

Guild Representative Achievements 2019

Respectful Relationships Module

A led Guild response to the national Respect Now Always campaign culminated in a collaboration with Curtin to introduce an educational consent module which is compulsory for new students.

First-Year Committee

The Guild established a First-Year Committee with representatives from each faculty to provide a feedback platform for new Curtin students. Their first project was to develop a First-Year Handbook which became available in Semester 2.

Curtin Extra Recognition

The Guild successfully received Curtin Extra recognition for the work of paid and unpaid Guild Representatives. This contribution will be acknowledged on students' transcripts upon graduation.

Clubs Conference

A Clubs Conference gave all Guild affiliated club committees the opportunity to attend a training day which covered topics including collaborating with stakeholders; developing valuable products and services for members; building and motivating a high-performing team; diversifying a portfolio of partnerships; increasing membership and event engagement; executing effective fundraising/volunteering/mentoring and crafting a personal brand and setting a leadership vision.

Climate Strikes

Throughout the year, the Guild led the wider student community in protests to bring attention to the issue of climate change which young people in Australia report as their number one concern. The Guild was

successful in mobilising students and also making sure that those missing classes to attend rallies were not penalised.

Student Partnerships – Student Voice Pilot

The Guild took part in Student Voice, a collaboration between 10 tertiary education institutions across Australia, to encourage and enhance genuine and authentic student partnership. An Institutional Analysis Workshop took place in August which provided an in-depth look at Curtin’s current practices of student partnership and ways they can be improved.

Federal Election – “We Will Not Be Left Behind” Campaign

The We Will Not Be Left Behind campaign during the Federal election encouraged young people to enrol to vote and highlighted issues impacting them. The Guild ran a social media and on-campus campaign to demand that political action be taken on climate change; the establishment of a National Taskforce into Sexual Assault and Harassment on university campuses; tangible steps to improve the welfare of students and young people and a fully funded, equitable, and accessible higher education system.

Course Representatives Pilot – Science and Engineering Faculty

The Guild designed a pilot for a course representation system which was trialled in the Faculty of Science and Engineering. The goal was to establish a wider network of student representatives to enhance the quality of the student experience at Curtin. The project was a success and will be expanded in 2020.

Speak-out Against Islamophobia

In collaboration with the Muslim Students Association and Curtin Socialists, the Guild coordinated a speak-out in response to the Islamophobic terrorist attack in Christchurch.

Change Management - Student Advocacy Efforts

The Guild helped students – many at the WA School of Mines - who experienced academic difficulties as a result of change management in the Faculty of Science and Engineering. A Student Assist Officer visited and spoke to affected students in Kalgoorlie and the Guild submitted a report to key University staff and met with the Provost, the Head of School, and the Dean of Learning and Teaching to improve outcomes for students. As well, the Guild advocated on behalf of students impacted by a change proposal in the School of School of Media, Creative Arts and Social Inquiry (MCASI) which left 11 postgraduate students without research supervisors.

Australia Day Campaign

For the past two years, some of the Guild's office-based staff and student executive team have work on the Australia Day public holiday in recognition of the Change the Date campaign. As well, the Guild organised a contingent of representatives to attend the Invasion Day rally that was held in the city we petitioned the Town of Victoria Park to stop celebrating Australia Day on the 26th of January.

Unit Outline Review

The Guild's Faculty Representatives reviewed unit outlines across their faculties to ensure the outlines adhered to the new assessment policies and that no students would be unfairly disadvantaged by any prohibited requirements.

Student Housing Advisory Committee

Guild Representatives commenced work on establishing a Student Housing Advisory to provide a forum for students who live on campus to give feedback to the Guild on the welfare of housing students. An annual survey will be distributed to obtain feedback from housing students regarding any issues or concerns they may have.

Submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health

In April, the Guild made a submission to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Mental Health, with a specific focus on how mental health issues affect student populations in the higher education sector. Alongside other student representative organisations including CAPA, the Guild's response focused on the need for a full-system response - one that universities and the government must work together collaboratively to achieve. Students need affordable housing, increased income support, better funding for education, less debt after university, improved employment outcomes, lower repayment thresholds, and accessible and fair access to education.

Student Consultation – Events and Activities

In 2019, the Guild introduced surveys of its events and activities on campus to find out how events and activities on campus can be improved.

Guild 50th Anniversary

Celebrating the Guild's 50th year of representing students, a range of activities took place across the year including a club mega challenge, interviews with former Guild representatives, donut and cupcake giveaways and a birthday themed end of semester student Tav event.

Environmental Sustainability at Guild Food Outlets

Motivated by student concerns about environmental sustainability, the Guild has changed close to 100% of its food packaging to biodegradable and compostable products. Over the past 12 months, the Guild has replaced plastic takeaway containers with carbon-neutral packages made from sugarcane pulp, a renewable by-product of sugar refining, and has introduced eco-friendly coffee cups and cutlery. At the same time, the Guild has introduced bioplastic cups for cold drinks, sustainable straws, recyclable cardboard trays for student favourites such as burgers and compostable and recyclable containers for sushi which is made and packaged on-site.

[Open Letter to the Curtin University Centre for Human Rights Education \(CUHRC\)](#)

The Queer Department expressed its concern over the Curtin University Centre for Human Rights Education co-signing of the Equality Australia's community statement in support of religious discrimination protections as it had the potential to fuel anti queer rhetoric.

[Illustration Unit Students Intellectual Property Concerns](#)

The Guild intervened after a number of students complained that their artwork was being used on construction scaffolding, new developments and inside buildings without permission, recognition or notification. The use of the student artwork was a breach of Curtin's IP Policy as it was not considered a 'University Project' – which would grant anything created by the students the property of Curtin University. The Guild was successful in communicating with Curtin's campus artwork teams to implement a more transparent model where students will now be better informed about how their artwork will be used and how their assignments will affect their personal artwork privacy.

[RTRNA Reusable Cup Network](#)

In Semester 2, 2019, the Guild launched its involvement with the RTRNA Reusable Cup Network which is a zero waste reusable cup network to fight coffee cup waste. The cup network allows students to pay a small deposit for a cup when ordering at a Guild café which allows them to take the cup home with them, bring the cup back next time to be reused, exchange it for a new cup or get a refund on their deposit.