



# CURTIN STUDENT Guild President Report

April 2024  
Jasmyne Tweed

## Presidents Guild Council Report

**Covering Dates:** 14.03.2024 – 11.04.2024

**Leave:** 26.03.2024-28.03.2024

**Travel:** Nil

### 1. Meetings Log

University Meetings		
Date	Meeting	Comments
14.03.2024	Academic Board Executive	
18.03.2024	DVCG & Guild President Check in	
	Foreign Risk – What to know	
22.03.2024	Academic Board	
25.03.2024	DVCA & Guild President Check-in	
08.04.2024	Minister Toni Butti x Guild Presidents	Expanded upon in the report
10.04.2024	Support for Students Implementation meeting	
Guild Meetings		
Date	Meeting	Comments
18.03.2024	President x MD Check-in	
	President x MA Check-in	
19.03.2024	Guild Executive Committee	
20.03.2024	President and Reps Chat	
21.03.2024	Guild Council	
22.03.2024	Academic Board Pre-Meeting	
	Legal Committee	
25.03.2024	President x MD Check-in	
	Guild Executive Committee	
03.04.2024	VPSW Planning	
04.04.2024	Uni-Lodge Campaign Meeting	
	Digital Engagement & Guild Exec	
08.04.2024	President x MD Check in	
09.04.2024	President x SE Check in	
	President x MA Check in	
	President x MD Check in	
10.04.2024	Guild Ally Level 3 Training	
11.04.2024	Juicebox Presentation	

## **2. Projects Overview**

### **2.1 Support for Students Policy**

- Recent legislation changes now require higher education providers to have a support for student's policy ensuring supports are available and students are made aware of them.

After reminding the project leads the importance of the Guilds perspective in developing this policy, the Guild sent extensive feedback on the draft policy and is now a part of the implementation working group. The policy seeks to intervene and provide support to students who are at risk of failing.

### **2.2 Self-Certified Assessment Extensions**

- The Learning and Student Experience Committee met late March to and provided feedback on self-certified assessment extensions. There is still pushback from academics on self-certified assessment extensions being used for exam, group projects, presentation etc. The Guild advocated for self-certified extensions to be allowed for all assessments types as the only students who will be disadvantaged by this change will be those who can't afford to see a gp for a doctor's note.

### **2.3 Meeting with Education Minister**

- Myself and the other Guild Presidents met with the State Education Minister, Toni Butti, to discuss some of the issues University Students are experiencing in WA. The topics discussed included growing HECs debts, the Accord recommendations, paid placements, increasing Guild SSAF amounts, student housing and the cost of living.
- The Minister provided very limited answers or solutions to the problems raised by the Presidents and instead told us to wait for the budget to be released. This was especially disappointing when discussing a paid placement stipend or payment being introduced in Western Australia for nursing students. The ACT have introduced both this year and it would help ease the financial burden many students experience whilst on mandatory unpaid placements.

### **2.4 100% SSAF**

- The Western Australian Guild Presidents have all taken a joint stance to advocate for 100% SSAF. Despite previously discussed campaigns, the National Union of Students will only be advocating for 50% SSAF to be allocated for Student Unions in Australia, with some member organisations indicating that they will be campaigning for less than 50% SSAF since they 'wouldn't know what to do with all that money'. Guilds in WA have demonstrated why 100% SSAF is needed for student unions to provide the services that students need. For example with 100% SSAF, Guilds would be to provide non-for-profit student housing.
- The WA Guild Presidents and MDs will be meeting shortly the 100% SSAF Campaign.

# Vice President – Education

## May Representation Board

Reporting Period 13/04/2023 – 10/05/2024

Veronika Gobba (she/her)

### University / External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/4/24	Gender, Equity and Inclusion committee meeting	Attended on behalf of VP-SW. Next year, Curtin's VC salary will be calculated into their gender pay gap data. Concerning as the VC's exorbitant salary may offset the accuracy of the data. A proposal to SET to endorse the Darlington Statement is being drafted.
18/4/24	Student partnership Agreement meeting with Marc Phillips	
	Guild & Student Life and Community Senior Leaders	Support for Students policy/procedure discussion
24/4/24	ABC interview about student spending trends and HECS	
29/4/24	University Advancement	Discussion on sponsorship for Guild programs and events
1/5/24	Student Discipline Panels (FBL)	
6/5/24	Learning & Student Experience Committee	
7/5/24	Courses Committee	Confirmation that students who are in a tricky spot with 485 visa applications not able to get their results in time are able to be referred to Curtin Connect and can get a rushed letter with verification of results.

### Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/4/24	Higher Education	
18/4/24	VPE x FBL rep catch-up	
	VPE x HUM rep catch-up	
	Guild Council	
23/4/24	Exec Committee	
25/4/24	VPE x HUM rep catch-up	
29/4/24	Higher Education	

	<b>Encampment planning meeting exec &amp; Curtin Palestinian Society</b>	
2/5/24	VPE x HUM rep catch-up	
8/5/24	<b>Guild AGM</b>	
9/5/24	VPE x FBL rep catch-up	

**Significant Current Developments:**

**Curtin Student Gaza Solidarity Encampment**

- In response to the Global movement currently happening whereby students at universities are encamping in solidarity with Palestine and to protest their university's ties to weapons, war and the Israeli governments' actions on Gaza, the Guild along with other student clubs/groups within the university decided to organise our own encampment on the Bentley campus.
- The Guild has been working closely with the elected committee of the Curtin Palestinian Society and other pro-Palestine groups to create our demands, the open letter to the university and other activities happening at the camp and around the university.
- We have seen broad support from many clubs at Curtin and UWA, students from all universities in WA, the NTEU, FOPWA, Jews for Palestine, Mums for Palestine, Nuclear Free WA, The Greens, Senator Fatima Payman, the ASU, and numerous academics across all faculties at Curtin including Deans and Heads of Schools.
- The encampment has been facilitated and is being closely monitored by the Guild for the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and broader community who is taking part in the encampment activities and activism.
- We are providing camping equipment, food and organising the mass amount of community contributions/donations that we have been overwhelmed by.
- A staff member within the Gender Research network attempted to put through a joint item with the Guild through an upcoming Diversity, inclusion and Belonging committee meeting (reports to VC) that recommends the SET consider the encampment demands and asks committee members to sign the Guild's open letter. The item was rejected on the basis that the agenda was 'already extremely tight' and that 'discussions between relevant SET members and the Guild...are being scheduled'.
- The Guild President, Secretary and myself have met with the Vice Chancellor about our encampment and demands, currently there are negotiations ongoing.

# Vice President – Sustainability & Welfare

May Representation Board Report (11/04/2024 – 09/05/2024)

Jacque Bicanic (she/they)

## University / External Meetings:

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/04/24	WABSI (WA Biodiversity Science Institute) and Curtin University event	Urban biodiversity research projects
15/04/24	St Catherine's Sustainability Dinner	Formal dinner
17/04/24	Sustainable Development Working Group	
17/04/24	Student Energy Network meeting	
22/04/24	RACSAC (Respect at Curtin event) meeting	Feedback on the event – met with Tahni and Kylah.
03/05/24	Sustainable Development Working Group	

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

Date	Meeting	Comments
11/04/24	Juicebox Presentation	
11/04/24	Representation Board	
18/04/24	Collected wastage from Lush	
18/04/24	Meet the VPSW shoot with Ben	
18/04/24	Guild Council	
23/04/24	Off sick	
24/04/24	Off sick	
25/04/24	Off sick (and ANZAC Day PH)	
26/04/24	Off sick	
29/04/24	Off sick	
30/04/24	Encampment Meeting	
30/04/24	ISC President Meeting with Secretary	
02/05/24	Events team catch-up (very brief)	
08/05/24	Guild AGM	
08/05/24	Events Team & VPA catch-up	
10/05/24	Accessibility & Queer Officer Meeting	Discussed events accessibility matrix

## Leave Taken:

Sick Leave: 23/04/2024 – 27/04/2024

ANZAC Day Public Holiday

## Further Notes:

Topic	Details
Pop Up Thrift Market	<p>We raised over \$1,000 at this event, with all funding going to the UNICEF Emergency Appeal for the Children of Gaza Appeal. We had several new stalls at the event. Feedback from stallholders on Wednesday and students at the event over the three days was positive. I look forward to working on this event in semester 2 and rolling this out as "Sustainability Week" with the event spanning the entire week with additional items on Monday and Friday.</p>
Containers For Change	<p>I am in the process of putting together a proposal for the reverse cycle 10c vending machines on campus. I have spoken to several Curtin staff members who seem interested in this project. Resultingly I am hopeful that once the proposal is created and approved from the Guild end, there will be support from Curtin for the project to go ahead.</p>
Recycling Hub on Campus	<p>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.</p>
Mug Library	<p>I have received positive feedback - the mug library initiative is taking well in Mallokup and I have received positive feedback from staff at other outlets.</p>
Gaza Encampment	<p>I have been continually impressed by the generosity and willingness to help from members of the community at this encampment. We have had several community dinners and meals provided by community groups. It's been great to see so many students come together to stand in solidarity with Gaza and stand up for what they believe in. Seeing how the encampment has come together gives me hope that we will be able to achieve our goals and have Curtin University hear our demands, and follow in the footsteps of the movement that is building across Australian universities such as the Sydney University staff where 93% of NTEU members voted in favour of calling on the university to "cut ties with all organisations that enable the current Gaza violence" including "all Israeli universities" as well as "with the weapons industry and militaries in general".</p>

## Faculty of Business and Law Representative Report

**Name:** Hannah Northey

**Meeting:** 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Updates:**

Date	Meeting/Event	Comments
8/4/2024	Head of School Accounting, Economics and Finance Interviews	
9/4/2024	Assignment Campaign Meeting	Discussions around our next steps now that the student feedback has been received. All faculty representatives have been assessing their own faculty results.
11/4/2024	April Representation Board	
12/4/2024	FBL Grill the Guild	All food was given away in about 20 minutes. Thanks to Max and Thane for all their help.
15/4/2024	Reconvening of the Head of School Accounting, Economics and Finance selection panel	
16/4/2024	FBL FCC	Regular business regarding deactivating courses and minor unit changes.
17/4/2024	FBL Ball Committee meeting	A club led event with the assistance of FBL Student Engagement. Roles were allocated to students from the clubs involved (CBCA, WIB, CMA, Enactus).
17/4/2024	Fortnightly catch up with FBL Student Engagement team	Updates on student issues.
18/4/2024	VPE x FBL Rep catch up	Discussions around meetings, KPIs, assignment feedback campaign and the textbook campaign.

19/4/2024	Monthly meeting with PVC Vanessa Chang	The focus of the discussions was on my campaigns, proposed focus groups and report findings.
23/4/2024	FBL SDP	12 cases considered.
24/4/2024	Faculty of Health Sciences Grill the Guild	Another Grill the Guild success.
24/4/2024	Unit outline review session	Reviewing unit outlines with students to suggest improvements, weaknesses and strengths from a student perspective.
1/5/2024	FBL Student Consultative Committee	FBL SCC Reps discussed issues and ideas relating to sustainability at Curtin.
1/5/2024	Library textbook meeting	Meeting with library and LITEC staff to hold discussions around textbook issues facing students. Further efforts to come with this relating to gathering student and staff thoughts and feedback on this issue. This way, there is something tangible to bring to the table like there now is with the assignment feedback campaign.
1/5/2024	FBL Ball Committee meeting	Decisions around theme, date, ticket sales, marketing and promotion. Ticket sales to begin this week.
1/5/2024	Fortnightly catch up with FBL Student Engagement team	Discussions around student issues and semester 2 2024 orientation.
8/5/2024	FBL Clubs meeting	Discussed FBL club ball and semester 2 orientation.
8/5/2024	Guild AGM	
9/5/2024	VPE x FBL Rep check in	Discussion around my campaigns.
9/5/2024	HUM x FBL Rep meeting	Discussion of student issue.

### Additional Information:

- The last month has involved focusing on the first stage of the assignment feedback campaign being complete and results being analysed.
- My second campaign relating to essential textbooks has been revived from last year and is now officially back up and running.



- I have also been handling student complaints/ issues with their units and either solving them or passing them on to people who can fix the issues.
- FBL clubs and their committees are doing well from the meetings I have had with them.

Science and Engineering faculty Report

Thane Roberts (They/Them).

Representation Board 16/05/2024

Date	Event type	Name	Comments
10/04/2024	Meeting	Graduate Studies Committee	<p>The low uptake for domestic PHD students was discussed, most science and engineering domestic PHD numbers are steady or declining. Chemistry being the most successful in attracting students.</p> <p>The issues with communication between supervisors and students was discussed. Many students have issues transitioning to HDR studies.</p>
10/04/2024	Meeting	SAE Conversations	<p>Academics are adjusting to AI use and adoption. The conversation centred on how AI could be used to reduce work loads for teaching staff and how AI was becoming increasingly hard to detect making it harder to determine if a student used AI. The need for more in person assessments was discussed as it is the only way to ensure that no AI was used and that the students work was original.</p>
11/04/2024	Meeting	Faculty Research Committee	<p>AI in research was discussed and potential to use it constructively to improve workloads and outcomes. Hudson's use of AI was used as a example of successful use of AI in research.</p> <p>Animal ethics delays. Issues with time and ethics. Was commented on.</p> <p>Green energy and hydrogen was discussed. And green steal indicatives. Mentioned.</p> <p>Poor engagement form HDR students in events targeted at them. Considered.</p>
15/04/2024	Meeting	Faculty executive	<p>HDR relies too heavily on international students.</p> <p>The new graduate certificate in Land, Rivers and Sea management was discussed.</p>

			<p>The increase in student numbers for Food science.</p> <p>HDR scholarships were discussed. Focus to achieve the level of industry engagement similar to UNSW.</p>
17/04/2024	Meeting	Faculty courses Committee	The new courses were discussed, the specifics of the new graduate certificate in Land, Rivers and Sea management was discussed.
18/04/2024	Meeting	Science Board	<p>The removal of ATAR bonuses discussed. Dropping spec and methods numbers particularly, a decrease in female students. Equity issues from public schools not offering the courses needed for uni level stem.</p> <p>Issues with the communication of science awards many graduates don't check emails. The potential messaging from the decision to have all male presenters except for one student, redefecting poorly on the Curtin band.</p> <p>303 Works, no notification to staff. Staff had to be escorted though construction site.</p>
29/04/2024	Meeting	Faculty executive	<p>Differences between field work and placements.</p> <p>Professional mental health training for staff was discussed. With a focus on how many staff had actually received the training.</p> <p>New incentives for staff to have more breaks and get involved with activities on campus, such as the makers space or Curtin stadium.</p>
29/04/2024	Meeting	Health and Safety.	<p>Issues arising from lab emergency stops not working discussed. A more regular inspection plan was decided as the solution.</p> <p>The 3 rules for safety were discussed and how to practically implement safety measures for the faculty.</p>
2/05/2024	Meeting	Graduate Studies	The panel discussed the issues with the HDR students.

			<p>The employee wellbeing team. Delivered a presentation on staff wellbeing incentives.</p> <p>Paid Internship model discussed for HDRs and the Industry PhD program.</p>
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Results of Qualtrics Survey, the main feedback students received was a shaded rubric 53% or few sentences 43%. A 46 % of respondents strongly agreed that it was helpful to have access to a Turnitin report. A total of 45 % wanted to take part in a focus group. The key improvements identified by Science and Engineering students were:

1. Higher quantity and more regular feedback.
2. In depth feedback specifically about mathematical errors.
3. Suggestions for key concepts that students should review.
4. Greater feedback on common errors.
5. Referencing Feedback.

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



<b>Meeting/Project</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Faculty Courses Committee	16/4/24	Discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paramedicine</li> <li>- CAP plans</li> <li>- Student enquiry that I had</li> <li>- Assessment feedback campaign</li> </ul>
Developing the assessment feedback proposal	15/4/24 – 15/5/24	For the improving assessment feedback in collaboration with all other faculty reps.
Developing the assessment feedback presentation	15/4/24 – 15/5/24	For the improving assessment feedback in collaboration with all other faculty reps.
Assessment feedback survey analysis	15/4/24 – 15/5/24	For the improving assessment feedback in collaboration with all other faculty reps.
Contacting and finalising the first aid kit winners of the FBL x health sci survey and the assessment feedback survey	12/4/24	Finalised this with Faculty of Business and Law Rep. Prizes are at reception for collection.
Online student engagement	15/4/24 – 15/5/24	Posting regularly on Facebook.
Meeting with Dean of Learning and Teaching and Student Engagement Manager	29/4/24	Monthly meeting. Discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment feedback campaign</li> <li>- Joint engagement stall</li> </ul>
Grill the Guild	24/4/24	Successful Grill the Guild.
Stall with Student Engagement Manager and Dean of Learning and Teaching	1/5/24	Engagement stall. Gathered qualitative data through conversations. It was very quiet on campus so I will make sure any future stalls are held earlier in the semester.
Allied Health Advisory Board	2/5/24	Discussed cost of living crisis impact on students and ways to teach students about soft skills in the workforce.
DIB working party	23/4/24	Gave input into survey development and how to get students to speak up about issues.
Guild AGM	8/5/24	Attended the AGM alongside Guild members and representatives.
DIBC	7/5/24	First faculty DIB committee meeting. Got to hear from each of the school's projects and shared my own projects/perspectives.
Solidarity Encampment	8/5/24	Assisted with tasks at the solidarity encampment. Engaged students towards the cause.
Faculty Courses Committee	14/5/24	

## Faculty of Humanities Report Representation Board Meeting – 16.05.24

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### Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
Weekly	VP-E Check In	
09.04	Assessment Feedback Project Check-in	Meeting with FBL and HS rep to map out next steps for assessment feedback project
15.04	Humanities Inclusion and Belonging Gender Inclusion Discussion	Met with Queer Officers to discuss HIB Committees Action Item for me to consult with them on actions and initiatives relating to inclusion of all genders. Together we came up with a few notes and areas that the committee (and hopefully eventually the rest of the faculty) can use as a starting point.
18.04	Meeting with Jo-Ann to discuss School of Education	Met with Jo-Ann (Student Assist) to discuss some concerns that were brought up from the School of Education as well as discussing how we can best support education students on pracs.

### University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
08.04	Humanities Inclusion and Belonging (HIB) Committee	Majority of the time was spent continuing discussion on actions from the previous meeting. I took the last few minutes to bring the Content Warning project to the groups attention and to get feedback from a wider collection of academics at this stage.
10.04	Content Warning Pilot – Briefing Meeting	One academic showed up. The others were sent the information separately via email.
11.04	Humanities x Guild Catch up	Meeting with Nicole and Humira. Discussed the start of the content warning pilot
11.04	School of Education & Guild Catch Up	Met with the Directors of Learning and Teaching for School of Education as well as a few of the Unit Coordinators to discuss current and potential future concerns they had within the school.
15.04	Meeting with Student Engagement re: SCC	Met with Athina from Humanities Student Engagement about setting up a Student Consultative committee for the faculty.
17.04	Meeting to decide HIB Committee Student Members	Met with Rebecca Walker (Deputy PVC, Humanities) to go through the EOI's for the two student positions on the Humanities Inclusion and Belonging Committee and decide who will be invited to join the committee.
18.04	HUM Courses Committee	Continued the discussions from the last courses committee around OUA courses/units
02.05	HUM Learning Student Engagement Committee	Ran over time and we weren't able to cover every item of the agenda. The items that were

		covered though were interesting with a lot of really good and in-depth discussion.
02.05	Meeting with Debbie Teh (AccessAbility)	Met to discuss a student complaint as well as to update her on the progress of the content warning and assessment feedback projects.
02.02	Humanities x Guild Catch Up	Nicole unfortunately wasn't available this time around, however had a good chat with Humira about current projects happening within the faculty – including my own projects. We also spoke about a few potential problems found in some units.
08.05	Guild AGM	

## **Projects**

Content Warnings: I brought the project to the HIB committee and have been invited to present it to the MCASI learning and teaching meeting also. While the pilot is running there isn't as much to do except for plan for the debriefing sessions after semester ends and start the overall project proposal that I will take back to LSEC and DIB once the pilot is over.

School of Education: Regarding placements for education students, the school tells me that they are doing well to find placements and have already found a place for all of the GradDip students. However, in doing so they have also found more “creative” methods to place more students in a single school than before. The school told me to expect some upset students as the current standard is that students will be placed anywhere within a 90-minute radius and some students have already been upset with them at this. As of the 13<sup>th</sup> of May all of the placements should have started for education students so I will be keeping an eye on how that goes and if any students have issues. The recent announcement of the introduction of paid placements for domestic education students (alongside nursing and midwifery, and social work) was great news, however in the wake of that announcement the decision was made by the faculty to drop the scholarship/bursary for First Nations education students that they were working on.

Assessment Feedback: The survey is still open for students responses and we are almost at 200 responses (as of 09/05). After an initial look at the current responses from humanities students I can see the patters in what students are wanting and where they feel feedback is currently lacking. I'm looking forward to seeing how many more responses we can get before the survey closes and collating that data to present to the university and work towards addressing these issues.

## **Other**

Humanities Grill the Guild: It was a really good day and we ran out extremely quickly. As always it was great to see so many students and have quick chats with them while they were waiting for food.

Imari Morris (they/she/he)

Faculty of Humanities Rep

## May 2024 Representation Board Report – Student Assist

### April overview:

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

Non-academic sessions were focused on students seeking financial support.

	February	March	April
Academic sessions	136	178	184
Non – academic sessions	47	58	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>226</b>

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

	February	March	April
Lifehack participants	115	135	107
Loan laptop	9	13	23

### **Welfare**

Student Assist provided emergency relief to seven students.



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### Postgraduate Student Committee Reports

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Comments</b>
15/4/2024	Academic Board Induction	Postgraduate Students Committee President attended an induction from the Academic Board that is presented by Dale Pinto, chair of the Academic Board.
17/4/2024	Postgraduate Student Matters for Research Committee	A meeting with Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Melinda Fitzgerald, and Director Research Services & Systems, Hannah Allan, to discuss postgraduate student matters.
18/4/2024	PSC Research Ethics Survey	PSC conducted a survey to HDR students to get their views and experiences regarding Research Ethics application and process at the university.
19/4/2024	Postgraduate Students' Accommodation	An Online discussion with Accommodation Program Manager, Nadine Kurschner, to review and discuss accommodation issue for postgraduate students coming to Perth with their family members.
30/4/2024	Postgraduate Students Committee Meeting	PSC President held a meeting with committee members to discuss the workplan and program of PSC. The Meeting also encourages

		more engagement between PSC and postgraduate students.
1/5/2024	Research Committee Meeting	PSC President attended the regular meeting of the Research Committee to discuss the recent postgraduate issues and matters. PSC suggested an improvement for HDR internship program for social science students.
2/5/2024	Meeting with postgraduate student	Assisting general student matters
8/5/2024	Guild AGM	PSC President attended the Guild AGM through online platform.
9/5/2024	Meeting with new Chancellor	Postgraduate Student Committee President was invited to have a meeting with the new Chancellor. It was to discuss the recent issue at the university as well as to discuss Gaza Encampment activity that is going on at campus.

### **Activities, Events, and Students' Academic & General Issues**

- The student Ethics application process is becoming one of the crucial issues emerging among Higher Degree by Research students. The application process is sometimes too long, and it takes several months to get the result. The Postgraduate Student Committee has been working with the Deputy of the Vice Chancellor, Research to review and discuss this issue.
- International postgraduate students studying in Perth find very difficult to get accommodation for their family members during their study. The Postgraduate Students Committee is working with DVCR and the Accommodation Program Manager to provide assistances for postgraduate students.

- PSC president has met the Deputy of Vice Chancellor, Research to discuss postgraduate student matters that may be addressed in the Research Committee meeting.
- Postgraduate Student Committee President was invited to have a meeting with the new Chancellor. It was to discuss the recent issue at the university as well as to discuss the Gaza Encampment activity that is going on at campus.
- WASM Student Guild Postgraduate Officer has contacted Curtin PSC to have a discussion and meeting for postgraduate matters and events. The meeting will be held soon.
- PSC President has also consulted with the Guild Vice President of Education in preparing the report for the Research Committee.
- PSC is still working on the research ethics survey. PSC is conducting a survey to HDR students to get their views and experiences regarding the Research Ethics application and process at the university.



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



**GUILD MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
5/4/2024	Queer Collective Meeting #2
10/4/2024	Ally L3 Training
12/4/2024	Meeting with student
24/4/2024	Meeting with Curtin Sport & Recreation
26/4/2024	Peer Support Group #1

**UNIVERSITY MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
15/4/2024	GEIAG Meeting
24/4/2024	DVC-A Meeting
1/5/2024	Gender Affirmation Guide meeting

## **PROJECTS**

### Deadnaming Working Group

I reached out to a member of the working group for an update on this, as I hadn't heard anything for several months regarding deadnaming. I was told that the business case has been completed and presented to the Chief Information Officer (the head of DTS), however, has yet to be presented to SET. Investigating and addressing deadnaming in Curtin's systems continues to be a laborious and complex process, and I don't have any tangible updates except that I am continuing to press them for results, and the DVC-A is doing what he can from his end to keep the ball rolling on this.

### Peer Support Group

I had a fantastic first peer support group, with 14 attendees in total. The room was a little crowded, but with the help of my Collective, we rearranged the room to make the space better laid out for the group. The group drew unique designs on mugs and chatted over snacks and fidget toys. It was a lovely vibe and I'm looking forward to the next session!

### Student Bathroom Audit

With the bathroom audit well underway, I am starting to receive responses from students. However, in light of the sheer number of bathrooms that need to be audited, I have compiled a list of all-gender and accessible all-gender bathrooms, and I will work with a taskforce of students in the upcoming weeks to audit these bathrooms speedily because these bathrooms are the priority of my audit. So far, I am already discovering that many, many bathrooms listed on the Properties list of bathrooms are inaccessible to bathrooms, so I am keen to find out the accurate number of bathrooms students can access, and start to work towards solutions to this systemic problem.

### Gender Affirmation Guide

The guide came back to the group for feedback on the design elements and the phrasing of the guide. I provided in-depth feedback on a few issues, mostly centred around accessibility and strengths-based phrasing of the Guide. Generally, the gender affirmation guide is looking fantastic and I am very much looking forward to its implementation and to see how it helps students!

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### GEIAG Meeting

I gave an update to the group about the gender affirmation guide, the We All Need To Pee project, the Deadnaming Working Group, and the Respect @ Uni social media debacle. Many members of the group shared my concerns about the university's approach to posting about marginalised groups, and the lack of safety considerations in this. A member of the group shared that she felt social media posts about the First Nations community were often written within a deficit model. Based on our concerns, the group will provide an opportunity for myself

and a few others to meet with the social media team to discuss this issue more and devise some strategies to address the problem.

I joined a breakout group to discuss GEIAG's proposal to SET to sign onto the Darlington Statement. Myself and a few others pushed the group to commit to a stronger ask of the University, as there were no tangible commitments in the proposal. There was also an emphasis on the medicalisation of intersex people and a lack of holistic understanding in the proposal. In particular, I pushed for a review of intersex resources and accreditation of Curtin as an intersex allied organisation - the 'yellow tick' accreditation process would be an ideal way to go about this.

Based on our feedback, the Darlington proposal has been revised and reworked.

### Trans Justice Strategy Retreat

On the 19th-21st of April, I went to Naarm for the Trans Justice Project's strategy retreat. I attended in my individual capacity as a trans activist, however, I think reporting back my learnings to the Representation Board seems appropriate as the work we were doing there is highly relevant to my position as Queer Officer.

I learnt more about the many projects, initiatives, and organisational work happening across Australia regarding trans rights & justice, and there are a few excellent resources – such as Sock Drawer Heroes and Trans.Au – that I will start to refer to in my work.

I think it would be good for the Queer Department (and the Guild) to stay engaged in the work happening nationwide on trans justice – in particular, the Trans Justice Project.



Representation Board Report  
May 2024

UNIVERSITY & COMMITTEE MEETINGS		
Date	Meeting	Notes
7.05.2024	DIBC (Health Sciences)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potentially adding 'Equity' to the title of the committee</li> <li>- Upon mentioning "I had some students come forward and mention that UCs push them to take examination with others even though it specifically states in their CAP they are to take exams in a separate room" I had a committee member (also a UC) say that they email students asking if it they want to still be considered for a separate room as it can be difficult to arrange and whether this was okay. I recommended that it is better to stick to CAP recommendations.</li> <li>- Prices of meals on campus were discussed especially regarding how costly the meals at the exchange precinct. Some recommendations were discussed such as Curtin offering breakfast items in the library kitchen etc. and other cheaper meal options.</li> <li>- Students have raised concern with how far their clinical placements are and that it is affecting them financially.</li> <li>- Niamh Moloney from Allied Health have identified that there is not a sufficient gender-neutral bathrooms and they working on changing that</li> <li>- In the process of implementing a DIBC student survey</li> <li>- In the process of discussing and working out a plan regarding extension and student support during Ramadan and other events where students fast.</li> </ul>
7.05.2024	Met with Debbie AccessAbility Services Manager	

<b>GUILD MEETINGS</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
29.04.2024	Met with Jo-Ann	

<b>EVENTS</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
08.05.2024	Guild AGM	

<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Notes</b>
24.04.24	Let's Go Series	Filmed and posted to socials
25.04.2024	Met with a student	
30.04.2024	Let's Go Series	Filmed 2 Episodes with students
03.05.2024	Let's Go Series	Filmed 2 episodes with students



## Higher Education Report Representation Board May 2024

### **Curtin launches \$18.6m venture studio for innovation in resources industry**

Curtin University has announced the establishment of a new multi-million dollar venture studio aimed at accelerating innovation in the resources industry and developing technologies to support net-zero emissions by 2050.

The initiative is part of the Trailblazer Universities Program.

The \$18.6 million platform will focus on nurturing start-ups that are dedicated to pioneering sustainable solutions concerning resources.

### **Government to impose caps on international student numbers. The Australian**

In a move to cut migration, the Albanese government will limit the influx of international students by [capping the number of new students](#) enrolling at each university or college.

The measure is aimed at neutralising before the next election the political damage the government is suffering from high migration rates.

It will particularly impact the big five universities – Sydney, Melbourne, NSW, Monash, and Queensland – which are still enrolling large numbers of international students despite the government's deliberate [slowdown in student visa processing](#) – which started in December – in an effort to reduce Australia's record net migration rate.

The cap on international students will be in legislation that will go to parliament in the coming week and which will also crack down on shonky vocational colleges that have exploited gaps in international student regulations.

Labor's bill will also stop colleges from owning education agent businesses, pause the registration of new international education providers, require new providers to have a track record of quality education for domestic students before enrolling international students, and prevent colleges under serious regulatory investigation from enrolling new students

The government will also prevent education agents from taking commissions on international students who transfer between education providers in Australia.

In the budget, Mr Clare is also widely expected to announce the rollout of fee-free preparatory courses to assist students to study at university by preparing them for entry, as was recommended in the Universities Accord.

**<https://ministers.education.gov.au/clare/next-steps-ensuring-integrity-and-sustainability-international-education-sector>**

### **Government moves to fund students on university placements for teaching, nursing and social work. ABC**

- **In short:** The government will establish a new Commonwealth payment for an estimated 68,000 students studying nursing, teaching and social work.

**<https://ministers.education.gov.au/clare/cost-living-support-teaching-nursing-and-social-work-students>**

### **Upcoming 'placement poverty' payment is a 'slap in the face', student groups say.** **ABC**

Student groups have described a Commonwealth payment aimed at combating "placement poverty" as "a slap in the face" that's too little, too late, and voiced concerns a means test will restrict access

### **HECS indexation to be overhauled in budget with \$3 billion in student debt 'wiped out'.** **ABC**

- **In short:** Student debts will be lowered for more than three million Australians under reforms designed to stop HECS loans growing faster than wages.
- Loan indexation will now match whichever is lower out of the Consumer Price Index or the Wage Price Index — which the government says will prevent another shock increase like last year's 7.1 per cent increase.
- **What's next?** The changes will be introduced in the 2024 budget and, pending getting through parliament, will take effect from June.

### **Appointment of TEQSA CEO and resignation of TEQSA Chief Commissioner**

#### **Labor student visa go-slow 'favours elite unis': Coalition . The Australian**

The Coalition has accused Labor of causing "unprecedented economic harm" to many universities and other education providers by slowing down international student visa processing.

In a letter sent on Tuesday to Education Minister Jason Clare, Senator Henderson said the visa impact had not been spread fairly across the higher education sector.

"Rather than reduce international student numbers equitably and transparently, your government appears to be protecting only a small number of elite universities such as the University of Sydney where 32,800 international students are enrolled this semester, comprising 47 per cent of all students.," she wrote to Mr Clare.

The government began the visa slowdown last December by prioritising visa applications from students enrolling at education institutions with the least visa risk, which in practice meant favouring Group of Eight and other high-ranking universities that attracted Chinese students.

It penalised lower-ranking universities and private colleges with higher visa risk ratings that catered to students from India and other south Asian countries, who were more likely to breach visa conditions.

The result has been that universities and colleges enrolling large numbers of south Asian students received more visa rejections.

This led to many of them being given higher risk ratings when visa risk levels were reviewed last month, thus placing them at an even greater disadvantage. Some universities are now reported to be limiting, or even refusing, applications from Indian students.

## Encampment media



R00108909742\_bf1d  
5e03-d09e-4ff9-82ca

7 News 6pm 1 May

### Drive at 05:29 p.m.

ABC Radio Perth, 01 May 2024 17:29, R00108908399

[Download](#)

Around 200 **Perth students** have rallied at **Curtin University** in support of Palestinians. The protest, organised by **students** for Palestine, is calling for the **university** to boycott companies tied to Israel. **Curtin** currently lists Lockheed Martin, a supplier to the Israeli military, as a **research** and development partner, a new figures show.

### 17:00 News at 05:04 p.m.

ABC Radio Perth, 01 May 2024 17:04, R00108907809

[Download](#)

Around 200 **Perth students** have rallied at **Curtin University** in support of Palestinians. The protest, organised by **students** for Palestine, is calling for the **university** to boycott companies tied to Israel. **Curtin** currently lists Lockheed Martin, a supplier to the Israeli military, as a **research** and development partner. Organisers of the encampment say they have been inspired by similar initiatives by **university students** across the US and around the world.

### 18:00 News at 06:03 p.m.

6PR, 01 May 2024 18:03, R00108909303

[Download](#)

The **Student** Guild at **Curtin University** has begun an encampment in solidarity with the Palestinian people. The protest is also aimed at encouraging **Curtin** to end partnerships with weapons manufacturers that supply the Israeli defence Forces. Similar camps have been set up around the world and at **universities** in Sydney and Melbourne. **Students** for Palestine member Aaron Russell says they expect to be there for at least a week.

We plan for it to be peaceful, but we do also plan for it to be confrontational with the **university**. **Students** are angry about the fact that our **universities** are connected in with the arms industry that's arming the Israeli state that's currently waging a genocide on the people of Gaza.

## Encampment' underway at Curtin, amid claims university has failed to protect Jewish students Jake Dietsch Wed, 1 May 2024 6:16PM. The West Australian

A Curtin University rally heard calls that the "state of Israel will fall" ahead of the launch of a pro-Palestinian 'encampment' modelled on protests that have disrupted elite colleges across the US.

It comes as a prominent WA Jewish leader accused Curtin of hypocrisy and failing to address concerns for student safety ahead of the protest.

Beginning on Wednesday afternoon, the encampment was inspired by similar actions in America, which have led to dozens of arrests and the suspension of some student activists.

It was organised by Students for Palestine and supported by the university's student guild — both of which have accused Israel of “genocide” against Palestinians in its war waged in the wake of the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack.

A rally to launch the action heard from Student for Palestine activist Sarah Elrashid, who demanded Curtin “cut ties with weapon companies arming Israel”.

“I promise you this genocide will end. The Israeli state will fall,” she said.

Curtin professor Adrian Baddeley told the more than 200 ralliers that in his decades as an educator, universities had become “more corporate, much more authoritarian, much more coercive”.

“We now have official policies that staff members are only allowed to speak about their expertise in public. So sorry, my name is Adrian Baddeley, I'm a professor of statistics, and in my expert opinion at least 40,000 people have been killed in Gaza,” he said.

Professor Baddeley said “many, many staff are behind you” and wanted the university's superannuation fund to separate from weapons manufacturer Elbit Systems.

Imam Azizi Khalid told the crowd the issue was not complicated but a “simple matter of colonials coming in to steal land from native people”.

But Mr Khalid rejected claims the action was antisemitic, saying it was endorsed by many Jewish people.

“The Jewish people are peaceful people and we see them supporting the rights of the Palestinians all over the world. This is not antisemitism,” he said.

Jewish Community Council of WA vice president Steve Lieblich said the charge of genocide against Israel was a “perversion” and that Israel was the “victim of a genocidal terrorist enemy.”

But while he said that students had the democratic right to make the claim and criticise the university and the Australian or Israeli Governments, the Jewish community leader condemned the organisers for drawing inspiration from protests on US campuses — including New York's Columbia University where hundreds of police have been deployed.

“(The Columbia protest) has had an encampment for many days now, which has basically a very divisive, anti social, threatening and intimidating mob event,” Mr Lieblich said.

He highlighted comments that surfaced from one protest leader, Khymani James, who had said “Zionists don't deserve to live”.

“Students have every right to protest or make comments in a respectful way that doesn't disrupt the life of the university, and doesn't threaten and intimidate other students,” Mr Lieblich said.

Mr Lieblich said the University had allowed pro-Palestine events where pro-Israel speakers were not allowed to speak and that the Jewish Community Council's letter to Curtin — asking what would be done to ensure Jewish students would not be intimidated — had gone ignored.

“They have not responded and they have form. They have allowed antisemitic chants and antisemitic events on campus and done nothing about it,” he said.

Mr Lieblich pointed to the University's 2019 decision not to allow a ‘Lennon Wall’ in favour of democracy in Hong Kong because it could lead to tensions with Chinese students.

“But they have not even responded to our expression of concern for Jewish students and staff,” he said.

Ahead of the encampment, a Curtin spokesperson said Tuesday that the university had security processes and a dedicated Safer Community team to monitor activities and respond to activity that was illegal or breached the institution’s code of conduct.

“The Curtin community is a large and diverse one and we work hard to ensure it is an equitable, inclusive and welcoming environment where everyone feels they belong,” the spokesperson said.

A Curtin University rally heard calls that the “state of Israel will fall” ahead of the launch of a pro-Palestinian ‘encampment’ modelled on protests that have disrupted elite colleges across the US.

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“Students have every right to protest or make comments in a respectful way that doesn’t disrupt the life of the university, and doesn’t threaten and intimidate other students,” Mr Lieblich said.

“However, Jewish students are already feeling threatened and intimidated.”

Mr Lieblich said the University had allowed pro-Palestine events where pro-Israel speakers were not allowed to speak and that the Jewish Community Council’s letter to Curtin — asking what would be done to ensure Jewish students would not be intimidated — had gone ignored.

“They have not responded and they have form. They have allowed antisemitic chants and antisemitic events on campus and done nothing about it,” he said.

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Ahead of the encampment, a Curtin spokesperson said Tuesday that the university had security processes and a dedicated Safer Community team to monitor activities and respond to activity that was illegal or breached the institution’s code of conduct.

“The Curtin community is a large and diverse one and we work hard to ensure it is an equitable, inclusive and welcoming environment where everyone feels they belong,” the spokesperson said.

“We recognise that events taking place on the international stage are playing on the minds of all of us.

“Freedom of speech is central to Curtin University’s values and we respect the right of students and staff to protest lawfully and peacefully on campus.”

Protesters called on Curtin to cut ties with arms manufacturer Lockheed Martin — which is a research and development partner of the university, developing a space tracking system, and to cancel partnerships with defence companies Babcock Australasia and Huntington Ingalls Industries.

Babcock and HII are in an AUKUS Workforce Alliance with Curtin and other Australian universities to skill workers for jobs as a result of the trilateral submarine agreement.

The Curtin spokesperson said the university supported research that contributed to “Australian national resilience, energy transition, health infrastructure, encourages constructive dialogue on international relations and leads to improved security for Australians and internationally”.

“Curtin collaborates with international and Australian companies including Babcock Australasia, Huntington Ingalls Industries (II) and Lockheed Martin Australia to increase Australia’s security and prosperity,” they said.

“Curtin University does not condone contravention of international humanitarian law.”

**Curtin University students to stage pro-Palestine ‘encampment’, with Guild accusing Israel of genocide** Jake Dietsch The West Australian Tue, 30 April 2024 1:22PM

Curtin University students will stage a pro-Palestine “encampment”, following similar protests that have paralysed elite colleges across the US.

The protest on Wednesday afternoon — organised by Students for Palestine and backed by the student Guild — will call on the university to cut ties with companies that supply weapons to Israel

It has sparked concerns about unruly protests, with police being called to demonstrations at universities across America and Columbia University in New York suspending students.

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They also want Curtin to cancel its partnerships with defence companies Babcock Australasia and Huntington Ingalls Industries.

Both Babcock and HII have formed an AUKUS Workforce Alliance with Curtin and other Australian universities to skill workers for jobs that will result from the submarine partnership

“Supportive members of staff” and Federal Greens senator Jordon Steele-John are among those slated to speak at the protest.

Organisers claim it will continue “from Thursday onwards”.

The encampment comes while US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken is in the Middle East as he attempts to broker a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas.

## 14:00 News at 02:01 p.m.

Triple J, 02 May 2024 14:01, R00108937939

 [Download](#)

The Jewish Council of WA has questioned the motives behind a pro-Palestinian protest at **Perth's Curtin University**. Hundreds of **students** marched through **Curtin's Bentley campus** yesterday, calling for the **uni** to cut ties with, cut all ties with weapons manufacturers and divest from all Israeli businesses. They've also demanded the **Uni** denounce what they've described as the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Dozens of **students** camped out at **Curtin** overnight. Jewish Community Council Steve Lieblich says he's concerned the protests could become violent.

They've publicised that they're emulating Colombia **University** which has descended into a basically an anti-Semitic riot. And obviously that's not on, and it's the last thing we want to see in Australia.