



Student Guild of Curtin University

57<sup>th</sup> Guild Council – Meeting #04

To be held at 5 30 PM on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2026

In Council Chambers in Building 410 Medical School

## AGENDA

### 1. Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners

*The Curtin Student Guild pays 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; Dylan Storer, Hadiya Naeemi, Tahni Rowe, Morgan Mills, Max Zhang, Finn Gardoll, Joanna Kuo, Vivi Choi, Bridget Clifton, Emily Lassam, David Phillips, Hamide Kocer, Ebony Whitney, Suhaila Jaffna, Isobel Cubong
- 2.2. Others Present; Vernon Thompson, Natasha Morgan
- 2.3. Apologies and Leave of Absence; Noor Fellah
- 2.4. Absent;

### 3. Disclosure of any potential or perceived Conflicts of Interest

Nil

### 4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Circular Resolutions

- 4.1. Previous Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** That the Guild Council approves the minutes of the previous meetings held on 19/03/2026 as a true and accurate record of proceedings at those meetings.

Moved: Ebony Whitney

Seconded: Tahni Rowe

Carried

## 5. Reports

### 5.1. President – Submitted

Dylan presented his report, noting it could largely be taken as read, and highlighted the following matters:

#### **\*\*University Merger\*\***

Dylan advised that there had been increased media coverage and chatter from state government circles regarding the proposed university merger, including a television appearance on 9 News and a feature in WA Today. The Guild is working closely with the Murdoch Student Guild on joint public awareness campaigning ahead of the end of semester. Dylan outlined that the Guild is treating the matter as a serious threat and is operating on the assumption that the relevant minister has made his decision, noting his sustained pursuit of the merger across multiple terms of government. To date, letters have been sent to 94 state and federal MPs and at least seven meetings with MPs have been scheduled. Dylan noted that no announcement is expected before the state budget on 7 May, which may provide further clarity on the government's direction.

#### **\*\*Renting Reform\*\***

Dylan reported that the Guild, as a principal partner of the Make Renting Fair WA campaign, attended a press conference at Parliament House where polling showing over 80% public support for banning no-fault evictions was promoted. WA remains the only state permitting no-fault evictions, and the state government is expected to announce its commitment to banning the practice in the near future. Dylan noted that subsequent campaign focus would shift to student-specific tenancy issues, including rights for those in boarding, lodging, and share house arrangements.

#### **\*\*Graduate Visa Fee Increase\*\***

Dylan advised that the Guild has been actively advocating against the federal government's decision to double the temporary graduate visa fee from \$2,300 to \$4,600, effective 1 March. Advocacy efforts, led publicly by the ISC President, received prominent coverage across three suburban newspapers and the West Australian website. Dylan noted the inherent challenges in international students advocating publicly and emphasised the Guild's responsibility to lead on this issue in partnership with CAPA and the NUS.

#### **\*\*Discussion\*\***

Members discussed the merger campaign strategy. Emma raised whether the assumption that the minister had made his decision was based on evidence, to which Dylan clarified it was an assessment of the minister's conduct and history rather than confirmed intelligence, and that campaign efforts should focus on broader government, cabinet, and the public rather than the minister directly.

A member raised that broader public mobilisation, drawing on precedent from the 2014 campaign against university fee deregulation, would be more effective than purely lobbying

ministers. Dylan agreed that public education was a necessary foundation for any such campaign and that the Guild was working to communicate the merger's impact on students, families, and the wider community, as well as to articulate a positive alternative vision for universities grounded in transparent, collaborative governance and adequate funding.

A member suggested that timely social media and email communications about the merger would help students absorb the issue gradually and be better prepared to respond if the merger proceeds. Dylan indicated this work was underway.

Finn queried the Guild's previous position on graduate and student visa fees. Dylan confirmed the Guild's longstanding position is to make life easier for international students and to avoid their treatment as commercial revenue sources. The current position, passed by the Representation Board, calls for the fee increases to be reversed at minimum. Dylan acknowledged that further advocacy beyond reversal, while philosophically supported, was not currently planned given the political difficulty of achieving even that outcome, and noted the importance of coordinated national advocacy through the NUS and CAPA.

There were no further questions.

#### 5.2. Vice President – Education – Submitted

Hadiya presented her report, noting the following matters:

##### **\*\*May Day\*\***

Hadiya advised that May Day falls on the following Friday, with a march scheduled in Fremantle on the 3rd. She encouraged all members to attend and noted that the Guild would be running a social media awareness campaign around the occasion. She briefly explained May Day as International Workers Day for the benefit of any members unfamiliar with its significance.

##### **\*\*LMS Transition to Canvas\*\***

Hadiya advised that the university's Learning Management System is transitioning to Canvas, which has since been publicly announced. She noted that she had been participating in meetings and support groups relating to this change and that it is expected to have a significant impact on students. She advised that a key priority is ensuring the Guild is sufficiently informed about the transition so that students experiencing difficulties can be appropriately supported and referred to the relevant resources. Hadiya invited members with specific concerns or flagged issues regarding the transition to speak with her following the meeting.

##### **\*\*Discussion\*\***

A member queried the timeframe for the LMS transition. Hadiya indicated she would follow up with the member after the meeting rather than address it on the floor.

There were no further questions.

#### 5.3. Vice President – Activities – Submitted

Tahni presented her report, noting it could largely be taken as read, and highlighted the

following matters:

#### **\*\*World Week\*\***

Tahni advised that the current period had been a particularly busy planning period owing to a number of significant upcoming events. She noted that World Week was currently underway, described as an evolution of the previous Sustainability Week with an expanded focus encompassing welfare and cultural inclusion. Activities during the week included a reusable coffee cup discount running across the full week, the return of the Thrift Market, a Welfare Wednesday event, and a free student community dinner scheduled for the following day. Tahni acknowledged contributions from the VP Education, David Phillips, the editing team, and Casey in particular for their work on associated content.

#### **\*\*Other Upcoming Events\*\***

Tahni advised that one instalment of the Guild of Guild series had taken place, with three further instalments upcoming. She also noted that Stress Less Week and Roof Rumble were scheduled to round out the semester. Planning for O-Day for the following year had already commenced.

#### **\*\*Campaigns and Projects\*\***

Tahni reported that she was working closely with the President on the university merger campaign. She also advised that preliminary planning had begun for a Guild Volunteers Program, following an initial brainstorming session.

#### **\*\*Discussion\*\***

A member queried how the proposed Guild Volunteers Program would differ from existing volunteer arrangements. Tahni clarified that the program would be focused on supporting specific Guild projects and campaigns requiring additional assistance, such as restocking period product dispensers or supporting giveaways and campaigns. She noted that a rewards system for volunteers was intended to be incorporated into the program.

There were no further questions.

#### **5.4. Vice President – Sustainability & Welfare – Submitted**

#### **\*\*Vice President of Sustainability and Welfare Report – Morgan [Surname]\*\***

Morgan presented their report, noting it could largely be taken as read, and highlighted the following matters:

#### **\*\*Smart Bins – Circle 8 Contract\*\***

Morgan advised that the long-running contract negotiations with Circle 8 regarding smart bins had been finalised and signed. The bins were launched at the Welfare Wednesday event and are now installed in four locations: Agora Courtyard (between the Tav and Café Central), Café Central, the Library, and the Basement. Morgan noted that scanning cans using the bins provides students with the opportunity to win a Red Bull, with a free Red Bull reward available upon collecting either five or ten cans. A promotional stall run in conjunction

with Red Bull at the Welfare Wednesday launch had generated a number of sign-ups, and early indications of usage were positive.

#### **\*\*Housing Campaign Report\*\***

Morgan advised that the draft Housing Campaign report had been circulated to the Representation Board and had since been revised and was being formatted for release in the near future.

#### **\*\*Discussion\*\***

Tahni confirmed that a demonstration of the smart bins had taken place at the Welfare Wednesday event.

A member raised the federal government's proposed cuts to the NDIS, noting that current participant numbers of approximately 760,000 were projected to be reduced to 600,000 by 2030, representing a reduction of around 160,000 people from the scheme. The member expressed strong concern about the impact on disabled people, including students, and commented on the broader structural issues with the privatised model of disability support. Morgan acknowledged the issue, describing the proposed cuts as deeply concerning, and advised that they would be working closely with the Guild's Accessibility Officer, Mia, to develop an advocacy campaign addressing the impact on students and the broader community.

#### **\*\*Ally Training\*\***

In response to a question from a member, Morgan clarified that the reference to ally-based training in their report related to a proposal from First Nations Officer Bonnie to introduce a First Nations cultural awareness and safety training program, modelled on the existing LGBTQIA+ Ally training offered through the Curtin Ally Training Program. Morgan noted the program would focus on improving cultural awareness, identifying and addressing tokenism, and fostering a more culturally safe environment.

There were no further questions.

#### **5.5. Secretary – Submitted**

Not Present, report missing from agenda pack. We will revisit next meeting as it may be an error in the pack's creation.

#### **5.6. Managing Director – Submitted**

Vernon presented his report, welcoming Natasha Morgan, General Manager of Corporate Services, to her first meeting, and acknowledged Moira Aynsley, General Manager of Student Services, as a standing attendee. Vernon noted that the Managing Director's report draws on contributions from both areas. He advised that the report could largely be taken as read and highlighted the following matters:

#### **\*\*Guild Precinct Plan\*\***

Vernon advised that several projects were progressing concurrently through their design phases. The new Student Equity Space was nearing finalisation of its design, with approval

from Curtin Properties anticipated shortly, after which the project would go to tender for a contractor in late April to early May. Following that, attention would turn to the Student Guild Officer ground floor level, intended to create and rejuvenate office and events planning spaces. Guild Tavern and Café Central plans continued to advance through the design phase, pending appropriate university approvals before a final investment decision is made.

Regarding the Angazi Café, Vernon advised that preliminary plans and drawings for the complex had been received and that the Guild was working with the university to finalise designs and kitchen setup. While the space remains approximately two to three years from activation, Vernon noted a significant positive development in that the Guild has been confirmed as having the first right of refusal on the space, which it intends to exercise in order to restore a much-needed service to that end of campus.

Vernon acknowledged the significant contribution of Tanya Della Santina to the ongoing management and progression of Guild Precinct projects.

#### **\*\*Commercial Strategic Plan\*\***

Vernon advised that the commercial strategic plan had moved into a phase focused on reviewing internal processes and controls, with the first phase centring on procurement practices. A review of the risk management framework had also been conducted, with a proposed risk management plan to be presented to the Finance Risk Committee before coming to Council.

#### **\*\*Discussion\*\***

A member commended the student engagement statistics included in the report, noting the value of website and social media analytics in understanding the Guild's digital footprint.

A member queried the approximately 89% decrease in social media advertising viewership. Vernon attributed this primarily to higher advertising spend in February around O-Day and O-Week compared to March, and noted that a restructured Engagement team would focus on more consistent and balanced content output going forward.

A broader discussion followed regarding the decline in social media engagement mid-semester. Vernon acknowledged that content is currently skewed heavily toward events, and indicated that conversations with the team about achieving a more balanced content strategy were already underway. Student members noted that engagement patterns among peers tend to decline mid-semester due to increased academic demands, with some students deleting or limiting social media use during assessment-heavy periods. It was observed that reduced flexibility in student schedules also leads to lower interaction with event-related content. Vernon noted the algorithmic factors at play, including the role of paid advertising in boosting post visibility, and the impact of broader network engagement on content reach.

A member queried the nature of the planned Guild Tavern and Café Central refurbishments. Vernon clarified that the Café Central works would involve a functional reconfiguration to create a multipurpose space suitable for clubs and student functions, with lighting and mechanical upgrades to support this use. The Tavern works would largely constitute a modernisation refresh while retaining its traditional character.

A member asked whether alternative event spaces had been planned for the construction period. Vernon advised that construction is intended to occur out of semester, with a target of breaking ground in mid-November, though he acknowledged this was an optimistic timeline given the complexity of the approvals process with Curtin Properties.

There were no further questions.

**Motion:** That the Guild Council approves the reports.

Moved: Dylan Storer

Seconded: Ebony Whitney

Carried

*It is requested that the minutes note that Council said the reports were good.*

*NOTE: Council said the reports were good.*

## **6. Business on Notice**

### 6.1. Safety Report

Tahni says the Safety report is the best part of Guild Council

**\*\*Discussion\*\***

Dylan advised that he had taken on the role of Guild representative on the Health and Safety Committee, noting that while this responsibility has traditionally been delegated to the Vice President of Sustainability and Welfare, he had elected to attend personally. He noted that Morgan continues to attend in their capacity on the University Health and Safety Committee. Dylan expressed appreciation for the proactive nature of the committee's work.

**\*\*Concept Café – Workplace Safety Review\*\***

Dylan noted that the Health and Safety Committee had held a substantive discussion regarding workplace safety concerns at Concept Café, particularly relating to the pressures of a busy service environment and the associated risk of workplace injuries. He advised that the Guild had engaged its coffee consultants, who also consult for the café's layout, to conduct a formal review of the current floor layout and provide recommendations. An initial walkthrough had suggested limited scope for significant reconfiguration given the size of the space, with training identified as a potential area for improvement. Dylan noted that one option under consideration was removing certain activities from the space, such as the preparation of toast and sandwiches, to reduce movement-related risks during coffee service. The consultants had also been asked to provide advice on converting the current coffee cart into a functional pop-up service point, subject to resolution of power source requirements. Dylan noted that timelines for the consultants' formal responses were not yet confirmed.

## **\*\*Manual Handling Training\*\***

Dylan raised the matter of manual handling training across Guild outlets, noting that while annual onboarding and retraining is conducted, much of this may be delivered online. He queried whether there was scope to expand or enhance this training to better support staff safety across all outlets.

There were no further questions.

**Motion:** That the Guild Council **notes** the Safety Report.

Moved: Tahni Rowe

Seconded: Morgan Mills

Carried

## 6.2. 2025 Annual Report

Dylan expressed strong praise for the Annual Report, commending Moira and her team for their work in producing it. He noted that the report effectively demonstrates the Guild's achievements over the past year, reflects a strengthening financial position, and presents a forward-looking organisation increasingly capable of engaging with students and staff. Dylan acknowledged the contributions of Vernon and all elected representatives from the previous year, and noted that he looks forward to speaking to the report further at the upcoming AGM. He encouraged all Councillors to review the report carefully for any typographical or numerical errors and to submit any identified corrections to Noor, Moira, and himself by the following day to allow amendments to be made ahead of the AGM.

Members identified the following typographical errors during discussion:

- Under Dylan's section, within the Thriving Campus Life passage, "a well" should read "as well."
- On page 9 of the PDF, "focus" was noted to be misspelt, missing a second "s."

A member noted the mention of a free parking week in the report and queried when it was scheduled. Dylan advised that it is planned for study week, with the Guild currently advocating for it to be extended through the full examination period. He noted that while the positive reception had been somewhat surprising, the benefit of current parking initiatives tends to be weighted toward periods when students are not on campus, and that an extension would be more meaningful for the student cohort.

A member queried why the headshot photographs of officeholders were presented in black and white. Vernon advised this was a design decision made prior to his involvement, and offered to request that the images be changed to colour if Council preferred. Members expressed a range of views, with some appreciating the design aesthetic and others finding it unflattering. No formal resolution was reached on the matter.

There were no further questions

**Motion:** That the Guild Council:

- a) Approves the 2025 Annual Report.
- b) Recommends to the Annual General Meeting that it note the 2025 Annual Report.
- c) Recommends to the University Council that it note the 2025 Annual Report.
- d) Notes that typographical errors may be corrected prior to publishing or distributing.

Moved: Dylan Storer (President)

Seconded: Ebony Whitney

Carried

## **7. Minutes of Committees Reporting to the Guild Council**

7.1. Representation Board –

7.2. Executive Committee – 23/03/2026, 07/04/2026

7.3. Finance & Risk Committee –

7.4. Legal Committee – N/A

No comments or questions

**Motion:** That the Guild Council:

**Approves** the minutes of the Committees Reporting to the Guild Council.

Moved: Noor Fella (Secretary)

Seconded: Dylan Storer (President)

Carried

## **8. General Business**

8.1. Ideas and Suggestions

Nil

8.2. Other Business

**\*\*\$5 Meals Program\*\***

A member raised a query regarding the \$5 meal offering across Guild outlets. Vernon confirmed that a \$5 meal is available at every outlet, with each outlet providing a meal appropriate to its menu, with Café Central typically offering the most varied and elaborate option. It was noted that specific meal information for outlets such as Basement and Life was not immediately available on the floor.

In response to queries about public availability of meal information, Vernon advised that a relaunch of the scheme is currently in progress, including the development of outlet-specific flyers, improved website presentation, and promotion through the new weekly newsletter. He

noted that distinct and uniform branding for the \$5 meal offering across all outlets is being developed to improve visibility and awareness. Vernon acknowledged that current in-outlet signage exists but that improvements are underway.

A member queried whether the \$5 meal program is intended to be permanent. Vernon confirmed that it is intended as a permanent offering, guided by elected representatives and Council, and that while pricing may adjust over time, the principle of providing an affordable and sustainable meal option is a standing commitment.

A member queried whether the meals generate a profit margin. Vernon advised that margins, where they exist, are very marginal and vary by product, with the financial sustainability of the program being the primary consideration. A member noted that data from a previous Council meeting had indicated a positive trend of customers purchasing additional items alongside the \$5 meal, such as drinks or snacks, which partially offsets any margin pressure.

#### **\*\*Student Engagement Team and StudentAssist Expansion\*\***

Vernon advised that the Student Engagement team is being expanded, with a number of interviews having recently taken place. He noted that additional capacity would assist with improving the currency and clarity of information on the Guild website. Vernon also advised that the StudentAssist team is being significantly expanded, with staffing levels set to increase from the current three to six staff members, which he noted would be the largest the team has ever been. He acknowledged the considerable workload carried by existing StudentAssist staff and expressed that the expansion would provide meaningful relief and flexibility for the team.

### **9. Meeting Evaluation**

Isabel presented the meeting evaluation and noted the following:

Isabel advised that the meeting had progressed well overall, with good alignment to the agenda. Key topics including the university merger, international student visa fees, and upcoming events were all addressed, with meaningful progress evident across each area. She commended the quality of discussion between Councillors and Managers, noting positive exploration of collaborative approaches and student advocacy strategies. Isabel highlighted the discussion around the university merger as particularly valuable, acknowledging that while those present have access to greater detail on the matter, the Guild's role is to represent the broader student body, the majority of whom remain largely unaware of the merger. She noted that Dylan's engagement on the international student visa issue reflected the Guild's value of autonomy, and that the open discussions throughout the meeting promoted the Guild's value of diversity.

Isabel noted that there had been issues with the timely distribution of agendas and supporting documents, which had somewhat affected the flow of the meeting. She also observed that a number of technical issues had arisen, attributed in part to the absence of Noor, and suggested that systems should be put in place to manage such contingencies to avoid similar disruptions in future.

### **10. Next Meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of the Guild Council will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 at 5:30PM in Council Chambers Med Building