



Guild President 2023 October Report

Dylan Botica

President's Representation Board Report

Covering Dates: 15/08/2023 – 13/10/2023

Submitted to: October Representation Board

Leave: Nil

University / External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/08/2023	Leadership Matters – Premier Roger Cook	
16/08/2023	COO - Parking Meeting	Parking updates are below
17/08/2023	Academic Board Executive	
18/08/2023	Hilton Hotel Tour	15% Discount secured for Guild members and improved rates for clubs.
21/08/2023	NUS Small and Regional Officer	
22/08/2023	SSAFEAC	
23/08/2023	Global Leaders Summit Meeting	GLS has been cancelled for 2023
24/08/2023	A/DVC-G Meeting	
24/08/2023	Library Staff Catch-Up	
25/08/2023	GROK Meeting	To discuss pre-election matters
25/08/2023	Academic Board	
29/08/2023	Academic Freedom and Foreign Interference	
29/08/2023	Sexual Harm Primary Prevention for Students	
4/09/2023	2023 VC's Excellence Awards - Nomination Review	

4/09/2023	Misconduct Rules Discussion	
7/09/2023	2023 VC Excellence Awards Committee meeting	
7/09/2023	BDE – Palestine Meeting	
14/09/2023	DVC-A Meeting	
14/09/2023	DVC-A Lunch Event	
18/09/2023	DVC-G Meeting	
19/09/2023	Meet and Eat with the DVCA	
20/09/2023	The Voice to Parliament with the Hon Linda Burney	
21/09/2023	Academic Board Executive	
22/09/2023	Vice Chancellor Meeting	
11/10/2023	Richard Kendall (Director of Accommodation)	See below for Housing update
12/10/2023	Student Leader Meeting	

1. Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/08/2023	Deadnaming Project Catch Up	
16/08/2023	Queer Officer Catch Up	
17/08/2023	Higher Education	
17/08/2023	Representation Board	
21/08/2023	Legal Committee	On by-law amendments necessary for Regulation amendments.
22/08/2023	Operations Committee	
23/08/2023	Executive Committee	
23/08/2023	Academic Board Briefing	
24/08/2023	Guild Council	

25/08/2023	Club Project Update	
25/08/2023	Executive x MD	Item arising from Guild Council
28/08/2023	President x MD	
28/08/2023	President x Student Engagement	
29/08/2023	Student Engagement Brainstorming	
31/08/2023	Dissolved Club Bank Account Discussion	
4/09/2023	President x MD	
4/09/2023	President x Student Engagement	
7/09/2023	Student Assist Catch Up	
7/09/2023	Staff Awards	
8/09/2023	Guild Ball	
11/09/2023	Executive Committee	
13/09/2023	Finance and Risk Committee	
14/09/2023	Branding Meeting	With all Student Engagement team members
14/09/2023	Higher Education	
18/09/2023	President x MD	
25/09/2023	President x MD	
25/09/2023	President x Student Engagement	
26/09/2023	Operations Committee	
28/09/2023	Guild Council	
02/10/2023	President x MD	
02/10/2023	President x Student Engagement	
05/10/2023	Higher Education	
09/10/2023	President x MD	

09/10/2023	President x Student Engagement	
09/10/2023	Student Partnership Agreement Check-In	
09/10/2023	Executive Committee	
12/10/2023	Legal Committee	
12/10/2023	Higher Education	

2. Items of Significance

2.1. SSAF Survey

Based on the Government requirement for consultation of SSAF projects myself and the Academic Registrar launched a SSAF survey that has garnered over 800 responses, signaling strong engagement from our students. The majority of respondents express a positive sentiment toward SSAF. SSAF projects receiving the highest positive sentiment include 24/7 Library opening from the University and extended hours access to Food and Beverage from the Guild. Sports programs and Guild student engagement performed poorly. This has been rectified by incorporating engagement costs into each areas proposal rather than as a distinct area.

Jon Yorke – Academic Registrar has communicated the consultation project with the department.

2.2 Student Housing

I've made significant progress in addressing the concerns raised by students not covered by the Residential Tenancy Act. The Minister for Education, Dr. Tony Buti MLA has corresponded with the Vice Chancellor asking for an investigation and response. We are currently reviewing the response provided by the University and have identified several factual discrepancies that we plan to address in our follow-up communication. Chantal from Make Renting Fair WA (which the Guild is a member of) suggested that we include specific examples of third-party providers' actions that contradict the information provided, and she recommended involving Minister Ellery in this conversation, given her responsibility for RTA reforms. To further strengthen our position, Chantal also proposed the possibility of collaborating with other university guilds to jointly address the issue and emphasize our collective request for student accommodation inclusion in RTA reforms. We will keep you updated as we progress in our advocacy efforts.

In light of the substantial increase in student housing rent. A survey was distributed for residents to complete and that data was used for various media appearances including WA Today and a feature on Nine News.

I have heard from the Minister that he is interested in this matter and is willing to intervene in the University doesn't appropriately support rural, regional and remote students as well as low SES students.

The University has now caved on subsidy partially. They will open a scholarship for 300-400 on-campus residents from at-need backgrounds. This will be \$1500 per semester to subsidise residency for these students. It will open in coming weeks.

This is unacceptable and is still allowing UniLodge to profit gouge students. I am preparing a formal ministerial request for intervention.

2.3 Academic Calendar

The Academic Calendar project has formally kicked off. Representation from the Guild will be from Veronika Gobba to ensure continuity into the next term. A referendum style question is open for students and staff –, do we want a second tuition free week? There is will from the University to enact whatever the majority of students and staff want.

Please complete the survey yourself and share with as many people as you possibly can! We need a strong vote for returning the second week.

2.4 Rights at Work Survey

I have created a “Your Rights at Work” Survey that will be distributed towards the end of Semester period / out of academic period. This will both survey for areas of workplace exploitation for students but also provide accurate and instant information for students as they complete the survey.

2.5 Yes23 Campaign

As we wrap up the campaign for Yes23, while it is incredibly disappointing to see how misinformation and fear have been used to demolish the prospect of constitutional recognition through a voice, our campaign:

- Saw hundreds of students volunteer
- Increased youth enrolment in WA and contributed to the highest ever youth enrolment rate.
- Engaged with students and staff and in the strongest terms possible highlighted the Guild’s solidarity with First Nations people. We will always support First Nations justice – popular or not.

Polling booth data demonstrates that the absolute majority of Indigenous Australia wanted a “Yes” vote and we should be proud that we did everything we could to push for a “Yes”.

I encourage everyone to read Katharine Murphy’s piece in the Guardian:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/2023/oct/14/albanese-wanted-to-end-two-centuries-of-silence-but-we-said-no-and-failed-our-first-nations-people>

13YARN

Website: www.13yarn.org.au

13YARN is the first national crisis support line for mob who are feeling overwhelmed or having difficulty coping. They offer a confidential one-on-one yarning opportunity with a Lifeline-trained Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter who can provide crisis support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

4 Travel

Ethnocultural Conference (27th – 29th of September)

Vice President – Education

Representation Board – 9/9/2023 – 13/10/2023

Veronika Gobba – She/Her

Meetings

Date	Meetings	Comments
11/9/23 – 21/9/23	Leave Taken	Attended NUS WA exec meeting on 13/9 and Higher ed on 14/9.
26/9/23	Operations Committee	
27/9/23	VPE x QO Check-in	
	Executive Committee	
28/9/23	VPE x Health Sci Rep Check-in	
	Higher Education	
	Guild Council	
29/9/23	Academic Board	
	Students as Partners Catch-up	
2/10/23	University LSEC	
3/10/23	University Courses Committee	
4/10/23	VPE x QO Check-in	
5/10/23	Higher Education	
9/10/23	VPE x President Check-in	
	Executive Committee	
11/10/23	Curtin Pride	Incredible event and parade. The energy during this event was so lovely and exciting and it was amazing to have a stall showcasing a history of pride at Curtin. Congratulations to Imari and Athina for pulling this off!
12/10/23	Legal Committee	
	Students as Partners Catch-up	
	Higher Education	
13/10/23	Student Voice Australasia – Student Voice Symposium	Attended for workshops online in the morning.

	Voice Referendum day-before-election stall	
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PROJECTS

Bring Back the Second Tuition-Free Week

The academic calendar review has been brought forward and the scope has been limited to the effects of the removal of the second tuition free week. A small working group comprised of myself, the Associate DVCA & Academic Registrar, the Chief Student Services Officer, the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research (Interim) and Director of Transnational Education & Partnerships has been put together and we have developed a survey to go out to all relevant staff and students regarding tuition free weeks. The quantitative and qualitative results of this survey, subject to a reasonable sample size, will drive the outcome of the calendar review. The survey will be sent to stakeholders on 16/10/23 and will close on 27/10/23.

Guild Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Guild received many nominations as usual from students for the Guild ETA awards, teaching winner/teaching commendation/research winner for each faculty has been selected. This year, all teaching or supervisor staff who were nominated will receive notification that they were nominated, not just those who were finalists for awards.

OTHER

I am currently part of a panel to select the new Health Sciences Director of Innovations and Scholarship of Learning and Teaching.

Science and Engineering faculty Report

Zhongzheng (Max) Zhang (He/Him)

Representation Board – October 2023

Date	Event type	Event to note	Comments
11/09/23	Faculty Meeting	Faculty Executive Team	See below.
21/09/23	SDP Meeting	SDP Meeting	A resurgence in GenAI cases, potentially a previous wave, will monitor and feed back to faculty as needed.
27/09/23	Guild Event	Grill The Guild	Thank you to everyone who came out and helped out, it was a slow day overall due to Monday 25/09 being a public holiday and as such, common free time was used for catch up classes.
27/09/23	SDP Meeting	SDP Meeting	Large number of collusion cases from Masters students, potentially cause for concern. Chair of SDP to look into it.
28/09/23	Faculty Meeting	Faculty Executive Team	See below.
04/10/23	Faculty Meeting	Meeting with Dean Learning and Teaching	<p>Touched on student feedback in new mid semester pulse check survey, lack of integration between Science, Computing and Engineering, with Dean L&T mentioning that teaching structure could play a hand in this.</p> <p>Touched on small, bite-sized lecture videos covering individual topics to replace/go alongside traditional lectures, supplemented by interactive workshops. Discussion on whether this is worth exploring in the future.</p>
04/10/23	Faculty Meeting	Learning and Teaching Council	See below.
05/10/23	Faculty Meeting	Graduate Studies Committee	Discussion on new internship and graduate work pathways and opportunities for students and recent graduates, something to look forward to at the next meeting.
06/10/23	SDP Meeting	SDP Meeting	A big increase in collusion cases, especially among assignments where lab work is done in groups but assessed components are to be individual. More prevalent in international students.
09/10/23	Faculty Meeting	Faculty Executive Team	See below.
11/10/23	Guild Event	Pride Parade	Was very fun to help out, got to wear the unicorn. Feels good to show support for my friends and the community, especially after what members of the queer community has done for me in the past in terms of mental health support. A very well ran and well received event, in my opinion.

The trend of international students who are new to Curtin Australia studying postgrad after COVID committing repeated, blatant academic misconduct is concerning. For this faculty, this is especially prevalent in Masters of Food Science and Masters of Computing, which are some of the postgraduate degrees with larger populations of international students.

In the faculty, there is an ongoing crisis of Mining Engineering students not having enough accommodation in Kalgoorlie, the faculty is suggesting that first year mining students study on Kal, while suggesting and recommending that second year and further students study in Bentley. This matter is still ongoing within the Faculty.

In addition, there is expectation of an unprecedented increase in student numbers and a concern for lacking teaching staff to cope with this next year. All this seems quite concerning for education quality of students in the coming semesters, but I don't see a solution at the faculty level.

Good news item: Directors of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion recruitment and appointment has made good progress within the faculty, with several schools reaching final stages of decision-making.

HUMANITIES FACULTY REPORT – October

JUDE SOUSSAN

DATE	WHAT	NOTES
14/09/2023	Humanities Courses Committee	
22/09/2023	Completed reviewing the designated unit outlines	Most issues revolved around formatting and/or inconsistencies with assignment deadline times.
26/09/2023	Attended the Screen writing workshop held by the Curtin Production Society and Curtin Writers Club	Very insightful to see how they run their events. I spoke to the president of the Production club and introduced myself.
29/09/2023	Student Disciplinary Panel	
06/10/2023	Student Disciplinary Panel	
12/10/2023	Humanities Grill the Guild	A lot slower and less attendance of students than the one in the beginning of the year but still a good turnout.

October 2023 Representation Board Report – Student Assist

Case statistics for Student Assist is as follows:

	July	August	September
Academic sessions	350	306	187
Non – Academic sessions	49	57	42
LifeHacks	99	138	NA

Academic sessions in the month of September were mainly in relation to Academic Misconducts and various appeals.

Welfare

Student Assist provided emergency relief to 5 students through our Grants.

6 Loan Laptops were loaned out in September.



PSC President's Report

SUBMISSION DATE: 12/10/2023

FOR MEETING DATE: 19/10/2023

NAME: Mitch Craig

POSITION: PSC President

GUILD MEETINGS/EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Comments
07/09/2023	Higher Ed	Higher education updates
08/09/2023	Guild Ball	Very fun night
13/09/2023	Catchup w/student assist	Update on current and emerging issues for postgrads
14/09/2023	Higher Ed	Higher education updates
28/09/2023	Higher Ed	Higher education updates
28/09/2023	Guild Council	Attended as an observer
29/09/2023	Academic Board pre-meeting	Met w/Veronika to go through AB agenda pack
02/10/2023	LSEC Pre-Meet	Met w/Veronika to go through LSEC agenda pack
05/10/2023	Meeting w/ 2024 PSC President	Met w/ Arifin to discuss PSC committee elections, the handover process, the induction process, attending final meeting with me, some brief start of handover items
05/10/2023	Higher Ed	Higher education updates
09/10/2023	Exec	
11/10/2023	Campus Pride	Attended, helped out, was fun
12/10/2023	Legal Committee	Legal matters
12/10/2023	Higher Ed	Higher education updates

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Comments
15/09/2023	Lunch w/DVCA	Attended with Exec to catch up and discuss current student issues.
26/09/2023	Meeting w/DVCR	Met to discuss HDR policy & procedure gaps that have come up
29/09/2023	Academic Board	Discussed student experience and the new rural health campus in Kalgoorlie, Academic Calendar Review, housing availability, WA universities review

02/10/2023	LSEC	Discussed issues with equity student retention, Academic calendar review, evaluate results, new system to replace evaluate
04/10/2023	Research Committee	Discussed some research office staffing changes, the Indigenous Research Strategy, Systems updates, Academic calendar review

PROJECTS/General

- Working hard on improvements to milestone and examination procedures/policy
- Attended some events
- Lots of meetings
- Calendar review progressing well, survey should be out by the time this meeting happens
- I have continued to work on my projects including:
 - Software for HDRs
 - Improvement to the Milestone processes
 - Better resources and information for postgrads around their requirements and the processes
 - Improved Travel procedures for students
 - Improved supervisor training
 - Additional free training for HDRs
- This will be my last reps board meeting as I will be on leave for the November meeting

KPIs

- Making excellent progress on my projects/campaigns
- Have responded to emails promptly
- I have attended all required meetings

tl;dr

Lots of meetings, will be on leave next meeting, almost done.

QUEER OFFICER'S Report
Representation Board Meeting 11/2023 – 19.10.23
12.10.2023



GUILD MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Notes
Weekly	VP-E x QO Catch Up	
13.09	QO Deadnaming Check-in with President	Updating Dylan on deadnaming and we all need to pee following on from meeting with DVC-A
22.09	Campus Pride Planning	Meeting with Guild Events team and Sheldon Smith to finalise more of the plans for Campus Pride
29.09	Queer Collective Meeting	Meeting to discuss Campus Pride Parade and volunteers for the day
29.09	VP-A x QO	Final preparation
09.10	Meeting with Journalism Students	Met with two journalism students about potential for them to do an interview at/on the Campus Pride Parade to plan logistics and discuss the questions they plan on asking

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Notes
13.09	Monthly Meeting with DVC-A and Sheldon Smith	Catch up on current projects between the Queer Department and Curtin Ally team including Deadnaming, We All Need to Pee, Curtin Pride Parade and City Pride Parade, Micro-Ally Trainings
18.09	Meeting w/ BA - Deadnaming	Showing BA how student systems look to students and where names appear to students
20.09	Sexual harm Primary Prevention for Students (Session 2)	Creating/reviewing possible actions going forward in this space
26.09	We All Need to Pee Committee Meeting	Update on where everyone is at, discussions with properties stalling (potential miscommunications) and bringing together information gathered in preparation for meeting with DVC-A and COO
03.10	Call with Connect re: deadnaming	Discussion about issues impacting students trying to update details

04.10	Chat with BA - Deadnaming	Check-in with deadnaming BA and reviewing Curtin library systems from a student's perspective
06.10	Curtin Website - LGBTQIA+ Support Pages	Sat down with Leanne Haggart and Maddie Whiteaker to review Curtin's two main LGBTQIA+ pages and discuss the changes required to ensure the information is accurate and current
10.10	Deadnaming Working Group	Updates on where the BA's are at and addressing additional concerns around systems and staff training regarding deadnaming

OTHER

Date	Meeting	Notes
22.09	AD x QD Powerpoint Party	A fun night, full of both pre-prepared presentations and some presentations made at the Tav
11.10	Campus Pride Parade	Full on day but very much worth it with a lot of people coming throughout the entire day.

PROJECTS

Deadnaming: There are now two Business Analysts (BA's) working on identifying the issues within the system. As this is happening I have been bringing up the other areas where students are being deadnamed and Connect are working to correct as many as they can in the interim. The deadnaming working group is also moving to better address the cultural aspect of this issue and how to best increase awareness of deadnaming and misgendering issues among staff.

We All Need to Pee: In the process of putting together a student based audit of bathrooms on campus in order to properly map how many all gender bathrooms there are on campus as well as the spread of all the other bathrooms. There has also been some progress in bringing someone from properties into the committee in order to make the process going forward easier.

OTHER

Powerpoint Party: Went really well. Nineteen (19) people in total attended and the feedback was overall very positive.

Campus Pride Parade: Approximately 150 people (students and staff) participated in the parade itself with more than that attending across the entirety of the event. Lots of great feedback both on the day and after the event which is always great to hear.

IMARI MORRIS (They/She/He)
QUEER OFFICER

Women's Officer Report - Representation Board

19/10/2023

Date	Meeting/Event	Comments
27/09/2023	Grill the Guild Sci Eng	
03/10/2023	Mental Health Week	Went amazing!
04/10/2023	Pups and Pancakes	Good Turnout!
05/10/2023	Guild Lawn Games	
09/10/2023	FBL SDP Panel	
11/10/2023	Campus Pride Parade	It was so great to help out and see just how many people turned up!
12/10/2023	Grill the Guild Humanities	

Pads

We received the pad drop from Share the Dignity and they have contacted me to let me know that there have extra packets that they could donate to us, which is very exciting. The demand for pads is quite high, so with this it should help us through until the end of the year/ start of next year. I have been regularly stockpiling them and monitoring them and, in the future, long term solutions, like pad vending machines, should be able to help with the demand.

Gender Equity - Bathrooms

The QO and I have a meeting set up with Jessie Parish in regards to bathrooms and in relation to the work we have been doing on the general accessibility of bathrooms to different equity groups. We are planning to discuss general information about the whole project and see what we can do moving forward.

Girl Boss Brunch

Unfortunately, due to weather conditions, we had to cancel our girl boss brunch event. We were planning on postponing it but due to the fact that we are entering our last week of the semester, this wasn't quite plausible. As a substitution we were going to partake in the Global Village with henna decorating and more but due to internal issues this was cancelled as well. Hopefully, we will be able to do something in the study/ exam weeks, but we'll have to wait and see.

TLDR;

Pads, Gender Equity – Bathrooms. Girl Boss Brunch Cancelled

Aleena Shaji

Women's Officer 2023

Submitted 15/10/2023.

Accessibility Officer

Representation Board Report: October 2023



University/External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
18/09	AC@C	Apologies
21/09	CRT 3 rd Year Accessibility Workshop	Notes on both sessions below
27/09	LAWG meeting	Apologies, but notes are below
03/10	CMS DIB Working Party	Apologies
12/10	CRT 3 rd Year Queer Workshop	On behalf of Imari
16/10	AC@C	

Guild/Student Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
13/09	VPE Check-in	Cancelled
22/09	AD x QD PowerPoint Party	Amazing event; highly recommend repeating
27/09	VPE Check-in	Cancelled
06/10	NUS DRC Meeting	Notes below
11/10	Campus Pride Parade	Also amazing – Congrats to Imari, Sheldon, and all those who helped to make this amazing
11/10	VPE Check-in	Cancelled

Additional Information

CRT 3rd year Workshops – Equity Inclusion in CRT Practice

I was approached by a tutor in the CMS regarding running a session for Medical Radiation Science students. The first session focussed on Accessibility and Disability in practice and took place on September 21st. The second session on October 12th focussed on Queer Inclusivity and safety in practice (I offered to run this second session as Imari was unavailable). Both sessions ran extremely smoothly and were well-reviewed by students and Tracey McKernan (the UC for the unit). I highly recommend that these sessions continue to be hosted annually by all equity officers, as Tracey has been organising over the past few years.

LAWG

Dr Vicky Barnett (chair of the LAWG at Curtin) presented an ADCET webinar entitled Making Labs Accessible for ALL on Wednesday 4 October (Recording available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMxzqHAJnWk>).

Reportedly PFD has now built a process to initiate changes to lab access, and the university will engage an external lab advisor to review any changes. Lab access will be a key focus of the Universal

ACCESSIBILITY OFFICER REPORT

Design Subcommittee for at least the next 12 months.

I have been informed that there is now a sit-stand bench installed in at least one lab in building 500 for wheelchair users, students who need to sit down to participate, as well as those students who are very tall or very short. There are further works needed to make this lab fully inclusive (e.g. installation of accessible fume hoods, accessible storage for tools and glassware, accessible weighing stations, sink heights, etc), but capital works requests have been lodged for 2024 to make these further changes. I cannot begin to describe how happy I am over just the sit-stand bench being installed. It is a long overdue step that I hope will be made in every lab on campus.

Additionally, the version of the DAIP that was presented to the WA Parliament in July included specific reference to the importance of Lab accessibility.



NUS DRC Meeting

This was organised by the NUS Disabilities rep to go over the next steps for advocacy after the release of the Disability Royal Commission Report. The DRC provided 222 recommendations, 15 of which concern Inclusive education, 11 around improvement of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), and 22 around the establishment of a Disability Rights Act (DRA).

The education recommendations centre mainly around primary and secondary schooling, however the proposed changes to the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* would apply to higher education providers as well. The proposed changes to the DDA and the establishment of a DRA would also be binding on higher education providers.

The NUS Disabilities Officer is campaigning for a "Duty of Care Model" to be adopted by higher education providers per their submission to the University Accords. We will continue to advocate for this alongside the full adoption of the DRC recommendations.

Other Stuff Happening

- The Accessibility Audit of all general teaching spaces has been completed and the resulting report is due to be tabled at the next meeting of the Universal Design Subcommittee.
- The Universal Design Working Group is being disbanded and replaced by the Universal Design Subcommittee. I am not sure how this changes anything, but the first meeting is due to happen towards the end of November.

Ongoing Projects

- ~~Students/Staff with Disability Procedures Review~~
 - ~~CAP De-Medicalisation~~
- ACROD Parking Review
- ~~Accessibility Audit~~
- Chemistry Laboratory Accessibility
 - ~~B316 Consultation~~
 - ~~B314 Consultation~~
 - ~~B500 Consultation~~
 - ~~B204 Consultation~~
- CSMP/CSG Stability
- DIBC

ACCESSIBILITY OFFICER REPORT

- NUS HyFlex Campaign
- ADHD Senate Inquiry Submissions

Events**AD x QD PowerPoint Party – 22/09/2023 @ 5-8pm in The Tav**

- Was phenomenal – thanks to Ben for the promotions, Imari for his fantastic opening presentation (and for bringing the majority of attendees!), the Tav staff for the food and drinks, and all our presenters and attendees.
- Highly recommend that this event happens semi-regularly (e.g. annually) as collaboration between the Equity Departments

TL;DR – Main focusses this month have been on Lab Access, workshops for CRT 3rd years, and the DRC report.

Glossary:

- **AAS:** AccessAbility Services – the university body that organises and coordinates CAPs
- **AC@C:** Accessibility Collective @ Curtin. This is the University body for staff with disabilities to find social and advocacy support.
- **CAP:** Curtin Access Plan. A personalised document entitling students to reasonable adjustments to their studies enabling equitable access to education for those with specific access requirements.
- **CMS:** Curtin Medical School
- **CMS DIB:** Curtin Medical School Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Working Party.
- **CoP:** Community of Practice
- **COMPAS-S:** Checking On Mental health and Providing Alternatives to Suicide - for Students
- **CRT:** Clinical RadioTherapy
- **CSG:** Curtin Social Group – A social group run during common free time on Wednesdays for Autistic and ADHD students who are involved in the CSMP.
- **CSMP:** Curtin Specialist Mentoring Program. This program allows Autistic students to engage in a weekly social group (CSG), as well as access to an Honours or Postgraduate Psychology student as a mentor. The mentor is there to help their Autistic mentee to navigate University and develop skills in self-advocacy, confidence, and other areas.
- **DIBC:** Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Committee
- **DRC:** Disability Royal Commission
- **DTS:** Curtin University Digital and Technology Solutions.
- **DVCA:** Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic.
- **GPG:** Gender Pay Gap
- **GTL:** Geoff Tucker Lab – B300.204
- **LAWG:** Laboratory Accessibility Working Group
- **NUS:** National Union of Students
- **PFD:** Properties, Facilities, and Development
- **UAT:** Universal Access Toilet
- **UDWG:** Universal Design Working Group. The University committee tasked with improving disability access across Curtin.
- **VP-E:** Vice President – Education

Higher Education Report October

WA students slugged thousands more for university housing in fee shake-up

Students living at Western Australia's biggest university will be hit with a steep hike in accommodation fees next year, with costs set to rise by more than 40 per cent on average.

Five different student accommodation facilities at Curtin University, provided by UniLodge, will increase costs by an average of 41 per cent in 2024, or \$80 per week.

Those living in [eight-bedroom apartments at Vickery House](#) will face a hike of more than 166 per cent – from \$88.50 to \$236 per week.

Guild president Dylan Botica said while all the increases were concerning, the Vickery House price rise would hit students particularly hard as it was the cheapest option available.

“Students are often living there because it is all they can afford, and this increase will cause a significant amount of financial stress for them,” he said.

“The majority of students across all student accommodation are either international students, regional or rural students, or students who cannot live at home because it is not a safe space for them.”

Botica said every other year, the Guild had been consulted by the university on fee hikes before the provider made any changes.

But the Guild was left out of discussions this year. When questioned at a recent meeting, Botica claimed the vice chancellor had told him she was unaware of the changes, and would follow up.

An email sent out by the Curtin Student Guild on Monday expressed particular concern that the subsidy for rural, regional and remote, and low socio-economic students had not been continued.

The email also included a link to a survey for students living at university accommodation to provide feedback to the Guild.

Botica said there had been more than 100 responses over the first 12 hours, most stating the fee hikes would make it hard to pay for the bare necessities.

The Guild is also working with [Make Renting Fair WA](#) to persuade the state government to have student accommodation included in the WA Tenancy Act.

“Students are dealing with a lack of air conditioning, parking and privacy, and broken facilities which are not being fixed, but feel there is no way they can bring this issue up because the

Make Renting Fair WA spokeswoman Chantal Caruso said the proposal to increase rents paid by students by between 10 and 166 per cent was outrageous, and was an example of why student accommodation rents urgently needed regulation.

“There is a blanket exemption for student accommodation (where it's provided by an educational institution or on a not-for-profit basis) under the Residential Tenancies Act,” she said.

“This is obviously not fair or satisfactory, and leaves hundreds of WA students vulnerable to exploitation, insecurity, and even violations of privacy.

“Students need to be protected from sudden or arbitrary eviction notices, random, invasive room searches without notice, old-fashioned codes of conduct, inadequate or non-existent complaints or resolution processes, and lack of minimum standards leading to in some cases mouldy rooms in complete disrepair.”

Caruso said many students in on-campus accommodation lacked alternatives if they could no longer afford it, with a lack of private rentals on the market.

The cost to rent in the suburbs surrounding the university has also grown rapidly, as students returned to campus in person after COVID lockdowns and border closures.

In Bentley, the rent cost increased 24.1 per cent in the year to September, according to data from the Real Estate Institute of WA. It is now an average of \$540 per week.

“There is an argument to be made that [students] are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and will have a harder time pushing back against their rights not being respected,” Caruso said.

“Including student accommodation as part of the proposed regulation of boarders and lodgers accommodation is key – which we expect and look forward to as part of the next tranche of the reforms to the Residential Tenancies Act.”

A Curtin University spokeswoman said the university was aware demand for student accommodation was at a peak.

But she said the rates would only increase across all accommodation by an average of 11.3 per cent, with rooms ranging in price from \$236 to \$470 per week.

“This increase is primarily due to the removal of the discounts provided in 2022 and 2023, CPI increases, the creation of differential rates for some premium rooms and the desire to create a needs-based subsidy rather than a blanket discount for all residents,” she said.

“When compared to private rental accommodation, Curtin believes that on-campus accommodation represents good value for money.”

The spokeswoman said Curtin took the Guild’s advocacy seriously.

“While Curtin has previously let the Guild know when accommodation rates had been set, quite properly the calculation of those rates and decisions on any other contractual matters are not the subject of negotiation with the Guild,” she said.

<https://www.facebook.com/9NewsPerth/videos/865413588191514>

Cut post study visas for international students, says Grattan Institute

Australia’s generous post-study visas that allow international students to stay on and work after graduating should be cut back because a growing number struggle to find jobs, according to a new Grattan Institute report.

The report, *Graduates in Limbo: International Student Visa Pathways after Graduation*, found that only half of international graduates who stay on in Australia on a temporary visa find a full-time employment. Most are in low-skill jobs and have little chance of gaining permanent residency, it says.

“Temporary graduate visa-holders earn less on average than working holiday-makers,” the report says.

Currently 200,000 international graduates are in Australia on temporary graduate visas and Grattan forecasts this will rise to 370,000 by 2030 if current policies continue.

“Encouraging so many international graduates to stay and struggle in Australia is in no one’s interests,” said the report’s lead author, Grattan economic policy program director Brendan Coates.

He said current policies eroded public trust in Australia’s migration program and the number of graduates on temporary visas added to population pressure in areas such as housing. Current policies were also unfair to international graduates, he said, because rising numbers of temporary visa holders reduced the already slim hope of them getting permanent residency.

“Seeing so many disenchanted international graduates eventually return home after struggling in Australia for years damages the reputation of our international higher education sector,” the report says.

It recommends that the visa rules for international graduates should focus on encouraging the most talented to remain in Australia and become permanent residents and others should have the duration of their temporary graduate visa reduced.

Only in July the federal government increased the time period international graduates are entitled to stay in Australia after their course, provided they studied in a skill shortage area or lived and worked in regional Australia.

Following the changes, international students who graduate from a bachelor, masters or PhD degree are allowed to stay in Australia on a temporary work visa for a period ranging from two to eight years.

Graduates of two-year vocational courses can stay for 18 months (temporarily two years) if their skill area is in short supply.

The report says it is clear that most international graduates on temporary visas struggle to make best use of their skills in Australia. They “benefit Australia less than many other cohorts of permanent and temporary migrants”, it says.

The report also calls for a higher English language requirement for visa holders, an end to the visa extensions that began in July this year, and a new “exceptionally talented graduate visa” with a direct path to permanent residency.

It says the visa extensions now offered to graduates in skill shortage areas, or who live in the regions, should end.

The report says a better way to identify talented graduates, and put them on a path to permanent residency, is to offer extensions only to those earning more than \$70,000 a year.

International Education Association of Australia chief executive Phil Honeywood said the Grattan report overlooked the role of international students in meeting Australia’s skill needs.

“Grattan’s hypothesis is that we must be concerned if every overseas student does not gain a course related career outcome here,” he said.

“However, most students are far more pragmatic.

“They understand that it may take some years and a few career changes to reach their ultimate goal.

“In the meantime, they are earning far more than in their home country, acquiring new skills and undertaking jobs that many domestic student graduates thumb their noses at.”

Next steps to strengthen the integrity of international education

The Albanese Government has announced steps to strengthen integrity in the international education sector.

These actions will tackle serious integrity issues in the sector as identified in the Rapid Review into the Exploitation of Australia’s Visa System (Nixon Review).

As part of its response to the Nixon Review, the Government will build risk indicators across the international education system.

The Government will also amend the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (ESOS Act) to strengthen the existing fit and proper provider test.

This will strengthen the standards required to gain and hold provider registration and prevent cross-ownership of businesses between education providers and education agents.

In addition, we will prohibit agent commissions on student transfers between providers in Australia to remove incentives for unscrupulous agents and providers to ‘poach’ students.

Providers will be given greater access to agent performance data such as student completion rates and visa rejection rates. These benchmarks will help providers choose quality education agents as partners.

These actions build on the [changes](#) we announced in August to remove a loophole used to move students who had been in the country less than six months to new providers to facilitate work instead of study.

Tip-off line is open to report dodgy colleges anonymously

The federal government will launch a \$37.8m “compliance blitz” to crack down on unlawful behaviour in Australia’s vocational education and training (Vet) sector as part of a [suite of measures](#) to clean up dodgy providers in international education.

The national vocational education regulator has welcomed [a government injection of \\$38m](#) to help it clamp down on unethical and “possibly illegal” behaviour in the sector.

The money will allow the Australian Skills Quality Agency to set up an integrity unit, and improve digital and data systems, to help it expose dodgy colleges.

It will also establish a tip-off line for whistleblowers to report unethical and illegal activity.

The tip-off line will accept information from current and former students and others connected with the industry, such as homestay hosts and employers of international students. Informants will be able to remain anonymous.

ASQA chief executive Saxon Rice said the majority of vocational education providers delivered quality training “but unfortunately there are some within the sector that don’t share that motivation”.

Study Raises Concerns about career advice given to high school students as they feel pressured to go to university rather than pursuing what they are interested in

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-04/new-study-finds-students-feel-pressured-to-go-to-university/102931794>

- National research shows career advice for high school students is lacking
- One report recommends a national approach, with career advice embedded into the school curriculum
- Some industries say outdated career advice does not reflect evolving workforce needs

Research by the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE) in 2022 showed study pathways information for high school students was “significantly skewed towards university study, and students are uninformed about alternative pathways into post-secondary education”.

Curtin University associate professor Jane Coffey, who helped lead the study, said the research from surveys showed the extent of career advice for students was “pretty much subject selection”.

“And your subject selection was based on your grades, rather than your interests,” she said.

At 23, Chelsea Taylor had three unfinished degrees, \$30,000 in student debt, and no idea what she wanted to do with her life.

“I was feeling really, really lost at that stage and my brother recently had seen an ad on TV. Metro [Trains Melbourne] was looking to hire more women,” Ms Taylor said.

Ms Taylor has been a train driver for five years now and loves it.

She said she wished she had discovered it sooner.

“I wish my school and the adults in my life didn’t present non-university careers as lesser or fall-back options, so I wouldn’t have felt so pressured to keep restarting degrees,” Ms Taylor said.

Questions over Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency sexual complaints investigations

The federal education minister is flagging a possible overhaul of the tertiary education regulator amid fears the threshold for triggering investigations into the mishandling of sexual violence matters is too high.

Key points:

- TEQSA has received 39 complaints about how universities have handled sexual violence incidents since 2017

- One student waited 602 days to get a response from TEQSA despite the complaint not turning into an investigation
- A Senate inquiry into consent laws recommended that the federal government hold an inquiry into TEQSA

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) has received 39 complaints about how universities have handled sexual violence incidents since 2017.

None have led to formal investigations, TEQSA confirmed in written answers to a Senate committee.

"I'm open to doing what's going to make a difference for young women in our universities," Education Minister Jason Clare told the ABC.

Among the 39 complaints is at least one that refers to the University of Queensland (UQ).

Student Isabel complained that UQ hired a student who had allegedly stalked them while they slept and showered. During the university's investigation, Isabel was asked if they'd been drinking and what they'd been wearing, including while showering.

The alleged perpetrator was forced to write an apology to the university over one alleged incident, following an internal investigation, but was hired by UQ months later as a tutor.

Then federal education minister Simon Birmingham referred it to TEQSA for review.

TEQSA was ultimately satisfied that UQ's current and prospective students have access to mechanisms that are capable of resolving grievances in relation to sexual misconduct, but that UQ could've handled the complaints better.

Isabel and advocates from End Rape on Campus waited more than 800 days to get a final response from the complaint to TEQSA.

Isabel told the ABC that they were confused why it took so long to get a response if TEQSA hadn't formally investigated the case, especially since Senator Birmingham's successor, Dan Tehan, had told them the matter was being investigated.

"If they hadn't been investigating what had taken so long and what had they been doing?" Isabel said.

"It felt like my hopes were kind of being held up the whole time."

Another student waited 602 days to get a final response from TEQSA despite the

TEQSA told the ABC it considers all complaints and makes initial enquiries and preliminary assessments.

It said this can include considering a university's records relating to allegations as well as looking at internal reviews, policies and training implemented by institutions.

This is separate from a formal investigation that it might launch if it believes the complaint requires it.

While no investigations have been undertaken as a result of such complaints being raised with TEQSA, the agency said it had taken other actions.

It said it had issued regulatory guidance, assessed compliance through the mandatory re-registration process for tertiary institutions and asked institutions themselves for more information about whether issues related to complaints had been addressed.

Asked about Isabel's case and why it hadn't triggered a formal investigation, Mr Clare told the ABC it was time to re-evaluate whether TEQSA should have a role in investigating universities handling sexual assault matters.

"I would be devastated, confused if I had made a complaint and nothing came of it," he said.

A Senate inquiry into consent laws unanimously recommended that the federal government establish an inquiry into TEQSA.

It also excoriated the entire tertiary education sector, saying universities, their peak body Universities Australia, TEQSA and colleges could not be trusted to effectively address the problem.

Australian International Education Conference

Jason Clare speech

<https://ministers.education.gov.au/clare/australian-international-education-conference-0>

Worth of international students

The [Grattan Institute's Graduates in Limbo](#) report earlier this month used data from the Treasury and the Parkinson migration review out earlier this year to pinpoint the worth to Australia of international students who become permanent residents.

“The cohort of international students who arrive in Australia this year and eventually take up permanent residency will provide a fiscal dividend of up to \$12bn over their lifetimes in Australia,” the Grattan report said.

Grattan uses a 2021 Treasury paper, titled [The lifetime fiscal impact of the Australian permanent migration program](#), to put a figure on the taxes paid by skilled migrants over their working lives. It comes to \$560,000 for each employer-sponsored skilled migrant and \$390,000 for each points-tested skilled migrant. About one-third of Australia’s permanent skilled visas go to people who came to Australia as an international student and this leads to the estimate that lifetime taxes paid in Australia by the cohort of international students who come to Australia this year and eventually become permanent residents, amounts to about \$12bn.

We generally measure the economic benefit of international education by looking at the export revenue it brings in, that is \$40bn in 2019. But when the cost of inputs are netted out, what is the “surplus”, or the contribution to total economic activity, made by international education? Generously, it might be as high as 20 per cent, or \$8bn, a year.

Monash Uni faces \$9m back pay claim in the Federal Court

Monash University is facing an estimated \$9 million back pay claim from its casual academics after the Fair Work Commission rejected the university’s bid to head off the claim by retrospectively altering [its enterprise agreement with staff](#).

The commission’s full bench last week upheld an earlier commission decision in June which said it was not appropriate to make the change.

Monash had asked the commission to alter the current enterprise agreement to ensure that “associated” consultations with students by casual lecturers and tutors following a lecture or tutorial – “for example, within a week before or after the relevant tutorial but prior to the next tutorial” – would not attract extra payment.

However the full bench refused, although it did concede the wording of the enterprise agreement was “ambiguous and uncertain”.

Unis ‘must define anti-Semitism’, says ECAJ

The nation’s top Jewish organisation has repeated a call for universities around the country to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of anti-Semitism after the UNSW students representative council on Monday endorsed the wording.

It was one of the first elected student bodies in the country to adopt the definition, which has attracted some controversy. Supporters say the definition would help clearly define anti-Semitism while critics say it could be used to stifle legitimate criticism of Israel.

The definition reads: “Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”.

This includes: “Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a state of Israel is a racist endeavour” and “Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis”.

Several Australian universities have adopted the definition, including Melbourne University and Monash University.

ANU chose not to and La Trobe adopted an amended version that took out the examples.

This came after the MPs – the Parliamentary Friends of IHRA – sent an open letter to vice-chancellors in November last year urging them to adopt the definition.

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry welcomed the UNSW SRC's move. "As an UNSW alumnus, I was proud to see the SRC reject the campaign of fear, disinformation and paranoia pushed by anti-Israel fanatics," said co-CEO Alex Ryvchin.

Zac Morris, UNSW student and incoming Australian Union of Jewish Students vice-president, said the decision by the UNSW SRC "to consult, listen and stand with Jewish students is a significant step in creating a more inclusive, understanding university community for all students".

Jewish students have safety fears over campus support for Hamas

Jewish students say anti-Israel material being distributed on university campuses following the Hamas attacks is deeply distressing and has led to students hiding their Jewish identity, as one of Australia's biggest student bodies declared it "stands in solidarity with Palestine".

The University of Sydney Student Representative Council on Wednesday urged students to "stand against oppression ... until Palestine is free".

Earlier this week, the SRC promoted the Sydney Rally for a Free Palestine, where protesters marched on the Sydney Opera House as it was lit in the national colours of Israel, chanting violent anti-Semitic slogans.

"The movement for Free Palestine is not anti-Semitic, and rally organisers strongly share this belief," the SRC added.

A [recent survey of Jewish students](#) which found 64 per cent had experienced anti-Semitism on campus and 57 per cent had hidden their Jewish identity in order to avoid it.

Universities Australia CEO Catriona Jackson said there was no place for racism or any form of discrimination on campus. She said universities had "zero tolerance for attitudes and behaviours which create unsafe learning and working environments".

<https://honisoit.com/2023/10/hundreds-march-in-solidarity-with-palestinians/>

Results from University staff survey "disastrous" for management

<https://honisoit.com/2023/09/results-from-university-staff-survey-disastrous-for-management/>

Only 27% of academic and casual staff, "have confidence in the University Executive".

The University of Sydney's recent internal survey has revealed worryingly low levels of staff confidence in the institution.

The annual survey was sent to all staff, in both professional and academic roles, and was completed by 5,875 staff members. The survey was intended to provide insight into how the University workforce viewed the culture, resource allocation and their workloads.

According to the report, 36% of all university staff, and only 27% of academic and casual staff, "have confidence in the University Executive". Only half of all staff members believe that they are "appropriately involved" in decision-making pertaining to their work — a figure that drops to 37% for academic staff.

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54th Guild Council - 11 / RB

REPRESENTATION BOARD – 19/10/2023

CURTIN STUDENT GUILD STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE

Submitted: Dylan Botica (President)
Moved: Dylan Botica (President)
Seconded: Jude Soussan (Humanities Representative)

Preamble:

The Curtin Student Guild has endorsed many actions, rallies and solidarity movements with the Palestinian community. The Guild does not have a documented stance on the Israeli occupation of Palestine generally. This resolution affirms our support for Palestinian people and denounces the Israeli occupation. It also recognises Jewish students face increasing anti-semitism and deserve safety and support at University.

Motion:

That the Representation Board **approve** the following policy on Israel-Palestine matters:

The Curtin Student Guild:

- stands against the Israeli occupation of Palestine and condemns the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestinians
- supports the self-determination of the Palestinian people and their right to engage in self-defence against their occupiers
- deems the use of Zionism to justify the illegal occupation of Palestine as racist and colonial
- recognises that Israel is an apartheid state in accordance with prominent human rights organizations like Amnesty International, B'Tselem, and Humans Rights Watch.
- opposes the adoption of policies that prohibit criticism of Israel by Curtin University, including aspects of the IHRA definition of antisemitism
- condemns any and all forms of antisemitism and notes that the actions of the Israeli Government have been used to fuel anti-jewish hatred.
- notes that Israel's actions are not representative of the Jewish community. Similarly, Israel's crimes are its responsibility alone and not that of Jewish people worldwide.

The Representation Board **recommends** to the Guild Council that it adopt the following resolution:

The Guild Council **approves** a boycott on companies that support and profit from the Israeli apartheid in line with the global BDS guidelines and create a register for all staff and Officers that lists '*boycotted companies*'. The register's maintenance is delegated to the President.

The Representation Board will enact the associated actions in full.

Actions:

- The Curtin Student Guild supports the academic boycott movement of Israeli institutions in accordance with the PACBI guidelines.

- The Curtin Student Guild calls on the university to participate in an academic boycott and cut ties with Israeli institutions, researchers, and academics to be in harmony with the Palestinian call for boycott, as a contribution towards upholding international law and furthering the struggle for freedom, justice and equality.
- The Curtin Student Guild calls on the university to divest from corporations complicit in and profiting from the Israel apartheid and that operate on illegally occupied Palestinian land.
- Recommend to the Guild Council to create a register of companies to boycott that support and profit from the Israeli apartheid in line with the global BDS guidelines.
- Recommend the President to write and publish a statement announcing the Guild's decision to adopt BDS and its support for Palestinian rights to be published on all Student Guild social medias including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok.

Background:

In 1948, the state of Israel was established by Jewish people from various parts of the diaspora, aiming to create a homeland in Palestine. This led to the forced displacement of over 750,000 Palestinians and the ethnic cleansing of more than 350 Palestinian villages and towns.

Since its inception, successive Israeli governments have implemented a system of laws, policies, and practices to oppress and dominate Palestinians, with the ultimate goal of privileging Jewish Israelis.

This situation has caused distress among both Palestinian and Jewish students on campus. It's crucial to understand that these students are not responsible for the actions of foreign governments, and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is complex, leading to genuine racism, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism, which must never be condoned. The Curtin Student Guild should provide support services and advocacy to all students impartially.

It's essential to acknowledge that Palestinians now inhabit less than 16% of their historical land. The West Bank is divided by illegal Israeli settlements, and the Gaza Strip is one of the world's most densely populated open-air prisons. Over 7 million Palestinian refugees constitute one of the largest refugee groups globally. The growth of the Israeli economy and territory is built on the exploitation and colonization of Palestinians, and the Palestinian narrative is often misrepresented by Israel.

Israel's narrative justifies military operations and blockades against Palestinians. Legitimizing Israel's existence essentially legitimizes Palestinian oppression. The blockade of Gaza and the West Bank occupation are rooted in the forced expulsion and massacre of Palestinians, all indicating Israel's status as a colonial settler state built on apartheid.

Israel denies Palestinians their right to self-determination, freedom, dignity, and equality. Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement seeks to pressure Israel into complying with international law and relieving Palestinian oppression.

Israel's significant military power, partly funded by the United States, underscores its influence. Recent hostilities have erupted in Gaza after an attack by Hamas fighters, leading to large-scale Israeli attacks and civilian suffering. Students have played a key role in protesting, organizing, and educating against the illegal colonization and occupation of Palestine, with many student unions worldwide endorsing BDS.

As the largest university in Western Australia, Curtin University's monetary and academic ties to Israel have contributed to the legitimization of the Israeli narrative. Therefore, the Curtin Student Guild must take a clear and resolute stance against apartheid and Palestinian oppression, both within the university and on the global stage.