

**Presidents Guild Council Report**

**Covering Dates:** 19.09.2024 – 23.10.2024

**Leave:** Annual Leave 02.10.2024-14.10.2024

**Travel:** Nil

**1. Meetings Log**

<b>University Meetings</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Comments</b>
24.09.2024	DVCA – Check-in Meeting	
26.09.2024	Placement Poverty Presentation	On behalf of the Guild I delivered a presentation to university staff across Australia about Placement Poverty and what the Guild has been advocating for in this area over the last few years.
	Academic Misconduct External Review	Furth comments under project overview
14.10.2024	DVCG x Guild Check-in	
14.10.2024	Students as Partners Leadership Meeting	
14.10.2024	Challenge Unit Discussion	This meeting was with members of staff from the Faculty of Humanities and Students concerned about a possible challenge unit on Palestine.
<b>Guild Meetings</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Comments</b>
26.09.2024	Guild Council	
30.09.2024	President x MA check-in	
01.10.2024	QD Check-in	Meeting going through the details of funding events.
16.10.2024	Student Voice Australia: Navigating Student Wellbeing	SVA meeting where I gave an update on the type of issues students in WA are facing that impacts student wellbeing.
18.10.2024	Legal Committee	Discussing changes to the society by-laws.
21.10.2024	Circle Green Meeting	Discussed further in projects overview.

**2. Projects Overview**

**(a) Academic Misconduct External Review**

I and the Student Assist team participated in an external review meeting of the universities current academic misconduct process and rules. Some areas of concern that were discussed included:

- Students going months with no updates on the outcome of their case, and how this is negatively impacting their mental health, studies and enrolment.
- The lack of consistency when applying penalties to cases with similar facts.
- The lack of training staff members of the panels receive before participating in SDPs.
- That not all cases have a student or academic staff member on the panels.

**(b) Students As Partners**

After several months, the updated Students as Partners agreement has been signed by myself (as endorsed by Guild Council) and the Vice Chancellor.

After the signed the new Students as Partners Leadership Group had a meeting to go over what Students as Partners actually means and how we want it represented throughout the university. The key takeaways for the future of SAP is that the group should work on 1-2 key projects each year, that the group should work as an advisory/consultant group for SAP initiative throughout the university, and the possibility of 'Students as Partner' projects needing to be endorsed by the group to actually be a SAP initiative in line with the agreement.

**(c) Legal Advice for Guild Members**

Throughout my term, myself and the Guild staff have been exploring different option in providing Guild members with a service where they would have access to free legal advice. There were previous plans of having a lawyer at the Guild half a day a week, but it didn't work out with the community legal centre involved.

A recent development to this project is working with Circle Green, and student assist being able to refer students to their programs. This is being explored further as to Circle Greens capacity, the handover process and what students will be able to seek legal advice on. Circle Green has a few teams that students would benefit from including tenancy, workplace and gender based violence.

Myself and the Student Assist team are also planning future legal education workshops that Circle Green can present to students for free for 2025.

**(d) The Final Stages - The Universities Accord (Student Support and Other Measures) Bill 2024**

SSAF Changes

The Universities Accord (Student Support and Other Measures) Bill 2024 has included the requirement that higher education providers must allocate at least 40% of their SSAF revenue to student led organisations.

However, it is stated under Schedule 2 – SSAF Changes that Western Australian universities are required under the Western Australian legislation to pay to a Guild (as defined in the relevant legislation), an amount that is not less than 50% of the total amount of the annual amenities and services fees collected. This change to Western Australian legislation was made by *Universities Legislation Amendment Act 2016* (WA). The requirements in the Bill do not conflict with the Western Australian requirements.

**Paid Placements**

According to the Bill, the way that nursing, midwifery, teaching and social work students are going to receive their Prac Payments, is through their university.

Grants are going to be paid to higher education providers (by the government) for them to make payments to students undertaking mandatory practicums as part of their courses of study.

# Vice President – Education

## November Representation Board

Reporting Period 11/10/2024 – 8/11/2024

Veronika Gobba (she/her)

### University / External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/10/24	Mental Health Framework workshop	
	Guild meeting w/ HUM Dean Global Futures	
21/10/24	Guild & Library Textbook campaign check-in	Results of staff survey show that there is a gap in understanding between the library and academic staff around the procedure and realities of prescribing learning materials for unit. Library is actioning comms to address this.
23/10/24	Guild & Curtin Assessment Feedback project meeting	Academic Registrar is happy to take Guild feedback on Curtin policies that are often not complied with in relation to feedback, and will action it as a priority list for academics.
24/10/24	Academic Calendar working group	Feedback from last consultation shows that academics can work very easily with a quick change back to 2 tuition-free weeks, it will be other departments such as admissions, international, graduations that will be more impacted. Due to concerns around academics transitioning being eased, the proposal for the reintroduction of the tuition-free week now sits at 2026 Sem 1.
25/10/24	Academic Board	
29/10/24	Guild President & DVCA	Briefly discussed FBL's phygital project and the Curtin and Guild ethical dealings MOU-set in a date to meet as working group to catch up on progress.
4/11/24	Guild meeting w/ UniReady	Regarding results from assessment feedback surveys and consultation. UniReady is very keen to test using Turnitin Draft Submission portals and review their feedback processes.
5/11/24	Student Partnership Agreement Renewal & Students as Partners Leadership team meeting	
	University Courses Committee	

	Student Assist x Academic Registrar	Clarity regarding the proposed Poor Academic Practice definition changes.
	Special Guild Council Meeting	Re: Poor Academic Practice Changes. GC endorsed a definition change, not a complete removal of the 20% ceiling for grade penalty reduction.
7/11/24	VPSW x VPE consultation on Curtin Student Friendly Sustainability Portal idea	

### Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
11/10/24	Assessment Feedback report meeting w/ fac reps	
14/10/24	SPA signing & Leadership group meeting	
24/10/24	Guild Council	
25/10/24	Guild Excellence in Teaching Awards	
28/10/24	Higher Ed	
29/10/24	Exec Committee	
31/10/24	Meeting with Student Assist Team	To discuss Curtin's proposed changed to definition of Poor Academic Practice
	VPE X HUM Rep Catch-up	
	VPE x HUM Rep x Student Assist	Discuss & Action issues with Education GradDip information on Curtin website
1/11/24	Assessment Feedback project handover with current & incoming reps	
4/11/24	Assessment Feedback project handover with current & incoming reps (Pt 2)	
7/11/24	VPE x HUM Rep Catch-up	

**Leave taken:** 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October

### Guild Excellence in Teaching Awards

Congratulations to

Faculty of Humanities:

Winner - Madeleine Dobson, Commendation - Glynn Greensmith, Research Supervisor Award: Roberto Minunno

Faculty of Health Sciences:

Winner - Matt Moroney, Commendation - Adrian Paxman, Research Supervisor Award: Danielle Dye

Faculty of Business and Law:

Winner - Christina Do, Commendation - Andrew Brennan, Research Supervisor Award: Mingming Cheng

Faculty of Science and Engineering:

Winner - Antoni Liang, Commendation - Simon Warwick, Research Supervisor Award: Nicholas George

Centre of Aboriginal Studies:

Winner - Carol Dowling

And thank you to incoming Guild President Dylan Storer for serving as MC for the ETA Event; he did a fantastic job. While it is not yet finalised, before the end of my term, I will compile the feedback provided by students regarding their nominated teachers and present this information to the winners and their relevant leadership. It is always crucial to highlight the unfortunate reality that a significant portion of the feedback from students commending their favourite academics often relates to the additional, unpaid efforts and work these teaching staff members dedicate for the benefit of their students. We must recognise that this situation is highly unsustainable and unfair for academics at Curtin.

#### **Guild & NTEU survey in the School of Education**

The Guild and the NTEU will be concurrently distributing a survey to students and staff (separately) in the School of Education in light of systematic concerns and issues that are being brought to us.

#### **'Phygital' or FBL's digital transformation strategy**

The faculty of Business and Law has approved despite so much push-back and concern from their staff and students to pursue a strategy of "high quality" flipped learning, prioritising transforming already flipped units and fully online courses as a trial. The plan and information surrounding this initiative have been unclear and constantly changing.



## Vice President – Sustainability & Welfare

November Representation Board Report (10/10/2024 – 07/11/2024)

Jacquie Bicanic (she/they)

### University / External Meetings:

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/10/24	Mental Health Framework Workshop	
16/10/24	Support for Students Implementation Reference Group	
17/10/24	Carbon Literacy Project	Facilitated a module within the CLP course
21/10/24	Sustainable Development Working Group	
24/10/24	Mental Health & Resilience in Students Reference Group	
29/10/24	FBL Dean International Shortlist Meeting	FBL Rep Hannah was unavailable, I sat in for her for this meeting.
04/11/24	University Health & Safety Committee	
05/11/24	Sustainable Development Working Group	
05/11/24	Gender-Based Violence Working Group	

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

Date	Meeting	Comments
09/10/24	Exec Meeting	
15/10/24	Events, VPA & ISCP Meeting	Discussed Pasar Malam
15/10/24	Stress Less Week Sample Collection	<i>Michael's Products</i>
16/10/24	Events & VPA catch up	
17/10/24	Reps Board	
18/10/24	<del>Block Party</del>	<del>Unable to attend</del>
21/10/24	First Self-Care-Cart for <i>Stress Less Week</i>	Very well received by students
23/10/24	<del>Events &amp; VPA catch up</del>	<del>Unable to attend</del>
23/10/24	<del>Club Awards</del>	<del>Unable to attend</del>

24/10/24	Humanities, Inclusion & Belonging Committee meeting	Max (VPA) and I sat in on this meeting as HIBC was discussing their events planned for 2025
29/10/24	Exec	
30/10/24	Second Self-Care-Cart for <i>Stress Less Week</i>	Very well received by students
30/10/24	Events & VPA catch up	
05/11/24	Queer Officer Check-in	Final one for the year/our terms
05/11/24	Special Meeting of Guild Council	
06/11/24	CBA Phone conference	Sorting out login and verification issues
06/11/24	Women's Officer Check-in	Final one for the year/our terms
06/11/24	Events, VPA & ISCP Meeting	Discussed Pasar Malam
07/11/24	Incoming VPSW & Jessie Parish	Introduce Razanne (incoming VPSW) to Jessie Parish as she is a key contact within Curtin regarding sustainability.
07/11/24	Circle8 – Smart Bins	Maryanne and I met with Mark, the co-founder of Circle8 to discuss the possibility of a pilot program of smart bins across the Bentley campus.
07/11/24	Mitch (Secretary) Payments	Learnt how to approve payments
07/11/24	Sustainability Portal	Veronika (VPE) and I met with Jessie Parish to discuss the proposed idea of a sustainability portal for Curtin. This is at the 'general ideas' stage and is very early on in the process of the idea being developed, however thought it best for Jessie to hear Veronika's insights before the end of her term and VPE as she has been in the role for 2 years and could offer valuable insights and suggestions.

### **Leave Taken:**

31/10/2024 – 01/11/2024      Sick Leave

## 2024 Wrapped:

Topic	Details
	<h3>Sustainability</h3>
Containers For Change (ongoing)	Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) seem to have reached a roadblock, so I pivoted to look at the Smart Bin system with Circle8. This is in the early stages; we have met with Mark (co-founder of Circle8) to discuss what the system could look like and see what questions we have for each other. Maryanne and I are compiling our notes and questions from today's meeting before we share them with David (Managing Director) and Jasmyne (current President) for their thoughts, feedback and questions. We will then collate these and send them to Mark who can come back to us with answers and a proposal that the incoming VPSW (Razanne) and President (Dylan) and work on during their term.
Recycling Hub (set to be delivered)	The <i>Mens Shed (Fremantle)</i> is building the hub, and it's set to be delivered by the end of the month. We then just need to purchase the TerraCycle boxes and it's ready to go!
Sustainability Week	I was able to deliver the Guild's first ever <i>Sustainability Week</i> event. While the event did not go to plan - literally almost every day's activity had to be amended due to last-minute changes (e.g. Lush pulling out, people getting sick etc). I plan on reviewing this event with the incoming VPSW as VPA to ensure the second delivery of this event is more engaging, delivers more value to students and is more organised.
Op-Shop on campus	I have received feedback that Op Shops (e.g. Good Sammies, Salvation Army, Save the Children and St Vinnies) do not want to have a permanent tenancy on a university campus due to the significant downturn of foot traffic outside of teaching weeks, and it is expected that after a peak during the first few weeks of semester, the demand will taper off over the semester then peak again with the start of the new semester. As this is not a feasible business decision for them, I instead switched to looking into pop-up style events (e.g. continuation of the pop-up thrift market event, local councils etc). The pop-up thrift markets continue to be a popular event with students, and they are planned to be delivered in 2025. I was unable to continue this goal further during this year but will provide the incoming VPSW with my notes should they decide to continue this project.
Plastic Free Riverpark Grant	We were successful in our grant application! We used these funds to help cover the cost of re-useable pint glasses at the EOS Block Party, and we are looking into stocking collapsible clip-on keep cups and investigating the feasibility of wash stations in the library



and student kitchens (the taps that blast a cup with clean soapy water when pushed down)

Mug Library

The Mug libraries have been re-stocked and continue to have a good level of uptake by staff and students who forgot their keep cups.

Sustainability Grant

I have begun the process of seeing if we can create a Sustainability Grant for clubs to help them run their events more sustainably.

Guild Greenhouse

I have started work on a project I've nicknamed *Guild Greenhouse*. Basically, I'm seeing if the Guild can restart the veggie garden, and through that, we could see if we can have composting on campus using organic waste from Guild outlets. The fruit/vegetables/herbs etc grown could then be distributed to those who have volunteered to work in this area and leftovers donated to the student pantry so it goes to students in need.

Internal Bin Audit

I was able to start an internal bin audit within the Guild Outlets. This led to an investigation about best practise regarding organic waste and the implementation of a Containers for Change pilot project, where I got the Guild to sign up for a CFC account and implemented CFC collection at the Tav, in the staff room in 106F and in the reps area (this last one was already established prior to my term). The containers were manually brought to depos and deposited by myself and other Guild reps who had the capacity and time to do so. Through this, we were able to return almost 1,000 containers within 5 months. I am proposing that we expand/streamline the project, so the containers are collected rather than manually dropped off. Funds gathered through the CFC scheme will be used to further sustainability within the Guild (e.g. I am proposing we use the funds collected so far to purchase a 240L CFC wheelie bin)

## **Welfare**

Stress Less Week  
(Delivered)

This year I expanded on the snack carts to include fidgets in semester 1, and in semester 2 we expanded further to deliver:

Snack Carts

Brunch Carts

Redbull Carts

Lunch Carts

Self-Care Carts (with fidgets)

Sweet Treat Carts

The early morning brunch carts were very popular with those students hustling in the library in the early hours of the day. The Self-Care carts were extremely popular - students were messaging the main Instagram page asking when we were coming around, if they could pick something up as they missed out etc. There was an overall high level of interest, interaction and appreciation.

Mental Health Week

This year the Guild delivered a fidget cart during Mental Health Week as they were quite popular during the previous semester's Stress Less Week. Curtin delivered an extensive amount of events and activities during this week so it was decided the Guild would instead focus on the delivery of the *Pride* event.

Condoms & Sexual Health

I brought back free condoms to the Guild through WAAC (WA Aids Council). I also delivered free dental dams, pregnancy tests, and sexual health information, and worked closely with the equity reps to have relevant sexual health information available in the corresponding equity rooms.

I delivered free STI testing during *Love, Sex & Consent Week* (see below) and have plans to ensure this is delivered in semester 1 and 2 of next year.

Love, Sex & Consent Week

My focus for this event was to do a deep dive into consent. I worked with Tinder and was able to get students access to their resources (e.g. *Dating Dictionary*) and we later collaborated again to promote Tinder's consent course through our social media.

This event had a high level of student interaction and the VPW, Women's Officer and I were able to engage in meaningful conversations with students. There was also a significant online campaign for this event, with daily posts sharing content from *Teach Us Consent* and the opportunity to anonymously ask a sexologist questions. We have continued to share consent related content on our social media and through physical signage across campus.

This has led to another project where I am advocating for signage on the back of cubicle doors across the library (and hopefully across campus) specifically relating to sexual health, consent, red flags in relationships and support services that are available on and off campus. This is in the early stages and is something I will have to pass on to the incoming VPSW to continue to work on.

Flyers

I created two flyers during my term as VPSW. The first was delivered in time for O-Day semester 1 which provided information on the health services available on campus. The second was to provide a consolidated informational flyer advising what reporting and support options are available for sexual harassment and/or assault on and off campus.

Free Period Products

We saw the delivery of free period product vending machines!  
These are going to be rolled out as soon as stock has been delivered (TBC)

**Name:** Hannah Northey

**Meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Updates:**

Date	Meeting/Event	Comments
11/10/2024	Monthly meeting with PVC Vanessa Chang	Discussions around my campaigns, the FBL Digital Transformation Initiative and the future assessment reform and assessment redesign university project coming next year.
11/10/2024	Assessment Feedback data reporting meeting	Discussions around writing up the added section around focus group results to the Guild Assignment feedback campaign report.
16/10/2024	Fortnightly meeting with FBL SE	Discussions around the SDP process, my campaigns, orientation 2025 and the new L.E.A.D FBL initiative.
17/10/2024	October Representation Board	I chaired this meeting in the absence of both the President and the VPE.
18/10/2024	Legal Committee	More discussions around changes to the Club By-Laws.
18/10/2024	Meeting with Head of School Accounting, Economics and Finance Felix Chan	We spoke about my campaigns, the FBL Digital Transformation Initiative and handover.
21/10/2024	Essential textbook campaign meeting with library staff	There were updates received from the library around the results from the staff survey. It was clear from these results that not all staff are aware of issues that the library can have with providing textbook

		<p>access and thus the issues that students subsequently have in accessing textbooks. There are to be changes implemented including earlier communication with staff around textbooks they need prior to semester starting to allow for a better chance to provide this access, updates to reading list developments in terms of when a textbook is considered essential as well as some information around good practices for staff when it comes to essential textbooks in a unit. More work is likely to be undertaken next year, and the library staff are very keen to work with the 2025 FBL rep to continue this project further.</p>
23/10/2024	<p>Assessment feedback campaign university update meeting with Jon Yorke and the faculty Deans</p>	<p>Providing Jon Yorke and the Deans with the updates to our assessment feedback campaign report findings with the added section in relation to the four focus groups held. They were receptive to the findings as well as the draft submission portal notion. They have asked us to collect some common policy breaches students find in relation to assessments which we have asked Guild Student Assist's help with. There is to be a final meeting to handover to the new reps and also to ensure action to our short term asks before we pass our roles over.</p>
23/10/2024	<p>Bi-monthly Course and Major Leads meeting</p>	<p>At this meeting, both Imari and myself presented the</p>

		content warnings project and then the assignment feedback campaign. Staff in FBL were mostly receptive and supportive, although there was one question around students being confused about if “feedback” was in relation to feedback before or after an assignment was submitted. It was clarified that our data was in relation to feedback after an assignment has been submitted.
25/10/2024	Guild Excellence in Teaching Awards	Presented the teaching awards to the FBL staff winners.
28/10/2024	Faculty Representatives x VPE meeting	Was supposed to be a Student Assist meeting but ended up in relation to discussions of the Assignment Feedback campaign as Student Assist could not make it. VPE Veronika said she was going to email them relevant details instead.
30/10/2024	Fortnightly meeting with FBL SE	Discussions around the 2025 ball, the L.E.A.D initiative, my campaigns and the Deans Lunches in terms of what has been achieved.
1/11/2024	Assignment Feedback campaign reps handover meeting #1	The first of two handover meetings with the incoming Guild representatives to explain the assignment feedback campaign to them.
2/11/2024	Writing my handover report	All written.
4/11/2024	Assignment Feedback campaign reps handover meeting #2	The second of two handover meetings with the incoming Guild representatives to explain the assignment feedback campaign to them.
4/11/2024	Handover meeting with 2025 FBL Representative,	Handover has officially began.

	Nicole, to present handover report and give her an idea of everything that is happening before she attends all the handover meetings I have arranged	
4/11/2024	Monthly meeting with PVC Vanessa Chang	Introduced Nicole to Vanessa to give them the opportunity to discuss Nicole's ideas and goals for her term.
13/11/2024	Fortnightly meeting with FBL SE	Nicole came along and met the FBL SE team.
14/11/2024	November Representation Board	
15/11/2024	Meeting with Director of Learning and Teaching for the School of Management and Marketing Michael Baird	Scheduled handover meeting for Nicole to be introduced to Michael.
20/11/2024	Sustainability in Business and Law Steering Group	Likely the last meeting of this working group this year. This will be the opportunity for Nicole to meeting Deputy PVC Sonia Dickinson.
22/11/2024	Meeting with Head of School Accounting, Economics and Finance Felix Chan.	Scheduled handover meeting for Nicole to meet Felix.
27/11/2024	Fortnightly meeting with FBL SE	This will be my last meeting as FBL rep with FBL SE.
27/11/2024	Meeting with FBL Dean of Learning and Teaching Subra Ananthram	Scheduled handover meeting for Nicole to meet Subra.
27/11/2024	Meeting with Dean and Head of Law School Robert Cunningham	Scheduled handover meeting for Nicole to meet Robert .
29/11/2024	Essential textbook campaign meeting with library staff	A meeting for Nicole to meet key library staff assisting with the essential textbook campaign.
2/12/2024	Induction Day	The end of my term.

Additional Information:

### **(1) The assignment feedback campaign**

- Further meetings with FBL staff have been held (Course and Major Leads)
- A second meeting with the Deans and Jon Yorke has been held and a third one is being scheduled. The idea as passed on from Imari via Jon Yorke is for some tangible outcomes in this end of November meeting based on all the effort put into our campaign this year
- Also, it will be an opportunity for as many of the 2025 reps as possible to be in the same room to meet key staff, understand the dynamics of the campaign and understand what will be completed and what will need to be carried on into 2025
- There have been two handover meetings about this campaign held with the 2025 President, VPE and Faculty Representatives so they fully understand what this campaign is about and how it will continue

### **(2) The essential textbook campaign**

- The 21<sup>st</sup> October meeting with library staff yielded positive outcomes in regards to real change that is to be implemented as a result of the joint efforts from this essential textbook campaign
- The earlier communication from the library to staff and vice versa to allow better chances of the library securing textbook access for students, the educative actions and the reading list changes all highlight that the library is taking this issue seriously and are willing to work with the Guild to implement changes to benefit students and it is nice to see some tangible action coming out of the campaign
- There is to be a final meeting for me to bring Nicole to so that she can meet the relevant library staff face to face as well as comprehend what the essential textbook campaign has entailed this year, and how it will look next year

### **(3) Phygital/ FBL Digital Transformation**

- Not too much has changed in regards to what I wrote about this project in my October report. There are still concessions being made from the faculty in terms of what the project looks like for 2025
- The project still overall does not have Guild support and further assessment is to be made on this in 2025
- There has been further understanding in regards to how the process of implementation will work for these concessions which will mean Digital Transformation will be occurring throughout next year and if all remains the same as it currently is, it will be something that the 2025 FBL Rep will have to handover to the 2026 FBL Rep.

### **(4) Handover**

- My successor, Nicole, is currently undertaking her handover meetings.
- By the end of my term, she will have been provided with opportunities to meet many key staff and have received multiple thorough explanations around the current and future projects within the Guild and FBL.



# Science and Engineering faculty Report

Thane Roberts (They/Them).

Representation Board 14/11/2024

*Table 1: Breakdown of Meetings and events*

Date	Event type	Name	Comments
23/10/2024	Meeting	Assignment Feedback Uni Update	The next steps for the process of reforming assignment feedback at Curtin was discussed as well as what was found through the Guilds assignment feedback campaign.
24/10/2024	Meeting	Science Board	The falling enrolment numbers and strategy for attracting students into science was discussed. The board also discussed emerging trends for science in Australia as research and development continues to decline lacking expertise and funding. The need for a science pipeline like the engineering one was discussed. Falling ATAR numbers and cost of living pressures were identified as major threats to the future of science as more students are choosing more clear career prospects. The need to make the employability of graduates a top priority was discussed. The idea of new double majors with Engineering was discussed.
28/10/2024	Meeting	Faculty Executive Team Meeting	The Universities duty of care for neurodivergent staff and students was a topic of discussion. The question of should the university make allowances for accessibility that aren't allocated for in the industries that students are employed in was discussed.  A health and safety concern were raised regarding one of the lab facilities on campus that had a chemical odour.
31/10/2024	Meeting	Engineering Board	The idea of new double majors with science was discussed. Currently there are few options for students that want to do an engineering and science double major. Many raised the benefits to students that double majors bring when the degrees are similar. The potential for this to reduce the decline in science numbers was discussed. The governments decision to make Western Australia a space hub was discussed as well as what the universities strategy should be to better position themselves in this changing market.

7/11/2024	Meeting	Graduate Studies Committee	<p>HDR enrolment trends were discussed. Feedback on the RTP process was also discussed. Out of the 92 applicants there was a lower number of indelible applicants then last year.</p> <p>There was much discussion about how the current admission framework for HDRs was inconsistent. Due to differences in courses overseas there are difficulties in translating that into Australian qualifications. For many scholarships exceptional circumstances aren't considered when determining a candidate's research ability.</p> <p>Issues with planning field work were also discussed, as well as what qualifies as field work.</p> <p>Issues with leave causing students to not be able to contact DGRs was discussed, the current framework doesn't adequately facilitate DGRs to take leave and for all their emails to be answered while away.</p>
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## Summary

As can be seen in Table 1 this month the main issues in the faculty have been a health and safety scare with the chemical odour from labs on campus and the declining number of science students. In more positive news changes to the available undergraduate double majors and to assignment feedback are likely to take place.

**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES REPORT - NOVEMBER REPRESENTATION BOARD  
2024**

<b>Meeting/Task</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Assessment feedback campaign meeting with Director LT and UC's and CC's allied health	14/10	Great support from the school, and encouraging insight/discussion of ideas and improving practices within the school.
Assessment feedback campaign meeting with Director LT and UC's and CC's nursing school	16/10	I had a lot of reluctance from this school but the school requested a further breakdown of the analysis, so hopefully the school of nursing can apply the campaign recommendations based on the breakdown.
Assessment feedback campaign meeting with Director LT and UC's and CC's medical school	17/10	Received support from the school and discussions on concerns.
Assessment feedback campaign meeting with Director LT and UC's and CC's population health school	9/10	Slight reluctance from the school, the school requested a further breakdown of the analysis, so hopefully the campaign recommendations can come from the breakdown.
Meeting with Faculty Reps and VPE	28/10	Was supposed to be a meeting with Student Assist, but as they were not able to attend, this was a quick catch up on our progress with the campaign.
Developing a report on the breakdown of the findings from the assessment feedback campaign for each school	18/11 – 22/11	Since majority of schools requested a unit by unit and course by course breakdown of the results, I formed a report for each school which showcases all responses and significant responses for each school.
LEAVE	11/11 – 17/11	I am on a TOIL based leave for this week.
LEAVE	25/11 – 30/11	I am on a TOIL based leave for this week.
Developing the handover report	1/11	Ensuring a comprehensive report for the 2025 Faculty Rep to utilise during their term.

Meeting with Academic Registrar and Deans of LT across all faculties for the Assessment Feedback Campaign	23/10	Another meeting, updating the university about what we found from the focus group, action items for next year and what further information we need. There was a request for a list of significant policies which should be upheld, which Student Assist provided.
Excellence in Teaching Awards	25/10	Attended the Excellence in Teaching Awards and presented the awards to the Health Sciences Winners. Received really positive feedback from the academics about how much they appreciate the award and opportunity.
Monthly meeting with Student Engagement Manager	28/10	Final meeting, discussed the Assessment Feedback project progress and student engagement projects.
Handover meeting with Secretary and 2025 Rep	4/11	Going over the handover report and answering any questions or concerns.
Assessment Feedback Campaign Handover meeting with incoming faculty reps	4/11	Collaboratively delivering a handover for the campaign to the 2025 reps, with the other faculty reps and VPE. This is to ensure that the campaign is effectively continued next year, and that the 2025 reps have an opportunity to ask questions and gain a better understanding.

## Faculty of Humanities Report Representation Board Meeting – 14.11.24

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### Guild Meetings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Weekly	VP-E Check-In	
11/10	Assessment Feedback Data Report Meeting	Met with other faculty reps to go over the plan to create an addendum to the Assessment Feedback Report with the data from the student and staff focus groups.
28/10	Fac Reps & Student Assist Catch-up	Discussed the assessment feedback campaign and policies that impact assessments and assessment feedback.
30/10	Handover: Intro to HUM staff and LSEC Prep	Went over the agenda for HUM LSEC as well as who would be there and what to expect. Made plans to do similar for other upcoming committee meetings.
31/10	Discuss GradDip Education w/ Student Assist	Met with Jo-Ann and the VP-E to raise some concerns that were noticed with the Graduate Diploma in Education around inherent requirements and incidental fees.
01/11	Assessment Feedback All Reps Handover Meeting (1/2)	Meeting with the incoming and outgoing faculty reps to go over the history of the assessment feedback campaign and what the current next steps are which will impact them.
04/11	Assessment Feedback All Reps Handover Meeting (2/2)	As above, meeting with those who couldn't attend the first meeting.

### University Meetings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
16/10	Catch up re: Humanities Inclusion and Belonging Matters	Met with Maddie to go over some of the more periphery items/ideas that have been raised at humanities inclusion and belonging committees.
17/10	Humanities x Guild Check-In	Met with Nicole Slatter (Dean L&T Humanities) and discussed the assessment

		feedback campaign as well as an initial plan for when the 2025 Humanities Rep will start shadowing me at meetings as a part of handover.
21/10	SDP	
23/10	Assessment Feedback Follow Up Meeting with Academic Registrar and Deans L&T	Met with the group again to go over the results of the staff and student focus groups. The issue of policy compliance came to light and plans were made to bring group back together last week of November for both introductions with the incoming reps and to go over policies related to assessment feedback.
23/10	FBL Course and Major Lead Meeting	Presented Content Warnings to the FBL Course and Major Leads as well as supported Hannah (FBL Rep) when she presented on the Assessment Feedback Campaign.
24/10	Humanities Inclusion and Belonging Committee Meeting	Brought Jacquie (VP-SW) to this meeting as there was discussions around International Women's Day 2025. Plans were made for how the end of year/start of next year would go and I highlighted content warnings and the assessment feedback work again so that the group can continue to share it among their own areas.
31/10	Humanities LSEC	My last LSEC for the year, I attended with the 2025 Humanities Rep Tom,
04/11	UniReady Assessment Feedback Meeting	Met with the VP-E, Sheldon Smith and Naomi Jeong from the UniReady team to bring them up to speed on what has happened with the Assessment Feedback Campaign in order to see if they want to be involved going forward.
05/11	Content Warnings – Student Mental Health Framework Meeting	Met with Rebecca Ryan (Student Life and Community) to discuss the student mental health framework that her and her team are developing and how content warnings are/can be incorporated into it.

05/11	Content Warning Meeting with DVC-A, Director Student Life and Community, and Director LITEC	Met with the three of them to discuss where Content Warnings will sit. The end decision was that it was best suited to sit within LITEC, who plan on working with the Curriculum Management/Transformation team to bring it to more spaces.
06/11	Meeting with Madeline Dobson	Quick meeting to discuss the Humanities Inclusion and Belonging committee and how the next meeting will go as well as how the EOI's for student members went this year so that they can do the same next year.
07/11	Meeting with Guild President, VP-E and NTEU	Met with Jasmyne, Veronika and Francis to discuss the crossover of some of our concerns regarding the school of education.
07/11	Introduction meeting between 2025 Humanities Rep and Rebecca Walker	Introduced Tom to Rebecca as a part of handover

## **Projects**

**Content Warnings:** This project has come a long way this year. The week of this meeting, I will be presenting content warnings at University LSEC. With LITEC committing to being the one's to take charge of the project going forward and to drive the rollout of them among more units. They have also said that they will work with the Curriculum Management/Transformation team to start integrating it into Comprehensive Course Reviews in the future also. By having it available in so many places, and staff across Curtin, those who are already interested in using content warnings in their units will be able to as work is done to raise awareness among other units.

**Assessment Feedback:** There have been a number of very productive meetings this month. When presenting the results of the focus groups to Jon Yorke and the Deans there was a lot of discussion on how to start implementing the recommendations we made. It was brought up how while there is good policies in place, there is not always a lot of compliance with them, therefore we are creating a list of the policies that are related to assessments and feedback (as well as some other related policies that we know don't always get followed) to take to the next meeting. The aim of that next meeting is to create some resources for staff to follow to remind them of the policy they need to follow.

## **Other**

**Handover:** Now that it is November I am starting to bring Tom to my committee meetings as well as introducing him to the faculty staff. It's going well so far, and we have plans to try and meet with the rest of them by the end of the month.

**Imari Morris (they/she/he)**

**Faculty of Humanities Rep**

## November 2024 Representation Board Report – Student Assist

### October overview:

Academic sessions were mainly in relation to responding to Academic Misconducts responses and complaints.

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

	August	September	October
Academic sessions	283	265	200
Non – academic sessions	61	72	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>3310</b>	<b>251</b>

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

	August	September	October
Lifhack participants	112	112	106
Loan laptop	5	12	13

### **Welfare**

Student Assist provided emergency relief to 10 students.





**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' COMMITTEE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (NOV 2024)**

Representation Board Meeting  
Sarina Pun (she/her)

Meetings/Events Log

Date	Meeting/Events	Notes
15/10/24	Pasar Malam catch up with Events team	Second meeting
17/10/24	Reps Board meeting	
17/10/24	Academic Board review session	
22/10/24	Brinner	
25/10/24	Academic Board meeting	
29/10/24	FGPC meeting	Attended online with incoming ISC President
30/10/24	Pasar Malam catch up meeting	Third meeting
6/11/24	Pasar Malam catch up meeting	Fourth meeting

The incoming ISC President Huzaifa, is in the loop on the final meetings which I have invited him to attend as an observer. Huzaifa has also attend an online VISA information session held on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct organized by the WA Community Engagement Team at the Department of Home Affairs

ISC committee elections completed. All positions filled except Humanities Rep position which remains vacant.

Discussions were made with Kylah and Carla from the Events Team about the possibility of creating a quiet space for individuals with sensory sensitivities (such as loud sounds, lighting, and strong scents). They were helpful in sharing insights from their experience and highlighted challenges, such as the lack of actual manpower and resources required for accomplishing this feat. Best middle ground was to have a sensory map released prior to the event for anyone with accessibility needs to download.

Handover report to be completed by next week no issues with this. I would like to thank all Reps for being friendly and accommodating towards myself in their own way. Much hard work was put in by all and I wish each of you the very best in your future endeavors.

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### Postgraduate Students Committee (PSC) Reports

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Comments</b>
16/10/2024	Postgraduate Student matters for Research Committee	A meeting with Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research, Melinda Fitzgerald, and ADVCR, Grechen, and Hannah Allan to discuss postgraduate student matters. And, introduced a new elected PSC president, Nandani Khetia.
17/10/2024	HEQSA Meeting	University's Academic Governance Review and the interview with the Student Representatives to the Academic Board and Standing Committees
25/10/2024	Deliver Meeting evaluation at Academic Board Meeting	Delivering an Acknowledgement of the Country and Meeting Evaluation for Academic Board meeting
25/10/2024	Academic Board Meeting	A regular Academic Board Meeting with Academic Board representatives
25/10/2024	Guild Excellence in Teaching Awards	Attending awards presentation at Guild Excellence in Teaching Awards,
5/11/2024	Meeting with Dean Global, Faculty of Humanities	A meeting and discussion with Dean Global of Humanities Faculty, Lisa Lim, about postgraduate collaboration and engagement with WA government

6/11/2024	Research Committee Meeting	A regular meeting with the Research Committee, DVCR, RC Representatives
11/11/2024	Learning and Student Experience Committee (LSEC) Meeting	Attending a regular meeting of the LSEC and discussing about learning and student experience at Curtin
11/11/2024	Presentation with Curtin Global	Presenting Curtin profile to International School Students visiting Curtin

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

- The recent PSC President has held a meeting with the DVCR, ADVCR and their team to discuss the postgraduate issues and introduce a newly elected PSC President, Nandani Khetia, to them.
- HEQSA external reviewers held an interview and evaluation meeting with the PSC president, who is sitting on the Academic Board and other standing committees.
- The PSC President has been asked to deliver a meeting evaluation and acknowledgement of the country at the Academic Board meeting.
- The PSC President has raised again a concern and requested the Research Committee to support and make a writing guideline for HDR thesis writing because there is no clear guideline at our university regarding HDR thesis writing guidelines. The chair of the Research Committee has already instructed the DVCR team to learn and act on this suggestion.
- The PSC President has been invited for a discussion and meeting by Dean Global from the Faculty of Humanities to attend further collaboration for postgraduate students and to engage with the WA government.
- PSC has worked together with Curtin Global to promote and present Curtin profile, including postgraduate experiences, to international school students.

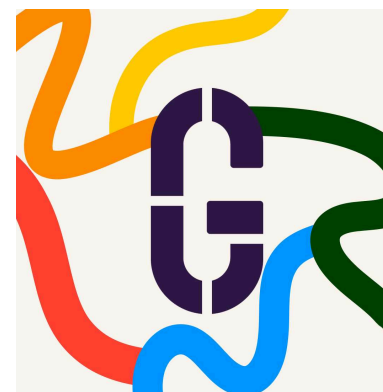


# QUEER OFFICER'S REPORT

Representation Board Meeting

November 2024

Zavier Wileman (they/them)



## MEETINGS

Date	Meeting
15th October	GEIAG
30th October	Introduction of GEI team & 2025 Q0 (Morgan)
5th November	Monthly meeting w/ DVCA, Imari & Sheldon
5th November	Final Check-in w/ VP-S&W

## EVENTS

Date	Meeting
23rd October	Peer Support Session
30th October	Peer Support Session

## PROJECTS

**WANTP:** WANTP working group will meet at the end of this month to discuss this year's progress on the project and facilitate handover to Morgan (2025 Q0). I am waiting to hear an update from Ariel about her meeting with the individual in charge of Curtin's MazeMap. I received an update from the School of Allied Health team about their ongoing project with all gender bathrooms – their focus remains on ensuring bathrooms labelled as all-gender on MazeMap are correctly labelled as all gender on the physical facilities.

**Peer support groups:** With the final peer support sessions for the year now complete, I am very pleased with how the first year of implementing peer support sessions has gone. I hope that the groups are continued into subsequent years, and that other equity officers may take inspiration for their own departments.

## WOMEN’S OFFICER’S REPORT

### Representation Board Meeting

Chloe/Clo Maslen (She/They)

#### **GUILD MEETINGS**

Date	Meetings	Notes
1/11/2024	IWD	w/ Samatha Owens
6/11/2024	KPI check	w/Jacque

1/11/2024:

Samantha and I had a meeting about IWD (Independent Women’s Day) for next year. It has been in the mix for a while now and we all just needed to get the theme and then we will be able to work more in detail on it. The theme will be March forward. Samantha suggested a morning tea and other activities and for it to be endorsed by the guild to which I agreed. We have a layout of what this morning's tea will consist of: we will have Samatha and I talk about the event, introduce the women’s officer as well and, give the scholarship team an opportunity to speak. Sam had the idea of making this beginning of the event held at the gallery to which I bounced an idea to her to also organise an art competition for the occasion to which was well received. I am now waiting until the proposition Samatha gave to the VC gets approved.

6/11/2024:

Jacquie and I had a brief meeting about my KPI and how well I have done so far in my position. There were only two that I failed to fully complete but the rest is greenlit. I also talked about other projects coming up in the upcoming year such as the points above and we talked about improving for next year's position.

**Extended notes:**

In all, next year is looking very settled and growing with new events prepared for the next women's officer. I will arrange meetings for them to be more comfortable going into this role.

# ACCESSIBILITY DEPARTMENT



## Representation Board Report

October 2024

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS		
Date	Meeting	Notes
10.10.24	Universal Design	Jaquie attended on behalf of the Accessibility Department

GUILD MEETINGS		
Date	Meeting	Notes
03.10.24	Meagan Shand	Jacquie and I met with Meagan Shand (Equity and Inclusion Advisor) to get acquainted.
17.10.24	Representation Board Meeting	

EVENTS		
Date	Event	Notes
09.10.24	Pride Event	Mental Health Week/ Pride Event - Accessibility Stall

OTHER		
Date	Topic	Notes
Fridays	Creative Connections	The past four weeks the Friday catch-ups focused on Pride themed crafts in preparation for the Pride event.
	Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme	Substantial behind the scenes work has been going on between the Accessibility Department and the Social Media team to launch the affiliation. The launch date has been set to 21 <sup>st</sup> of October. The launch will also be featured on Oasis and staff portal on the



		22 <sup>nd</sup> of October. Additionally, TBC, an interview with myself will be posted on the AC@C (Accessibility Collective @ Curtin) website, on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> of October.
31.10.24	Finalised the EOY KPI's report	

## Higher Education News November Representation Board Report

### **Albanese Labor Government to cut a further 20 per cent off all student loan debts**

A re-elected Albanese government would reduce student debts by 20 per cent as part.

This will cut around \$16 billion in debt, including all HELP, VET Student Loan, Australian Apprenticeship Support Loan and other income-contingent student support loan accounts that exist on 1 June next year.

Range of outstanding HELP debt	Number of Australians with a HELP debt	Range in debt reduction
\$0-\$10,000	791,000	\$0-\$2,000
\$10,000-\$20,000	585,000	\$2,000-\$4,000
\$20,000-\$30,000	501,000	\$4,000-\$6,000
\$30,000-\$40,000	380,000	\$6,000-\$8,000
\$40,000-\$50,000	250,000	\$8,000-\$10,000
\$50,000-\$60,000	147,500	\$10,000-\$12,000
\$60,000+	276,000	\$12,000+

[Albanese Labor Government to make student loan repayments fairer](#)

[The Conversation](#) article

[SBS](#)

[Channel 9](#)

[ABC](#)

[Albanese pledges permanent free Tafe places](#)

### **Student debt repayments to drop in fresh cost-of-living pitch. West Australian**

Workers with student loans will have their repayments cut by an average of \$680 a year.

The Government's latest measure to combat the cost-of-living crisis is aimed at lifting the take-home pay of a million young Australians.

Under the new arrangements, the minimum repayment threshold will lift from \$54,000 to \$67,000 in July next year and be indexed to remain at 75 per cent of average graduate earnings.

The Government says this will help all graduates earning up to \$180,000 a year and give young people fresh in the workforce breathing space.

Those on \$70,000 a year will have \$1300 cut from their minimum repayments per annum while someone earning \$80,000 will save \$850. Repayments on the average HELP debt will drop by about \$680.

The Universities Accord report, given to the Government in February, found existing repayment arrangements disproportionately penalised people on lower income, particularly women, and created incentives for graduates to limit their working hours so they didn't tip into the next income bracket.

It recommended moving to a marginal system where repayments were only levied on earnings above each threshold, rather than against a person's entire income, working in the same way as income tax.

The measures build on a move in May's budget to lower indexation rates on student debt, which were backdated [to wipe out about \\$3 billion owed by former students](#).

That legislation is yet to pass the Senate but is expected to have the backing of the Coalition.

The new changes will be put to Parliament early next year.

[Guardian article](#)

[Government media release](#)

### **Australian National University asks all staff to take pay cut amid financial woes**

ANU's vice-chancellor is taking an immediate 10 per cent reduction to her \$1.15m salary, as she asks staff to also take a pay cut.

Australian National University's vice-chancellor is taking a 10 per cent reduction to her \$1.15m salary, as she asks her staff to also take a pay cut amid the university's deep financial woes.

ANU is undergoing [a \\$250m cost-cutting exercise](#) by 2025, slashing an estimated 50 jobs in a major academic restructure, amid a projected \$200m deficit this year.

In an email to all staff on Tuesday, [Professor Genevieve Bell](#) reiterated the dire state of the university's financial situation, calling it a "real and substantial" challenge, before saying "we must take action" and that "everything needs to be on the table including all of our salaries".

She told staff she would take a 10 per cent salary cut effective immediately, bringing her salary down to \$1.035m, with super, and making her the lowest paid vice-chancellor in the Group of Eight universities.

Her predecessor Vice Chancellor Brian Schmidt negotiated a base salary of \$484,000 in 2021, down from \$560,000 in 2020, after ANU had suffered a \$162 million deficit in 2020.

Professor Bell also asked all staff to scrap an automatic pay increase due in December.

"I have also asked the university's senior leaders employed on performance-based employment contracts (PBECs) to consider foregoing the 2.5 per cent salary increase due in December this year.

"This would save our university around \$1.2m," she said in the email.

These senior leaders are paid more than \$240,000, and include directors of divisions and academic school directors.

"As part of putting all options on the table, I will soon be asking you to consider forgoing the upcoming 2.5 per cent December pay increase under the ANU Enterprise Agreement (EA)," she continued.

This request would need to be agreed by the majority of ANU staff employed under the EA through a vote.

She added that staff would still receive a 16 per cent pay increase over the life of the current Enterprise Agreement.

The National Tertiary Education Union was already slated to rally at the university at midday tomorrow as a result of what it says could be more than 600 job losses, and the ANU Branch Committee is unanimously recommending the pay cut proposal is rejected.

Professor Bell told staff it would save further job losses.

“I know that asking you to forgo a salary increase you were expecting to receive is a significant decision, particular in the current broader economic context. But I encourage you to think about what this sacrifice could mean for our community,” she said in an email.

“Forgoing the December 2024 increase, coupled with the PBEC staff also forgoing a 2.5 per cent pay rise, could reduce the salary savings we need to find in 2025 by as much as \$15m. This will save jobs.

“I know this is a big ask, but I hope it is a sacrifice you are prepared to make along with me and our university’s leaders. I would be grateful if you take time to reflect on this decision. If we take it collectively, it will prevent some job losses in our community.”

NTEU ACT secretary Lachlan Clohesy said staff had “heard it all before”. He said in 2020, Brian Schmidt asked staff to defer two pay increases with the promise that it would save jobs but soon announced 465 redundancies.

“Our members remember quite clearly that it didn’t save jobs then and they don’t think it will save jobs now either.”

He also said members were not impressed by staff cuts that saw Professor Bell still receive more than \$1m, adding that “staff don’t see it as a significant sacrifice”.

Chancellor and former foreign affairs minister Julie Bishop receives an annual honorarium of \$75,000 and is not a member of staff, so will not be taking a pay cut.

On October 3, Professor Bell announced a major academic restructure at the ANU “to ensure financial viability”, including cutting the number of academic colleges from seven to six.

She said recurring operating costs would need to be reduced by \$250m over the next 15 months through both salary costs and non-salary costs.

### **University of Southern Queensland leader stands down. The Australian**

University of Southern Queensland vice-chancellor Geraldine Mackenzie has quit following staff fury over dozens of job cuts.

Her retirement was announced just days after angry staff passed a vote of no confidence in her leadership at the university, which plans to slash \$32m in costs.

The National Tertiary Education Union UniSQ branch passed an unprecedented vote of no confidence in the vice-chancellor and senior executive on Friday.

The branch said the Toowoomba-based university already had cut 72 jobs.

UniSQ’s latest annual report shows it lost \$26m last year, despite reaping \$44m from international student fees.

### **International Students Caps set to pass parliament**

The federal government’s [controversial plan to limit international student numbers](#) is now almost certain to win parliamentary approval. But it looks like there will be some changes to the [original bill](#) introduced in May.

A [Senate committee](#), which has a Labor majority, has recommended the bill be passed with amendments. The government is expected to accept the committee’s suggestions.

What did the committee find and what does this mean for caps on international student numbers?

## **Clashing views in parliament**

In the inquiry report, [Coalition senators criticised](#) the government's handling of international education. But [they continued to support](#) the idea of putting a limit on international students.

The [Greens' dissenting report](#) completely rejected the idea of caps. The Greens don't have the Senate numbers to block them, but they may find common ground with the Coalition on some amendments to influence the final outcome.

### Changes to caps on courses

The government's [original legislation](#) would let the minister set international student caps [by education provider, location and course](#).

Caps by provider and location are meant to reduce pressure on accommodation and other services, especially in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. This is a key goal of the bill and other recent [changes to international student policy](#).

But course-level enrolment caps are not necessary to achieve this.

As the inquiry report notes, most international students do not stay in Australia permanently. So they should be allowed to choose courses based on their own interests and job opportunities in their home countries.

The report also notes significant administrative issues involved with setting and monitoring caps for the [more than 25,000 courses](#) on offer to international students.

But the report does not take these points to the logical conclusion of recommending no caps on courses. Instead, it proposes no course caps for universities or TAFEs. Non-university higher education providers and non-TAFE vocational education providers could still be subject to course-level caps.

After the report was released, Education Minister Jason Clare [cited advice](#) about some vocational providers offering courses that "don't give [students] a real qualification".

Coalition senators may seek the full removal of course caps from the bill – in the Senate report, they criticise what they call the "appalling treatment of many private higher education and [vocational education and training] providers". With support from the Greens, course caps could be stopped.

Coalition education spokesperson, Sarah Henderson says Labor has 'mismanaged' the numbers of international students in Australia.

### A new power to exempt some categories of students

The government has flagged it wants to exempt [students from the Pacific or Timor-Leste](#) and [some students on government scholarships](#) from the new cap regime.

That would require amendments to the original bill, which the Senate inquiry also recommends. This change is unlikely to face any Senate obstacles.

### An earlier date for announcing caps

The bill requires caps to be announced by September 1 in the year before the caps apply, except for this year when the deadline is December 31.

This date was criticised because international students receive offers before September. Education providers need to know their caps before they start making offers.

The Senate report recommends a July 1 announcement instead.

### Huge powers for the minister

As drafted, the bill gives the minister extraordinary personal power to set international student caps. It sets no limit on the reasons for setting caps. It requires no consultation prior to setting caps, other than the minister for education consulting the minister for skills.

The Senate report suggests improvements to this process. The education minister would also need to consult the immigration minister and the regulators for vocational education and higher education.

The report also says education providers should be consulted on the initial setting of enrolment limits each year. With around 1,500 providers registered to offer courses to international students, this consultation may need to be with their representative groups.

The Senate inquiry recommended education providers are given more notice about what their caps will be.

#### More scrutiny for the caps?

The bill has a dual system for setting caps. One of these is via a “[legislative instrument](#)”, which the minister makes. This [can be disallowed](#) by either house of parliament and is the only limit on the minister’s power.

But the bill also allows the minister to bypass the parliament with a “notice” to education providers. This has the same practical effect as the legislative instrument.

The bill’s [explanatory memorandum](#) (the document to help readers understand legislation), offers a benign explanation for this. It says the minister will only exercise the power of using a notice in limited circumstances. Its examples include when the education provider has supplied additional student accommodation, or needs to expand to take students from other providers that have gone out of business.

Nothing in the bill, however, limits the use of capping by notice.

In a [submission to the inquiry](#), I recommended requiring parliamentary scrutiny of the way caps are set. The legislative instrument would set out rules and formulas for calculating the cap. The notice to education providers would have to apply these rules and formulas to their specific circumstances.

The Senate committee majority, however, recommended a much weaker form of scrutiny. It suggested replacing the notice with a “[notifiable instrument](#)”. This would ensure the provider’s cap was publicly available. The notices, by contrast, only go to the affected education provider, the Department of Education, and the relevant regulator.

A notifiable instrument would allow more public scrutiny of the minister’s decisions, for people who keep an eye on the government’s [legislation](#) website. But it falls well short of a system in which parliament is always directly notified of caps and given the power to intervene.

#### A turning point

The Senate inquiry partly answers some criticisms or weaknesses of the bill. It’s likely the bill will next be debated when parliament sits in November.

But whatever views people hold on capping international students – and with the [student visa holder population nearing 700,000](#) there is a case for moderation – we are witnessing a major turning point in higher education.

This bill, in combination with planned controls on [domestic student enrolments](#), signals the demise of student choice and university autonomy. A new era of bureaucratic control from Canberra is arriving.

Federation University Australia	401–500	601–800
James Cook University	401–500	351–400
Murdoch University	401–500	351–400
University of Canberra	401–500	351–400

## **Uni drop-out rates hit record high for Australian students. The Australian**

Australian students are dropping out of university at record rates, with just 62 per cent completing a degree within six years.

An Institute of Public Affairs analysis found that 25 per cent of domestic students who commenced a bachelor's degree in 2017 had [dropped out](#) by 2022.

Only 62 per cent had graduated within six years, and 13 per cent were still studying.

Overseas students – who pay full tuition fees and cannot access student loans through HECS/HELP - were more likely to finish their degrees.

Over six years, 19 per cent dropped out of their studies, 79 per cent graduated and 2 per cent were still enrolled.

The analysis, based on federal Education Department data, exposes a growing reliance on revenue from foreign students.

Between 2000 and 2022, the number of overseas students in Australian universities surged from 95,000 to nearly 450,000.

International students made up 29 per cent of university enrolments in 2022, compared with 14 per cent in 2000.

The IPA analysis found that [“a large and growing cohort” of domestic students was failing to finish university](#). “(This) means they are incurring [a financial cost](#) through HELP (Higher Education Loan Program) debt without securing their qualification,” it states.

“The university model in Australia has shifted away from education and towards the business of maximising revenue, which has led to declining standards and the prioritising of international over domestic students.”

The federal government is trying to pass legislation to cap new international student enrolments next year at 270,000 – roughly in line with 2023 levels.

The IPA blamed the rise of remote learning, lower academic standards and the deterioration of on-campus culture for the rising numbers of Australian students quitting university without a qualification.

“The current model is perpetuating a cycle where higher overseas student numbers are negatively impacting the university culture, which has led to a higher number of domestic student dropouts which, in turn, encourages a greater reliance on overseas students,” it states.

Barely half the domestic students who started a teaching degree in 2017 graduated by 2022 – down from 70.3 per cent of those enrolled between 2005 and 2010.

Medicine had the highest completion rate of 91 per cent, along with 88 per cent for dentistry.

One in three nursing students, 41 per cent of engineering students, 38 per cent of law students and 44 per cent of psychology students who started in 2017 had failed to graduate six years later.

IPA research fellow Brianna McKee said the data showed Australian universities had become “degree factories for international students”.

“This may be profitable for vice-chancellors but we are seeing Australian students drop out in record numbers,” she said.

STUDY AREA	COMPLETION RATE 2005-2010	COMPLETION RATE 2017-2022	CHANGE
Veterinary science	89.9	65.4	-24.5
Teacher education	70.3	51.1	-19.2
Pharmacy	90.9	73.4	-17.5
Health services and support	72.6	65.4	-17.2
Social work	58.2	46.6	-11.6
Tourism, Hospitality, Personal Services, Sport and Recreation	62.9	53	-9.9
Nursing	73.8	65.8	-8
Law and Paralegal Studies	68.6	61.6	-7
Communications	70.3	63.8	-6.5
Business and management	66.2	64.8	-1.4
Agriculture and environmental studies	59.9	58.7	-1.2
Medicine	87.3	90.9	3.7
Rehabilitation	88.8	83.3	-5.5
Psychology	62.8	57.5	-5.3
Architecture and building	72	66.8	-5.2
Creative Arts	70.1	65.6	-4.5
Humanities, culture and social sciences	62.7	58.3	-4.4
Dentistry	92.2	88	-4.2
Engineering	63	59.2	-3.8
Science and mathematics	70.4	67.8	-2.6
Computing and information systems	56.1	54.6	-1.5
Business and management	66.2	64.8	-1.4
Agriculture and environmental studies	59.9	58.7	-1.2
Medicine	87.3	90.9	3.7

**Universities Australia calls for Government to drop MD 107**

The Albanese Government is continuing to hold Australia's universities to ransom under Ministerial Direction 107 (MD107) while damaging the nation's economy.



Education Minister Jason Clare this week doubled down on the Government's commitment to keeping the destructive instrument in place until it legislates caps on international students, despite acknowledging the hurt it is causing many universities.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Officer Luke Sheehy said the sector's warnings of deeper budget deficits and job losses were starting to be realised due to the economic hit of MD107.

"Australia's universities rely on revenue from international students to fund their operations after decades of underfunding by governments of both persuasions," Mr Sheehy said.

"MD107 has resulted in 60,000 fewer visas being granted in the higher education sector, resulting in billions of dollars in lost revenue for our universities and the economy.

"Universities, not by choice but out of necessity, are now taking cost-saving measures to offset the revenue loss from fewer reduced international students.

"The longer MD107 is in place, the more damage it will do.

"Minister Clare's acknowledgment of the hurt it is causing universities is cold comfort.

"There is nothing stopping the Government from ending the pain caused by MD107 today."

Universities Australia estimates MD107 has already cost our universities and the economy around \$4 billion while putting at risk 14,000 jobs in the university sector alone.

"We should be growing industries that deliver jobs, growth and opportunities for the benefit of all Australians, not holding them back at a time our economy is under pressure," Mr Sheehy said.

"International education is a critical national asset. It should be treated as such."

### **Universities warn of 'significant' job cuts as international student caps threaten business model. ABC**

#### **In short:**

Global ratings agency S&P estimates the government's plan to cap new international student enrolments will cost universities hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue next year but the impact will be uneven across the sector.

Western Sydney University uses 24 cents from every dollar an international student pays to subsidise domestic students and other programs.

What's next?

The cap is expected to be legislated by the end of the year. The Department of Education says 15 public universities will have international student numbers cut but the majority will be able to enrol the same number or more.

More than 1,000 workers could soon lose their jobs as Australia's universities aggressively cut costs ahead of the federal government's proposed international student caps, which are expected to take effect next year.

The findings coincide with new data that shows Australia has become the most popular destination for international students, based on a worldwide survey of 6000 prospective students, to be released by international student placement company IDP on Wednesday.

It found 24 per cent of students favoured Australia, compared with 23 per cent choosing the US, 21 per cent Britain, 16 per cent Canada and 5 per cent hoping to study in New Zealand.

IDP's Emerging Futures report reveals that student enrolment caps enforced by Canada, and planned by Australia, are turning students away.

“The long-term drivers in international education remain strong, but we can see the impact policy changes are having on Australia, Canada and the UK, (which) are now behind the US for perceptions of quality, value for money and graduate employment opportunities,” Simon Emmett, IDP Connect chief executive, said.

Similar story

[A thousand Australian university jobs are at risk. Who's to blame for the dire financial state?](#)  
Guardian

### **Antisemitism at Australian universities referred to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights Gov't media release**

The Albanese Government has referred antisemitism at Australian universities to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights for inquiry and report.

This inquiry was a recommendation of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee. The Committee was deeply troubled by the experiences of Jewish students and staff, and the responses to antisemitism by Australian universities.

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry will consider the prevalence, nature and experiences of antisemitism at universities, including frameworks and policies to prevent and respond to it, and support provided to students and staff.

This inquiry is part of the Government's multifaceted approach to addressing Australia's complex experiences of racism.

The inquiry will complement other initiatives underway, including:

- the Australian Human Rights Commission's 'Respect at Uni: Study into Antisemitism, Islamophobia, Racism and the experience of First Nations People'
- the work of the Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism and Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, and
- legislation to establish an independent National Student Ombudsman.

The Committee has been asked to report to both Houses of the Parliament by 31 March 2025.

Details of the inquiry, including the letter of referral and the terms of reference, will be available on the [Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights webpage](#).