



Student Guild of Curtin University

Representation Board - Meeting #9

Held at 5.30pm on Thursday the 18th of August 2022

Council Chambers 100.301

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; Dylan Botica, Jasmyne Tweed, Hameed Mohammad, Marcus Fernihough (online) Sophie Scott, Zoe Wing, Veronika Gobba, Salwa Kilzi (online), Cassidy Pemberton, Imari Morris at 6.13pm
- 2.2. Others Present; February Metcalf, Maryanne Shaddick (minute secretary)
- 2.3. Apologies and Leave of Absence; Rey Nairn, Rachel Taylor
- 2.4. Absent; Madison Ainsworth, Amber Hilston, Sofia Gonzalez Torres

A vacancy was declared as Elizabeth Powell was no longer a member of the Representation Board. Imari Morris was declared a member of the Representation Board.

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

Dylan Botica declared that he was a member of NTEU and United Workers Union and that he would like to stay for discussion of item 7.2. It was noted that various members of the committee could be members of the Labor Party. There was a vote that Dylan Botica stay for item 7.2. Motion carried.

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 21/07/2022, as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved: Dylan Botica

Seconded: Sophie Scott

Carried. 1 abstention

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes. It was noted that Dylan Botica had completed all action items.

6. Items Not for Discussion

7. Items for Discussion and Resolution

- 7.1. Supporting a Voice to Parliament and the Uluru Statement from the Heart

Motion:

The Representation Board calls on our political representatives to lead the referendum for a First Nations Voice guaranteed by the Constitution in the spirit of bipartisan cooperation.

As students seeking a better future for our nation, the Representation Board Commits our steadfast support, and urge students across the country to work together to ensure referendum success.

Moved: Dylan Botica (President)

Seconded: Hameed Mohammad

Carried

It was noted that Dylan Botica had been in contact with some of universities in other states and members of parliament. Dylan spoke of the importance of the Guild in communicating the issues of the referendum. Hameed Mohammad said that it was essential that we support it.

7.2. NTEU Negotiations

Motion:

The Representation Board supports the National Tertiary Education union at Curtin University's claims for improved pay and conditions for Curtin staff.

The Board recognises that staff working conditions are student learning conditions.

Moved: Dylan Botica (President)

Seconded: Cassidy Pemberton

Carried

The committee discussed that it was important during a period of bargaining that staff were well supported. It was noted that the NTEU had entered discussion about entering into protected action. Cassidy Pemberton noted that Curtin staff were often overworked and underpaid. Marcus Fernihough supported the motion and mentioned that Curtin had rejected a request for an administration pay increase. He encouraged students to participate in staff union action.

7.3. Labor's Parlous Climate Change Bill

Motion: The Guild rejects the Labor Party's Empty Climate Change Bill and Condemns their Concession to Fossil Fuel Interests.

1. Curtin Student Guild condemns the Labour Party's Climate Change Bill as an unaccountable, unenforceable, green-washing gesture.
2. The Guild recommits to the climate demand passed on 10th February 2022 preceding the 2022 federal election – immediate action on climate change.
3. The Guild recognises the radical action will be needed to force the change needed. This will include industrial campaigns, mass mobilisations and may necessitate civil obedience.
4. The Guild commits to endorsing, promoting and supporting mass action on climate change, including but not limited to High School and University student and teacher strikes.

Moved: Marcus Fernihough (Ordinary Representation Board Member)

Seconded: Zoe Wing

Marcus spoke to the motion saying there were no mechanisms for meaningful accountability and that there was no parliamentary pathway for serious climate change.

Dylan Botica put forward an amendment. This was seconded by Hameed Mohammad.

Amended Motion: The Guild expresses concern at the Labor Party's symbolic Climate Change Bill and condemns their concession to fossil fuel interests

1. The Curtin Student Guild notes the Labor Party's Climate Change Bill is an unenforceable gesture that will not in of itself, reduce emissions.
2. The Guild condemns the Liberal National Party and the Greens for its actions causing nine years of climate delay.
3. The Guild recommits to the climate demand passed on 10th February 2022 preceding the 2022 federal election – immediate action on climate change.
4. The Guild recognises that radical action will be needed to force the change needed. This will include industrial campaigns and mass mobilisations.
5. The Guild commits to endorsing, promoting and supporting mass action on climate change, including but not limited to high school and university student and teacher strikes.

Dylan spoke to the amendment saying that the Bill was shallow and climate change would not be fixed by this Bill. This was a symbolic gesture. There was some level of accountability with amendments by cross benchers and Greens. The Bill did something but not enough.

Marcus Fernihough spoke against the amendment saying our stance was too soft and civil disobedience was required. Dylan Botica said that the amendment supported mass mobilization however he disagreed with civil disobedience. Marcus Fernihough said we should should break the rules. Dylan Botica said that unprotected action was not illegal.

There was a vote about whether to amend the bill. This was carried.

The amended motion was put to the vote. It was carried.

7.4. Pfizer Factory Wages Strike

Motion: The Guild endorses the Pfizer factory wages strike, commends organisers and endorses further industrial action.

1. Curtin Student Guild endorses Pfizer workers' and UWU members' strike to fight for better wages and future safety-net against redundancies.
2. The Guild will promote this and further industrial action, recognising the shared interests of middle and working-class students and the common fight to defend living standards in the country.
3. The Guild will promote this and further industrial action, recognising the shared interests of middle and working-class students and the common fight to defend living standards in the country. Incorrect point 3

Moved: Marcus Fernihough (Ordinary Representation Board Member)

Seconded: Cassidy Pemberton

Marcus spoke to motion noting concern about the actions of Pfizer.

Carried

7.6 Motion: That the Curtin Student Guild stands in solidarity with students impacted mentally, physically, and financially during clinical placements.

Moved: Hameed Mohammad

Seconded: Veronika Gobba

Carried

Hameed Mohammad spoke to the motion. He discussed issues with placements. There were added pressures for international students who could get bullied and discriminated against and suffer harassment. There was a lot of financial pressure. Hameed thanked Jo-Ann Naidu for her support and work on this issue. Hameed said that the issue had been raised at academic board. Cassidy Pemberton raised the issue of students being paid on placements and said that there must be change about how students were supported on placement. Dylan Botica thanked Hameed for consistently raising issues to the university. He said that unpaid internships or placements meant that students were not protected. Dylan Botica noted that the new safety act could be helpful and that CHARM was not user friendly. He recommended that Guild communicated information about rights and responsibilities of placements. It was noted that there was a need to make CHARM user friendly. Marcus Fernihough said that there was a need to implement a campaign to reflect the seriousness of this issue. Dylan Botica spoke about paid placements. He said that nursing and education seen to be ok for unpaid work. Other areas like law pay interns.

7.7 Curtin Vaccination Policy

Action: That the Representation Board discuss the Curtin Vaccination Policy. Marcus Fernihough noted vaccine mandate had been lifted and this was against Guild policy. He said that vaccines were still important. It was an invitation for people not to get vaccinated. Lifting the mandate compromised the health of people who could not get vaccinated. Marcus recommended that people wear masks and that there should be vaccine requirements at Guild events.

8. Reports

- 8.1. President – Submitted. As tabled. No requests.
- 8.2. Vice President of Education - Submitted. No questions.
- 8.3. Faculty of Business and Law – Submitted. As tabled. No questions.
- 8.4. Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative – Submitted. No questions
- 8.5. Faculty of Health Sciences Representative – Submitted. Amber Hilston to provide an update on placements. Hameed Mohammad said he and Amber working together.
- 8.6. Faculty of Humanities Representative – Not Submitted. Verbal report. Veronika met with the School of Education student counsel, health and safety committee, courses committee, attended the stall at Creative Quarter Barefoot Lunch, coordinated a video and revived the Guild Humanities Facebook group. Hameed Mohammad asked if Veronika if she was feeling supported. Veronika noted that there not so many mechanisms for handover in middle of year.
- 8.7. Student Assist – Submitted. No questions
- 8.8. International Students Committee President – Not Submitted.
- 8.9. Postgraduate Students Committee President – Not Submitted. Dylan Botica asked about mentoring program. Hameed Mohammad said he was working with research committee members. A universal program was expected next semester. Gameed noted 80 student consults this month.
- 8.10. Queer Officer – Submitted. As tabled. No questions.

- 8.11. Women's Officer – Submitted. As tabled. Dylan Botica asked what language guard was. It was noted that it was a term for language that lecturers could and could not use. It was noted that Salwa Kilzi was to follow this up. Cassidy Pemberton spoke about a previous language guide and noted that there was a need for a more extensive guide.
- 8.12. First Nations Officer – Vacant
- 8.13. Accessibility Officer – Submitted. No questions.
- 8.14. Higher Education Developments. Maryanne Shaddick undertook to share the link to a study about international student thoughts on COVID.
- 8.15. Chair of Representation Board* - Verbal Report. Jasmyne Tweed updated the committee about the parking campaign, noting the car on O Day worked well. Hameed Mohammad asked about the chances of effecting changes to the current parking system. Jasmyne said the Guild had various claims which it was negotiating with the university. Dylan Botica said that he would raise the issue with the VC at his next meeting. He said that the Guild would look at this as a long-term strategy and maintain momentum. He said that there were reasonable concerns that university could not dismiss. Dylan noted he did a radio interview and it was clear the public was on our side.

Motion: That the Representation Board notes the Reports.

Moved: Cassidy Pemberton

Seconded: Hameed Mohammad

Carried

9. Minutes of Committees Reporting to the Representation Board
 - 9.1. International Student Committee – N/A
 - 9.2. Postgraduate Student Committee – N/A
 - 9.3. Queer Collective – N/A
 - 9.4. Women's Collective – N/A
 - 9.5. First Nations Collective – Vacant
 - 9.6. Accessibility Collective – N/A
 - 9.7. Student Housing Advisory Committee – N/A
 - 9.8. First Year Committee – N/A

10. General Business. Dylan Botica thanked those who took part in rally yesterday. Hameed Mohammad asked about whether we could have meetings evaluations. Dylan Botica said recommendations from governance review included a meeting reflection. It was noted that this would be put in place next year and it would be related to Guild values.

Meeting closed at 6.48pm

11. Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Representation Board is Thursday the 18th of August at 5:30pm to be held at Council Chambers. Documents and motions are to be submitted no later than 4:35pm on Thursday the 11th of August 2022 to chair.representation@guild.curtin.edu.au and secretary@guild.curtin.edu.au