instagram Post informing people that Expressions of Interest for the Women's Collective are open. The Facebook Post is yet to be done.

**TLDR:**

O week went well; I had a meeting with We are Womxn regarding the creation of posters, a bit of delay with product donation, which is being sorted, have put out a post for EOIs for Women's Collective.

*Aleena Shaji*

*Women's Officer 2023*

Submitted 09/03/2023.

# Accessibility Department

## Representation Board Report: March 2023



### University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
02/02	CMS DIB Working Party	
06/02	LAWG B500 Tour	See below
09/02	COMPAS-S Advisory Board Meeting	
13/02	DIBC Initial Workshop	See below
13/02	AC@C Meeting	
23/02	Students as Partners	Apologies
02/03	CMS DIB Working party	Apologies

### Guild/Student Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
02/02	NUS Campaign Meeting #2	
10/02	NUS Campaign Emergency meeting	
15/02	VPE Check-in	
16/02	NUS Campaign Meeting #3	
20/02	Guild Generative AI Meeting	
01/03	VPE Check-in	
02/03	Exec Meeting	

### Additional Information

#### LAWG B500 Tour

LAWG toured the 1<sup>st</sup>-year chemistry labs in B500 and noted a number of improvements that could be made. It is my understanding that these suggestions have already been passed on to the powers that be, so I'm hoping we will receive a response at the next meeting.

#### DIBC Initial Workshop

This is the new Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Committee in the Provost portfolio. Honestly this first meeting felt like an absolute waste of time and a bureaucratic self-congratulatory wank. I'm currently the only student on the DIBC, and from the looks of things the few people from specific equity groups seem to not be getting any opportunities to actually criticise the university. Not to mention that aside from being chaired by the provost (who seems not to give a single shit about any of this), this committee has absolutely no power whatsoever, and doesn't even have other DIBCs from around the university reporting to it.

Maybe it'll get better in the next meeting, but this one was an absolutely pointless endeavour.



### NUS HyFlex Education Campaign Meeting

Unfortunately at this stage I am the only Accessibility Rep in WA that has been participating in the planning of this campaign, and honestly I'm not confident that any of us actually share a comprehensive understanding of the issue or how we're targeting the campaign. For this reason I've decided to run a more 'hands-off' campaign – basically just sharing a senate petition around.

### Other Stuff Happening

- I have been asked to speak at Professional Development sessions for teaching staff in the School of Education to encourage and advocate for inclusive teaching methods. More info to come later.
- O-Day went well. The giveaways were a huge success and my volunteers were amazing!
- Elevator Pass issue has been absolutely draining.
- First collective email is due to go out on the weekend.

### Ongoing Projects

- Students/Staff with Disability Procedures Review
  - CAP De-Medicalisation
- Student Wellbeing Advisory Board
- ACROD Parking Review
- Chemistry Laboratory Accessibility
  - B316 Consultation
- CSMP/CSG Stability
- DIBC
- NUS Campaign

### Events

**I really need to get planning for my events**

**TL;DR** – February was super busy with much ado about nothing. I'm so overwhelmed with study but most of my projects are continuing as planned.

### **Glossary:**

- **AAS:** AccessAbility Services – the university body that organises and coordinates CAPs
- **ADCET:** Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training. ADCET's mission is to contribute to the improvement of the educational experiences and to the successful outcomes for students with disability in post-secondary education.
- **CAP:** Curtin Access Plan. A personalised document entitling students to reasonable adjustments to their studies enabling equitable access to education for those with specific access requirements.
- **CCs:** Closed Captions
- **CMS DIB:** Curtin Medical School Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Working Party.

[Document title]

- **CoP:** Community of Practice
- **COMPAS-S:** Checking On Mental health and Providing Alternatives to Suicide - for Students
- **CSG:** Curtin Social Group – A social group run during common free time on Wednesdays for Autistic and ADHD students who are involved in the CSMP.
- **CSMP:** Curtin Specialist Mentoring Program. This program allows Autistic students to engage in a weekly social group (CSG), as well as access to an Honours or Postgraduate Psychology student as a mentor. The mentor is there to help their Autistic mentee to navigate University and develop skills in self-advocacy, confidence, and other areas.
- **DAIP:** Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. The University plan regarding disability, equity, and accessibility improvements to the Uni. This is sent to the Department of Communities as a legal requirement as an educational institution that receives public funding. It is renewed every 3 years, but the 2020 review was delayed due to COVID.
- **DIBC:** Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Committee
- **DVC-A:** Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic.
- **DTS:** Curtin University Digital and Technology Solutions.
- **ISU:** Integrity and Standards Unit – the body concerned with Academic Integrity at Curtin.
- **LAWG:** Laboratory Accessibility Working Group
- **LITEC:** Learning Innovation and Teaching Excellence Centre. The University body that oversees teaching and provides ongoing education for teaching staff. Is also involved in digital modules for students (eg; respectful relationships, Curtin challenge)
- **NSSS:** National Student Safety Survey. An annual survey conducted by the Social Research Centre in collaboration with Universities Australia. Aims to discover SASH rates at universities across the country.
- **NUS:** National Union of Students
- **RNA SteerCo:** Respect Now Always Steering Committee. The University committee tasked with reducing the incidence of sexual assault and sexual harassment at Curtin (including via digital means).
- **SASH:** Sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- **SARN:** Student Accessibility Representative Network. Currently involves Accessibility reps from Curtin, UWA, Murdoch, and ECU.
- **SCT:** Safer Communities Team. Curtin's security and support team.
- **SoE:** School of Education
- **TEQSA:** Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency
- **TOIL:** Time Off In Lieu. Overtime hours logged earlier in the year that are being progressively used as-required.
- **UDWG:** Universal Design Working Group. The University committee tasked with improving disability access across Curtin.
- **VP-E:** Vice President – Education

## Higher Education Report

### Government Media Statement

[Independent-review-to-assess-Western-Australias-university-sector.aspx](#)

### Review to probe WA universities as student numbers, grants plummet. WA Today

The state government will conduct an independent review into Western Australia's four major universities as student numbers and research grants plummet.

But the decision has drawn concern from both students and university management.

An independent panel has been appointed to examine how to improve the financial stability of Curtin, Murdoch, Edith Cowan and the University of Western Australia.

Education Minister Tony Buti said over the last few years there had been a downward trend in the recruitment of international students, the share of grants and the commercialisation of research.

"The world of work is changing rapidly. We need to keep pace and ensure WA's university sector is meeting our state's needs in terms of building a skilled workforce for the future," he said.

"Within that one of the purposes is to look at how can we assure that entry to university is more equitable.

"We believe it is the right time to undertake an independent review of our public university sector."

But Curtin student guild president Dylan Botica said the "rush-job review" was seeking to fundamentally alter the structure of universities without the voice of students.

"The ... review has ignored the existential threat it poses to student unionism. Student guilds play a fundamental role in the higher education sector and to overlook this is a slap in the face to all students," he said

"Student guilds are statutory bodies that have been completely unrepresented in the panel membership, while university management is an overwhelming majority."

Botica said there was the possibility the review could result in the loss of student guilds entirely.

"Any review that has scope to abolish student guilds cannot be conducted with a complete lack of engagement with those bodies," he said.

The announcement comes amid an overarching review of the higher education sector in Australia, the Universities Accord.

Botica said unlike the state review, the Universities Accord had given guilds the opportunity for consultation and representation.

He said embarking on a separate review while the national review was under way would unintentionally cause "more chaos in the already embattled higher education sector".

Murdoch University Vice Chancellor, Professor Andrew Deeks, said the review was welcomed but also voiced concerns about its timing.

"I am somewhat concerned with the timing of this review, coming as it does on the heels of the release of a discussion paper by the Australian Universities Accord Panel.

"This discussion paper is part of a 12-month review of Australia's higher education system being conducted by the Australian government aiming to deliver an Australian Universities Accord that could significantly change the way our universities are funded.

"Personally, I would prefer that the Australian Universities Accord process was completed before this review began."

Buti said the aim was to work alongside the national review, and the state review was more focused on the structure of the universities.

Deeks said he was supportive of the state review overall.

“Each university plays an important role in our higher education ecosystem and has its own strengths,” he said.

“This review is an opportunity to capture and consolidate the unique role each university plays and to enhance the productive cooperation that already exists between our universities.”

Curtin University Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne also said the university welcomed the opportunity to participate.

Buti did not confirm whether the review would look at the amalgamation of the states universities.

### **Experts warn failure to consider merging all four WA universities could leave institutions out in the cold. The West Australian**

Failing to consider mergers could leave WA universities out in the cold as bigger institutions climb higher on academic world rankings, experts have warned.

Business leader and former University of Western Australia chancellor Michael Chaney and WA’s chief scientist Peter Klinken have backed the McGowan Government’s independent review into the financial sustainability of the State’s four public institutions.

The review, prompted by declining research grants and slowing enrolments, comes after calls intensified in 2022 to amalgamate all four WA institutions — UWA, Curtin, Edith Cowan and Murdoch universities — to create one “super university” that would rocket up global ranking

The review panel’s terms of reference include consideration of “new structural models” to deliver improvements.

“The situation at the moment is you’ve got four relatively small public universities that are each doing very good things but the outcomes are dissipated and they’re competing for the same research dollars,” Mr Chaney said.

“There’s a fair bit of overlap and duplication and they’re often attempting to lure top high-citation researchers from one university to the other, and so for the State it’s a zero-sum game.

“One of the results of it ... is they’re threatened with slipping in the global rankings.”

Mr Chaney said the proposed merger of two universities in South Australia would probably bump UWA out of the top 100.

“You’ve got Chinese universities coming up in the ranks,” he said.

“We’re punching below our weight in terms of research funding and international students, all of that threatens the status of the universities

“I think it’s a very good idea having a review — it’s really important to have a group that stands back quite independently and considers the issues and where we want our universities to be in 20 and 30 years time.”

Professor Klinken, who has long championed the idea of merging all four universities, said holding the review at the same time as a national analysis into the university sector was “incredibly timely”.

Without wanting to pre-empt recommendations from the panel, he said any amalgamations would be “incredibly important and useful for the State”.

“The challenge we’re facing is that our university sector is under pressure,” Professor Klinken said. “And we’re significantly losing market share.

“Rankings do matter. So if you have a high ranking, you’re much more likely to attract students, therefore you’re more likely to get increased income, therefore you’re more likely to be successful at being able to pursue your research agendas, which then works to your advantage with the rankings.

“There’s a virtuous cycle here that needs to be maintained and if you don’t, you have the potential to go into a death spiral — and that’s just not good for the State.”

Professor Klinken said UWA was ranked 99 on the Academic Ranking of World Universities, so if combined South Australian universities leapfrogged UWA, it would drop out of the top 100.

“That’s not a good look for the State,” he said. “We really do need a top 100 university here.”

When Education Minister Tony Buti was asked last Thursday if mergers were on the cards, he said he would wait to see what the review found.

But he acknowledged that size — which can influence academic rankings — was important.

“Our only university that’s in the top 100 in the world rankings is UWA and the view is that with the pending amalgamation in South Australia, of University of Adelaide and South Australia University, that top 100 place is under threat, so we need to look at that,” Mr Buti said.

“I think rankings are very important, especially to international students. Rankings are important to attract high calibre students, high calibre academics and also research funding.”

The vice-chancellors of the four universities have welcomed the review but noted that each institution has its own identity and own strengths.

## **WA inquiry into “structural change” for unis. Campus Morning Mail**

### ***The states VCs already know what they think***

The **state government announces an independent review**, “to consider how structural change could strengthen the local university sector and delivery for students.”

**why?** Premier **Mark McGowan** and Education Minister **Tony Buti** point to a **declining share of Commonwealth research grants**, “relatively” **low enrolment growth** and the state’s 5 per cent share of Australia’s **international student revenue**.

“To attract world-leading academic staff and to gain a technological edge, universities need to be at the forefront of research and innovation. These all contribute to better learning outcomes, technological advances and greater student attraction”

**yeah, but really why?**: the idea that all would be well, or at least better, if some/all of the **four public universities merged** comes up in the west every 20 years or so. Most recently, **WA Chief Scientist Peter Klinken** raised it with a **state parliament committee** a couple of years back and it got a big run in Perth’s paper, *The West Australian* (CMM September 20,21 and November 16 2021).

The idea is that a **big uni** would have the scale to **really rate on research rankings**, which would **attract international students** whose **fees would fund more research**, and so on.

**but why now?**: That **SA Premier Peter Malinauskas** has the **same idea** might have something to do it with – he campaigned on a merger at last year’s state election and **Uni Adelaide and Uni South Australia** got the message, (CMM December 9 2022). They are **working on a merger prop**, with a plan due mid-year and Commonwealth minister **Jason Clare** (who would undoubtedly have to stump up to help it happen) has made positive noises.

**Will a big WA U rate ?**: As so sadly often, CMM has no clue but smarter people than he do. **Nicholas Fisk** and **Daniel Owens** (UNSW) suggest a merger in SA could give Adelaide University (the name is already agreed) a research ranking lift but point out that **UWA already ranks higher** than **Uni Adelaide** and **Curtin U** is above **Uni SA** (CMM, [HERE](#)) This may encourage merger boosters in WA to consider what a merger of their top-two could do.

**Which still leaves the question**: whether a **research ranking lift** will deliver the growth expected. Before anybody starts selling research reputations to international students they will have to explain where Perth and Adelaide are.

**The people to answer it**: The WA Government has hired top talent to advise, **Sandra Harding** (“lead reviewer” and ex VC James Cook U), **Peter Shergold** (ex head of PM and C and recently retired chancellor of Western Sydney U), **Ian Watt** (also former secretary of PM and C) and **John Williams**, an executive dean at Uni Adelaide.

## **University of Melbourne urges Yes vote in Indigenous voice referendum**

The University of Melbourne has joined the handful of universities urging a Yes vote in the referendum to amend the Constitution to include an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice to parliament.

In a [statement](#) on Tuesday the university said its governing council and its executive, “affirm their support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Yes position in the referendum”.

The university said it “fully respected” that not everyone would vote Yes and that it would facilitate “informed public debate” on the issue.

The statement backed freedom of inquiry and the free expression of ideas which, it said, were “fundamental to the mission of the University of Melbourne”.

“All members of our community are entitled to engage in robust, evidence-based and respectful expression of their views and the university provides a safe place for expressing differing opinions,” the statement said.

The University of Melbourne’s backing for a Yes vote follows the University of Tasmania’s public support announced last week. Its chancellor, Alison Watkins, said the University of Tasmania had a “deep commitment to voice, truth and treaty as expressed in the Uluru Statement of the Heart”.

“We recognise that this is an important aspiration of Indigenous Australians and expresses their commitment to strengthening our democracy,” she said.

Two other universities – UNSW and the University of Wollongong – have officially backed a Yes case in the referendum. University of SA vice-chancellor David Lloyd has expressed his support for a Yes vote and urged universities not to “sit on the fence”.

At the University of Sydney, vice-chancellor Mark Scott has personally given strong support to a Yes vote, but the university itself has not done so. In a statement, the University of Sydney said it was “carefully following the voice referendum debate, and considering our institutional position, in consultation with our community.”

## **Monash anti-Semitism stance praised by Zionist Federation**

Monash University has joined the University of Melbourne in acknowledging the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of anti-Semitism in its anti-racist policy.

Monash has included in the fact sheet about its new policy, which was approved last month, a statement that the [IHRA definition of anti-Semitism](#) “is drawn on by the university in order to guide understanding of anti-Semitism”.

The new Monash stance was praised by the Zionist Federation of Australia, which said it would “play an important role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Jewish students on campus”.

“The IHRA working definition is widely accepted as the most comprehensive and accurate definition of anti-Semitism. It recognises that anti-Semitism can take many forms, including traditional forms such as hate speech and violence, as well as more subtle and insidious forms such as delegitimisation, demonisation and double standards in relation to Israel,” said ZFA president Jeremy Leibler.

The ZFA said it looked “forward to working with Monash University to ensure that the IHRA working definition is implemented effectively”.

In January the University of Melbourne adopted the IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism in its anti-racism policy.

## **Nation suffers for selling short our PhD research talent**

Australia has a currency problem – the value of a PhD degree.

In 2019, Australia [ranked 21st](#) in the world for total R&D expenditure per GDP. Yet in 2019, and in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) alone, Australia [produced more PhD graduates per capita](#) than eight out of 10 countries with the highest R&D expenditure.

To put it in perspective, Australia awards more PhD degrees per capita than the United States and Japan combined, despite both countries spending nearly twice as much on R&D per GDP.

Unless we can unlock the value of PhDs to society, we are not realising the full potential of a highly skilled workforce.

Under the current Australian PhD system, this conveyor belt production of PhDs alongside an underfunded research sector means graduates have limited career options.

For instance, the common aspiration of becoming an academic researcher upon completing a PhD no longer seems viable due to support for early career researchers hitting a record low.

In the past 10 years in STEM alone, the number of PhD graduates [has increased by over 35 per cent](#), while the allocated funding for early career researchers through the Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award has only [increased by less than 9 per cent](#).

While an artificial solution may be to reduce the number of PhD degrees being awarded, this is merely a stopgap solution for a nation that is already undercutting R&D.

It's not just the loss of talented early career researchers that we mourn. Australia has a sinking hole filled with game-changing research that never progresses beyond the laboratory, also known as the ["valley of death"](#).

But it's not all doom and gloom. For the first time in 15 years, the new Universities Accord is an opportunity to recommend reform that will appreciate the true value of a PhD degree.

For Australia to gain the maximum economic benefit from its PhD graduates, it must focus on building the PhD toolkit with the skills and experiences needed for modern-day society.

PhD researchers have been key drivers in solving some of the most pressing challenges of national interest such as climate change, health, AI, data security and ethics.

But, a PhD produces more than just world-class researchers. It can produce excellent communicators, writers, educators, thought leaders, policy advisers and entrepreneurs to name a few.

Expanding the repertoire of a PhD can be achieved by allowing greater time and financial support for postgraduates to upskill.

PhD researchers must first be considered as value-driving assets. For example, PhD researchers contribute to [55 per cent of university research output](#) and [20 per cent of Australia's total R&D](#).

Yet, the current base PhD stipend of \$29,863 per year puts Australia at least 30 per cent lower on average compared to leading countries such as the United States, Germany and Israel.

In some cases, this puts Australian PhD candidates below the poverty line.

While the minimum stipends were recently lifted at the [Australian National University](#) and the [University of NSW](#), such changes should be benchmarked nationally by the government and tracked against the median income to be sustainable and competitive with international institutions.

PhD researchers must also have sufficient time to pursue skills complementary to research that could provide value to any career in or out of academia. These include participating in an international research exchange, industry placement, internship or start-up incubator.

Whether in R&D, government, business or consulting, the modern-day employer desires a team player with skills in critical thinking, analysis and communication.

PhD researchers are master problem-solvers who tick all of these boxes. From designing experiments to performing complex analysis and communicating with stakeholders, PhDs provide the foundations to accelerate and lead Australian industries. But there is an unfinished bridge between the university and industry sectors.

New initiatives, such as the [National Industry PhD Program](#), are a good example of how synergy between a well supported PhD and industry can create value that supports the development and translation of Australian research.

With a four-year stipend of \$46,000 per year and a 12-week industry training program, this allows candidates to conduct cutting-edge research in a commercial context.

It also enables them to contextualise their capabilities in a non-academic workplace, where many will eventually find careers. However, this program would still only make up less than 10 per cent of PhDs awarded annually in Australia.

While Australia continues to invest heavily in its natural resources, if we want to turbocharge our future, we must invest in our PhD researchers as valuable human assets.

*Diana Zhang, Constantine Tsounis and Joshua Karras are PhD researchers at UNSW Sydney.*

### **Submarines ‘need 108 PhD-level nuclear scientists a year’**

Australia must train at least 108 PhD-level researchers in nuclear engineering every year to provide sufficient “top tier” experts to operate and maintain Australia’s future nuclear submarines, new analysis suggests.

As Anthony Albanese prepares to unveil Australia’s “optimal pathway” to acquiring nuclear submarines, UNSW Sydney nuclear materials engineer Edward Obbard said the nation needed to urgently develop its nuclear workforce through the creation of one or more large nuclear research - institutes.

Informed by US workforce requirements, Dr Obbard found Australia would need a core of about 215 world-class nuclear experts to maintain and operate Australia’s promised eight nuclear boats, together with 2635 “mid-tier” nuclear professionals and 3010 “nuclear-aware” workers.

Each of the “top tier” experts would require a PhD and at least two decades of professional experience, but only about an eighth of PhD-level nuclear researchers were likely to attain the required level of expertise, he said.

“Nuclear subject matter experts only appear at the pinnacle of their careers,” Dr Obbard said.

“They make critical decisions about safety, operational limits, and engineering design.

“They are essential if we are to establish a design authority and safety regulator for a complex technology, like nuclear reactors.”

Dr Obbard, whose calculations do not include the workforce needed to build the subs, estimated 27 of the world-class experts would be needed to maintain and operate each of the promised submarines.

He said those required for the initial submarine were likely to have to come from overseas, as there would be insufficient time for them to be trained from scratch.

Dr Obbard said the “mid-tier” nuclear professionals required to operate and maintain the boats would need undergraduate or masters-level degrees, and an average 10 years of experience. “These are senior scientists, engineers, technical managers, reactor operators and reactor shift managers. Most of the submarine crew fall into this category,” he said.

“In the US, nuclear submarine crews have university-level qualifications, many of them masters level and higher, and years of experience in nuclear operations that start with work in shore-based test reactors.”

Given that only about two-thirds of engineering graduates pursue engineering careers, he said Australia would need to train 577 people in postgraduate nuclear degrees by 2028, to ensure 330 mid-tier level workers with at least a decade of experience before the first submarine was delivered.

UNSW offers the nation’s only nuclear engineering program, with 53 postgraduates at UNSW Sydney, and 74 undergraduates at UNSW Canberra.

Dr Obbard said the program could be scaled up to train up an estimated 180 graduates required each year for middle-tier roles, such as submarine crew and maintenance engineers.



But he said training the 108 subject matter experts that would be required each year would be “far more challenging ... The solution must lie in the creation of one or more large, collaborating nuclear research training institutes”.

“They would serve all aspects of nuclear technology, including nuclear propulsion, but also nuclear medicine, energy, fusion, law, policy, physics, quality, safety and research methods,” he said.

“This might provide the combination of scale, excellence and diversity required for the best training, and for attracting the best graduates.”

Dr Obbard said unless the training and recruitment program was designed carefully, it would “eat into” Australia’s talent and funding pipelines for other science, technology and engineering disciplines that were critical to national security and economic competitiveness.

The Prime Minister is to travel to the US next week to make the AUKUS submarine announcement with Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

### **Uni Tasmania hears “feedback” and cuts senior staff**

<https://campusmorningmail.com.au/news/uni-tasmania-hears-feedback-and-cuts-senior-staff/>

#### ***Acting COO Craig Barling announced yesterday 48 senior admin roles will be abolished***

“We have been listening to the feedback provided by our staff, students and the broader community. We’ve heard consistent themes around the need to rebalance our university towards our academic mission,” he told staff.

The **48 jobs abolished** will be replaced by **18 new roles**. With some of the targeted positions vacant and after possible transfers by displaced staff there will be a **net loss of 18 senior professional positions**.

All up there are **113 senior manager roles** in the professional services divisions in-scope.

“We know staff feel that our systems and processes make work more difficult than it should be, that we need to do more to ensure our leadership is focused on supporting people, that we need better communication, consultation, and co-design of services, and more resources devoted to directly supporting staff and students,” **Mr Barling said**.

Positions to go are in the **COO division**, plus **student recruitment, HR and academic support**.

Mr Barling adds **no academic positions nor professional staff** outside senior management are involved.

The news comes as a committee of the **state’s Legislative Council** continues its **inquiry into the university’s governance**. Vice Chancellor **Rufus Black** and Chancellor **Alison Watkins** faced polite and constructive questioning in hearings last week but there has been **intense criticism** of the **university’s leadership in submissions** to the inquiry and **community protests** over the **relocation of the Hobart campus** from its present Sandy Bay site to the Hobart CBD.

### **Brand Australia: a no-sell in international education**

### ***The focus is on students after they arrive***

The **Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade** is inquiring into “challenges and opportunities” in **tourism and international education** (CMM October 21 '22).

The committee’s trade sub-committee is hearing evidence today from the **Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**. Last week the committee itself was in Sydney, where it heard from **international students, ELICOS bodies** and fiveunis, **Macquarie, UNSW, Sydney, UTS** and **Wollongong**.

Submissions to the inquiry address a bunch of subjects, **student visas, working hours, graduate work rights** and what a splendid job each university did during the pandemic.

But there was one issue that **didn’t keep coming up** in them – a **national campaign selling Australia to prospective international students**. It could have. The inquiry terms of reference include, “effective measures to attract and retain students to Australia.”

**Monash U** certainly nailed the importance of reaching out, “there is a need to articulate ... educational benefits as a whole for those who might seek to choose between Australian or Canadian or British universities,” its submission stated.

And the **International Education Association of Australia** pointed to Commonwealth spending to promote tourism in general, against nothing, or not much for international ed, while competitor countries have dedicated campaigns.

But selling **Australia as an education brand** did not feature in the generality of university submissions.

As for **Austrade**, while it describes its work in support “of a consistent National Brand presence” in its submission, there is no mention of an across media trans-national campaign to sell brand Australia to international students – although it [advises the industry](#) elsewhere that its “Future Unlimited” strategy and content (around for a decade) – “builds an innovative and inspirational image of Australian education with a focus on graduate outcomes.”

In **New Zealand** they are on to brand building after the pandemic. The “I am New” [international education campaign](#) launched last June.

### **Recent grads hammered by HECS**

March 6, 2023

#### ***Women who are registered nurses and primary school teachers pay the largest totals of HECS debt to government***

The findings are in a new analysis of the **Higher Education Loan Programme**, still colloquially called HECS, by **Mark Warburton**, (Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education).

Mr Warburton reports that a **lower repayment threshold** from 2019 led to women paying two-thirds of the **total additional return** to the government

Plus **debts for young people** are way higher than the \$25 000 system-total average. For current completers it is more like \$60 000.

This means **recent graduates** “are spending a significant part of their working lives repaying these debts, a situation that was not the case when HECS was introduced in 1989,”

Which is **bad for life-choices**, “they continue to pay the higher effective rates of tax associated with repaying debts well into their 30s.

“Many desire to purchase a house. Their ability to obtain a loan depends on their disposable income which is reduced by their student debt repayment obligations.”

Mr Warburton warns, the **vast expansion of student loan schemes**, since HECS was introduced for a much smaller cohort of undergraduates 30 years ago, has created a situation where they “now contribute to structural inequities in Australia’s taxation system, its intergenerational unfairness and women’s economic disadvantage.”

He adds that **data on debt is inadequate** to the extent that those currently being incurred by particular qualifications can't be determined and "there is little available data on how debts are distributed based on the characteristics of completing students or how factors, such as family formation, may affect their ability to make repayments."

## **Aus-India recognising quals: now for the harder part**

### ***The trade agreement includes mutual recognition of each other's education awards – now for professional qualifications***

This is important, "so Australian and Indian graduates will be able to practice professionally in either country," **Education Minister Jason Clare** said in Delhi, Thursday.

The trade agreement requires governments to create a **professional services working group** to "engage respective professional service bodies to negotiate mutual recognition for "qualifications, licencing and registration."

This, according to a **Prime Minister and Cabinet assessment** is good, as there are now "a limited number" of mutual recognition agreements. PMC points to **law, engineering, accounting and architecture** as fields where Australian "professional services stakeholders" would welcome mutual recognition of qualifications.

But professional bodies notably **pharmacists, nurses and midwives**, will want to maintain "existing processes ... to assess the competencies of individuals trained overseas."

CMM suspects doctors' lobbies will likely also have views on this.

## **How HECS and HELP debts have helped entrench women's economic disadvantage**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-04/hecs-help-debt-women-economic-disadvantage/101890892>

Key points:

- Women say they are frustrated by the HELP debt system and feel disadvantaged
- Women hold the majority of all student debt in Australia
- Researchers say the student debt system has exacerbated structural financial inequities between men and women

When the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) student loan program was introduced in 1989, fewer than 8 per cent of Australians had a university degree and graduates could expect to establish well-paid careers.

But 30 years on, as the number of people with degrees explodes, that's no longer a sure thing.

Women hold the majority of all student debt, Australian Tax Office (ATO) statistics show.

Teachers and nurses — both female-dominated professions — also carry the biggest repayment burden of any group, [according to analysis](#) of ATO data by Melbourne University's Centre for the Study of Higher Education (CSHE).

Honorary senior fellow Mark Warburton said the student loan system — now known as the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) — was adding to gender inequity.

"Women have got less opportunity to improve their overall circumstances, to put extra money aside for superannuation, and so these things feed into the persistence of women's economic disadvantage," he said.

The average male HELP debt is higher than the average female debt — around 12 per cent higher in 2021-22 — but most men earn higher incomes when they graduate.

Another reason women repay more debt than men, Mr Warburton says, is because of structural changes made to tertiary education when the HECS system began.

Many traditionally feminised professions — like teaching and nursing — were absorbed into the university system and became more expensive to study.

Meanwhile, the more male-dominated trades stayed in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system — and those courses often attract government subsidies.

Government data shows men aged 25-40 with VET qualifications are more likely to earn over \$65,000 than women of the same age with a university degree.

In 2019, the Morrison government lowered the salary threshold at which compulsory HELP repayments kicked in.

Women made up 64 per cent of those newly required to repay their debts, according to Mr Warburton's analysis. The salary threshold where compulsory payments kick in is currently [\\$48,361](#)

### **Why Australian universities are outsourcing courses to for-profit providers**

*<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/mar/07/why-more-australian-universities-are-outsourcing-courses-to-for-profit-providers>*

As courses go online, institutions are increasingly using external companies to deliver them, sparking concerns about quality and value for money.

The companies, known as online program managers, or OPMs, offer a variety of services – from digital platforms for delivering courses through to total course management and support.

In some cases they have assumed a central role in designing course material, teaching, marking, marketing and recruiting students, raising concerns about transparency, the quality of degrees and further casualisation of the higher education.

Research by Prof Mahsood Shah, the dean of Swinburne University of Technology Sydney, has found that 33 of the 42 Australian universities had relationships with OPMs as of April 2022, and were offering more than 850 online courses via these partnerships.

The growth in online learning began nearly two decades ago with the development of Open Universities Australia, a platform that offered online degrees. But it exploded during the Covid pandemic.

A decision by the Morrison government to pump \$32.5m into a micro-credential pilot scheme in late 2021 further turbocharged the universities' embrace of joint ventures.

Many of the universities' new offerings are being run online, via OPMs.

In November Labor's education minister, Jason Clare, announced a further \$18.5m for universities to develop and deliver short courses.

But the general secretary of the National Tertiary Education Union, Damien Cahill, said the rise of OPMs raised serious concerns about the quality of education on offer and the transparency of arrangements between the universities and the providers.

Prof Mahsood Shah has identified 14 third-party providers that have partnered with Australian universities to offer fully online courses.

They include [FutureLearn](#), [Edx](#), [UpGrad](#), [Coursera](#), [2U](#), [Online Education Services](#), [Keypath Education](#), [Online Study Australia](#), [Ducere](#), [Didasko](#) and [IT Masters](#).

Many are large multinationals, such as 2U and EdX (which recently merged). Others are homegrown, including Keypath Education, which is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, and Online Education Services, a joint venture between Swinburne and the job site Seek.

In some cases, OPMs engage teaching and support staff, including those who live outside Australia.

“I have seen a university offering a course with an OPM where the teaching staff are based in the subcontinent,” Shah said. “Universities would normally be paying \$170,000 for an associate professor, but you could recruit 20 staff from that country [for that].”

The Tertiary Education Quality Standards Authority (Teqsa) is responsible for ensuring universities and private colleges deliver the courses they promise and at a sufficient standard. But OPMs do not need to register as tertiary education providers, and so Teqsa has no role overseeing what they deliver to students.