

# CURTIN STUDENT Guild President Report

March 2024  
Jasmyne Tweed

## Presidents Representation Board Report

Covering Dates: 08.02.2024 – 07.03.2024

Leave: Nil

Travel: Nil

### 1. Meetings Log

University Meetings		
Date	Meeting	Comments
13.02.24	DVCA X Guild Monthly check in	
	Change the Age Campaign Meeting	- NUS Campaign meeting with the campaigns officer
14.02.24	Safer Communities Meeting	
15.02.24	Academic Board Executive	
19.02.24	Orientation Welcome	
23.02.24	Academic Board	
27.02.24	Law School Check-in	
28.02.24	Guild Discussion	Discussion with University staff concerned over the Guilds statement on Palestine.
01.03.24	FBL Project Meeting	
05.03.24	Refugee Student Settlement Project	
Guild Meetings		
07.02.24	Finance and Risk	Comments
08.02.24	Student housing campaign meeting	Meeting with the Managing Director to cover continuing and new Guild projects for 2024.
09.02.24	Executive Committee	The last Executive Committee Meeting of the 54 <sup>th</sup> Guild Council.
12.02.24	President x MD Check ins	
	President x MS Check ins	
15.02.24	JuiceBox Guild Branding session	Veronika and I had a discussion with the Guild Student Engagement team about the orientation communication timeline and content we would on the socials.

19.02.24	President x MD Check ins	
20.02.24	NUS Change the Age Campaign meeting	Meeting with the NUS Campaigns Officer to discuss the change the age campaign
22.02.24	Monthly Digital Catch up	
23.02.24	Pre Academic Board Meeting	
26.02.24	President x MD Check in	
	Executive Committee	
29.02.24	Guild Council	
01.03.24	WA Guild Presidents Meeting	
04.03.24	Presidents x MD Check in	
	President x MS Check in	
07.03.24	SVA x NUS Network Session	
	Secretary x President Check in	
	NUS Education Officer Meeting	

## 2. Projects Overview

### 2.1 Australian Universities Accord Final Paper

- Upon the release of the Australian Universities Accord paper, the Guild welcomed several recommendations, including the recommendation to implement paid placements, which is a vital step in addressing student poverty, which is one that the Curt Student Guild advocated for and was referenced in the panel's recommendation.

Many other reforms the Curtin Student Guild advocated for were addressed in the final report, including Jobs Ready Course fees, HECS-HELP debt repayments, financial support, Duty of Care and SSAF funding.

There were still many crucial areas in which the Accord recommendations have not been resolved, including the specifics of SSAF allocation, the exploitation of international students, and the specific needs of under-represented student demographics.

However, what has been recommended will alleviate many of the students' immediate stressors.

The Curtin Student Guild media statement for the release of the final accords paper and previous submissions can be found [here](#).

### 2.2 Cost of Living Survey

- During Guild O-day, the Guild Welfare stall launched a Cost of Living Survey to gather information on how the cost of living crisis has impacted students in the last 12 months. The questions included asking students about how their mental health has been affected, whether they have secure housing, and to rank cost of living pressures on how they will be impacted. The Guild has received 800 responses to the survey. The results indicate that students are negatively affected by the cost of living and that student poverty is a real issue at Curtin University. The survey results are being used as a part of a larger End Student Poverty campaign that the Guild is engaging in through the housing campaign and the campaign to change the age of Centrelink Independence.

### 2.3 Student Housing & Residential Tenancy Act Reform

- The Curtin Student Guild is a foundation member of the Make Renting Fair WA Alliance. The Guild President has met with Make Renting Fair WA to start working on the campaign for student renters and lodges to be included in the Residential Tenancies Act 1987. Currently, the Act does not include any forms of protection for student renters, leaving Curtin students in accommodation with no dispute resolution process, maximum rent increase protections, and ultimately being bound in predatory contracts. The Guild and Make Renting Fair are planning for this campaign to engage with all Guilds in WA to lobby for residential tenancy reform successfully. The current reforms taking place are the most extensive seen in 30 years for WA.

The Curtin Students Guilds ABC interview about students struggling with the cost of student housing at Curtin can be found [here](#).

## 2.4 Student Engagement

- On 21 February, the Guild hosted its annual semester one Guild O-Day. It was an extremely successful event with over 170 stall holders and 90 stall holders held by the guilds, clubs, and societies. The Guilds stalls were continuously busy, with many students engaging in the Guilds 2024 campaign launches and signing up for the equity collectives.

The National Union of Students were stall holders this year, with the National President, Secretary and Welfare Officer in attendance to promote national campaigns, including the Change the Age campaign. The Change the Age Campaign is campaigning towards lowering the age of Centrelink independence from 22 to 18 years so every student can access financial support when they're studying.

In week one, the Guild hosted the annual TOGA Party. The TOGA Party was successfully attended, reaching the total capacity of 1400 people by 9:30 pm, when the event was being held until midnight. The Guild was able to showcase some clubs by Curtin Esports hosting a just dance competition and the Electronic Music Appreciation Society being DJs at the event.

The International Student Committee hosted the first free migration workshop for 2024 with Pathway Migration, and 190+ students attended the session. With the changes to Australia's migration plan, visa workshops are in high demand from international students, and that demand is expected to increase throughout the year.

## Vice President – Education

March Representation Board (9/02/2023 – 7/03/2024)

Veronika Gobba (she/her)

### University / External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/2/24	Juicebox brand strategy workshop #2	
16/2/24	Curtin Connect Faculty Service Improvement Facilitators meet and greet	Attended with HUM rep, who noticed that many unit outlines in HUM have Curtin Connect listed as administrative contact. This is becoming a more standard practice to become more streamlined and take the administrative burden away from academic staff. We now have more direct contacts with Connect staff who deal with complex issues.
16/2/24	AI taskforce meeting	Curtin exploring AI chatbot to be integrated into Curtin website.
19/2/24	Guild Survival Guide	Presented this Orientation session with VP-SW, quite successful with at least a third of the Curtin stadium filled with attendees. Myself and Jacquie stayed back afterwards to help answer many student queries.
20/2/24	Change the Age campaign meeting with NUS campaigns officer and campus welfare officers	Attended on behalf of Jacquie
	Mental Health & Resilience Reference Group	Attended with VP-SW
15/2/24	Juicebox brand strategy workshop #2	
16/2/24	Curtin Connect Faculty Service Improvement Facilitators meet and greet	Attended with HUM rep, who noticed that many unit outlines in HUM have Curtin Connect listed as administrative contact. This is becoming a more standard practice to become more streamlined and take the administrative burden away from academic staff. We now have more direct contacts with Connect staff who deal with complex issues.
23/2/24	Academic Board	
26/2/24	Fieldwork Governance Group	
27/2/24	Curtin Scholarships presentation	
5/4/24	Courses Committee	Curtin has had to temporarily move some units from Kalgoorlie to Bentley

		campus in response to the housing shortage in Kalgoorlie.
7/4/24	Student Voice Australasia student network session w/ NUS	SVA is an ineffective organisation that does nothing to raise the voice of students. I recommend our representatives stop wasting our time engaging with this organisation.

### Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
9/2/24	Exec Committee	
12/2/24	Operations Committee	
15/2/24	Representation Board	First live-streaming trial (unlisted)
22/2/24	Student engagement digital catch-up	
26/2/24	Exec Committee	
29/2/24	HUM Rep catch-up	
	Guild Council	
4/4/24	Higher Ed	

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

Coming out of the Universities Accords is the [Draft Action Plan](#) addressing gender-based violence in higher education. Following the consultation process which we submitted to, the Education Ministers agreed to the [Action Plan Addressing Gender-based Violence in Higher Education](#). This is a massive win for the campaign to address sexual violence in tertiary education which has been ongoing for decades. This plan has good inclusions around better reporting transparency and stronger requirements for student accommodation, which is what we advocated for in our submission.

### Guild O-day Representation Stall

The Guild representation stall had a focus on Palestine campaigns and the 'NDA' on March 1. IPAN has generously donated lots of pro-Palestinian liberation posters and stickers, and we have been communicating with other Guild clubs and other WA Guilds to share some of these resources. I have also been communicating with VP-SW on starting to build on the housing/cost-of-living campaign aligned with the NUS, and supported the development of a cost-of-living survey which launched at O-day.

### Student Strike for Palestine National Day of Action - March 1

The student strike organised by Socialist Alternative or 'Students for Palestine' had inclusions of wonderful speeches including from a Palestinian student and a high school student. The turnout for the strike was extremely low. It is concerning to see that this student strike NDA received a lower turnout than the normal weekly rallies for Palestine. It seems the organisers of this demonstration lack coordination and consultation with the relevant groups in this movement. Originally the strike was on at a time which is common for Islamic prayer and had to be shifted after it had been advertised after the organisers were notified. It seems the organisers are causing tension in this movement for their non-collaborative approaches and I feel we must be weary of this going forward. It was also unfortunately one of the worst rallies I have been to in terms of chants, nothing was in

sync and it felt like every single member of socialist alternative were desperate to have their moment with a megaphone which caused incoherence with the flow of the rally.

## Vice President – Sustainability & Welfare

January Representation Board (09/02/2024 – 07/03/2024)

Jacque Bicanic (she/they)

### University / External Meetings:

Date	Meeting	Comments
12/02/24	FBL Sustainable Events Guide Morning Tea	
14/02/24	Safer Communities	Introductory meeting where I met Sean Daly and introduced myself as the VPSW. Jasmyne and I briefly discussed what Sean's experience has been with students over the last few years and we discussed possible trends we could expect for 2024.
14/02/24	Respect @ Uni Week	
19/02/24	Juicebox Presentation	
20/02/24	Mental Health & Resilience Reference Group Meeting	VC & DVCA in attendance. Meeting discussed what programs are currently available for students as well as programs that are being created for the care of students mental health.
27/02/24	Give to Change Appreciation Event	Advancement team invites us to join this event to see what work they do.
27/02/24	Monthly Sustainability Catch-Up	With Jessie Parish and Caitlin Agostino.
06/03/24	Respect @ Uni Week	Event update
08/03/24	International Women's Day	Unions event outside Parliament House

### Guild Meetings (Or Guild-Related Meetings):

Date	Meeting	Comments
09/02/24	Exec Meeting	
09/02/24	Respect at Curtin Week	Met with Max (VPA) and Jasmyne (Pres) to discuss what the Guild can deliver for the Respect at Curtin event.
09/02/24	Korean Club AGM	Shadowed Mitch (Secretary) for KCC's AGM
12/02/24	Operations Meeting	
14/02/24	Events & VPA Catch-Up	Given VPSW involvement with the more welfare & sustainability orientated events across the year, I joined this catch up to introduce myself and discuss my involvement for events like Mind Mojo, Pop-Up Thrift Stalls, mental health week and Love Week/Rad Sex & Consent week.
15/02/24	Juicebox Session #2	

15/02/24	Reps Board Agenda session	Went through the agenda as a group given the size of the document.
15/02/24	Reps Board	
19/02/24	Uni Survival Guide event	
19/02/24	Juicebox Discussion	
20/02/24	Change the Age National Campaign Meeting	
21/02/24	O-Day	
22/02/24	Monthly Digital Catch Up	
26/02/24	Exec Meeting	
27/02/24	VPA & Events team catch up	
28/02/24	Policy Tracker Check In	
29/02/24	Guild Council	
01/03/24	Toga	

### **Leave Taken:**

None

### **Further Notes:**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Details</b>
O-Day	O-Day went well. The succulents generated a lot of interest and through those giveaways I gained over 570 responses to my cost of living survey. Since O-Day the survey was shared to the Guilds Social Media and the responses are now over 750. I will be announcing the prize winners early next week.
Containers For Change	I am in the process of putting together a proposal for the reverse cycle 10c vending machines on campus.
Recycling Hub on Campus	I have arranged a meeting with the Library to discuss the potential to deliver a recycling hub (similar to those seen at the entrance of <i>Officeworks</i> ) in the library. They seem interested in the idea and I am hopeful this can be delivered with their support.
Respect @ Uni Week	I have secured stalls from SHQ and WAAC for this event.
Other Guilds	ECU Vice President Social Responsibility has responded to me and is interested in meeting up to discuss Welfare on Campus.
External	I have been in discussions with Lush to be considered for any ongoing wastage, and to see if they could deliver a stall for Mind Mojo and/or the Pop-Up Thrift Stall events (as they are an ethical and sustainable brand). I have since passed this on to the events team to handle and maintain the ongoing relationship.



## Faculty of Business and Law Representative Report

**Name:** Hannah Northey

**Meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Updates:**

Date	Meeting/Event	Comments
12/2/24	Sustainable Events Guide Morning Tea	A new sustainable events guide developed by past students for usage all across the university was announced.
12/2/24	Meeting with Deputy PVC Sonia Dickinson and Caitlin Agostino	A chance to formally introduce myself and discuss sustainability in FBL for 2024 and the future.
13/2/24	FBL SDP	13 cases considered.
15/2/24	February Representation Board	
16/2/24	Monthly meeting with PVC Vanessa Chang	Discussion around the campaign I am working towards for greater assessment feedback, a FBL sustainability steering group and the FBL SheLeads program.
16/2/24	Shortlisting meeting for Head of School Accounting, Economics and Finance	Candidates were selected to proceed to the interview stage.
20/2/24	FBL Post-Graduate Orientation	Arifin and myself presented at this session about the Guild and what we can do for students- it was well received in my opinion.
21/2/24	GUILD O DAY	Successful day for all Guild reps as all our stalls were busy. Massive thanks to Noor for helping me with my stall all day 😊
21/2/24	Meeting with Dean and Head of Law school	Discussions around the law school experience and engagement for students,

	Professor Robert Cunningham	assignment feedback, Curtin Counselling and the Dean's Forum.
22/2/24	FBL Undergraduate Orientation	Over 1000 new FBL undergraduate students came to this orientation session. Lots of sign-ups to the FBL Guild Facebook group (literally hundreds). A great day overall.
23/2/24	Law School Undergraduate Orientation	A good opportunity to speak to first year law students about the Guild.
23/2/24	FBL Online Student Orientation	The final orientation session for semester one. There was high engagement throughout the entire two hour session.
27/2/24	Health Sciences rep x FBL rep meeting	Further plans for our joint stall in late March. All is on track for this.
29/2/24	Leadership Matters Breakfast	This event was interesting.
29/2/24	FBL Clubs Sundowner	A wonderful event hosted by WIB, Enactus and CBCA. Lots of student-focused networking was achieved. A great leap into the new year!
1/3/24	Meeting with Dean, Learning and Teaching Professor Subra Ananthram and Associate Professor J. Ho	Discussion about student engagement in classes.
5/3/24	Meet up with ODAY stall raffle winner	The student was very happy to collect their prize.
6/3/24	FBL Clubs Meeting	Discussions around FBL clubs and their executive committee member's goals for this year. Also, Curtin Marketing Association is up and running again with their AGM set for this Friday.
7/3/24	Fortnightly catch up with FBL Student Engagement team	Discussions around preparation for 2024 Student Consultative Committee

### Additional Information:

- I feel I am now well and truly in the role now. I have been quite busy this last month with meetings and orientation sessions but all has gone well.
- My aims now are to focus on what I really want to achieve for students while I am in this position (focusing on campaigns/events).
- Staff have been open to working with me which is great.
- I'm working on trying to increase engagement with the FBL Guild Facebook group. Lots of new students (around 300) joined the group in the first two weeks of uni.

Science and Engineering faculty Report

Thane Roberts (They/Them).

Representation Board 14/03/2024

Date	Event type	Name	Comments
14/02/2024	Presentation	SAE Conversations in Teaching	Cesar Ortega delivered a presentation on the trends and data gathered from the EFY Electrical unit form 2023 and what can be learnt from it and how, the trend is for high performing students to do better then ever and for low performing students to struggle more then previous years. The results of students seem to be becoming more evenly distributed across the spectrum of results.
19/02/2024	Meeting	Science and Engineering Faculty Executive Team	<p>Discussed partnerships in the Asia pacific region and need for greater staff mobility.</p> <p>The planned science building 316 was mentioned along with existing refurbishment plans of other buildings across campus.</p> <p>The need for more strategic and focused Faculty Executive meetings was discussed.</p> <p>The nation-wide shortage of maths teaches and its effect on the academic pipeline was discussed.</p> <p>Brief mention to an article in The Australian that stated that a 10 per cent reduction in the amount of domestic enrolments into tertiary education, and relation to cost of living pressures leading to more people opting for immediate entry into the workforce.</p>
22/02/2024	Meeting	Science Board	<p>The task and purpose of science board was discussed and how the body exists do to accreditation requirements.</p> <p>The work plan for the year was decided on.</p>
5/03/2024	Meeting	Science and Engineering	The important items discussed are as follows.

		Faculty Executive Team	<p>Decline in maths pipeline, the quality of student's knowledge of maths is plummeting as less students peruse high level maths. This issue has led to many research positions having to be filled from overseas.</p> <p>There has been an increase in student numbers for civil engineering.</p> <p>There is a APAI conference on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.</p> <p>Concerns were raised over the lack of industry funding for research in Australia, compared to comparable countries. Lots of unfunded staff time not considered.</p> <p>Diminishing Effective Research FTE. Issues with work distribution and the university prioritising teaching as it is more profitable.</p> <p>Increased global mobility of students with NCP programs and the need for greater staff mobility.</p> <p>The revenue for 2023 was discussed, and infrastructure expenditure</p> <p>SLIIT 4+0 Eng accreditation issues. Students enrolling for degrees without local accreditation.</p>
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The key points are as follows:

1. Maths pipeline decline, less schools are offering sufficient maths for university and many research positions are having to be filled form overseas to address this decline.
2. Industry in Australia is not adequately funding research when compared to comparable countries.
3. Global student and staff mobility, many students are using the NCP funding to travel overseas, however the options for staff mobility are more limited and there needs to be greater mobility of staff across the global campuses.
4. Accreditation issues. Some of the degrees offered by Curtin across all campuses lack accreditation in the countries which the campuses are based in. This presents challenges to graduates.

**HEALTH SCIENCES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT  
REPRESENTATION BOARD Meeting – March 2024**



Meeting/Project	Date	Comments
Faculty courses committee meeting	13/2/24	<p>Discussion about positive developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Postgrad Wound, Ostomy and Continence practice receiving funding from placement holders to increase student affordability</li> <li>- Improving complex course application processes</li> <li>- Re-activation of paramedicine and how it will be under the control of Curtin instead of St John which previously had issues</li> <li>- First Year Experience pilot program by Student Success; intervention for common first year units (human structure and function and foundations for professional health practice) to connect students to support services through a 3-tier traffic light tracking system which involves connecting students to support services digitally and face-to-face, by monitoring blackboard participation (digitally monitoring clicks to links and submission of assignments).</li> </ul>
Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Working Party committee meeting	20/2/24	<p>Attended with Accessibility officer Filiz to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive responses from DIB staff survey 2023</li> <li>- 2024 Project of student survey and staff bystander training</li> <li>- Sensory considerations in the classroom like lighting and Filiz's experience with responses/reactions from tutors.</li> <li>- Suggestion for staff sensitivity training around different needs</li> <li>- Unit content being released late (such as the night before or morning of the class) creating difficulties for neurodivergent students, students with mental/physical disorders and students with families or work commitments.</li> <li>- Suggested creating a standard that allows content to be released at a reasonable time, and to assess if staff are overloaded. This is a campaign I will be working further on.</li> </ul>
O-week Undergrad and Postgrad FHS presentations	19/2/24	3 presentations to introduce Curtin Guild to new students. Adding QR codes helped gain new FB group members.
O-day	21/2/24	Successful o-day and o-week; gained around 200 new members to the faculty Facebook group and distributed merchandise and flyers. Included a raffle incentive for joining the faculty Facebook group and spoke to many students about the guild and reaching out to me
O-day raffle winners	28/2/24	3 points of communication; private Facebook message, private SMS, and Facebook announcement tagging the winners. I have kept the prizes at reception for collection. If they do not reply, I will email the winners too.

Monthly meeting with Shaye Marefat and Marina Ciccerali	26/2/24	<p>Shaye and Marina reported no major student issues so far. I received advice;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student who finished their masters asking me about reimbursements for parking costs during placements. If a student finishes their studies, they won't be able to get reimbursements and I should bring awareness this year about students contacting school or student assist about financial issues early on.</li> <li>- The first-year experience pilot program by Student Success and getting involved once the pilot phase has been deemed successful. Students in select units are aware of this program making it student-centred, they have been notified via blackboard announcements and students are able to opt out of the program if they wish.</li> <li>- Creating a survey to gauge student issues during our joint stall and also my joint stall with FBL rep.</li> </ul>
Improving student engagement	22/2/24 – 22/3/24	Driving traffic to Facebook group in the first month of Semester 1 through consistently developing materials using Canva to post 2-5 times a week and developing a Canva flyer about contacting me about student issues which I will stick on billboards in different schools
Discussion with VPE regarding 2 student enquiries and campaigning	28/2/24	Discussed student enquiries about parking costs related to placements and nursing student concerns about lack of name badges and uniform at G-mart. Discussed a campaign for addressing assessment and unit content being posted at a reasonable time or improving insufficient assessment feedback.
Meeting with FBL rep Hannah	27/2/24 / 5/3/24	Meeting to discuss our upcoming joint stall on the 20 <sup>th</sup> March. We are collaborating on developing a Qualtrics survey to gauge student issues and will use the feedback as campaign opportunities. Discussion on logistics for the stall. Discussion about collaborating on assessment feedback campaign.
Meeting with Rosa Alati (School of Public Health)	27/2/24	Introduction to all the heads of school. Introduced myself and my role, and received advice to contact Andrea Begley who is the learning and teaching director.
Survey development using Qualtrics and developing a flyer on Canva about the survey and FBL x FHS stall	28/2/24- 19/3/24	To gauge student issues, this will be promoted on my joint stall with FBL in March and student engagement in May, and on Facebook prior to the stall. VPE and Shaye Marefat will review this. The survey will be incentivised with a first aid kit raffle.
Meeting with Shaye Marefat	12/3/24	To discuss my next steps towards campaigning ideas.
SafeTALK suicide alertness training	13/3/24	Suggested by VPSW to become more aware about mental health issues among students.

**Faculty of Humanities Report**  
**Representation Board Meeting – 14.03.24**

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**Guild Meetings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Weekly	Humanities VP-E Check In	Good chance to check in, get feedback on the work I am doing as well as get some guidance on next steps regarding different projects.

**University Meetings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
10/02	Graduation – Education and Nursing	Fun
13/02	Fieldwork/Placement Scholarships	Met with Mykaela Ballantyne (Manager, Scholarships - Student Management) and Damian Cybulski (Scholarships Advisor) to go over the fieldwork/placement scholarship and how to best make students aware of them
14/02	Content Warning Discussion – Barbra Whelan	Good discussion with Barbra (Manager, Curriculum Transformation) about how to generate list of units flagged as having mature and/or sensitive content in them in order to roll out a pilot for introducing content warnings into the faculty.
14/02	Support of Graduate Diploma in Education Students	Met with Melissa Brodie (Program Manager, Industry Engagement - School of Education) about ways that I can work with the faculty to support education students (especially grad dip students) going on Placements this year and how they are currently going with placing them and what



		support services are currently in place.
15/02	HUM Courses Committee	First Courses Committee of the year. Everyone introduced themselves and then went over the priorities for the year followed by discussion on how to bring more sustainability and First Nations perspectives into courses.
16/02	Meeting w/ Rebecca Walker Humanities Inclusion and Belonging Committee Discussion	Since the next meeting for this committee is during O-Week and I would be unable to attend I met with acting chair Rebecca Walker
16/02	Meeting w/ Curtin Connect Team and VP-E	Veronika and I met with Lou Wright and the Curtin Connect Service Improvement Facilitators to discuss the role of Curtin Connect as the administrative contacts (as listed in unit outlines) and learnt more about their role.
19/02	Fieldwork Bursary Proposal Discussion	Met with Humira and Sharmini Poulsen to discuss the potential for a scholarship/bursary for education students to help support them during their placements/prac's
20/02	School of Education Orientation	Spoke at the orientation session for Masters of Teaching and GradDip students as well as running a stall during their exhibition portion of the orientation. It all went really well and I had the opportunity to talk to a lot of education students directly and make them aware of the Guild and my role as their Fac Rep.
20/02	Humanities Undergraduate Orientation	Gave a quick presentation, it seemed to go over well and there were a lot of students in attendance which was great to see.

22/02	Feedback on Assignments in IR	Met with Shannon Ford (Course Coordinator International Relations – Undergrad) and Nicole to discuss the issues around feedback on presentation assignments as well as brainstorm potential solutions.
29/02	HUM LSEC Meeting	First LSEC Meeting. I submitted two agenda items, one regarding my content warning project and one regarding assignment feedback which were discussed. (more info below)
07/03	Content Warning Meeting w/ LITEC	Sat down with a number of the LITEC team to get their feedback on the draft “Content Warnings: Good Practice Guide” I have created. Lots of really valuable feedback and ideas to consider as this project develops.
07/03	Content Warning Meeting w/ Wellbeing and AccessAbility	Spoke with Jack Graham Geraghty (Manager Student Wellbeing Services) and Debbie Teh (Manager AccessAbility Services) about the content warnings project and got a lot of good advice and feedback on what needs to happen in order to implement this effectively.

## Projects

**Content Warnings:** A lot of good progress has been made with the draft “Good Practice Guide”, with feedback from the directors of learning and teaching of the schools (Education, MCASI and DBE) as well as the LITEC, Wellbeing and AccessAbility teams. I have also been given a starting list of units that have been identified as covering potentially sensitive content and I plan on reaching out to them about trialling content warnings this semester. I have been speaking with the student equity and inclusion team about the policy and procedures aspect of this work and plan on touching base with them as well as the humanities student experience team to finalise how this trial run will be conducted. There has been a lot of good discussion on the long term application of content warnings and how to approach the

eventual implementation of them on a wider scale, which is a positive sign of the amount of support this project has within the faculty and the wider university.

**School of Education:** Being able to talk to many of the students studying the GradDip during the orientations was really good. There is talk of a potential scholarship being created for any First Nations students completing an initial teachers education degree (Bachelors of Education – Primary and Secondary, Masters of teaching and Graduate Diploma in Education – Primary and Secondary). I have had a few meetings that have discussed the supports for students that mentioned the difficulties being had in finding placements for the amount of students there are, a struggle that has been increased by the introduction of the GradDip and the amount of students enrolled in it this year. My first meeting with the UC's within the school of education and the GradDip is coming up so hopefully that will help me better hear about what's going on within these units from the perspective of the teaching staff.

**Assignment Feedback:** Since speaking to Shannon, I've found out that this is an issue that is also being brought up directly to teaching staff also, especially in terms of presentations and therefore have started working with the faculty to come up with solutions and work arounds for staff to get initial feedback and tentative marks back to students sooner. This was taken to all of the directors of teaching and learning for the schools and they are also now discussing amongst themselves and their staff ways in which this can be done.

### **Other**

**O-Day:** O-Day went really well! We had quite a number of people come over to the stall and the stickers were very well received as well as the raffle which had 8 winners. It was also great to see that since then a number of students have either come up to me in person or reached out via email because they spoke to me at O-Day or they recognised me at one of the orientations.

Imari Morris (they/she/he)

Faculty of Humanities Rep

## March 2024 Representation Board Report – Student Assist

### February overview:

Academic sessions were mainly in relation to responding to Academic Misconducts and Complaints.

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

	December	January	February
Academic sessions	156	171	131
Non – academic sessions	12	36	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>383</b>

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

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

	December	January	February
Lifehack participants	57	0	NA
Loan laptop	1	0	12

### **Welfare**

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

	Intl Student?	Total
Childcare grant	Yes	3
Hardship grant	Yes	2

## International Student Committee Report – 14th March 2023

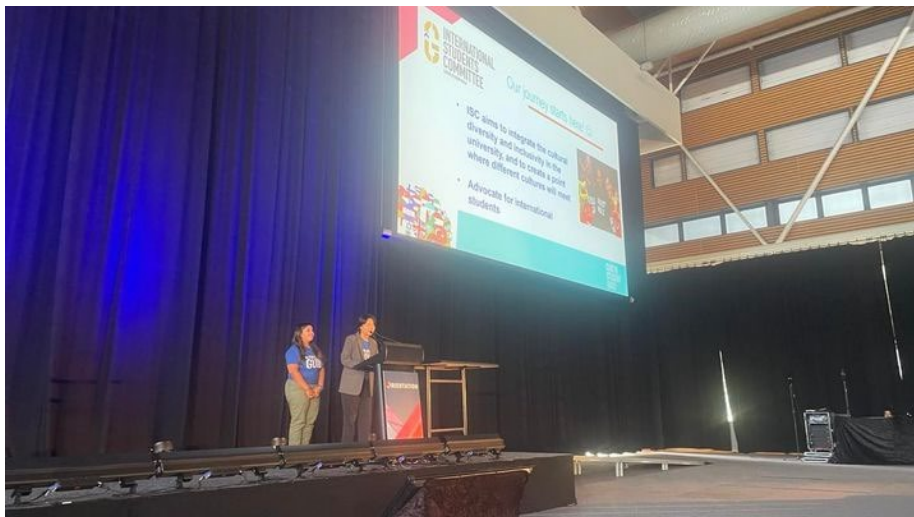
Date	Event	Notes
21/02	International Student Orientation at the Curtin Stadium	I delivered a 5 min presentation to new international students on the significance of Curtin Student Guild. The event was held in collaboration with the Curtin University Orientation team. All the presentations were informative to the audience.
22/02	Curtin Student Guild Orientation Day	The ISC committee organised a stall with giveaways and games for students. The event was very successful seeing at least 200 students. Plenty of students got the opportunity to meet attending ISC student representatives Sarina (ISC VP – Education) and Natalie (ISC Health Science Rep) and ask questions about university life. The social media engagement saw an increase on the day which was an unexpected benefit.
23/02	Academic Board Meeting #1	Introductory academic board meeting. Guild representatives attended and laid out any questions about the agenda. It was my very first one but I appreciated the advice from guild representatives – Jasmyne, Veronika and Arifin
27/02	Global Positioning Committee Meeting #1 – Faculty of Science and Engineering	I had the opportunity to be an attending and voting member of the GPC for Science and Engineering chaired by Prof Sambit Datta. The meeting was overall an introductory one. The key notes from the meeting were International student issues seen on different Curtin campuses and mitigation strategies to help with them.
5/03	Curtin guild café connect planning meeting	I met with Curtin Connect staff Beata, Yaprak and Lui to finalise the happenings of the café connect session on the 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2024.
7/03	International Student Migration Awareness Plan – Session #1	ISMAP 2024 saw the biggest attendees in the history of migration sessions organised by the guild in coordination with ISC and Curtin Student Guild. The final tally was 170 students. ISC reps as well as Curtin Guild reps delivered introductory speeches on the day. The evening was organised by Mr Barry and his team. There will be 2 more free ISMAP's this semester for international students on campus.
11/03	ISC stall at Curtin Global Village	Curtin Global Village is an expo organised by Curtin University students and the ISC put up a stall for university students. The grants received were used for a Curtin merchandise giveaway for students and plenty of food giveaways. ISC reps Natalie and Sarina and guild reps Max and Jacquie helped out with the stall which was very much appreciated.

## Some photos from events so far –



International Student Migration Awareness Plan

ISC stall at orientation



International Student Orientation at Curtin Stadium

## Upcoming events

- 1) Summer Sundowner by ISC and PSC – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – at Curtin Tav
- 2) Curtin Student Guild Café connect – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – at the guild courtyard

Kimberley Pinto

ISC President

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## Postgraduate Student Committee Reports

### Students' Academic & General Issues

- The PSC has communicated and discussed with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research regarding the HDR student issues, especially the space in the graduate research hub and the amount of stipend for HDR scholarship awardees. On the meeting with the Research Committee, the university will try to increase the stipend for HDR students. They will also foster a survey to see the availability of spaces for HDR students.
- The PSC President also received some emails from some faculty representatives to communicate regarding postgraduate students' issues in their faculties.
- Some students' academic issues were received through the PSC president's email during the last few weeks. Those issues were forwarded to the Student Assist successfully.

### Events

- The PSC has involved and presented in the Guild O-Day where we presented our stall at the university. This event is a very significant event to deliver information to postgraduate students regarding the roles and functions of the PSC in supporting their studies at Curtin. At the same time, this event helps to engage more communication between the PSC and postgraduate students.
- The PSC has worked and collaborated with some faculties such as Faculty of Business and Law, Faculty of Humanities, and Faculty of Health Sciences in order to do presentation on their postgraduate orientation events.
- A collaboration is also done by PSC and the Curtin Research Office in the HDR orientation, where PSC did a presentation to new HDR students on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.



- The PSC has attended the postgraduate gathering event from the Faculty of Humanities.

### **General Activities**

- The PSC has attended the Academic Board meeting which was held on Friday, 23 February 2024.
- The PSC has attended the Research Committee meeting which was held on Wednesday, 6 March 2024.
- I have communicated with the Faculty of Business and Law regarding their 2024 handbook for postgraduate students. So, they would like to put information related to PSC on their handbook.
- The PSC has received the invitation from the Learning and Student Experience Committee to attend the meeting on Monday, 11 March 2024.

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**KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

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

Assisting postgraduate students when presented with issues		
Engaging with Curtin internal offices to improve information and processed for postgraduate students		
Support and deliver presentation on the Faculty and University orientations for Postgraduate and HDR students		
Involving in the Guild O-Day to deliver information to and engagement with postgraduate students		

**QUEER OFFICER'S REPORT**  
**Representation Board Meeting 14/03/2024**  
Zavier Wileman (they/them)



**GUILD MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
09/02/2024	Graduation - School of Allied Health
21/02/2024	Guild O-Day
05/03/2024	St Cat's - Chai & Chat

**UNIVERSITY MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
14/02/2024	Monthly meeting w/ Paul DVCA
15/02/2024	Deadnaming Working Group
16/02/2024	International Transgender Day of Visibility
28/02/2024	Gender Affirmation Guide Discussion

**PROJECTS**

Deadnaming Working Group: Brian Cronje presented an update on the DTS business case, consisting of an overview of the current status of investigations into different Curtin systems, as well as the proposed solutions for preventing deadnaming within these systems.

The analysis began with 300 applications and was shortened to just 77 "high priority" applications. These 'high priority' applications either had reported instances of deadnaming students/staff OR were considered to be at high-risk of deadnaming individuals due to the high number of users. From this 77, 20 were considered not at risk of deadnaming, which left 50 systems requiring solutions.

Potential solutions included:

- Integration adjustment, to ensure preferred names are captured alongside legal names
- Notification of the administrator when a name is changed, for them to go into the system and change it
- Notification of the user when they change their name to go into the system and change it themselves
- Policy decision needs to be made to allow preferred names to be used within a system
- 'No remediation' (applies to systems where legal names are required, and so we cannot prevent deadnaming)

The group received a list of the priority applications and their current status in the ongoing analysis.

The level of detail in the analysis is promising, and shows that there are solid proposed solutions that may actually make a big difference in the lives of trans & gender-diverse students and staff. My concern now is that business case currently at no status, meaning that there is no timeline for when the business case will be ready. This is worrying, as we do not want this investigation to get to a standstill. Hopefully, as I have brought this issue to Paul DVCA, he will be able to put the pressure on to get the business case moving.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

O-Day Stall: I had an overwhelmingly positive day chatting with students about the Queer Department and the projects I am running. I appreciated Leshi's support on the day by assisting with the running of my stall. My stall consisted of a collection of LGBTQIA+ health & mental health community resources, 200 safe sex packs from WAAC, koi pride fish stickers, flyers about the QD, and an activity for students to match the pride flag to the correct label (everyone who attempted got to rummage through our pride sticker collection and take what they wanted).

My stall was a good balance of fun and information. I got to have many conversations with queer students, who were very happy to see queer visibility on campus – many commented on the pride flags I had decorated my stall with, and were very happy to see their identity in our collection of koi pride stickers. To me, these comments reaffirmed my passion for getting more permanent queer visibility on campus. For many of us, coming from unsupportive high schools or home environments, the impact of casual queer representation and visibility is huge.

I was happily surprised at how popular the safe sex packs were. I started the day with a huge box of 200 packs and ended the day with just a handful left over. It would be excellent for me in my role this year to develop a relationship with WAAC and SHQ to provide ongoing free safe sex packs for students. Potentially, I would like to bring WAAC or SHQ in to provide workshops or information sessions to students as part of my peer support initiative this year. I will see what I can do to get this off the ground.

Several students commented on the fact that we do not have a queer club – something like a GSA or social club for LGBTQIA+ students would be popular amongst students. I hope that this is a community need I can help to support with my peer support initiative, utilising the queer equity room to hold regular drop-in sessions with activities for students to engage with. Although not the same as a social club, I think the desire for community and friendship could be met through the QD with this initiative.

GENDER AFFIRMATION GUIDE: This meeting was to provide initial feedback on the draft version of the Gender Affirmation Guide. Following this meeting, there will be a secondary feedback stage and a broader consultation with stakeholders. Although the focus is on getting things done right rather than done quickly, Sheldon (Ally team) stated that for consultation with stakeholders, there will be a rigid timeline on feedback set to ensure that there are no unnecessary blockages to getting this guide up and running. I appreciated this, as I have experienced with the deadnaming meetings that sometimes stakeholder involvement without timelines can delay action.

We provided feedback based on the structure, format, and usability of the guide, as well as any omissions we felt were missing from the guide. Overall, feedback was exceptionally positive, and there was unanimous agreement that the content of the guide was brilliant and helpful for students and staff alike. In particular, I would like to highlight the traffic lights system, which indicates to affirming students and staff how 'easy' or 'difficult' different aspects of transition within the university are to undergo - for example, that changing a title is easy, whereas formal name changes are more difficult.

A majority of our discussion was around the usability of the guide, and ensuring that the guide is formatted depending on whether the user of the guide is an affirming student, affirming staff, or manager/support person of an affirming individual. A few suggestions were put out to the group, including splitting the guide into three or four separate documents, or utilising a drop-down selection so that the user can just select the sections that they want to read and are relevant to them. Although no concrete decision was made as to which design will be used, it is clear that the guide will be designed so that it is easy to use for individuals, which I was happy to hear.

My suggestion to the group was that we make sure we are using accessible formats for the guide, particularly considering how reading text-heavy and jargon-heavy documents like this can be difficult and inaccessible for many neurodivergent people. And, given the large intersectionality between neurodiversity and LGBTQIA+, this is an important consideration. To ensure consultation with diverse neurodivergent perspectives is provided for the gender affirmation guide, we will try to talk with CSMP (Curtin Specialist Mentoring Program) about how accessible the guide is currently and how we can make it more accessible.

The group will meet back together again shortly, after the gender affirmation guide has been formatted and stylised, to provide more feedback.

ST CATHERINE'S 'CHAIR AND CHAT': I was invited to talk with a group of queer students at St Catherine's about the Guild, the Queer Department, and the various supports and services they can engage with. The students were engaged, passionate, and spoke about their experiences of marginalisation both living at St Cats and as Curtin students. A few topics which were brought up were the inaccessibility of counselling, difficulties with self-advocacy, and finding community. I provided information about the campaigns and projects I am running, shared gender affirmation information with students, and provided physical resources about Guild-run and external support services they could access. I encouraged the staff I spoke to at St Cats to put up inclusive posters and flags, as a first step towards creating a safe space for queer students at St Cats. I think it is important that the Queer Officer, and for the Guild in general, to work alongside Curtin College (& St Cats specifically) to ensure our advocacy is inclusive of those students.



Representation Board Report  
March 2024

<b>UNIVERSITY &amp; COMMITTEE MEETINGS</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
09.02.2024	Met with Debbie Teh (AccessAbility Services Manager)	Discussed the steps needed to get the sensory room project started.
14.02.2024	Abilities Collective Advisory Meeting	General introduction to the committee and it's members.
16.02.2024	Met with Debbie Teh (AccessAbility Services Manager)	Visited the Mount Lawley Sensory room to get ideas on what we can do in the future sensory space at Curtin.
20.02.2024	DIB Working Party	Discussed the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raised awareness to staff, when possible, to allow students to dim certain lights within classrooms to facilitate Sensory needs.</li> <li>2. Raised the awareness on releasing unit content early enough for equity students. To give them enough time to prepare before their classes.</li> <li>3. Implement and conduct a student survey this year and also bystander training for staff</li> </ol>
26.02.2024	Meeting with Ben and Phoebe (Comfort Corner Coordinators)	<p>In 2024 the Comfort Corner aims to focus a greater emphasis on supporting students from diverse and equity backgrounds.</p> <p>Their mentors are trained, and I asked whether they were being trained on specific programs which address equity needs and they only had a few but I suggested the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ally Training for Queer, Disability &amp; Cultural Training for First Nations</li> <li>2. Training on Cap Plans and specific programs such as CSMP</li> </ol> <p>I also mentioned the design of their poster for 2024 to reflect more of their mission and they appreciated that a lot and said that once the new design is created they will send it to me for approval.</p>



29.02.2024	Universal Design Committee	General Introduction to the committee's overall mission as well as introduction of the members.
06.03.2024	Met with Debbie Teh (AccessAbility Services Manager)	Discussed the steps needed to get the sensory room project started.
07.03.2024	Catch-up with Sunyal Maroo (Chairperson at Abilities @ Curtin Collective)	General catch-up discussing disability awareness at Curtin

### GUILD MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Notes
15.02.2024	Reps Board Meeting #3	N/A

### EVENTS

Date	Event	Notes
08.02.2024 – 21.02.2024	O-Day Preparations	
21.02.2024	O-Day	
05.03.2024	Mentor Hub	Set-up the Accessibility Stall at the TL Library for Mentor Hub Event from 12 – 2 pm. Talked to students about the available services and supports at the Student Guild.

### OTHER

Date	Topic	Notes
09.02.2024	Accessibility Collective	Released the EOI for the Accessibility Collective The closing date: 23.02.2024 Emailed the past collective members to find out whether they wish to continue this year.
12.02.2024	Initial Meet and Greet Event	The first Meet & Greet Event will be held on 8 <sup>th</sup> of March in the Accessibility Equity Space. Created an RSVP form and a social media post to promote the event. Also posted it in discord. Currently in the process of organising food.

## **Representation Board Higher Education Report February 2024**

### **International students gave Australia over half its GDP growth in 2023**

Record spending by foreign students last year, as they flooded back into Australia after the Covid shutdown, accounted for over half of Australia's economic growth in 2023.

Even though high numbers of international students caused accommodation shortages and drove up rents, without their rapid return Australia would have slipped perilously close to recession.

Foreign students [spent nearly \\$48bn in Australia last year](#), according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics balance of payments data – 80 per cent more than they spent in 2022 and a massive contribution to GDP growth.

Analysis by NAB economists Taylor Nugent and Brody Viney showed international student spending alone was responsible for a 0.8 per cent increase in GDP in 2023, over half of the tepid 1.5 per cent economic growth recorded last year.

Last year 787,000 international students were studying in Australia, 27 per cent more than the 618,000 here in 2022.

### **The Final report of the Universities Accord**

<https://www.education.gov.au/australian-universities-accord/resources/final-report>

Jason Clare statements

<https://ministers.education.gov.au/clare/release-australian-universities-accord>

<https://ministers.education.gov.au/clare/independent-national-student-ombudsman-improve-student-safety>

Guild statement

[Australian Universities Accord: a sigh of relief for students](#)

Articles

<https://theconversation.com/universities-accord-final-report-what-is-it-and-what-does-it-recommend-224251>

<https://www.themandarin.com.au/240398-universities-accord-final-report-what-is-it-and-what-it-recommends/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-25/universities-accord-recommends-funding-and-hecs-changes/103503238>

<https://theconversation.com/universities-accord-many-students-could-pay-less-for-their-higher-education-eventually-224240>

<https://honisoit.com/2024/02/education-minister-releases-australian-university-accord-final-report/>

<https://www.campusreview.com.au/2024/02/universities-accord-final-report-released/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2024/feb/25/lowering-cost-of-higher-education-critical-to-meeting-australias-skills-shortage-report-warns>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/the-bold-plan-to-make-more-than-half-of-australias-young-people-a-university-education/4cea4htnd>

## **Slow growth in TAFE places despite Labor's fee-free policy. The Australian**

The number of students enrolled in vocational education barely changed last year, [calling into question the “smashing” success](#) of Labor's signature fee-free TAFE policy in [addressing the nation's critical skills shortages](#).

Official figures released this past week for the 2023 year to September show the total number of government-funded students in public and private vocational training increased by fewer than 20,000, or 1.7 per cent, to 1.07 million, versus the same period in the previous year.

Data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research revealed that over the nine-month period, government-funded TAFE students lifted by 880, or 0.2 per cent to 565,200.

The figures show the government was able to exceed its 180,000 fee-free TAFE places target because it was covering the costs of courses for students who were already enrolled.

The government initially committed \$493m – to be matched by the states – to deliver an originally planned 180,000 fee-free enrolments in 2023, and has since promised a further \$414m for 300,000 more in 2024.

## **Australian higher education providers to be asked for GenAI action plans**

TEQSA targets "meaningful" reflection of risks in the sector.

Australian universities, institutes and colleges providing higher education will be asked by the government for a “detailed” and “credible” action plan to address risks stemming from generative AI.

TEQSA - the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency - [wrote to all 203 higher education providers earlier this week](#), saying it would seek action plans in July.

## **David Thodey to replace Belinda Hutchinson as Uni of Sydney chancellor**

Former Telstra chief executive and CSIRO chairman David Thodey will take over as chancellor of Australia's [wealthiest higher education institution](#), the University of Sydney, when Belinda Hutchinson steps down in July after her more than a decade in the role