

REPORT FOR REPRESENTATION BOARD

Guild President Dylan Storer (he/him)

Period: 21/2/25 – 20/3/2025

Travel

- WASM Guild (Kalgoorlie) | Mar 4 – Mar 7

Leave

- N/A

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Summary

I'm writing this report on the train back from Kalgoorlie! It's been a busy month - now ticking over 120 meetings, activities and engagements I've had as the Guild President. Every day that I have the opportunity to work alongside our amazing exec, reps and staff is something I don't take for granted.

We're doing an incredible job in advocating for students and that is something that will continue throughout the 56th Guild Council and beyond!

I have written at length in regard to academic freedom in this report so please to take the time to engage with this important subject. I'm very proud of the work that the Guild has done in light of the recent Universities Australia decision and hope that it provides some level of comfort for academic freedom at our institution. With that said, the concerted efforts to attack these freedoms is something that our Guild needs to stand against.

Looking forward to answering your questions!

In Solidarity,

Dylan

Meetings

University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
21/2/25	Janet Smith (Curtin Properties)	Tour of proposed locations of period product dispensers on campus
21/2/25	Academic Board	
26/2/25	Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic	Monthly meeting. Discussed club funding matter, academic freedom and UA antisemitism definition (discussed further below).
27/2/25	Vice Chancellor & Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic w/ Guild Managing Director	Monthly meeting. Resolved club funding matter and discussed the need for Curtin to defend academic freedom in light of the UA decision on the definition of antisemitism (discussed further below).
28/2/25	Student Charter Working Sub-Group	A sub-group of the working group established to review the Student Charter. This sub-group will report to the main working group which will create something. ANYWAY, the Guild will write the first draft of the new Student Charter... should we set up a working group to do that?
6/3/25	Kalgoorlie Wellbeing Advisor	A great meeting discussing issues that students in Kalgoorlie are facing. Of particular note is a lack of accommodation leading to compounding issues. We also discussed how we can further promote and integrate Guild Student Assist into Kalgoorlie following Student Assist Officer Myles' visit to campus the week prior.
6/3/25	Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre	Meeting regarding the Youth in Focus event and report launch I will be MC'ing next week.
7/3/25	Curtin Kalgoorlie Campus Director	Wonderful to meet with Tanya and to go over a number of issues that she and her

		team has been working hard on in Kalgoorlie. Tanya is deeply committed to the Guild providing decent representation, support and community-building services to the Curtin Kalgoorlie community and I'm looking forward to working with her and our Kalgoorlie President, Nilmer, to see many of these great ideas become a reality.
11/3/25	Acting Director of Events w/ VPA	Discussion regarding how we can work with the uni events team.
12/3/25	University Council	
13/3/25	Curtin Careers & Curtin Volunteering w/ VPE	Discussion around how the Guild can facilitate increased career development opportunities with the Curtin Careers team. Also a discussion about opportunities with Curtin Volunteers along with a discussion about the Curtin Community Pantry (see below).
17/3/25	Student Charter Working Sub-Group w/ VPSW	Discussed below.
18/3/25	Student Services Amenities Fee Advisory Committee	I serve as Deputy Chair of this committee which oversees the SSAF allocations. This meeting was mostly related to learning from the reports from the 2024 year.
18/3/25	University Librarian	A great discussion with Kylie Percival about the library and the programs they are offering, particularly efforts to reduce reliance on expensive textbooks for courses.
20/3/25	Academic Board Executive	
20/3/24	Vice Chancellor	Monthly meeting. Discussed matters including academic freedom and food security on campus.

Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
26/2/25	Managing Director, Manager - Student Experience and Manager - Student Assist	Discussion around admin and reception requirements in the Guild
27/2/25	Manager - Student Assist	Discussion around Student Charter review working group
27/2/25	Coben Foster Guild Council Induction	
27/2/25	Guild Council	
4/3/25	Guild Kalgoorlie Branch President	
5/3/25	Managing Director	
5/3/25	Finance & Risk Committee	
5/3/25	WASM Social Club President	Very positive discussion regarding securing the future of the Social Club in Kalgoorlie and how the Guild can assist in facilitating that in light of Curtin's request for additional oversight.

5/3/25	NUS National Executive	
6/3/25	Kalgoorlie Branch President, Secretary & VPE	Branch planning for 2025
17/2/25	Managing Director	
17/2/25	Manager - Student Assist	
19/2/25	NUS President & NUS General Secretary	Visiting Perth as part of O-Week tour of country
20/2/25	Representation Board	
17/2/25	Managing Director	
17/2/25	Manager - Student Engagement	
17/2/25	NTEU Campus Committee	
26/2/25	Managing Director, Manager - Student Experience and Manager - Student Assist	Discussion around admin and reception requirements in the Guild
27/2/25	Manager - Student Assist	Discussion around Student Charter review working group
27/2/25	Coben Foster Guild Council Induction	
27/2/25	Guild Council	
4/3/25	Guild Kalgoorlie Branch President	
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5/3/25	WASM Social Club President	Very positive discussion regarding securing the future of the Social Club in Kalgoorlie and how the Guild can assist in facilitating that in light of Curtin's request for additional oversight.
5/3/25	NUS National Executive	
6/3/25	Kalgoorlie Branch President, Secretary & VPE	Branch planning for 2025
10/3/25	Managing Director	
10/3/25	Manager Student Engagement	
10/3/25	Managing Director	Discussion regarding our leases
10/3/25	Clubs Hub Promotional Campaign Discussion	
11/3/25	Dr Bret Hart & Amie Furlong	Discussion regarding Foundations for Tomorrow.
12/3/25	University Council Reception	
13/3/25	Representation Board	
14/3/25	Managing Director & Cr David Philips	Commercial financial reporting walkthrough
14/3/25	Ella Marchionda	Discussion around academic freedom and the Curtin Guild supporting the UWA campaign for freedom of speech.
17/3/25	Managing Director	
17/3/25	Manager Student Experience	
17/3/25	Manager Student Experience & Manager Student Assist	Higher Education news meeting
19/3/25	ALLY Training	Thank you to the Queer Officer, Morgan for organising.
19/3/25	Manager Student Assist	

Other Meetings/Activities

Date	Meeting	Comments
28/2/25	UnionsWA International Women's Day Rally	
28/2/25	Guild Toga Party	
6/3/25	Student Networking Night	
13/3/25	Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre Youth in Focus Report Launch	I was MC for this event
18/2/25	NUS State Branch Meeting	

Matters of Representation

Attacks on Academic Freedom

I'm very concerned of the concerted push from many universities in this country to implement rushed and blanket restrictions on the rights of students and staff. We have seen concerning recommendations coming out of the parliamentary inquiry into antisemitism at Australian universities which include political interference into research funding and the possibility of a judicial inquiry into these matters, we have seen the attacks on student announcements recently announced at GO8 universities such as UWA and we have seen the Universities Australia definition of antisemitism leave the door wide open for universities to discipline students for criticising Israel and Zionism.

It is important to note that much of this repression is being initiated by the Group of 8 universities but many other institutions are falling in line.

I can't stress enough how disturbing this situation is and how utterly disappointing - but not surprising - it is. Universities need to be bastions of academic freedom. Once we lose this, we will never get it back. It's concerning the speed of which many universities are prepared to throw all of this out of the window, it's not good enough and student unions need to stand up to defend our rights.

The week of the Universities Australia announcement consisted of a strong and concerted effort from myself and the Exec to seek clarification from Curtin University regarding Curtin's plans to implement this definition. On the day of the announcement, I wrote to the Vice Chancellor expressing that the Guild, as outlined in the MOU we signed after the encampment, does and will oppose any policy that silences criticism of Israel and Zionism and impacts on academic freedom. That day, I also expressed the Guild's concerns in-person to the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic.

The following day, I met with the Vice Chancellor and DVCA and expressed the same sentiments. I am pleased that, during that discussion, the Vice Chancellor confirmed that Curtin does not view criticism of Israel and Zionism as Antisemitic and that Curtin will not discipline any student who engages in criticism of Israel and Zionism along with an expression that students and staff need to be involved in the implementation of any definition. I expressed that it was important that this be placed on the record, for the peace of mind of students who felt under pressure from this announcement and, thus, the Guild published a statement stating our views on this matter and the Vice Chancellor's views and commitments.

I must say that this is very much still a live issue and the Guild must always defend academic freedom for students and staff at Curtin and in all campuses. I am concerned that, at the time of writing, that it appears the Curtin Guild is one of two student unions to make a statement on this issue (props to UTS!) and the NUS has also not made a statement on this. This is a time where freedom of political

communication is under sustained attack and I think it's important that all student unions put aside differences and work together to stand up and fight back.

The speed of which the Curtin Guild was able to secure vital assurances from the Vice Chancellor is in large part thanks to the strength and professionalism of our Guild and was strengthened further by the MOU signed after the encampment which makes clear that the Guild is opposed to policy like this.

We must remain vigilant and we will.

Student Charter Review

The Vice Chancellor has initiated a review of the Student Charter, which is being led by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic). Initially, I was the only Guild representative set to be represented on the Working Group but, following engagement with the DVCA, was able to secure greater Guild representation (two Student Assist Officers as well as the VPE and VPSW) and an understanding that the university and Guild will work genuinely collaboratively, in the spirit of the Student Partnership Agreement, on this project.

The working group has formed a new sub-group, which has met several times. The Guild wrote the first draft of the new Charter which is now being worked through this process.

Housing Campaign

The Turn Down the Heat petition has reached over 700 signatures, indicating this is an issue that is pertinent for students in accommodation. We are working on channels of communication with UniLodge to present this petition ahead of launching phase two of this larger campaign.

Reps are currently running BBQ and discussion sessions at accommodations so that students can express concerns or issues they're facing in accommodation which we'll compile and put into a report with recommendations we will advocate for.

Whilst I was in Kalgoorlie, I visited the Agricola student accommodation that Curtin directly operates (not UniLodge - thank god!) and I can't express how nice the facilities are for less than the price of accommodation in Perth (and every room has aircon!). The big issue for accommodation in Kalgoorlie is there simply isn't enough and I'm keen to work with the Kalgoorlie Branch on advocacy around this matter moving forward.

Inquiry into University Governance

The Guild made a submission into the Senate Inquiry into University Governance. I have attached it at the end of this report for your information.

Guild Operations

Kalgoorlie Branch in 2025

I and Science & Engineering Rep Cooper had a bloody brilliant time in Kalgoorlie working with our incredibly motivated Kalgoorlie Branch Committee. Observations and discussion below;

- **Guild Precinct** | The Guild consists of an office, some storage rooms, a gym, a currently unused kitchen and sub-leases out a bar area to the WASM Social Club. There is a desire from the branch committee to clean up the kitchen and open as a student kitchen and common room, to set up a room as a Women's Room, to consolidate storage, clean up and upgrade the gym (discussed further below) and set up an office space for Student Assist

(discussed further below). There is also a need for refreshed and updated signage to increase awareness of the Guild and update the logos. I'm very confident that these projects can be done in a very cost effective manner and that they will all benefit the students of Kalgoorlie.

- **Gym** | The Guild Gym in Kalgoorlie is a well utilised space that is included in a tier of membership that the branch promotes. Access is hyper affordable at \$15 a month. There are some issues with the age of the equipment and the general condition of the room. The committee will work with the university to attain a risk assessment, a maintenance plan and the implementation of a safety induction for users of the facility.
- **Student Assist** | There is a lack of knowledge of Student Assist in Kalgoorlie. The Guild used to have a Student Assist Officer based in Kalgoorlie and the campus is keen to explore ways for us to promote our services and programs to Kalgoorlie students. An option that has been canvased includes re-establishing the Student Assist office on campus in the Guild building for officers to use when visiting campus but also as a private space that students can use to videoconference Student Assist. I'm eager to discuss how we can establish this but the campus is happy to assist with this if we decide to go down this path.
- **Activities** | The committee is eager to explore smaller events they can run in conjunction with their larger events and we will set up a meeting to discuss ideas.
- **Representation** | The committee is setting up feedback sessions for students to discuss courses with staff. We would be eager to get any information gathered during that process. We also need to make a conscious effort to better engage with Kalgoorlie on academic matters and seek their input and expertise. Ultimately, academic policy is set in Perth so we are still the primary forum for academic advocacy and effective representation
- **Governance** | The Guild Council will need to decide if it wishes to initiate a review of changes to the committee constitution. Of particular concern is regarding the representation of non-WASM students on the Guild (and whether the name should remain the 'WASM Guild' as opposed to 'Curtin Kalgoorlie Guild' to better encompass all members) and also building in more continuity into the branch where there currently isn't.
- **Student Clubs** | We need to have more conversations around the governance of student clubs in Kalgoorlie. The university has made it clear that all student clubs need to be Guild affiliated if they are to operate on campus but we need to work through how this will logistically work and be as easy and simple for clubs as possible.
- **WASM Social Club** | I had a good meeting with the President of the WASM Social Club, Trent. The Guild is committed to backing the Social Club's future as it's an important element of the student experience in Kalgoorlie. With that said, the club is not affiliated with the Guild and the university would like it to be that way if it is to renew our lease over that part of the Guild building in Kalgoorlie. I am eager to work on a way forward that protects the Social Club's identity and its existence.

There are many exciting years ahead for the Curtin Kalgoorlie campus and I'm excited to work alongside the committee to represent them and get the best deal possible for students out there. The increased offering of courses that expand beyond mining is exciting for the region and the campus has the potential to grow into a leading multidisciplinary regional tertiary institution that will make Kalgoorlie a better and stronger place. It's important that students are represented in this process and that students have access to all the support that they need to thrive. The Guild will work to do just that.

Guild Win: Period Product Dispenser Program

We have secured 50/50 funding with the university for the provision of free period products to students on our campuses up to a maximum of \$15,000 for the year. We have also overcome the

hurdles of the property approvals process at Curtin and have approval for all dispensers to be placed which they will be ahead of this meeting.

It's fantastic that this is now in place and it is a service that will be utilised by many Curtin students for hopefully many years to come.

Guild Win: Clubs Funding

For several years, the university has approved a \$20,000 grant for the Guild to disseminate to student clubs for events. Unfortunately, the COO had indicated to the Guild that this funding will not be renewed for 2025.

After a concerted effort where I raised this concern at Academic Board and with the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, I am pleased to say that the Vice Chancellor has agreed with the DVCA and COO that the funding will remain in place for 2025, which will be welcome news to many clubs and societies.

Food Security & Curtin Community Pantry

Curtin Volunteers, which has organised the Curtin Community Pantry for several years has indicated that it will be moving to a voucher model (5x \$50 supermarket vouchers a week). The Guild is concerned that this may not meet the demand for food security support at Curtin and I have expressed that the Guild may be interested in taking on the pantry as a student service moving forward. Any further discussion on this will come to Council but I will begin exploring options with Guild Staff and the university. The Vice Chancellor has been made aware of this and I am buoyed by preliminary support for the concept of increased food security programs on campus.



Dylan Storer

56th Guild President

University / External Meetings:

Date	Meeting	Comments
10/03/25	Learning & Student Experience Committee Meeting	
28/03/25	Academic Board	
02/04/25	Students for Partners Catch Up	

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

Date	Meeting	Comments
11/03/25	Exec Meeting	
12/03/25	Respondus Meeting	
13/02/25	Assessment Feedback Meeting	2/4 Reps Attended – Future Meeting Required
13/03/25	March Representation Board	
20/03/25	Humanities Rep Catch-Up	F2F
20/03/25	Guild Council	
25/03/25	Exec Meeting	
27/03/25	Academic Board Pre-Meeting	
27/03/25	Guild Council	N/A
28/03/25	Student Assist Catch Up	F2F
31/03/25	SciEng Rep Meeting	F2F
02/03/25	FBL Rep Catchup	F2F
02/03/25	ASPM Review /w Reps + Student Assist	
04/03/25	Humanities Rep Catchup	F2F

Further Notes:

In both Academic Board and LSEC the largest topic that was of focus was Assessment 2030 with regards to my portfolio, in LSEC it was noted by an academic about student and Guild involvement, this sentiment was echoed in Academic Board where I asked when we would see Guild involvement, the response given was suggesting that from this point we would be included in the project.

It is worth noting that the launch for Assessment 2030 has now been delayed.

On the 19th of March was Ally Training, I had missed this due to illness, this is being re-scheduled for another date.

The Assessment Feedback Meeting/Workshop with all Guild Reps was replaced with the ASPM review where we went through a large portion of the **Assessment and Student Progression Manual** changes for 2025, this is still in review and I will be in contact with the Academic Registrar to ensure that we have enough time to thoroughly go through it

During the 17th – 19th I was sick

University / External Meetings:

Date	Meeting	Comments
17/03	Student Charter Working Sub-Group	Draft was proposed, written by CSG
17/03	With Properties Rep for Sustainable Development Week	RE Guild representation at Sustainable Development Week
18/03	Universal Design Sub Committee Meeting 1	Attended on behalf of Accessibility Officer – inaugural meeting for 2025
20/03	Sustainable Development Week	Guild representation stall
24/03	MOU discussion working group	
28/03	Student Charter Working Sub-Group meeting	Draft was finalised – to be sent to Chancellery

Guild Meetings (Or Guild-Related Meetings):

Date	Meeting	Comments
20/02	Representation Board Meeting #2	
25/02	Guild Executive Meeting	
27/02	Student Charter Discussion	RE: approaching the student charter
27/02	Meeting with student RE multifaith concerns – drop-in sessions	
27/02	Guild Council #2	
28/02	Meeting with student RE multifaith concerns – drop-in sessions	
11/03	Executive Meeting	
12/03	Attending UWA Meeting RE ban on lecture announcements	Attendance was important despite this being at UWA, as these crackdowns are happening nationwide and the assumption cannot be that this would not happen at Curtin
12/03	RE FBL student concerns	I could not attend this meeting as my previous meeting (at UWA) ran over time. I organised the meeting with the VPE, FBL Rep and Accessibility Rep. VPE chaired meeting.
13/03	Representation Board Meeting #3	
14/03	Meeting with Clubs Support team RE club matter	Details are confidential as they are yet to be resolved, and involve specifics
17/03	Circle 8 meeting RE smart bins	With Mark from Circle 8. Discussed possible third partner for project
18/03	Queer Officer x VPSW Weekly Meeting	Catch-up meeting with Queer Officer
20/03	Womens Officer x VPSW Weekly Meeting	Catch-up meeting with Queer Officer
21/03	Student multifaith drop-in	
21/03	Queer Officer x VPSW catch-up meeting	
25/03	Executive Meeting	
25/03	Queer Officer x VPSW Weekly Meeting	

26/03	Health and Safety Committee meeting	
26/03	Women Officer x VPSW Weekly Meeting	
27/03	Student Pantry working group	
27/03	Guild Council Board Meeting #3	
28/03	Accessibility Officer x VPSW Weekly Meeting	
28/03	PSCHealth x VPSW Weekly Meeting	
02/04	Queer Officer x VPSW Weekly Meeting	
02/04	Queer Officer x VPSW Weekly Meeting	

Leave Taken:

31/03 – 01/04

Further Notes:

Item	Details
Safe Space for students observing Ramadan	Curtin's Multifaith Officer alerted me that students were approaching her asking her to book spaces so they could eat/take their medications. These students either were breastfeeding, pregnant, menstruating or had medical conditions that religiously exempted them from fasting. They were uncomfortable with doing this in the open however as it made personal business public. The Guild has booked a space for the month of Ramadan for this purpose. I blacked out the windows using gift wrapping, and cleaned the old STA space which now sits for this purpose.
Lolly wall – dietary requirements	Since the motion was passed at the last Guild Council, an audit is being made of the dietary information of the lolly's in Gmart's lolly wall. The percentage was set to at least 30% of lollies being either vegan and halal. Currently we may have to find a supplier different to the current supplier for the lollies by the looks of it, however we are still confirming. I would like to thank Vernon for assisting with this too.
Smart bins – Circle 8	Containers for Change are no longer going to be a partner on the project, however Red Bull have been identified as the sole beverage partner for the next 6 months after it is launched. An app is also being developed. Meetings RE this project are not clearly marked, as they have involved lengthy calls or emails based on need.
Curtin Sustainable Development Week	The VPSW has been strongly involved with Curtin's action plan for sustainability, and therefore was invited to display representation of some sort at Curtin's Sustainable Development Week. The VPA has been helping me with this. This will take place on the 20 th of

	March, with a soft launch of our smart bins and recycling hub.
Multifaith drop-ins	I have begun meeting with students RE multifaith concerns as there is a big lack with regards to this area. This is to firstly resolve issues students are experiencing, but also in the lead up to creating the two multifaith spaces, will help me understand student needs best. These drop-in sessions will be publicly launched soon, however at the moment involves me meeting with students I know have experienced issues. Guild's Club Support has been very helpful with this.
UWA restrictions	The new restrictions UWA has informed its staff and students has been severely concerning. This is part of the international shift seeing freedom of speech stifled in response to foreign policy which Australia shares interest in. This observation is in response to the nature of the restrictions. The meeting at UWA was attended by myself and the Humanities Representative.
Universities Australia: Response	This was covered in depth during the last Representation Board Meeting. In light of the difficult times, I am happy with how the Chancellory has repoded and am pleased they understand the weight of what this means.
Containers for Change deposit	A deposit was made to Containers for Change which saw 400-500 cans/bottles deposited, and around \$40 returned to the Guild.
Student Charter	The Chancellory has determined the Student Charter should be reviewed. A sub-working group with myself and the president has seen us ensure student concerns come first, such as the concern it will be used for disciplinary measures which we have made clear is not something we would stand for. I am happy with how the meetings/drafts have progressed and believe student representation is especially important on this.
Meetings with Equity Reps	I have moved from meeting with equity reps based on need/request, to setting weekly meetings. This has helped with efficiency.



Business and Law Officer

April Representation Board (7/03/2025 - 10/04/2025)

Anniesey Nicole Alconaba (she/her)

University/External Meetings and Events

Date	Meeting	Comments
12/02/25	Guild Hosted University Council	Hosted the University Council and was able to speak and network with members of the university council.
13/03/25	Representation Board Meeting	Discussed relevant motions to be passed and spoke on my report as well as any new updates.
14/03/25	FBL Let's Explore Wadjemup Rottneest Trip	See more detail in Notes
19/03/25	Ally Training	This was a great workshop that helped me be a better ally. It was truly informative and helpful in covering topics about the LGBTQ+ community that I was unsure of prior. It was run well and in a manner that was both respectful but enjoyable.
19/03/25	Inter-Faculty Scavenger Hunt: With VPE, Faculty Reps and, Jess and Kyla from Student Experience	See more details in Notes
02/04/25	FBL Clubs Meeting	Received an update from all the clubs about upcoming events and issues regarding sponsors, uncooperative members and succession for committee roles for the future. Was also able to share information/news about the Interfaculty Scavenger hunt.
02/04/25	Assessment Feedback Meeting & Planning Session: With VPE, Faculty Reps and Student Assist	See more detail in Notes

Guild Meetings -> all guild meetings planned during second half of March after Report Submission Deadline

Date	Meeting	Comments
12/03/25	Invigilation Concern Meeting over transition from IRIS to Respondus: With Vice President of Education and Disability Officer.	See more detail in Notes
24/03/25	VPE x FBL Catchup	Discussed topics regarding FBL Learning and Teaching FCC, upcoming events and questions about how to respond appropriately.
02/04/25	VPE x FBL Catchup	Discussed topics including the FBL Learning and Teaching FCC (can learn more in notes), Interfaculty Scavenger Hunt, assessment feedback meeting to occur later in the day, FBL SaP MoU, and how to go about the completion of the Essential Textbook Campaign and thus following up with the LITEQ team (more info in Updates).

Notes

FBL Learning and Teaching FCC

I was unable to attend the FBL Learning and Teaching FCC as it occurred during my class, along with this I had reached out to the FCC for my apologies and future apologies as I will be unable to attend for the remainder of Semester 1 due to my class, and will have to get a rep to attend on my behalf until the class concedes. I have made an agreement with Ben (VPE) on attending on my behalf when I am unable to do so.

Invigilation Concern Meeting over transition from IRIS to Respondus

Lorien and I received an email on the 4th of February from a Law student currently completing trimesters, raising concerns over the implementation of the invigilation software 'Respondus' set to replace 'IRIS'. The email in summary explained:

- Respondus wouldn't allow students to access electronic notes during open book tests.
- This would cause students who have write their notes online, to print all notes and relevant cases.
- Leads to sustainability issues regarding amount being printed and printing costs
- Accessibility concerns over how Respondus would affect those using CAP plans and if it would be able to give them the support they need.

Lorien reached out to the accessibility department and found that:

- Respondus isn't intended to be used for open booked exams or tests and is to be used for close booked or limited book
- Lecturer should be able to add relevant documents for students to access
- OAR also advised that students with queries about Respondus should email respondus@curtin.edu.au

With this it was decided that Ben as VPE would reach out to Dylan to ask the Pro-Vice Chancellor:

- Clarification if respondus is not to be used in open book
- How was respondus introduced to students as students concern doesn't align with our info
- How does respondus work with CAP plans

FBL Let's Explore Wadjemup Rottneest Trip:

Volunteered as a student leader for the FBL Let's Explore Wadjemup Rottneest Trip for International FBL students studying at Curtin. Day started early at Curtin where a bus transported the students to Fremantle for the ferry over. I was partnered with Jenna (FBL staff) to lead and overlook a group of 9 international students. Every student in our group was from Europe with most being from Germany. It was great that I had recognised some of these students from O-Week and they also recognised me. We were able to have many discussions regarding questions they had about WA and related to Curtin which I was able to help with. This trip also strengthened my relationship with some of the FBL clubs as some clubs joined on the trip as other student leader volunteers. Overall, it was a successful day of engagement with students, clubs and staff. I also documented the day to create a reel summarising it for the FBL Guild Instagram account.

Interfaculty Event Planning:

There was an initial plan of having a sports carnival-esque interfaculty event which was cancelled as the Curtin Stadium already planned something similar. With such we pivoted and decided to complete a scavenger hunt. This meeting went through the details of this event including what activities would be done, locations, time, date etc. The meeting ended with a great understanding of the day and there was little left to go over/decide on which was sorted out via emails amongst the relevant members. The event is now in the process of coming to life with myself overseeing organising the WhatsApp community and group to be used on the day. I am still involved in other aspects of the event but that is my main duty during this early stage.

Assessment Feedback Meeting & Planning Session:

Discussed Jon Yorke's Email detailing the changes to the Assessment and Student Progression Manual (ASMP) and discussed the Draft sent in with these changes. Changes that were of note include:

- The removing of incremental assessments and limiting number of assessments: This change was found to be unnecessary with it causing a more negative impact rather than positive.
- Adding a new academic status (Good Standing, Conditional, Terminated): This was discussed with the conclusion that adding an 'At Risk' or Framework after losing Good Standing and before Conditional would be beneficial. This status would include:
 - Students having a meeting with a wellbeing staff and discussing the cause of this change.
 - Being provided with the resources relevant to the cause after the discussion.
 - Being more proactive and intensive when working with First Year students in this status due to their new nature.

- Assessment Quality Process (AQP Procedure) was completely taken out and no explanation was provided.

Overall, the meeting was great at discussing and analysing the new changes of the ASMP.

Updates

Social Media KPI:

I have been active on social media via posting any upcoming events or surveys through stories or as posts. The main source of my increase in followers on Instagram is through being invited as a collaborator by clubs on their posts regarding events. This gives a mutual benefit as they can reach the guild followers, and I can reach the feed of their followers. Facebook has been rather stagnant in activity as many of the members have moved to the Instagram account, but events are still shared on Facebook for those students without an Instagram.

Essential Textbook Campaign:

From the meeting at the beginning of the year, the processes the LITEQ team have implemented show this campaign to be a success. To confirm that this campaign is complete I am reaching out to the LITEQ team about the results on their end.

Survey:

Due to both the FBL engagements team and Curtin Law school releasing a survey in March, I have post-poned releasing the FBL Guild Survey, to ensure it does not get confused with the other surveys and thus maximise responses.

Science and Engineering Faculty Report

Cooper Henrickson (He/Him)

Representation Board – 10th April 2025

Date	Meeting/Event	Comments
10/03/2025	Faculty Graduate Studies Committee	Presentation. Library is hosting workshops about how to utilize AI efficiently and with integrity.
10/03/2025	Faculty Health and Safety Committee	Respirable Crystalline Silica is still a focus – Presentation about new regulations. There is currently no system for prioritizing CAPs. Students that need accessibility accommodations may have labs as early as week 2. Need to either implement a system for CAP prioritization, or ensure these students are aware they may need a CAP for their labs. Currently the Faculty and Curtin is behind other Universities in accessibility of labs.
10/03/2025	Meeting with DOLT	Informed about MJRH-ECENG not going to be pursuing accreditation. Discussed further in report.
12/03/2025	Faculty Courses Committee	New majors and specializations proposed. Deactivation of old units/courses. Currently undergoing comprehensive course review. Discussion about Assessment 2030. Discussion about pre-requisites.
12/03/2025	Guild Hosted University Council	
14/03/2025	Meeting with VP-E	Notified VP-E about MJRH-ECENG.
17/03/2025	Faculty Executive Team Meeting	Presentations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Director of Risk, Compliance and Audit- Manager of Pricing- Director of Corporate Communication
19/03/2025	Ally Training	
19/03/2025	Inter-faculty Event Meeting	Discussed what we wanted the event to be and how it would run. Very productive.
20/03/2025	Assessment	Short meeting to discuss our future plans for the

	Feedback Meeting	Assessment Feedback campaign.
25/03/2025	Grill the Guild	Spoke with students. Was informed that some units have switch to online pre-recorded lectures, and will be investigating.
26/03/2025	MJRH-ECENG Town Hall	Discussed further in report.
27/03/2025	Engineering Board	Respirable Crystalline Silica still an issue. Plans and policies to address new regulations were outlined. Engineering board may be moving to a more strategic forum, less operational. Course Lead (Natalie Lloyd) Report discussed further below. A discussion on lifting the restrictions on graphics/programmable calculators was had, and I was invited to meet with the Dean of Engineering to discuss further.
02/04/2025	Meeting with Dean of Engineering	I was invited by Dean of Engineering (Vishnu Pareek) to bring some colleagues to discuss lifting the restrictions on graphics/programmable calculators in engineering. We discussed the points for and against but will likely need to discuss further.
02/04/2025	Assessment and Student Progression Manual Review	Student Assist, the VP-E, and the fac-reps reviewed the draft of the ASPM to provide feedback.

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:

- Faculty Graduate Studies Committee – 07/04/2025
- Faculty Courses Committee – 09/04/2025
- Faculty Research Committee – 10/04/2025
- Science Board – 10/04/2025

Bachelor of Electrical and Computing Major not seeking accreditation:

Curtin and the Faculty of Science and Engineering received advice from Engineers Australia that if they were to pursue accreditation for the Electrical and Computer Engineering Major, it would be unlikely to receive accreditation. As such Curtin decided not to pursue

accreditation.

In order for students to have a fully accredited qualification, Curtin is seeking to transition all students to the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Major.

This decision affects 217 students, with four cohorts of varying risk levels:

Cohort A (122 Students), Cohort B (63 Students), Cohort B+ (24 Students), and Cohort C (7 Students), with Cohort A being at the lowest-risk for disruptions to their studies, and Cohort C being the highest.

High risk students have been contacted and are getting personal support from the Dean of Learning and Teaching and the Course Lead. Lower risk students will have access to support through a dedicated email contact and Teams site.

A town hall was held on the 26th of March for all students affected, which myself and Myles from Student Assist attended. The town hall outlined the problem, and the solution the faculty came up with. It also allowed students an opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns about the situation.

This situation is not good for students who already have a lot on their plate without the added stress this may cause, but the faculty staff are focused on ensuring students are able to graduate on schedule with an accredited degree.

Course Lead (Natalie Lloyd) Report:

Discussed visits to international campuses. Reminder to include Miri in course and curriculum discussions.

Spoke about the pre-orientation Women in Engineering event, and how positive the event was for everyone involved.

Spoke about ENGR1002, a new unit that has students working on real industry problems, no lectures, very real world focused.

Discussed MJRH-ECENG. Brought up a point that the “And” in the name of a course/major has serious importance and should not be added without proper backing that the major can provide enough coverage of X **AND** Y to show a student is proficient enough to be accredited as both.

Discussed upcoming plans to rework the EPEP Logbook, to better reflect how students can engage with the logbook.

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES REPORT

REPRESENTATION BOARD 10/04/25

Submitted 03/04/25

GUILD MEETINGS:

Date	Meeting	Notes
19/03/25	Ally Training	
19/03/25	Interfaculty event organising meeting	
20/03/25	Assessment feedback meeting	
02/04/25	Assessment feedback planning session/ Assessment 2030 discussion	
03/04/25	VP-E Meeting	

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS:

Date	Meeting	Notes
27/03/25	Humanities Health & Safety Committee	
27/03/25	SDP	
10/04/25	Courses Committee	
10/04/25	SoE meeting	

PROJECTS:

Assessment Feedback:

The assessment feedback campaign has been interrupted by proposed changes to the Assessment and Student Progression Manual (ASPM), which has become our priority focus in the area. It is entirely likely that the limit of three assessments per unit may be removed, along side a variety of other changes, good or bad. Addressing these changes is highly important and we will continue to have discussions on the matter. A meeting to discuss the assessment feedback campaign generally is still on the table but will only be focused on once the ASPM is sorted.

Education:

Great progress is being made on the issues in the School of Education, largely due to new Directors of Learning and Teaching. I have been in regular contact with the 2 DLT's regarding issues brought to my attention, and these issues have been well addressed. The Curtin Education Students Society continues to grow and be active, and I believe that their influence is a positive community factor in the school. Issues regarding the Bachelor of Educational Studies seem to be going in the right direction as the course co-ordinator has now returned (It was previously run by an acting co-ordinator, who also ran Primary Education). I have met today with the DLT's and other staff and will provide a verbal update on these matters.

OTHER:

Grill the Guild:

We are on track to run Grill the Guild at the south of the Bentley campus on Friday the 11th.

Pop down and say hi!

Interfaculty Scavenger Hunt:

The Interfaculty Scavenger Hunt is on track for the 16th and is shaping up to be a well organised & exciting event.

Tom Harrowing (He/Him)

Faculty of Humanities Representative

April 2025 Representation Board Report – Student Assist

March Overview

Academic support sessions primarily addressed responses to Academic Misconduct allegations and guidance related to HDR supervision matters.

Non-academic support sessions were largely centred on students seeking financial assistance and emergency accommodation. Student Assist provided emergency relief to six students through our Hardship and Childcare Grant programs.

	January	February	March
Academic sessions	178	213	252
Non – academic sessions	25	8	41
Total	201	250	286

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

A total of 18 laptops were issued through the Loan Laptop Program during the reporting period. As of the end of March, all 35 available loan laptops are currently on loan. To accommodate new applications in April, we aim to limit extensions of existing loan agreements.

There were 152 participants in our Lifehack programs.

Meetings/ Training/ Miscellaneous

Date	Topic	Comments
10 March 2025	Presentation by Young Carers WA - https://www.carerswa.asn.au/our-services/young-carers/	The session provided valuable insights. This free support service is available to all students with caregiving responsibilities. Eligibility does not require the student to be an approved carer, nor does the person receiving care need to have a formal diagnosis
27 March 2025	Academic Board Pre Meeting	
Throughout March	Provided feedback on various HDR Policies and Procedures	

Mitchell Craig
PSC President



Representation Board #4 April 2025

Postgraduate Students Committee (PSC) Report

Guild Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/ Event	Comments
13/03/2025	Reps Board	See Minutes
21/03/2025	PSC/ISC Sundowner	Great event, good turnout
27/03/2025	Academic Board pre meeting	See Minutes

University Meetings

Date	Meeting/ Event	Comments
07/03/2025	Research Committee	Got the HDR Progression Procedure deferred to May
10/03/2025	Learning & Student Experience Committee	Interrogated the student equity reports, deadnaming working group final report and assessment 2030
12/03/2025	Guild Hosting University Council	Made small talk with uni council members
13/03/2025	Bankwest Curtin Economic Centre Report Launch	Lunch was nice, President Storer was the MC and brought a certain dramatic flare that made it interesting. Report contents and panel discussion were quite interesting and informative
17/03/2025	HDR Policy and Procedure w/ ADVCR	Met with Andrew and Gretchen to discuss proposed changes to HDR Policies and Procedures
28/03/2025	Academic Board	Interrogated Student Misconduct update and assessment 2030 presentation

02/04/2024	HDR Policy and Procedure Meeting w/ Graduate Research School	Met w/ Andrew and GRS to discuss proposed changes to several HDR policies and procedure.
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Projects/General

- The PSC had a very successful Sundowner Co-hosted with ISC.
- All PSC committee positions have now been filled and my first committee meeting will be happening very soon!
- I have responded to several student enquiries.
- The HDR student progression Policies and Procedures have come up for review and I am working with Student Assist and the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor Research to ensure that any changes are fair and equitable for students. These are major policies that have a significant affect on HDR students. This has been monopolising a lot of my time
- Factsheet for HDRs on Intellectual Property from the Encampment MoU is now in draft, just waiting for GRS to finish the graphic design/layout.
- I am working on establishing the priorities for the PSC for 2025 with my committee

tl;dr

Things are going well, have had some good success with HDR Policy and Procedure.

Sundowner was good. Very Busy.

Queer Officer

March/April Representation Board (14/03/2025 – 10/04/2025)

Morgan Mills (they/them)

University/External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
18/03/2025	Weekly Catch Up	With Razanne
19/03/2025	Pride Discussions	With Jacquie
25/03/2025	Weekly Catch Up	With Razanne
01/04/2025	DVCA monthly meeting	Discussions around Pride, further involvements between the Queer Officer, the Guild, and the Ally team.
02/04/2025	Weekly Catch Up	With Razanne
08/04/2025	DIBC meeting	Quarterly meeting.
	Weekly Catch Up	With Razanne

Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
19/03/2025	Ally Training	Attended by student representatives
25/03/2025	Events meeting	With Bridget to discuss social sessions
02/04/2025	Queer Collective Meeting #2	
	Collective Post	Met with Amy to produce an Instagram post introducing the collective

Extended notes

- 19/03/2025 – Ally Training

Ten student representatives attended a combined level 1 and 2 Ally Training session hosted by Hailey and Cadence. This session was informative and beneficial to all student representatives and has gained them insight into the importance of being an Ally. It has also granted them with the skills needed to be a safe space for Curtin University students and other people they interact with.

- 19/03/2025 – Pride Discussions

Jacquie and I met to start the planning of Pride. This meeting went over my general plans for the day. We discussed hosting a market with outside vendors, followed by a parade and an event at the Tav. The market would include face-painting and sign making for the parade, along with

vendors such as WAAC, YPN, Rainbow Futures and other Queer Organisations that wish to have a stall. The Tav event afterwards will have food, along with a selection of queer themed beverages.

Updates

Period Product dispensers

Dispensers have been rolled out to the TL Robertson Library, Hayman Theatre, nursing building, mining building, the Creative Quarter and 106F. The plan is to have more dispensers around campus and across other WA Curtin campuses in the future.

Events

Meet Your Queer Officer Crafternoon

The crafternoon was a success, with more than 10 students coming along. Everyone who attended had positive feedback on the event and appeared to have a good time. This would be a successful event to run again in the future.

Women's Department x Queer Department social session

The success of this event was very similar to the crafternoon hosted two weeks prior. Attendance was hindered by the timing of the event, which clashed with many classes. In future, this event would be best held during common free time, however overall, the turn out and feedback was great.

GUILD MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Notes
15/03/25	Red Heart Campaign Rally/March	
17/03/25	Catch Up Meeting	W Bella
18/03/2025	WD drop-in session	
19/03/25	Ally training	
	Catch up meeting	W Razanne
10/03/25	Interview	W Student Journalist
25/03/25	Grill the Guild	SciEng
	Meeting	W Morgan
26/03/25	GEI catch up	W Liz
31/03/25	HIB meeting	
1/04/25	Queer x Women's Dept Social Session	
2/04/25	Catch Up Meeting	W Razanne

EXTENDED NOTES

15/03/25

It was disappointing to see a lack of turnout for this rally— especially within the Curtin Guild, other Student Unions around WA and other leftist activist groups. It was disheartening to see what little turn out there was at an otherwise lovely rally, with the UWA Student Guild having double the presence of Curtin's, which would be impressive apart from that there were only two UWA student representatives. Violence against women is an increasing issue globally and student unions must take a strong stance against it, and it is shameful that WA Universities and the Curtin Student Guild being silent on the issue outside of the Women's Department despite a passed motion saying that the Guild would advertise the event on their social media. We must stand in solidarity with women across Australia and remember the 117 women who have been murdered these past 15 months.

25/03/25

- Agreed on conjoining the Women's Department drop-in sessions with the Queer Department and have it as a social session with various activities throughout the semester
- Activities include: paint and sip, movie screening and party

26/03/25

- Talked about potentially sourcing UTI, STI and additional pregnancy tests, along with how to get additional period product dispensers.
- Briefed on ongoing GEI projects: Women's Trail/Audit on buildings named after women, 'Caring at Curtin' – on staff and/or student portal providing information on carers and additional resources at Curtin
- Was informed on mental health first aid training that Curtin provides – I have forwarded this information to Razanne

UPDATES

All of our period product dispensers have been rolled out, with a strong campaign for them. Currently in TL Robertson Library, Nursing Building, Building 106F, Creative Quarter, Mining Building and Hayman Theatre. I intend to work on getting more period product dispensers to be on campus and other Curtin campuses across WA.

Accessibility officer
April Representation Board Report
Lorien Watts (they/he)

University and Committee Meetings		
Date	Meeting	Comments
13/3/2025	Meagan Shand from Student life	Explained the Hidden Disability Sunflower initiative and membership benefits Discussed ways to improve awareness of accessibility information for new students, including possible O Week activities or an Oasis page
18/3/2025	UDSC meeting	VPSW attended for me
19/3/2025	FBL accessibility project	The EOI has been drafted, with the workshop being held on the 9 th of April
20/3/2025	Debbie from AccessAbility	The CAP system broke, has since been fixed. CAP review report should be finished in 2-4 weeks Hiring for a new AccessAbility advisor Discussed ways to better communicate resources to students

Guild Meetings		
Date	Meeting	Comments
14/3/2025	NUS Disability Reps meeting	
28/3/2025	Check-in with VPSW	

Events		
Date	Event	Comments
21/3/2025, 28/3/2025	Creative connections	Small attendance currently, I'm having fun though
2/4/2025	Powerpoint party	Collaboration with CSMP for autism awareness week
3/4/2025	Pop-up Picnic stall	Had some resources and a couple of activities

Projects	
Project	Comments
AUSLAN course student discount	Currently researching companies
Guide to Accessibility at Curtin	Dropped some off at AccessAbility, are starting to run low so will need to print more

Other	
Topic	Comments
Collective	Had first meeting on 14/3/2025
Ally training	Completed

Higher Education Report Rep Board Meeting April

Election 2025: Bipartisan blast as universities cry foul over foreign student cuts. The Australian

Cash-strapped universities have accused both sides of politics of a “race to the bottom” in slashing international student numbers.

Universities Australia chief executive Luke Sheehy said the Coalition was “stoking anger in the electorate” while Labor was “caving in to protect its vote”.

“It’s officially a race to the bottom,” he told the Independent Tertiary Education Council conference in Adelaide on Wednesday. “Both sides (are) deferring blame for their own domestic policy failures in office.

“The Coalition had been beating this drum for months, blaming international students for driving up (rental) prices and locking Australians out of the market.

“We know from polling that migration and housing are hot-button issues. Cue Labor’s knee-jerk response, and in one fell swoop, international students became scapegoats for Australia’s housing crisis.”

The federal government is relying on a ministerial directive to slow the processing of student visas, after the Coalition torpedoed Labor’s legislation last November to cap numbers at 270,000.

Peter Dutton has promised even deeper cuts, but has failed to explain how many foreign students would be allowed into Australia, or how a Coalition government would manage enrolments based on nationality, institutions or destinations.

Mr Sheehy said if the Coalition froze foreign student numbers at 2023 levels, universities would have to shed nearly 55,000 international students. “Imagine torching \$4bn in revenue at a time our economy and our sector can least afford it,” he said.

“International education is our nation’s biggest export outside of mining. It generates \$52bn each year, it pays for essential services, it supports 250,000 Australian jobs, it funds vital university research and it subsidises the education of Australian students.

“That’s why it’s crazy to even think of curtailing this vitally important sector, particularly now.”

Mr Sheehy said international students accounted for just 6 per cent of the national rental market.

He said both major parties had encouraged the growth in international students for more than a decade, and went to “great lengths” to encourage their return after the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Universities, on average, bank around \$30,000 per international student enrolled,” he said.

“Universities have grown heavily reliant on this revenue to cover commonwealth funding gaps. That’s money that helps fund teaching for Aussie students and research. Both major parties are biting the hand that helps fund our sector.”

Mr Sheehy said he had sought a meeting with the federal Opposition Leader to explain his plans.

Coalition campaign headquarters would not tell The Australian whether Mr Dutton would make time to meet Mr Sheehy.

The Australian revealed on Wednesday that the number of student visa applications halved in January this year, compared to last year, with applications in February similar across both years.

Election 2025: International student '30pc flat caps to cost \$4bn'. The Australian

The peak body for universities says a proposal to cap international students could cost the economy \$4bn and cut almost 55,000 students.

Amid speculation that the Coalition may adopt a flat percentage cap on international students as part of its federal election platform, Universities Australia chief executive Luke Sheehy has warned that such an approach would inflict significant damage to the \$52bn sector and to the economy.

Mr Sheehy will use his keynote address at an ITECA conference on Wednesday to urge the Coalition against adopting a flat percentage cap as its official policy to slash international student numbers in a bid to cut net migration.

UA predicts that restricting international student numbers to 30 per cent of enrolments would cut 54,577 students, limiting numbers to 33 per cent would reduce enrolments by 37,503 students and a 35 per cent cap would reduce students by 28,534 students.

The modelling, based on 2023 enrolment numbers, revealed that capping foreign students to 30 per cent would inflict a \$3.96bn economic hit, restricting to 33 per cent would cost \$2.72bn and a 35 per cent scenario would cost \$2.07bn.

Mr Sheehy will address speculation the Coalition is considering a 30 per cent cap, cautioning against adopting further measures that would cut university funding.

"What we stand to lose in future revenue is far greater," he will say.

"This all begs a few questions. Is this all worth a few votes at the ballot box? Is this all worth the economic hit?

"Is this all worth inflicting financial pain on universities?"

Mr Sheehy will also call on whichever party wins the election on May 3 to plug the funding shortfall once covered by revenue generated by international education. "The boom in international education has papered over these cracks," he will say.

"But the revenue this once reliable source provided is no longer guaranteed. Universities Australia has been calling for full and proper funding for our sector in light of this."

A 35 per cent flat cap on international students was also estimated to cost institutions \$1.6bn directly. International students enrolled at universities contribute \$72,600 to the economy on average, with \$30,200 going directly to providers.

The Australian revealed last month that the Coalition had been consulting on a range of options to cap international students, including a proposal to cap overseas students at a percentage of total enrolments.

Another approach canvassed was to cap foreign students to a percentage below a previous year's enrolments.

The Coalition has promised to pursue steeper student caps than Labor but is yet to unveil details of its policy platform.

Liberal frontbenchers have previously said they wanted to target metropolitan universities, especially in Sydney and Melbourne, while seeking to bolster foreign student numbers at - regional providers.

The Coalition torpedoed Labor's legislation capping international students to 270,000 in November over concerns the framework was "chaotic and confused", vowing to unveil its own policy in due course.

The Australian Technology Network of Universities floated a proposal in July for a flat cap of 35 per cent of total enrolments.

New Regional University Study Hub for Katanning. Jason Clare media

A new Regional University Study Hub opened to students this week at Katanning, bringing university closer in regional Western Australia.

Nearly half of young people in Australia have a university qualification but not in regional and remote Australia. In Katanning, only 12.9% per cent of young people have a degree.

Regional University Study Hubs are one of the ways to change this. The evidence shows that where they are, university participation goes up.

This new Study Hub in the centre of Katanning, will provide student support and facilities for students who are studying a university or TAFE course without having to leave their community.

The new Katanning University Study Hub is part of the Albanese Government's \$66.9 million investment to double the number of University Study Hubs across the country.

The hub will be operated by Regional Development Australia Great Southern who operate the existing Great Southern Universities Centre in Albany which has supported over 400 students since opening.

So far, the Katanning Study Hub has 12 registered students. Katanning is one of Western Australia's most multicultural regional areas.

There are now 56 Regional University Study Hubs [located](#) across the country. 45 of these Hubs are open with the other 11 Hubs expected to open during 2025.

This builds on the recent announcement for 15 Suburban University Study Hubs, located in the outer suburbs for the first time.

This is one of the ways the Albanese Labor Government is helping more people get a crack at going to TAFE or university, including:

- wiping \$3 billion in student debt from around three million Australians

- cutting a further 20 per cent off of all student loans if re-elected, wiping around \$16 billion in student debt
- introducing a Commonwealth prac payment for teaching, nursing, midwifery and social work students
- making free TAFE permanent.

Pocock accuses ANU leadership of misleading Senate estimates after paying consultant more than \$1 million. ABC

In short:

David Pocock is calling for an investigation, alleging ANU leadership misled a Senate estimates committee about the cost of an external consultant contract.

ANU said the statement to estimates was factual.

What's next?

The Senate committee will consider what action, if any, they will take.

Independent Senator David Pocock has accused the Australian National University (ANU) of misleading a Senate estimates committee over how much it paid to a consulting firm.

The ANU engaged Canberra-based Nous Consulting Group last year to aid in the institution's restructuring as it aims to save \$250 million by the end of 2026.

During Senate estimates on November 7, ANU chief operating officer (COO) Jonathan Churchill told the committee the university had "paid circa \$50,000 this year" to Nous.

However, in responding to a question on notice, ANU said the original contract, signed in September, was worth \$837,000 for a 12-week period.

The written response said the contract had twice been extended, at an additional cost of \$290,000.

Mr Pocock said he was "appalled" the leadership of the ANU had appeared to show such contempt for the Senate estimates process.

"They must've known that when they said that to the committee."

Mr Pocock said he had written to Labor senator Tony Sheldon, chairman of parliament's Education and Employment Legislation Committee, requesting an inquiry into ANU and its apparent contempt for parliamentary process. He also wrote to the ANU Vice-Chancellor Genevieve Bell asking for an explanation.

National Tertiary Education Union ACT division secretary Lachlan Clohesy said questions had to be asked why consultants were being hired to address specific skill deficiencies in the staff when there were so many ANU staff on significant salaries.

Students and union groups concerned by Coalition's 'woke' agenda education crackdown. ABC

In short:

A Coalition crackdown on "woke" ideology in schools and universities has raised concerns among students and union groups.

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton earlier this week flagged putting "conditions" on state school funding to prevent "indoctrination" in the classroom.

What's next?

Labor is warning schools will face funding cuts under a Coalition government.

Students and union groups fear the Coalition's crackdown on "woke" ideology in schools and universities could threaten freedom of speech.

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has offered little detail about his plan to fight "indoctrination" in schools, but [signalled cuts to "wasteful government spending"](#) within the federal education department if elected.

National Union of Students (NUS) president Ashlyn Horton said she feared Mr Dutton was "trying to target reconciliation" with First Nations Australians.

"All progressive movements we've had in this country in the past term of government, he's tried to completely push back," she said.

Adrian Murdoch is the acting CEO of the Minus 18 Foundation, which delivers inclusion training for education staff to support LGBTQIA+ students.

While it's unclear what the Coalition would target in its "woke" agenda blitz, Mr Murdoch said he feared inclusion training could be on the list.

"It's a real slap in the face for the parents of the two-in-three LGBTQI+ young people who still experience discrimination," he said.

"I think Australians really want schools that are safe and welcoming."

National Tertiary Education Union national president Alison Barnes linked the Coalition's position to [US President Donald Trump dismantling the US Department of Education](#).

"Every Australian should fear the prospect of Peter Dutton deciding what does and does not get taught in schools and universities," Dr Barnes said in a statement.

The Coalition's education spokeswoman Sarah Henderson declared a Dutton government would "take action" if elected, raising concerns about how universities are training teachers.

Senator Henderson said the Coalition would "leave no stone unturned" and use existing powers to request the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) make recommendations about the quality of higher education providers to ensure students were put first.