



Student Guild of Curtin University

Representation Board – Meeting #05

To be held at 5 30 PM on Thursday 14th of May 2026

In Council Chambers 410.208

MINUTES

Meeting opened at 1733

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, Morgan Mills, Ebony Whitney, Connie Butcher, Zobia Laarayb, Tom Harrowing, Sarah Abed, Mia Antenucci, Bonnie Walley, Tahsin Anowar
- 2.2. Others Present; Max Zhang, Andrew Cameron, Moira Aynsley
- 2.3. Apologies and Leave of Absence;
- 2.4. Absent;

3. Disclosure of any potential or perceived Conflicts of Interest

Nil

4. Minutes of the Previous

5.

- 5.1. Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: That the Representation Board approves the minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 19/03/2026, as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved: Ebony Whitney

Seconded:

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

7. Public Question Time

Nil

8. Reports

8.1. President – Submitted

Dylan presented his report and highlighted the following matters:

****Running on Empty Petition****

Dylan advised that the Running on Empty petition had been launched during the week and had already gathered 1,323 signatures, which he noted was a strong result in a short period of time and reflective of the significance of the issues being raised. Dylan outlined the university's current positions on various cost of living and transport matters, noting that the university has indicated it does not intend to build additional parking in the near future, considers expanding public transport options too difficult to pursue, regards expanding Curtin Link as too expensive, and had initially denied that funding was a barrier to expanding the Food for Fines program, before the Chief Operating Officer effectively acknowledged that it was.

Dylan advised of a significant positive outcome from the campaign, being that free parking during both exam periods in semester one and semester two has been confirmed. He noted that this announcement had been communicated quietly to staff via email and that the Guild would ensure students are informed promptly. Dylan contextualised this as an improvement from the previous arrangement, under which two free parking weeks per year had been scheduled during study week, a period of lower campus attendance. The new arrangement provides four free parking weeks per year timed to coincide with exam periods, when student attendance on campus is higher. Dylan commended all those who had contributed to the campaign effort.

****Stop the Uni Merger Campaign****

Dylan advised that the Stop the Uni Merger campaign is set to be publicly launched the following week in conjunction with the Murdoch Student Guild, with a focus on awareness building and educating students on the risks and consequences of a merger. Dylan noted that the issue is gaining traction in political circles and that continued engagement on this front is yielding positive results.

****Kalgoorlie Visit****

Dylan noted that he had recently visited Kalgoorlie alongside Tahsin, Morgan, and Connie, describing the visit as a success. He made particular mention of the BBQ hospitality extended by the Kalgoorlie campus, noting with some amusement that the offering had again been elevated from previous years, this time featuring freshly made chimichurri sauce.

There were no further questions.

8.2. Vice President – Education – Submitted

Taken as read, no questions.

8.3. Vice President – Sustainability & Welfare – Submitted

Taken as read, no questions.

8.4. Faculty of Business & Law Representative – Not Submitted

Ebony presented her report and highlighted the following matters:

****Faculty Engagement****

Ebony advised that she has continued ongoing engagement with students in the Faculty of Business and Law and attended both the Guild AGM and Barnyard Bash events during the reporting period.

****Meeting with Associate Professor Anna Bunn****

Ebony reported a productive meeting with Associate Professor Anna Bunn, Dean of Teaching and Learning, during which several matters were discussed. These included the development of a faculty-specific AI guide for staff that goes beyond the existing university-wide guide, and strategies to better support students with disabilities within the Faculty of Business and Law. Ebony noted that Associate Professor Bunn expressed strong interest in the Guild's perspective on what the faculty could be doing in this area. Ebony advised that she had subsequently met with Accessibility Officer Mia to compile a list of recommendations to put forward to the faculty, and indicated she would report back on the outcome of that conversation at the following month's meeting.

****Broader Guild Campaigns****

Ebony advised that she had been involved in a number of broader Guild campaigns during the period, including attending the Make Renting Fair WA event at Parliament House, participating in the Running on Empty parking petition including a library outreach session with Dylan and Zobia, and attending meetings with Members of Parliament as part of the Guild's broader political engagement work.

****National Student Ombudsman Advisory Collective****

Ebony advised that she has been selected as a member of the National Student Ombudsman Advisory Student Collective, noting that she will be participating in a personal capacity rather than as a Guild representative. She invited other representatives to raise any matters they would like conveyed directly to the Ombudsman, noting the opportunity to help shape the way the Ombudsman engages with and supports students.

There were no further questions.

8.5. Faculty of Science & Engineering Representative – Submitted

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

****Club Engagement****

Connie advised that she has been attending more club meetings during the reporting period and noted a pattern of students raising issues with their clubs before approaching the Guild directly. She flagged this as a useful avenue for identifying student concerns and encouraged other representatives to consider attending club meetings as a means of gathering feedback.

****Kalgoorlie Trip****

Connie advised that the Kalgoorlie trip had gone very well, consistent with Dylan's earlier comments.

****Grill the Guild – Assessment Timetabling Campaign****

Connie reported that she used her Grill the Guild event to soft-launch a campaign focused

on assessment timetabling, specifically advocating for unit coordinators of related subjects to coordinate the scheduling of exams, assignments, and other assessments to avoid students facing multiple major assessments on the same day or within very short timeframes. Connie noted that student feedback on the idea was overwhelmingly positive, with students appreciating both the direct benefit to them and the flow-on benefit to teaching staff in reducing last-minute extension requests and communications. Connie advised she intends to progress this idea further with the faculty.

****Discussion****

A member expressed interest in collaborating with Connie on the assessment timetabling issue, noting they had also been considering the matter.

In response to a query, Connie elaborated that the campaign is aimed at addressing situations where students have multiple assessments due simultaneously, citing examples of students experiencing four exams within 20 hours or three exams within 36 hours. A member added that this issue is particularly acute in programs where all students are enrolled in the same set of units, such as psychology, where limited unit options mean the entire cohort faces identical assessment schedules.

Mia offered to meet with Connie to further discuss the accessibility-related matters raised through club engagements.

There were no further questions.

8.6. Faculty of Health Sciences Representative – Submitted

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

Blood Drives

Zobia encouraged all members to donate blood, plasma, and platelets at their next available opportunity. She noted that a Curtin Student Guild blood drive team exists and that students are welcome to donate under the team or individually. Following a query from Astor regarding the recent change allowing queer people to donate plasma, Zobia agreed to connect Astor with the relevant student associations to explore a collaborative promotion of the blood drive. It was noted that a Guild blood drive team had previously been established and promoted across representative Instagram accounts, with Astor holding the login for the associated account.

Free Flu Vaccine Clinic

Zobia advised that a free flu vaccine pop-up clinic is planned for the following week, tentatively scheduled for Thursday and Friday from 10am to 1pm on campus, pending final confirmation. Zobia noted she would confirm the details and communicate them via her Instagram and through the Guild team. It was noted that communications regarding the event were already scheduled to go out the following day, and Zobia undertook to confirm the details by the morning.

Paid Placements Awareness

Zobia advised that following a conversation with a student who raised the issue of paid placements, she became aware that information about this matter may not be reaching the broader student body as effectively as anticipated. She advised she intends to assess the level of awareness among students on this issue going forward.

In response to a question from a member, Zobia advised that blood donation centres conduct screening tests prior to donation, including checks of haemoglobin levels, which would identify any eligibility issues for prospective donors.

8.7. Faculty of Humanities Representative – Submitted

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

Centralised Placement System and NUS Survey

Tom advised that a meeting with Education Ministers Tahni Bodie and Tony Whitney is scheduled in approximately two weeks to progress the Guild's push for a centralised placement system in Western Australia. Tom requested that Representation Board members assist in promoting an NUS survey targeting education students across WA, noting that the survey had not yet gained significant traction. He advised that a push at his Gorilla Guild event earlier that day had generated a positive response and encouraged further promotion of the survey to education students.

There were no further questions.

8.8. Student Assist – Submitted

As Tabled, there was a question about how many laptops were loaned out, Andrew responded that it was 8.

8.9. International Students Committee President – Submitted

Tahsin presented their report and highlighted the following matters:

****International Student Employment Challenges****

The representative advised that one of the most pressing issues currently facing international students is difficulty finding employment. They noted a recent interaction with a student who had been unable to secure work for four months and was entirely unaware of support services available at the university, including Curtin Connect and StudentAssist. The representative expressed concern that financial pressures arising from unemployment are compounding academic stress for international students. They also noted, through informal conversations with students in communal areas on campus, that a significant issue is a general lack of awareness among international students of available support systems, including emergency contact resources.

The representative advised that this lack of awareness and financial pressure is leading some students to undertake illegal cash work in breach of their visa conditions, noting recent media reports of students being deported from Melbourne and Tasmania as a result of such employment. The representative indicated that this issue has become a focus of their campaign work, with plans to organise a series of small regular events on relevant topics for international students. An upcoming event is scheduled for the following Tuesday, though the representative noted some uncertainty about attendance given the timing during a busy academic period.

****Migration Awareness Event****

The representative advised that a recent migration awareness event had attracted over 70 students despite being held during a busy period, and noted that students asked specific and targeted questions, indicating strong engagement. The representative expressed interest in organising additional visa-focused events independently of existing external providers.

****Discussion****

A member noted that the Curtin Careers team is a helpful resource for students seeking employment support and advised that a session is scheduled for the following Tuesday. The representative confirmed awareness of the Curtin Careers team and their upcoming session.

The representative also noted that the Kalgoorlie trip was an enjoyable experience and made mention of the beef curry they had contributed to the occasion.

There were no further questions.

8.10. Queer Officer – Submitted

As read, no questions.

8.11. Women's Officer – Submitted

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

****Public Speaking Competition****

Sarah advised that a public speaking competition is scheduled for the 20th of the following week, open to women and anyone who identifies as a woman. Participants are invited to speak for four to six minutes on topics relating to empowerment. Sarah noted that a \$500 cash prize is on offer, funded by Soroptimist International rather than the Guild, and encouraged members of Guild Council to participate if they wish.

****Soroptimist International Grand Final****

Sarah advised that for the first time, Curtin will be hosting the grand final of the Soroptimist International public speaking competition, bringing together initial round winners from universities across the Perth region. The grand final is anticipated to take place in June or July, with a prize of approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000. Sarah noted that ongoing communications with Soroptimist International are continuing.

There were no further questions.

8.12. Accessibility Officer – Submitted

Mia presented her report, noting it could largely be taken as read, and highlighted the following matter:

****Collaboration Event****

Mia advised that a collaboration event had taken place and was well attended, including a number of participants from Murdoch University. Mia noted that the event highlighted a number of shared issues between the two institutions, particularly regarding staff attitudes and the physical accessibility of campus facilities. She advised that addressing these shared concerns is an area she hopes to work on going forward.

There were no further questions.

8.13. Higher Education Developments – NA

Nil

8.14. Ethnocultural Officer – Submitted

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

****Cultural Awareness Training Framework****

Max advised that progress on the cultural awareness training framework has been slow, noting that much of the available online material from other organisations is of poor quality

and in some cases appears to be AI-generated. As a result, the approach has involved drawing on multiple sources and adapting content to suit the context of a Perth university environment. Max expressed hope that something concrete would be completed by the end of the year.

****Discussion****

A member queried whether Max has plans beyond the training framework for advocacy, initiatives, or support outcomes for ethnocultural students during the remainder of the year. Max advised that a number of initiatives are being worked on in the background, with the intention of announcing several of these at O-Day for semester two. These include bringing together members of the ethnocultural collective and organising events. Max acknowledged that advocacy campaign planning has been complicated by the fact that the role is newly established and the relevant university contacts have not yet been clearly identified, requiring Max to work through staff lists to determine appropriate points of contact.

Max also noted that rapidly changing domestic political developments, including the recent New South Wales by-election result in which One Nation won a federal seat, had generated concerned messages from students, and indicated this may present an area for future advocacy work. Max noted the value of connecting with well-established ethnocultural collectives at other universities and institutions across the state as a means of building support and sharing knowledge.

There were no further questions.

8.15. First Nations Officer – Not Submitted

Bonnie advised that her report had been submitted late and presented its contents verbally, highlighting the following matters:

****First Nations Flyers****

Bonnie advised that the First Nations flyers have been updated, as the previous versions were significantly outdated.

****Cultural Awareness Sessions****

Bonnie reported that discussions are underway with Curtin's Cultural Capability Team regarding the delivery of cultural awareness sessions for the Guild. The proposed sessions will cover the following topics: Aboriginal history and the ongoing impacts of colonisation; cultural safety within student-facing environments; appropriate communication and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff; recognising unconscious bias and barriers faced by First Nations students; ways staff can create more inclusive, respectful, and culturally responsive spaces; and guidance on allyship, advocacy, and meaningful support strategies.

Bonnie advised that she had met with the Cultural Capability Team on the day of the meeting and that the proposed structure is to deliver sessions split by department, covering elected representatives, SSAF-funded staff, and commercial and professional staff separately. Bonnie indicated she would circulate a survey to determine availability and requested that attendance be heavily encouraged or mandated by the Guild. She queried whether a motion would be required to formalise mandatory attendance and indicated she would draft one if necessary.

In response, Dylan advised that Bonnie should put a proposal to Guild Exec to explore what

could be done, noting that while it may be difficult to formally mandate attendance or impose penalties for non-attendance, the Guild could strongly encourage participation. He noted that he would hope a significant portion of staff would be willing to attend voluntarily.

****Other Engagements****

Bonnie advised that she had engaged with the Wallach Foundation regarding support for First Nations and Queer students prior to the Cultural Capability Team becoming available. She also noted an upcoming meeting with the NUS First Nations Officer to discuss NAIDOC Week and Sorry Day, the latter of which falls on 26 May. Bonnie further advised that she had met with the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Indigenous Affairs, describing the meeting as productive.

****Cultural Safety Survey****

Bonnie advised that she has revised her cultural safety survey to focus on Indigenous representation, perspectives, and voices within unit curriculums, with the aim of capturing whether Aboriginal perspectives are meaningfully embedded in course content or included only tokenistically. She advised that the data gathered will be used in collaboration with Professor Jonathan Kaz, the Cultural Capability Team, and others to address identified outcomes.

There were no further questions.

Motion: That the Representation Board notes the reports.

Moved: Connie Butcher

Seconded: Tom Harrowing

Carried

9. Items for Discussion and Resolution

9.1. NDIS Funding Cuts

Mia spoke to the motion, providing the following context and background:

****Overview****

Mia advised that the recently announced federal budget includes significant cuts to the NDIS as its primary cost-saving measure, noting that this continues a pattern of reduced access to the scheme following cuts also made in 2024. Mia expressed concern at the disproportionate burden being placed on people with disabilities as a cost-saving measure.

****Clarification of Terminology****

Mia clarified that references to NDIS providers in the motion refer to service providers delivering support to participants, not to the participants themselves, who are the people with disabilities. This distinction was noted as particularly important in relation to action item three regarding the prosecution of providers acting illegally.

****Scale and Impact of Cuts****

Mia advised that the proposed cuts involve removing approximately 160,000 participants from the scheme, primarily through the Thriving Kids program. She noted that accounting for projected growth, the effective reduction in participants could reach approximately 300,000.

Mia contextualised the scale of this by noting that there are 5.5 million Australians with a disability, of whom only 14% are on the NDIS, representing those with the most severe disabilities. She further noted that 61.5% of NDIS participants are under the age of 24 and 52% are under the age of 18, meaning the cuts disproportionately affect children, including children under the age of nine who cannot advocate for themselves.

****Access and Complexity of the Scheme****

Mia outlined the significant barriers to accessing the NDIS, noting that the application process takes three to six months, often costs thousands of dollars in medical assessments and documentation, and results in many eligible people giving up after an initial rejection. She noted that appeals through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal can take at least two years, despite 90% of appealed decisions ultimately being found in participants' favour.

****Impact on Autistic Participants****

Mia advised that the cuts are primarily targeting participants with autism, who represent approximately 43% of all NDIS participants by primary diagnosis, and approximately 78% of participants under the age of nine. She outlined the three levels of autism classification, noting that the proposed cuts primarily affect level two participants, being those who can communicate to some degree but have significant support needs. Mia expressed concern that no clear alternative support structure has been established for those who will be removed from the scheme, with the Thriving Kids program remaining undefined and significantly underfunded.

****Provider Registration****

Mia noted that only 6% of NDIS providers are currently registered, as registration is not mandatory. She acknowledged the complexity of this issue, noting that while unregistered providers are often preferred by participants due to concerns about the quality of care provided by larger registered organisations, the lack of mandatory registration means vulnerable people are being supported by unregistered workers. Cost and time were identified as the primary barriers to registration for smaller providers.

****Discussion****

A member queried why small organisations do not pursue registration. Mia confirmed that cost and time are the primary barriers.

There were no further questions on the motion.

Motion: That the Representation Board:

Recognises the importance of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, supports the prosecution of people defrauding the NDIS and support the No NDIS Cuts petition.

Moved: Mia Antenucci

Seconded: Morgan Mills

Carried

10. General Business

Nil

11. Meeting Evaluation

Morgan presented the meeting evaluation, noting the following:

Morgan advised that the meeting had been conducted efficiently and succinctly while still accommodating substantive discussion across a range of important matters. Key areas of discussion highlighted included the university merger, cultural awareness and education, assessment timetabling and student support, and disability support with particular reference to the federal government's proposed NDIS cuts. Morgan assessed the meeting overall as productive.

12. Next Meeting

Notice of the next ordinary meeting of the Representation Board will held on the 18th of June at 5:30PM in Council Chambers 410.208

Meeting closed at 1816