



Student Guild of Curtin University

Representation Board - Meeting #3

Held at 5:30pm on Thursday the 10th of February 2022

Online

MINUTES

Meeting opened 5.35pm

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; Amber Hilston; Cassidy Pemberton; Madison Ainsworth, Salwa Kilzi; Marcus Furnihough; Zoe Wing, Sophie Scott; Gabbi Marsh; Dylan Botica ; Elizabeth Powell; Jasmyne Tweed; Rachel Taylor; Hameed Mohammad; Rey Nairn ; Madison; Adam Reader

2.2. Others Present; Maryanne Shaddick (minute secretary), Jo-Ann Naidu

2.3. Apologies and Leave of Absence; Sofia Gonzalez Torres, Theodora Rohl

2.4. Absent; Shuniqua Cutinha;

3. Disclosure of any potential or perceived Conflicts of Interest. Madison Ainsworth noted a conflict with item 8.3.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

4.1. Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion: That the Representation Board approves the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 20/01/2022, as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved: Sophie Scott

Seconded: Rey Nairn

Carried

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes. None

6. Items Not for Discussion. None

7. Reports 7.1. President – Submitted 7.1.1. Key Performance Indicators. Marcus Furnihough

queried the amendments to Evaluate saying that he was hoping there would be more specific information. He noted that the process was focused on staff. It was noted that Madison Ainsworth was liaising on the pilot project as well. The committee heard that modification could lead to better student feedback. There was an update with regard to the Curtin Covid management team. Marcus Furnihough queried the letter to the Premier calling for the Government to open the border to international students. Marcus felt the letter implied that students should not have to quarantine. Maryanne Shaddick clarified that was not the intent of the letter.

7.2. Vice President – Education – Submitted 7.2.1. Key Performance Indicators. As tabled. No questions.

7.3. Faculty of Business and Law Representative – Submitted 7.3.1. Key Performance Indicators. As tabled. No questions

7.4. Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative –Submitted 7.4.1. Key Performance Indicators. As tabled. No questions

7.5. Faculty of Health Sciences Representative – Submitted. 7.5.1. Key Performance Indicators. As tabled. As tabled. No questions.

7.6. Faculty of Humanities Representative – Not Submitted 7.6.1. Key Performance Indicators.

7.7. Student Assist – Submitted. There was a query about whether students in isolation could access financial relief and food aid. Jo-Ann Naidu said that the Guild did not have information about which students were impacted. Curtin was doing welfare checks. Jo-Ann said that she understood that there were 245 students in Perth in isolation. Curtin expected to reach all students by next week.

7.8. International Students Committee President –Submitted 7.8.1. Key Performance Indicators. As tabled. No questions.

7.9. Postgraduate Students Committee President –Submitted 7.9.1. Key Performance Indicators. As tabled. No questions.

7.10. Queer Officer – Submitted 7.10.1. Key Performance Indicators. Cassidy Pemberton added to her report noting that she had been liaising with the Queer community, staying up-to-date, attending a protest and working on a statement with regard to the Religious Discrimination Bill. Cassidy noted that she was working on the All Need to Pee campaign and had met with other WA Queer Officers. Marcus Furnihough foreshadowed suspending standing orders for a motion to condemn the Religious Discrimination Bill. There was agreement to follow up this up in general business.

7.11. Women's Officer – Submitted 7.11.1. Key Performance Indicators. As tabled. No questions

7.12. First Nations Officer – Vacant

7.13. Accessibility Officer – Submitted 7.13.1. Key Performance Indicators. Rey Nairn added that discussion with accessibility services had occurred. Rey said that they had liaised with the Head of School of Chemistry regarding accessibility. As well, Rey noted that they had participated in the Guild statement concerning the Religious Discrimination Bill.

7.14. Higher Education Developments – Submitted. Nothing to add.

7.15. Chair of the Representation Board* - Verbal report 7.15.1. Key Performance Indicators. Jasmyne noted that she was working with Dylan on the preparation of Representation Board agendas. As well Jasmyne noted that she was investigating the possibility about having student ids on mobile phones as it would be more accessible to get into buildings.

Motion: That the Representation Board notes the reports.

Moved: Elizabeth Powell

Seconded: Amber Hilston

Carried

8. Items for Discussion and Resolution

8.1. Increase COVID Safety Measures

Motion: That the Guild demand the University enact a range of COVID safety measures beyond minimum State and Federal Government requirements.

Moved: Marcus Furnihough

Seconded: Rey Nairn (Accessibility Officer)

Carried

Marcus Furnihough spoke to the motion noting that a number of schools have had to close. He said that controlling COVID was difficult. Inevitably, we would have to manage COVID for a long time. Marcus discussed measures that could be introduced on campus for example filters, co2 monitoring, free face masks. These cost money. University not wanting to spend this kind of money. Marcus advocated for a campaign that defended the rights of students. Rey noted that while these measures could appear overly thorough, studies have concluded that current measures were not good enough.

8.2. Guild Support NSW Nurses and Midwives Association

Motion: That the Guild endorses proposed industrial action taken by NSW Nurses and Midwives Association.

Marcus noted a 15 hour strike and said that during action there was a skeleton crew of staff to take care of patient needs.

Moved: Marcus Furnihough
Seconded: Hameed Mohammad
Carried

8.3. 2022 NUS KPIs

Motion: That the Representation Board approves the 2022 Key Performance Indicators for the National Union of Students.

Moved: Cassidy Pemberton
Seconded. Rachel Taylor
Carried

Standing Orders suspended to vote to allow Maddison Ainsworth to stay.
Carried by absolute majority.

Cassidy Pemberton spoke to the motion. List of KPIs about how the Curtin Student Guild would measure the NUS performance. Quite standard KPIs. Need to hold NUS to account. Marcus Furnihough noted that NUS KPIs were quantitative rather than qualitative. These KPIs could lean into the NUS inactivity. Rachel Taylor felt quantitative KPIs set bare minimum expectations.

8.4. Federal Election Demands

Motion: That the Curtin Student Guild run a campaign regarding the Federal Election centered around the following demands:

1. Cheaper tertiary education fees
2. Action on climate change
3. Changing the age of independence
4. A duty of care in the higher education sector
5. Support for international students

Moved: Adam Reader
Seconded: Hameed Mohammad

Adam Reader spoke to the motion. He noted the objectives of reversing the fee hike imposed by the Federal Government, the need for better action on climate change. Adam said that a gas led recovery not good enough. He noted that the age of independence a big issue for students and this was determined by Centrelink. Adam said

that a duty of care implied that there would be a legal requirement for universities to be responsible for students academic and mental well-being. This was introduced in New Zealand and with positive impact. Hameed Mohammad said that this motion was especially important for international students. Hameed spoke about the fees paid by international students. Dylan Botica suggested changing point one to be "cheaper and fully funded fees". Noted that these points were similar to NUS campaign. Should Guild work with NUS? NUS was going to campaign for 100% of SSAF for Guilds. Rachel Taylor said that the cheaper education point should be in terms of more government funding. Marcus Furnihough proposed a demand for free education. Marcus said the demand about climate change could go further for example immediate transition to renewables. Marcus said that International student fees were too high. Adam Reader said amendment with regard to free education was a good idea. Adam said transitioning overnight to renewables was going to cost a lot of jobs. Government must start investing now. He advocated that the demands be achievable. Hameed Mohammad noted that international students could pay up to 12 times more than domestic students.

Adam Reader was not amendable to changes to the motion .

Marcus Furnihough proposed to amend the motion.
Gabbi Marsh seconder
Carried

8.4 Amended motion

The Federal Election will be held this year, and as a student union it's important we make sure that students are informed, especially on issues which affect them.

1. Free university tuition fees

Students are leaving university with tens of thousands of dollars of debt. This is especially the case for Humanities students, who are systematically disregarded, and whose fees have increased the most.

2. An immediate transition to renewables

We are in a climate emergency, yet the Government routinely ignores this. We need action on climate change immediately.

3. Changing the age of independence

Until someone is 22 years old, their ability to claim Youth Allowance is tied to their parents' income, even if they are living out of home. This policy is ageist, and can put many young people in precarious situations. The age of independence needs to be lowered.

4. A duty of care in the higher education sector

A duty of care means that Universities are responsible for students' wellbeing. This includes not only physical wellbeing, but mental and emotional too. A duty of care in Universities is in place in New Zealand, and it means that Universities have increased funding to their mental health services and the safety of the campus and classes. We need this in place in Australia.

5. International students to pay no more than Australian students

International students pay between three and seven times the amount of tuition fees than domestic students do, yet they are constantly disregarded and deprioritised. Now, with the COVID-19 pandemic, these disparities have dramatically increased. International students need to be supported.

Moved Marcus Furnihough
Seconded by Gabbi Marsh.
Carried

Rachel left at 6.30pm

9 Minutes of Committees Reporting to the RepresentationBoard

- 9.1. International Student Committee – Nil
- 9.2. Postgraduate Student Committee – Meetings held on 16/11/2021;17/1/2022
- 9.3. Queer Collective - Nil
- 9.4. Womens Collective – Nil
- 9.5. First Nations Collective - Nil
- 9.6. Accessibility Collective - Nil
- 9.7. Student Housing Advisory Committee - Nil
- 9.8. First Year Committee – Nil

Motion: That the Representation Board notes the minutes of the committees and collectives en bloc.

Moved: Jasmyne Tweed (Chair of Representation Board)
Seconded: Salwa Kilzi.
Carried

Carried

10. General Business

Jasmyne commented on the motion passed in the January Representation board meeting supporting the rally to keep WA's borders closed. Following the Government's decision to delay the order opening the purpose of rally did not align with the motion.

Suspension of standing orders was requested by Salwa Kilzi to discuss the motion related to the Jenkins Report.

Vote to suspend standing orders passed by absolute majority

Content Warning: Sexual Assault.

Motion: That the Curtin Guild endorse the legislative changes that were recommended by Kate Jenkins and that the Curtin Guild to encourages the parliament to implement these changes; furthermore, the Curtin Guild Women's Department will monitor the parliament progress in implementing these changes.

Moved Salwa Kilzi
Seconded Rey Nairn
Carried

Salwa Kilzi spoke to the motion and provided background to the report. Report outlined 28 recommendations that Parliament should implement over 10 years. The Prime Minister and Speaker of the House issued an apology to Miss Higgins and others who had been subjected to sexual assault and guaranteed that the recommendations would be implemented.

Marcus proposed suspending standing orders to discuss the motion relating to the Religious Discrimination Bill.

Standing orders suspended by absolute majority

MOTION: The Guild as a whole condemns the religious discrimination bill and demand it be scrapped in its entirety.

- The Guild will release a statement as soon as possible and promote this rally opposing the bill on Saturday 12th: <https://fb.me/e/1ykPz59yX>

- In the statement, they will condemn the ALP for supporting the bill whether or not their amendments were agreed to.

Moved Marcus Furnihough
Seconded Cassidy Pemberton
Carried
1 abstention

Marcus Furnihough said ALP positioned itself to be an advocate of social justice and yet it had supported the bill with some amendments. A number of organisations had criticised the ALP. Cassidy Pemberton said it was a shock that the ALP backed the bill. The bill was filled with bigotry and hate. Dylan Botica spoke about the progress of the bill and the nuances of the amendments. Marcus said that the Guild should condemn anyone who had endorsed the bill in any form.

Hameed Mohammad spoke about the requirements for international students in quarantine. Marcus Furnihough said Guild should consider more weighty demands about things such as fees and access to welfare for international students. He said that the quality of online learning needed to be better in the event of a move to online because of COVID.

11. Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Representation Board is Thursday, the 17th of March at 5.30pm to be held at Council Chambers. Documents and motions are to be submitted no later than 4:30pm on Thursday the 10th of March 2022 to chair.representation@guild.curtin.edu.au and secretary@guild.curtin.edu.au closed at 6.57pm