



## Student Guild of Curtin University

### Representation Board - Meeting #10

To be held at 6pm on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2021

In 100.301

Meeting commenced 6pm

## 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; Lucy Rohl, Cassidy Pemberton, Isabel Mountain (6.04pm), Dax Jagoe (6.05pm), Sophia Gonzalez Torres (online); Clare Metcalf; Madison Ainsworth; Cherry Chen; Jason Kim; Chris Macfarlane; Bridge Truell; Hameed Mohammed; Jesse Naylor Zambrano (6.09pm); Dylan Botica
- 2.2. Others Present; Maryanne Shaddick, Andrew Cameron (left 6.07pm); Chris Hall
- 2.3. Apologies and Leave of Absence;
- 2.4. Absent; Shaniqua Cutinha, Ali Rose Bolton, Michael Farrell

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

Bridge declared that he was an NUS office bearer.

Procedural motion moved to have Bridge stay during the NUS discussion

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 28/09/2021, as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved: Lucy Rohl

Seconded: Cassidy Pemberton

Carried

### 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes. None

### 6. Items Not for Discussion

### 7. Reports

1. President – Not Submitted. Jesse Naylor Zambrano updated the committee about a proposal for a clubs hub at building 201. Jesse spoke about the \$40k club grant proposal for 2022 and noted that she had held discussions with the university to arrange to book rooms more easily and not have to pay if clubs used them for fund

raising. There was an update on Tuition Free student and staff forum and the Remuneration Tribunal decision. Jesse said that she was working on the handover for the incoming reps. She had been talking to the university about what committees and boards required student representation especially at the faculty level and for postgraduates. Jesse spoke about the concept of a “staff buddy” on committees to assist representatives understand university governance. No questions.

2. Vice President – Education – Submitted. No questions.
3. Faculty of Business and Law Representative – Submitted. Less STP cases reported.
  - 3.1. Student Consultative Committee Report Semester 2
- Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative – Submitted. A request was made for more information in the TL;DR report.
4. Faculty of Health Sciences Representative – Submitted. No questions.
5. Faculty of Humanities Representative – Submitted. The Humanities rally was cancelled. No questions.
6. Student Assist – Submitted. Query about emergency relief. It was explained that the relief was for all students. The relief was in the form of food and Coles vouchers.
7. International Students Committee President – Submitted. There was a request to include the ISC in name of report. Cassidy Pemberton congratulated Sophia Gonzalez Torres on new recruits.
  - 7.1. KPIs
8. Postgraduate Students Committee President – Submitted. No questions. Hameed Mohammed discussed whether students were being provided with enough support and called for suggestions for survey questions.
  - 8.1. September Report
10. Queer Officer – Not Submitted. Dax Jagoe reported that they were consulting on new ECU campus bathrooms. There was an update on Curtin’s participation in Pride. The Guild would be sharing a stall and parade float with the Ally network. Plans noted for a QC regional hub live-streamed from Eastern states in December. Pride dates noted Fair day 14 November and parade 27 November.
11. Women’s Officer – Submitted. Cassidy Pemberton encouraged committee members to keep a copy of safer communities report. No questions.
  - 11.1. Safer Communities Information
12. First Nations Officer – Vacant. Discussion about a query for the First Nations officer. Decided to refer to Centre for Aboriginal Studies.
13. Accessibility Officer – Submitted. No questions.
14. Higher Education Developments – Submitted. No questions.
15. Chair of the Representation Board\*. Following up best options for board management software. Looking at information regarding parking.

Motion that the Representation Board notes the reports.

Moved: Cassidy Pemberton

Seconded: Dax Jagoe

Carried

## 8. Items for Discussion and Resolution

### 8.1. NUS Affiliation Review and Fee

Motion: That the Representation Board recommend to the Guild Council for 2021 an affiliation amount of between \$37,000 and \$43,000 for the National Union of Students Inc.

Action: That the Representation Board discusses and reviews the assessment of the National Union of Students Inc. against the set of Key Performance Indicators from 2020.

Moved: Jesse Naylor Zambrano (Guild President)

Seconded: Dylan Botica (Chair of the Representation Board)

Votes: 6 for 3 abstentions. Carried

Noted that Chris Hall, the NUS National Education Officer was in attendance

Dylan Botica said that as seconder to the motion he would vacate the chair for this discussion. Dylan called for an alternative chair and Clare Metcalf volunteered. Votes were called and the decision carried.

The committee noted that SSAF could not be used for NUS fees.

Chris Hall spoke on the process of KPIs submitted to the NUS Executive. This year no KPIs were submitted. Most years Curtin submitted KPIs.

The committee reviewed the NUS EPIs. There were no changes to the completion status.

It was noted that the National Conference of the NUS was on 13 December 2021.

Lucy Rohl asked if the conference was going to be online. Chris Hall said that an in person conference could happen if 75% of members could attend in person. It was noted that there would be changes to the running of the conference. Returning Officer would conduct an online election. Process to register votes for motions would be streamlined.

Chris Macfarlane noted this was bureaucratic way to assess the performance of the NUS and it was a waste of time.

The committee was told by Chris Hall that campus presidents were not sent individual reports and that instead they had access to a google drive. Jesse Naylor Zambrano indicated that she was notified if national executive meetings were moved.

The committee noted that the minutes of the 2020 NUS conference were supplied.

Chris Hall confirmed that the process of an independent audit of NUS finances had commenced.

Chris Hall noted that the NUS budget had been approved in accordance with the regulations.

There was discussion about the availability and quality of information in the officer reports made available on the NUS website. Cassidy Pemberton and Dylan Botica noted that the minutes were superficial. Chris Hall noted that discussion was not encouraged even on major issues. Chris Hall noted that the NUS viewed the National Executive as procedural and that it met about six times a year. Chris Hall noted that subsidiary committee minutes should be available on the NUS website.

Dylan Botica noted that in his view the NUS would not comply with all elements of its constitution. Clare Metcalf noted that the national officers were supposed to meet campus equivalents on a regular basis. This was not happening. Chris Hall noted that a lot of regulations were recommendations and not enforceable. A lot of regulations were campus based.

There was discussion of the traffic light system assigned to the KPIs.

Dylan asked how many NUS officers were paid full time. Chris Hall said that the President, General Secretary and Women's officer were full time. . Welfare, Queer and Education officers were not full time and they were paid. All other office bearers were not paid. Cassidy Pemberton noted that she did not get a reasonable level of support. Jesse Naylor Zambrano said that she had no interaction with NUS President. Jesse noted that the Secretary had been in touch at beginning of year.

KPI 1 noted as orange. That the paid, full-time, NUS National Office Bearers meet, either in person or via telephone (or other common communication channel), the equivalent Member Organisation Office Bearer at least once every academic period.

KPI 2 noted as red: That the paid, full-time, NUS National Office Bearers provide a reasonable level of support for the equivalent Member Organisation Office Bearer.

KPI 3 noted as orange. That the part-time paid and volunteer NUS National Office Bearers provide a reasonable level of support for the equivalent Member Organisation Office Bearer. It was noted that there was good support from Chris Hall. February noted that there was no support from the national disability officer

KPI 4 noted as orange. That the NUS National Office Bearers provide ongoing updates on their actions and campaigns in a reasonable and consistent manner to the equivalent Member Organisation Office Bearer.

KPI 5 noted as orange. That the National Officer Bearers attend all student conferences related to their portfolio.

Dylan Botica asked how often the accessibility conference took place. Chris Hall noted that the only conference held this year so far was the National Education conference. The President Summit and National Conference were normally held annually however the President Summit was not held this year.

KPI 6 noted as orange. That the actions and policy of the NUS are substantially in line with the interests of the Member Organisation's student body. These interests may include Member Organisation policies, stances or values.

Dylan Botica said that the NUS did not share Guild's stance on transparency and accountability. Dax Jagoe said NUS and Guild shared broad values.

KPI 7 noted as green. That, on balance, the NUS has made substantial progress towards achievement of its stated policy goals.

Chris Hall said that these goals were the platforms approved at the national conference. However, these were not binding. Other assessable areas would be the KPIs set by the individual office holders although these were not binding. A number of KPIs met. NUS had followed through with a number of its campaign deliverables from policy platforms. Most of motions passed at National Executive to do with political stances had been followed through.

Dylan Botica said that NUS did not communicate their actions and outcomes. Most students did not know what the NUS was.

Chris MacFarlane said that NUS funding needed to increase. The Guild's contribution should not be less than 2020. Lucy Rohl spoke about the Guild's contribution last year which was impacted by COVID. Jason Kim asked how much the Guild paid in comparison to others. Chris Hall said that Curtin was in the top 3-5 of contributors. It was noted that RMIT and Monash were the largest contributors with amounts exceeding \$100,000. RMIT had a large commercial operation.

Lucy Rohl asked about outcomes of the national conference. Chris Hall said platform based policy style took a broad approach to what NUS should stand for and the executive looked at specific issues. There was no requirement for NUS to follow through on outcomes of national conference. Office bearers were not required to have KPIs. They were paid for advocacy and to run campaigns. Some officers did not get paid.

Cassidy Pemberton asked about the process of removing office bearers. Chris Hall said that this was something that would be considered by the national executive.

Sophia asked about the NUS international representative. Chris Hall said he did not have much contact with ISC officer at NUS. It was an unpaid role. CISA (Council of International Students Australia) had been acting as the body for international students.

Dylan Botica asked how Guild got value from fees. Chris Hall said there was an expectation in the past that NUS would have a high profile on university campuses. That was no longer the case as the NUS was focusing on national focus. Chris Hall spoke of the areas where he had supported Curtin for example the tuition free campaign and direct support to the Vice President Education, the education conference, protests and summits. As well Chris spoke of support he had provided to UWA students. It was noted that the State Branch President had been unavailable. There was discussion about how the State Branch President was elected.

Chris Hall said that under its regulations NUS only supported undergraduates. CAPA supported postgraduate students. At the same time, he noted that the NUS was working on international student issues.

Chris Hall said NUS would be recruiting a communication officer to ensure a consistent online voice and presence. Outsourcing research. Adopting asset portfolio. Chris Hall noted that the NUS was stable financially but its financial position was not sustainable.

Jason Kim asked why the executive chose that range it did as an affiliation fee. Jesse Naylor Zambrano said that pre-2019 levels were too high. Range was to support input from the Representation Board.

Discussion about the fee range. Dylan Botica wanted to tighten the range to \$40,000 - \$43,000k. Jason recommended that this decision be left to Guild Council otherwise to keep the range as stated in the motion.

Chris Macfarlane said NUS was going to have to play a bigger role in post lockdown environment.

Discussion about setting a proportion of funding tied to KPIs. Dylan Botica said that KPIs should be set by the incoming representatives who would review them.

## 8.2. Students as Partners Review

Motion: That the Representation Board recommend a review of the '*Student Partnership Agreement*' and the Student Guild's role in the '*Students as Partners*' Initiative be undertaken prior to December 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 to critically analyse its impact on the Student Guild's relationship with the University and for related purposes.

Moved: Jesse Naylor Zambrano (President)

Seconded: Bridge Truell (Vice President – Education)

Carried.

Jason Kim asked who would be carrying out the review. Dylan Botica said there was an expectation it would be an executive officer and one who was conversant with the program. Jason Kim asked whether the executive had the capacity to undertake a review. Dylan Botica said that this would be more of a preliminary review.

## 8.3. Stance on Mandatory Vaccines

Action: That the Representation Board discuss the Curtin Student Guild's stance on mandatory COVID-19 vaccines.

Put forward by: Lucy Rohl

Lucy Rohl said the Guild should have a stance on mandatory vaccine and that the Guild should support mandatory vaccinations.

Chris MacFarlane said that this should be a broader discussion for the Guild. Issues such as how Curtin was a safe environment.

Jesse raised the issue of the vaccination rate required for international students to come back to WA.

Motion. Curtin Student Guilds supports mandatory Covid 19 vaccines for those who are eligible.

Moved: Lucy Rohl

Seconded Clare Metcalf

There was a discussion about what kind of announcement the Guild would make. It was confirmed that communication had already gone out encouraging students to get vaccinated. Chris MacFarlane said that universities were not covered by the WA Government guidelines. He encouraged the Guild to publish a statement to say students should get vaccinated.

Amendment to motion: Curtin Student Guild supports mandatory Covid 19 vaccines excluding medical or other legally recognised exemptions.

Moved: Lucy Rohl

Seconded Clare Metcalf

One abstention

Carried

#### 8.4. Oppose Curtin Military Links

Motion:

- The Curtin Student Guild opposes Curtin University's links to the Australian Defence Force, including through receiving government grants from the Australian Defence Force.
- The Guild opposes Curtin University's links to arms manufacturers including Lockheed Martin, which sells weapons to the United States, Israel and other war criminals.

- The Guild recognises that in the corporatisation and militarisation of universities has taken place in the context of declining government funding to universities and supports a dramatic increase to university funding from the Federal government with no connection to the Australian Defence Force. Education should be for public good and education, not for arms manufacturers and the military.
- The Guild opposes Australian and US aggression towards China, opposes the AUKUS deal and opposes war with China.
- The Guild opposes university involvement in the ramping up of hostilities with China, such as Group of Eight Chief Executive Vicki Thomson's statement that Australia's universities "are well placed to play a major role in the development of Australia's nuclear-powered submarine capability".
- The Guild will make a public statement outlining this position which includes information on Curtin University's links to the Australian Defence Force.
- The Guild will support anti-war campaigns and encourage students to participate.

Moved: Christopher MacFarlane

Seconded: Dax Jagoe

Two abstentions.

Carried

Chris Macfarlane spoke to this motion. He noted that there was increased involvement between Curtin and the military- industrial complex. Questioned how ethical Curtin's research was. He said this issue was raised by a handful of science students. These were the opportunities available to postgraduate students. Dax Jagoe said that there was not enough student awareness that this was where their studies would lead.

#### 8.5. Boycott Brando's Pizzeria

Motion: The Representation Board once again affirms its commitment to strong public health measures (including lockdowns and border controls) as a means to combat the pandemic.

The Representation Board recognises that challenges to these measures and their validity threatens public health as a whole, and the health of vulnerable communities in particular.

As such the Representation Board recommends Curtin Students boycott Brando's Pizzeria for its public opposition to these health measures.

Moved: Christopher MacFarlane

Seconded:

Lapsed.

### 9. Meetings of Committees

#### 9.1. Women's Collective – Meeting held on 21/10/2021

Motion: That the Representation Board notes the minutes of the meetings en bloc. Moved:

Cassidy Pemberton  
Seconded: Lucy Rohl  
Carried

#### 10. General Business

Lucy Rohl asked for suggestions about how to get students interested in student consultative committees. Dax Jagoe said that discord worked well. Jesse Naylor Zambrano said she had success organising campaign lunches as it served to develop one to one relationship with students.

Moved in camera 8.05pm  
Motion to resume recording 8.27  
Closed meeting 8.28pm

#### 11. Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Representation Board is Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of November at 10am to be held at Council Chambers. Documents and motions are to be submitted no later than 4:30pm on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of November to [secretary@guild.curtin.edu.au](mailto:secretary@guild.curtin.edu.au)