

REPORT FOR GUILD COUNCIL

Guild President Dylan Storer (he/him)

Period: 18/7/2025 – 14/8/2025

Travel

- N/A

Leave

- N/A

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Summary

This has been an incredibly busy period for the Guild. Every day we've been working hard for students and with students to be the student union they deserve. We've got students back when it matters, push for a more ethical uni, a fairer society and fuller bellies. Firstly, I am very proud of two important cost of living and support measures being rolled out this week by the Guild. First is \$5 Student Saver Meals every day at Guild Café Central and the second is the launch of the Guild's Student Pantry. These initiatives are discussed further below but they come thanks to so much hard work from Guild staff, the heartbeat of our organisation.

On the advocacy front, I have been heavily involved in pushing back against unfair changes to Psychology exams that have turned take-home open-book exams to invigilated and closed book midway through semester! I've also been heavily involved in leading the Student Guild pushback against risky university mergers in WA. Finally the Guild is holding an SGM next Wednesday in support of two resolutions relating to Palestine and our unis ties to weapons companies and I'd encourage you all to attend and support the resolutions.

Every day I come onto campus I'm blown away by how much we've achieved together so far this year and I'm thankful for the support of this Council, our Reps, our Exec and our hardworking Guild staff for making the impossible possible and for making life better for students today and into the future.

In solidarity,
Dylan

Meetings

University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
22/7/25	Student Services & Amenities Fee Advisory Committee	This is the committee that governs SSAF and ISAF funds at Curtin. As Guild President, I am Deputy Chair. This committee meeting was mostly comprised of half-yearly check ins on funded projects and also contained a discussion on delays to SSAF-funded projects due to slow approval times from the Curtin Properties team.
24/7/25	Veronika Goeke (Equity & Inclusion) w/ VPSW	Discussion on Curtin's draft Antiracism Statement
30/7/25	Vice Chancellor	Discussion on University Merger Review.
31/7/25	Dean of Law	Discussion on Students as Partners projects in the Law School
6/7/25	Coordinator - Students As Partners	Monthly Catch Up alongside the VPE
7/8/25	Academic Board Executive	
7/8/25	Janet, Curtin Properties w/ Clubs Team	Discussion regarding branding of Clubs Hub
8/8/25	University Council	
12/8/25	Provost	Discussion regarding Uni Merger Review
13/8/25	Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic	Monthly meeting. Discussed Psychology exam changes, housing concerns and fees imposed on clubs for use of the Curtin Stadium.
13/8/25	Students As Partners Leadership Group	

Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
18/7/25	Student Assist Team w/ VPE & PSC President	ASPM Review
21/7/25	Managing Director	Weekly Check-In
21/7/25	Manager – Student Engagement	Weekly Check-In

22/7/25	National Tertiary Education Union	Discussion around supporting staff at the upcoming Curtin EBA negotiation and union priorities.
24/7/25	PSC Councillor Muhammad Usman & PSC President	Discussion on postgraduate issues at Curtin.
24/7/25	MD, Head Chef & Secretary	Menu review (taste testing) of Student Saver Meals
24/7/25	Manager – Student Engagement	Discussion on re-doing the artwork on the pillars outside the Guild
24/7/25	Guild Council	
28/7/25	Manager – Student Engagement	Weekly Check-In
28/7/25	Manager – Student Assist	Discussion on Guild Pantry
28/7/25	Executive Meeting	
28/7/25	NUS WA VPE	Meeting on University Merger Review
29/7/25	Managing Director	Weekly Check-In
29/7/25	NUS WA State Executive	Emergency State Executive meeting with all WA Guild Presidents to discuss Uni Merger Review. WA General Secretary of the NTEU was also present for a period of the meeting.
30/7/25	MD & David Price (Elevate Consulting)	Discussion on Strategic Plan following Council feedback.
31/7/25	University Review Stakeholder Meeting	Meeting with University Merger Feasibility Study Committee
4/8/25	Managing Director	Weekly Check-In
4/8/25	Manager – Student Engagement	Weekly Check-In
4/8/25	Student Coffee Catch Up	
5/8/25	Panel Briefing ACSES Symposium	I have been invited to speak on a panel at the 2025 Australian Centre for Student Equity & Success Symposium in Sydney in September.
5/8/25	NUS WA State Executive	Regularly scheduled meeting including debrief discussions from our meetings with the Uni Merger Review Committee.
6/8/25	MD, David Price, Exec	Review of draft Strategic Plan following Council discussion and Organisational Review
11/8/25	Managing Director	Weekly Check-In
11/8/25	Manager – Student Engagement	Weekly Check-In
11/8/25	MD, Manager – Student Experience & Secretary	Discussion regarding planning for Special General Meeting
11/8/25	Executive Meeting	
12/8/25	Curtin Colombo Student Guild	Discussion regarding the prospect of establishing an official branch of the Guild at the Curtin Colombo Campus
13/8/25	MD, David Price, Secretary & PSC President	Discussion regarding regulations
14/8/25	Manager – Student Assist	Discussion regarding changes to psychology exams
14/8/25	Representation Board	

Other Meetings/Activities

Date	Meeting	Comments
18/7/25	Friend Speed Dating	
25/7/25	NTEU BBQ Fundraiser	Raising money for the Strike Fund. I was unable to assist too much on this one due to the following item but thank you to Bridget for stepping up and assisting.
25/7/25	Mini Convocation for Masters Student	Please consider donating if you can
29/7/25	Official Opening of the Student Kitchen	Handed out free noodles to celebrate the opening of our new Student Kitchen! Also of note is that the kitchen is now open later than ever – 7pm!
7/8/25	NUS National Day of Action for Palestine	Huge shoutout to VPSW Razanne for delivering a fantastic speech to this rally
12/8/25	Humanities Rep Grill the Guild	Free BBQ – what's not to love!

Matters of Representation

University Merger Feasibility Study

The Guild is actively engaged in the WA Government's review of the state's public university system. While we support the need for reform, our position is clear: reform must focus on improving outcomes for students, not structural change for its own sake.

I met directly with the Review Panel in what was a robust discussion. Curtin students' views were made crystal clear: they do not want risky, prestige-driven mergers that prioritise corporate ambitions ahead of their education. The Guild has pushed back strongly on any proposal that would worsen the student experience, and we will continue to do so.

Any lingering doubt about the prospect of mergers has been removed. I recently received correspondence from Allanah MacTiernan in her capacity as Chair of the University Merger Feasibility Study, confirmation that merger discussions are real and active. The Guild has been invited to make a further submission and will do so.

WA's university sector is facing serious pressures: chronic underfunding, creeping corporatisation, insecure and casualised workforces, and worsening learning conditions. Reform is necessary. But mergers are not the solution. They are expensive, disruptive, and historically lead to bloated bureaucracy, job cuts, increased casualisation, reduced student satisfaction, and the erosion of course diversity and campus identity. Bigger does not mean better — and the diversity between Curtin, UWA, Murdoch, and ECU is a strength worth protecting.

The Guild's position is that students are not merely stakeholders; we are co-stewards of the higher education system. Our voices must be embedded in every level of governance and reform. This means:

- Protecting and legislating the role of Student Guilds as independent, democratic institutions.
- Ensuring Guilds are properly resourced, with 100% of SSAF directed to them to operate effectively.
- Guaranteeing strong student representation on university councils, senates, academic boards, and executives.

- Placing equity and inclusion at the heart of change — ensuring universities are accessible, culturally safe, and responsive to First Nations students, students with disabilities, regional and remote students, and those from low-SES backgrounds.

We also stand in solidarity with the NTEU in calling for job security and improved conditions for staff. We oppose any model that prioritises global rankings or prestige at the expense of educational quality.

Curtin students have been clear: they do not want mergers that trade away quality education for vanity projects. The Guild will remain at the table, make our position heard, and fight for a system that is accessible, accountable, and built around student outcomes — not balance sheets.

Special General Meeting & Palestine Activism

The Guild received the requisite number of signatures on a petition to call a Special General Meeting of the Guild to consider two resolutions as follows:

GM #04/2025

Motion: That the Curtin Student Guild:

1. Censures the Australian government for its complicity in the genocide in Gaza.
2. Demands an end to all weapons sales to Israel by Australia and Australian companies.
3. Calls for sanctions on Israel.

GM #05/2025

Motion: That the Curtin Student Guild calls on all Australian universities to end their complicity with Israel's genocide by ceasing partnerships with weapons companies.

The Guild is, therefore, convening a Special General Meeting for 12:00pm (for a 12:15pm start) on Wednesday August 27 in the Watson Lecture Theatre (307.103). I would heavily encourage all students to attend this meeting and to put their support for these motions on record.

As the most pro-Palestine student union in Australia and the student union with the most results in this fight, the Curtin Student Guild continues to support activism for Palestine and the self-determination of the Palestinian people. I and several Guild Representatives were present at the NUS National Day of Action where our VPSW, Razanne, spoke passionately about how more student unions need to stand up in this fight.

The Guild's support for Palestine stretches back decades and continues strongly to this day. In 2023, the Guild passed motions adopting BDS as formal policy, in 2024 we ran the most successful Gaza Solidarity Encampment in Australia that led to the strongest agreement for Curtin to disclose ties and provided a formalised structure for the Guild to peruse divestment and ethical investment, leading to Curtin agreeing to cut ties with Ben Gurion University, a major partner of the IDF, earlier this year. Our work in this space is not done and we will keep pushing.

We will be present again this Sunday at the Nationwide March for Palestine and I look forward to seeing you there and at the Guild SGM.

Psychology Exam Changes

The Guild has launched an open letter calling for the immediate reversal of sudden changes to psychology exam formats. The decision to move from open-book, take-home exams to closed-book, invigilated exams has caused widespread distress and disruption. In just days, over 1,100 students

and supporters have signed in opposition, a clear demonstration of the strength of feeling that this decision is unfair, unacceptable, and damaging to students' academic planning and wellbeing.

Many students enrolled in good faith on the basis of the advertised assessment format. For online students, in particular, the ability to complete open-book exams from home was central to their decision to study at Curtin. The abrupt shift has imposed financial and logistical burdens, forced students to adopt entirely new study techniques mid-semester, and added further pressure through additional revision sessions that were never part of the original Unit Outlines. Students balancing employment, personal responsibilities, and study are now being placed in untenable situations because of an oversight that should never have arisen.

The Guild is of the firm view that these changes breach Curtin's Assessment and Student Progression Manual (ASPM) and the Course Quality Assurance Manual, both of which require majority student consent to alter assessment details once a Unit Outline has been published. No such consent was sought or obtained. While there is a narrow "exceptional circumstances" clause, the University has advanced no evidence that such circumstances exist. To invoke this safeguard for foreseeable administrative difficulties is a misapplication of policy that undermines Curtin's governance framework and erodes student trust. Unless this decision is urgently reconsidered and reversed, the Guild will continue to pursue every avenue of scrutiny and challenge available to us.

Academic Reforms

The Guild is advocating that the university adopt a universal submission time of 11:59pm on all online submitted assignments as part of a second review of the Assessment and Student Progression Manual.

Student Housing Concerns

The West Australian ran a story on the unacceptable state of security in older UniLodge buildings, and I made it clear to the media just how badly students are being let down. Since that coverage, we've seen a surge in students coming forward with their own stories — more trespassing, more theft, more cases of students feeling unsafe in their own homes.

The Guild is calling for Curtin to urgently install proper fencing and gates in all accommodation and improved lighting and security cameras. We would also like to see improvements made to the training of accommodation staff and Residential Advisors and improvements in the communication between accommodation providers, their residents and the university.

The Guild's petition calling for air-conditioning across all student accommodation (or permission for portable units) received over 1,000 signatures. UniLodge's response failed to acknowledge the serious health and safety risks posed by extreme heat and we are still awaiting a written response from the University since it was submitted in March. Guild temperature monitors in the summer recorded internal heat not dropping below 30 degrees Celsius for weeks at a time — well above WHO temperature safety guidelines. We are fast approaching the warmer months and nothing has been done to prepare for the impacts this heat has on students.

It is incredibly frustrating that these reasonable requests have not yet seen action from the university and UniLodge but what is even more disappointing is the notion that these problems can be fixed — but only if rents go up. It's disheartening to hear this from the highest levels of our university when we know this simply doesn't have to be the case and that it runs completely counter to the values this university purports to embody.

The notion that rents are affordable is frankly laughable. The cheapest student housing at Curtin (a room in an 8-bedroom apartment at Vickery House) costs a student \$13,972 a year in rent and fees.

The maximum rate of Youth Allowance for a single adult living away from home is \$17,245.80 per year meaning that 81% of the income of a student in income support would go directly to rent – in our cheapest offering. 30% or above of an income being spent on rent is considered rental stress.

At a rate of \$13,972 in rent and fees per room each year, an 8-bedroom apartment at Vickery House – our cheapest offering – brings in upwards of \$111,776 a year in rent and fees. Extrapolated out over all our accommodation offerings is tens of millions of dollars – what is this being spent on? It doesn't seem that it is going into making the accommodation better for students now or into the future.

I am very afraid that something bad will happen in accommodation and I don't think that we should wait another day to make the changes we know are required to make our student accommodation safer and more habitable.

Guild Operations

Student Saver Meals

Students can now access freshly prepared, affordable meals every weekday at Guild Café Central, with vegetarian options available for just \$5 and meat-based meals for up to \$7.50. This initiative has quickly proven to be extremely popular and has been warmly welcomed by the student community, offering meaningful relief in the face of rising living costs on campus.

This achievement would not have been possible without the creativity and dedication of the Guild's Head Chef, Casey, whose work has been central to making these meals both high-quality and affordable.

Importantly, this outcome reflects the Guild's broader success in rebuilding its financial strength, particularly within our commercial operations, after the significant challenges of COVID-19. By turning our finances around, we are now able to reinvest directly into initiatives that deliver tangible benefits for students. This program is a clear example of the positive results that can be achieved when the Guild is in a strong and sustainable financial position, and we are proud to be leading the way in making campus life more affordable.

Guild Student Pantry

The Guild has officially launched the Student Pantry, providing free and confidential access to non-perishable essentials for students experiencing financial hardship. The initiative has been warmly welcomed by students and is already proving to be a huge win in making campus life more affordable and supportive. Importantly, it also steps up to fill the gap left when the University closed its own in-person pantry service.

The Pantry has been made possible through \$10,000 in funding from the University, combined with Guild resources. Special recognition goes to the Guild's Manager of Student Assist, Jo Ann, whose tireless work was central to bringing this project to life.

Operating on a community-sharing model, the Pantry encourages donations from staff and supporters while ensuring students can access assistance confidentially and with dignity. As part of the Guild's Student Assist service, the Pantry also links students to longer-term supports such as Foodbank, financial advice, and hardship grants — ensuring immediate needs are met while helping students build stability for the future.

New Student Kitchen

It was great to cut the ribbon and officially open the new Student Kitchen! It is being well used and is a welcome addition to the Guild Precinct. I'm happy to share that the kitchen is now open until 7pm

each day (previously it was 4pm). This is a big win for a campus that works for everyone and I'm so happy to see it being used so well!

Clubs Hub Stage Two

Clubs Hub Stage Two is nearing completion with most construction work done and finishing touches and furniture being installed. Once complete this will be the first expansion of the Guild precinct in years and fits in with our larger plan to revitalise the Guild precinct into a vibrant hub for community, clubs, campus life and connection.

Strategic Plan Development

I'm happy that the strategic plan is up for approval at this meeting. This strategic plan will be the first time in a very long time the Guild has adopted more than a "strategy map" and will serve future Council's decisions for the coming three years. Thank you to Councillors for their input at the last meeting and I'd like to express my thanks to David Price from Elevate Consulting for working on this project with us.

Spaces Proposal

I have been working with the Managing Director on a plan to see the spaces proposal endorsed at the last meeting come to fruition. We intend on meeting with a designer to discuss options soon.

University / External Meetings:

Date	Meeting	Comments
14/07/25	DVCA Leaders Meeting	F2F
31/07/25	Students as Partners MoU – Law Campus	F2F
05/08/25	Courses Committee	F2F
05/05/25	Students as Partners – Catch up /w Libby	F2F
13/05/25	Students as Partners – Leadership Group Meeting	F2F

Guild Meetings/Events (Or Guild-Related Meetings):

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/07/25	Executive Meeting	F2F
18/07/25	ASPM Review /w DS, MC, Student Assist	F2F
22/07/25	NTEU Meeting	The Bridge
28/07/25	Exec Meeting	F2F
06/08/25	Guild Strategic Plan Draft Review	F2F
06/08/25	MD + Exec Meeting	F2F
11/04/25	Exec Meeting (First Full Formal Meeting since Early June?)	F2F
14/08/25	Representation Board	F2F

Faculty Rep Meetings

Rep	Dates	Informal Chats?	Comments
Nicole	O-Day	YES	
Tom	O-Day	YES	
Rabab	O-Day	NO	
Cooper	O-Day	YES	

New Consistent Dates (Verbal Update)

Courses Committee

On August 5th was Courses Committee during this meeting we looked at key points worth noting.

Health Sciences presented comprehensive reviews for the Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences, the Bachelor of Advanced Biomedical Sciences (Honours), and the Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) (Honours). These reviews checked how well the courses are meeting industry and accreditation needs.

In Health Sciences there was a proposed an **Undergraduate Certificate in University Studies** for recommendation this is a stepping-stone program to help students build academic skills and transition into further study. The general belief of this course is to ensure that students that may have a lack of understanding or gap in skills will be able to get the help they require, and this course would be a smaller course that is enrolled when needed.

In Humanities there was also a proposed **“Regional Changemakers,”** course/units for recommendation AND approval. This course’s goals are to develop leadership, advocacy, and community development skills specifically for students in, or working with, regional and remote communities. The program blends classroom learning with real-world projects in local areas, aiming to equip graduates with the tools to drive positive social, cultural, and economic change where it’s most needed.

Science and Engineering asked to run some undergraduate and postgraduate classes together, and to get special approval to go beyond the usual limit on how much this can be done. The idea is to use teaching resources more efficiently, give students the chance to learn alongside peers at different study levels, and still make sure the learning quality stays high, this item was for recommendation.

Overall Courses Committee remains a committee that continues to have a ridiculously large agenda for how much discussion that happens within the meeting, this however has gone down slightly since the last two meetings where this point has been brought up by most sitting members.

The next Courses Committee is on the 2nd of September.

Learning and Student Experience Committee

There has not been a Learning and Student Experience Committee Meeting since my last report.

The next planned date for LSEC is on the 8th of September.

Academic Board

There has not been a Learning and Student Experience Committee Meeting since my last report.

The next planned date for LSEC is on the 15th of August - As this date is before Guild Council, I will provide a verbal report of the meeting.

Faculty Representatives

I have sent out an email to all faculty reps to organise the best times for meetings with all of them for this upcoming semester, as well as continued to have consistent verbal updates for 75%.

On the question that was raised last Guild Council, the meeting has been booked for after the report’s due date, but before GC, so I will provide a verbal update there.

Assessment and Student Progression Policy Review – Part 2

Following the last round of reviews in Semester 1 that tackled the entire document, there was a follow up version that was distributed for review, this exclusively tackled changes to ensure a smoother transition for the vision of Assessment 2030 that Curtin has.

In a meeting with Dylan, Mitch, Jo-Ann, Myles and Andrew we combed through a lot of the changes and provided our feedback which was acknowledged this time around. We also noticed a change that was done on very short notice (between LSEC and Academic Board) without it being specifically brought up that may cause issues in the future, this has already been flagged and will be followed up in the nearest round of reviews that may occur.

There are also plans for another round of reviews later this year, which I will refer directly to in my update on Universal Submission Times.

Students as Partners

Throughout the year Dylan and I have consistently met with Libby Kinna the project head of Students as Partners and supported the framework put forward to ensure that all projects using the name “Students as Partners” follow this to have a level of quality control and consistency in the range of projects throughout the University.

Earlier in the year it was flagged that there was a MoU being made in the Business and Law Faculty, we had reached out to raise our concerns about the lack of consultation with Libby over this, and that we could not support this until there was a level of interaction with Libby, this had lead to both Dylan and myself being invited to a meeting with all parties involved in the FBL MoU as well as Robert Cunningham to resolve this. All parties are in agreeance of where move forward with this project and I look forward to seeing the this finally keep moving and hopefully provide another update in one of my later reports.

There is also a leadership meeting that has been scheduled after this was written, and I will provide a brief update to that meeting if necessary.

Universal Submission Time

During the first ASPM Review and Academic Board, we raised our concerns and student priorities around a Universal Submission Time as one of our core 4 items. The Academic Registrar indicated they weren’t opposed to the idea but flagged that there could be several challenges to work through, and that more consultation would be needed before moving forward.

Dylan and I were also invited to sit in on the start of the Deans of Learning and Teaching Monthly meeting to discuss Assessment Extensions and Submission Deadlines, and used this as an opportunity to speak to them about their opinion on a Universal Submission Time, during this meeting we went over what it could look like and the ways we could avoid many of the issues raised by the Academic Registrar during Academic Board. Towards the conclusion of our time in the meeting there was a principle understanding and support of the idea from the people in the meeting and a lot of the discussion here is what I based my talking points on O-Day to students.

Following these two meetings, I spoke with nearly 40 students to understand their views, and it quickly became clear where the student body stood. To give more people a chance to have their say, I dedicated my O-Day stall to gathering feedback and consulting with students on whether they wanted the Guild to pursue this.

During O-Day we had received over 250 student responses on the topic, with a lot being passionate when explained what “Universal Submission Time” meant and could look like. The data is as follows

Faculty Representation

- Business and Law: 97 respondents
- Science and Engineering: 68 respondents
- Health Sciences: 53 respondents
- Humanities: 33 respondents

Would universal submission times reduce student stress?

- Yes: 194
- Sometimes: 35
- No: 13

Students that have missed deadlines due to confusion over times?

- No: 124
- Yes: 119

Would Universal Submission Times reduce anxiety about accidentally submitting late?

- Strongly agree: 118
- Somewhat agree: 51
- Neither agree nor disagree: 38
- Somewhat disagree: 16
- Strongly disagree: 18

In total, **80.2%** of respondents said a universal submission time would reduce stress, with a further **14.5%** saying it would sometimes help; **49%** had previously missed a deadline due to confusion over submission times, and **70.2%** either strongly or somewhat agreed it would reduce their anxiety about submitting late.

This has further solidified my stance on Universal Submission Times and after Dylan chatting with the Academic Registrar after a meeting had, there will be another review of the ASPM later in the year with the opportunity to provide our view on this implementation on this.

Further Notes:

University / External Meetings:

Date	Meeting	Comments
14/07/2025	Meeting with Australian Human Rights Commission RE Racism@Uni survey	To get final confirmation RE concerns we had with the survey, on possible obscurities. Confirmation of participation
14/07/2025	Racism University meeting	To discuss a possible definition for racism and discrimination on campus
30/07/2025	Curtin Multifaith meeting	New multifaith officer, to establish a rapport and highlight student issues
31/07/2025	Palestine Organising Meeting	With Socialist Alternative students
13/08/2025	Ally Training	Level 1

Guild Meetings (Or Guild-Related Meetings):

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/07/2025	Guild Executive Meeting	See meeting minutes on Guild website
17/07/2025	Representation Board Meeting	See meeting minutes on Guild website
23/07/2025	Guild Orientation Day	Guild VPSW stall, gave out succulents in exchange for CFC containers. Awareness for Guild services
24/07/2025	SWANA Fest Meeting	Meeting with Events team RE SWANA Night to take place in October
24/07/2025	Guild Council Board Meeting	See meeting minutes on Guild website
28/07/2025	Guild Executive Meeting	See meeting minutes on Guild website
30/07/2025	Health and Safety Committee	
31/07/2025	Ethnocultural Collective Banner Painting	Banner painting with students for rallies for Palestine
6/08/2025	Banner Drop event for Palestine	Guild stall outside Gmart, to raise awareness for upcoming student strike
6/08/2025	Strategy review	
6/08/2025	Guild Executive Meeting	See meeting minutes on Guild website
7/08/2025	Student Strike for Palestine	Delivered speech at rally
11/08/2025	Guild Executive meeting	See meeting minutes on Guild website
14/08/2025	Guild Representation Board meeting	See meeting minutes on Guild website

Leave Taken:

None

Further Notes:



Business and Law Officer

September Representation Board (07/08/2025 - 04/09/2025)

Anniesey Nicole Alconaba (she/her)

University/External Meetings and Events

Date	Meeting	Comments
11/08/25	Monthly Catchup with FBL Student Engagement	Discussed the upcoming collaborated Law School Stall, planned a Student Voice Session based around what good assessment feedback is.
12/08/25	August FBL FCC	Very short FCC meetings discussing updates with units and campaigns.
14/08/25	Reps Board	Discussed our reports and current motions.
20/08/25	Student Voice Session	Discussed first year experience with current students and how to improve community within the faculty.
22/08/25	Meeting with Marcella SomM	Discussed the school of Marketing and Management and how to improve it. Also discussed core units for Marketing and my experience with such, and assessment feedback.
03/09/25	Monthly FBL Clubs Meeting	Met up with the clubs and received an update from each one. Discussed upcoming events and any issues. A new club has also joined, the Curtin Information Society.

Notes

Survey Update

Released my FBL Student Experience Survey on Tuesday the 5th of August during the second week of university. Initially it was meant to close on Friday the 22nd of August, but I let it run for a little longer until Wednesday the 3rd of September. The report is yet to be done but from reading through the raw data there has been lots of insightful feedback and it was overall very positive. Along with this the winner for the survey giveaway has been drawn and picked up his prize on Thursday the 4th of September.

Essential Textbook Campaign

I have reached out to Claire from the LITEQ team to catch up and discuss the rollout of the regulations implemented earlier this year, and to discuss whether any issues arose. The feedback from students regarding essential textbooks after the implementation have been positive, but I will first check with the LITEQ team before marking this campaign complete.

Law School Stall

Details for the Law School Stall has been sorted, and it is set to happen on Thursday the 24th of September. We will have notebook decorating, bracelet making and Lego. Posts marketing the event have been released.

Science and Engineering Faculty Report

Cooper Henrickson (He/Him)

Representation Board – 26th September 2025

Date	Meeting/Event	Comments
11/08/25	Faculty Executive Team Meeting	Presentation on new privacy policies, what constitutes private information. Massive increase in international students, unsure UG or PG.
11/08/25	Faculty DoLT and Director Student Engagement Meeting	The MATH1020 pass rate has come up. COMP1005 is the number 1 priority for the faculty now. Faculty has identified 10 focus units and is working on fixing issues. EA accreditation is currently the highest priority atm. The faculty is reaching out to students before census date that have possibly not been engaging with some of their units, in order to discuss if they need support and if they are thinking of reducing their workload. Tripled enrolments of women in the faculty, but there has been a similar increase in male enrolments, so overall change is 15%→18%.
12/08/25	Students as Partners A2030 Meeting	Student consultation around AI
13/08/25	Staff-Student Consultative Committee Meeting (Mech+Mecha+Industrial)	Very good discussion with around 16 students and 10 staff from around the school. I have lots of notes that I will discuss below.
13/08/25	Faculty Courses Committee Meeting	Structural issues in double degrees, need reviewing. There is a misalignment in perception of Science Honours degrees. Students see it as a pathway to PhDs so many don't really care for it. Employers see it as upskilling and look at graduates highly for their communication skills and independence.
14/08/25	Science Forum	First meeting of the new forum, outlining

		objectives and focuses. Presentation on Science at Curtin by Alison Blyth, that led into discussion around how to position Curtin and Science.
19/08/25	Health and Safety Committee	Psychosocial risks discussion
28/08/25	Engineering Forum	Guest presentation around Gen. AI by David McMeekin and Daniel Southam. 45-minute presentation with 45-minute discussion.
02/09/25	DIB Committee	
04/09/25	Graduate Research Committee	
09/09/25	Faculty Executive Team Meeting	Presentation around Conflicts of Interests. Update on Assessment 2030.
09/09/25	Faculty DoLT and Director Student Engagement Meeting	Discussion around student workload and how sustainable it is. The aim has always been 10hrs total study time expected per unit. It is unclear if this is still the experience of majority of students. Looking to create a student workload model to investigate. 90% of Engineering students have at least one day per week without a timetabled class/lecture, unfortunately this is likely to get a day of part-time work in. Further points discussed below.
10/09/25	Faculty Courses Committee Meeting	

The following meetings and events will occur between the submission of this report and representation board. I will cover them in next month's report, or verbally if anything time sensitive is brought up:

Discussion:

Staff-Student Consultative Committee Meeting:

Students from Mechanical, Mechatronic, and Industrial and Systems Engineering.

A big complaint/request was that there isn't enough access to computers and engineering specific software, particularly Ansys and SolidWorks, so is it possible to organise more

access, whether in person or remote. It is also common for students to spend 5+ minutes troubleshooting computers and were wondering if there were ways to reduce how often this occurred.

When it comes to assessments, students' main issue is not necessarily the number of assessments but is instead the number within a short period.

Time estimates for assessments help as long as they are realistic for students, some students were given an estimate of 8 hours but spent well over 20 hours on that assessment.

Weekly/fortnightly quizzes seem to be popular as it helps students keep on track by forcing them to keep up to date with content.

Students like assignments with research time where they can connect and apply the content they are learning to real world problems, instead of just cramming for a test and then forgetting it a week after. As an example, students enjoy the Machine Design unit for its design assignment as they can utilise their knowledge in a way they would be expected to in the workforce.

Final design projects groups have been having issues with students that do not do their end of the work, forcing other group members to pick up the slack. Students feel there is a lack of methods for ensuring accountability such as weekly meeting minute submissions that can form a paper trail when it comes to reporting these students.

Some students who have found internships have found themselves caught out on how to read engineering drawings. They find that some practices and standards used in industry are not necessarily the same as what is taught to them, and some common acronyms are not mentioned or gone into detail about during their studies.

Course flow is pretty good overall, only two issues brought up:

- The gap between the two fluids units, Fluid Mechanics and Applied Fluid Mechanics, is quite big 2nd Year Sem 1 and 3rd Year Sem 2 respectively
- MCEN3007 – Exposure to Professional Engineering Practice is in 3rd Year Sem 2, which for a unit that teaches resume writing and interview tips is quite late, considering summer internship applications would have closed by then. How can it be reworked to be earlier?

Students would like more info on new units and how to enrol in them. Staff says there is a PDF on Blackboard where you can see all specialisations for majors with links.

Industrial and Systems Engineering students are struggling to find internships as there seems to be a lack of understanding from industry in what they do. Most internships specify the course they are looking, usually mechanical, and so Industrial and Systems students are being told they don't meet requirements even though they are very similar to a Mechanical student. The staff will speak the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) team about speaking to industry.

Students find the labs in Manufacturing Processes not great, as they don't get to experience using the machines themselves.

Questions about Logbook Reflections.

DoLT - COMP1005:

COMP1005 – Fundamentals of Programming (FOP) is being looked to determine the next course of action. It has been a poorly performing unit for years and there is discussion around what to do with it. CompSci courses do not take it, it is mostly used for Engineer Foundation Year students and students taking Multidisciplinary Science (The faculties alternate pathway course). It is poorly balanced in terms of workload and has had a poor pass rate for some time now. The expectations on students are too high for what the unit is trying to achieve and the difficulty swings from easy to hard too much.

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES REPORT - SEPTEMBER REPRESENTATION BOARD 2025

Meeting/Task	Date	Comments
Faculty Courses Committee Meeting	12/08	This meeting addressed progress on inherent requirement updates, inbound student opportunities, and course development initiatives. Key items included discussions on offering first-year Health Sciences units in Sri Lanka, Project 500 nursing student engagement in Mauritius, and comprehensive course reviews for Biomedical Sciences programs. The Committee also considered compliance issues relating to Academic Integrity and English Language Proficiency, endorsed the development of a new Undergraduate Certificate in University Studies, and noted proposed changes to entry requirements for Nutrition courses. Updates on student engagement initiatives and planning for the Assessment 2030 sub-committee were also provided.
Reps Board Meeting	14/08	Attended the Reps Board meeting in August 2025 and contributed to discussions on upcoming student events and Guild initiatives.
DIB Working Party Meeting	19/08	This meeting was quite short. During the discussion, a proposal for a Student Representation and Dialogue Committee was raised, aiming to create a structured platform for student representatives and guild members to meet with lecturers and staff. The initiative would support open dialogue, inclusion, and address barriers to belonging within the academic environment.
Health Fest	13/08	This was a great event organised by the Health Sciences Student Engagement Team. I supported Shaye with marketing for the event and shared some of the Queer Officers' resources with her to include on the day. At the event, I helped at the stall as a fellow nursing student, engaging with attendees and guiding them through practicing Basic Life Support.
Love and Consent Week Shoot	20/08	For Love and Consent Week, I supported the Guild's social media by participating as one of the Guild members filmed for a video promoting the campaign.
Grill the Guild	20/08	The Grill the Guild for this semester was fun and went really well, thanks to the support of all my volunteers. The event was much more organised than last semester's and sold out very quickly.
Guild Instagram Post Shoot	13/08	I was photographed for a Guild Instagram post promoting participation in Oxfam's #NotInMyName campaign.

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES REPORT

REPRESENTATION BOARD 11/09/25

GUILD MEETINGS:

Date	Meeting	Notes
04/09/25	Meeting with student regarding research	

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS:

Date	Meeting	Notes
19/08/25	Meeting with faculty DLT and head of engagement	
27/08/25	EDUC1034 Info Session	
28/08/25	Learning and Student Experience Committee	
02/09/25	HIB selection meeting	
04/09/25	Humanities Inclusion and Belonging	
05/09/25	Meeting with Pro-Vice Chancellor	
11/09/25	Courses Committee	
11/09/25	SoE Catchup	

PROJECTS:

EDUCATION:

I have primarily been focused on the recent issues within the School of Education regarding placements. I've been in contact with students, been going to tutorials for the effected unit, and been attending relevant meetings with the faculty & school. I pushed for clarity from the school and a longer-term solution to persistent delays to the placement of students. Following my meeting with Richard Blythe on the 5th we are planning to contact the WA Education Minister pushing for a major change to the way the department allocates placements. I'll give a verbal report on the progress of this campaign.

OTHER:

I will be attending the stage party for a graduation ceremony on the 6th.

I've provided a Guild perspective on placements to a few student journalists for the Western Independent.

Tom Harrowing (He/Him)

Faculty of Humanities Representative

September 2025 Representation Board Report – Student Assist

AUGUST OVERVIEW

Guild Food Pantry

The Food Pantry commenced operations on 20 August. Since opening, a total of **22 students** have accessed the service. Referral pathways have been extended to Curtin support services, including Student Wellbeing Advisory Officers and Curtin's Social Workers, for students in crisis who may require access outside the scheduled time slots. We will continue monitoring demand and gathering student feedback, with the aim of refining the program and expanding the range of pantry items.

As part of the Guild's broader initiative to address student food insecurity, updates have been made to the Student Assist section of the Guild website. These updates include information on additional on-campus supports, such as Student Saver meals, as well as the creation of a new "Getting a Job" section to provide students with guidance on applying for part-time employment. We will be reviewing our financial content to better support discussions with students requiring longer-term financial assistance.

HDR Engagement and Support

Kalgoorlie HDR cohort: Student Assist is planning a drop-in session for HDR students on the Kalgoorlie campus on 16 September 2025. The session will provide students with the opportunity to raise concerns in a confidential setting and is expected to increase awareness of Student Assist's services within the HDR cohort. Engagement will also extend to campus staff, including the Wellbeing Advisor and the WASM MECE Director of Graduate Research, to strengthen referral pathways for HDR students.

Curtin Library HDR support: It has been noted that Curtin Library staff occasionally provide informal advice to HDR students on matters such as supervision and progression. Student Assist has reached out to the library to organise a meeting to ensure alignment in areas such as referral pathways and approaches to problem-solving.

In addition, we would like to explore the possibility of trialling an in-person drop-in presence at the library. Given its central location and as well as the extensive spaces for study, the library may serve as an accessible and trusted space for HDR students to seek support.

SMART EAR book: When HDR students are put on Conditional status, they required to achieve research goals before they can be returned to Good Standing. The current Guidelines for HDR Conditional Status encourage use of a SMART framework (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) to assist in goal-setting, but in the experience of Student Assist, this is often not adequate to cover the complexities of HDR studies.

Student Assist is developing a booklet for HDR students and supervisor staff which outlines a best practice model for creating conditions for students who have been accorded Conditional status. In addition to the SMART framework, it introduces the acronym EAR—Equitable, Accountable, Robust—to highlight areas where SMART has fallen short.

Key Focus Areas

- Academic Support

The focus for August was appeals relating to Terminated Status, as well as guidance provided to students responding to Academic Misconduct allegations.

- Non Academic Support

Demand for financial assistance continued to rise, with students seeking support for fee payments and general financial relief. During this period, Student Assist provided emergency relief to **14 students** through various grant programs.

	June	July	August
Academic sessions	259	414	289
Non – academic sessions	35	73	90
Total	293	483	373

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

Additional Programs:

- **Loan Laptop Program**

A total of 7 laptops were loaned out to students during the reporting period.

- **First Aid/CPR Program**

158 students participated in First Aid and CPR training sessions.

TL;DR

Guild Food Pantry: Opened 20 August, supporting 22 students to date. Referral pathways extended to Curtin support services. Website updated with info on Student Saver meals and a new “Getting a Job” section. Financial content under review to improve long-term support resources.

HDR Engagement and Support:

Kalgoorlie: 16 Sept 2025 drop-in session planned for HDR students; outreach to staff to strengthen referral pathways.

Curtin Library: Meeting planned with Library staff to align referral processes; exploring Library-based HDR drop-in presence.

SMART–EAR Booklet: Resource in development to strengthen support for HDR students on Conditional Status, introducing EAR (Equitable, Accountable, Robust) alongside SMART.

Postgraduate Students Committee (PSC) Report

Guild Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/ Event	Comments
14/08/2025	Reps Board	

University Meetings

Date	Meeting/ Event	Comments
15/08/2025	Academic Board	
01/09/2025	Global Positioning Committee	
02/09/2025	Digital Roadmap Meeting	Met with DTS about LMS replacement program and overall digital roadmap project
03/09/2025	Digital Roadmap Consultation Workshop	Participated in workshop on LMS requirements
08/09/2025	Learning and Student Experience Committee	
15/09/2025	Digital Roadmap Consultation Workshop	Participated in workshop on LMS requirements

Projects/General

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

GradCon

The PSC President will attend GradCon next week at the University of Queensland. This is the first in person conference organised by CAPA since before COVID.

IP Factsheet

The PSC has been developing a factsheet in collaboration with GRS and ROC so that students may better understand their rights and ownership when it comes to any IP created from their research. It is now finalised and ready to be disseminated. This is a direct outcome from the Encampment MoU.

Orientation

The PSC President attended the HDR Orientation and has been planning for o-day next week.

HDR Viva/Oral Defense

The PSC has provided feedback for the proposed guidelines for the introduction of an Oral Defence for PhD candidates from 2029.

Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA)

The PSC has been working with CAPA on a number of campaigns. After a period of turmoil CAPA has returned strong and is actively campaigning on issues affecting postgrads on a national level.

Laptops for all HDR Students

The PSC is proud to announce that at a minimum every HDR Student will be provided a Curtin Laptop for the duration of their studies. Previously the provision of a laptop or PC varied by school or research group/centre. This will be rolled out this year.

Assessment and Student Progression Manual

The Guild has worked hard to ensure that assessment and progression procedures in the ASPM are fairer to students. Securing some great wins.

2027 and 2028 Academic Calendar

The Guild has successfully lobbied for an earlier than week 8/9 tuition free week in both 2027 and 2028. This involved splitting the mid semester break into 2 single tuition free weeks instead of a 2 week long break. One of the weeks in each semester in each of those years also aligns with school holidays which is beneficial for students with children and families.

4. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

Teaching Opportunity for HDR Students

Teaching experience is very important for HDR students because many HDR students want to work as academics or lecturers in the future. Therefore, teaching opportunities at the university during their study will be very valuable and important to give them experiences and knowledge on how to deal with students in the classroom and to deliver materials to the class. The PSC wants the faculty or school leaders to allow their HDR students to get one or two classes during their studies to get teaching experiences. This will give our students space to bring and deliver their research experience and information to the students in the class.

Supporting Clubs for Postgraduate/ HDR Students

Student clubs play significant roles at Curtin University where our students can explore and develop their potential, networks, and skills through club activities. Most student clubs are dominated by undergraduate students and there are very few postgraduate or HDR clubs at our campus. The PSC wants to promote and campaign more on postgraduate/ HDR student clubs at Curtin University. The expectation is to increase the number of postgraduate/ HDR clubs as well as to develop more HDR student interaction through club activities. This priority will be useful to develop and support our Postgraduate/ HDR students at Curtin and also to promote Curtin University student activities.

Career Counselling for HDRs

PSC believes some level of career advice/planning should be embedded within higher degrees to provide clarity and guidance for HDRs and their futures beyond the end of their degrees. The PSC will explore ways to make this workable.

Space for HDRs / Research Hub Space

The number of HDR students from overseas is increasing and this makes the number of HDR students that need the space for their study also increases. The PSC has identified that the provision of appropriate space for HDRs to work on their research is an issue that is important to many candidates and will continue to engage on this. Some schools can provide permanent space

or desks for their HDR students, however, most schools use graduate research hub spaces for their HDR students to study their research, and whoever first comes gets the first desk and those who come late sometimes cannot get a desk in the research hub. This condition is not happening every day, but it happens when many students are coming to the campus at the same time. It will be very useful and significant if the university can provide additional spaces for some schools that have a higher number of HDR students.

Supervisor Feedback

The opportunity to give feedback on the quality of supervision HDRs receive is important and since the discontinuation of the APR process this has stopped occurring. The PSC supports a feedback mechanism returning.

Supervisor Training

HDR Supervisors will now receive increased training and refreshers on how to supervise. We hope that this will increase the quality and consistency of supervision across Curtin.

Stipend Rates

The PSC supports CAPA's campaign to increase HDR stipend rates and extend the tax free status of stipends to part time students. Curtin continues to provide a stipend that is higher than the federal minimum.

Paid Placements

The Guild and CAPA both have ongoing campaigns around expanding student placement payments to more fields and increasing the value of the payments. The currently proposed payments are also taxable which reduces their value to students and whilst some money is better than none we believe it can and should be better.

A National Body for International Students

The Guild has endorsed a CAPA campaign to restart a national body for International students. Roundtables will be occurring at the state level in the next two months. International students have been blamed for the housing crisis and are faced with increasing visa restrictions with no unified voice to speak up for them on a national level.

tl;dr

It has been getting busier. Lots of good things being achieved.



Queer Officer

August/September Representation Board (15/08/2025 – 11/09/2025)

Morgan Mills (they/them)

University/External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
18/08/2025	We All Need to Pee	Met with Sam and Liz
19/08/2025	Deadnaming working group	
09/09/2025	DVCA meeting	

Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
18/08/2025	NTEU BBQ	
20/08/2025	Catch-up	Met with Myles to discuss the Discord
02/09/2025	Discord feedback meeting	

Updates

- **WANTP**

A new all-gender bathroom opened over the semester break in engineering. This takes the total count of all gender bathrooms available to students up to 8. This amount, while obviously an improvement, is still not enough to facilitate the comfort and needs of the trans and gender diverse student community on campus.

Throughout the remainder of my term, I will be advocating for more bathroom changes as they arise.

- **Deadnaming on Campus**

The working group for the deadnaming campaign has regrouped following a mid-year review that highlighted continuing weaknesses and inconsistencies in the input methods. Several issues around the integration of names as Curtin changes systems have been flagged.

I have also received approval to use Curtin's ally training booklet to host a student-based version through the Guild. The aim is to have this instated in 2026.

- **HIV self-test vending machines**

The MoU for the self-test machines has been signed and shared, with next steps finally underway.

- **Binder try-ons**

The GMart is now offering chest binder try-ons, along with a discount code for all students when they go to buy their binder. There is also the option for students to have the binder delivered to the Guild, should they not want to have their binders delivered to their home address.

Events

- **Games night**

As of writing this report I will be hosting the games night on Thursday 04/09 I will be hosting a games night. Registration for the event has been high, so I am expecting a good turnout. More details will be provided at Representation Board.



Women's Officer

Representation Board Report

Bridget Clifton (she/they)

Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
18/08/25	Women's self defence	
19/08/25	Pad restock	
20/08/25	Love and consent week reels	
	NTEU x Women	
21/08/25	Women x Ethno collective picnic	
25/08/25	LSC Week lollipop drop	
26/08/25	LSC Week BBQ	
	LSC Week Stall	
	Pad restock	
27/08/25	LSC Week cookie & condom drop	
	Palestine SGM	
28/08/25	LSC Week lollipop drop	
02/08/25	Pad restock	
08/08/25	Pad restock	

Further Notes

Period Products

Additional period product dispensers are in progress with over 30 dispensers being shipped over. Once arrived, we will work with Properties to deliver these additional dispensers both around campus and also the Murray St and Midland campuses. Additionally, Morgan and I are investigating other more sustainable ways to source period products as the current way isn't sustainable for the long term.

University and Committee Meetings		
Date	Meeting	Comments
22/7/2025	UDSC	Discussed the governance of the Abilities Collective @ Curtin DAIP Progress report update has been finalized and draft sent Following on from the actions in the CAP plan review, reference groups are starting
30/7/2025	Meeting with Nikki de Domahidy	Nikki is working on making e-learning modules: updating the staff disability awareness training, teaching staff about reasonable adjustments and CAP plans, how staff can support neurodivergent students, and how neurodivergent students can succeed at uni. I gave some insights into the student perspective around these areas

Guild Meetings		
Date	Meeting	Comments
NA		

Events		
Date	Event	Comments
23/7/2025	O Day	Went well, had an activity of matching disability symbols with their name which was popular
31/7/2025	Disability Pride Month Cupcake Decorating	Despite limited advertising opportunities due to O Day, this was still a successful event attended by 9 people
6/8/2025	Peer support sessions	Starting up again for the semester, trialling Wednesday morning instead of Friday afternoon

Projects	
Project	Comments
Accessibility Survey 2024	Haven't made much new progress on this due to being busy with events

Other	
Topic	Comments
xxx	xxx

Leave Taken: Some TOIL taken

Accessibility at Curtin

Survey Results

Demographics

there were **103** responses to the survey

Undergraduate students contributed **68%** of responses

91% of students were studying full-time

53% of responses were from the accessibility cohort
(people with lived experience of disability, care-giving, mental health conditions, etc)

The accessibility cohort had higher proportions of:
Undergraduate students
LGBTQIA+ people
Women
Part-time students
Gender diverse people
Mature age students

Accessibility

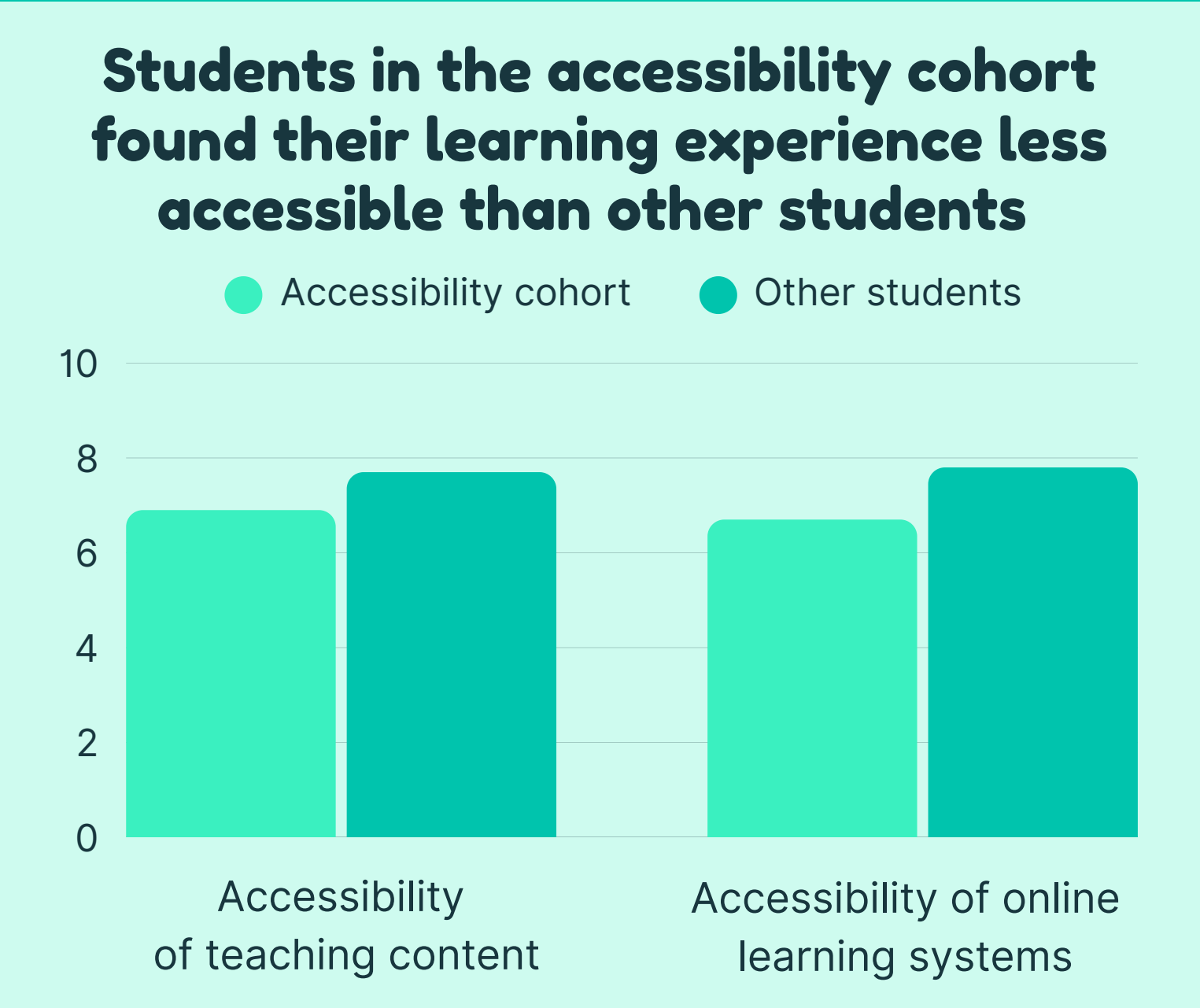
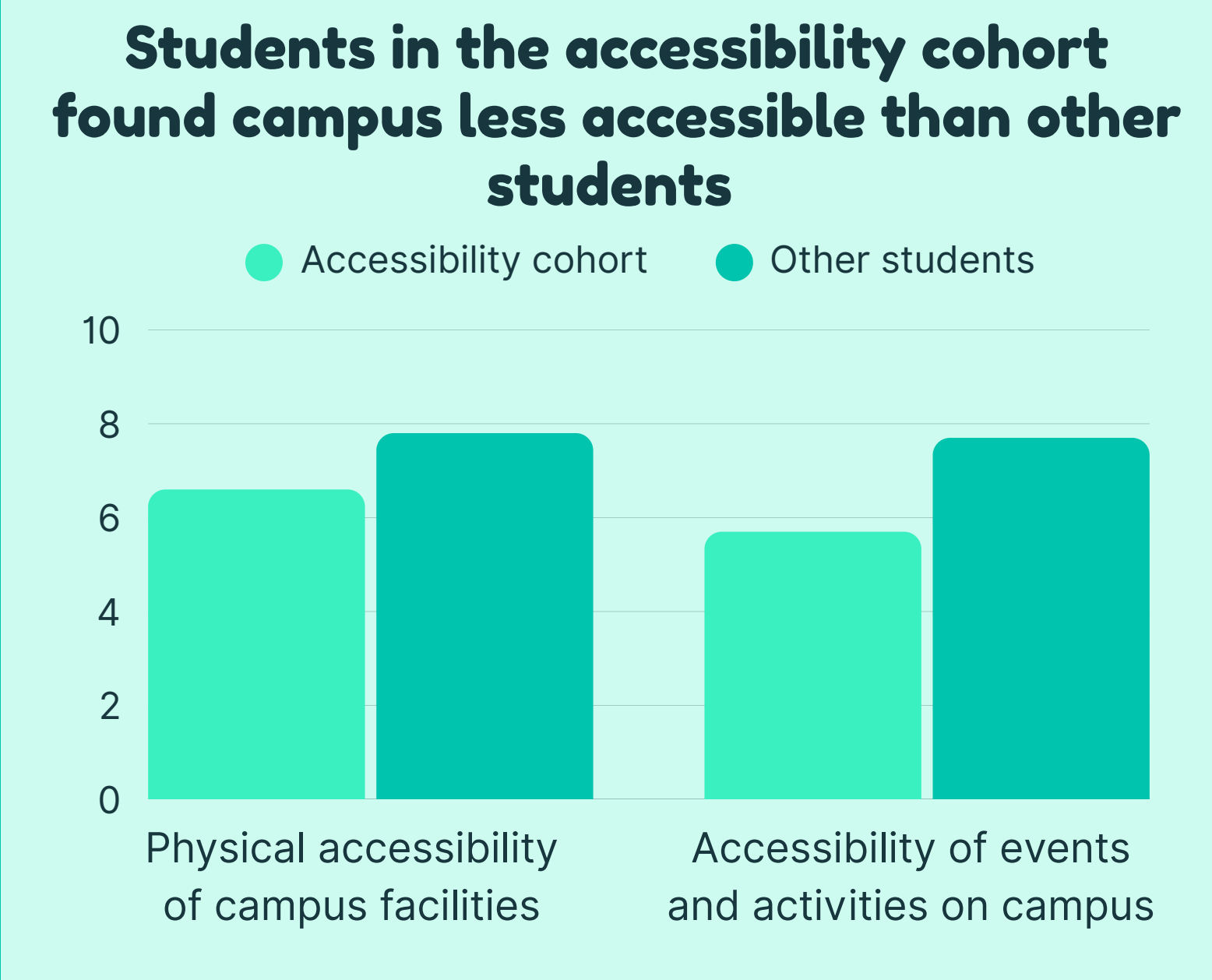
Barriers to accessibility on campus

Lack of physically accessible routes, facilities and buildings, due to an inadequate number of features such as ramps, stair railings, curb cuts, benches, and functioning lifts.

A **lack of low stimulation spaces** presents barriers to people with sensory issues, migraines and fatigue.

Many students reported **difficulty finding information** on accessibility features.

Events posed both physical and sensory issues. These barriers were amplified by the **limited variety and availability** of events.



Barriers to accessibility in learning

Postgraduate students reported **limited availability of accommodations** designed for higher learning or research environments.

Many students struggled with the **limited options for classes and learning content**, including as alternative formats for course material and online class options.

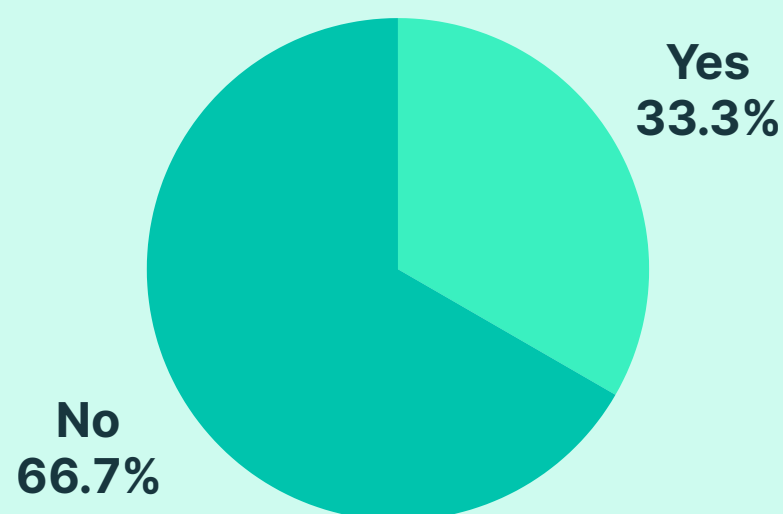
Many students experienced **resistance around implementing accommodations**, which could be avoided with application of co-design and universal design principles.

Accessibility at Curtin

Survey Results

Inclusion

A third of the accessibility cohort reported experiencing discrimination



Whether students in the accessibility cohort felt they had been discriminated against at university due to access needs or disclosure

Discrimination

Students in the accessibility cohort reported instances of **direct and indirect discrimination** from both other students and staff.

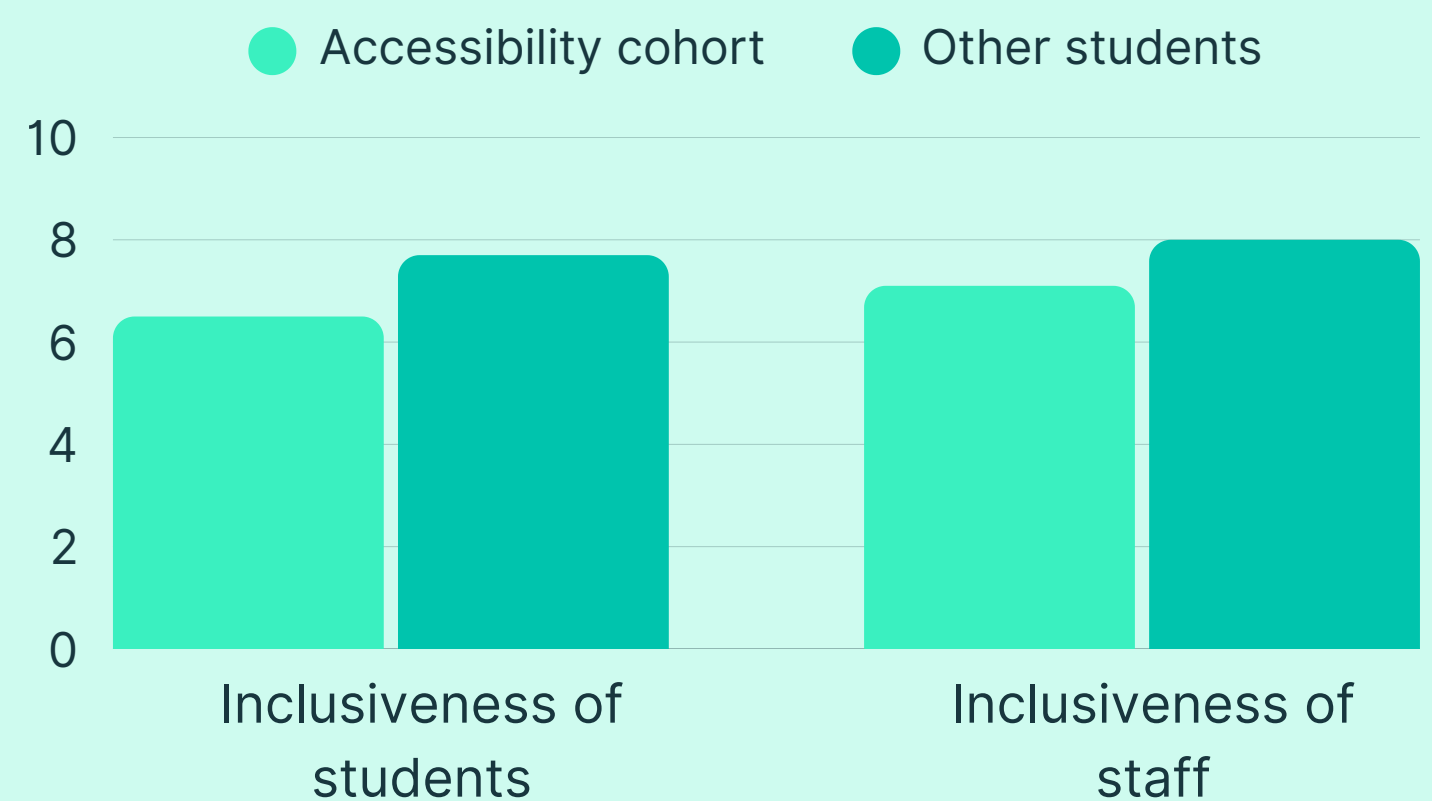
Many instances of **discrimination from staff** were associated with **accommodations and CAP plans**, such as denying extensions and not respecting confidentiality.

Inclusiveness

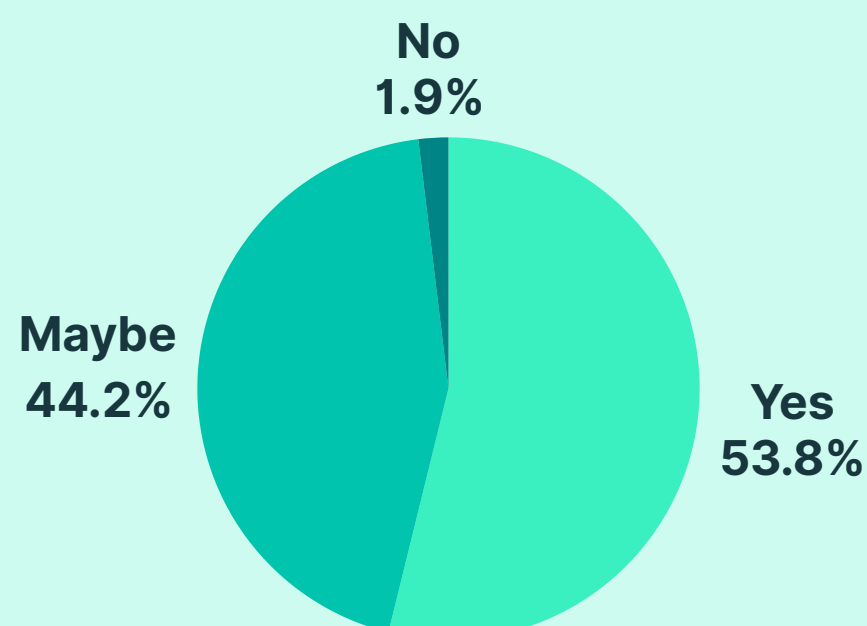
Students reported experiencing **large variations in the inclusiveness** of different staff and students, which was attributed to **variations in individual awareness and understanding**.

Both the **presence and absence of inclusiveness** had **significant impacts** on student experience, mental health and sense of belonging.

Students in the accessibility cohort found both staff and students less inclusive than other students



Most students in the accessibility cohort thought the university could do more against poor behaviour



Whether students in the accessibility cohort believed Curtin could go further to reduce poor behaviour from staff and students

Effectiveness of university systems

Many students reported a **lack of understanding of the complaints system**, which hindered their ability to take action against instances of discrimination.

Many students felt that the **acceptance and awareness training** currently provided by the university **was insufficient**, with improvements to disability awareness training a frequent recommendation by the accessibility cohort.