

**REPORT FOR
REPRESENTATION
BOARD**

Guild President Dylan Storer (he/him)

Period: 14/11/2025 – 12/2/2026

Travel

- NUS NatCon – 3/12/25-13/12/25
- NUS President’s Summit – 3/2/26-7/2/26

Leave

- Annual Leave – 21/11/25-24/11/25
- Holiday Closure – 20/12/25-4/1/26
- Annual Leave – 12/1/26-18/1/26

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Summary

It has been a strong start to the year for the Curtin Student Guild, with significant advocacy and representation underway across a number of key issues. Protected industrial action by the NTEU is now in effect, with staff seeking to minimise disruption through online delivery during the campus attendance ban. The Guild remains in solidarity with staff and maintains that it is management’s responsibility to reach a fair agreement and ensure students are not disadvantaged. We remain alert

to ongoing high-level discussions about a potential university merger, with no formal proposal yet presented, and stand ready to act to protect student representation and governance safeguards. The Guild issued clear public statements condemning both the Bondi terror attack and the Perth Invasion Day attack, standing in solidarity with affected communities and reinforcing our commitment to safety, inclusion and support for students. We are also closely monitoring the proposed university “scorecard” from the Special Envoy for Antisemitism and the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion, working nationally through NUS to protect student voice, civil liberties and academic freedom. At the NUS Presidents’ Summit, national strategy was aligned around cost-of-living pressures, governance reform and coordinated campaigning for 2026. On campus, we continue to advocate for permanent parking and transport solutions following the loss of more than 1,100 bays.

Operationally, momentum across the Guild remains strong. Major capital works are progressing throughout the Guild Precinct, including new equity spaces, expanded Student Assist facilities and planning for Tavern and GC Central refurbishments. During the temporary Musalla closure, the Guild stepped up to establish a dedicated prayer space within the Precinct to ensure students were supported in the lead-up to Ramadan, while continuing to work with Curtin to expedite reopening. O-Week was a vibrant and well-attended success, with strong engagement across all events, including two popular Speed Friending sessions and a large Guild O-Day welcoming thousands of students. Following misinformation regarding stall allocations, the Guild issued a public clarification and Senator Payman has since apologised. Our food security initiatives continue to expand, including a new partnership with Curtin Nutrition and Dietetics that has already delivered 93 ready-made meals to supplement the Guild Pantry, with further cook-ups planned throughout the year.

In solidarity,
Dylan

Meetings

University Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| 17/11/25 | Vice Chancellor | |
| 18/11/25 | Global Positioning Committee | |
| 18/11/25 | PVC Humanities | Discussion on AI with other Guild Reps |
| 20/11/25 | Academic Board Executive | |
| 21/11/25 | Director of LITEC | Discussion on joint projects regarding teaching excellence |
| 2/12/25 | Curtin Legal & People & Culture | Discussion with Guild staff regarding the HE Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender Based Violence |
| 16/12/25 | Dr Sam Owen | Amplified Equity interview |
| 21/1/26 | Vice Chancellor | |
| 12/2/26 | Director, Assessment 2030 | With VPE |

Guild Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|----------|---------------------------|--|
| 20/11/25 | Pharmacy 777 | Discussion on improving pharmacy services on campus |
| 20/11/25 | Guild Council | |
| 15/12/25 | Health & Safety Committee | |
| 15/12/25 | Executive Committee | |
| 16/12/25 | Managing Director | Discussion on PD’s for GM Student Services and GM Corporate Services |

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|---------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 7/1/26 | MD, Governance Officer, Secretary | Introduction meeting |
| 20/1/26 | Executive Committee | |
| 21/1/26 | GM Student Services Interview | |
| 21/1/26 | GM Student Services Interview | |
| 21/1/26 | GM Student Services Interview | |
| 27/1/26 | Tavern & GC Central Walkthrough | With design firm regarding refurbishment works |
| 29/1/26 | Student Assist Manager Interview | |
| 29/1/26 | Student Assist Manager Interview | |
| 29/1/26 | Student Assist Manager Interview | |
| 30/1/26 | Manager, Student Assist | Discussion on Student Assist Cate Type Review with VPE |

Other Meetings/Activities

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 12/1/26 | Australia Awards Scholars Welcome | |
| 26/1/26 | Invasion Day Rally | |
| 7/2/16 | Graduation Ceremony | |
| 9/2/26 | O-Week Official Welcome Speech | |
| 9/2/26 | Toga Advertising on Promenade | |
| 9/2/26 | Guild Survival Guide Presentation | With VPE |
| 10/2/26 | Speed Friending | In the Tav for the first time, fantastic turnout |

Matters of Representation

NTEU Industrial Action

The industrial dispute between Curtin University management and the NTEU Curtin Branch is continuing to evolve, with protected industrial action now underway and the potential for ongoing disruption across Schools and Faculties. Staff have sought to minimise the impact on students, including attempting to continue teaching online during the campus attendance ban, however management decisions have escalated the situation. The Guild remains in clear solidarity with Curtin staff and maintains that responsibility rests with management to reach a fair agreement and ensure students are not disadvantaged. Representatives are encouraged to stay informed and direct students to the Guild's dedicated Industrial Action page for the latest updates and FAQs:

<https://guild.curtin.edu.au/theguild/projects/standingwithstaff/>

University Merger Feasibility Study

Discussions regarding a potential university merger continue at a high level, however at this stage I have not received any concrete detail beyond indications that further information may be forthcoming in the coming months. There has been no formal proposal, timeline or model presented to the Guild to date. While we await greater clarity, we remain vigilant and prepared to engage immediately should any substantive developments arise, ensuring that student representation, governance protections and the long-term interests of Curtin students are front and centre in any future discussions.

Bondi Terror Attack

Following the terrorist attack at Bondi Beach, the Curtin Student Guild issued a public statement condemning the violence, mourning the harm inflicted on the community, and standing with the victims, their loved ones, and the Jewish community. We made clear that antisemitism and hatred

directed at people because of their faith or identity have no place in our society or on our campus. In our communication to students, we acknowledged how distressing this news can be and directed students to Curtin's counselling and wellbeing services, Guild support services, and Lifeline for immediate assistance. We also urged our community to act with care and humanity, asking people not to circulate graphic or intrusive footage that could retraumatise families and cause further harm. Since then, we have reiterated our commitment to campus safety and inclusion and continued working to ensure Curtin remains a place where all students feel safe, respected and supported.

Invasion Day Terror Attack

Following the attack at the Perth Invasion Day rally, the Curtin Student Guild issued a strong public statement condemning the violence and standing in unwavering solidarity with First Nations people. The rally was a First Nations-led gathering for mourning, truth-telling and remembrance, and the act of violence placed thousands in serious danger. The incident has now been declared terrorism. The Guild was in attendance on the day, including myself and other elected representatives, and we had a tent set up providing water, sunscreen and signs in support of attendees. We stand with First Nations organisers, speakers, attendees and students, and we support calls for this act to be treated as terrorism and as a hate crime. I have ensured that all Guild representatives who were present have been provided with referral details for the Guild's Employee Assistance Program, and this incident will be discussed at the next Guild Health and Safety Committee meeting. This has no place in our society. We must call out racism and hatred wherever we see it. It will not deter the Guild from standing in solidarity with First Nations people and their right to gather, mourn and speak truth safely.

Special Envoy for Antisemitism & Antisemitism and Social Cohesion Royal Commission

The Curtin Student Guild is concerned by the proposed university "scorecard" system advanced by the Special Envoy on Antisemitism, which would assess and publicly rate universities on their handling of antisemitism and campus protest. While antisemitism must be confronted wherever it appears, we are deeply cautious of mechanisms that risk conflating legitimate political speech, including peaceful protest against genocide and state violence, with hate speech. Universities must remain places of rigorous debate and protected academic freedom. Any framework that pressures institutions to suppress lawful protest or silence critical scholarship would undermine those core principles. At the same time, we are closely monitoring the development and work of the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion. It is essential that efforts to address antisemitism strengthen safety and inclusion without eroding democratic freedoms on campus. The Guild is working with other student unions and the National Union of Students on a coordinated national response to ensure student voice, civil liberties and academic freedom are protected.

NUS Presidents' Summit

I attended the 2026 NUS Presidents' Summit held at Swinburne University on 5–6 February where student leaders from across the country came together to coordinate national strategy and share campus priorities. The summit included sessions on the National Student Ombudsman, TEQSA, gender-based violence prevention, SSAF negotiations, media strategy, campaigns, and governance, alongside roundtables with the NTEU and other peak bodies. A strong focus was placed on cost-of-living pressures, reversing Job Ready Graduates, strengthening student union independence, and building national coordination for 2026 campaigns. The summit provided a valuable opportunity to align Curtin's work with national advocacy priorities, strengthen relationships with other Student Union Presidents, and ensure Curtin students are well represented in the broader national student movement.

Parking, Transport & Food for Fines

Parking pressures on campus continue to intensify, with 520 bays closed due to the B316 project and more than 600 bays removed as part of the WA Government-led Australian Hockey Centre development. While we welcome several positive steps — including the new Curtin Link On Demand free bus servicing the immediate area, the announcement of free parking weeks later in the year, reduced pricing in some yellow-zone multi-deck parks, and Curtin’s commitment to open overflow parking — these are temporary measures in the face of a structural problem. Simply asking students to “deal with it” is not good enough. The Guild is calling for urgent planning and delivery of permanent parking solutions, including a large new multi-deck carpark, alongside improved public transport options such as express buses connecting Curtin to Canning Bridge, Oats Street and the CBD via the Murray Street Campus. We will be advancing this work in the coming months. We also acknowledge Curtin’s decision, following Guild advocacy, to expand Food for Fines to four times per year. However, with much of the parking pressure driven by the Hockey Centre closures, the WA Government must also step up and commit to proper transport solutions, including express bus services, to address the disruption their project has created.

Guild Operations**Precinct Plan & Capital Works**

A number of capital works projects are progressing across the Guild Precinct. Works upstairs in B106F are advancing well, delivering new office spaces and expanded workstations aligned with the new Guild organisational structure approved last year. In B106B and B106F downstairs, approved concept sketches will now move into detailed design before Properties approval, tendering and construction. These projects will establish new equity spaces, including accommodation for the Ethnocultural Department, expand club storage, introduce swipe-card roller door access, and deliver two new shared Student Assist offices, consultation rooms, additional representative work points and an event preparation space. Planning is also underway for the Tavern and GC Central refurbishments, with site walkthroughs and a Request for Proposal process to identify project partners before design commences in Q1–Q2 and staged construction in Q3–Q4. The Clubs Hub capital project has now been finalised with new window decal signage installed, while the Student Kitchen signage project is nearing completion alongside planned installation of a noticeboard and TV screen before Semester 1. Guild Precinct signage updates are ongoing in line with the new branding, and the courtyards have been earmarked for further redevelopment, potentially integrated with the Tavern and GC Central works, to ensure these spaces better meet student needs.

Musalla Closure and Temporary Prayer Space

Curtin Properties has temporarily closed the Curtin Musalla to undertake essential air-conditioning works, with limited alternative prayer spaces available in the lead-up to O-Week and the beginning of Ramadan. In response, the Curtin Student Guild has stepped in to establish a temporary prayer space within the Guild Precinct to ensure students continue to have access to appropriate facilities during this period. The Guild Club HQ Temporary Prayer Space (B106B) includes separate Men’s and Women’s Prayer Spaces, as well as a dedicated Ramadan Sister Safe Space which will remain open throughout Ramadan. The space will operate Tuesday 3 February to Friday 6 February from 7am to 4pm (closed weekends), and Monday 9 February to Monday 16 February from 7am to 7pm (closed weekends), with any changes communicated via the Guild Ethnocultural Department Instagram page. We are working closely with Curtin to ensure the Musalla reopens as soon as possible and to improve planning and communication around future disruptions so that student and staff needs are properly supported. We also thank Curtin Multifaith Services for their collaboration during this time. Students

may also access the Curtin Multifaith Prayer and Meditation Room (B109), which is available for prayer, meditation and other spiritual purposes.

O-Week

O-Week was a fantastic start to the year, with strong attendance across all events and a vibrant atmosphere on campus. A huge thank you to VPA Thani Rowe for her tireless efforts throughout the entire week — your leadership and energy made it all possible. Highlights included two incredibly successful Speed Friending sessions and a massive Guild O-Day that welcomed thousands of students to campus. A big shout out as well to all Faculty Representatives, and to the PSC and ISC Presidents, who delivered outstanding welcomes on behalf of the Guild. It is shaping up to be a big year ahead, and I am excited for what we will achieve together.

Comments from Senator Fatima Payman

The Guild issued a public statement clarifying the facts regarding stall allocations at Guild O-Day following incorrect claims made by Senator Fatima Payman. The Senator has since apologised to the Guild. We are now working to arrange a meeting with her to rebuild the relationship and will use that opportunity to discuss the Guild's priorities and advocate for the issues that matter most to Curtin students.

Food Security Initiatives

The Guild has launched a new partnership with Curtin Nutrition and Dietetics to cook nutritious meals to supplement the Guild Food Pantry. Our first cook-up produced 93 nourishing meals, which have been frozen and are now available to students accessing pantry support. This initiative strengthens our food security efforts by ensuring students can access ready-made, healthy meals when they need them most. A huge thank you to the student nutritionists who generously volunteered their time, to Dr Rebecca Russell for her leadership in bringing this partnership to life, and to VP Sustainability & Welfare Morgan Mills for coordinating the Guild side of the project. The goal is to continue this partnership across the year, with at least three more cook-ups planned.

Vice President – Education
February Representation Board (08/12/2025 – 28/02/2026)
Hadiya Naeemi (She/Her)

University/External Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|--------------------|---|--|
| 8/12/25 – 11/12/25 | National conference of the national union of students | The conference was only two days long because of delays and lack of quorum. |
| 31/01/2026 | NUS WA meeting | Met with the State Branch President to discuss potential campaigns and Curtin-specific issues, including teaching placements and freedom of speech on campus. |
| 03/02/2026 | Courses committee | Presentation and discussion of new courses for recommendation. Changes to workload were considered, but overall benefits were aimed at improving student outcomes. |
| 04/02/2026 | Student success strategy | This was a workshop done with the student success team it involved reviewing data on student support services to identify gaps, strengths and opportunities to better serve students. The audit focused on vulnerable cohorts, personalised versus general support and the overall student experience. |
| 5/02/26 – 6/02/26 | WA teaching and learning forum | A two day forum held on campus, including seminars and workshops led by academics from universities across WA. Topics ranged from AI in classrooms to equity in teaching. This was insightful for understanding the most pressing issues among academics and strategies being used to address them. |
| 09/02/2026 | Uni Survival Guide | Presented with the President at Curtin Stadium. The turnout was strong, and students asked questions regarding parking, TOGA, and other services. |

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|------------|-------------------------|---|
| 11/02/2206 | O-Day Stall | Hosted a stall with two giveaways and a survey. Distributed flyers explaining the Guild's services and promoting the First Year representative. Promoted NUS campaigns, including teaching placements and student rights, to raise awareness and provide support. |
| 12/2/24 | Guild x assessment 2030 | Attended with the President and participated in discussions regarding the progression of Assessment 2030. Conversations focused on strategies to increase student awareness and engagement with the initiative, ensuring students are informed. |

Guild Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 20/01/26 | Exec Committee | |
| 28/01/26 | All faculty meeting | We took this time to brainstorm ideas, an interfaculty event and campaigns. |
| 30/01/2026 | Student assist case type review | This was with the president and involved reviewing a case review one by student assist. |
| 10/02/26 | All faculty meeting | |
| 17/02/26 | Exec committee | |
| 26/2/24 | Exec Committee | |

Since starting this role, I have been actively attending meetings and engaging with students and fellow representatives to understand their concerns and identify the most pressing issues affecting them. This period has focused on listening, gathering feedback, and determining priorities for the year to ensure that the Guild is addressing what matters most to students. Through these discussions, it has become clear that key challenges include parking, placement difficulties, and other ongoing student needs. These insights are guiding my focus for the year and informing how the Guild can best support students, advocate on their behalf, and create meaningful opportunities for engagement on campus.

Events

Semester 1 O-Day

The Guide to Survive presentation went well; the President and I delivered this to students in the stadium. While over 100 students attended, the stadium was larger than necessary, so a smaller venue could be considered in future. Many students raised concerns about parking and had general queries regarding the Guild, our services, and TOGA.

At the Guild representation stall, my focus was on student outreach. I distributed flyers about the NUS WA and included links to the Guild website where students could learn more about their national union and their representatives. I also conducted a survey covering topics such as parking, placements, and assessment weightings. The goal of the stall was to ensure students understand what the Guild does and who represents them, know they have a space on campus for support and are aware that their unions advocate on their behalf.



Vice President Sustainability and Welfare

February Representation Board (02/12/2025 – 19/02/2025)

Morgan Mills (they/them)

University/External Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 15/12/2025 | We All Need to Pee | |
| 12/01/2026 | Student meals and food charter | Met with Dr Rebecca Russell regarding the production of frozen meals for the Guild Pantry |
| 15/01/2026 | Curtin Sunflower Program launch | |
| 02/02/2026 | University Health and Safety | |
| 03/02/2026 | Circle 8 smart bin negotiations | |
| 16/02/2026 | RAHU meeting | |

Guild Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|------------|--|------------------------------|
| 05/12/2025 | Accessibility Officer initial meeting | |
| 12/12/2025 | Queer Officer initial meeting | |
| | Women's Officer initial meeting | |
| | Gender-based violence Policy and Procedures review | |
| 15/12/2025 | Guild Health and Safety | |
| | First Nations Officer initial meeting | |
| 05/01/2026 | Ethnocultural Officer initial meeting | |
| 07/01/2026 | Draft Procedures for HDR students | With Andrew, Jael and Hadiya |
| 28/01/2026 | Food pantry discussion | With Myles and Andrew |
| | ISC President initial meeting | |

Updates

Food Charter

Work towards the food charter has commenced, with the creation of frozen meals for the food pantry in O-Week. This is the initial stage of the proposed food charter, with further additions being made as the charter is developed and implementation begins.

Guild Courtyard

Renovations of the Guild courtyard outside of the Tav have begun, with the fake grass having been removed and plans to introduce new plants into the giant plant pots being created. Cushions are also being purchased for the benches currently there.

Events

Semester 1 O-Day

Semester 1 O-Day was a raving success. For my stall, I created a selection of freebies containing reusable straws, plantable paper to-do lists, skin care samples and a flyer advertising the welfare and sustainability initiatives the Guild currently runs.

I was able to gather some feedback regarding what students want in terms of sustainability and welfare on campus, which I will endeavor to include throughout my term. This includes tree planting events, community gardens and increasing the number of period products on campus.

Filling Plates, Fuelling Futures

On the 12th of February, the Guild in conjunction with Dr Rebecca Russell from the School of Population Health prepared and cooked 93 meals. These meals have been frozen and are now available as part of the Guild Pantry initiative. The meals made are all halal and high in nutritional value, offering students a premade option to supplement their other pantry products.

A mixture of vegetarian and meat meals were made, with options being either Pumpkin and Red Lentil Dahl with Rice or Moroccan Chicken and Chickpea Tagine with Rice. Recipe cards for both meals will be made available at the pantry for those who wish to recreate them using the ingredients that are available.

Not only is this initiative part of an ongoing plan to improve food security on campus, but it also provides students with an opportunity for learning basic food literacy skills and gain volunteer experience.

Key Performance Indicators

| INDICATOR | DELIVERABLES | STATUS |
|--|--------------|--------|
| Attendance at 80% of required meetings | | |
| Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress towards KPIs | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum two (2) events per semester (either portfolio events or Guild events) | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign) | | |
| Completion of handover report for successor | | |
| Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training | | |
| Develop and begin the implementation of a food charter | | |
| Improve sustainable measures taken by the Guild | | |
| Enhance student experience by renovating common spaces so that they promote sustainability and comfort | | |
| Continue to promote and endorse respectful | | |

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| relationships and student safety on and off campus | | |
| Continue working towards improving student accommodation living conditions | | |
| Advocate for improved access to transport for travel to and from campus | | |
| Continue working towards improved recycling and sustainability through management of the recycling hub | | |
| <p>Effectively manage the equity reps and ISC president by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing support on their campaigns - communicating any potential welfare or sustainability issues relevant to their area - hosting regular fortnightly check in meetings | | |

Faculty of Business and Law Representative

December 2025 - February 2026

Overview

Since my induction in December 2025, I have been familiarising myself with the role and undertaking my responsibilities. So far I have focused on student advocacy, club and society support, engagement with students across orientations and major Guild events, and participation in planning processes.

Club and Society Engagement

I have prioritised consistent engagement with FBL-affiliated clubs to understand their needs and advocate for better support. I also believe it is important to build on these relationships as these are the most engaged students in the faculty.

- **Curtin Tax Society:** concerns were raised about member engagement, work-life balance pressures on committee members, and a desire for training opportunities such as social media skills. We also discussed classroom engagement and career promotion opportunities.
- **Curtin Student Law Society:** discussing diversification of presenters beyond commercial law, their first-year mentorship program, and interest in collaborating on an International Women's Day event. The club also sought clarity around executive responsibilities during renewals.
- Convened and attended the **FBL Clubs and Societies Meeting #1**, where a recurring issue was difficulties with club renewals, particularly for Women in Business and the Curtin Marketing Association. These concerns were raised as requiring additional support from the Clubs team.
- Met with **Curtin Consulting Group**, whose executive explained challenges relating to inactive status caused by delayed committee inductions. I supported their requests for assistance with renewals and raised concerns regarding inconsistent communication and turnaround times from the Clubs team, particularly given upcoming events.

| Date | Meeting/Event | Comment |
|---------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1/12/25 | Induction Day | An opportunity to learn my role and duties. |
| | Representation Board Meeting #1 | We had the first Representation Board Meeting and became the Guild Council Finance and Risk and Legal Committee member |

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| 12/1/26 | FBL Rep Meeting with Curtin Tax Society | Wanted advice on how to keep members engaged. Requested that there be some sort of Social Media course available. Discussed work/life balance and the additional pressure of being a club leader. Also wanted to get in front of classrooms to talk about their club and careers in Tax. |
| 19/1/26 | Meeting with Student re Outdated Unit Content | Appears to be the same unit content since 2015. There is no in person lectures, and they aren't accessible (flipped model). Student stated that "degree feels like its being run just for the money". Low quality content generally. There is an internship unit where student had to pay for the course and then work 120 hours without pay. Student said they were meeting with Leigh Smith to discuss it further. |
| 20/1/26 | Meeting with Curtin Student Law Society | Trying to find presenters from non-commercial careers/firms. Discussed their first-year mentorship program. CSLS Expressed an interest in running an International Women's Day event and want FBL Rep and Women's Officer in attendance. Want more clarity around the responsibilities of club renewals (previous or new exec...) |
| 21/1/26 | Meeting with Hannah Northy | An opportunity to ask questions about my role and asked for advice regarding several issues. |
| 26/1/26 | Invasion Day Rally | Attended the Invasion Day Rally. There were many speakers who shared important stories with the crowd. I was able to help hand out water and placards to others in the crowd and offer support. When we were asked to leave the nature of the situation was very unclear. I am very concerned about the situation society is in for an individual to bomb a peaceful gathering in WA. |

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| | | I am concerned about what this means for protests we attend in future and believe there needs to be clearer communication from the police. |
| 28/1/26 | FBL Clubs and Societies Meeting #1 | Common theme was issues with club renewals. Particularly from Women in Business and Curtin Marketing Association. Both asked for additional support from the Clubs team. |
| 28/1/26 | Faculty Reps and VPE annual Plan Meeting | Discussed campaign ideas such as parking, know your rights campaign and cost of living campaigns. |
| 9/2/26 | Guild Gardens | Was dressed in a Toga and speaking to students encouraging them to come to Toga. Was a chance to meet lots of students and answer questions about the role of the Guild. |
| 10/2/26 | Speed Friending | Was a rep helping at this event. There were many more students than expected in attendance. It was good to see so many students in the Tav and I believe everyone handled the changes to the plan well, with many students since telling me that speed friending helped them break the ice. |
| 10/2/26 | FBL Postgraduate Orientation | Introduced myself to lots of postgraduate students and answered their questions about the guild. There was an FBL club expo on as well, and this was another opportunity to speak with clubs. |
| 11/2/26 | Guild O-Day | I spoke to many students with many entering the raffle to win a \$100 visa gift card and some FBL merch. There were lots of questions about study tips and where to get support. I gave away all merch from the FBL Student Engagement team and around half of the flyers from the Guild. |
| 11/2/26 | Meeting with Curtin Consulting Group | Their President explained that they are still on an 'Inactive' status. The main |

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| | | <p>cause for this is members of their committee not completing their induction tasks on time. They have 20+ committee members.</p> <p>Have requested help for renewals and also stated that there are inconsistent turnaround times for answering emails etc.</p> <p>The executive are concerned about how the inactive status will affect their events that they have in the first few weeks of semester.</p> |
| 12/2/26 | FBL Undergraduate Orientation | Presented to 1200 students and explained the role of the guild. |

| INDICATOR | COMMENTS | STATUS |
|---|---|---------------|
| Attendance at 90% of required meetings | I have attended all meetings so far. | Ongoing |
| Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress towards KPIs | | Ongoing |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum two (2) campaigns per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign) | | Ongoing |
| Remain involved with the Guild's Housing Campaign | I have pitched the idea of giving out heat stress bags and have contacted the Red Cross to request to collaborate with them on this initiative. | Ongoing |
| Advocate for and be involved with a Students at Work campaign/ Know your Rights campaign | In all of my orientation presentations I have gone over extensions in the wellbeing section of my presentations. | Ongoing |
| Work with FBL clubs to gather feedback about existing clubs and societies rules and advocate for improvements to current policy | I have already met with 3 clubs and have been gathering their feedback. | Ongoing |
| Completion of handover report for successor | | Ongoing |
| Completion of mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training | | Ongoing |
| Update the Guild FBL Facebook and Instagram Pages at least fortnightly | I have been regularly reposting club and opportunity information. | Ongoing |

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| with Guild News, events and workforce/internship /networking opportunities for students | | |
| Host a Guild stall on the Law school city campus at least once a trimester | | Ongoing |
| Maintain relationships with the FBL staff throughout the year | I have begun to build relationships with the FBL student engagement team. | Ongoing |
| Oversee any survey projects to find issues within the faculty | | Ongoing |
| Collaborate with other representatives to continue the assessment feedback campaign | | Ongoing |
| Advocate for students in FBL regarding the rollout of Assessment 2030, with some staff already implementing changes. Ensure student voices are heard at all stages of the rollout. | | Ongoing |
| Install a period product dispenser at the Murray St campus | | Ongoing |
| Advocate for the cost of living to students to be reduced at the Murray St campus | | Ongoing |
| Expand Guild services and Guild presence at the Murray St campus | | Ongoing |
| Advocate for express bus services from Curtin Bentley to other major public transport hubs | | Ongoing |

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| Advocate for improved air conditioning at the Murray St campus | | Ongoing |
| Advocate for the installation of noticeboards for club and guild events at the Murray St campus | | Ongoing |
| Advocate for improved wellbeing practices for students studying in trimesters | | |

Science and Engineering Faculty Report

Connie Butcher (She/Her)

Representation Board – 19th February 2026

| Date | Meeting/Event | Comments |
|------------|--|---|
| 24/11/2025 | Meeting: Intro to dean of learning and Teaching, Daniel Southam and Director of Student Engagement, Marc Stoitis | The previous Sci-Eng Rep, Cooper Henrickson invited me to a meeting with the Dean of L&T as well as the Director of SE. This was a really informative meeting and really allowed me to start understanding my role and how I can contribute to the faculty. |
| 01/12/2025 | Guild Induction | |
| 01/12/2025 | Reps Board | First Meeting |
| 23/01/2025 | Meeting: SDP Introduction | Familiarised with how Student Discipline Panels are run, and preparation required |
| 27/01/2026 | SDP | 6 Cases in the Panel. AI Generated Content, False/Inaccurate Citations (AI), Fabrication, Cheating. |
| 28/01/2026 | Meeting: Faculty Rep Event Brainstorm | Meeting with fellow faculty reps to brainstorm ideas for an interfaculty event and campaigns we could run |
| 05/02/2026 | Meeting: Faculty Graduate Studies Committee | First FGSC Meeting. Introduced to faculty staff, discussion of ongoing and new problems with HDR students, goals for 2026 and how the guild can be involved. |
| 06/02/2026 | Meeting: Faculty Dean of Teaching and Learning | Introduction meeting with Daniel Southam. Discussed the upcoming FCC meeting and my role as the student voice. Also discussed what has been a previous point of discussion in 2025 FCC meetings. Went on to review different statistics for Sci-Eng faculty and potential ideas to explore for campaigns. |
| 09/02/2026 | Women+ in STEM Meet and Greet | I attended a very casual women+ in STEM as the Guild Rep. I found it a great place to ask students if they knew what the Guild was, and launching my survey/giveaway idea. I also encouraged the attendees to create a group |

| Date | Meeting/Event | Comments |
|------------|--|---|
| | | chat for their cohort of Women+ in STEM, which they did. I answered many questions regarding EFY units and corrected any misinformation about laptops to use, stigmas in the university and even just generalisations about different disciplines/majors. |
| 09/02/2026 | Postgraduate Orientation | Me and the PG President, Jael Wafula presented at the PG orientation. We outlined what the guild does, what is available to them and stayed until the end to answer any questions. |
| 10/02/2026 | Meeting: Faculty Reps and VP-E Meeting | A very short meeting where we discussed different campaign ideas. Some of which involved inviting unions to O-day, providing heat relief kits to housing students and also just general catch up before O-day. |
| 10/02/2026 | Speed Friending Orientation Event | This was a very busy session where students were encouraged to routinely swap between tables and were given an icebreaker 'would you rather question'. A great way to meet students and put my face out there. |
| 11/02/2026 | Guild O-day | This was an incredibly successful day for the Sci-Eng stall. We had many first years come forward interested in what the Guild was and how it contributed to student life. Most students I encountered were engineering or multi-disciplinary. Unfortunately, the stickers and keychain giveaways I had ordered had not arrived, which was disappointing, but I will give them out at our next event. I had many students follow the Instagram and complete the survey I had launched for the giveaway. |
| 11/02/2026 | Survey for Giveaway | I launched a survey as a task to enter a LEGO giveaway, which was a set of very comprehensive questions that would give me insight into what events/campaigns students were interested in seeing. It also asked students about common troubles they had run into as previous students and gained general |

| Date | Meeting/Event | Comments |
|--|---|--|
| | | statistics into who I was reaching and the problems arising from their experience. I will close the survey as of the 14 th Feb and will contact the winner via their student email. This will be followed by me reviewing the data collected and actioning it into ideas. |
| 11/02/2025 | Meeting: Faculty Courses Committee | First FCC Meeting. Very content heavy as we discussed course reviews, course deactivations, course name changes and more. It was very interesting to see the behind the scenes and I stayed back to discuss how I can contribute more to the meetings with my student perspective. Actionable items from this meeting are to understand the unforeseen impacts different decisions have on student learning. |
| 11/02/2026 | Science, Computing and Technology Orientation | I presented at the orientation for science, computing and technology students. I talked through what the Guild was and the services it offered to students. |
| 12/02/2026 | Engineering Orientation | I presented at the orientation for engineering students. I talked through what the Guild was and the services it offered to students. |
| 12/02/2026 | Science and Engineering Expo (science students) | This event was a lot slower than O-day, as the previous Sci-Eng rep had described it. I was able to have longer conversations with students, taking time to clarify misconceptions within the faculty. It was great to be able to connect with other students and provide more meaningful insight into the Guild and where I could get a better understanding of what students were looking for. |
| 12/02/2026 | Engineering Meet and Greet at Varsity | A very informal meet and greet as the faculty rep. I stayed at varsity for a few hours, introduced myself to many club members and had a few students introduce myself to them. |
| <p>The following meetings and events will occur between the submission of this report and representation board, I will cover them in detail in the next report, unless no comments:</p> | | |

| Date | Meeting/Event | Comments |
|------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 13/02/2026 | Guild Gardens Orientation Event | |
| 14/02/2026 | Graduation Ceremony #9 | Joined as part of the stage party. |
| 18/02/2026 | Meeting: Faculty Research Committee | First FRC Meeting |

Final Notes:

A lot of my time has been spent learning my position, reading old reports, and planning for O-week.

Orientation Debrief:

Women+ Meet & Greet:

The faculty of Science and Engineering ran the Women+ meet-and-greet, which allowed women+ in STEM to form friendships and study/support groups early, as they may not have had the opportunity in their classes due to STEM being a male-dominated discipline. I saw some amazing conversations and also recognised many familiar faces from the STEM+ GET outreach program, which the faculty outreach teams run. I encouraged them to network, join the giveaway and Instagram and form a Women+ STEM Group chat.

Science Orientation:

I unfortunately missed most of this orientation, as the FCC meeting cut into a large portion at the start. I spoke and stayed until the end to answer questions about the Guild. I did see the quiz they participated in, which seemed quite successful among the cohort. Scoring could have been slightly faster, and better coordination between the Sci-Eng staff would have helped, as there was miscommunication about who would read the scores out at the end.

Engineering Orientation:

Ran very efficiently. The presentation from the Sci-Eng student engagement team ran really well, focusing on how Oasis works and how to use it.

Postgraduate Orientation:

A very small cohort turned up for this (about 10% of enrolled students), hence it was discussed that we need to reach out to more PG students through the Guild or promote the importance of orientation. Students who missed the orientation will need to be directed on how the university operates.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

| INDICATOR | DELIVERABLES/COMMENTS | STATUS |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| Attend at least 80% of all required meetings across the year (Guild, faculty & portfolio) | | |
| Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that clearly demonstrates satisfactory progress towards each KPI and key issues. | | |
| Complete at least 70% of required weekly hours between 9am-4pm on weekdays in the guild office, unless alternative arrangements are approved. | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum two (2) events per semester (either portfolio events and/or Guild events) | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign) | | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Increase engagement with Sci-Eng students by posting and interacting with content weekly in the Faculty Facebook Group and on the Sci-Eng Instagram account. I will keep students up to date with faculty-wide email updates during key periods in the year.</p> | | |
| <p>Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training</p> | | |
| <p>Improve the atmosphere for Sci-Eng students by running at least 2 meet & greet stalls during the year and using these stalls to promote events, campaigns, and student support.</p> | | |
| <p>Maintain strong faculty & club relationships by having regular contact with faculty clubs through ongoing communication and attending club events where possible, to stay familiar with student & academic issues.</p> | | |
| <p>Have regular communication with the Dean of Learning and Teaching, and with the Director of Student Engagement</p> | | |

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| Completion of handover report for successor | | |
|--|--|--|

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

| INDICATOR | DELIVERABLES/COMMENTS | STATUS |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| Attend at least 80% of all required meetings across the year (Guild, faculty & portfolio) | | |
| Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that clearly demonstrates satisfactory progress towards each KPI and key issues. | | |
| Complete at least 70% of required weekly hours between 9am-4pm on weekdays in the guild office, unless alternative arrangements are approved. | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum two (2) events per semester (either portfolio events and/or Guild events) | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign) | | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Increase engagement with Sci-Eng students by posting and interacting with content weekly in the Faculty Facebook Group and on the Sci-Eng Instagram account. I will keep students up to date with faculty-wide email updates during key periods in the year.</p> | | |
| <p>Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training</p> | | |
| <p>Improve the atmosphere for Sci-Eng students by running at least 2 meet & greet stalls during the year and using these stalls to promote events, campaigns, and student support.</p> | | |
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| <p>Have regular communication with the Dean of Learning and Teaching, and with the Director of Student Engagement</p> | | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Completion of handover report for successor | | |
|---|--|--|

Zobia Laarayb
2026 Faculty of Health Sciences Representative

57th Guild Council || Meeting #2 – 19/02/2026

FACULTY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

(All KPIs are year-wide unless otherwise stated)

| INDICATOR | DELIVERABLES | STATUS |
|--|--|----------------|
| Attendance at 80% of required meetings | | Ongoing |
| Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress toward KPIs | | Ongoing |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign) | | |
| Completion of handover report for successor | To be put together by mid-November, and presented mid / late November. | |

| | | |
|--|---|----------------|
| | Includes one-on-one meeting/s with successor. | |
| Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training | | Ongoing |
| Increase Instagram following amount | Target amount: 750 followers on @curtinguild.healthsciences account. | Ongoing |
| Post or collaborate over Instagram with ALL relevant clubs at least twice | Ideally: post on story or upload 'collaborative post' with each Academic Health club (currently 13), at least twice during the year. | |
| Upload post or story on Instagram or Facebook at least once per week | Can include awareness posts, club posts, Representative work updates, relevant domestic or international "health day". | Ongoing |
| Establish Lab-Coat-Hire Program | Establish program allowing students to hire lab coats for short term usage; or could be strongly setting up this program for establishment in 2027. | |
| Host at least 1 inter-Representative event | Hosting at least 1 collaborative event with at least 1 other Guild Representative, ideally a Faculty or Equity Representative. | Ongoing |
| Progress the Paid-Placement campaign | Work with inter-university organisations and unions to secure significant updates and progression for the Paid Placement campaign. Can | |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | strengthen collaboration with Humanities Rep too on this. | |
| Talk about, present and/or testify at 3 committees / events with Student Feedback | Examples: at Teaching-Learning Forums, working groups, academic staff conferences. | |
| Investigate accuracy of Unit Outlines | Conduct an investigation into Unit Outlines and actual Unit progression, especially in terms of lecture hours and assessment expectations | |

REPRESENTATION BOARD REPORT

(Table followed by additional notes)

Between the previous Board and this Board, I conducted the following work:

| Date: | Meeting / Event: | Comments: |
|--------------|--|--|
| 13/01/2026 | Meeting with Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) Student Engagement Team | Introduced myself, set up with task of creating Orientation slides |
| 28/01/2026 | Faculty Representatives + VPE (Fac Reps + VPE) Meeting | <i>See below</i> |
| 03/02/2026 | Graduation – Schools of Medicine, Aboriginal Studies | <i>See below</i> |

| | | |
|------------|---|--|
| 04/02/2026 | Meeting with FHS Student Engagement Team | Finalised Orientation session schedule, discussed O-Day merchandise |
| 05/02/2026 | Attended WATLF Session | <i>See below</i> |
| 09/02/2026 | O-Week Orientation Sessions | <i>See below</i> |
| 10/02/2026 | Fac Reps + VPE Meeting | Identified 3 major campaigns to push collectively for this year. Focus was given to preparation for O-Day (the next day) |
| 10/02/2026 | Instagram Post advertising O-Day | <i>See below</i> |
| 11/02/2026 | O-Week O-Day Stall | <i>See below</i> |

Faculty Representatives + VPE Meeting (28/01/2026)

During this initial meeting, myself and the other Faculty Representatives, as well as the Vice-President of Education discussed issues we currently face at university, potential campaigns and potential collaborative events between the Reps. Meetings will be held roughly every fortnight moving forwards unless needed earlier.

Graduation Ceremony #1 (03/02/2026)

My first graduation ceremony. I was able to network briefly with the Dean of Teaching and Learning, with a member from the Funding and Scholarships team, and with an academic teaching staff member from the School of Medicine. I was invited to a workshop on a new teaching style from this staff member.

WATLF Session (05/02/2026)

This workshop was held as part of the WA Teaching and Learning Forum. The host of the session (Magdy Elnashar) introduced a teaching style using “FastFeedback” Questions with the use of AI. Briefly discussed the teaching style with other attendees, including the Dean of Teaching and Learning. I aim to keep in contact with the Dean to ensure I can explore all options related to one of my main focuses, which is providing world-class education to students by ensuring teaching staff have adequate teaching qualifications or training.

Orientation Sessions (09/02/2026)

Three Faculty of Health Sciences Orientation Sessions were held on this day. Two Undergraduate Sessions were held (with two Schools in each) and one Postgraduate Session. All three sessions ran very well, save for the first session where the visual system froze; however, I continued to deliver my section verbally. Verbal feedback in the days after the sessions have all been positive; the only potential improvement is ensuring the session does not feel content heavy, as the rest of the Orientation Session is quite content heavy.

The Postgraduate session was much smaller and intimate (~45 attendees as opposed to over 1000) but this allowed me to talk to a student after the session who expressed interest in O-Day.

For the future, I believe I will reuse my slides as they were well-made and only change the dates of events and include a new Campaign ‘win’ to the relevant section if achieved.

Instagram Post and General Social Media (10/02/2026 – onwards)

My first Instagram was posted the day before O-Day, advertising my O-Day and my survey. I believe this advertising could have benefited from earlier posting and coordination.

My general social media ideas for Instagram include:

- An About-Me post
- Census Date reminder story, one per semester
- Event advertising, with roughly 3-4 stories and 1 main post per event
- Scholarship and internship advertising stories
- Information on where to access Orientation Session recordings
 - This was requested by a student who attended O-Day, but was unable to find the recording of the Orientation Session they missed
- A number of funny reels occasionally posted during the year, either solo or collaboratively to engage students
- A 'goodbye' post, showcasing the events and campaigns run during 2026 both by myself and by the Guild

My general social media ideas for Facebook include:

- Moderation
 - Allowing the Facebook to continue as-is, as it is a much more quiet platform than the Instagram
- Event advertising, roughly 2 posts per major Health Faculty / Guild Health Representative / Guild event

O-Week O-Day Stall (11/02/2026)

I would like to give a shout-out to the two volunteers who offered and stepped in last minute to help out at my stall, Andrew and Jasmin. Thank you so much!

My O-Day stall was a brilliant success; the amount of merchandise I had available to showcase and distribute was very high and well-received. Though I started setting my stall a little earlier than others, I was unable to fully set-up before students started attending. This caused a few items to remain in their boxes and not be put out.

My stall had a high number of attendees, I assume this is because of my verbal push for O-Day during the Orientation sessions, as well as a last-minute O-Day Instagram post and story. I was able to explain the Guild's roles and my own role, as well as how to contact me and keep in touch.

I am currently running a giveaway of a number of prizes, with entry being a short survey asking questions about the student's course, any issues they expect or are currently facing and what issues they would like me to focus on this year. This giveaway was advertised during O-Day, but could have been advertised further. The giveaway will end on the 20th of February (the day after Reps Board #2), however the survey link will remain active for additional data collection after this time. The FHS Engagement Team has asked that I also collect data on how their Orientation Sessions ran and any improvements on them. As of 12/02/2026, the survey has 46 responses.

A student asked about Mature Aged student support; I believe this is an important matter that should be focused on as a large number of Mature Aged students receive very little acknowledgement and visible support. I will try to work on this during my term.

Most importantly: The stall was very positively received and gained the interest of a number of students who would like to know more about the Guild, potentially working with me this year or becoming a Rep themselves.

For the future: Reaching out earlier to find a volunteer for set up would be very helpful. Ensuring my volunteers have a quick briefing on how to explain the Guild and the different roles would be good, as well as telling them to encourage students to also talk to other Guild Reps that are relevant to the students.

Things to work on after this Reps Board:

- Investigate support given to mature aged students within the University and Guild, reach out to find interest in working on a larger project on this
- Get in contact with heads of Schools, relevant other Staff members
- Start attending meetings from the Faculty of Health Sciences wherever possible

Zobia Laarayb
2026 Faculty of Health Sciences Representative

57th Guild Council – 2026

FACULTY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

(All KPIs are year-wide unless otherwise stated)

| INDICATOR | DELIVERABLES | STATUS |
|--|--|---------------|
| Attendance at 80% of required meetings | | |
| Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress toward KPIs | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign) | | |
| Completion of handover report for successor | To be put together by mid-November, and presented mid / late November. | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | Includes one-on-one meeting/s with successor. | |
| Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training | | |
| Increase Instagram following amount | Target amount: 750 followers on @curtinguild.healthsciences account. | |
| Post or collaborate over Instagram with ALL relevant clubs at least twice | Ideally: post on story or upload 'collaborative post' with each Academic Health club (currently 13), at least twice during the year. | |
| Upload post or story on Instagram or Facebook at least once per week | Can include awareness posts, club posts, Representative work updates, relevant domestic or international "health day". | |
| Establish Lab-Coat-Hire Program | Establish program allowing students to hire lab coats for short term usage; or could be strongly setting up this program for establishment in 2027. | |
| Host at least 1 inter-Representative event | Hosting at least 1 collaborative event with at least 1 other Guild Representative, ideally a Faculty or Equity Representative. | |
| Progress the Paid-Placement campaign | Work with inter-university organisations and unions to secure significant updates and progression for the Paid Placement campaign. Can | |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | strengthen collaboration with Humanities Rep too on this. | |
| Talk about, present and/or testify at 3 committees / events with Student Feedback | Examples: at Teaching-Learning Forums, working groups, academic staff conferences. | |
| Investigate accuracy of Unit Outlines | Conduct an investigation into Unit Outlines and actual Unit progression, especially in terms of lecture hours and assessment expectations | |

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES REPORT

REPRESENTATION BOARD 19/02/26

GUILD MEETINGS:

| Date | Meeting | Notes |
|----------|---------------------|-------|
| 08/01/26 | Fac Reps Brainstorm | |
| 10/02/26 | Reps x VPE meeting | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS:

| Date | Meeting | Notes |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------|
| 16/12/25 | Guild x Hum L&T | |
| 05/02/26 | Guild X Hum L&T | |
| 18/02/26 | Humanities Inclusion & Belonging | |
| | | |
| | | |

PROJECTS:

OTHER:

I attended the NUS national conference with a few other Curtin colleagues.

Things have been quieter as university has been on break – much time has been spent on O-Week preparations

Unfortunately I cannot attend O-Week as I'm having a heart surgery and will need to recover.

Tom Harrowing (He/Him)

Faculty of Humanities Representative

FACULTY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

| INDICATOR | COMMENTS | STATUS |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| Attendance at 80% of required meetings | | |
| Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress toward KPIs | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign) | | |
| Completion of handover report for successor | | |
| Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training | | |
| Ensure that Humanities students on placements are paid and receive sufficient support. | | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Update the Humanities Facebook & Instagram pages with relevant news & events. | | |
| Keep in regular contact with Humanities faculty staff | | |
| School of Education – stay up to date on issues and advocate for solutions to issues emerging within the school, make sure course content is relevant, fair and that students are properly supported. | | |
| Work with the WA NUS and other relevant bodies to establish a long-term solution to the placement crisis | | |
| Establish a greater guild presence in the School of Design and Built Environment, fight for school-specific issues. | | |
| Contribute to efforts to unionise students and recent graduates | | |

February 2026 Representation Board Report – Student Assist

NOVEMBER – JANUARY OVERVIEW

Student Assist staff updates

Following the departure of Jo-Ann Naidu as Manager – Student Assist in October 2025, Student Assist Officer Andrew Cameron was Acting Manager of the portfolio from mid-December onwards.

Following the recruitment process, Andrew has now been appointed as Manager – Student Assist. Andrew would like to thank the Guild for this opportunity to lead a highly qualified and skilled team, and he looks forward to working with the student representatives, Guild staff, and the wider Curtin community to improve the student experience.

Case type review

Student Assist periodically reviews its service provision to ensure that it remains effective and impactful. A review conducted in January 2026 determined that Student Assist will no longer provide appointments for the following case types: Assessment Appeals, Assessment Extensions, Fees & Charges, Further Assessments, Conditional Status, Curtin Access Plan (CAP) Issues, and Credit for Recognised Learning (CRL) Issues.

Students seeking assistance with these matters will be directed to existing resources or referred to an appropriate alternative service within Curtin University. Student Assist are confident that these changes will not materially disadvantage students seeking support. The changes will allow Student Assist Officers to focus capacity on complex advocacy cases.

Details of the case type review are attached to this report.

SENCON

Student Assist Officer Myles Parish attended the Student Experience Network Conference in Brisbane in November. Myles attended 12 workshops during the conference focused on student experience matters and has shared his learnings with the team.

Myles's summary of his SENCON experience and learnings is attached to this report.

HDR Library drop-in sessions: Between October – December 2025, Student Assist trialled an in-person drop-in presence at the Library. Given its central location and frequent usage by HDRs, it was suggested the Library may function as a trusted space for HDR students to informally seek support without needing to make an appointment.

The session held on 25 November was attended by 2 students, with an additional student contacting the service for a private appointment. The session held on 16 December was attended by 1 student. Library staff have indicated that they are willing to continue the program in 2026, but Student Assist has temporarily paused the service due to difficulties resourcing the program during a period of reduced staff numbers. The program will resume when Student Assist staff capacity has improved.

Key Focus Areas

The reporting period represented a significantly higher caseload than previous years, with appointments driven by increased referrals from other services and reduced staff numbers.

- **Academic Support**

The focus for November - January was providing guidance to students for Academic Misconduct allegations, Assessment/Exam appeals, complaints, and terminated status.

- **Non-Academic Support**

During this period, Student Assist provided emergency relief to **17 students** through various grant programs.

| | November | December | January |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Academic sessions | 371 | 307 | 260 |
| Non – academic sessions | 43 | 73 | 78 |
| Total | 411 | 371 | 329 |

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

Additional Programs:

- **Food pantry**

Total of 72 students have accessed the food pantry during the reporting period. 52% of these students are accessing the program for the second time; 1 student accessed the program for the third time.

- **Loan Laptop Program**

A total of 2 laptops were loaned out to students during the reporting period.

- **Training/ Workshops**

No Lifehacks courses were run during the reporting period.

Student Assist Case Type Review

January 2026

Andrew Cameron, (Acting) Student Assist Manager

Summary

Student Assist periodically reviews its service provision to ensure that it remains effective and impactful. A review conducted in January 2026 determined that Student Assist will no longer provide appointments for the following case types:

Assessment Appeals, Assessment Extensions, Fees & Charges, Further Assessments, Conditional Status, Curtin Access Plan (CAP) Issues, and Credit for Recognised Learning (CRL) Issues.

Students seeking assistance with these matters will be directed to existing resources or referred to an appropriate alternative service within Curtin University.

Student Assist are confident that these changes will not materially disadvantage students seeking support. The changes will allow Student Assist Officers to focus capacity on complex advocacy cases.

Background and Context

Periodic case type reviews are essential to ensure that the Student Assist service remains relevant and effective. When accepting students for appointments, the service aims to prioritise complex case types that require the specialist knowledge held by Student Assist Officers. Consideration must also be given to ensuring that appointment volumes do not contribute to compassion fatigue or burn out among staff.

In recent years, a number of case types have been identified as falling outside the scope of the service. However, effective control measures have not consistently been employed to reduce the number of appointments offered for these cases. During the previous case type review in early 2023, it was determined that Student Assist would no longer provide appointments to Assessment Appeal cases. Despite this decision, the control measures implemented were not effective or sustained over time, and Assessment Appeal cases subsequently increased. The review undertaken in January 2026 therefore also sought to address the effectiveness of existing control measures.

It is noted that Student Assist experienced a significant increase in caseload between October and December 2025, coinciding with a period of reduced staff numbers. During this time, it became evident that certain case types had a disproportionate impact on service capacity when assessed against advocacy outcomes. For example, Assessment

Appeals represented 15% of all cases (171) in 2025, and 13% of sessions (529), despite being a case type for which limited advocacy is achievable.

Any increase in cases requiring Student Assist Officers to provide procedural advice only reduces the capacity available for complex matters that require specialist-informed advocacy. Additionally, case types in which advocacy is not possible, but where Officers are required to engage in difficult and emotionally charged conversations with students, can contribute to compassion fatigue among staff.

Decision-making process

Student Assist currently has 69 case types recorded in M Files.

As part of the review, the Student Assist team examined all case types that recorded more than 10 cases in 2025 to determine whether the service should continue offering appointments for these cases. A total of 20 case types met this threshold and were included in the review.

Each identified case type was considered against the following criteria:

Whether the case type involves advocacy, procedural advice, or both;

Whether the case type is complex or requires specialist knowledge;

The extent to which expectation management is required, including whether students are frequently resistant to advice;

Whether the case type commonly presents alongside, or as a result of, other case types;

Whether another internal Curtin service provides support for the case type;

Whether students can be referred to external services;

Whether the case type could be relabelled or combined with another case type for clarity.

In addition, Student Assist Officers Myles Parish and Margot Whittington are currently reviewing the categorisation of cases to ensure case types are labelled in the clearest and most cohesive manner possible. As part of this process, a number of case types will be consolidated for clarity; for example, Financial Relief and Emergency Relief cases will be combined under the single label *Financial Relief*.

Rationale and Alternative Support Pathways

As a result of the review, Student Assist will no longer provide appointments for the following seven case types:

Assessment Appeals, Assessment Extensions, Fees & Charges, Further Assessments, Conditional Status, Curtin Access Plan (CAP) Issues, and Credit for Recognised Learning (CRL) Issues.

Assessment Appeals

Rationale

Assessment appeals require students to identify inaccuracies in marking, such as errors in mark calculations or incorrect application of assessment rubrics. Cases involving simple miscalculations typically do not require extensive input from Student Assist, as teaching staff will often correct these errors when they are identified. More complex cases frequently require discipline-specific knowledge to justify assessment content against the rubric, which limits Student Assist's ability to effectively advocate across the wide range of disciplines offered at Curtin.

As a result, appointments for Assessment Appeals are almost exclusively focused on explaining procedural requirements, which are already outlined on both the Guild and Curtin websites. These cases also involve a high degree of expectation management, with students often conflating appeal processes with complaints. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that an increase in Assessment Appeal cases may be linked to challenges in managing student expectations at the faculty or unit level.

While no other Curtin service provides direct advice on Assessment Appeals, the relevant procedures are clearly documented and accessible via existing University and Guild resources.

Alternative Support Pathways

Students who present to the service with Assessment Appeal queries will be redirected to the relevant resources on the Guild and University websites, which provide sufficient guidance to support students through the appeal process.

Assessment Extensions

Rationale

The Assessment Extension process is extensively covered in Curtin online resources, as well as on the Guild website. Student Assist's ability to advocate for extensions is

limited, as supporting documentation is often required and must be provided by a GP, counsellor, or Student Wellbeing.

Student Wellbeing continues to effectively support students seeking Assessment Extensions.

Alternative Support Pathways

Students who present to the service with Assessment Extension queries will be referred to Student Wellbeing.

Where an extension request has been declined, or where a case involves additional complexity requiring advice on related processes (such as withdrawal or Refund and Remission), Student Assist will accept the appointment and provide advice and support as appropriate.

Fees & Charges

It is noted that, as an outcome of the review, the “Fees & Charges” case label in M-Files will be combined with the existing “Tuition Fees” case label for clarity.

Rationale

International students who are unable to afford course fees are required to follow Curtin’s approved payment plan or withdraw from their studies. These requirements are determined by University policy, and Student Assist does not have the capacity to negotiate alternative financial arrangements. Curtin Fees communicates these options clearly to students via email.

Fees and Charges appointments often involve difficult and emotionally charged conversations with students. Student Assist Officers have expressed concern that high volumes of these appointments may increase the risk of compassion fatigue.

Alternative Support Pathways

Students who present to the service with Fees and Charges queries will be directed to relevant information on the Guild website or to communications provided by Curtin Fees. Any potential visa-related impacts will be referred to Curtin International.

Further Assessments

Rationale

Further Assessments are determined entirely at the discretion of the Board of Examiners. There is no application process for students to request a Further Assessment, and no appeal mechanism if a Further Assessment is not granted. As a result, Student Assist appointments for these cases are limited to providing procedural

advice that is already available on the Guild website, and opportunities for advocacy are extremely limited.

Alternative Support Pathways

Students who present to the service with Further Assessment queries will be directed to relevant information on the Guild website.

Conditional Status

Rationale

Criteria for changes in academic status are prescribed in PC19, *Assessment and Student Progression – Policy and Procedures*. Where a student meets the criteria for Conditional Status, there is no appeal mechanism available. The University provides support resources for students placed on Conditional Status, including the development of a Student Success Plan. In these cases, Student Assist guidance is limited to reiterating information already provided through existing University resources.

Alternative Support Pathways

Students who present to the service with Conditional status queries will be directed to the information on the Guild and Curtin websites. Cases will be triaged and appointments offered where there is evidence of connected issues, such as Refund and Remission of Fees.

Curtin Access Plan (CAP) Issues

Rationale

Students seeking a Curtin Access Plan (CAP) are directed to Curtin's AccessAbility service. Students who believe that adjustments outlined in their plan have not been implemented are referred to Student Wellbeing and AccessAbility for support. Student Assist does not have the specialist knowledge required to advocate in cases where discipline-specific academic requirements limit or prevent the implementation of CAP adjustments. Student Wellbeing has proven effective in advocating for these cases, in conjunction with AccessAbility.

Alternative Support Pathways

Students who present to the service with CAP queries will be referred to Student Wellbeing and AccessAbility.

Credit for Recognised Learning (CRL) Issues

Rationale

The process by which students can apply for Credit for Recognised Learning (CRL) is outlined on the Curtin website. Applications are assessed by a Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor or delegate. Student Assist advocacy has proven unsuccessful due to the discipline-specific knowledge required to assess these applications. Appeals against unsuccessful outcomes likewise require demonstration of discipline-specific academic knowledge.

Alternative Support Pathways

Students who present to the service with CRL queries will be directed to information available on the Curtin website. Cases will be triaged and accepted where there is evidence of connected issues, such as enrolment matters.

Implementation and Control Measures

To implement these changes, Student Assist will notify Guild reception staff and ensure that existing email templates are updated and sufficient for referring students to appropriate alternative support pathways. Where reception staff are uncertain about specific cases, they will be able to contact a Student Assist Officer for guidance.

Student Assist will also inform relevant University services, including Student Wellbeing and Counselling, of the changes to ensure staff are aware of updated referral pathways when directing students for support.

If inappropriate referrals continue throughout the year, Student Assist will contact staff from relevant Schools or services to clarify service scope and support more effective referral practices.

The Student Assist Manager will review caseload data at the end of each month to monitor whether excluded case types continue to present to the service and to assess the effectiveness of referral and control measures.

A formal review of caseload trends and the effectiveness of control measures will be conducted in June and December 2026.

SENCON Report – submitted by Student Assist Officer Myles Parish

In November, I was fortunate enough to attend the Student Experience Network Conference (SENCON) in Brisbane. SEN members are drawn from teams at universities and student-led organisations that deal with student experience.

One of the things I learned there is that in the last couple of years SEN has made a concerted effort to expand their scope into advocacy. This is reflected in the relatively recent formation of the Alliance of Student Advocacy Services Australia (ASASA). Student Assist has been participating in ASASA for about 2 years, and it was great to get the opportunity to network with other fantastic advocates from around the country.

I attended 12 workshops at the conference:

- **Student Pulse Panel:**
 - **Content:** This was composed of student leaders from several universities around the country. It set the scene for the week to come – an exchange of ideas and discussion about the similarities and differences in challenges faced by students around Australia.
 - **Learnings:** The student experience with the cost of living crisis at Curtin is much the same around the country – many students cannot afford to meet their own basic needs and that pressure restricts them from full participation in their studies.
- **Share the Dignity Workshop:**
 - **Content:** This was focused on discussing period product distribution programs for communities that are run by Share the Dignity – for example, at Charles Sturt University they have installed [electronic vending machines that dispense free period packs containing period products](#). The workshop also provided an opportunity to share the success of our Guild’s program – I provided the details of our program to a number of different student organisations from the east coast.
 - **Learnings:** A partnership with Share the Dignity could be something to consider looking further into should there be a desire to expand the existing Guild-run program at Curtin.
- **Things You Didn’t Know About Wills and Questions for Your Lawyer:**
 - **Content:** This presentation from a prominent Brisbane family lawyer gave insight into the importance of managing your affairs from early adulthood. “You never know what might happen” and “You never know who you can really trust” were strong themes which ran throughout. 50% of adults in Australia do not have a will, which causes massive administration problems when they die, especially unexpectedly.
 - **Learnings:** Much of what was shared would be good advice for anybody to keep in mind; it will be useful information to share with students who disclose to us they are purchasing or inheriting high value assets or starting businesses. This information has been shared with the Student Assist team.
- **National Student Ombudsman Q&A:**

- **Content:** At the time of the conference, the NSO had only been operating for a few months, but the presenters shared complaint-making tips and insights into trends they're already seeing.
 - **Learnings:** We have experienced a high volume of cases in the last 12 months which ended in recommendations for students to lodge external complaints to the Ombudsman. The [NSO Annual Report 2024-25](#) contains a breakdown of how many complaints have been received about various institutions (page 54 onward if anyone is interested). This workshop helped reinforce confidence that the Ombudsman will take complaints seriously and detailed their internal processes.
- **The National Code and the Student Experience:**
 - **Content:** Dr Renee Hamilton, who led the development of the *Action Plan Addressing Gender-based Violence in Higher Education* and the resultant National Code, outlined compliance expectations and accountability requirements. Dr Hamilton gave a broad overview of each of the standards in the code, and the potential consequences for non-compliance.
 - **Learnings:** The workshop helped make sense of the reasoning behind implementing this code in the higher education sector as opposed to other sectors. It raised more questions than it answered about Student Guild/Union obligations under the Code, but this is now being worked through between the Guild and Curtin.
- **The OzHarvest Nest Program and Food Programs Round Table:**
 - **Content:** Monash University ran a cooking class program in partnership with OzHarvest, though found it became cost-restrictive. Presenter Stefanie Maccar, Volunteer Coordinator at the Monash Student Association, ran through different things they have tried since.
 - **Learnings:** Discussion with Stefanie may be beneficial when considering expanding the food scarcity support options at our own Guild if moving beyond the Student Pantry.
- **Neurodiversity at Work:**
 - **Content:** This workshop was focused on managing neurodivergent teams.
 - **Learnings:** There were important insights and recommendations to take away from it which are applicable when supporting neurodivergent students. We were reminded that “neurodivergent” is an identity, not a diagnosis, so when dealing with students who are neurodivergent it is important to remember that they are individuals and may require different things. These learnings have been shared with Student Assist staff for the purposes of refining service provision to neurodivergent clients.
- **ASASA Practice Standards:**
 - **Content:** Laura Murray, from UNELife at the University of New England, has taken the lead developing draft practice standards for advocacy services in the higher education sector.
 - **Learnings:** This roundtable workshop was an opportunity to provide feedback on Laura’s first draft. I also gained insights into how other services handle specific types

of cases. Student Assist has the potential to be a leading voice in these conversations due to our efficient and well-organised service. Student Assist Manager Andrew will be participating in the working group.

- **Engaging Online and Postgrad Students Roundtable:**
 - **Content:** Some early research by the Monash Student Association suggests that online and postgraduate students may sometimes feel robbed of being part of a student community through their chosen type of study. Lowan Sist, the Executive Officer at the Monash Student Association, has partnered with officers from several other universities, student unions, and guilds, and begun to look into better ways to support these students.
 - **Learnings:** Universities and potentially student associations could explore more opportunities to engage with online and postgrad students to create a community. The research and ideation is still in early stages, but updates will be provided through SEN channels as things develop.

- **FAIL As A Four-Letter Word:**
 - **Content:** This was a fascinating session presented by Jimi Bursaw, one of the leading advocates at the UQ Union. For the last 5 years, Jimi has been conducting a cross-sectional study into why students are failing – especially students who seem to have the “right” academic abilities to be the best students in a course – following numerous students through the life-cycles of their courses.
 - **Learnings:** To ask students, “Who else knows about this, aside from you and me?” There is a huge element of fear of failure amongst the student population and helping students approach those conversations is a key part of our role as advocates. It’s also apparent that the relationship between students and their university is often adversarial instead of co-operative towards a common goal. These learnings have been shared with the Student Assist team.

- **De-escalation – Responding to Distress With Confidence and Care/Compassionate Accountability – Balancing Performance and Wellbeing:**
 - **Content:** This two-pronged workshop looked at supporting distressed students from a management perspective. It was presented by Kim Copeland, who is a national leader in people-centred, trauma-informed approaches.
 - **Learnings:** Our team is moving towards a trauma-informed model of practice. It is useful to have periodic reminders of some of the core tenets (“acknowledge without necessarily agreeing”, tailoring our approach based on the needs of the person in front of us, and the idea “stress vs distress”)

- **From Policing to Pedagogy – Students and Learning in the Age of AI:**
 - **Content:** An overview of the research and reporting which has informed the development of the forthcoming *Australian Framework for Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education*.
 - **Learnings:** The framework will be important to keep an eye on as the University rolls out Assessment 2030 if questions arise about whether the University is appropriately engaging with AI use and tools (eg using it for marking assessments).

It was a great week and I fully encourage continued participation in SEN and ASASA by Student Assist.

International Student Committee Report

Tahsin Ibn Anowar (He / Him)

Representation Board – 19th February , 2026

University / External Meetings:

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|------------|--|--|
| 21 /1/2026 | Meeting with Beata (Coordinator of Café Connect) | |
| 06/02/2026 | Science and Engineering Pre Orientation Meet and Greet | Attended the SAE pre orientation meet and great for international students |
| 10/2/2026 | Meeting with Dean International | |

Guild Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|------|---------|----------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Leave Taken:

None

Further Notes:

Key Performance Indicators

| INDICATOR | DELIVERABLES | STATUS |
|--|--------------|--------|
| Attendance at 80% of required meetings | | |
| Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress towards KPIs | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum two (2) events per semester (either portfolio events or Guild events) | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign) | | |
| Completion of handover report for successor | | |
| Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training | | |
| Getting More Engagements through ISC socials especially Instagram through consistent content | | |
| Collaborate with clubs which represent different countries | | |
| At least 2 major events throughout the year | | |
| | | |

Reporting Period: January 2026/Year

Monthly President's Report – Postgraduate Student Committee

During this reporting period, my focus has been on establishing a strong foundation for the role through orientation, consultation, and planning. I have familiarised myself with the PSC office and reviewed Guild practices at Curtin and other campuses to draw insights into effective postgraduate engagement, representation, and event delivery models that can be adapted locally.

I have commenced preparation of Orientation Day (O-Day) materials, including content for the Guild website and printed materials for handouts and giveaways. This work aims to improve the visibility of the PSC and ensure postgraduate students have clear, accessible information about representation, support services, and opportunities to engage with the Guild at the start of semester.

I have liaised with postgraduate students and begun planning a postgraduate-focused social and engagement event to be held at the Tavern once the semester is underway and student presence on campus increases. Initial engagement has been with postgraduate students based in the Research Hub. Engagement with postgraduate students across additional faculties is planned as the semester progresses.

Consultation and collaboration have also been undertaken with other PSC and Guild members. This has included one in-person meeting and ongoing consultation via email, supporting coordination, role clarification, and alignment of early priorities.

Overall, this period has focused on groundwork, relationship-building, and planning to support effective delivery of events, campaigns, and representation activities in line with PSC objectives and KPIs.

Student Issues and Complaints

During the reporting period, several matters were raised with the Postgraduate Office. One case involved a postgraduate student who had failed an examination and required guidance and support. The student was assisted via email and advised on how to contact appropriate University support services to enable triage and timely assistance. In addition, Andrew Cameron provided clarification that the correct procedure for individual complaints is to lodge the matter through the Guild support service email, to ensure appropriate handling and escalation.

A further concern raised relates to postgraduate students with children being restricted from accessing the Postgraduate Research Hub. This issue has been noted as a potential equity and access concern. Observations from the Guild have been formally communicated to the Postgraduate Research Hub administration for consideration, and feedback is currently awaited.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Role: President, Postgraduate Student Committee Curtin University Guild

Reporting Period: 2026 Academic Year

| Indicator | Deliverables/Status |
|---|---|
| Attendance at 80% of required meetings | Ongoing |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure apologies are submitted in advance when attendance is not possible. | Ongoing |
| Submission of monthly report to Representation Board demonstrating progress toward KPIs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted, 30TH Jan 2026 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present key highlights verbally when required. | Ongoing |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for a minimum of two (2) events per semester | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking events ongoing arrangement |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to planning, promotion, delivery, and post-event evaluation. | Ongoing |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for a minimum of one (1) campaign per semester | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead or substantially contribute to at least one advocacy or engagement campaign per semester HDR wellbeing event planning underway). |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with Guild, student representatives, and relevant university stakeholders. | Ongoing |
| Completion of handover report for successor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comprehensive handover report including role overview, key contacts, ongoing projects, timelines, lessons learned, and recommendations underway |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit handover by end of term. | Pending |
| Completion of mandatory training within 45 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing, key trainers; Hadiya, Noor |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide confirmation of completion if required. | Ongoing |
| Strategic leadership and representation of postgraduate students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent postgraduate students at University and Guild forums-Ongoing. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for HDR and coursework postgraduate issues and contribute to policy and strategic discussions. | Ongoing |
| Effective communication and engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I use email, online and meetings. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to student queries in a timely and professional manner. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing |



Queer Officer

February Representation Board (01/12/2025 – 12/02/2026)

Astor Luk (they/them)

University/External Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| 15/12/2025 | Gender Equity and Inclusion | |
| 19/01/2026 | Curtin Connect | |
| 29/01/2026 | DVCA monthly meeting | |

Guild Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|------------|---------------|----------------|
| 29/01/2026 | Ally Training | In Tahni's car |

Updates

- Ally Training

I have received an email response from Soph from WAAC/Freedom Centre that they are happy to offer 1 free session per period (first one in March, then another after June 30.) A session will be for up to 20 participants for a 90-minute session. I have had a meeting with Tahni regarding how to promote this event. We suggested that tickets would cost \$5 with lunch provided. We can also market it towards all the Guild reps, as well as clubs such as health science and international relations, as a resume building event. Will have a meeting about it on Monday, also suggested to talk to Shelley or Luke to advice on promoting towards clubs.

- HIV vending machines

Karina from WAAC has confirmed that the HIV self-test vending machines are now at WAAC and are ready to be installed and will pay for the installation fee. Tanya has emailed WAAC to confirm the sizing of the vending machines so that they will fit in the proposed locations.

- Period product dispensers

After my tour of the Engineering Pavilion with Tahni, we have decided that it is more suitable to move the period product disperser from the mining building to the Pav instead as it is barely used there. I have emailed Stephenie to propose the idea and have gotten her approval, as well as gained access to the building. The final decision of where the dispenser should be located was decided with advice from Curtin Engineers Club. The dispenser is now located on the first floor of the Engineering Pavilion between the men's and women's bathroom as of 11th February. I will ask for feedback regarding the location after a month. If the students are happy with the location, I might propose to have the dispenser to be wall mounted instead so it does not block access to the poster wall as much.

- Deadnaming

I have been informed by Curtin Connect that they have tested the system for changing student email display names and having the correct information (legal/preferred name and initials) on eStudents a month ago. This should make name changing easier for classes. They are also attempting to use a universal attendance system to avoid deadnaming in tutorials. The attendance list would now show students preferred names, student ID numbers, and their photo.

- DVCA monthly meetings

I had my introductory meeting with Carlo. As we are both new to the role, we decided that we can probably figure it out as we go. I have asked him to set up monthly meetings with him in advance but has still gotten no reply.

Events

- O day

There were a lot of participants, and I have introduced people to what the Queer Department does and what my role is in Curtin. The giveaway was popular with around 60 participants. I have also guided multiple students to the library to get their preferred names printed on their student ID. The bag of he/him pronoun pins have been stolen, which lead to us taking out all the other pronoun pins and mixing them all in a box so they cannot be stolen.

Key Performance Indicators

| INDICATOR | DELIVERABLES | STATUS |
|--|--|--------|
| Attendance at 80% of required meetings | | |
| Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress towards KPIs | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum two (2) events per semester (either portfolio events or Guild events) | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign) | | |
| Completion of handover report for successor | | |
| Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training | | |
| Reach out to companies that do gender affirming clothing to have university discount | | |
| Implement a quick exit button on all university websites that contain LGBTQIA+ help/advice | | |
| Host a minimum of 1 community event per month during teaching weeks | | |
| Increase student engagement on all social media platforms | Reach 1000 followers on Instagram by November 2026 | |
| Meet with the Queer Collective at least once a month | | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Continuing on-going campaigns | Meet with the Deadnaming Working Group Keep in contact with WAAC regarding the HIV vending machines and Ally Training | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|



Accessibility Officer

February Representation Board (01/12/2025 – 12/02/2026)

Mia Antenucci (she/her)

University/External Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 13/01/2026 | DAIP Review Initial Meeting | |
| 14/01/2026 | Toilet Refresh Program | Meeting with Properties and AccessAbility Services |
| 20/01/2026 | Transport Campaign Curtin | |
| 30/01/2026 | Combined Event Meeting | With the UWA Access Officer |

Guild Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 15/01/2026 | Accessibility Matrix | Meeting with Caitlin |
| 22/01/2026 | Student Assist | |
| 5/02/2026 | O-Day Sensory Map | |

Updates

Toilet Refresh Program/Universal Accessible Toilet Improvements

14/01/2026

I met with Debbie from AccessAbility and Janet from Properties to discuss the proposed improvements to Universal Accessible Toilets (UAT) on the Bentley Campus. These changes included installing backrests, lowering the positions of light switches, fixing incorrect signage and correcting incorrect tap types. This does not address all of the issues in the UAT's. Other issues include the door swinging incorrectly, size of the UAT being too small and various other issues. I was told that the specific changes that were initially mentioned are going to be fixed either in late 2026 or early 2027 and that they have not hired a contractor yet.

Additionally, at least half of the UAT's on the Bentley campus are not accessible to the public as they require keycard access. This is often due to them being inside staff areas. Due to this the stated number of UAT's on campus is significantly higher than those which are available to students. I have been told that Properties are working on addressing this issue by including whether the toilet is accessible to the public on the Maps. They are also planning on including the direction of transfer for the toilets as well as some people, require a certain direction. I have been told that the Maps will be updated to reflect this change sometime during Semester 1 2026.

I was supplied with an Excel document which lists the locations of all the UAT's on the Bentley campus. I have categorized them in order to show their accessibility. I have provided this document to AccessAbility and I will also provide it to any student who requests it. Some of the toilets on the list are not on the Map and I have notified Properties of this discrepancy.

Accessibility Matrix

I have converted the Accessibility Matrix to an Excel document, and I have clarified some of the criteria for the different impact levels. I am planning on simplifying this document further to make it easier to use and available to students.

Event: O-Day

11/02/2026

I have updated the Accessibility Department flyers to include alternative text. My stall on O-day includes flyers for the Curtin Specialist Mentoring Program, Accessibility Department, Hidden Disabilities Sunflower, AccessAbility Services and various other programs. I am also giving away CAP brochures and Guide to Accessibility at Curtin brochures. I am also providing information packs which include the main flyers available. Students will also have an opportunity to join the Accessibility Collective, learn about Peer Support sessions and follow us on social media. I am also giving away earplugs, stickers, snakes and fidgets.

Event: Disability Information Session

18/02/2026

As for writing this report, I will be hosting a Disability Information Session on Wednesday 18/02. This is the first time that this event has been run and it will provide information to new students about CAP's, the Accessibility Department and other disability-related information.

Key Performance Indicators

| INDICATOR | DELIVERABLES | STATUS |
|--|--------------|--------|
| Attendance at 80% of required meetings | | |
| Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress towards KPIs | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum two (2) events per semester (either portfolio events or Guild events) | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign) | | |
| Completion of handover report for successor | | |
| Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training | | |
| Improve knowledge and access of Universal Accessible Toilets on the Bentley Campus for Students | | |
| Improve the accessibility information available to students for events | | |
| Improve the reporting system for issues that students with disabilities face | | |
| | | |

Higher Education News

January/February 2026

Universities accuse Labor of watering down independent regulator – The Australian

Several universities have accused the Albanese government of not following through on an independent regulator – recommended by a review it commissioned – and instead watering it down so it risks becoming an “extension” of the government.

At the centre of the controversy is the [Australian Tertiary Education Commission](#). The ATEC was proposed as a “public sector steward for the tertiary education system” by the Albanese government-commissioned [Universities Accord panel](#). The body should be an “independent statutory authority” and this would “address the current lack of capacity and independence for long-term and strategic policy thinking by government policy departments”, the 2024 final report states.

The government committed to set up an ATEC but universities have now accused Labor of watering down the idea in legislation.

Western Sydney University, in a submission to a Senate inquiry on the bill, said the proposed model did not allow the ATEC to “provide advice and reports at its own initiative” and hence “curtails its independence and potentially its effectiveness in longer-term planning”.

“To fulfil its roles and responsibilities as an effective sector steward, the ATEC must be more independent,” it said. “As it is currently proposed, it would be a secondary statutory model.

“It would need direction and approval from the (Education) Minister to commission and publish work and provide advice.

“Staff supporting the three commissioners would be ‘made available’ from the Department of Education to the ATEC or seconded from other departments.”

The University of Wollongong said the proposed laws “do not sufficiently guarantee ... independence”. “Current provisions risk ATEC becoming an extension of the (Education) Department, for example where mission-based compacts could become compliance tools rather than strategic partnership instruments,” it said.

RMIT said the legislation did not guarantee enough independence for ATEC and represented a “missed opportunity for generational change”.

“The gradually receding remit of ATEC’s role from an independent but comprehensive body for the whole tertiary system diminishes the impact required for such an important reform opportunity for tertiary education in Australia,” it said.

“A limited version of the ATEC, as defined by the current draft legislation, would be a missed opportunity for generational change, not just for our current school-age learners entering tertiary education for the first time in the coming years but for the existing current ‘working-age’ population who may have limited or incomplete tertiary study.”

Independence from the government would mean it would have “clear visibility and lead co-ordination without being limited to the existing ways of working within the system”, RMIT said.

Deakin University also said the proposal did not have an “appropriate level of independence”. Instead, the legislation suggested the regulator would be “straddling between independent commissioners, and an organisational body responsible to the broader Department of Education”.

When contacted for comment, federal Education Minister Jason Clare brushed aside the university criticism and said the body would be independent.

“The ATEC will play a key role in driving important structural reforms across the tertiary education system for the decades ahead,” he said.

“Like Jobs and Skills Australia, it will be independent.

“The bill will enshrine the ATEC’s independence by legislating its objectives, functions, and reporting arrangements. It will report directly to ministers. It will be guided by a Ministerial Statement of Expectations.

“It will provide advice to government and publish reports. It will be able to undertake its own research. Its staff will be directed by the ATEC commissioners.

“An independent review of the ATEC and how it’s working will happen after two years and five years following passage of the legislation.”

Universities fear ‘chilling effect’ of hate-speech crackdown. The Australian

Universities Australia has raised concerns over the “chilling effect” Anthony Albanese’s hate-speech legislation, introduced in the wake of the Bondi terror attack, could have on freedom of speech within institutions.

In a submission to the parliamentary joint committee on intelligence and security, Universities Australia CEO Luke Sheehy said he was supportive of the crackdown on antisemitism but changes to freedom of speech require careful consideration.

“While this legislation is a direct response to the Bondi terror attack and the scourge of antisemitism, it is important to note that the bill is wide-ranging and impacts on all Australians,” Mr Sheehy wrote.

“Given the limited timeframe for this inquiry, we don’t seek to comment on most provisions of the proposed legislation. We do, however, note that substantial changes to the limits of freedom of speech and expression ordinarily benefit from careful consultation and refinement to ensure they operate as intended and do not give rise to unintended consequences.

“We welcome recognition in the bill of legitimate academic, artistic and cultural activities as defences to a number of proposed offences.”

Mr Sheehy said institutions’ hearts remained with the Jewish community, which is still mourning in the wake of the Bondi attack, but suggested the bill – [which has been met with criticism from the Coalition and the Greens](#) – could prohibit universities from facilitating debate around divisive issues.

“We recognise academic freedom does not extend to the promotion or endorsement of hate speech,” he said. “However, universities are required to facilitate rigorous examination of

complex, contested and, at times, divisive issues and the provision may have a chilling effect on such debate, particularly given the lowered threshold for a determination that a communication is hate speech.

“The inclusion of a consistent academic and cultural defence in this provision would help ensure that academic teaching, research and debate done in good faith are not inadvertently captured, particularly if elements of the offence are interpreted broadly.”

Mr Sheehy said Universities Australia was committed to further consultation with the federal government and the Jewish community to combat antisemitism, but wanted to uphold institutions’ “legal and principled obligations to protect freedom of speech and expression”.

Protests on university campuses ramped up after October 7, 2023, with Jewish students at universities across the country saying at times they felt unsafe.

A couple of days after the Bondi terrorist attack, the University of Sydney sacked a staff member filmed abusing Jewish academics and students on campus as “parasites” and “filthy Zionists” two months earlier.

Vice-Chancellor Mark Scott said since disbanding the protest encampment more than 18 months ago, the university had introduced significant reforms, and the number of complaints related to antisemitism had declined substantially.

Chancellor of Western Sydney University Jennifer Westacott demanded following Bondi that anti-Jewish academics and students stop “hiding behind free speech”. She said “no so-called academic freedom can justify what we have seen in our universities – hate speech, antisemitism, designed to intimidate and drive fear”.

The Group of Eight, which represents the University of Sydney, the University of Melbourne, Monash University, Australian National University and others, told The Australian last week it would actively engage with and appear before the royal commission into antisemitism and social cohesion, which it “fully supports”.

In a statement, Go8 chief executive Vicki Thomson said its eight universities had “introduced new measures to improve the safety and security of Jewish students and staff,” pointing to anti-semitism training for executives, and enhanced security measures.

<https://universitiesaustralia.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Submission-to-the-review-of-the-Combatting-Antisemitism-Hate-and-Extremism-Bill-2026.pdf>

Australian universities face revenue crisis as student demand and Chinese enrolments fall. The Australian

China’s ageing population and Australian school-leavers shunning further study are placing “credit pressure” on Australia’s universities, Moody’s Ratings has warned in a new analysis.

High living costs, softening domestic enrolments and [white-collar job losses from artificial intelligence](#) all threaten universities’ revenues, Moody’s said in a report issued on Wednesday.

Australia's longstanding reliance on fees from Chinese students to fill university coffers "is being eroded by China's ageing and shrinking population and the rising competitiveness of Chinese universities", it says.

"A declining population in China will lead to a shrinking pool of prospective students," the report states.

Moody's also predicts a fall in domestic enrolments as the benefits of a degree "appear to wane".

"Enrolments are softening as more jobs do not require bachelor degrees, while [cost-of-living pressures remain high](#) and AI adds uncertainty to future employment," it states.

"High school graduates contemplating university will face extended periods without full-time income while accumulating student loan debt, making degree pathways less economically viable for many households."

Falling demand for university study is revealed in new data released by the Australasian Conference of Tertiary Admission Centres on Wednesday.

Australian universities have made 2.5 per cent fewer offers through tertiary admission centres this year, with offers for undergraduate places falling from 271,097 last year to 265,046 this year.

Universities can also enrol students directly, but final numbers will not be published for at least a year.

The Moody's report blames higher living costs, and the growing popularity of apprenticeships, for the falling enrolments.

It notes that newly minted tradies are now earning as much as fresh university graduates.

Electricians earned a median average wage of \$75,000 in 2024, the report says – on par with the median earnings for bachelor degree graduates starting their first job.

"Trade salaries are increasingly competitive," the report states.

"Trade certifications and vocational programs traditionally offer shorter completion times, lower costs and direct alignment with income generation.

"We expect these attributes will make vocational training an increasingly attractive alternative, particularly for individuals seeking financial resilience and swift entry into the labour market."

Employment rates for new graduates with a bachelor's degree have also softened, the report shows, falling from 79 per cent in 2023 to 74 per cent in 2024.

The Moody's analysis says the adoption of AI is likely to bring "uncertainty around the underlying demand for bachelor's degrees".

"Roles most exposed to automation include computer programmers, accountants, auditors, legal and administrative assistants, and customer service managers," it states.

"Early evidence suggests legal and financial services may slow hiring, particularly for entry-level and back-office roles traditionally filled by recent graduates.

"As AI reduces demand for tasks historically performed by first-year graduates, such as legal assistants and paralegals, students may reassess the value of degrees in fields such as law, accounting and business administration."

The Moody's report flags a "structural shift in education demand", noting that universities that combine academic and vocational offerings "may be in a better position to benefit".

It says many institutions are now emphasising lifelong learning through short, targeted "micro-credentials" to upskill workers.

"They offer flexible alternatives to traditional full-degree pathways," the report says.

Moody's warns that Asian universities are improving in international rankings, posing a "growing challenge" to [Australian universities trying to recruit fee-paying foreigners](#).

"Increasing competition from a growing list of highly ranked APAC (Asia-Pacific) and Southeast Asian universities presents a growing challenge to sustaining enrolment and revenue growth from Asian students, particularly as Australia faces a softening demographic trend with fewer university age students," it states.

The Moody's report says several Australian universities are setting up campuses in India, Malaysia and Vietnam, despite "significant near-term risks".

"Upfront capital and set-up costs are high," it states.

"For all universities, uncertain returns, long payback periods, constraints on profit repatriation and political risks add to the risk profile of these strategies.

"International campus investments can also pose social risks in home markets if stakeholders perceive a reduced focus on the university's core mission to educate domestic students, potentially eroding universities' social licence."

Edith Cowan University: High hopes for \$853m city campus to bring more life into CBD ahead of classes starting

A steady flow of students have been coming in to early classes at Edith Cowan University's city campus and the reviews are overwhelmingly positive.

Cara Mooney, 22, is about to study a graduate diploma in news and entertainment media, after studying at Notre Dame in Fremantle, where she lives.

"It's insane... it looks unreal, I think we're all just so excited to be here, you can tell the incredible amount of effort that's put into it," she said.

More than 7000 students will soon flood into the campus, which had under construction since 2023, with the vast majority of classes beginning on the last week of February,

Among the features include a mock courtroom, a rooftop grass lawn and a theatre with a built in orchestra pit.

It cost \$853 million to build, with the Federal Government chipping in \$294 million and the Western Australian Government putting in \$199 million.

As time goes on the campus, which replaces the 40-year-old Mount Lawley facility, is expected to hold up to 10,000 students and staff.

The central location is also hoped to breathe new life into Yagan Square and the city centre with an influx of students to provide a boost for businesses, cafes and restaurants in the area.

ECU Vice-Chancellor Clare Pollock said the campus was all about integrating into the community.

"This building and this project is all about connection, it connects our students with each other, it connects our staff with the business and the industry and the government around Perth," she said.

Premier Roger Cook speaking at the new ECU City Campus. Credit: Ian Munro/The West Australian

Speaking at the site on Friday, Roger Cook said the campus would help enliven the CBD.

"This campus is not only going to provide an opportunity for young people to study in the city, it's going to provide an opportunity for the city to come alive," the Premier said.

"It's going to give us an opportunity to really support the economy of the CBD.

"8500 people here initially, going up to 10,000 every single day of the week."

Ms Mooney said she was excited to get out and see what was on offer.

"It's really exciting to be on a proper campus in the city, I feel like it's going to bring a lot of life into the city and I think we're all really excited," she said.

"I've spent my whole life in Fremantle, so I'm really excited to properly explore the city, go out, try new food, drink, I know everyone's just really excited to get amongst it."



More Australians to start uni in 2026. Jason Clare Media Office

More Australians will start a university degree this year than ever before.

According to preliminary data from the Department of Education, university applications for commencing undergraduate students are up 4.6 per cent and offers are up 2.5 per cent compared to the same time last year¹.

In particular, for offers:

- Teaching is up 6 per cent¹
- Nursing is up 6 per cent
- Science is up 8 per cent
- Social work is up 19 per cent
- Engineering is up 9 per cent²

This follows the Australian Tertiary Education Commission allocating an extra 9,500 domestic places to universities this year on top of 2025 levels.

Expanding access to university education is what the Universities Accord is all about with a target for 80 per cent of the workforce to have a tertiary qualification by 2050, up from around 60 per cent today.

The only way to hit that target is to help more people go to university and TAFE and that includes making more university places available.

A further 16,000 fully funded Commonwealth supported places will be allocated in 2027.

Over the next decade we expect to fund another 200,000 commencing places at university.

This is all about opening the doors of our universities wider and helping more people build the skills they need.

ATEC legislation passes House. Jason Clare Media Office

Legislation to establish the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) passed through the House of Representatives on 10 February.

While the legislation still needs to pass the Senate, this is an important step forward.

A recommendation of the Australian Universities Accord, the ATEC will drive long-term reform across Australia's tertiary education system, helping us to build the skills Australia needs now and into the future.

The ATEC will play a key role in driving important structural reforms across the tertiary education system to help meet Australia's skills needs by:

- promoting a joined-up tertiary system between VET and higher education
- allocating funding under the new Managed Growth Funding system
- implementing Needs-based Funding within the core funding model
- negotiating mission-based compacts to support a diverse, responsive, and high-performing sector.

The ATEC is currently operating in an interim capacity and subject to the passage of legislation, will be fully operational later this year.

Stop AI cheating by bringing back in-person exams, unis warned. The Australian

Two of the nation's most respected former chancellors are urging universities to bring students back to campus for supervised exams and in-person assessments to counter [an epidemic of students cheating using artificial intelligence](#).

The Australian Weekend Magazine revealed on Saturday that six senior academics in three states estimated 80 per cent of students are using ChatGPT or similar AI engines to cheat assignments, essays and exams, claiming university administrations are failing to crack down on the practice because of "denial, inertia and helplessness". Students interviewed put the rate of "fullbore cheating" in their courses at 90 per cent or more.

"University is no longer a test of your intellect. It's a test of how well you can instruct ChatGPT," 24-year-old Sydney student Hayden said.

Alan Finkel, Monash University chancellor for eight years until 2016, on Sunday said that [universities will suffer further reputational damage](#) if the general public believes the only purpose of higher education is to take in fees and issue degrees, allowing AI cheating to become a free-for-all.

"Universities are facing more and criticism for not managing AI abuse in their institutions, and that's a very serious challenge to address," he told The Australian.

Dr Finkel said the higher education sector must invest in measures to reverse its reliance on online learning.

"Yes, there'll be a big cost factor, but the only way to eliminate AI cheating is to go back to in-person supervised exams, in-class presentations, oral assessments, practical lab assignments and defending of essays," he said.

"Yet the attitude of many universities at the moment is that 'AI is here and there's not much we can do about it, so now our job is to teach students how to use it effectively and responsibly'.

"That misses the stark reality that students don't need to be taught how to use AI, because they're already expert at leveraging ChatGPT to cheat and avoid detection."

AI cheating has become normalised to the extent that many students consider it a disadvantage not to employ AI tools to earn better grades and ace their online exams.

Instead they congratulated themselves on "beating the system", even as the value of their expensive degrees evaporated and they entered the workforce unprepared and incapable.

"I'm seeing lecture attendance drop to 7 per cent. So what are the other 93 per cent doing?" University of Western Australia senior lecturer Dr Jonathan Albright said.

"My lectures are not 6pm on a Friday night. They're 10am on a Tuesday. Why aren't they in class? I'll tell you why. You don't need to show up if AI is doing your assessments for you. Watch this space. It's going to get ugly."

Melbourne's Dr Michael Barkl, a retired specialist examiner of post-grads, was blunt: "Don't blame the students. Blame academia. It's lost its way. It's turned education from a god's gift into a commodity. The university sector is corrupt. Instead of testing a student's actual capacity, it's relegated assessment to a bunch of boring, cheatable exam papers and assignments."

Dr Finkel said he has had discussions with several vice-chancellors about the "value" of investing in serious measures to get students back on campus, including a return to in-person assessments worth 70 per cent of final marks.

"In other words, you cannot pass your degree unless 70 per cent of your grades are in the form of invigilated exams and assessments," he said. "That way employers can be satisfied their graduates have accumulated the required knowledge for their degree."

Former Murdoch University chancellor Terry Budge agreed with Dr Finkel.

“We cannot allow a situation where online exams are cheatable with AI. The obvious first step is to get students back on campus for supervised exams,” he said.

“And if students are cheating their online coursework, then there needs to be more focus on testing, and the way to do that is with teaching in person and, again, monitored assessments on campus.”

Mr Budge, Murdoch chancellor from 2006-13, said he was surprised to learn the University of WA, a key member of the prestigious Group of Eight universities, had not engaged AI detection software to help deter student dishonesty and assist lecturers in flagging AI-generated work.

“Even back in 2013, Murdoch University had software that endeavoured to pick up plagiarism,” he said.

“The consequence of university students outsourcing their critical thinking skills to AI is enormous. Universities must restore any loss of faith in higher education. Controlling AI use is one of the most urgent challenges facing universities in decades.”

ENDORSEMENT OF AMWU CAMPAIGN

Submitted: Ebony Whitney

Moved: Ebony Whitney

Seconded: Dylan Storer

Preamble:

The Curtin Student Guild has long stood for students' rights and, more broadly, workers' rights. As a union and an organ of the labour movement, it is important that we actively endorse and support the campaigns of other unions wherever possible.

Collie is home to one of the most advanced just transition programs in Australia, supporting the shift from coal-fired electricity generation to new industries that keep secure jobs in the community. By endorsing the AMWU's campaign, the Curtin Student Guild affirms its commitment to standing with workers, supporting a just transition for Collie, and contributing to the broader goal of achieving Net Zero.

Motion:

That the Representation Board:

- Formally endorses and supports the AMWU's No Closing Gates Without Opening Dates campaign for Collie.
- Commits to supporting union-led campaigns that advance workers rights, climate justice, and a just transition to Net Zero.

Action:

1. Endorses the Just Transition campaign for Collie, recognising the protection of workers and communities who are affected by the transition away from coal-fired electricity generation.
2. Stand in solidarity with unions and workers in Collie.
3. Support and promote union-led campaigns that advance workers' rights, climate justice, and a fair transition to Net Zero.
4. Publicly communicate the Guild's endorsement through appropriate channels.

Background:

For over 100 years, workers in Collie's coal mines and power stations have played a critical role in supplying reliable electricity to Western Australians.

Collie is now facing the staged closure of its coal industry. This will come with significant job losses across multiple sites in the coming years. Current closure timelines include Griffin Coal, with mining leases and state funding expiring in June

2026 (approximately 400 jobs), Collie A Power Station closing in October 2027 (around 80 jobs), Blue Waters Power Station expected to exit the WA grid by 2028, Muja Power Station closing in October 2029 (around 300 jobs), and Premier Coal closing in 2030 (approximately 450 jobs).

The State government has invested millions of dollars into the Just Transition, including announcing new industries like a low-emission magnesium refinery and other projects. However, these new announcements don't even begin to make up for the jobs that will be lost over the next 10 years.

At a national level, the federal government has committed to a "just transition" through initiatives such as the Net Zero Economy Agency, the National Reconstruction Fund, the Future Made in Australia agenda, and the Green Metals Innovation Network. Despite Collie being widely recognised as one of Australia's most advanced just transition regions, no federal funding from these programs has yet been secured to deliver guaranteed replacement jobs in the town.

Attachment/s:

Nil.

EXPRESS BUS TO CURTIN NOW

Submitted: Ebony Whitney
Moved: Ebony Whitney
Seconded: Hadiya Naeemi

Preamble:

The Curtin Student Guild has long advocated for parking reforms and better public transport options for students. The latest change is a State Government move to replace roughly 600 parking bays with a new hockey stadium. We now need to advocate for the government to put meaningful measures in place to compensate for this loss of parking spaces and implement an express bus to Curtin University from both Oats Street Station and Canning Bridge Station.

Motion:

That the Representation Board:

Advocate for an express bus to Curtin University that travels between Oats Street Station and Canning Bridge Station.

Action:

1. Write an open letter to the Minister for Transport calling for the implementation of an express bus to Curtin University that travels between Oats Street Station and Canning Bridge Station, that will increase in frequency around peak semester times.
2. Advocate publicly for the introduction of express public transport services from key public transport hubs.

Background:

The Curtin Student Guild has long advocated for the introduction of express bus services connecting Curtin University to nearby train stations, including Canning Bridge Station and Oats Street Station. In correspondence from the Minister for Transport, the state government has argued that existing bus routes, specifically the 100 and 101, provide adequate transport options. However, the current services can take up to 34 minutes to travel from Oats Street Station to Curtin University, where the same leg would take just 7 minutes by car.

By contrast, other major university campuses in Western Australia benefit from express transport options designed to ease congestion and reduce parking demand. This includes express bus services at multiple campuses, and the recent announcement of a ferry service to the University of Western Australia.

Curtin University has the largest student population of any university campus in Western Australia. At the same time, approximately 600 existing parking bays are being removed due to the construction of a new hockey stadium adjacent to the campus. This reduction will place further strain on already limited parking facilities, making it increasingly difficult for students to attend classes on time.

While students are willing to utilise Western Australia's public transport network, services must be designed to make university access fast, reliable, and practical. Without improved transport options and long-term parking solutions, students will continue to face unnecessary barriers to education.

Attachment/s:

THE CURTIN STUDENT GUILD'S ENGAGEMENT IN THE UNION MOVEMENT

Submitted: Ebony Whitney
Moved: Ebony Whitney
Seconded: Tom Harrowing

Preamble:

The Curtin Student Guild exists to represent, protect, and advance the interests of students, many of whom are workers navigating insecure employment, low wages, and unsafe conditions. As the peak representative body for Curtin students, the Guild has a long-standing role within the broader union movement and a responsibility to engage actively with trade unions and worker organisations.

Motion:

That the representation board recommends the executive to come up with a strategy to engage with the broader union movement and Unions WA and for the executive to present it at the next meeting of the representative board.

Actions:

1. Recommends the Executive to develop a written strategy outlining how the Curtin Student Guild will engage with the broader union movement, including affiliation-aligned trade unions and Unions WA.
2. Requests that the strategy identify key objectives, priority relationships, and opportunities for collaboration that advance student and worker interests.
3. Requests the strategy to include proposed activities such as joint campaigns, events, training opportunities, and formal liaison mechanisms.
4. Requests the Executive to consult with relevant Guild stakeholders, including student representatives and affiliated clubs, in the development of the strategy.
5. Requests the Executive to present the completed strategy to the next meeting of the Representation Board for consideration and feedback.

Background:

Students are disproportionately represented in insecure, casualised, and low-paid work, making engagement with the broader union movement directly relevant to student welfare and advocacy. Historically, the Curtin Student Guild has maintained relationships with trade unions and peak union bodies, including Unions WA, to support students as workers and to advance shared campaigns. In recent years, this engagement has been inconsistent, highlighting the need for a clear and coordinated strategy to guide the Guild's involvement moving forward.

Attachment/s: Nil

Motion: Condemning the Labor government and Australian federal police

Motion:

The Curtin student guild:

1. Condemns the Australian Labor Government for inviting the President of Israel, as Head of State of the Government of Israel, while they commit genocide in Gaza, systemic segregation in the West Bank, and the continued oppression of Palestinian people on Palestinian land.
2. Condemns the New South Wales Police Force for the excessive and disproportionate use of force against peaceful protestors in Sydney, including actions that disrupted a religious observance and the lawful exercise of political expression.
3. Affirms that the right to protest is fundamental in a democratic society, and that students and members of the public must not be restricted from speaking out, demonstrating, or organising in advocacy for human rights and justice.
4. Calls for full transparency and accountability from the New South Wales Police Force, including cooperation with any investigation undertaken by the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC).
5. Affirms the Guild's commitment to protecting students' rights to peaceful protest, political participation, and freedom of expression.

Moved: Hadiya Naeemi

Seconded: Sarah Abed

Background:

On February 9th, 2026, there was a peaceful protest in Sydney regarding the official visit of the president of Israel, Isaac Herzog who was invited by the Australian Labor government. It is appalling that the government would extend an invite and a red carpet for Herzog who has publicly supported Israel's military campaign of committing genocide in Gaza and has written on artillery shells that are used to commit genocide in Gaza. To honour him while hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza are wiped off the face of the earth and live under the rubble that they once lived in is an abomination. To invite him is not a neutral act but a political statement.

During the peaceful protest where demonstrators gathered near Sydney town hall the New South Wales police exercised excessive force. Through personal testimonies and media, it is evident that the police restricted the planned march and used crowd control tactics including physical force and capsicum spray. Despite orders to allow Muslims praying to finish the prayer they police grabbed and assaulted worshippers during religious worship conducted at the rally. Following the protests complaints have been lodged with the law enforcement conduct commission (LECC). Amongst the

worshippers many protestors were assaulted and the LECC has also announced an independent investigation into the Sydney town hall police violence.

Confidentiality:

Open/Confidential

Observer Report | 2025 CAPA Annual Council Meeting

Dylan Storer

As the 2025 Council of Australian Postgraduate Organisations Annual Council Meeting was taking place in Melbourne in the days prior to NUS NatCon, it was decided was worthwhile that I attend as an observer, alongside the outgoing PSC President (and CAPA National Secretary) Mitch Craig and incoming PSC President Jael Wafula, who was Curtin's voting delegate at the meeting.

The ACM consisted of the regular governance-based business including reports, financials and elections, which went relatively smoothly albeit slowly in some parts. The NTEU National President Alison Barnes also presented and said some nice things about the Curtin Student Guild as being one that stands alongside staff.

It is commendable that CAPA has seen such improvement over the past two years, particularly in the last year, in the areas of governance, advocacy and professionalism. Postgraduate students deserve a strong national voice and I'm proud that the Curtin Student Guild continues to be a strong supporter of CAPA.

It will be very interesting to see how CAPA progresses in the coming year. There are a lot of challenges facing higher education and postgraduate students that CAPA has an important role to play in tackling. It was a great opportunity for me to attend the meeting and meet with CAPA officebearers, I leave feeling more confident in CAPA's future to keep advocating for postgraduate students at Curtin and beyond.

In Solidarity,
Dylan Storer

Delegate Report | 2025 NUS National Conference

Dylan Storer

It is a great privilege to be elected to represent the students of Curtin University at the National Union of Students and it is a responsibility that I, and my comrades, have never taken for granted. The 2025 Conference, again held at Federation University in Ballarat (a university that doesn't have an independent student union 😞) was deeply challenging and, at times, rather messy. In the mess, however, the 2025 conference was also historic, securing a left-wing majority National Executive for the first time in decades.

I, again, sat with the group called the WA Independents which consisted of five Curtin delegates and one UWA delegate. We formed a broader alliance, Student Left, with other groupings including National Labor Students, Forge (ECU, UWA, UQ), NSW Labor Students and Victoria Alliance (a grouping that split from Unity since last year's conference). Other groupings at the conference included a few independents, Socialist Alternative, Student Unity (Labor Right

mostly from QLD, NSW and SA with one delegate from UWA) and VIC Unity (VIC SDA-aligned delegates which split from Unity proper the night before the conference was set to start).

This year's conference was significantly disrupted by factional disputes that stalled formal business for the first two days. As a result, much of the policy that was set to be debated and voted upon at Conference wasn't heard. Those motions will now be taken to the next National Executive meeting, where they will be debated and progressed. While frustrating, the outcomes that did pass, particularly on higher education restructuring and mergers – were important and set a clear direction for the year ahead.

The first two days of conference failed to reach quorum due to ongoing factional disputes. At different times, VIC Unity and Socialist Alternative refused to attend the floor as leverage in internal negotiations, effectively preventing the conference from functioning. No formal business was conducted, and no motions were debated. These delays significantly compressed the time available for substantive policy discussion later in the week.

Quorum was finally reached mid-morning on Day 3. Several important decisions were made that morning, including the reinstatement of the National Environment Officer position.

I was one of two Student Left members of the Conference Business Committee (Bizcom), which determines the agenda and amendments heard by the conference. I was quickly voted as the Chair of Bizcom, a position I held for the remainder of the conference, which limited my ability to speak to the conference floor as I did last year. Nonetheless, it was a great privilege to be Chair of Bizcom and despite a rough and bumpy start it ended up operating smoothly and ensured that conference, for the most part, stayed on as much of a semblance of a track as it could.

The Student Unionism chapter set the strategic tone for the NUS moving forward. Conference affirmed that voluntary student unionism weakens collective student power and endorsed campaigning for mandatory student union membership. There was also a broader debate about the role of the NUS, balancing militancy with institutional engagement, with a clear recognition that representation without power is insufficient.

As a result of a motion I supported with Ebony Whitney the NUS is now committed to opposing university mergers, supporting student unions who protest them, issuing public statements on proposed mergers in WA, and advocating instead for reforms that put students and staff first. This was a major and necessary win.

The beginning of Day 4 is where traditionally the election would take place but a series of unfortunate events delayed the Returning Officer from arriving on time and, once the Returning Officer did arrive, VIC Unity decided to run for positions they had no chance of winning due to factional deals which further delayed the election due to enormous amounts of ballot printing that had to be done.

Education debates continued into Day 4, including strong support for ongoing campaigning for paid placements.

The Ethnocultural chapter followed, with motions focusing on racism as a structural issue within universities – tied to housing insecurity, visa precarity, wage theft and safety. What stood out was the shared understanding that ethnocultural students are not passive recipients of support, but political actors whose lived experiences must shape student union priorities.

The Women's chapter was debated later in the day and included vital motions on sexual violence, institutional failures in responding to assault, and gendered barriers in housing and student spaces.

Following the Women's Chapter, of which Socialist Alternative abstained from supporting, the Conference was closed and all remaining policies not discussed, along with the election confirmation, were referred to the National Executive.

VIC Unity held out for a number of hours following the close of conference and refused to withdraw their candidates for positions such as President and GenSec which resulted in small armies of delegates and observers from multiple factions filling in thousands of unnecessary ballots. I would argue that the NUS should consider planning more appropriately to handle more contested elections into the future, despite the practice of these matters being handled in pre-conference negotiations. Nevertheless, VIC Unity did eventually withdraw their candidates barring the National Executive and the election happened relatively smoothly following that point.

Curtin's representation at the NUS National Executive has continued with Curtin Student Clayton Watts being elected as Environment Officer, Noor Fellah being elected as a member of the National Executive and Hadiya Naeemi as the State Branch Vice President Education.

I'm very proud to be handing over the NUS WA State Branch Presidency position to my friend and comrade Rama Sugiratha from UWA, who served as the 2025 WA VPE. I will be continuing, as Guild President, on the NUS WA Executive this year and plan on working closely with NUS Office Bearers in my role.

The 2025 Conference made one thing unmistakably clear. The future of the NUS depends on it being both left run and well governed. Winning a left wing majority on the National Executive for the first time in decades is historic, but it is not enough on its own. After years of Labor right decay, factional rot, and political inaction, the task now is rebuilding credibility, capacity, culture, and purpose.

A left union that cannot govern well will not rebuild student power. Militancy without competence collapses into chaos. Representation without action becomes hollow. If the NUS is to mean anything to students facing mergers, course cuts, unaffordable housing, unpaid placements,

racism, and violence, it must be serious, disciplined, strategic, and accountable. The left now has the responsibility to prove that it can not only win power, but use it to deliver.

I genuinely believe the best days of the NUS are ahead of us. But they are not guaranteed. They will require hard work, political maturity, and a willingness to confront the structural and cultural failures that have hollowed the organisation out over decades. Rebuilding the NUS will not be quick, easy, or comfortable, but it is necessary.

The Curtin Student Guild has a critical role to play in that project. We must be true believers in the NUS, committed to national student power, collective action, and a strong, fighting union. At the same time, we must be honest brokers, prepared to hold the NUS to account when it falls short, to challenge dysfunction when it emerges, and to push relentlessly for a union that lives up to its potential.

Our students deserve a national union that is bold, principled, competent, and effective. One that stands against mergers, defends staff and students, and puts material conditions at the centre of its politics. That is the NUS worth fighting for, and that is the work ahead of us.

In solidarity,
Dylan Storer

Accredited Observer Report | 2025 NUS National Conference

Noor Fellah

Accredited Observer, Curtin Student Guild

I attended the 2025 National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference as an accredited observer, travelling with the Western Australian Independents (Windies) and participating as a member of Student Left. While I did not attend as a voting delegate, I engaged closely in pre-conference preparation, factional coordination, policy discussion, and conference processes throughout the week. I left the conference elected to the National Executive of the NUS, an outcome that reflects both the collective work of Student Left and the strong contribution of the Curtin delegation more broadly.

The conference was held at Federation University in Ballarat from 8–12 December. As with previous years, the conference was marked by significant factional conflict and procedural disruption, which shaped both the structure of the week and the outcomes achieved. While the NUS is intended to function as the primary democratic forum for national student policy-making, the reality of this conference demonstrated deep structural weaknesses in how that democracy is currently exercised.

Conference Context and Disruptions

The first two days of conference failed to reach quorum due to ongoing factional disputes. In particular, the withdrawal of entire factions from the floor as a negotiation tactic stalled formal business and prevented the conference from functioning. As an observer, it was frustrating to witness a national conference repeatedly unable to commence while delegates, observers, and staff waited for internal deals to be resolved.

When quorum was finally reached on Day 3, the backlog of policy meant that conference business was rushed. Large sections of the policy book were grouped into blocs, limiting debate and constraining meaningful engagement with individual motions.

Policy Outcomes and Political Direction

Despite the chaos, several outcomes were politically significant. Conference reaffirmed a commitment to student unionism as a collective project and rejected voluntary student unionism as a model that weakens student power. Strong positions were also taken on paid placements, student housing, and opposition to university mergers.

The ethnocultural chapter addressed racism as a structural issue linked to housing insecurity, visa precarity, wage theft, and campus safety. The framing of ethnocultural students as political actors rather than passive recipients of support was a necessary and welcome shift.

The women's chapter was deeply constrained by time and factional behaviour. While important motions on sexual violence, institutional failure, and gendered barriers were passed, the process reinforced concerns about political posturing taking precedence over material outcomes.

Elections and Governance

The elections process was significantly delayed and, at times, poorly managed. While elections ultimately resulted in a left-leaning National Executive, an outcome that is historically significant, this alone does not resolve the governance issues exposed throughout the week.

I was elected to the National Executive of the NUS following the conclusion of conference. I take this responsibility seriously and understand it as an obligation to contribute to rebuilding the credibility, functionality, and political relevance of the organisation.

I warmly congratulate Hadiya Naeemi on her appointment as Western Australian Vice President Education, and Rama Sugiarta on his election as WA State Branch President. I look forward to working closely with them in the year ahead.

The 2025 Conference made clear that the NUS is at a crossroads. If the NUS is to be relevant to students facing unaffordable housing, unpaid placements, racism, course cuts, and institutional violence, it must be strategic, accountable, and serious about governance.

Report | 2026 NUS President's Summit

Noor Fellah

National Executive, NUS

Secretary, Curtin Student Guild

I attended the 2026 NUS President's Summit at Swinburne University following a full National Executive training day. The Summit brought together student union leaders from across the country to build skills, clarify national priorities, and strengthen coordination ahead of the 2026 campaign year.

National Executive Training Day

The first day was dedicated to internal National Executive training, focusing on governance responsibilities, financial oversight, campaign coordination, and the structural role of National Executive within the NUS.

A clear message throughout the day was that winning positions at conference is not the endpoint—it is the beginning of responsibility. A left-led NUS must be administratively competent, fiscally disciplined, and capable of supporting affiliates in practical ways.

Office Bearer Priorities

The following two days included presentations from National Office Bearers outlining their 2026 priorities. Recurring themes included cost of living, secure and affordable student housing, paid placements, university governance, and defending student union independence.

The framing was clear: student unions are under sustained attack, and fragmentation weakens national leverage.

Media Training and Strategy

Media training sessions emphasised handling hostile questions, developing clear messaging, telling human-centred stories, and understanding different media audiences. The importance of disciplined communication when representing both Curtin and the NUS nationally was reinforced.

SSAF Negotiations and Campaign Planning

Summit included structured guidance on SSAF negotiations, including tied versus untied funding, multi-year deals, and case-building with data and outcomes. Campaign workshops focused on SMART goals, power mapping, mobilisation tactics, and strategic alignment.

The consistent message was that campaigns must combine mobilisation with credibility, and that national coordination strengthens local bargaining power.

Reflections

President's Summit marked a transition from conference politics into practical governance. It reinforced that media discipline, operational competence, and strategic alignment are essential to rebuilding the credibility and effectiveness of the NUS.

As a member of National Executive, I am committed to ensuring Curtin's interests are represented in national planning and that the NUS operates with seriousness, strategy, and accountability in the year ahead.

NUS 2025 National Conference Report

Connie Butcher, She/Her

I would like to express my gratitude for being elected as a Curtin delegate to the National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference and furthermore to the Guild for enabling my attendance by funding the trip. The conference was, although different to how I expected, an enriching experience in which I have developed a greater understanding of student politics and taken away unique perspectives from students advocating for change across the nation. As I have just started my term as the Science and Engineering Representative, I found the conference a motivating start to my term and plan to attend the following year's conference as well.

Prior to the conference, a 'lock-out' deal was proposed to remove Socialist Alternatives (SALts) from the NUS National Executive positions. This deal was a major factor in how the conference was carried out and significantly impacted the success and efficiency of the conference.

To advocate for policy and regulation changes/proposals which align with the Curtin Guilds values and interests, Curtin delegates Dylan, Ebony, Tahsin, David and myself as well as Jael, Hadiya, Noor, Max, Tom and Mitch, who went as observers, reviewed the NUS's policy platform weeks before the conference start date. This allowed us to scrutinise the previous year's policy book, making updates on old policies whilst creating new policies to reflect Curtin student's and the Curtin Guild.

Day 1

As the Curtin delegates arrived and checked into the University of Ballarat accommodation, SAlt approached, as expected, and rehearsed their opposition to the lock-out deal. This was a common occurrence throughout the week as the SALts grew more aggressive and upset as the conference progressed.

This conference was my introduction to student politics on an official level, so this was unexpected and it was difficult to explain my position on the topic when I was not involved in the deal fabrication itself.

Start of the conference was an acknowledgement to country. However, due to various political faction infighting for Office Bearer positions, the Student Left (SL) did not have quorum and as soon as the acknowledgement of country was completed, all factions pulled out of the conference so that further discussions regarding positions could take place.

Resultingly, no policies were passed on the first day of the conference, which would later contribute to an immense backlog of policies that would need to be passed in blocks.

Day 2

As deals were discussed surrounding National Exec positions, there was talk that there would be conference today. The many various factions began getting accredited and filtering into the conference room. It soon became apparent that SAlt was only accrediting their observers and thus were not contributing to quorum.

This took almost two hours and once accrediting was complete, quorum was still not met and members of SAlt heckled the room, blaming the other factions for them not meeting quorum and being anti pro-Palestine-activists for the 'lock-out' deal. This heckling caused the other factions to chant "shame", which was posted to social media, despite the no camera or recordings rule. As various factions left the room, Student Unity continued their faction chant. It was interesting to watch this encounter but also signaled another day of no conference.

It was clear SAlt had the tactic of riling up the room and then benefiting from the chaos that ensued. This tactic was used continuously throughout the conference and contributed to delaying the conference and wasting NUS money.

Consequently, no policies were passed on the second day of conference either.

Day 3

Once again, there was talk of meeting quorum and the various factions began accrediting and gathering in the conference room. SAlt delegates were also being accredited, which was a relief to see. The votes were counted and we finally had quorum.

The first policy to be passed was the by law amendments and the creation of an environment officer, which enabled the NUS to function better in the future. Then an urgent motion was passed by SAlt regarding Palestine, which was unanimously voted up. This was, mind-numbingly, once again followed by several SAlt speakers for the motion who used the already limited conference time remaining to condemn the rest of the room as anti-pro-Palestine-activists due to the disputes between factions following the 'lock-out' deal.

Following this, we got stuck into the student unionism chapter, which was carried out in large blocks, which limited the number of speakers for and against each policy. Many good policies were passed regarding SSAF, activism and campaigns on campus which support universities' transparency throughout the year whilst supporting student rights.

We continued well into the night, trying to finish the education chapter where lots of policies were passed surrounding the discourse of free education, not HECS, as well as paid placements. SAlt took these discussions as an opportunity to speak against the motions put forward, stating that they were the first to advocate for these or took the time to explain why the motions didn't align with their ideologies, yet would still vote them up anyway. The constant back and forth was disappointing to see and was making it look like a competition of 'who was more politically correct'. It was also very shocking to see policies downvoted regardless of how beneficial they were, just because they were contrary to the ideologies of the faction.

To wrap up the fourth day, the student unionism chapter was completed and mostly passed, and most of the education chapter had been passed but was not yet complete. This meant over 10 chapters and 300+ policies still need to be moved. With only one day left of the conference, it looked quite bleak.

Day 4

On this day, they had a vote to extend the conference floor into the voting room so that whilst counting the ballots which would contribute to the next National Exec team in 2026, the members could still contribute to voting.

Due to the limited time, the conference floor continued to go through the policies for the education chapter, despite the time being allocated for ballot on the scheduled timetable.

The education chapter was finally completed, far later than it should have been, considering the limited time available. This was due to the SAlt's tactic of repeatedly using the speaker against platform which contributed to the constant back and forth between factions alongside SAlt continuously breaching the one-minute time allocation.

We then moved onto the ethnocultural chapter. This chapter was mostly passed in blocks, and some good policy was passed, with quite a few Curtin delegates speaking. It seemed that this was the chapter in which almost all its motions passed unanimously.

This was followed by the women's chapter. It was unfortunate to see the women's section pass in one big block, as there were many interesting policies and many eager speakers, one of which was myself. I spoke on women's reproductive health and the importance of the women's chapter in general to opposing misogyny.

It was even more disappointing to see SAlt vote against the entirety of the women's chapter, which is something they would accuse the right-wing parties of. They used the women's chapter to accuse the Labour party of Australia's sexism and used the speakers against platform to explain why sexism is rooted in capitalism and argued that the policies didn't support that. Rather than amending the motions or writing motions supporting women, they were intent on voting all of them down. Thankfully, it still passed on block.

To conclude the conference, speakers for Office Bearer positions were invited to make a speech. However, the National Exec team had been counting ballots the entirety of this day and announced they were too

exhausted to speak, in which SAIt took the opportunity to have speakers for positions that had been dealt out already. This was another opportunity to heckle and rile up the room before they left chanting. There was a motion passed to allow Business Committee to pass the rest of the chapters in National Exec meetings, which concluded the NUS conference.

As a result, 4 chapters were completed, with more than 200 policies unpassed out of 419. This was not a significant win for the NUS, despite many left-wing policies being passed.

Final Thoughts

Despite the disruptions, back and forth disputes, and heckling, the conference was a valuable experience for me to learn about student politics and student unionism. Hearing from the many different political factions exposed me to diverse student opinions whilst educating me more on the role of NUS within student politics. The conference was different to how I expected, with it being a lot more tense and disorganised than I had predicted. I had also thought the factions would put their differences aside to pass motions regardless of Office Bearer positions, which I was wrong about. It was overall discouraging to see so few motions passed given the time and money put into the conference. Whilst the conference was beneficial on an individual level, it was also very an inefficient use of NUS money and student time due to the various factions infighting.

Recommendations

1. It was a win that every single Curtin delegate turned up to the conference with all votes counted for, however it is very expensive to send every delegate alongside observers to the East Coast for the conference. Delegates should be encouraged to write motions and proxy their vote if they do not intend to speak on the conference floor.
2. For the number of motions that Student Left had written, there weren't enough speakers. This led to confusion when motions were put up and no one went up to speak for the motion. A recommendation would be

to have a speaker delegated for each motion that has been written by Student Left at pre-con.

3. A better brief of what National Conference is. Whilst the experience will give the most accurate portrayal of the NUS, delegates should be better briefed on what to expect from other parties, and how they should conduct themselves throughout National Conference.

Early December last year, I had the opportunity to attend the National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference (NatCon). We started the conference quite eventfully, as we had found out prior to the conference that the students of Young Labor had signed a deal to lock out students from Socialist Alternative from any office bearer positions, even though Socialist Alternative had nearly 30 percent of the delegates at this year's conference making it the biggest faction in the NUS after the split of VIC Unity from Student Unity.

The point of the lock-out, I was told by one of the Labor students who arranged it, is to have a national student union that won't criticise or embarrass the Labor government but will instead cheer it on from the sidelines. They told us that Labor ministers wouldn't want to meet with the NUS if it were anti-government. To me this indicated something positive, considering what side the Labor party has stood on. It has been stridently pro-Israel, and supported its genocidal campaign against the Palestinians in Gaza. When the Australian government continued to supply key components for Israel's F-35 fighter jets, the NUS had a role to be anti-government.

The first day was a little bit confusing and surprising. As a faction we had decided to put up a fight, because there was a contradiction. The positive actions of NUS all throughout 2025 had been led by members of Socialist Alternative that were holding office-bearer positions, however now they were being locked out. We were not sure if we had enough numbers on the conference floor to pull quorum. We needed 50 percent plus 1 of the delegates that counted towards quorum. We decided not to go in at the beginning and we waited outside. We had some delegates go in to talk to people in the room and put forward an argument hoping this could convince students from other factions to listen to us and re-consider the deal. One event that I was quite surprised by was a video I saw later of the conference floor, a member of our faction giving a short speech and all the Labor students from Unity and National Labor Students faction all yelling shame, shame, shame. Our member Jasmine Johnson was talking about Palestine, about Israel's genocide and that the NUS has a role to be stridently on the side of Palestinians that are being genocided right now. It was quite shocking to me to see that video. That day the conference didn't end up starting, we had been able to pull quorum but not on our own, members from other factions also decided to not go in, assuming they wanted to spend more time negotiating.

Skipping to the third day, we had managed to convince the other factions to re-negotiate and sign a new deal. Which meant Socialist Alternative had the Education Officer. Which makes me feel hopeful for the next year.

The conference floor on the third day started very heated. There was a clear debate going on about the role of the NUS. However the Labor factions didn't want to have that debate, instead they tried every other way to dodge giving a response to the questions being pointed for the next year. We had to block lots of the motions that were written and had to vote them up or down in blocks. Even in blocks we didn't have enough time to get through all the motions. This was obviously not very ideal and I wish we could have had a conference that could start on the first day. However, in the context of all the factions signing a deal on the basis of political agreement about the priorities of NUS for the next year, it was necessary for our faction to put

up a fight and not just accept this scenario. It was necessary for us to disrupt the conference in order to be heard.

I had the chance to speak twice, and the experience of attending the conference was very educational. Reading all the motions that were submitted was an important experience in getting to do research on a whole range of different topics about higher education. Speaking to people from other campuses around the country was also a valuable experience. I had a conversation about University mergers to someone from Adelaide Uni who has experienced all the things that students from Curtin Uni possibly might.

By: Hadiya Naeemi

Position: Accredited Observer (2025 NUS National Conference)

Date & Location: 8–12 December, Federation University Ballarat

The National Union of Students (NUS) is intended to be the peak representative body for tertiary students across Australia. Its purpose is to bring together student unions nationally to represent a unified student voice and to act as a national platform for amplifying student concerns at a federal level.

The NUS is meant to achieve this through engagement with the federal government and relevant institutions to push for reform. This includes advocacy through lobbying, submissions, and national campaigns on issues such as education funding, student income support, paid placements, and student safety. The annual NUS Conference is intended to be the central democratic forum where student delegates debate and determine policy. These decisions form the NUS Policy Book, which is meant to guide the organisation's national advocacy priorities for the following year and hold the NUS accountable to the students it represents.

However, the outcomes of this conference conflicted significantly with this purpose. Disruptions to proceedings and limited policy decision-making undermined the conference's role as a democratic mechanism for reform and advocacy. Much of what occurred throughout the week was, in my opinion, oxymoronic to the purpose and existence of the NUS itself.

Conference Structure and Factional Dynamics

The 2025 NUS Conference was held from the 8th to the 12th of December at Federation University in Ballarat. It was designed to be a four day working conference, where delegates debate policy across different chapters, including education, welfare, trade unionism, women's, and ethnocultural chapters. Typically, each chapter involves structured debate, with speakers for and against individual motions before a vote is taken.

In reality, the nature of the conference floor was dominated by political factions. Numbers mattered more than deliberation, with factions focused on securing majorities to pass preferred policies or gain positions within the organisation. Through attending this conference, it became clear that factional divisions are embedded within both the structure of the NUS and the conduct of conference itself. There are three major political factions, and voting blocs played a decisive role in shaping outcomes, often at the expense of meaningful discussion or debate.

Quorum Issues and Disruptions

For conference to proceed, quorum is required and is set at 50% plus one of delegates. On the first and second day, conference did not begin as quorum was not met. This issue persisted throughout much of the conference, as the Socialist Alternative faction refused to join the conference floor, with other factions later following. Their refusal was in response to a deal between factions to exclude them from holding positions on National Executive. In my view, the exclusion of an entire faction from National Executive was itself undemocratic. Regardless of

political disagreements, delegates are elected by students and should not be structurally barred from representation. The subsequent withdrawal of quorum further compounded this issue, effectively preventing conference from functioning and denying delegates the ability to carry out their democratic mandate. More broadly, this highlighted a serious structural failure within the NUS, where factional bargaining can override democratic process and halt a national conference entirely.

On the second day, delegates arrived expecting the conference to proceed. Instead, they were met with what appeared to be an orchestrated scenario where conflict between delegates was encouraged. I commend the Curtin delegation for remaining composed and not engaging with this behaviour. Footage from this incident went viral, turning what should have been a policy-focused conference into a spectacle and further undermining the credibility of the NUS.

By the third day, an agreement between factions was reached and the conference was finally able to form a floor. However, no policy decisions were made until the afternoon of day three, which significantly undermined the purpose of a four day policy conference and limited the ability of delegates to meaningfully engage with the policy book.

Policy Process and Outcomes

Rather than progressing through each chapter in full, conference was rushed. Large numbers of policies were grouped into single blocs and voted on as blanket positions. This removed the opportunity for detailed discussion and reduced complex issues to simple yes or no votes.

Key themes across these blocs included education, welfare, ethnocultural and international. By day three, the conference moved through trade unionism. Women's was blocked entirely, and on the fourth day ballots were drawn for all NUS positions.

Both the women's and ethnocultural blocs were moved under constrained conditions. Socialist Alternative voted down the entire women's bloc. Instead of having speakers for and against each motion, only a limited number of speakers were permitted, with a single bloc mover. This meant there was no real discourse or debate regarding individual policies, and motions that delegates and students had put significant work into were effectively collapsed into a single vote.

Curtin Delegation Contributions

I was pleased to be a mover for the ethnocultural bloc, welfare bloc and proud to stand alongside Curtin voices such as Tahsin, who spoke across multiple motions including education. David, Tom, and Connie also spoke strongly on trade unionism, education, and welfare. Curtin's presence was important in ensuring student voices were heard, including raising issues such as university mergers as a real and ongoing concern for WA students.

Governance, Financial, and Structural Concerns

Due to the disruptions and prolonged lack of quorum, a significant number of policies were not debated and are now being referred to the National Executive (NX) Board for approval. I find this outcome disappointing and frustrating. The conference is meant to be the primary democratic forum for policy making, and shifting decision-making power to the executive undermines delegate democracy and accountability.

Elections resulted in a more left leaning office, which provides some hope for the future of the organisation. However, there is substantial work required for the NUS to regain the trust of student unions. Personally, following this conference, I have little faith in the NUS as it currently operates.

Approximately thousands of dollars of student money were spent on this conference. Given one of the main purposes of this conference was not achieved, I believe this represents a poor use of student funds, particularly at a time when students are struggling to afford tuition and meet basic living costs.

Structurally, the NUS requires serious reform. Most office bearer roles are paid except for the Ethnocultural, Disability and Environmental Officer roles. This raises serious equity concerns and suggests that certain forms of representation are undervalued within the organisation.

Conclusion

While I believe the concept of the NUS is necessary and that a national body can act as a gateway to government reform, particularly on issues such as paid placements, the current state of the organisation has a long way to go.

As a State Branch Vice President, this does not indicate that I will be disengaged from the role. Rather, it reflects an understanding that meaningful outcomes currently require additional effort in an unpaid role due to the NUS's structural limitations. I acknowledge the importance of national representation while also recognising that weaknesses in the NUS's structure and operations mean that some office bearers must work significantly harder to achieve progress.

Despite the circumstances of the conference, Curtin delegates were able to speak on and move motions that mattered to Curtin students. However, the lack of meaningful national policy outcomes weakens national advocacy and Curtin students' representation at a federal level.

Overall, this conference highlighted the extent to which factionalism and structural dysfunction undermine the NUS's ability to act as a genuine representative body. National student representation remains important, but without meaningful reform, accountability, and a return to democratic process, the NUS risks continuing to fall short of the purpose it claims to serve.

NUS National Conference Report – Ebony Whitney

I would like to thank that students at Curtin University for electing me to be a delegate to the 2025 NUS National Conference. I would also like to thank the Curtin Student Guild with providing me with the means to attend.

I have taken a lot away from this conference. I believe the most valuable aspect of my attendance was meeting representatives from other student unions and learning about what their fight for at their universities. It was great to hear from so many passionate speakers across the country and the student union movement. It has provided me with a lot of useful context and experience as I start my term as the Faculty of Business and Law Representative.

Going into the conference I had several goals and policy areas I wanted to speak on including:

- The need for safe and affordable student accommodation.
- University mergers and how a merger in WA will negatively impact students.
- Trimesters and the impact they have on student wellbeing.
- Support for right to strike campaigns.
- Support for student workers and promoting union memberships amongst students.

Unfortunately, due to several disputes that happened throughout the week, conference was stalled for two days, and I was unable to speak to all the motions I submitted. However, these motions will be discussed at the next National Executive meeting and passed accordingly.

I will also note that 2026 will be the first year there is a Left majority on National Executive for a long time. Thank you to all who worked to achieve this and I hope 2026 is a great year for student unionism.

Day 1

Conference did not start formal business due to a stalemate over quorum. Members of Victorian SDA split from Student Unity faction and were refusing to come to conference floor. Members of Socialist Alternative also did not attend because they were demanding the Education Officer position be allocated to them, something the other factions refused to agree on.

No motions were debated.

Day 2

Conference could still not start as Socialist Alternative continued their actions to prevent quorum and prolong their negotiations with other factions.

Day 3

Quorum was met mid-morning, and several procedural motions were passed to manage duplicate motions and reduce the speaking time. These allowances were designed to make up for the lost time from days one and two.

There were also rules changes that were passed which included reinstating the National Environment Officer position, a position that a Curtin student was elected to – congratulations Clayton Watts!

Student Unionism

This chapter was to decide the direction of the NUS broadly for the next year, for example, how militant it should be and whether it exists for campaigns or to be a representative organisation that works alongside governments and universities.

There were two major debates, one being over mandatory student unionism which was ultimately supported as voluntary student unionism ultimately weakens student power. Motions passed which means the NUS should campaign nationally for compulsory student union membership. The second debate was about what unionism means in terms of the NUS and how militant they should be or whether they should take up more institutional approaches.

Education

This is the chapter that I submitted the most motions for; however, I didn't get to speak to a number of them due to the bias of the Chair. When there were opportunities to speak, they were often on large blocs of motions. This had to be done because of new time constraints caused by the factional disagreements.

I had the opportunity to speak to two motions:

Merger Madness (Guilds Gone Wild)

This was a motion I submitted with Dylan Storer to outline the problems with merging universities and that these institutional changes need to be protested by the NUS. This motion was in the context of the possible merger in WA, as the state government has been issuing statements about a possible UWA-Curtin or

UWA-Curtin-Murdoch merger. The motion and my speech outlined that any merger will negatively impact staff and students due to the lower satisfaction rates consistently seen at larger institutions and I cited how disruptive the merger in South Australia has been as well to support the argument.

The bloc that this motion was in was supported by conference, which means the NUS will support student unions protesting mergers, release statements relating to the discussion of a WA university merger, and that the NUS will advocate against mergers and instead for reforms that put students and staff first.

NUS Against Course Cuts and Restructures

I had submitted a motion relating specifically to trimesters in universities, however due to issues with our submission and merged motions my specific motion wasn't included in the 2025 policy book. However, I was able to write an amendment to an existing motion that was in the policy book.

The motion was adjusted to include trimesters specifically. My speech was about the additional workload they put on staff and how they give students little time to work during break periods. Trimesters as a structure of learning cause burnout and don't help students progress in their learning, instead they create unrealistic study environments and threatens student's wellbeing.

Education continued onto day 4.

Day 4

The education chapter continued for a few hours on day 4. Paid pracs for students were discussed with conference attendees supporting motions for the NUS to continue campaigning for this issue.

The ethnocultural and women's chapters were discussed in the late afternoon with majority of them being passed on bloc.

Ethnocultural

Motions focused on the realities faced by students of colour, migrant, refugee and international students, racism on campus, inaccessible reporting pathways, and the absence of culturally competent support. What stood out was how the chapter reframed these issues as structural rather than symbolic, linking identity to material conditions like housing insecurity, visa precarity, wage theft and personal safety.

There was broad agreement that racism is not incidental, but embedded in how universities operate, and that student unions must treat it as a welfare and safety issue. While tensions lingered around how issues like Palestine, Islamophobia and

antisemitism were named, the chapter was marked by genuine consensus-building. It affirmed that ethnocultural students are not just “vulnerable” groups to be managed, but political actors whose experiences should shape the direction of the union.

Women’s

The women’s chapter was debated on bloc, (all motions at once). This chapter had many important motions about sexual violence and harassment on campus, universities responses to assault on campus, and the barriers faced by women in student spaces including housing.

I want to thank all the women that spoke about their motions they had submitted, it was great to hear from so many people who had the confidence to speak about their firsthand experiences on campus and in society.

I will also note that it was concerning and disgusting for members of Socialist Alternative and independents have the men in their caucus get up and speak against these motions. There were very few opportunities for women to speak on this chapter and to have their opportunity taken away by men was inappropriate. I will further note that all of Socialist Alternative, including the Curtin delegates abstained from voting on the women’s chapter, which is shameful.

Recommendations

1. That the Curtin Student Guild continue to be involved with the NUS. The NUS has it flaws, but it needs strong student unions to engage with and support it as a body, otherwise it will likely continue to decline.
2. If you are a member of leadership in any faction or sub faction, ensure that the arguments over OB positions are had before the conference. The days’ worth of stalling was a waste of delegates time and counterproductive.
3. At National Conference 2026, work to ensure that there is a competent unbiased Chair that does not swear or yell at delegates, as it isn’t an effective use of time.
For example, if there is a confident individual who has experience chairing meetings, have them Chair the meeting instead of the relevant OB for the chapter.
4. For delegates doing roles like Cog for the first time, there should be a brief fact sheet or something explaining the role to them so they can have some idea of what to do before being in the middle of conference.

National Conference 2025 Written Report – David Phillips – WA NUS Delegate

The National Conference of the National Union of Students 2025 was a tumultuous conference to say the least. Being my first NatCon, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect nor what the purpose of NatCon was. This written report will outline my experience in full, what I learned, what I contributed and the benefits those contributions as well as the contributions of my peers bring to members of the Curtin Student Guild, all Curtin students and tertiary students across the country.

The structure of NatCon began two days before the conference when the 504-page proposed policy book was officially sent out. This policy book contained hundreds of policies ranging from student unionism to welfare to small and regional and more. Being my first NatCon I obviously wanted to involve myself as much as possible and so wanted to make sure I understood all the policies as quickly as possible to be ready for conference on Monday. It was a thorough policy book with all sides contributing and putting their ideas forward (although at differing amounts). I am proud to say that the Windies and the Student Left overall contributed a significant portion of the policies, far beyond the proportion of the delegates we hold.

I personally put forward and contributed to 4 policies that accurately reflected the views of the people that elected myself and other Illuminate delegates. These policies were:

1. Campaign with Clarity

I found that the access to information surrounding the NUS was appalling and lacked consistency, ease of access and basic depth. As a first time NUS delegate, I wanted to learn as much as I could about the NUS and NatCon so I could engage as much as possible without relying on more experienced delegates. Information such as how to write/submit policy, what the general structure of NatCon is, how amendments get passed, what the typical rules are, what office bearers are available and what they're responsible for, the role of the NUS in Australia's political system, what the values or purpose of the NUS is and so on is not easily accessible to elected delegates. I wanted to ask the question of why the NUS has lacked transparency in these areas and to change the processes in the future. The key points in this policy were to:

- To make the dates/location, format of the conference, deadlines for policy submissions and relevant contacts available on the website two months prior to conference
- To enforce the NUS to provide an information pack to new delegates that outlines what NatCon is, how policy is submitted and debated, basic expectations and procedures as well as important contacts

- To enforce the NUS to maintain a mailing list of all delegates and provide necessary non-public information via that list

Socialist Alternative argued against this motion with several speakers but voted up regardless along with all other voting delegates.

2. Affordable & Accessible Food on Campus

One major issue I've seen across University campuses has been the lack of access to healthy and equitable food. Universities have been evermore turning to convenient fast food options to fill commercial outlet locations throughout their campuses. This harms student wellbeing and prevents students from accessing nutritional food that they need to survive and thrive at University. The key points in this policy were:

- To have the NUS recognise the severity and impact of food insecurity and the lack of access to affordable healthy food on university campuses
- To have the NUS advocate and campaign for universities to provide affordable, accessible, healthy and culturally appropriate food options on campus and,
- To have the NUS support and campaign for capped prices on essential items and accessible on-campus food support services

3. Consistent Standard for Mental Health Access

In my opinion, a large part of the ongoing stresses experienced by students in Universities is due to the lack of accessible support services provided to students. If the friction or hoops that a student has to go through to get access to support is large enough than it prevents those who need help from getting the support they need. From my research it became apparent that these hoops and friction are designed and part of the system to reduce demand and allow Universities to get away with hiring fewer staff and having weaker established infrastructure around mental health support. I consider that to be unacceptable and the key points in this policy were designed to address that. They were:

- The NUS believes every student has the right to timely, face-to-face mental health support, not just digital options
- The NUS recognises that long wait times for in person mental health services and high student to counsellor ratios worsen student wellbeing and lead to worse academic outcomes
- The NUS believes mental health services must be equitable, culturally safe and physically accessible, particularly for:
 - a. International students
 - b. Students from rural areas
 - c. LGBTQIA+ students

- d. Students with disabilities
- e. First-in-family and students from low-income backgrounds
- The NUS will start a Face-to-Face Mental Health campaign, calling on universities to:
 - a. Establish a student-to-counsellor ratio of at most 1:1000
 - b. Have a maximum wait time of 7 days for an initial appointment
 - c. Have at least one dedicated international-student mental health specialist per campus.
- The NUS will create a Guide to Campus Mental Health Advocacy resource pack, including:
 - a. Templates for social media posts, campaign information and guides for maximising results
 - b. General achievable goals that each Student Union should aim to achieve within their own University/Institution.

4. Move more, stress less

I enjoy fitness, sport and going to the gym. It's one of the best, scientifically proven ways to help manage stress is through exercise. Despite this, research has shown that starting Uni is associated with decreased physical activity, poorer diet, disrupted sleep and worse mental health. At the same time students want and expect access to exercise. In a national survey of school leavers, 63% said they expect cheap gym access on campus. This shows that this is an access issue, which Universities have the ability to control and directly affect. Accessible exercise equipment and movement opportunities provide a tangible net benefit to students and, unfortunately, universities often price out many students by offering unaffordable membership structures that focus more on making money than they do servicing the students that are already paying tens of thousands of dollars to attend the very same university. This needs to change and I wanted to make sure that the NUS does everything they can to make sure it does. I brought the following key points as part of this policy to NatCon:

- The NUS recognises access to exercise and movement equipment as a core student welfare issue, not a lifestyle extra.
- The NUS believes no student should be priced out of basic gym and recreation facilities at their own institution.
- The NUS believes that SSAF-funded sport and recreation must deliver clear, affordable benefits to students especially disadvantaged students who come from an international, rural or low-income background.

- The NUS calls on Universities to clearly identify what proportion of SSAF funds go to sport/gym areas for students and to offer a membership at or below the National Gym Pricing Standard.
- The NUS will promote a National Student Gym Pricing Standard, calling for:
 - a. At least one core student membership per campus with total effective cost (including SSAF-funded components) equivalent to no more than \$5 per week for full-time students, indexed annually
 - b. Membership pricing takes in account students that are on income support, scholarships based on financial hardship or staying in on-campus accommodation
 - c. Transparent public reporting of gym and sport fees on all university websites

Unfortunately, we couldn't discuss these policies in detail during the conference, but it was communicated that all 4 policies would receive unanimous support.

The first phase of NatCon was filled with negotiations and talks regarding the 3 main factions of the NUS, Student Left, Unity and Socialist Alternative. This lasted the first two days. Socialist Alternative actively refused to participate in conference and actively sought out all other delegates around the University at check in time and throughout the conference to pester about the lack of Socialist Alternative office bearers they believed were going to be elected. On top of this, the day before NatCon started, the Victorian branch of Unity decided to separate from Unity, which disrupted the ability for Student Left and the remainder of Unity to reach quorum on conference floor. On top of this, Socialist Alternative refused to step foot on conference floor without being awarded additional office bearer positions. These two issues combined led to further negotiations during conference to try to reach a position with other factions to allow conference to begin. Student Left attempted to start conference on the first day of conference, but Socialist Alternative delegates didn't turn up and instead, their observers began heckling and shouting about how the situation was the fault of the Student Left. Conference didn't start until Wednesday.

To harass someone is defined as subjecting someone to aggressive pressure or intimidation or to make repeated small attacks to someone. Unfortunately, this definition summarises Socialist Alternative's approach to the conference in every way. Leading up to a deal being reached, Socialist Alternative members went up to every other delegate to continually antagonise and question why other delegates put them in that position. This included during check-in and outside the conference. All Curtin Socialist Alternative members who attended engaged in this throughout the conference. Even after being told that we did not want to talk to them and that we didn't have

anything to say, they continued to go up to us loudly and harshly condemn us, notably with a unique and recognisable inflection. Socialist Alternative also saw NatCon as a business opportunity, with all members instructed to go up to the same delegates they harassed just hours before and pitch their journalism to. It is deeply contradictory and unethical for a faction to be so passionately against Capitalism, and fervently claim to students to get them elected, yet use the conference as a sales opportunity to generate revenue for their business. It undermines the very substance in which they claim to stand on to attempt to profit and benefit from the system that they themselves are trying so “*desperately*” to get people to stand up against and at the main opportunity they have to challenge that system.

At the official opening of NatCon, I was able to take on the role of being the Speaker Whip/Runner for Windies. This was an invigorating experience that kept me on my toes and allowed me to dive headfirst into the finer details of how NatCon actually runs on conference floor. I communicated with other Windie delegates, whips for Student Left as well as COG and BizCom representatives in order to organise who will speak on certain policies as well as help Ebony in communicating Windies’ political position on some contentious policies/amendments. On conference floor, I was always on my laptop and my phone, constantly messaging and adjusting spreadsheets, writing speeches, reaching out to people and so on. I loved being able to experience NatCon in this way, and despite it being stressful, it was a lot of fun and made me appreciate the amount of work and organisation it takes to form a cohesive faction of the size of the Student Left. This was my favourite part about NatCon, being able to contribute everything I can to ensure the policies of the students that elected us get integrated into the official policies of the National Union of Students.

COG is the committee that determines what amendments and procedural motions should be ran during conference and is responsible for collecting faction signatures to show support and passing these onto BizCom. COG is essentially the brains that has the power to control conference through anything from combining several policies for delegates to vote on at once or renaming BizCom to “Big Chungus”. BizCom is a bureaucratic committee that sits on conference floor and confirms that factions have supported the procedural/amendment moved by COG. After approved by BizCom, the paper is then meant to be read out by the chair.

- “Meant” is an important word in this context. Several procedurals had to be moved in order to control the ridiculous behaviour of Socialist Alternative members, including, but not limited to:
 - o A motion that members of BizCom should not “eat procedural motions”. Socialist Alternative voted against this motion.

- A motion that members of BizCom should not touch each other. Socialist Alternative voted against this motion.
- Several motions including blocks and speaker time amendment was not read out by the Socialist Alternative chair during the Education section. This significantly hinders the fair democratic processes in place at NatCon.

Overall, NatCon provided an astonishing opportunity for us to put forward the key policies that we have a mandate to implement. I loved being able to engage with all parts of the conference as much as I could from policy making to speaking on conference floor to whipping and running. Whilst the conference was inhibited in many ways, I always put my best foot forward, read and understood all 504 pages of the policy book, and represented my peers as best as I could. I also want to say thank you to those who chose me as their representative to the NUS as part of Illuminate, the Windies and the Student Left and thank you to my fellow Illuminate, Windies and Student Left attendees. This was an incredible experience where I was able to engage in the policies that affect students on a national platform and I can't wait to see the progress made by the NUS in the coming year!

NatCon 2025 Report – Mitch Craig

Day 1

On the first day we travelled to Ballarat and checked in and were assigned our accommodation. Unfortunately due to factional drama to do with splits in Unity and Socialist Alternative being salty about no one making deals for them to get any paid positions there was no quorum achieved on the first day. This meant that quorum could not be achieved.

Day 2

On the second day we started by cooking breakfast on the BBQ before conference. Unfortunately we once again could not achieve quorum so I went with a few people into Ballarat to visit the Eureka Memorial/Museum. There we learnt about some of the history of trade unionism and some of the horrific acts committed by government forces during the Eureka Stockade. Many of the accounts and exhibits were inspiring, including the original Eureka flag. We also visited a lake in the town that day.

Day 3

We finally had conference on the 3rd day after some negotiation between the factions to achieve quorum. Many people from Curtin were able to speak on motions and get things passed that align with our values and are in the best interest of students. Unfortunately due to the loss of the first 2 days of conference there were a lot of items moved in bloc's which limited who could speak on them, this included some items I had put forward or supported. I also was able to assist our faction with the signing of statutory declarations for election nominations due to my registration as a graduate engineer.

Day 4

Conference was delayed due to issues with getting the Returning Officer to Ballarat as he was involved in a car accident. Eventually conference proceeded and I was able to speak on a motion submitted by my UWA comrade Rama about Universities being for the public good. It was great to see others from Curtin speaking about issues they are passionate about. Unfortunately, despite more big beautiful blocs, we were not able to get through the whole policy book and so a large portion was deferred to the next national executive meeting of the NUS.

Due to more factional conflict a ballot was required to be held which involved the printing of thousands of papers and meant some people had to be in the ballot room filling out a mountain of paper. Eventually this conflict was resolved and the spoiler candidates were withdrawn.

Final Thoughts

NatCon was a very interesting experience and I wish we'd had more time to speak on our motions and get through the whole policy book. I was able to connect with like-minded representatives from across the country and hear their strategies and troubles. This will help me be a better representative in the future.

I must call out the enormous waste of paper required by the paper ballot and say it is extremely disappointing that the balloting cannot be done electronically. There are multiple platforms that allow secure weighted voting that should be implemented for the future.

I also believe more should be done to ensure all factions come to the table so that quorum can be achieved and maintained. This will ensure that the issues are heard and fully debated.

I want to thank my WA comrades for their tireless efforts and strong engagement at NatCon.

NUS 2025 NatCon Report

Tom Harrowing

Definitions:

SAlt/Socialist Alternative/Trots: A nominally Marxist faction associated with a national organization.

SU/Unity/The right: A major, Labor-right aligned faction of the NUS, notably supportive of AUKUS and opposed to free education.

SL/SLA/The left: A Labor-left aligned, big tent faction of the NUS, comprised of several sub factions.

Vic Unity/SDA: The most hard-right faction of the NUS. SDA split from unity and attempted to work with SAlt. They are aligned with a notoriously conservative trade union, the Shoppies.

Bizcom: A committee of factional representatives. This committee receives and sends through amendments, blocks and other administrative processes.

WIndies: An independent, left-wing grouping aligned with SL. Most Curtin delegates are WIndies.

Timeline of events:

8th of December: attendees arrive in Ballarat.

Quorum is not met and the conference does not go ahead.

The floor, still non-quorate, is filmed during the heckling of a Socialist Alternative speaker.

9th of December: negotiations for quorum continue.

Attendees remain in limbo.

Late night negotiations seem to succeed.

10th of December: ~11am Quorum is finally met, and the conference proceeds.

Filming is banned.

Bizcom is elected, quickly devolving into physical scuffles.

Environment officer is re-established.

SAlt tries to sell newspapers at lunch.

Many chapters are organized into enormous blocks

My placements motion (noteworthy for Curtin) passes unanimously.

Bizcom is renamed “Big Chungus”

Completed Student Unionism and most of Education.

11th of December: Quorum met late again, OB reports voted on.

Reports carried unanimously.

Ballots for OB’s open around 3:30 – conference floor extended to the ballot room.

Ethnocultural and Women’s chapters voted in blocks.

A minute of silence is held for victims of violence against women.

Remainder of motions passed to national executive; student unions fail in representing countless voices.

Victorian unity/SDA triggers 24,000 votes to be printed, causing a crisis for the returning officer – withdrawing their candidates hours later.

After essential governance/report motions pass, SAlt pull quorum during candidate speeches.

The NUS continues to exist.

Outline:

From the 8th to 11th of December, NUS delegates and observers from the Curtin Student Guild attended NatCon, an annual NUS conference during which student representatives debate policy positions and elect office-bearers for the year. Most Curtin attendees were members of the Western Independents (WIndies), which was a

faction of the somewhat Labor-aligned Left Student Alliance, a newly formed group. Other Curtin attendees were members of Socialist Alternative.

Prior to the conference, the Labor-aligned left & right factions had agreed to lock Socialist Alternative out of office bearing positions. SAlt had often been granted the position of Education officer. This lock-out deal was an extension of the long-held “sweetheart” deal dividing certain positions between Labor left & right factions. Unexpectedly, the lock out deal caused extensive controversy online, Socialist Alternative accusing other NUS factions of conspiring to lock out pro-Palestine activists. I remain uncertain of the motivations behind this deal but am sure that when the Western Independents agreed to it, it was part of an attempt to hold together an otherwise unstable left faction. The WIndies also maintained independence from the left faction in votes, breaking the votebinding tradition of previous Labor left factions.

The lock-out deal, initially supported with blind confidence, fell apart. A major subset of the Labor right faction, the Victorian SDA decided to pull out of the agreement due to a perceived lack of respect within their faction, proceeding to embark on a wrecker path. They also had awful, sigma-esque shirts. An unholy alliance of the hardcore Catholic SDA and the Trotskyist Socialist Alternative refused to attend the conference. As less than 50% of attendees were not present, the conference could not go ahead. Waiting in the conference hall, SAlt and SDA delegates did not attend, though their accredited observers (who don't contribute to quorum) did. After around an hour and a half, it became evident that quorum would not be met. A Socialist Alternative member stood to shout at the conference (this becomes a trend), only to be drowned out by a flood of booing by right & left delegates – Windies made a point of staying silent. This shameful conduct was recorded and posted online, reflecting badly upon the left faction. Attendees returned home, sticking together to avoid harassment by Socialist Alternative.

For two days, there was no conference. Attendees waited anxiously for the results of negotiations behind closed doors. Left leadership continued to meet with the faction to consult with members, progress often seeming staggered or lagged. I was pleased with Curtin Guild president and WIndies leader Dylan Storer, who spoke strongly regarding our concerns and consistently upheld democratic and progressive values during left meetings. During this limbo period, idle attendees explored Ballarat and got sloshed.

When quorum was met, attendees were relieved. SAlt had been granted Education officer and a few other positions. Much of their rhetoric centered around the lockout deal and the labor aligned factions being complicit in genocide. Some of them insinuated that the federal ALP had made an order to NUS factions to lock out Socialist Alternative. I've got no doubt that factional leadership didn't need any help getting themselves into that mess.

Sluggish yet rushed progress took us through some sections of the agenda, myself and other WIndies were prominent in speaking to left motions. After initial fears of trot harassment, I was pleased to speak to motions about AUKUS, commercialization and education. I was especially pleased to speak to my motion about the responsibilities of states in addressing the placement crisis, which had been a focus of my role as Humanities Rep in 2025.

Most sections were not considered due to a lack of time and instead went to be decided upon by national executive (NX). Following the paranoia of the week and countless shaky deals, the resulting NX was the first left-majority in decades, encouraging a left wing, ambitious NUS. That's a golden result, since the dissolution of the NUS seemed entirely likely.

Following the approval of financial reports (ensuring the continuation of the NUS), SAlt's Education officer gave a speech consisting of the usual spiel. The whip of the labor right faction went into a rage against the SDA. The SDA and SAlt joined hands and marched out of the hall, ending the conference by pulling quorum.

We joined in the afterparty and headed home the next day, exhausted.

Achievements:

The crowning achievement of the conference was the election of a left-majority NX. This ensures a progressive policy platform. The newly founded left faction, too, was surprisingly successful, managing to maintain stability between its numerous sub factions. After the right split, the left became the largest faction on conference floor. WIndies motions on several issues including education and the role of student unionism were discussed, WIndies attendees gained extensive experience in public speaking, speechwriting, and fast-paced politics. Notable to my own role as Humanities rep is the passage of a motion encouraging states to do their part in placing students. I intend to use this policy to collaborate with the WA NUS in addressing the placement crisis. The re-establishment of the Environment Officer position is another win, WIndies were proud to support Clayton Watts for the role.

Following the Women's chapter, a minute of silence was held to commemorate victims of violence against women. This was a rare moment during which attendees ceased heckling and arguing, drawing attention to an important and under addressed issue.

Lessons:

I find little sympathy for the conduct of any of the factions involved in this mess. Especially not for Socialist Alternative, whose awful behavior only served to further the growth of their useless, quasi-religious, revisionist perversion of Marxism. Labor-aligned factions overconfidently aimed to cut out a major faction from office bearing roles. I felt that factional leaders' preexisting relationships from within the Labor party skewed negotiations and decision-making. Outside of the stupor sphere, I get a sense that regular students are unaware of what happens in the NUS, nor what their elected delegates do. SAlt or Labor, the behavior of factions and delegates seemed incredibly disconnected from regular student experience or interest, despite much good policy being passed.

Guild money was spent on sending many delegates to a conference which did not start for two days. During the conference, all factions displayed appalling behavior. Regular students remain unheard and unaware of the way their money is being spent. The deals and conduct around the election of this year's office bearers does not lead me to believe that they will collaborate properly or fulfil their roles. I am sympathetic to the idea of the Curtin Guild leaving the NUS, spending Guild time and money in ways which can more effectively improve student experience and contribute to broader political struggles.

Seeing the state of student politics on a national level has reinforced my belief that students are best served by groups which are strongly progressive and independent from national organizations. I believe that the WIndies embodied these principles well. I think we should exercise caution toward our involvement with the left faction – we must focus on what best benefits Curtin students, not letting dominant Labor politics influence our views.

Tom Harrowing

2026

NUS National Conference Report

Max Zhang

I had the opportunity to attend the NUS National Conference in December of 2025 as an accredited observer, to witness the operation of the largest conference of the peak union body for university students in this country. It was an honour to be able to represent the interests of not only Curtin students, but also to have my voice be heard by student representatives and leaders from across the country. The conference took place at the lovely Federation University Mt Helen campus in Ballarat, Victoria.

As an accredited observer, I unfortunately did not hold any votes. However, I did have the opportunity to speak on several occasions, on topics I cared greatly about, including campus culture, and racial, religious and ethnic equality in our education. Having attended the NUS Education Conference in 2024 when we held it at Curtin University, I thought I knew what I was getting into, but I quickly was left disappointed, as the conference devolved into iniquitous chaos, thanks to ego and stubbornness of certain factions. Thanks to delegates from Socialist Alternative, and some from Student Unity Victoria, not attending conference for childish and antagonistic reasons, the conference failed to meet quorum, and lapsed for the entirety of days 1 and 2, and the first half of day 3. For a 4 day conference, meant to cover a proposed policy book over 500 pages long, consisting of over 400 individual policies, this behaviour is appalling, and I strongly condemn all delegates who refused to come to the floor. They are burning student money, and each and every one of them should feel shame upon themselves.

As previously mentioned, nothing happened on days 1 and 2, with delegates and observers left to appreciate the quality of the university operated student housing units provided to us by Federation University. I think all of us can come away with the conclusion that the quality of housing provided by UniLodge at Curtin is of very poor quality in comparison.

Around the middle of day 3, some delegates finally realized that they are being paid to attend a conference, and they have a duty to represent the students who elected them. However, the 2.5 day delay in the 4 day conference meant that most motions had to be discussed in massive blocs, effectively eliminating thoughtful, nuanced debate. Nonetheless, myself, and several other delegates and observers from Curtin, had the chance to speak to motions in the Student Unionism and Education chapters, sharing our passion and our experiences on the national stage.

Day 4 was our first and only full day of conference, starting with the continuation of the Education chapter. Socialist Alternative continued to take up precious time to repeat the same buzz words on motions that are not relevant to what they are saying, further delaying the progression of conference. Following the conclusion of the Education chapter, we moved onto the Ethnocultural chapter, where most motions were moved in

gigantic blocs, beginning with a 26 motion long bloc, with multiple students from all different backgrounds speaking passionately on the discrimination and inequality we faced, and continue to face, in the higher education sector of Australia, and in the country as a whole.

Overall, NatCon ended with delays accounting for over 50% of the planned run time of the conference, hundreds of policies left undiscussed, left in limbo, for the NUS National Executive, a much smaller group of around two dozen, to debate and discuss. Chaotic, ego fuelled spirals once again rendering the NUS National Conference a messy, unproductive junk pile, with individual campuses and unions, such as the Curtin Student Guild, left to pick up the slack.

One final note about the conference itself, is accessibility. The Federation University campus, while great, is not an accessible campus, with a multitude of bumpy paths, steep ramps, narrow walkways, and so so many stairs. The audio of the conference left much to be desired, especially on the volume front. This was compounded by certain delegates screaming, heckling, wrestling for the microphone, and to occupy every single motion discussed to throw around their 'holier than thou' attitude.

These delegates seemed to insist that they had a right to speak over people with real, lived experience of discrimination and exploitation, instead of championing our voices.

Shame.

I attended the national conference of the national union of students (NUS) in early December. The conference took place in the context of more than 2 years of genocide in Gaza, repression of the pro Palestine speech on university campuses and the quality of our education under attack. 2025 also saw the biggest protests for Palestine in Australia with the Sydney Harbour Bridge protest which saw 300 000 march for Palestine and the national protest for Palestine with up to 500 000 participants.

I was part of the socialist alternative faction who spent the majority of the conference arguing against the anti socialist deal that the young labor factions had stitched up to lock out Palestine and socialists activists from office bearer positions in the NUS.

It was disappointing but not all that surprising that after 2 years of the genocide in Gaza and socialist alternative using our office bearer positions in the NUS to fight against our government and universities complicity in the genocide that a deal was stitched up to lock us out. The justification given by some labor students is that the NUS were too anti-government.

In 2025 we used our positions to organise the referendum for Palestine which saw over 5000 students vote in historic meetings for Palestine and take a stand against Australia's ties to Israel. Our education office last year used his position to run the counter inquiry into free speech on campuses with a range of organisations including the the Jewish Council, APAN and the greens. This inquiry highlighted the censorship of pro Palestine speech on campuses.

At the conference we were able to block the conference from meeting quorum until the Labor students agreed to give us the education office. This will be really important going forward for the Palestine movement as we are under attack from the government and universities across Australia.

The remainder of the conference we pursued a number of arguments including the argument that the university sector is in dire crisis. The attacks on education from the course cuts to the introduction of AI which undermines staff rights are reflective of the neoliberal university model. We argued that NUS needs to fight against the "user pays model" of university and that the VCs and government are our enemies. The former runs the sector for profit while the later starves our unis from funding, making the uni admins turn to private companies and milking international students like cash cows, for funding.

We were able to push for the position of the NUS to be for compulsory student unionism, rejecting the SSAF model of student union funding. The SSAF model gives universities control over how much and to which "student organisations" money is allocated, tying our unions to the university. We also argued that to make students mobilise around attacks on our unions the unions have to be relevant to students. This means mobilising students in protests and campaigns around issues they care about like Palestine and course cuts.

The NUS will be unable to fight against attacks on free speech on campus, for students rights and against course cuts if it isn't a fighting body oppositional to the university VCs and the

government. This is why its so important that Yasmine Johnson, a leading Palestine activist in NSW and member of socialist alternative will be the education officer for the NUS this year.

Having more Palestine and socialist activists in the NUS is the only hope to fight for a radical, militant vision of student unions that mobilises students and rebuilds the fighting muscle of the NUS. With the horrors in Gaza continuing we so desperately need this.

Trip Report: Melbourne – CAPA and NUS Meetings

Dates: Wednesday 3rd Dec 2025 (Departure)– Sunday 14th 2025 (Return)

Locations: Melbourne

Reported by Dr Jael Wafula

PSC President 2026 Term

1. Journey & Travel Arrangements

- Dylan, Mitch, and I departed on Wednesday; the remainder of the team joined on Friday.
- Travel included a combination of flights and bus transfers.
- After the conclusion of NUS meetings, the team returned by bus, stayed overnight at a hotel, and flew back to Melbourne.
- Travel arrangements were smooth, ensuring timely attendance and minimal disruption to schedules.

2. Accommodation

- Accommodation was comfortable and well-organized, providing restful rooms for all team members.
- Transport between the hotel and meeting venues was efficient, enabling punctual arrival for all sessions.
- Overall, the accommodation and logistics contributed positively to the trip experience.

3. Meals

- Meals were provided during both CAPA and NUS meetings, supporting participant engagement and productivity.
- The team also had a dinner after pre-election meetings alongside colleagues from other Universities, which was self-funded at \$25 per person.
- The quality and timing of meals were appropriate and sufficient throughout the trip. The meals in the NUS and CAPA were free while the rest of the days were self-funded.

4. CAPA Meeting & Elections 5th Dec 2025 Deakin University

- On Friday, I was introduced to the CAPA meeting.
- An election was held, and Mitch successfully continued in his role as Secretary.
- Meetings were well-structured, and meals were provided to participants.
- The session provided opportunities for networking and engagement with other participants.

5. Pre-NUS University of Melbourne & NUS Meetings - Federation University (Ballarat)

- Pre-NUS meetings were held on Saturday and Sunday; Observations from Day 1 and Day 2 of these meetings indicated that participants from Western Australia were underrepresented. Discussions and decision-making were dominated by students from nearby universities.
- NUS meetings Started on Monday and ended on Friday but were initially interrupted due to differences between parties, but issues were resolved, and elections proceeded.
- Western Australia participants faced disadvantages due to lack of quorum, resulting in fewer seats allocated to their region.
- Meals were provided during all sessions, supporting full participation.

6. Key Observations & Recommendations

a. Regional Representation:

- Western Australia did not receive equitable representation in the elections.
- Recommendation: Implement measures in future NUS meetings to ensure full participation from all regions. I would suggest some positions distributed equally whether the regions have quorum or not to give chance to able leaders from around the country.

b. Leadership:

- Dylan demonstrated excellent leadership throughout the trip.
- He was supportive, focused, and non-judgmental, ensuring all team members were considered and included.

- Based on his performance, he is highly suitable for larger leadership roles in future events.

c. Logistics & Comfort:

- Accommodation, transport, and meals were well-organized and contributed positively to the team's experience.

d. Team Engagement:

- The trip facilitated valuable learning, networking, and collaboration opportunities despite challenges in regional representation.

7. Conclusion

The Melbourne trip for CAPA and NUS meetings was productive, with successful elections and meaningful engagement. While Western Australian representation was limited, the overall experience was positive. Leadership, logistics, and team participation were commendable, and the trip provided important insights for improving inclusivity and engagement in future events.

NUS 2025 National Conference Report

Tahsin Ibn Anowar, he/him

Last year, I had the great opportunity to participate in the NUS National Conference as a delegate in Ballarat, Victoria. As it was my first time joining a national conference I got to learn about a lot of things, how the student politics work here in Australia, negotiations with group, etc. I also learned about discussions, debates, and negotiations through real situations during the conference.

Day 1

Before the conference started, we checked into our accommodation at the Federation University campus. The accommodation was very nice, and we got our own room. I really liked the campus environment and overall atmosphere.

After checking in, we had lunch provided by the organizers. Later, we went to the conference room for the "Welcome to Country" session. After this session, there was a lot of chaos and noise in the conference room, which was difficult for me to fully understand. Soon after, we returned to our accommodation. We then had dinner and called it a day.

Day 2

The next day, we had breakfast and then attended several caucus meetings. However, no formal conference sessions were held that day because the quorum was not met.

As we had some free time, Mitch, Connie, Tom, and I explored town of Ballarat and visited a nearby lake. Later, we returned to our accommodation, had a team meeting, and ended the day.

Day 3

On Day 3, the conference officially began as the quorum was finally met. This was the most active and engaging day of the conference. I spoke on several policies during the sessions. At times, there was complete chaos, yelling, strong disagreements, and the chair sometimes struggled to manage the situation.

Despite this, end of the day I was happy to contribute to discussions on multiple policies which was well accepted and appreciated by people. Firstly, I planned to speak only about international chapters, but I decided to participate in more policy discussions. Though I felt nervous and found it confronting at first, the support from Windies group and the whole left group helped me to grow my confidence . The conference continued until around 8:00 pm that day.

Day 4

The conference started after lunch, and our whole Windies team performed well together. Everyone spoke at least once on different policies, which was appreciated by others.

However, I was slightly surprised that some important chapters, including the international chapters, were not discussed which was particularly interested in contributing .

Day 5

On the last day, we travelled back to Melbourne from Ballarat early in the morning with the group. Overall, it was a unique experience with range of emotions throughout the conference. I feel truly grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the National Conference.

Thoughts

Honestly, I gained a lot from this trip. As a first timer, it was a valuable learning experiences, though some situations were challenging. At times, interactions with SALT (Socialist Alternative), felt uncomfortable. However, all those experiences helped me better understand the context of the conference.

Recommendations

It is always important to always stay with your group because being alone can be challenging sometimes, as SALT (Socialist Alternative) may approach you more easily.

It is also important to remain active and carefully read all the policies if possible as it gives a clear understanding of the conference. Most importantly, you should speak up as much as you can. As an elected delegate or observer, you are expected to contribute to policy discussions and work as part of a team.

Finally, if time allows, take the opportunity to explore and do some shopping. These moments help create memories from the experience.





Ethnocultural Officer

February Representation Board (01/12/2025 – 12/02/2026)

Max Zhang (They/Them)

University/External Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| 08/12/2025 – 11/12/2025 | NUS National Conference | See NatCon Report |
| 02/02/2026 | Phone call with Curtin Multifaith Officer | Made introductions and discussed some details of the Guild's temporary prayer space project during the Musalla closure. |

Guild Meetings

| Date | Meeting | Comments |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 25/12/2025 – 04/01/2026 | Guild Closure Period | |

Updates

Curtin Musalla Closure and Temporary Prayer Space Project

On Tuesday 27/01, we were notified of the Curtin Musalla closure and renovations, which had already happened. We discovered that the dates of the closure overlapped with Orientation Week, as well as the Monday of the first teaching week, which also happened to line up with the beginning of Ramadan. As the semester would have began, this renovation would impact a large amount of students, specifically during Orientation week and the first Monday of the semester.

After considering a few options, we decided on converting the Club HQ venue, as well as the former student kitchen connecting to it, into a temporary prayer space, to help relieve any pressure caused by the Musalla closure. Thank you to Dylan, Hadiya, Zobia, Tahsin, Vernon, and others, for the extremely fast turn-around in establishing the space. The Instagram post informing students of this temporary space, which went out on the Curtin Guild Ethno page, as well as the main Curtin Guild and the Curtin Guild ISC accounts, have received just under 32 thousand views.

O-Day

11/02/2026

O-Day went fairly well, in my opinion. I had some trouble coming up with a giveaway item for such a broad and newly established portfolio, but eventually settled on some useful items for university students, and some trusty Guild gift cards. I had some very engaging chats, to both staff and students, who were very interested in seeing the potential for advocacy and educational content of this position. I have also received several EOIs for the Ethnocultural Collective, which I am very happy to see, as I plan to continue to grow the collective, and listen to more voices from the Curtin student community.

Cultural Education Campaign

Ongoing

This is one of my main goals for 2026, and I have begun work on research and creating content already. The aim is to put out informative and engaging content, both digitally through Instagram, and physically through posters, to inform and educate students and staff about different cultural and ethnic celebrations and traditions. Currently, I am working on some content for Ramadan and Lunar New Year, which are both fast approaching. This will be a digital only campaign, to test the concept, and fine tune any details, before I push on through the year.

Key Performance Indicators

| INDICATOR | DELIVERABLES | STATUS |
|--|---|--------|
| Attendance at 80% of required meetings | | |
| Submission of monthly report to Representation Board that demonstrates satisfactory progress towards KPIs | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum two (2) events per semester (either portfolio events or Guild events) | | |
| Run and/or provide considerable support for at minimum one (1) campaign per semester (either portfolio campaign and/or Guild campaign) | | |
| Completion of handover report for successor | | |
| Complete mandatory training within 45 days of being provided the resources/information to undertake the training | | |
| Grow the Ethnocultural Collective throughout the year | Have a collective of engaged members with regular meetings, at least once per month. | |
| Run a consistent cultural educational campaign | Create a post for at least 70% of the 2026 Calendar of Cultural and Religious Dates list, primarily focusing on Cultural dates. | |
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