



Student Guild of Curtin University

Representation Board - Meeting #07

20 June 2024

Opened 5.33pm

## Minutes

### 1. Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners

*"The Curtin Student Guild would like to pay our respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of our community by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which the Bentley Campus is located, the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation; and on our Kalgoorlie Campus, the Wongutha people of the North-Eastern Goldfields. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this university, city and this region."*

### 2. Attendance

- 2.1. Members Present; Veronika Gobba, Thane Roberts, Nini Siddiqua, Imari Morris, Sabrina Pun (online), Zavier Wileman (online), Chloe Maslen, Jacquie Bicanic (online), Filiz Keles
- 2.2. Others Present; Mitch Craig, Jo Ann Naidu (online), Maryanne Shaddick (minute secretary), Jack Washington, Ella Marchionda, Zoe Stevens, Rob Vusak, Hamide Kocer
- 2.3. Apologies and Leave of Absence; Jasmyne Tweed, Hannah Northey
- 2.4. Absent; Bustanul Arifin

### 3. Disclosure of any potential or perceived Conflicts of Interest. VG on the NUS item

### 4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- 4.1. Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion: That the Representation Board approves the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 16/05/2024, as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved: Thane Roberts

Seconded: Nini Siddiqua

Carried

5. Public Question Time. Rob Vusak asked why a motion he put forward for the Guild to condemn Curtin ties to military companies was rejected. The Chair, Veronika Gobba, explained that the motion was rejected because it contravened the decision of the Guild Council. Mitch Craig suggested it was best to submit motions. Rob condemned the statement of 23 May saying there were a number of concerns with it. Curtin did not adequately acknowledge the suffering of Palestinians. Curtin was sponsoring one of biggest weapons conferences in Perth. Rob said that the Guild should acknowledge Curtin's shortcomings. Zoe Stevens said that the MOU was not supported by encampment. She asked why there was no more messaging on the Guild's Instagram. Veronica Gobba said that she would check the socials. Zoe said Guild should do more. Veronika said she would take that on notice. Jack Washington asked why had the Guild done nothing since the encampment. Not promoted any protests. Jack asked about the momentum of the campaign. Veronika said that the MOU was the momentum. Ella Marchionda asked about the MOU implementation and asked about the companies on the BDS list. Veronika spoke about working on freedom of information requests and commented that the conference protest was a good idea

### 6. Reports

- 6.1. President – Submitted. No questions.
  - 6.1.1. KPIs - Submitted
- 6.2. Vice President – Education – Submitted. As tabled. No questions.
  - 6.2.1. KPIs - Submitted

- 6.3. Vice President – Sustainability & Welfare – Submitted. As a tabled. No questions.
  - 6.3.1. KPIs - Submitted
  
- 6.4. Faculty of Business and Law Representative – Submitted. No questions
  - 6.4.1. KPIs - Submitted

- 6.5. Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative – Submitted. As tabled. No questions
  - 6.5.1. KPIs - Submitted
- 6.6. Faculty of Health Sciences Representative – Submitted. As tabled. No questions.
  - 6.6.1. KPIs - Submitted
- 6.7. Faculty of Humanities Representative – Submitted. As tabled. No questions
  - 6.7.1. KPIs - Submitted
- 6.8. Student Assist – Submitted. As tabled. No questions.
- 6.9. Postgraduate Students Committee President – Submitted. No questions
  - 6.9.1. KPIs - Submitted
- 6.10. International Students Committee President – Not Applicable
- 6.11. Queer Officer – Submitted. As tabled. No questions
  - 6.11.1. KPIs - Submitted
- 6.12. Women’s Officer – Submitted. As tabled. No questions
- 6.13. Accessibility Officer – Submitted. As tabled. No questions.
  - 6.13.1. KPIs - Submitted
- 6.14. Higher Education Developments – Submitted. No questions

**Motion:** That the Representation Board **notes** the reports.

Moved:Chloe Maslen  
Seconded:Imari Morris  
Carried

**Motion:** That the Representation Board **approves** the submitted KPIs.

Moved: Filiz Keles  
Seconded: Chloe Maslen  
Carried

## 7. Items for Discussion and Resolution

- 7.1. NUS Affiliation Recommendation

**Motion:** That the Representation Board **recommend** to the Guild Council for 2024 an affiliation amount for the National Union of Students Inc.

VG to stay chair

Moved: Veronika Gobba  
Seconded: Jacquie Bicanic  
Carried

Veronika Gobba provided context to the motion. The NUS was required to meet KPIs with a report carried out and assessment recommended by the President. There was discussion about the contribution amount and queries about how much the Guild usually pays and how much other Guilds contributed. There was discussion about whether the NUS had fulfilled its reporting governance requirements. Imari Morris asked what the Guild was getting out of the NUS? Jacquie Bicanic said that the NUS had not contributed to gender-based governance code, it had not done

anything on Palestine or cost of living and there had been no support from the Queer Officer. Mitch Craig said that he had no contact from NUS General Secretary. Veronica noted that NUS governance was poor. Jack Washington said cutting money from the NUS was not the solution that it had a role to play and we should assist make it a better body. There was discussion about alternative use of the funds. Mitch Craig noted that the Guild was hosting the Edcon conference and that amounted to increased funding for the NUS. Veronika asked for a show of hands of those who supported the recommended affiliation fee. The majority of Representation Board members supported the recommended affiliation fee.

## 7.2. Wage Justice for Young Workers

**Motion:** That the Representation Board **support** the Australian Council of Trade Unions and affiliated unions in the campaign to abolish junior wages.

VG to stay chair

Moved: Veronika Gobba Seconded: nini

Carried

Many students will be impacted. This campaign will connect to trad unions. Nini said important especially as we are in the middle of a cost of living crisis.

Jack said important to recognise that this is campaign was not enough. Pretty baseline. ACTU should be pushed to do more.

Max spoke of his experience.

VG said we can reach out to the ACTU.

### 7.3. Disruption Action – Indian Ocean Defence and Security Conference

**Motion:** That the Representation Board **endorse** the planned protest, organised by Students for Palestine WA and Friends of Palestine WA, of the Indian Ocean Defence and Security Conference.

Moved: Imari Morris

Seconded: Jacquie Bicanic

Carried

Submitted by Jack Washington

Ella Marchionda spoke about why it was important to protest this conference. Zoe Stevens discussed what the Guild could do to protest. Imari Morris asked about whether it would be safe for protestors. Ella said it was organised by Students for Palestine and it would be peaceful. As yet there were no plans to go inside. Veronika Gobba asked who was the liaison point. Ella said she was.

### 7.4. Defend Pro-Palestinian Free Speech

**Motion:** That the Representation Board:

- a) **condemn** the penalties and discipline that students have faced across the country by university administrations for participating in pro-Palestine activism; and
- b) **commit** to defending Curtin students who face disciplinary action for pro-Palestine activism and/or criticism of Israel.

Moved: Jacquie Bicanic

Seconded Imari Morris

Carried

Submitted by Zoe Stevens

Request for amendment.

That the Representation Board:

- a) **condemn** the penalties and discipline that students have faced across the country by university administrations for participating in pro-Palestine activism; and
- b) **commit** to defending Curtin students who face disciplinary action related to their actions both on and off campus for pro-Palestine activism and/or criticism of Israel

The amendment was amenable to Jacquie Bicanic and Imari Morris.

8. General Business

None

9. Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Representation Board is Thursday, the 18th of July at 1730 to be held at Council Chambers. Documents and motions are to be submitted no later than 5pm on Thursday the 13th of June to [secretary@guild.curtin.edu.au](mailto:secretary@guild.curtin.edu.au) and [educationvp@guild.curtin.edu.au](mailto:educationvp@guild.curtin.edu.au)

Meeting closed 6.55pm.

