

President's Guild Council Report March

Prepared by: Jesse Naylor Zambrano

Covering Dates: 13/3/21 - 15/4/21

Submitted to: April Guild Council

Leave: 8/4/21-9/4/21 (2 days)

1. Meetings

1.1 University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/3	Blended Learning Follow Up Meeting	
15/3	CFO Meeting	Met Curtin's Chief Financial Officer with David, asked questions regarding Curtin's finances
18/3	Academic Board Executive	
19/3	Blended Learning Model Discussion	
23/3	Students as Partners Community of Practice	
26/3	Short Courses Meeting	Asking Beth Pridmore and Jennifer Howell about Curtin Credentials and short courses
29/3	COVID-19 Critical Incident Learning and Student Experience Subgroup Meeting	No plans to return in-person lectures in Semester 2
29/3	Online Content Follow Up Meeting	Follow up meeting with Jill Downie (DVC Academic) and Jennifer Howell to hear actions university have taken with pre-recorded lecture student feedback
31/3	Enrolment Portal Consultation Meeting	Met Neville Hiscox Chief Student Services Officer to ask that the Guild be involved in student consultation to improve enrolment portal
13/4	First Nations Department Structural Change	Meeting with Ingrid Cumming (Curtin Noongar Cultural Advisor) and Linda Adnyana

14/4	Students as Partners Leadership Team Meeting	
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1.2 Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
17/3	NDA Rally Promo Stall	
18/3	Exec Meeting	
23/3	Defend Our Education NDA Rally	
23/3	Exec and Portfolio Managers Meeting	
24/3	Membership and Marketing Officer Interview	
25/3	Exec Meeting	
30/3	Special Representation Board Meeting	Discussed education campaign strategy
31/3	Education Campaign Strategy Meeting	
1/4	Exec Meeting	
6/4	Survey Creation	
13/4	Planning Consultation Workshops	
15/4	Exec Meeting	

1.3 Other Meetings/Activities

Date	Meeting	Comments
16/3	WA Presidents Meeting	Hosted the ECU Guild President Faizan Akram and Murdoch Guild President David Ugrinov at Curtin Tav to discuss our Guild's activities and challenges

2. Items of Significance

2.1 My Fees, My Future: Education Campaign

Over the past month the Education Campaign has been applying pressure on the university to return in-person lectures, submitting feedback to address recycled lecture content, promoting and running a rally, and conducting student consultation on the Learning for Tomorrow Strategy (formerly Blended Learning @ Curtin).

Defend Our Education Rally for NUS National Day of Action

The rally received fair attendance of roughly 40 people. Student speakers from different faculties, undergrad and postgrad and domestic and international student backgrounds were heard. Guest staff speakers from humanities and the NTEU were also heard. We marched down to the Chancellery and demanded the return of in-person lectures! The rally was also live streamed to the Guild's facebook page, with about 15 online viewers.

Curtin Students Demand the Return of In-Person Lectures

We learned that UWA and ECU had been offering in-person lectures this semester. As of Monday 15th March, restrictions were lifted to allow 75% in auditorium venues with fixed seating. In the Pre-Recorded Lectures Feedback Form, many students said that they wanted to see in-person lecture offerings return, and questioned why they hadn't already.

On the 16th of March I emailed the VC and Curtin senior executive to communicate that Students Demand the Return of In-Person Lectures. We rejected Covid-19 restrictions as sufficient reason to make no effort to have in-person lecture offerings, even in units with small lecture cohorts. I summarised students' feedback about negative effects of forced online learning on quality of education. We spread awareness with [social media posts](#), email and posters around the Guild precinct.

On the 29th March Curtin we learned there were no plans to return in-person lectures in Semester 2. Reasons cited were difficulty ensuring a conflict-free schedule and the need to cater to offshore students. It was also stated that decisions couldn't be made about whether to bring in-person lectures back until consultation was completed on the Learning for Tomorrow (LFT) Strategy. I raised the concern that by the time LFT Consultation was complete, it would be too late to schedule in-person lectures for semester 2.

We are continuing to build student awareness and pressure on the university. Students have repeatedly expressed to the Guild through various channels that they are frustrated with the continuation of online-only lectures and lack of communication from the university. On 13/04, I sent an email to the VC and senior executive demanding the return of in-person lectures in semester 2. I have a meeting with the senior executive on Tuesday 20th April to discuss this.

Recycled Lecture Material and Online Lectures

The Guild submitted student's feedback from the Pre-Recorded Lectures Feedback Form to the university for actioning on the 17/3.

We met with Jill Downie (DVC Academic) and Jennifer Howell on 29/3 to receive an update on the action the university had taken. The University said the areas of concern had been specific pockets of faculties, so they had identified Unit Coordinators and talked to them about the feedback. Changes had either been made or they had communicated to students why pre-recorded lectures were being used. While Curtin initially said they would address all instances of pre-recorded lectures, as this was 'not the standard they had promised to deliver', at this meeting they said that it was not possible for all lectures to be delivered live online. They said this was because some staff did not have the necessary training.

I closed the feedback loop by getting in touch with all students who had submitted feedback, letting them know what the university had communicated and asking whether conditions had improved in their course.

Learning for Tomorrow Strategy (formerly Blended Learning @ Curtin)

We had a few meetings with the university to discuss our demands and work on building student feedback into the LFT Strategy. In these meetings, we expressed firm feedback: widespread consultation with teaching staff and students was needed, structural issues with lack of funding to teaching and learning needed to be fixed, and the model did not provide a balanced or well-cited perspective on blended learning.

This was a time-consuming process, which resulted in some but not all of our demands being sufficiently met. We decided to pivot to student consultation, as we had a responsibility to make as many students aware of the proposed changes as possible and provide the opportunity to have their say.

We have run three consultation workshops and released a consultation survey. At the time of writing, there were around 16 total workshop attendees and over 1100 responses to the consultation survey. Through the survey, we have been able to make a lot of students aware of the risk that instead of seeing in-person lectures returned, we could see lectures phased out in the near future. So far, the survey and workshops have provided critical insight into what the student body wants to see the Guild advocate for.

2.2 First Nations Department

The outgoing First Nations representative Lulkbudia provided feedback that the Guild needed to make structural changes to create a more supportive environment for and improve retention of First Nations representatives. David Luketina (Managing Director) and I met with Ingrid Cumming (Curtin Noongar Cultural Advisor) to follow up this feedback and create strategies for improvement.

We are now working on a few strategies. We will seek to provide cultural proficiency training to elected reps and professional staff members to raise the level of cultural understanding in the Guild. We are planning to organise consultation with First Nations students on what they would like to see from the First Nations Department, and how they would prefer the FN Officer role to look. Following these recommendations, we will look at restructuring the role.

2.3 Curtin Connect Enrolment Portal

The enrolment portal has been an ongoing source of complaint from students, as it is confusing and not user-friendly. I reached out to the Chief Student Services Officer at Curtin Connect to enquire about conducting student consultation and implementing changes to make the portal more student-friendly. I found out that they are already working on improvements over the next few years. We have agreed to set up regular meetings between the Guild and central student services to provide better consultation in that area. We are also looking to conduct student consultation mid-year to capture feedback about the changes students want to see.

2.5 Assorted Guild Work

- **Student Partnership Agreement Implementation:** Work continues on devising the implementation of the Student Partnership Agreement across Curtin.
- **Grok:** I wrote my second President's Column for February, welcoming students back to campus and updating them on our work over the summer break. You can read my [March 2021 President's Column here!](#)

Kind regards,

Jesse Naylor Zambrano
President
Curtin Student Guild

Vice President – Education

Representation Board Report #3

Bridge Truell

Meeting date: 22/4/21

Date submitted: 16/4/21

1. University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
23/3/21	Students as Partners Community of Practice Meeting	
26/3/21	Academic Board	During this meeting, Health Sciences PVC Archie Clements provided the Health Sciences Strategic Plan Update and Monitoring Report. We also discussed the TEQSA 2020 Risk Assessment, received an update from the SAGE Athena Swan Project, reviewed the Academic Board's Annual Report to University Council, received the Global Positioning Committee's Annual Report, and discussed the 2020 eVALUate data.
29/3/21	COVID-19 CI LSE Sub Group Meeting	
31/3/21	Guild & Student Services Meeting re: Enrolment Portal	

2. Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
25/3/21	Guild Council	
18/3/21; 1/4/21; 15/4/21	Guild Executive Committee Meeting	
18/3/21	Representation Board	
30/3/21	Special Representation Board Meeting	

23/3/21	Guild Executive & Portfolio Managers Meeting	
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3. Other Meetings/Activities

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/3/21	Blended Learning Follow Up Meeting	This meeting was set so Jesse and I could meet with Jennifer Howell and follow up after our meeting with her and Jill Downie the week before. This meeting was where we first learnt about the renaming of the proposed model to 'Learning For Tomorrow', discussed potential actions to address the reuse of lecture content, gained some more insight into why the other universities specified in the justification document were selected (was based on their use of a defined blended learning strategy enshrined within their governance structure), the removal of the '70/30' terminology (which has simply been replaced with specifying that 30% of content will be online and is effectively identical),

17/3/21	Curriculum Queering Community of Practice Catch-Up	These meetings are organised by Dr Bri McKenzie and bring together a nation-wide network of staff and student advocates to discuss a different theme each month. This was my first time in attendance at this meeting and the topic was “Becoming better allies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+ students and staff: Creating authentic and positive representation in learning and teaching”. This meeting was facilitated by Marnie Norton who provided their experiences as someone navigating the intersection of the LGBTQIA+ and First Nations communities in academia.
18/3/21	SDG Student Workshop Planning	Kat, Catherine and I met with Rocio Bona from Properties who was hoping to engage the Students As Partners group in organising a workshop with students to discuss Curtin’s commitment to the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
23/3/21	Guild x JCLA Meeting	Lauren from JCLA booked in a meeting with members of our Student Engagement & Experience teams to further discuss the potential for us to collaborate on a future JCLA project.
24/3/21	Curtin Union Taskforce (CUT) Meeting	

26/3/21	Short Courses Meeting	<p>This meeting was set up so that Jennifer Howell and Beth Pridmore (Manager of Strategic Projects who's overseeing Curtin Credentials and associated projects) could run us through the variety of short courses that are being offered at Curtin and so we could ask any questions. While we still have some concerns about the utilisation of short courses in certain areas, Beth explained that her area primarily focuses on postgrads who wish to return to Curtin for further upskilling and skills updates after graduation with potential to eventually provide them to undergrads either as additional activities or embedded within their degrees.</p>
29/3/21	Follow-up Meeting Re: Nursing	
29/3/21	Online content discussion with Jill & Jennifer	<p>After launching our survey into recycled lecture content, we met with Jennifer and Jill again to discuss after forwarding the results to them. They noted that the largest number of concerns had come from the Faculty of Business & Law and mentioned that they would be providing more professional development opportunities to ensure staff are confident and capable in providing online lecture materials.</p>

31/3/21	Education Campaign Strategy Meeting	
9/4/21	CURTIS Meeting	Humanities Fac Rep Madison and I met with the President of the Curtin Information Studies Club (CURTIS) to discuss the removal of the Information Studies degrees from Curtin. We're currently in the process of arranging to meet with relevant staff to see if there's anything we can do and what options exist for current and future students, as well as providing feedback on the way these changes were communicated to students.
13/4/21	Consultation Workshop Planning Meeting	Jesse and I met to discuss the format for the upcoming Learning For Tomorrow (LFT) Student Consultation Meetings, which were held on the 13 th , 14 th and 15 th of this month and provided us with the opportunity to directly engage with students, communicate the LFT model to them and gather feedback to relay to the University.
14/4/21	Sustainable Development Lunch & Collaborate Session	Rocio, Kat and I collaborated to deliver this workshop that engaged students on Curtin's commitment to the UN SDGs and to begin conceptualising the potential for future student-led sustainability projects.

4. Other Projects/Developments

- On March 10th, Jesse, Chris and I ran another NDA promotion stall.
- The NUS National Week of Action Against Staff Cuts, Course Cuts, Faculty Restructures and Forced Online Learning ran from March 22nd-26th.

- Our NDA Rally was held on Tuesday March 23rd and allowed us the chance to hear from students & staff on the issues affecting them at Curtin currently before marching on the Chancellory to oppose staff & course cuts, faculty restructures and (in particular) forced online learning.
- Over the tuition free week, May, Jesse, Maryanne, Bree and I worked to get the Student Consultation Survey complete and ready to go out.
- Throughout this week, the Guild reps have run stalls out the front of 106F to promote the Consultation Survey.
- Jesse, May, Maryanne and I have begun analysing the survey data and next week I'll be focussing on devising the report which will go to the University.

5. Travel N/A

6. Leave: 5th-8th May

Business & Law // April Report

University

Name	Date	Comments
WIL Interview Panel	31.03.21	
Student Consultative Committee	12.04.21	
Student Consultative Committee	13.04.21	
Student Consultative Committee	14.04.21	
Shortlisting - Special Projects Coordinator	21.04.21	
Strategic Review Board Meeting	21.04.21	
Student Engagement SCC Review	14.03.21	

Guild

Name	Date	Comments
Faculty Representatives Meeting	25.03.21	
Blended Learning Meeting	10.03.21	

Student Disciplinary Panels

Date	Comments
26.03.21	-
12.04.21	-
Total cases	12 2 - No AM Avg Reduction: 27%

Initiatives

Student Consultations

I have had a significant increase in student consultations this month. ECOM1000 has been a significantly reported on Unit with problems in assessment structure, delivery and ongoing concerns from last semester. This has been communicated with the D-SE, HoS, UC and others. Issues with other units include: PUBR2001, MGMT2008, BLAW2012 and others. These are being addressed in a variety of means. The particular issues remain confidential.

Guild Outreach

I have been giving information about the Guild and services to various University groups, especially within central first-year focused retention. This includes speaking to a few groups of students completing 'earn while you learn' at Curtin Calling.

I assisted Jesse in presenting the consultation workshop for 'Learning for Tomorrow', and spoke to each group of SCC Reps about LFT.

I have also attended various Club Events to increase interactions with our clubs.

Academic Discipline Review

I have provided feedback on the new proposed AM policies. It is my firm belief that these new structures are poorer for students and do not address significant problems with AM. I have not yet heard about General Misconduct changes.

Science and Engineering Faculty Representative - Representation Board Report

For the Representation Board #3 to be held on Thursday, 22/04/2021.

Summary of Meetings

Meeting	Date	Type of Meeting	Comments
SDP	11/03/2021	University	Nothing to note
Interviews – Mechatronic Lecturer	15/03/2021	University	Round 1 interview for an advertised teaching position in mechatronic engineering
UG/PG Science Suite	16/03/2021	University	Continuing the review of the Bachelor of Science. It was decided that the transition into Bachelor of Science having minors would not be achievable in the short term, so they will be making incremental changes to the first-year curriculum until first deployment is done.
Interviews – Mechatronics Lecturer	16/03/2021	University	Second batch of candidates for round 1 interview for the position. Following this meeting we ranked the candidates and decided to do a follow up interview with the 2 most impressive candidates.
Science and Engineering Faculty Board	17/03/2021	University	Not much to note except updates with the review courses and talked about Evaluate.
Learning and Teaching Executive Committee	17/03/2021	University	Nothing to note, most of it was repetition of overall content talked about in other committees, e.g.: Faculty board.
SDP	17/03/2021	University	Nothing to note
SDP	18/03/2021	University	Nothing to note
Meeting with a physics staff member.	18/03/2021	Guild x University	This staff member raised concerns that were occurring within the school of physics. From such conversation, consultation with other life sciences staff members and students studying such life sciences has occurred. The exact outcomes of these consultations have been to understand the situation from another perspective. A form of action is to be decided.
Representation Board	18/03/2021	Guild	See meeting minutes.
UG/ PG Science Suite	22/03/2021	University	Continued approval of emerging content/ courses from previous meetings. Not much more to note.
Bachelor of Engineering (Steering Committee)	23/03/2021	University	A review of all the majors in the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) is occurring. Talked about Engineers Australia's visit to Curtin and the expected date of their report to be released. Slower than expected but awaiting those recommendation to

			include in this review of the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours).
Mechatronic Lecturer Interviews	23/03/2021	University	Round 2 of interviews. The panel debriefed on the two candidates and came to a decision by majority vote.
SDP	24/03/2021	University	Nothing to note.
Faculty Rep Meeting	25/03/2021	Guild	Nothing to note – just updates.
Engineering Board	25/03/2021	University	Nothing major to note. Updates on Engineers Australia and the review process.
SDP	29/03/2021	University	Nothing to note
UG/ PG Science Suite	29/03/2021	University	Nothing to note – just a continuation of the previous conversations.
Special Representation Board Meeting	30/03/2021	Guild	See meeting minutes.
Clubs Meeting	31/03/2021	University	The science and engineering student experience officer hosted a meeting with science and engineering clubs to provide some updates happening in sci-eng (revolving around events, logbook, work integrated learning and general comments).
Interviews for Senior Technical Officer in the School of Civil Mechanical Engineering	31/03/2021	University	There was only one candidate that applied for the position. They were deemed appointable by the panel and the offer will be formally given to the candidate.
Curtin Academy Students as Partners	08/04/2021	University	The Curtin Academy invited a bunch of students to discuss an event that they want to plan to revolve around the theme of Students as Partners. There was an insightful discussion revolving around what it meant to have students as partners and the event specifics were discussed as well as steps moving forward.
Bachelor of Engineering (Steering Committee)	12/04/2021	University	The formation of the industry advisory committees has been going well. The directors of each school are also getting staff members to sit on committees to implement the actions of the steering committee and provide feedback. As Sci-Eng rep I have been gathering focus groups for each of the majors in Bachelor of Engineering and have been getting students' perspective on the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours).
Mentor Mentee Meet Up	12/04/2021	Other	I attended a portion of the Science and Engineering Mentor Mentee Meet Up. It was awesome to interact with mentors and gauge how they have been interacting with first years and how they have been adjusting to university.

Extraordinary Engineering Board Meeting.	13/04/2021	University	This meeting was held to discuss the contents of the long-awaited Engineers Australia report. Most of the requirements/ recommendations set out by Engineers Australia are relatively simple to implement and does not really surprise the group but the feedback will be integrated in this review process.
Electrical Engineering Focus Group	14/04/2021	Guild x University	As part of the review process for Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) I assembled a group of Electrical Engineers and got their feedback on Electrical Engineering. I will be giving this feedback back to the steering committee.
Learning and Teaching Council	13/04/2021	University	Had discussions on co-taught units and evaluate with interesting conversations arising.
Learning and Teaching Executive Committee	14/04/2021	University	Nothing to note. Generally, a summary of what has been happening in other committees.
UG/ PG Science Suite	14/04/2021	University	Nothing to note. Just a continuation of previous discussions.

Other Events

NDA: Defend Our Education at Curtin (23/03/2021)

- Turn out of this event went well in my opinion. Following the protest, I have heard in committees that the University is hearing our complaints (from my view as a Faculty Rep) but I am not exactly sure what they are doing about it.

Beers, careers, and volunteers (26/03/2021)

- Curtin Engineers Club (CEC) hosted a networking event at the beginning portion of their regularly 'Beers on the Lawn' event. They invited me (as Sci-Eng Rep) and Lachy to attend and have a stall. It was amazing to see students interacting with the clubs and industry staff members that were present. Always nice to see clubs getting involved with the community and collaborating with other clubs too.

Final Notes

The past reporting period has been very heavy in terms of meetings. I have been juggling student queries (e.g.: unit issues, requests, feedback, etc.) with the various committees that I sit on. My goal is to conclude the student focus groups for the Bachelor of Engineering. After which I want to organise a student consultative committee event for the end of this semester and hopefully, I can then start to plan my science and engineering events.

In terms of KPI's I have been making good progress on KPI 1,2, 3,4, 6, 8. The rest of the KPI's have not been touched due to time constraints.

I have been responding to situations as they arise relatively quickly and those that I have interacted with appear to be happy with my actions in this position.

I am looking forward to moving onto other tasks in my capacity as Science and Engineering Representative. Everything thus far has been reactive, hopefully as things begin to settle down, I will be able to be a bit more proactive in my role.

Thanks for reading my report and stay nifty!

Regards,



JASON KIM

HE/HIM [learn about pronouns](#)
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING REPRESENTATIVE
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I acknowledge that Curtin University is on the lands of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation. This land is stolen land and was never ceded. I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

Faculty of Health Sciences Report
Lucy Rohl (she/her)
Representation Board – April



HEALTH SCIENCES

Health Sciences students, we've got you back!

Lucy Rohl | Faculty of Health Sciences Rep

Pronouns: She/Her

health@guild.curtin.edu.au

[Join our Facebook group](#)

Guild and University meetings

12 th March	Event planning meeting with Lachy and Jess
15 th March	Meeting with Nursing HoS and students (I spoke about this meeting at the last reps board)
18 th March	Faculty Courses Committee
	Meeting with Biomedicine student about tutorial issues
25 th March	Faculty Representatives meeting
29 th March	Meeting with Nursing HoS and students (more details on next page)
30 th March	Health Sciences Meet 'n Greet
15 th April	Faculty Courses Committee
	Shortlisting candidates for new Director of Innovation and Scholarship of Learning and Teaching

What am I up to?

Health Sciences Meet 'n Greet

The Meet 'n Greet was on 30th March from 12-2 in the Zone, and overall I'm happy with how it went! The students who attended seemed to have a great time, and we all had some great chats. Approximately 20 people showed up, with 10 staying for most or all of the time. The idea was that the event could function as an excuse for students who signed up to Friend Matchmaking to meet face-to-face, and about half of the people who attended had signed up to Friend Matchmaking. At my next event, I want to encourage attendees to get each other's socials so they can become friends beyond just that one event.

Nursing campaign

The Nursing students, Bridge and I are regularly meeting with the Nursing HoS and affiliated staff. At our meeting on the 29th March, the HoS told us that three Nursing units (NURS2002, GMED2000 and NURS3002) would have some face-to-face seminars, which will function kind of like revision sessions, rather than having weekly face-to-face tutorials for those units. He also is working on improving the quality of online instructional videos, as well as hosting social gatherings for semester groups.

It is really important that we keep tabs on the staff, to hold them accountable and to make sure they're doing what they say they will.

Our next meeting is 21st April, the day before the Reps Board meeting. If there is anything to add, I will speak to it then.

Health Sciences clubs

I've reached out to Health Sciences clubs, in an attempt to a) introduce myself, and b) gauge interest in starting regular Health Sciences Club Presidents meetings. I sent emails out on the 25th March, and in typical club fashion I haven't received any responses yet.

Thanks for reading x

Lucy

Faculty of Humanities Report
Madison Ainsworth (she/her)
Representation Board
11/03/2021 to 22/04/2021



HUMANITIES

Humanities students, you're in safe hands!

Madison Ainsworth | Faculty of Humanities Rep
Pronouns: She/Her
humanities@guild.curtin.edu.au

Meetings

14/03/2021	Attended CURTIS committee meeting
18/03/2021	Courses Committee
18/03/2021	SDP
19/03/2021	Pop-Up Shop Meeting
19/03/2021	First Year Mentor/Mentee Meetup
25/03/2021	Arts Fair Meeting
25/03/2021	SDP
30/03/2021	Special Reps Board
01/04/2021	Learning and Student Experience
09/04/2021	Open Letter Meeting with CURTIS
12/04/2021	PVC Interviews
15/04/2021	Courses Committee
15/04/2021	SDP
15/04/2021	Humanities Gender Equity and Inclusion Committee

Events

17/03/2021	Curtin Stadium Sundowner
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Items of note

Courses Committee

18/03/2021

Brought up the CURTIS Open Letter, was asked to distribute the document.

Curtin Stadium Sundowner

17/03/2021

A few students attended, Stadium talked about the sports teams the Stadium has.

I heard feedback from students, as well as concerns. This was a good chance to connect with more students, hear what they had to say, and promote more ways for them to connect with their peers.

Pop-Up Shop Meeting

19/03/2021

PhD students event, requested my assistance in advertising it through Facebook.

Learning and Student Experience Committee

01/04/2021

Discussed tutor stating that they would be contacting students if their Turnitin result is too high, and some classes having classes made mandatory by assigning a percentage of the assignments grade to it.

Current Tasks

Making a write up for all CURTIS emails relevant to the LARIS phase out to be distributed to relevant channels.

Organising a meeting about the LARIS phase out with interested/involved parties.

Continuing reaching out to my committees about commencing meetings with an Acknowledgement of Country.

Student Assist – April Representation Board

Here is an overview of what Student Assist has been up to:

	Jan	Feb	Mar
Academic Sessions	226	136	96
Financial Counselling Sessions	20	27	26
LifeHacks	89	192	164

Academic sessions were mostly centred on supporting students with their Academic Misconduct allegations and Termination appeals. Financial counselling sessions were mostly focused on tuition fee payment.

Student Assist was invited to join in the “At Risk and Conditional Status Working Group” initiated by Director of Student Engagement, Business and Law. The aim is to develop support mechanisms that can be used across all faculties. Faculty and administration staff from across the university have been invited to participate.

COVID-19 ongoing initiatives are:

	Jan	Feb	Mar
ER Food Relief	32	10	1
Laptops on Loan	12	15	11

ER Food relief program in its current form has ceased in March 2021 and online application will be removed. We will be moving back to pre COVID-19 process where students will be speaking with a Student Assist officer to assess need and provide suitable support options.

Student Assist filed an official complaint on behalf of the Guild to Curtin in April around the Faculties’ administering of Academic Misconduct. Key points highlighted:

CONCERNS:

- Significant delays
 - Students are not being given the determination of their allegation in time for it to be effective towards their next assessment.
 - The Inquiry Officers’ lengthy turnaround times, with allegations in limbo for over the course of a teaching semester.
 - Student Discipline Panels’ inability to review allegations in a timely manner.
 - Students from Business and Law, and Science and Engineering are particularly disadvantaged – According to Curtin’s Academic and Integrity Student Misconduct Report 51 to 52 days turnaround time compared to the Faculty of Health Sciences 34 days.
 - With significant delays in the process, students have been penalised by not being able meaningfully utilise feedback for their immediately subsequent assessments.
 - With significant delays in the process, students have been penalised by not being able enrol in units in the following semester.
- Allegations that are not intelligible thus not providing students with the opportunity to provide adequate responses.
- Inconsistencies in both allegations and penalties provided to students.
- Breach of confidentiality.
- Administrative errors.
- Greater expectation of students than staff - throughout the Academic Misconduct inquiry process students are given a total of 3 weeks (7 days to respond to their allegation and 14 days to appeal the

findings and/or the penalty given), yet according to Curtin's Academic and Integrity Student Misconduct Report faculties have taken up to 7 weeks (48 days) to close the investigation.

SIGNIFICANT STATS (Extracted from Report on Academic Integrity and Student Misconduct)

Cases of academic misconduct by area:

Faculty	2018	2019	2020 (Jan till Aug)
Centre for Aboriginal Studies	2	0	0
Curtin International	2	1	0
DVC Education	NA	24	0
Faculty of Business and Law	285	436	216
Faculty of Health Sciences	269	183	94
Faculty of Humanities	272	248	147
Faculty of Science and Engineering	200	140	94
Total	1030	1032	551

Average number of days from date of case lodgement to closure:

Faculty	2018	2019	2020 (Jan till Aug)
Curtin International		31	-
DVC Academic		55	-
Faculty of Business and Law		52	48
Faculty of Health Sciences		34	25
Faculty of Humanities		51	22
Faculty of Science and Engineering		51	47
Total Average	52	46	36

Things to note with the stats above is that despite Sci and Eng only having 94 cases it took an average of 47 days to close cases. In comparison Health Sci took 25 days on average. COVID is not the issue as the Sci and Eng and Business and Law still take a significantly longer time to close cases pre and post COVID.

Student Assist provided examples of incidents to demonstrate the above concerns.

Summary of examples:

- Student was informed by Academic on 16 Dec of possible academic misconduct for an assessment completed on 23 Nov. Student found out as they did not receive final marks and followed up with Academic. Staff was on leave student told to wait. Student did not receive allegation till 29 Jan. Student submitted response on 5 Feb. Determination sent to student 11 Mar. Determination hearing on 30 March and final outcome 1 Apr. The full process required prompting from student, student assist and academic registrar's office.
-
- Student was sent vague allegation: *Q1b sought bending stress; moment capacity discussion aligns to different exam. Q1b is restrained against buckling; restraints at 2m-ctrs discussion, aligns to different exam.* Allegation does not state what the misconduct concerns are. Contract cheating? Plagiarism?

Despite recommendations from Academic Registrar's office, Academic did not want to amend allegation.

-
- Students received allegation on 16 Dec and determination was not provided till 11 Mar. Students were in Uniready and due to enrol into different schools. One student in missed enrolment. The other student was allowed to continue with enrolment while waiting for an outcome. Final determination was no Academic Misconduct.
-
- Student sent in response to allegation in Dec. Student reached out to Student Assist in Feb for an outcome. We followed up and student was sent determination the next day. Determination was pending Inquiry officer's input into the system.
-
- Several instances of breach in confidentiality. Student's details not redacted. Students sent transcript/ progress report of other students.

PROPOSED OUTCOMES

- A comprehensive review of the way the faculties administer the academic misconduct process to ensure faculty best practice is followed by all faculties.
- Prompt clearing of all outstanding allegations.
- Establishing an external department with the authority to oversee and correct any errors.

ISC president Report
Representation board April 2021
Submission date April 16th, 2021

COMMITTEE AND INTERNAL MEETINGS

- Global positioning committee meeting
- Learning and student experience meeting
- ISC restructuring and role descriptions
- Student Assist general support
- Counselling and mental health

Events

- Upcoming event: Small food events
- Upcoming event: Workshops
- Upcoming event: Cooking classes
- Upcoming event: Pinguin Island
- Upcoming event: Paintball – end semester activity.
- Upcoming event: Pasar Malam
- Upcoming event: UWA, Murdoch University and Curtin University collaborative event

Future meeting

- O-Day, February 2021. To welcome international students the O-Day and to recruit more members for the next IS committee

Discussion and Backup

- ISC restructuring and role descriptions
- Student Assist general support
- Counselling and mental health
- ISC events
- Social media
- Strategy for academics

Cristian Moreno

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

Backup and executive meeting notes

1. ISC restructuring and role descriptions

- **ACTION:** To explain new structure and include descriptions for each role
- Note for new Faculty representatives:
 - reps are international students' part of ISC attending monthly faculty meetings
 - main role is to look after relevant benefits and problems within their own faculty
 - need to make sure there is no overlap on which rep will voice out issues that affect both domestic and international students
 - many academic-related issues as reps also sit on academic boards; it should be the faculty rep bringing up the issue to the education board, with support from the international student community through the ISC faculty rep
 - also note that faculty reps are only concerned with undergraduate issues; **higher research and postgraduate issues go to May from PSC**
- **ACTION:** be in conversation with May on any issues
 - monthly meetings with PSC for updates and discussion
 - collaborative event between PSC and ISC will encourage more engagement for both postgraduate and international students, especially since both groups currently struggle to engage with the university and within their community

2. Student Assist general support

a. Financial support

- Financial advisor available with relevant info on financial help for international students, with funding mostly community based like St Johns and Red Cross

b. Legal support

- Student Assist directs students to external free legal community services (community legal aid)
- also helps with negotiating payment supports (eg. accidents)
- collaboration with Fair Work for support on work-related issues
- **ACTION:** social media posts with information on car insurance and minimum wage
 - third-party car insurance only covers death and not damages and injuries
 - increase awareness on minimum wage entitlements and work rights
 - existing info and infographics available from Student Assist financial advisor Margo(?)

3. Counselling and mental health

- Long waiting times to get counselling services
- Especially important as there is no medicare for international students, hence free counselling on campus is the only affordable option for most international students
- Need to set up a support system especially with a shared struggle of being homesick and unable to return home without sacrificing on university education for an indefinite amount of time due to the pandemic and travel restrictions
- **ACTION:** survey about experience of international students

- **ACTION:** discussion to restructure International support group
 - Current operation includes 6 week classes with no additional intakes after commencement of each 6-week session and requirement to commit for all 6 classes
 - Very technical in teaching and in conversation, unable to provide the fun and sense of home
 - Aim to have more personalised services to support the well-being and mental health of international students

4. ISC events

- a. Small food events
 - Student Assist used to do “brinner” where pancakes are served at 10pm during study periods for exams
 - Already have a few F&B sponsors
 - **ACTION:** talk to Student Engagement and the events team to tie in with the staff and support they can offer for our own events
 - Note that all sponsorships have to go through Maryanne for advice and procedure (note cost of marketing package)

- b. Workshops
 - Interview skills and resume writing workshop
 - See Curtin Careers
 - **ACTION:** Contact Curtin Careers (or any other relevant organisation) and pitch to have a presenter to run ISC’s workshop (guild-run programme) specifically for international students, instead of sending students towards existing programmes that may not cater to their demands
 - Resume tips are not only for high-profile career progression; also look at a service where resumes can be written for casual/part-time jobs
 - **ACTION:** consider collaboration with PSC for these workshops

- c. Cooking classes
 - Work with Kelly
 - Guild has chefs from all walks of life
 - Also a form of showcasing for the guild

- d. Pasar Malam
 - October 2021

- e. UWA, Murdoch University and Curtin University collaborative event
 - **ACTION:** contact person between guilds
 - probably no communications and marketing team from other guilds; keep that in mind when planning this event
 - **ACTION:** send proposal to Bec’s team
 - StudyPerth is likely to organise and fund the event
 - mainly marketing on our end (Maryanne’s team) to promote the event to students

- f. UniLodge collaboration
 - Speed friending cards to encourage conversation between residents
 - Advertising to international students

4. Social media

- **ACTION:** introduction of the committee
(who we are, our country, what we miss, tips to get through the current situation)
 - update on what the guild is doing about online learning
 - g. Strategy for academics
 - Global Positioning Meeting
 - Request for the tuition and housing scholarships
(show criteria, assessment procedure, process of funding)
 - request to work together with them
 - **how can we engage students in the survey happening now?**
 - **what are the motivations?**
 - **look into translating into bite sized chunks and casual language**
- How does this impact international students? How can we grab the attention of these students?

FIND 2 KEY OUTCOMES

Monthly/Bi-monthly updates to international students

5. Strategy for academics

- Global Positioning Meeting
 - **ACTION:** Request for the tuition and housing scholarships
(show criteria, assessment procedure, process of funding)
 - **ACTION:** request to work together with them
 - **how can we engage students in the survey happening now?**
 - **what are the motivations?**
 - **look into translating into bite sized chunks and casual language**
- How does this impact international students? How can we grab the attention of these students?

Suggestions from Jo-Ann:

- **ACTION:** find 2 key outcomes from this presidency term
- **ACTION:** Monthly/Bi-monthly updates to international students on what ISC and the university is doing

Cristian Moreno

ISC PRESIDENT
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PSC President Report

SUBMISSION DATE: 15/4/2021

FOR MEETING DATE: 22/4/2021

NAME:

May Majimbi

POSITION

PSC President

GUILD MEETINGS

18th March: Guild Exec meeting

16th March: Postgrad event meeting with VP Activities and the Guild events team

24th March: Curtin Union Taskforce meeting

15th April: Guild Exec meeting

15th April: Health Sciences Graduate Research Committee meeting

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS

15th March: Blended Learning Follow-up meeting with Jennifer Howell

19th March: Blended Learning Follow-up discussion

18th March: Health Sciences Graduate Research Committee meeting

25th March: Blended Learning Taskforce meeting

26th March: Academic Board

PROJECTS

23rd March: National Day of Action rally

7th – 13th March: Drafting Blended Learning survey and communication strategy with the university, student community and ally staff members.

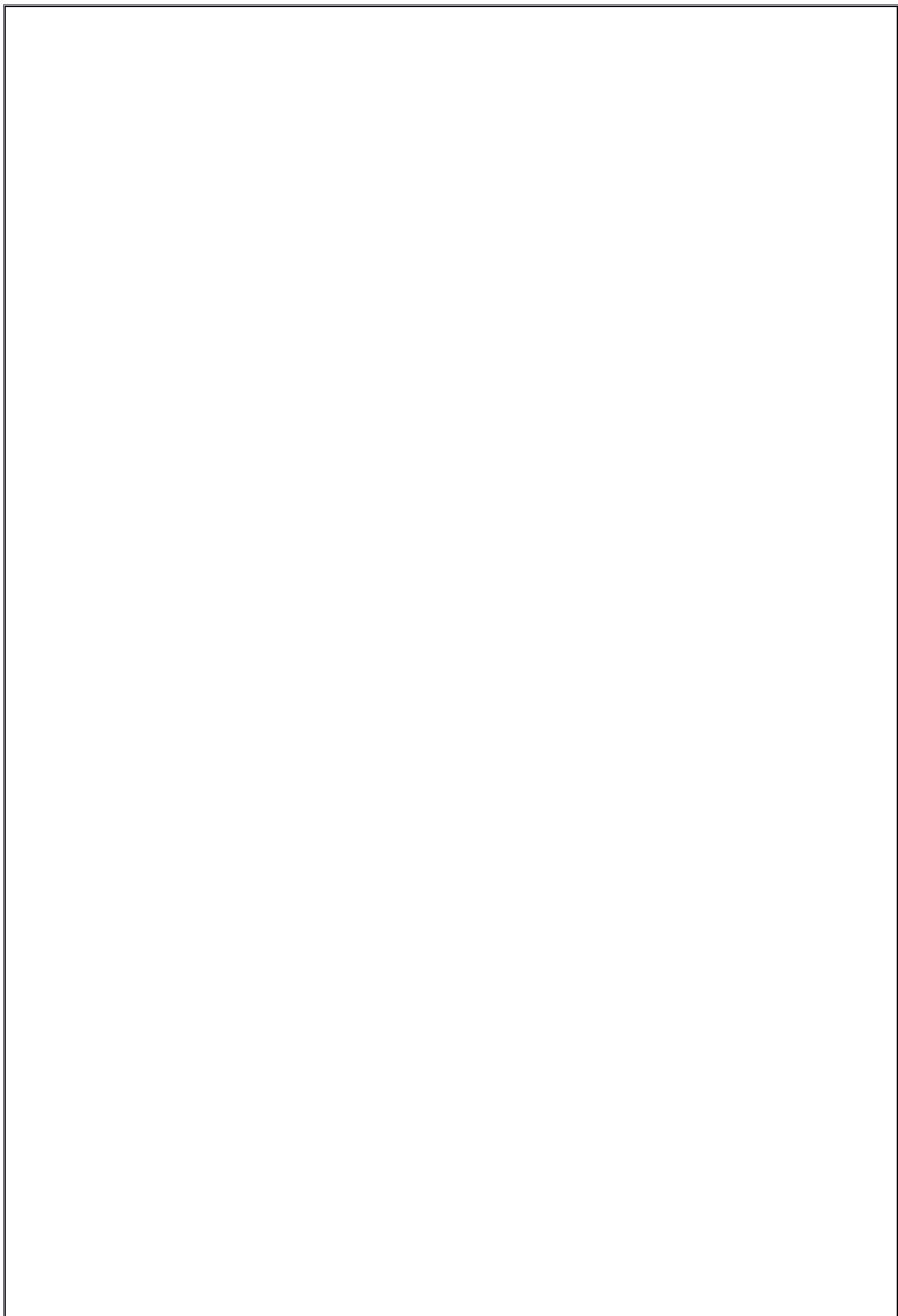
15th March: Preliminary data analysis for the BL survey

14th- 16th March: Meeting with new PSC members

OTHER

The past month has involved working on the blended learning survey and meeting with incoming PSC members. We established a draft agenda that aims to target the disparate experiences of HDR supervision at the university. Furthermore, we brainstormed some ideas for boosting attendance at PSC social events.

I've also been responding to student concerns as they relate to online learning and growing feelings of detachment- as a direct result of the university's Change Management (2020).



QUEER OFFICER'S REPORT – APRIL 2021 REPRESENTATION BOARD

The last month of QD activities has seen some good progress on several of my ongoing projects, as well as some fun events and social activities. Disappointingly, we only ended up with 3 nominations for the Queer Equity Collective, despite dozens of people expressing interest previously. However, I have contacted the three who nominated, and we have begun organising a time that we can all meet up for a first meeting and discussion of goals.

The end of last month had the collaborative event between Curtin Card Games, the Women's Department, and the QD, which was a great night with many people getting involved. We also had our first Meet & Greet for the year, which was also very successful. We now have our second Meet & Greet organised for the 28th, later this month.

We also have a larger social event booked on the 5th May – another Powerpoint party! After consultation with QD members, this was the most popular idea for a mid-semester event, and if it goes anything like the last one, it'll be a great time for everyone. It'll be held at the Tav from 4-7pm, and people are invited to come and give a short presentation on any topic they're passionate about.

I have been in consultation with the digital engagement team at the Guild, and together we have built a new page for the Guild website that gives more information on our ongoing bathroom sticker project, as well as any other projects we undertake. The new page is available at <https://guild.curtin.edu.au/queer/> and includes a link to a new streamlined form for reporting damaged stickers in bathrooms across campus. This new form doesn't require students to send us an email, as I have noticed many students don't like writing emails. Any new reports sent to the form gets emailed to the QD address, which will make it much easier to track which stickers need to be replaced.

In addition to my regular meetings, I have also been in consultation with Sheldon Cooper of the ALLY Network, providing feedback and advice about the proposed "Level 2" ally training that is currently being designed. This second stage will focus more on being an active ally to LGBTQIA+ people, and will be available to all staff and students to undertake as soon as possible. I look forward to announcing openings as soon as we have the new program in place!

All in all, it has been a productive month and I look forward to our upcoming events and initiatives.

WOMEN'S OFFICER Report

REPRESENTATION BOARD Meeting 2021 – 22/04/21

Submitted 15/04/21

GUILD MEETINGS

18/3	Meeting with representatives from Soroptimist International regarding an event at Curtin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The event in question is a Public Speaking Competition
24/3	Zoom meeting with Young Women Against Sexual Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning a collaborative event to provide a space to talk about sexual violence and assault.
24/3	Meeting with Tess from Grok, regarding a WD-Grok collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An idea regarding a series of articles inspired by the previous WD publication, 'Athena', in which pieces are written regarding women and non-binary people and their interests, and titled under the umbrella of, 'The Athena Series'.
25/3	Meeting with Jess, Lachy and Madison regarding a joint event proposal Madison and I submitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The idea that Madison and I had regarding an Equity Arts Fair will be integrated into the Guild's upcoming Wellbeing fair
25/3	Zoom meeting with Floretta and Lucinda, the Women's Officer and Access Officer from UWA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brainstorming and planning for a joint solidarity sit-in for Sexual Assault Awareness Month
27/3	NUS Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run by Georgette Mouawad, the NUS Women's Officer A briefing regarding the upcoming National Student Safety Survey in November
13/4	Activities Committee
15/4	Meeting with Jess and Lachy regarding upcoming event, SAAM Solidarity Sit-In <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning out details and logistics for the event, as well as clearly clarifying its purpose

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS

18/3	Representation Board
30/3	Special Representation Board
31/3	Respect Now Always Steering Committee

PROJECTS

Facebook Group

- The Facebook group is still being maintained.
- As of 13/4, we now have 116 members.

Forgotten Figures (*social media campaign*)

- Have continued posting Forgotten Figures profiles.
- Had a two-week hiatus in posting due my own
- Have overall reduced frequency of posts from twice a week to once a week, so I as Women's Officer can better fulfil my role and allocate more of my time to other projects.

Women's Equity Collective

- The nomination process occurred for positions in the Women's Collective, with Lachlan Lee as Returning Officer.

- 6 nominations were received, which was lesser than the amount of available positions, so all who submitted applications were elected unopposed.
- The six members of the Women’s Collective are as follows;
 - Paige Busher
 - Lauren Doney
 - Salwa Kilzi
 - Taif Khalid
 - Sarah Ong
 - Elizabeth Powell
- Contact with each of the members was established, as well as a Messenger group chat which they’ve all joined.
- They all seem passionate and excited to help out with the Women’s Department.

S.A.A.M Social Media Campaign

- I have been planning a small campaign for Sexual Assault Awareness Month to post on social media.
- It will contain statistics surrounding sexual assault in Australia, and resources that Curtin students can access if they are in need of help or support.
- I was initially planning to post one post a week throughout April, but due to having coursework to catch up on for my units, I wasn’t able to begin work on it early enough.

EVENTS

Planning

- Preparation for Autism Awareness Day event
- Planning and preparation for Soroptimist International’s Public Speaking Competition - (on 21/4)
- Planning and preparation for combined Solidarity Sit-In with UWA, for Sexual Assault Awareness Month – (on 29/4)

Autism Awareness Day

4pm-7pm,
01/04

- **A collaborative event with the Accessibility Department**
- The event consisted of;
 - A Zine workshop, which took place in The Zone between 4pm and 6pm.
 - A sundowner, which took place in The Tav between 6pm and 7pm.
- 5 people attended the Zine workshop, 6 attended the sundowner, plus myself and Clare.
- Overall, the event ran smoothly and successfully, and all the attendees seemed comfortably in the environments.
 - *The only time the environment wasn’t comfortable was when we first moved into The Tav, and others who were there were loud and overwhelming, but once they were made aware that this was disruptive, they moved outside and quietened.*
- While a larger turnout would’ve been desired, having a more intimate group allowed the attendees to open up more, and get to know each other better.

WD Community Catch-Up

1pm-4pm,
10/04

- Event consisted of a small picnic located at the South Perth Foreshore
- 3 members of the Curtin Women’s Community attended.
- It was small but lovely event, with some great chats and food to share.

OTHER

- I started a personal Trello board for the Women’s Department to better keep track of any communications and projects I undertake surrounding the Women’s Department.

- Furthermore, the members of the Women's Collective have access to this board.

OVERALL COMMENTS

Over the last couple of months, the breaking stories and media coverage of the despicable treatment of women around the country has been quite confronting and has given me anxiety over how to best handle the situation in terms of representing women and non-binary people at Curtin.

In the end, I decided to focus more on support instead of advocacy, as there is a lot of general advocacy around Australia at the moment, and I wanted to be able to specifically provide a safe space for the Curtin Women's Community and make sure they feel supported. I also have my own limits, as well as fatigue from feeling more and more outraged at new truths that continue to come to light, and so I felt that checking in with community would be a better approach to take for my own mental health as well. In April, the Women's Department has 4 events, two of which have already been run at the submission of this report. By doing so, I've offered places for the Women's Community to meet and support each other, and those who have come to the events have seemed to enjoy the environment that has been there.

I'm continuously excited about the Women's Equity Collective, especially as in the candidate statements submitted, many advocated for their passion about inclusivity and intersectionality, which is one of my personal goals as Women's Officer for this year.

I also continue to get ideas for projects/events etc for the Women's Department to undertake, but not enough time/capacity to do them, and with the Equity Collective, I'm hoping to now be able to start working on more initiatives.

Overall, I'm still enjoying the work I do and my role as Women's Officer overall as I find it very fulfilling and I love helping people in the community out. I'm excited to continue with my term.

Cassidy Pemberton
Women's Officer 2021



Accessibility Department

April Report

Autism Awareness Day/Women's Department Collab

- The Autism Awareness Day event ran on the 1st April 2021 in the Zone, followed by a Sundowner in the Tav
- We had a small turnout, with 5 people there for the event and 2 coming to the space by chance
- We didn't end up doing speeches because people arrived slowly over the course of half an hour, and then we didn't want to interrupt the conversation.
- The event was pleasant, everyone enjoyed the Zine making and there was a really friendly energy, everyone shared their Zines and there were a few nice Zines about experiences with Autism

Social Media

I'm cancelling the awareness campaign for two reasons:

1. Feedback from Ket about what social media formats get engagement
2. It felt very disingenuous to make information posts about things I didn't have time to research properly

Instead I'm going to reformat the campaign to be about the things students mentioned in the O-Day brainstorm and have more simple posts

Future Events

- April Meet and Greet planned for the 28/4/21
- Early discussions around running a Students with Disabilities Networking Event through UniHub
- Early discussions around collaborating with the Queer Department during Rad Sex and Consent Week

Accessibility Department Equity Collective

- The Collective only had one nomination
- I'm really concerned about the barriers to entry for nominating, the cost and nominator requirements
- I'd like to have a longer, more flexible recruiting and nominating process, such as having the nomination open for "two weeks or until ten positions are filled" to allow for it to go to a ballot if there's more than ten nominations, but for it to stay open if it's harder to get students involved.
- I'd like to sign students up directly rather than an email going out centrally, so that I'm their point of contact.

TL;DR

Autism Awareness Day event went well, making some changes to my social media strategy, thinking about future events and the Equity Collective.



Accessibility Officer: Clare Metcalf

**Higher Education Report
Prepared by Maryanne Shaddick
Representation Board Meeting #4
22 April 2021**

Universities can say goodbye to the years of plenty. The Australian

We now have information about the 2020 financial outcomes for 12 of Australia's universities — nearly one-third — and the pattern is becoming clear. Many of them have passed through the shadow of COVID and come out in the black, either in surplus or with only a minor deficit.

One is that universities are currently operating in a mode which is not sustainable. Last year they made emergency spending cuts and postponed necessary investment in buildings and other infrastructure.

They also rapidly cut staff numbers and now have to rebuild around a new normal in which there are fewer human resources. Many cases will emerge in which cuts have gone too far, compromising the quality of education and other services which students expect from a university. In other words, spending levels will need to pick up.

Emerging foreign student markets would have to double to rival China and India. The Australian

Australia's foreign student intake from emerging markets such as Africa and South America will have to double if universities are to match enrolments from China and India, after the Morrison government urged the sector to reduce its reliance on the Asian superpowers.

Education Minister Alan Tudge last week warned the makeup of the higher education export market — in which 55 per cent of all foreign students are from China and India — was fraught. He said there must be a greater emphasis on finding emerging markets and offering more online options.

Analysis by The Australian shows all 11 countries in Southeast Asia accounted for 139,000 student enrolments in Australia's higher education system last year and seven countries in South Asia (including Pakistan and Nepal) amounted to more than 119,000 enrolments.

South America's eight nations accounted for just over 75,000 students, and Africa's 23 countries made up only 12,663 enrolments.

Those figures pale in comparison with the more than 230,000 Chinese students enrolled in Australian universities last year and the more than 148,000 Indian students.

ANU higher education analyst Andrew Norton said while there had been strong growth out of South America and South-East Asia in particular, emerging foreign student markets would likely never rival China and India.

"South America and Africa do not have the affluent middle classes and the big populations China and India have," he said.

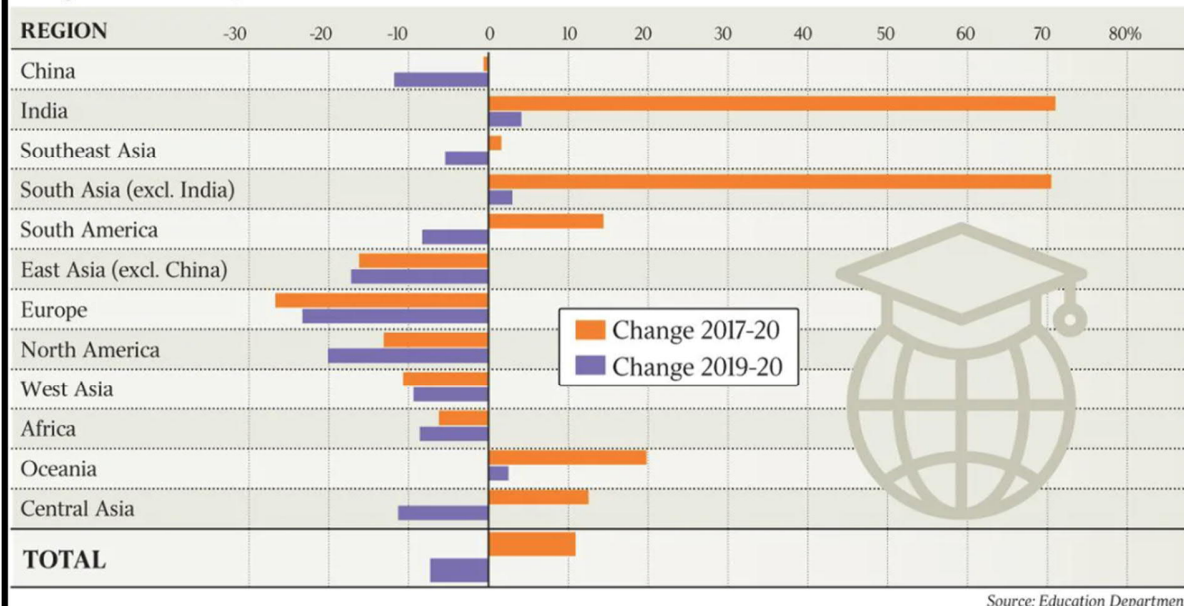
"Many of those countries are also closer to the United States and Britain, so those countries have an advantage over us

The number of new Indian students who chose to study at Australian universities collapsed by more than 80 per cent in the second half of last year, as Britain and Canada muscled in on the market with their more open borders. But there are some signs of growth in emerging markets. Enrolments from South Asia (excluding India) grew 70 per cent from 2017 to last year. In that same time period, enrolments from South America grew 14 per cent.

China has ramped up its hostility to Australian universities as part of a diplomatic and trade offensive, advising its students not to study here.

ROLL CALL

Change in the number of international students in Australia



TEQSA compliance report released

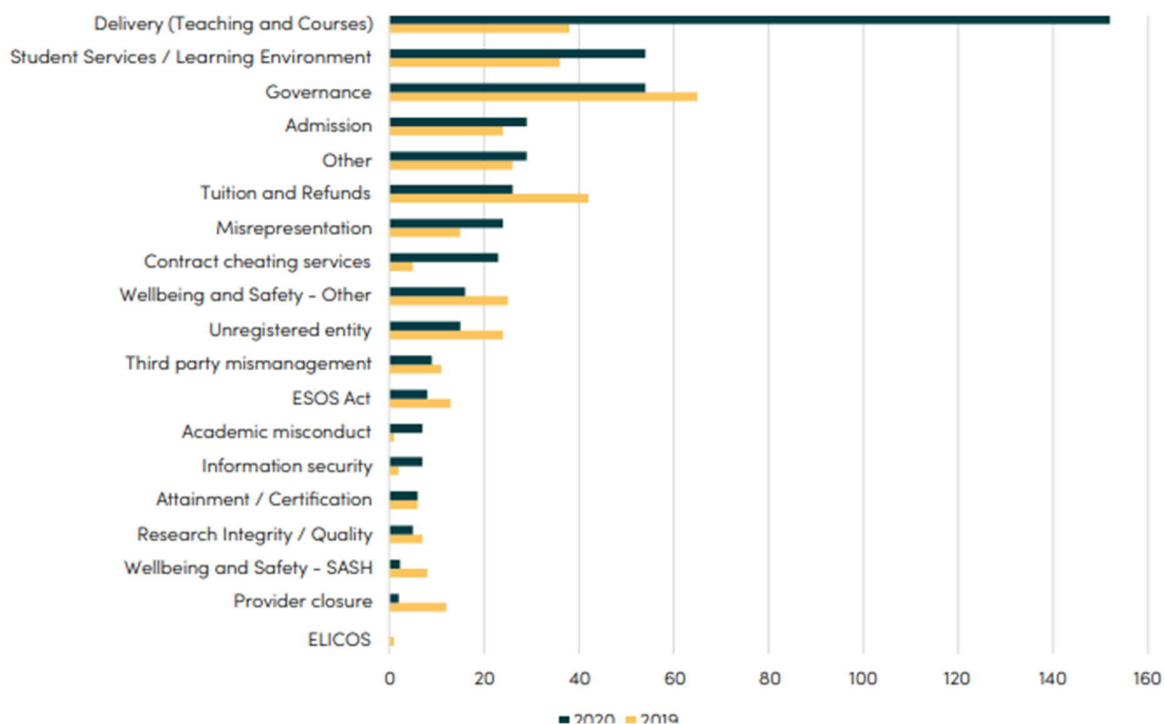
<https://www.teqsa.gov.au/sites/default/files/compliance-report-2020.pdf?v=1617144602>

Most common complaints were about: • delivery (teaching and courses) (this included COVID-19 related online delivery issues) (32 per cent)

- compromised or reduced quality of teaching due to a shift in delivery mode to online learning (with some students seeking refunds or reduction in tuition fees in light of these changes)
- invigilation of exams
- suspension or cessation of courses
- disruption of practical work and placements.

Current students accounted for 43% of complaints

Figure 1: Type of concerns received



The TEQSA Act was amended on 3 September 2020 to empower TEQSA to take action to address contract cheating services. Under section 114A of the TEQSA Act, it is now prohibited to provide academic cheating services to a student and under section 114B of the TEQSA Act, it is now prohibited to advertise academic cheating services

TEQSA investigated ten universities last year over English language entry for international students. It did not find evidence of widespread systemic failures in relation to English language admission standards. However, it stated some “governing bodies,” “lacked oversight of admissions practices and could not be confident that admissions policies and procedures were being applied consistently.”

Restrictions ease but remote learning still the norm at universities

By [Adam Carey](#), [Farrah Tomazin](#) and [Royce Millar](#)

WA Today April 5, 2021 — 4.37pm

Universities have made online teaching the new normal, even as COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings ease and despite evidence many students dislike the virtual education experience.

A survey of universities by *The Age* has found they are continuing to lecture online in many of the lessons that were remote last year, with on-campus classes mostly limited to small tutorials.

Swinburne University, for example, has confirmed all lectures in 2021 will remain online, with all tutorials and labs to switch back to in-person in semester two.

The Australian Catholic University has told students who do not want a virtual education this year to [consider deferring their studies or even seek a refund](#).

The widespread embrace of digital learning has been slammed by some tertiary educators and by students, who resent being denied a face-to-face experience.

"I feel very sorry for students," Swinburne senior lecturer in history and politics Julie Kimber said. "I just feel that they're being totally ripped off and they know that they're being ripped off."

Universities including Melbourne, RMIT and Deakin have stuck with an online-only model for many lectures so far this year, while La Trobe has used the pandemic to accelerate longer-term plans to increase online learning.

In doing so, the universities are betting the bulk of students will forsake established models of tertiary education built around on-campus lectures, even if they don't like it.

Australia's tertiary education regulator, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, analysed student experiences of remote learning last year and found many rated it poorly and did not wish to experience it again.

[The report](#), based on a survey of 118 education providers, found a host of problems with remote learning including a lack of student engagement, inadequate interaction with staff and peers, and IT problems.

"In many cases, these proportions of disaffected students were between 33 per cent and 50 per cent of respondents," the report found. "These are large numbers across the sector and present a problem if the transition to online study must remain well into 2021."

The online migration comes as universities face what some believe to be [their worst financial crisis in 60 years](#).

As *The Age* revealed this weekend, Australia's strict border closures have left hundreds of thousands of international students stuck off-shore, [punching an \\$18 billion hole in the economy](#).

Responding to the slump in revenue, universities have [slashed courses and subjects](#), and an estimated [17,300 higher education jobs have been lost](#) nationally.

Universities are sensitive to many students' desire for an on-campus experience.

University of Melbourne vice-chancellor Duncan Maskell emailed all staff last week, telling them it was time for the resumption of campus-based teaching.

"There are no public health or regulatory restrictions to prevent a return to campus for students and staff, most of whom have made it very clear how important a campus-based experience is to them," Professor Maskell wrote.

But separately, the university last month outlined to staff the second phase of its pandemic reset program, which detailed several measures to achieve potential savings, including adopting "opportunities for blended face-to-face and online curriculum".

For third-year arts student Ruby Peer, this blended approach has meant having a semester one timetable devoid of on-campus lectures or even tutorials.

She doesn't believe online lessons can match face-to-face teaching in quality.

"I think the level of education that you can deliver on Zoom is so vastly different to the level of education you can deliver in person and I'm surprised at the lack of commitment to deliver the highest standard of education possible at supposedly ... the best university in Australia," she said.

Her dissatisfaction has been mirrored in Group of Eight universities interstate.

Roisin Murphy, 20, is in the third year of an arts degree at the University of Sydney, which involves a mix of remote lectures and in-person tutorials.

"We've got crowds at the football and people dancing all over Oxford Street, yet I'm still watching pre-recorded lectures from years gone by," she said.

"I think it's pretty obvious that's costing them a lot less money than running an in-person lecture."

La Trobe University has been explicit about how the economic shock of COVID-19 has drawn it into a new embrace of online learning.

It's strategic plan for 2020-2030 states: "The COVID-19 pandemic will accelerate the move to greater use of online delivery, either on its own or in mixed delivery modes."

When La Trobe announced a series of course cuts and changes last year in response to the pandemic, it made the bachelor of arts a purely online course for students at its regional campuses.

The Bendigo campus-based bachelor of outdoor education was scaled back from 37 subjects to 10.

Senior lecturer Alistair Stewart, who was made redundant in the restructure, argued the degree was a casualty of La Trobe's push for more online delivery.

"Students come to do an environmental education program where they get outdoors, but with the uni's drive towards putting material online there has been pressure to scale that back," he said.

La Trobe said in announcing its proposed cuts that the stripped-back degree would lead to better employment outcomes, student choice for majors and industry links.

Neil Selwyn, distinguished research professor in the Faculty of Education at Monash University, said if any part of the education sector was to reach a tipping point towards online learning in the pandemic, it was universities.

"Online learning was a big thing in higher education before the pandemic, so in some ways the pandemic accelerated moves that were already in place," Professor Selwyn said.

"With schools, [remote learning] was a big shock and they weren't ready so much and they have gone straight back to face-to-face, but ... universities were ripe for this anyway."

Professor Selwyn agreed many students craved a return to campus after 12 months of remote learning, but said some benefited from the choice of being able to study remotely.

"One of the surprising things out of the lockdown is how convenient it actually is for a student who perhaps is juggling part-time jobs, carrying responsibilities and for whom uni isn't the only thing that they're focused on."

New Regional Research Collaboration (RRC) Program to boost regional post graduate places.
<https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudqe/enhancing-research-collaborations-regional-areas>

The Morrison Government has made a \$49 million investment into the Regional Research Collaboration (RRC) Program.

It will boost research activity in regional Australia by linking regional researchers with businesses and universities outside the region.

It aims to increase research on issues like drought resilience, food security, new farming technologies, and regional health.

Regional communities currently account for 28 per cent of the population, but only around 14 per cent of higher degree research students.

Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education Andrew Gee said the program creates more opportunities for Australians in regional areas to pursue post-graduate qualifications in their communities.

Funded through the Job-ready Graduate Package, the program supports the Australian Government's mission to strengthen the regional and remote tertiary education sector in response to the National Regional, Rural and Remote Tertiary Education Strategy (the Napthine Review).

Applications for the RRC program are now open and will close on 18 May 2021.

KPMG Reports

Pls find links to two reports by KPMG. While the reports are spruiking KPMG services the insights are interesting particularly with regard to:

- Advocacy of digital learning delivery including for off shore international students
- Use of data to better understand student behavior, learning strengths and weaknesses and engagement potential
- Decreasing earnings premium on degrees and spiraling fees leading to debt adverse students
- Inability of unis to scale up under face to face model
- Digital first opportunities promoted as answer to customer experience

<https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/au/pdf/2021/student-experience-in-the-age-of-the-customer.pdf>

<https://home.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/xx/pdf/2020/10/future-of-higher-education.pdf>

The Government has released a consultation paper about the future of the international student education sector.

<https://www.dese.gov.au/australian-strategy-international-education-2021-2030/resources/australian-strategy-international-education-consultation-paper>

One of the themes appears to be the opportunity for increased online enrolment by international students

Universities Australia welcomes Universities Australia today welcomed the announcement by Education Minister Alan Tudge to begin consultation on a 10-year whole-of-sector international education strategy.

<https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/media-item/international-education-and-post-pandemic-economic-recovery/>

Universities Australia response to the University Research Commercialisation consultation paper.

Universities Australia recommends:

- investigate scaling up the current Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII) – modelled on the highly successful US Small Business and Innovation Research (SBIR program);
- investigate a program like the US Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program to complement a revamped BRII;
- look at boosting R&D through a small business vouchers scheme, like the NSW TechVouchers scheme;
- investigate a technology transfer network like the German Steinbeis system; and

- reinstate robust measurements of research commercialisation to track whether Australia is making progress in this important policy area.

<https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/media-item/making-the-most-of-uni-research/>

<https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/submission/submission-to-the-university-research-commercialisation-consultation-paper/>

2020 Employer Satisfaction Survey

The annual survey found that 84.7 per cent of direct supervisors say they are satisfied with their new graduate employees – an increase on last year and consistent with the high satisfaction rates since the survey began. A record 86.8 per cent of employers were satisfied with the employability skills of graduates.

<https://www.qilt.edu.au/qilt-surveys/employer-satisfaction>

Reasons for Keeping Lectures: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. Campus Morning Mail

https://campusmorningmail.com.au/news/reasons-for-keeping-lectures-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly/?utm_source=sendgrid.com&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=website



Student Guild of Curtin University

Representation Board - Meeting #4

To be held at 6pm on Thursday the 22nd of April 2021

In Council Chambers (100.301)

CW: Sexual assault/sexual harassment

Motion:

That the Curtin Student Guild acknowledges the need for mandatory and improved sex education in WA educational institutions, especially beginning at lower year levels, and circulates the attached petition calling the Western Australia government to act on this.

Moved: Cassidy Pemberton

Seconded: Bridge Truell

Background:

In late March, schools in NSW across the different education sectors collectively agreed that there is an urgent need to improve education about sexual assault/sexual harassment. This immediately followed a petition started by Chanel Contos called 'Teach Us Consent', which calls specifically for '**sexual consent to be at the forefront of educational issues in your school, from a young age**'. This petition has received nearly 40,000 signatures and 4,000 testimonies from people across Australia.

A similar petition has been started in WA, calling for the Western Australian government to do the same, especially due to their lack of response surrounding these issues.

The petition written by Carla Puca, calls for;

- 1) Mandatory, standardised and improved sexual consent education in all WA schools.**
- 2) Sexual consent education being taught earlier.**
- 3) Specialised training for our teachers to enable them to more effectively deliver sexual consent education.**

Carla reached out via email asking for the Guild's support, and recounted how 'too many of her friends at WA universities have been sexually assaulted/raped' and there is a 'major gap in sexual consent education' at UWA and in WA in general.

Within the last couple months, there has been a lot of coverage surrounding issues of sexual assault and sexual harassment as important stories have been brought to light. It has been very confronting, but also crucial as we can properly examine how prevalent rape culture is in this country and figure out more ways to stop it, and support those who have been affected.

And while this issue is most directed at primary and secondary levels of education, what we learn in those stages of life informs the people we become and how we act when studying at a tertiary level. The inappropriate, vulgar and unwarranted behaviour of those who sexually harass and assault others needs

to be caught and stamped out at a young age, so it doesn't continue at Curtin and other Australian universities going forward.

RELEVANT LINKS:

Australia-wide petition: <https://www.teachusconsent.com/>

WA-specific petition (to circulate): https://www.change.org/p/mandatory-standardised-and-improved-sexual-consent-education-in-all-wa-schools-starting-earlier?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=custom_url&recruited_by_id=895068a0-a360-0130-fe0f-00221964dac8

Articles about this issue:

<https://www.theeducatoronline.com/k12/news/nsw-school-sectors-unite-to-boost-consent-education/276162>

<https://thewest.com.au/news/education/nsw-schools-vow-to-fix-consent-education-c-2443925>

Confidentiality:

Open

CW: *Sexual assault/sexual harassment*