

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; Mitchell Craig, Noor Fellah, Ben Burgess, Lorien Watts, Huzaifa Nawaz, Bridget Clifton, Cooper Henrickson, Tom Harrowing, Rabab Ahsan, Razanne Al-Abdeli, Morgan Mills, Nicole Alconaba, Dylan Storer
- 2.2. Others Present; Jo Ann Naidu, Noor Fellah, Ella Marchionda, Eleanor (TBC)
- 2.3. Apologies and Leave of Absence;
- 2.4. Absent;

3. Disclosure of any potential or perceived Conflicts of Interest. None

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 19/05/2025, as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved: Tom Harrowing

Seconded: Bridget Clifton

Carried

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes. None

6. Public Question Time. None

7. Items Not for Discussion. None

8. Reports

- 8.1. President – Submitted. As read. Dylan Storer advised that he was in conversation with the university about the Guild taking over the Food Pantry with roll out expected in coming weeks. He noted that the Guild was pushing for action on student housing and that Dylan had spoken to the media. Dylan reported that the Guild was working with Making Renting Fair with regard to a survey. He presented at the NUS education conference on the North West Shelf and climate change and a national approach to housing reform. Dylan noted that the assessment policy review had been advocating for universal submission deadlines. He said that Stage 2 of the Clubs Hub was under development and that the Student Kitchen would be opening next week.

- 8.2. Vice President – Education – Submitted. As read. Ben Burgess said he included last month's report.
- 8.3. Vice President – Sustainability & Welfare – Submitted. As read. Razanne Al-Abdeli said that the lolly wall now featured halal and gluten free lollies. Razanne reported that she was working with unions and student societies about a racism campaign. Recycling bins and smart bins would be rolled out this semester. Razanne said that there was a national study about racism study on campuses. Razanne was concerned over the political intent behind the report and diluting certain experiences over others and she was demanding from the coordinating organization for a better study that more accurately reflected what students were experiencing and commitments that there would be no coercive recommendations.
- 8.4. Faculty of Business and Law Representative – Submitted. As read. Nicole Alconaba noted a law stall would be held at the city campus in partnership with FBL Student Engagement. All orientations for undergraduate and post graduate students were complete.

- 8.5. Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative – Submitted, As read. Cooper Henrickson noted that all Orientation sessions had gone well.
- 8.6. Faculty of Health Sciences Representative – Submitted. As read. Rabab Ahsan noted that Orientation sessions went well.
- 8.7. Faculty of Humanities Representative – Submitted. As read. Tom Harrowing noted that he had attended meetings with students and Orientation sessions with new students.
- 8.8. Student Assist – Submitted. As read. Jo Ann Naidu updated the committee on how information on paid placements would be provided to students so they could understand the criteria.
- 8.9. International Students Committee President – Not Submitted. Huzaifa Nawaz updated the committee that he was focusing on international students settling into the campus and assisting with housing, safety tips and avoiding scams. He noted that many international students had not secured accommodation when they first arrived and that he attended inspections on behalf of students.
- 8.10. Postgraduate Students Committee President – Submitted. As read. Mitch Craig answered a question about the IP fact sheet resulting from the encampment MOU. Mitch said there was transparency about funding, rights around intellectual property, information about signing a confidentiality agreement and that students had a right to disseminate their findings.
- 8.11. Queer Officer – Submitted. As read. Morgan Mills noted that the installation of condom dispensing machines.
- 8.12. Women's Officer – Submitted. As read. No questions.
- 8.13. Accessibility Officer – Submitted. Lorien Watts updated the committee on Disability Pride Month activities. Reported that Event Accessibility Matrix was launched.
- 8.14. Higher Education Developments – Submitted. No questions.

Motion: That the Representation Board notes the reports.

Moved: Mitch Craig

Seconded: Cooper Henrickson

Carried

9. Items for Discussion and Resolution

- 9.1. Demand Respect for La Trobe's Student Union

Motion: That the Representation Board **endorses and signs** the Joint Open Letter from the La Trobe Student Union: Respect Student Representation – Scrap La Trobe's New Student Council.

Moved: Dylan Storer

Seconded: Tom Harrowing

Carried

Dylan Storer said that some universities in other states tried to subvert completely independent student unions. In this case, La Trobe University installed a student council and cut funding from the student union. He said that the Guild was happy to support this motion.

9.2. Student Housing Demands

Motion: That the Representation Board: demands that Curtin University and its housing provider implement a rent and fee freeze, install air conditioning in all student accommodation, improve safety through lighting, CCTV, secure access and surveillance, and ensure timely repairs and maintenance of all facilities and services.

Moved: Razanne Al-Abdeli

Seconded: Cooper Henrickson

Carried

Razanne Al-Abdeli said these demands were not luxuries, they were basic safety conditions. Students were enduring unsafe conditions. More than 1000 students signed a petition for change. Safety and comfort were tied to how much students could afford to pay. This was unacceptable. Cooper Henrickson said he lived in student accommodation and noted that temperatures could fluctuate. He said students were experiencing cold temperatures now and he commented that mould was an ongoing issue. Cooper noted that that was no justification for Unilodge fee increases. There was a query about the Guild's campaign on this issue and whether it was visible enough. Razanne Al-Abdeli noted all the actions of the campaign this year,

9.3. Rejecting the special envoy's push to impose the IHRA definition

Motion: That the Representation Board That the Representation Board **condemns** the coercive elements of the Special Envoy's Plan to Combat Antisemitism, particularly the use of funding and visa powers to enforce the IHRA definition, and instead calls for inclusive, student-led anti-racism strategies developed in genuine partnership with universities, students, staff, and affected communities.

Moved: Dylan Storer

Seconded: Razanne Al-Abdeli

Carried

Dylan Storer spoke about freedom of speech and cautioned that we were seeing a lot of attempts to police what could be said and to weaponize hurt and fear in the community to stop criticism of the Israeli Government. Plans were being put forward for the full adoption of a dangerous definition or interpretation of a dangerous definition that effectively said it was anti-Semitic to criticize Israel and the ideology of Zionism. The Guild's opposition to this concept was noted in the MOU with the university. Curtin had not adopted the IHRA definition thanks to advocacy from the Guild. However, it could be adopted by government. Razanne Al-Abdeli said that freedom of speech was being attacked left, right and centre. She was concerned about university funding implications. Razanne noted that Ken Stern who drafted the IHRA definition was critical of its adoption in this way. Razanne echoed the Jewish Council of Australia concern that this was straight out of Trump's authoritarian playbook.

10. General Business

None

The meeting evaluation was carried out by Tom who said that the meeting was well focused on student issues and everyone was polite and all questions were relevant.

11. Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Representation Board is Thursday, the 14th of August at 5:30pm to be held at Council Chambers. Documents and motions are to be submitted no later than 4:00pm on Thursday the 7th of August to secretary@guild.curtin.edu.au

Meeting closed at 6.32pm