



Student Guild of Curtin University

51st Guild Council - Meeting #9

Held at 6:00pm on Thursday the 27th of August, 2020

in Council Chambers, Building 100 and Online

1. Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners:

“The Curtin Student Guild would like to pay our respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of our community by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which the Bentley Campus is located, the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation; and on our Kalgoorlie Campus, the Wongutha people of the North-Eastern Goldfields. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this university, city and this region.”

2. Attendance

- 2.1. Members Present; Fatma Sehic (Chair), Chris Hall, Bridge Truell, Lachlan Lee, Dylan Botica, Luke Brosnan, Min Dee Chia, Chris Grant, Nicola Gulvin, Julia Khen, Jesse Naylor Zambrano,
- 2.2. Others Present; David Luketina (Managing Director), Nika Velios (Minute-Secretary);
- 2.3. Apologies and Leave of Absence; Jason Kim, Beatrice Panganiban, Hana Arai;
- 2.4. Absent and Late Apologies; Katelyn Colson, Brianna Hodgkinson;

3. Disclosure of any potential or perceived Conflicts of Interest

Nil

4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED/ GC #29-2020

Motion: That the Guild Council approves the minutes of its meeting held on the 23/07/20 as true and accurate records of proceedings.

Moved: Lachlan Lee (Secretary)

Seconded: Dylan Botica (Guild Councillor)

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

6. Reports

- 6.1. President
 - a) KPI Review
Not present
- 6.2. Vice President – Education
 - a) KPI Review

Chris H noted that he is acting President for the next week (or two) while Hana is on leave, and workloads have been discussed to ensure all areas are resourced.

Chris H advised that he met with the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and VP – Corporate Relations to discuss a few topics, including:

- Whether the University is open to make a statement regarding the current higher education change proposal,
- Data around students returning to campus for both domestic and international,
- predictions on students returning next year, and
- Resuming normal student load for 2021 with more blended capabilities for in person and online studies.

Chris H noted Lachlan will be on leave next week.

Jesse queried the intention to reconcile the difference in needs and circumstances of global campuses and the Bentley campus (in relation to the Student Partnership Agreement). Chris H responded that there have been discussions with all the global pro-vice chancellors in regards to the best way to consult with students and staff from their campus. All have raised areas of concern in relation to the agreement. He shared that it is still to be determined whether there will be multiple proposals (one for Perth and one for Global campuses) or one proposal. This is pending the levels of commitment of the global campus' and meeting the different practical and legal requirements for each country. It is evident there are differing benchmarks, end goals and show of excellence for the different locations/campuses.

Jesse questioned whether the issue in regard to the Ally Training, whereby staff were running the program in their own time, is still apparent. Chris H responded the Ally network is not the responsibility of one person/area, it is under Diversity Inclusion with a very messy reporting structure. There has been a review of all the Committees and it's been streamlined to ensure appropriate reporting and engagement. He shared that it has been possible to push to enhance the training, for a fresh look and update the content and imagery. It is still to be determined where the training will sit in the University.

Jesse shared concerns towards the further promotion of blended learning, where it can be seen to cut costs and contact hours; highlighting this has been raised as a concern for students. She queried at what point this should be considered a threat moving forward. Chris H resonated the same concerns. He noted that it is his understanding (and the intention from the Task Force), that there is a push to bring learning back to face to face. Chris H optimistically noted that although he does feel there is the intention to have all learning fully online, it seems the objective is to ensure online is more robust to assist issues and provide a viable option for more students, however not with the concept to disenfranchise the physical experience.

Chris H stated the topics investigated within the Task Force are to assist in capturing information to better define, evolve and suit the different scenarios. There is a sentiment that the Task Force do not want to proceed without appropriate consultation between staff and students.

6.3. Vice President – Activities

a) KPI Review

Bridge updated that:

- the Guild held its first Grill the Guild BBQ since returning from covid-19, and
- planning has commenced for End of Semester Bash.

Jesse queried the rationale why the Guild Ball is not going ahead. Bridge shared the decision was primarily around finances and that the booking and planning for the ball is done a significant time in advance, which was not possible earlier this year due to the amount of uncertainty at the time. He reiterated that it is currently unattainable from a financial perspective.

Jesse commented on her excitement towards the End of Semester Bash.

In response to a comment that UWA Guild was holding its ball, David noted that UWA has not endured the same financial impacts as Curtin, this enables them to run more events and the ability to take the risk on the different events.

Chris H queried whether there are other ways to address sustainability (in reference to the KPIs), potentially around the End of Semester Bash. Bridge shared this has been part of discussions and there may be the opportunity to involve the environmental action network in some way. He added this has been reviewed in terms of the food trucks for the event and is it ideal to keep sustainability in mind as much as possible when making decisions.

6.4. Secretary

a) KPI Review

Lachlan welcomed Julia Khen to the Guild Council filling the most recent Guild Councillor vacancy. He added that he will be working on how the Commercial Service Committee will operate upon his return from leave, as it has not been held for a quite some time. Chris H queried if there were any vacancies available in the subsidiary committees. Lachlan believes all were filled initially and no one has left since.

Lachlan noted that for anyone interested in undergoing the Curtin Extra Program that he can register individuals and go through the process. It is a rewarding program to be a part of.

6.5. Managing Director

David added that the voting for election will take place in Clubs HQ, and (as per advice and request of Guild Council) the voting will be electronic inside. The map will be updated for where campaigning can occur, as well as prominent signage being placed around the campus.

Chris H queried whether it is feasible to hold both an online and physical o-day in the future. David responded that he believes there is the capability to do so however it would not be possible to have both on the same day. It could be done in close timeframes of one another. It would be a good idea to increase reach for those who could not make the physical o-day, study off campus or do not like crowds or the situation.

Fatma queried the no campaign zones for the elections. David shared there is a map in the election manual which is zoned accordingly. This will be updated with the new polling location and where campaigning can occur, posters allowed to be put up and the exclusion zones. Considerations did include allowing campaigning in close proximity to the polling booth as well as not impacting access to GMart or Concept Café and so forth.

Luke commented from a Club representative perspective, the virtual o-day did not go particularly well. There was a lot of scrolling required to go through all the channels, the clubs could not stand out, and it was minimal to zero interaction. He identified that it was quite difficult and not helpful for clubs, however from the prizes and Guild perspective it is good interaction for the event. David shared that following the review of the virtual o-day, there were a number learnings from it. One was that while some channels were quite popular, having a large list to scroll through was not great. He added that there is no substitute for the physical o-day if it's possible to be held. The virtual o-day could be used as a supplement however a few things require to be changed on how it would operate. Having that right mix to complement the physical o-day is a possibility. Luke identified that it was a learning experience for the first time of running it, he added there was confusion from a timing side of things however does look forward to streamlining it.

Chris G queried:

- the rationale behind changing the polling location for the elections, and
- the trade levels in the outlets and the plans to re-open Vege Patch Café.

David responded:

- In terms of the polling location, the cost for the marquees (including the hire, set up and other equipment required) is approximately \$4K, using the marquee would mean relying on WiFi for the software to run (WiFi dropout is a concern), the marquee was reported to have leaks in the past and that does not go well when reliant on electronic equipment. All things considered; it was determined that Clubs HQ was the most appropriate location. The location of the polling is at the Returning Officers discretion, the Executive were asked for their input as to pros and cons to the options prior.
- The Guild is currently running at approximately 70% trade of 2019 and running to break-even. To open Vege Patch now, the Guild would run at a loss. Basement Café is close (a short distance for people to walk) and it can cope with the trade levels.
- There are regular reviews of the trade and the Guild will potentially open the Cubby after semester break, where it is expected to get more trade along with the better weather. This is a tentative plan, all subject to the trade.

RESOLVED/ GC #30-2020

Motion: That the Guild Council **approves** the reports.

Moved: Lachlan Lee (Secretary)

Seconded: Christopher Hall (Vice President – Education)

7. Business on Notice

7.1. Additional Representatives Presentation and Discussion

Chris H introduced that a student reached out to the Vice President – Education, Secretary, Student Assist and Managing Director in regards to their desire for the Guild to have an Online Student Representative. Chris H shared he believes the main sentiment behind this is that pre covid-19 era, online student cohort engagement is not as strong as it could be. Research was provided in reference to other institutions (other Guilds/Unions) which have an Online Student Representative. Chris H added that he has contacted these unions, however it is difficult to understand how the representative operates within the union.

Jesse queried what the possibility from this is as the motion is for Guild Council to note this information presented. Chris H advised the desired overall outcome from this student is to see an Online Student Representative. Online students experience a lack of a contact point, equity departments have an officer and in turn a contact person for issues and concerns. Chris H noted there is a line to draw around students of equity and the online students cohorts. He added that he does engage with online students in his role and is aware that the equity officers also engage with online students for their departments.

Fatma queried whether the assumption is for this to be a paid position and if the Guild is in the financial position for this role. Chris H shared an equity officer receives approximately \$4K per year and this would be for future considerations.

Chris H delved into mentioning that Student Assist engage in an online space, potentially there are opportunities for more online engagement with clubs or a club category (i.e an online exclusive club). The points brought forward, can be addressed in other layers within the organisation. He added that it is a challenge to determine the contact point with online students, there is not one place where all online students exist or come together. It is difficult to determine whether this is related to the online capacity itself or not.

Julia shared from a social media perspective, the Guild's stories and Instagram is not very engaging for an online student. This might be an avenue to make them feel more part of the community and the Guild to have more online presence.

Bridge shared an Online Student Representative is a good idea and could be beneficial. Online study is extremely isolating, there are unique challenges that a difficult to represent if you have not experienced it. Engagement is a concern and he is curious in what opportunities are available to engage the demographic. He further delved into factors around understanding what online students want, what is helpful to them, is hosting events online what they are seeking and how can the Guild deliver what is beneficial? Bridge added that financial concerns are evident, would the Guild have the means to have this representative?

Nicola embraces the idea and encourages the Faculty Reps to include KPIs for online students until there may be the means to have an equity officer. She added that the Guild would have the support from the University regarding an online student equity office, the University does struggle with looking after online student and might have resources available to assist.

Lachlan queried as part of the extensive research Chris H reviewed at the start of the year, was the Online Student Representative utilised well on other campuses. Chris H responded that unfortunately no, there were three campuses that had one; Murdoch used to have an online representative however either it is no longer a position or they are unable to fill it. Most campuses shared their concerns around electing an Online Student Representative. Many mentioned that Online Representatives find it hard to engage within the organisation; organisations aren't willing to adapt and change practices. Online students feel disenfranchised and isolated as it is, and these representatives in turn feel the same; the organisations did not shift to embrace the representative.

Nicola shared concerns around electing an online student that they would not be voted on their qualities and ability to become a representative, and rather be running with a ticket. She questioned accessibility for elections for an online student; they may not be in the Perth region to attend. She added that as no other University has been able to implement an online officer well yet, it is important to raise it the University first.

Chris H shared that other concerns he is aware of from online students are around the way they are engaged in the class room, issues with engaging with their teachers. He continued to note that while the Guild does not have authority, there are representatives for individuals to feel listened and heard. He feels that online students need the undivided attention and that there are more online student concerns that he is not aware of. Chris H expressed interest to acquire further information around online student concerns.

Jesse commented that studying online has its difficulties, whether it be forced upon or a choice. She added that there needs to be necessary consideration and research when determining for a new office bearer, or whether this same can be achieved by other means. Equity officers are a one touch point for a particular community which there could be a need for online students.

Luke shared that it is worth looking to determine whether online students need more of a voice, they form a significant amount of student at Curtin. He queried whether an Online Student Representative would require to be an online student, or would any student be able to consume such a role. Luke added that studying online could mean that individuals don't have the time or means to get to campus. He continued to share that should it be an office bearer position, it could be a student sympathetic to their issues or concerns; there are variations of mode of study (fully online or blended) and there are individuals that have experienced the different modes of study even if they might not be an online student while occupying the role.

David commented that technically an equity officer is required to be part of the regulations, these take a while to formally change. There is the advantage and opportunity to undergo a trial of such a position prior to changing the regulations. The President has some discretionary funding for unpredictable scenarios which would fit the criteria to trial a role. For all practical purposes the position can be treated and remunerated as an office bearer however for a trial period.

Fatma shared covid-19 presented both difficulties and opportunities, this has put us in a position to have more understanding of what an online student may feel, like, dislike

and experience. This might be an opportunity to improve the experience for studying online while having fresh ideas.

Chris H encouraged all who sit of boards and committees of the University to raise questions around what is being provided for online students. There have been a few factors raised in terms of lack of fair access and equal opportunities, these include in terms of scholarships, workshops, social events, schemes (such as laptop loans) and Guild participation. He added that he is happy to further look into having an Online Student Representative and while this is the first that has been brought to Guild Council, it is not the first suggestion brought forward for an additional representative. Others have included welfare, ethno-cultural, rural and regional, and interstate. Each of these have elements that fit in other portfolios in the Guild however are not covered by single office bearers.

RESOLVED/ GC #31-2020

Motion: That the Guild Council notes the presentation.

Moved: Christopher Hall (Vice President – Education)

Seconded: Lachlan Lee (Secretary)

8. Minutes of Committees Reporting to the Guild Council
 - 8.1. Representation Board – Meetings held on 18/6/2020
 - 8.2. Executive Committee – Meetings held on 6/8/2020, 23/7/2020, 9/7/2020
 - 8.3. Finance and Risk Committee – 20/5/2020
 - 8.4. Activities Committee – Meeting held on 7/7/2020

Lachlan noted the Finance and Risk minutes provided in the agenda has unconfirmed watermarks however he confirms they are the final version.

RESOLVED/ GC #32-2020

Motion: That the Guild Council **notes** the minutes of the boards and committees en bloc.

Moved: Lachlan Lee (Secretary)

Seconded: Bridge Truell (Vice President – Activities)

9. General Business.

Protest against the higher education bill

Chris H reminded the council that the protest against the higher education bill is tomorrow (28/8/20) 1pm-2pm at Forrest Chase in the city; and to get involved but remain socially distant and cautious (in relation to the covid-19 restrictions) however to get involved.

Australian Youth Climate Coalition

Chris H shared that Finlay Nolan (previous Guild President) has reached out from Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) about the Speak Up for Climate Justice Campaign they are running. He is hoping to adopt this into the environmental action network. The campaign raises funds for smaller not for profits to fight climate change and track conversations around climate justice and its importance. Chris H commented that he intends to provide training around explaining what climate justice is and information around the Curtin Team on AYCC. There are a few events for it.

10. Next Meeting –

The next ordinary meeting of the Guild Council is Thursday, the 24th of September at 6:00pm to be held in Council Chambers, with an online attendance option. Documents and motions are to be submitted no later than 4pm on Wednesday, September 17th to secretary@guild.curtin.edu.au

Closed 7.20pm