



# Guild President 2023 June Report

Dylan Botica

## President's Report

Covering Dates: 17/04/2023 – 22/05/2023

Submitted to: May Guild Council

Leave: Personal Leave (Sick) 18 – 19 May 2023

### 1. University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
17/04/2023	President x DVC-G	
18/04/2023	National Recon Week Organising Group	
20/04/2023	Vice Chancellor	With MD for Clubs Incident
26/04/2023	University Health and Safety Committee	Issues included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Speeding on campus, pedestrian safety in Exchange</li><li>- New Liquor store safety – no real response from Uni</li></ul>
27/04/2023	Curtin Academy Advisory Board	
27/04/2023	National Recon Week Organising Group	
27/04/2023	President x DVC-A	
1/05/2023	President x VC	Tuition free week update and notes of meeting have been circulated
2/05/2023	Meeting with Lead, Above and Beyond	To increase interest in Curtin Common
2/05/2023	Meeting Jacqueline Boaks	Curtin staff meeting students as partners global leaders
3/05/2023	Safer Community	
3/05/2023	Versent Demo – Evaluate Replacement Project	
4/05/2023	Explorance Demo – Evaluate Replacement Project	

4/05/2023	National Recon Week Organising Group	
9/05/2023	Global Positioning Committee	Including Annual Report
16/05/2023	Erin Judd	Meeting with Andrew from Student Assist to discuss approach to AI cases of academic misconduct
17/05/2023	Meeting with Paul Brunton / Interview Panels (All Day) for Associate DVC-A	

## 2 Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
17/04/2023	President x MD	
17/04/2023	President x Student Engagement	
20/04/2023	Higher Education	
20/04/2023	Representation Board	
24/04/2023	President x Student Engagement	
24/04/2023	Risk Review	With MD and Exec
27/04/2023	Higher Education	
27/04/2023	Guild Council	
28/04/2023	Executive Committee	
01/05/2023	President x MD	
04/05/2023	AGM Online Test	
04/05/2023	Higher Education	
08/05/2023	President x MD	
08/05/2023	President x Student Engagement	
08/05/2023	AGM Online Test	
08/05/2023	Executive Committee	Club renewals only
09/05/2023	Education Conference Subsidy Budget Meeting	To evaluate costs and capacity to subsidise

10/05/2023	General Meeting	Annual General Meeting
11/05/2023	Executive Committee	
11/05/2023	Health Sci Rep Check in	
12/05/2023	Humanities Rep Check in	
15/05/2023	President x Student Engagement	
16/05/2023	President x MD	
18/05/2023	Representation Board	

### 3. Other Meetings/Activities

Date	Meeting	Comments
18/04/2023	Meeting Minister for International Education	Provided some insight into the background of WA Unis review. Discussed housing issues, more responsibility is needed from Unis and State Government to improve the welfare of students.
30/04/2023	Students for Yes Meeting	
02/05/2023	Meeting with Minister for Education	Minister Buti was unable / unwilling to outline any plans for Universities or to respond to feedback.

### 4. Items of Significance

#### 4.1. WA Government Universities Review

The State Government proposed review into a merger of Universities in WA. A review has commenced that has the hallmarks of a forgone conclusion. We have worked with the other Guilds to prepare a stance and response.

The primary response thus far has been that the State Government cannot progress with a review that could affect the governance and operations of the Student Guilds (as a separate entity) without any members having relevant expertise.

The Meeting with the Minister for International Education suggests that amalgamation is the intended review purpose.

A discussion paper was circulated to individuals who are able to provide a submission. Following the successful campaign to expand consultation scope, the Guild is now invited.

Curtin Guild's submission will be made this week following an extension granted to all Guilds.

## 4.2 Budget

The State and Federal Budgets have been released with differing impacts on students. I have appeared in various media to provide comments including talkback, the ABC, youth radio, Curtin media.

Given the level of mainstream media reporting of the budget's impacts on young people, this was the most appropriate media to put forward the Curtin student guild's position on improving the outcomes for young people and students alike.

I have been liaising with NUS National Office bearers to review communications and ensure that the Guild's perspective are included.

## 4.3 Evaluate

The replacement project for Evaluate is currently in tendering, the academic component has closed. I am very hopeful that this long-standing effort by the Guild will result in better evaluation for students and our staff.

## 4.2 Curtin Common

Support is being sought across University stakeholders to provide weight towards progressing the Curtin Common incorporating a Clubs Hub. This has included support from the:

Vice Chancellor  
Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic  
Lead, Above and Beyond

A Clubs survey is being produced.

## 4.3 Other Items

- The Universities developed response to Academic Integrity in the AI age is put into a handbook for students that has been circulated to all student reps and council members.
- There is a cult recruiting at Curtin (a commonplace group at Universities) I am dealing with Safer Communities on this.
- I have worked with teams at Curtin University to deliver National Reconciliation Week activities including an Acknowledgement Writing Workshop and NRW Walk.
- Guild Council's Education Conference Bid has been unsuccessful even though it provided significantly more funding. It's a sign the NUS is still very much an Eastern States centric organization when it comes to conferences.

#### 4 Travel

Nil

## Vice President – Education

Representation Board Report – 13/05/2023 – 9/06/2023

Veronika Gobba – She/Her

Date	Meetings	Comments
17/5/23	Respect at Curtin Specialist Advisory Committee	
18/5/23	Higher Ed	
	Representation Board	
19/5/23	Academic Board Executive	Attended on behalf of the Guild President
	VPE x QO Check-in	
23/5/23	VPE x FBL Rep Check-in	
	Students as Partners Community of Practice	
24/5/23	DVCA student focus group	Key issues brought up were 1) lack of/expensive housing and 2) not enough academic staff to teach and that staff are overloaded.
	VPE x AO Check-in	
25/5/23	AI meeting with Curtin Student Conduct Coordinator and student discipline panellists	The general consensus was that an AI score on a discipline case is not enough to determine misconduct- there must be other factors that give an indication.
	Exec Committee	
	Legal Committee	
	Guild Council	
26/5/23	Meeting with SaP staff and Guild President	SPA discussion
	Academic Board	
29/5/23	VPE x PSC President Check-in	
30/5/23 – 1/6/23		On leave due to illness.

2/6/23	VPE x QO x President Check-in	
	Walk for Reconciliation at Kaarta Koomba	
6/6/23	VPE x FBL Rep Check-in	
7/6/23	Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Learning Innovation & Transformation interview panel	
8/6/23	Exec Committee	
	Higher Ed	
9/6/23	VPE x QO Check-in	
	Guild Exec meeting with NUS Welfare Officer	<p>Key topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National SSAF campaign and the issues with SSAF allocation in WA</li> <li>- Lower the Age of Independence campaign</li> <li>- Low-sensory spaces at universities</li> <li>- Student housing issues</li> </ul>
	VPE x First Nations Officer Check-in	

## Projects

### 1. Student Partnership Agreement

We are working with the Students as Partners - Community of Practice to create an all-student survey to find out what students think about and want to see in a Student Partnership Agreement. There have been discussions of the possibility of proposing a contractual agreement rather than a memorandum of understanding.

### 2. Oral Health Student Complaints & Town Hall

Due to issues with changes in the curriculum of the Oral Health course, we will be organising some town halls for Oral Health students to comprehensively give us feedback for us to analyse, collate and bring to the university to address such issues.

## **BUSINESS & LAW - Representative Board Report #6**

For the Representation Board held on Thursday the 15th of June

### **Summary Of Meetings**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Type of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Meeting x SE team FBL	11/5/2023	Faculty	Discussion of the plans for second semester orientation and a review of what worked well with the politted design from semester 1 and what didn't work.
SDP Panel	12/5/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 6 cases
Guild Tik Tok Content	16/5/2023	Guild	Filming for the Rave Cave as promotional material, I truly have no shame for the content.
Faculty Course Committee	16/5/2023	Committee	Discussion of the creation of the Bachelor of Innovation and Bachelor of Science double degree, and the changes being made to the Masters of Marketing.
Finance and Risk Committee	17/5/2023	Guild	Discussion of the Guild's financial position.
Leadership Matters Breakfast x FBL	18/5/2023	External	Breakfast with the Faculty of Business and Law at the Crown Ballroom listening to a guest speaker on the importance of WA's economy federally.
Meeting x Dean of Teaching and Learning	18/5/2023	Faculty	Discussion regarding the work being done by Christina Do on redesigning assessment rubrics to make them more effective.
Meeting x HoS AFE	18/5/2023	Faculty	Monthly catch up with Felix Chan, discussion about the opportunities for students within the school to enrich their tertiary experience through undertakings such as the curtin bankwest economics center or the carbon literacy program to name a few. I received a greater understanding of Felix's intentions and vision for the school in both the short term and medium



			term.
Student consultation	18/5/2023	Guild	Feilding student concerns regarding the regulation of generative AI in assessment, specifically relating to classes that require coding such as QTB and Econometric principles in the Faculty of Business & Law
Representation board	18/5/2023	Guild	Standard Reps. Board discussion of the budget measures was insightful and collegiate.
SDP Panel	19/5/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 9 cases
Meeting HoS M&M	23/5/2023	Faculty	Meeting with the head of school discussing a range of topics including the changing perceptions of tertiary education, the impacts of the cost of living crisis on students and the requisite balance between study, work and life that is becoming increasingly constrained for students.
VPE x FBL Catch up	23/5/2023	Guild	Discussion of the redesigned SCC proposal on behalf of the SE team (FBL)
Meeting x Curtin Economic Society	23/5/2023	Clubs	Discussion of the clubs plans for the upcoming semester, their ideas and aspirations for O-day and the handover plan for next year. - The club noted student engagement has not massively improved from their perspective.
Student Reps AI Meeting	25/5/2023	University	Collaborative meeting in which all of the Rpes who sit on SDP panels discussed the requisite penalties that should apply for students who break academic integrity by outsourcing work to AI. - I noted that i don't think there is enough advertisement of the universities policies and therefore in the interim the panels should adopt revise and resubmit strategies.
Meeting x Student Engagement	25/5/2023	Faculty	Discussion of the finalized proposal for the redesign of the SCC, which would enable better accountability measures from the faculty to create meaningful action on issues that affect students as the primary stakeholders here at Curtin.
SDP Panel	26/5/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 9 cases - First case concerning GenAI.

Meeting x FBL PVC	29/5/2023	Faculty	Discussion with Vanessa as to how to demystify the commerce degree, what constitutes commerce and how the faculty should best market the commerce major in future along with other new majors such as innovation.
Meeting x Guild President	29/5/2023	Guild	Check in with Dylan, to which Dylan provided some insight into how to be more effective as a representative.
Student Consultative committee working group proposal M&M	31/5/2023	Faculty	Delivery of the finalized proposal for the redesigned SCC to Julia and the core team of Management and Marketing, the program was greenlit.
Student Consultative committee working group proposal AFE	1/6/2023	Faculty	Delivery of the finalized proposal for the redesigned SCC to Felix and the core team of Accounting, Finance and Economics, the program was greenlit.
Impromptu Meeting x VPA	1/6/2023	Guild	Impromptu meeting was impromptu, discussed the plans for the sundowner at end of next semester.
Brinner Tik Tok content	1/6/2023	Guild	Brinner was great, filmed some Tik Tok content, expect it soon... Exam Edition...
SDP Panel	2/6/2023	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. - 7 cases
FBL x IC Mental Health Event	2/6/2023	Guild	Meeting with ISC Pres. and VPA discussing how to pilfer the FBL Bupa money for guild events. Required to do: business case proposal.
SAP Rubric Collaborative Discussion x Christina Do	2/6/2023	Faculty	Plan for presenting the work of the research group to the directors of teaching and learning, highlighting the students as partners aspect of the rubric that has enabled it to be more effective in breaking down mark allocations and expectations. The additional resources are handy too. Refer to the appendices for images
NRW Walk For Reconciliation	2/6/2023	External	I joined members of the Guild and the university on the walk for reconciliation, an immersive and insightful experience.
Rubric Presentation x Christina Do	6/6/2023	Faculty	Working with Christina Do to format our presentation and the requisite aspects of the presentation and design structure that I would elaborate on.

Directors Teaching and Learning FBL Proposal Assessment Rubrics	6/6/2023	Faculty	Presenting the work done to the Directors of Learning in FBL inclusive of ACD, the project was well received and will be piloted next semester in the discipline of Economics and rolled out in both Management and Marketing and the Masters of Commerce
Meeting x VPE	6/6/2023	Guild	Discussion relating to the assessment rubric work undertaken by the Excellence in Assessment Design research group
Faculty Courses Committee	6/6/2023	Faculty	Standard Faculty Courses Committee, nothing notable to note beyond the deactivation of an economics unit that nobody has been enrolled in for the last 5 years.
FBL Clubs Meeting	7/6/2023	Clubs	Discussion of the clubs guide promotion for clubs in FBL. a proposal that would be good for both orientation and O-day.
Whole Staff Meeting FBL SE team	7/6/2023	Faculty	Discussion with Cassandra from UTAS as to the implementation of Gen AI as a resource and tool for students to use, potentially embedded in Blackboard as a digital guide and study/prompt tool.
Student Perspective on Assessment Meeting	7/6/2023	Faculty	Meeting with Susan to discuss aspects of student experience as it relates to assessment instruction, how to better explain the expectations of assessment.
Student Consultative committee working group proposal, School of Law	8/6/2023	Faculty	Delivery of the finalized proposal for the redesigned SCC Narrelle and Leigh of the Law School, the program was greenlit.
Meeting x SE Team FBL	8/6/2023	Faculty	Discussion of the FBL sundowner, new SCC work and work done for revising assessment rubrics.

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### Final Notes:

- Good progress has been made on pushing for greater student specific feedback, this month consisted of an audience with the directors of teaching and learning in which myself on behalf of the working group of students who designed the new rubric format to be piloted and Christina on behalf of the Excellence in Assessment Design research group proposed alterations to the current structure of rubrics. Part of this design was to make the rubrics more accessible by breaking them down, providing comprehensive instructions and color differentiation to help students break down the rubric. Where I can see this design being particularly useful is in helping students transition to university

expectations and requirements. I am more than happy to field comments and recommendations on the design. It has been attached below.

- Semester 2 orientation discussions are becoming increasingly frequent and planning is well underway both on behalf of the Guild and the Faculty.
- The redesigned Student Consultative Committee has been greenlit by the various levels of the faculty. This redesign of which I was involved will constitute a working group of students from a range of disciplines which will collaboratively design solutions from a student perspective on a range of big topics within the faculty such as: Gen AI and Student Engagement. To ensure recommendations are reasonable within constraint, a staff member, generally the director of teaching and learning from each school will provide guidance on policy provisions. This body would inform the guild of findings and elevate the representative to sit on post deliberation committees with the faculty as to policy recommendations to be adopted.
- I have also increasingly supplanted myself in the Guild Tik Toks, it is good to see engagement being driven through that content.

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### TLDR:

- A hectic month of continual work on my KPIs and meaningful progress on some big projects. Key to the work done is ensuring the student perspective is not lost amongst the policy deliberations within the Faculty. This is a strategy that I have adopted from the beginning of my term by accepting and being in as many meetings with the faculty as possible. For more information as to the specific undertakings of the month, read above.
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### Appendices:

Assessment Rubric Redesign:

- + Additional resources (audio visual examples)

## STUDENT AS PARTNERS

# ASSESSMENT RUBRIC PRE AND POST WORKSHOP: EXAMPLES

## RUBRIC PRE-WORKSHOP

**Legal Foundations Oral Presentation**

Module name: [REDACTED]  
 Course: [REDACTED]  
 Semester: [REDACTED]

**ASSESSMENT MATRIX**

Assessment	Weighting	Assessment Description	Assessment Objectives	Learning Outcomes	Legal Foundations
Oral Presentation	100%	Students will deliver a 10-minute oral presentation on a legal topic.	1. Identify and explain the legal issue. 2. Analyse the legal issue. 3. Apply the law to the facts. 4. Conclude the legal issue.	1. Identify and explain the legal issue. 2. Analyse the legal issue. 3. Apply the law to the facts. 4. Conclude the legal issue.	1. Identify and explain the legal issue. 2. Analyse the legal issue. 3. Apply the law to the facts. 4. Conclude the legal issue.

**Comments:**

Simple, trying to deliver your Oral Presentation prior to the first intake. Also for the 10th consecutive week, you did a very good job at analyzing and delivering an engaging presentation. Well done.

The presentation structure was excellent, clearly following the structure of a legal analysis. The presentation structure was a very good format. However, during your presentation, you did not seem to be listening to your audience and did not seem to be addressing your audience. You should be addressing your audience and listening to their questions and comments. This is a very important part of a presentation. You should be addressing your audience and listening to their questions and comments. This is a very important part of a presentation.

You expressed your ideas and arguments very strongly. In particular, your explanation of the legal issue was excellent. You included each level of legal reasoning (identify, analyse, apply, conclude) and were able to express a clear opinion on the issue. You were able to explain the legal issue and apply the law to the facts. The structure you used was very clear. The structure you used was very clear. The structure you used was very clear.

Your presentation was very good and well delivered. However, there were some minor issues with your presentation. For example, you did not seem to be listening to your audience and did not seem to be addressing your audience. This is a very important part of a presentation. You should be addressing your audience and listening to their questions and comments. This is a very important part of a presentation.

Your oral presentation was very good. In particular, your presentation was very good. You were able to explain the legal issue and apply the law to the facts. The structure you used was very clear. The structure you used was very clear. The structure you used was very clear.

You did the subject discussion well by providing context to the subject and encouraging contribution from the class. You follow the subject discussion by talking to the contributors and your own ideas into the subject. The structure you used was very clear. The structure you used was very clear. The structure you used was very clear.

## RUBRIC POST-WORKSHOP

**LAW1005 LEGAL FOUNDATIONS**

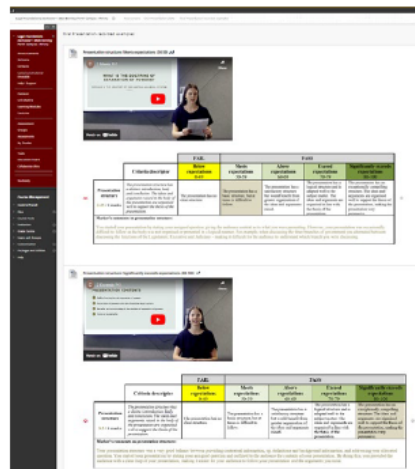
**ASSESSMENT 1: ORAL PRESENTATION**

Module name: [REDACTED]  
 Course: [REDACTED]  
 Semester: [REDACTED]

Assessment	Weighting	Assessment Description	Assessment Objectives	Learning Outcomes	Legal Foundations
Oral Presentation	100%	Students will deliver a 10-minute oral presentation on a legal topic.	1. Identify and explain the legal issue. 2. Analyse the legal issue. 3. Apply the law to the facts. 4. Conclude the legal issue.	1. Identify and explain the legal issue. 2. Analyse the legal issue. 3. Apply the law to the facts. 4. Conclude the legal issue.	1. Identify and explain the legal issue. 2. Analyse the legal issue. 3. Apply the law to the facts. 4. Conclude the legal issue.

## STUDENT AS PARTNERS

# ASSESSMENT RUBRIC ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



The screenshot displays two video resources, each with a play button icon. Below each video is a detailed assessment rubric table. The rubrics are structured with columns for 'Criteria/Assessable', 'Pass', 'Merit', and 'Distinction'. The criteria include 'Content Accuracy', 'Structure', 'Delivery', and 'Engagement'. The rubrics provide specific performance indicators for each grade level, such as 'The presentation is well structured and easy to follow' for a Pass grade.

## Science and Engineering faculty Report

Zhongzheng (Max) Zhang (He/Him)

Representation Board – June 2023

Date	Event type	Event to note	Comments
18/05/2023	Guild	Grill the Guild	Amazing first BBQ for the faculty, we blew through the entire stock in about 20 minutes. Also received a decent amount of feedback from students.
22/05/2023	Faculty	Faculty Executive Meeting	Discussed some results from a GenAI inquiry done, currently maintain the format of 'allowing the use of GenAI with clear referencing to AI models used and prompts inserted'.
25/05/2023	SDP	SDP AI meeting	Discussed faculty stance on AI in assignments, noted that so far, SciEng seems to be the most thorough with notifying students, the most uniform regarding AI use across the whole faculty and the least strict on AI use.
30/05/2023	Faculty	Meeting with Dean L&T	Meeting regarding better ways to collect student feedback. Many things to update the faculty's processes were discussed and will hopefully be implemented next semester. See below for details.
31/05/2023	SDP	SDP meeting	6 cases
01/06/2023	Faculty	Faculty Graduates Studies Meeting	Nothing to note.

- Means of collecting student feedback and driving up engagement discussed:
  - o Proposed that there be an announcement in week 1 of all classes that around week 4/5 there will be an allocated time slot in a class for students to provide feedback to tutors or lecturers.
    - Repeated emphasis throughout the weeks that this will be occurring, also provide links through blackboard/email (preferably both).
  - o I suggest providing some form of incentive to students to provide feedback may increase engagement.
  - o I also suggest that faculty executive staff be better introduced to students, as this increases transparency and lets students know that their concerns are being heard by people with the power to resolve things.

It is expected that there will be some follow up news on collecting student feedback coming out from Dean L&T in a few weeks as I aim to collaborate with the faculty to create a flyer for semester 2 O-Day outlining heads of schools and various deans for students to provide feedback directly to. This has quickly transitioned into my primary focus for the semester break and may continue into the early stages of semester 2.

In addition, I am also planning to approach clubs to see if they wish to provide some promotional material for O-Day, as last semester I had many students approach the faculty stall asking where certain clubs are/what they do, so this may streamline the process.

## Faculty of Health Sciences Report

Hiba Alsoeady (she/her)

Representation Board – June 2022

### ***Guild and University meetings, progress and planning***

<b>May</b>		
	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>19/05</b>	GDEH Advisory Group	Discussed the Environmental Health Graduate diploma degree review and spoke about initiatives to motivate future students to enrol in it
<b>25/05</b>	SDP Students Rep AI meeting	We were presented with examples of possible future AI cases and discussed a methodical approach to handling them
<b>25/05</b>	Meeting with Jo-Ann and Rey	Discussed unit specific issues within Pharmacy
<b>June</b>		
<b>09/06</b>	Meeting with Head of Learning and Student Engagement	Regular update regarding upcoming events/queries and concerns.
<b>09/06</b>	Meeting with student engagement	Spoke about funding received by school to host an International Student Engagement Project
<b>09/06</b>	Health Sciences SDP	
<b>02/06</b>	Meeting with Margot	Discussed issues in Oral Health
<b>02/06</b>	Health Sciences SDP	
<b>05/06</b>	Meeting with Health Sciences Student	Discussed confidential student specific concerns
<b>13/06</b>	Faculty Courses Committee	
<b>14/06</b>	Update from Dean, Gender Equity, Inclusion and Diversity	

## HUMANITIES FACULTY REPORT – JUNE

JUDE SOUSSAN

DATE	WHAT	NOTES
12/05/2023	Chat with VPA	Spoke about my event ideas and some dates.
12/05/2023	Check in with President	Spoke about what I have been up to within my role and what I may be struggling with, as well as my connection with people.
13/05/2023	Attended the Palestine Rally	Really disappointing turnout, there were heaps more people a couple years ago.
24/05/2023	Emailed all clubs about the Adobe workshop	I created a google form to get people's expression of interests and so far, I have only heard from three clubs. Athina and I are planning to reach out to clubs personally to get more numbers.
25/05/2023	SDP Student Reps AI Meeting	We discussed how to deal with AI cases in SDPs.
26/05/2023	Student discipline panel	
06/06/2023	Adobe meeting with Athina, Matt, and Adam	We spoke about some of the details of the workshop as well as when the best date would be to have it. We are still looking for ways to reach out to more people to see if there are enough expressions of interest.



## Student Assist Representation Board Report – June 2023

Case statistics for Student Assist is as follows:

	Mar	Apr	May
Academic sessions	193	220	259
Financial Counselling sessions	58	21	21
LifeHacks	153	140	Data not available

Academic sessions in the month of May were mainly in relation to complaints, various appeals, and academic misconducts. A number of academic misconduct cases concerned inappropriate use of AI software.

Financial sessions were mainly focused on supporting students with cost of living while on Centrelink payments and events outside their control.

### Welfare

Student Assist provided emergency relief to 3 students. Breakdown below:

Rental assistance – 2 students

Hardship Grants – 3 students.

6 Loan Laptops were loaned out.

**ISC president Report**  
**Representation board**  
**Submission date: June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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**COMMITTEE AND INTERNAL MEETINGS**

- Meet with committee members to discuss the events ISC planning to do for the upcoming semester.
- Met with VPE to update all the happenings in ISC
- Meeting with VPA to discuss the the possible events for the upcoming semester and also discussed about the international students problems and how we could make their life easier with events.

**Events and happenings**

- Migration 2<sup>nd</sup> session event with pathway agency happened for all international students to clarify their visa doubts
- Helped with brinner event and gave pamphlets to international students to join the committee
- Recruited new faculty of humanities Rep for ISC
- Met with student leaders from other universities to discuss about the housing crisis issue
- Met with senator Fatima to discuss the housing crisis and what the government can do to help with the crisis

Recommendation: To have a personal meeting with all new ISC members and explain them their role and make them comfortable

Bhaarith Kathiravan

ISC PRESIDENT  
PRONOUNCE HE/HIM  
ISC.PRESIDENT@GUILD.CURTIN.EDU.AU



PSC President's Report

SUBMISSION DATE: 07/06/2023

FOR MEETING DATE: 15/06/2023

NAME: Mitch Craig

POSITION: PSC President

### **GUILD MEETINGS/EVENTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Comments</b>
17/05/23	PSC x Student Assist	Regular catchup with Andrew
18/05/2023	Reps Board	See Minutes
24/05/2023	Acknowledgement of Country Workshop	Very good event
25/05/2023	Exec	
25/05/2023	Legal	
26/05/2023	Rave Cave – End of Sem Bash	Was very fun
29/05/2023	Fortnightly Catchup w/ Veronika	Updated on current PSC happenings.
30/05/2023	PSC Events	Met with Athina and Hannah(PSC) to discuss events for 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of the year
30/05/2023	PSC Meeting	Inquorate 😞
02/06/2023	Walk for Reconciliation	Enjoyable, informative and rewarding

### **UNIVERSITY MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Comments</b>
26/05/2023	Academic Board	Was not the most interesting one

### **PROJECTS/General**

- Provision of software to students – good progress being made
- Mentoring program - stalled
- Looking at events for 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year
- Been helping the execs with submissions etc

### **KPIs**

- Responding promptly to emails
- Planning more events

### **tl;dr**

Quiet period for uni meetings, making good progress on some of my projects. Everyone cancelled last minute for monthly meeting.

**QUEER OFFICER'S Report**  
**Representation Board Meeting 7/2023 – 15.06.23**  
**08.06.2023**



**GUILD MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Weekly	VP-E x QO	Weekly check-in's to catch up, go over where everything is at, and brainstorm anything coming up
22.05	VP-E x Secretary x QO	Quick debrief of Transitioning at Curtin guide meeting
23.05	VP-A x QO	Brainstorming for Semester 2 events and planning when to put them
31.05	Queer Collective Meeting #2	Update for the collective on what's happened so far as well as discussing issues brainstorming ideas for the current and upcoming projects and events
02.06	President x QO	Check in with Dylan went well, got to go over what's happened so far and what the path forward currently looks like.

**UNIVERSITY MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
19.05	Transitioning at Curtin Guide Meeting	Good introduction to everyone and getting everyone on the same page regarding what needs to happen and what the next steps will be
26.05	Curtin University Domestic Violence Awareness Month morning tea	Had to leave early to attend other meetings, overall was very engaging and good to see not only what the MATE program has already done at Curtin but to hear about the direction they are heading in. Was also good to meet some of the people who have either done the programs training or are working in areas related to it.
26.05	We All Need to Pee Committee Meeting	A revision on where the project is currently at and what the last steps taken were before discussing ideas and areas to take it going forward. Next meeting planned is a brainstorming session to begin to work out specific actions

26.05	Catch up w/ Sheldon Smith	Good chat covering all the projects that currently involve both of us including but not limited to Curtin Ally training, the Transitioning at Curtin guide rewrite, the deadnaming project, We All Need to Pee and a review of the MATE program
30.05	Deadnaming Working Group	Went over the options presented by DTS regarding fixing the system to stop deadnaming. It was decided that more information was required into the costs and impacts of some of the options before a decision can be made. I also took the time to highlight the importance of training teaching staff on how to avoid and identify deadnaming.

## **PROJECTS**

Deadnaming: Progress is being made slowly but surely. The display names on university Microsoft products will now update as people update their preferred names. In terms of a long-term fix to all deadnaming through Curtin systems, a broad overview of the options were presented and are now being looked into for the specifics of what is required if those paths are taken.

We All Need to Pee: The committee got back together to go over where this was left off last year and what our options are going forward. A brainstorming session is planned to figure out how we are going to increase awareness of this issue and how we are going to go about getting the message out there again whether in stickers or posters. I used to campus map's markers for all gender bathrooms to see how many were available for students and found that there are only 8 bathrooms easily accessible to students in 4 buildings across all of campus. I've put out a survey to get members of the community's thoughts and to see how many of these they themselves are aware of, and at the time of submitting this I have received 15 responses.

Transitioning at Curtin guide: Sheldon Smith and his team have invited myself and two members of the Queer Collective to help them update and re-write the transitioning at Curtin guide. It was agreed that while some parts of the current guide are useful and still relevant the majority isn't and therefore, we will be building off of what is already there, and re-writing/adding sections as required in order to make it better suited for both staff and students.

## **OTHER**

Collective: While not all 48 members of the collective are engaged there is a decent amount of them who are and who regularly are in contact and helping me with not only events but also in terms of helping with ideas and volunteering to be a part of other projects (We All Need to Pee, Deadnaming, Transitioning Guide, Curtin Ally).

Chillout Event: 21 people turned up in total throughout the day. Overall, it went well, and we had a few people ask when the next one was going to be. Lots of people had the snacks provided and others brought their own food and just came down to relax. Admittedly, the power going out across campus probably helped as there was a few people who came down since they couldn't do their work without the power.

IDAHOBIT Pop-up Stall: For a somewhat last-minute event it went really well. A lot of people came by and added to our whiteboard with affirmations for the LGBTQIA+ community. There was also a lot of interest for the poster we had from the Queer Department from 1979 as well as for the freebies we had (skittles and stickers).

***IMARI MORRIS (They/She/He)***  
***QUEER OFFICER***

## David Higher Education Report May 2023

### Uni Sydney offer to staff sets a national standard

**Uni Sydney observers suggest important aspects of the offer include,**

\* **an 18.2 per cent payrise** (including a June'22 increase) through to June 26. Plus a \$2000 signing bonus

\* "all reasonable steps" by management to **reduce the casual academic workforce by 20 per cent** and three-year fixed term roles for PhD students – instead of rolling casual contracts.

\* **40 per cent teaching, 40 per cent research and 20 per cent service stays** the default academic work basis for staff who are not education-focused. This would be a **major win for the National Tertiary Education Union**

\* cap of 25 per cent for **education focused roles** among continuing staff

\* **new/improved leave provisions to suit life-circumstances**

\* **improved working from home** "flexibility for professional staff

\* "right to disconnect from work away from work"

**what happens next:** is a vote by **union members on Tuesday** and if they approve the proposal goes to an all staff vote.

If the first does not happen management could take the offer to all staff without union endorsement however Uni Sydney has long held it will not do this.

### **For NSW unis China is the market that still matters**

According to the NSW Auditor General, in 2021 China was the biggest source of international students for seven of the state's ten public universities and it accounted for **80 per cent of export ed revenue** at market leaders, the **universities of NSW and Sydney**.

"This creates not only a concentration risk for each university, but for the NSW university sector as a whole," the **NSWAG warned** (CMM June 28 2022).

The risk continued last year, in part because Covid caught Chinese students at home, where they stayed studying with Aus providers and in 2022 **seven out of the ten public universities**, recorded China "as the leading source of overseas student revenues."

### **The new course that guarantees a place at university - without needing to sit ATAR exams. WA Today**

UniPrep is run at schools in lower socio-economic areas and regional and remote regions of WA, and runs alongside a typical school year. It is an alternative program run through ECU, aimed at bridging the gap between students with lower educational advantage and university.

Students who pass the UniPrep units receive guaranteed entry into university courses which usually require an ATAR of 70 or higher.

Students can also take UniPrep at the end of year 12, as a bridging course before attending university.

ECU has been running the alternative ATAR pathway for three years and now has 30 partner schools taking part, up from just six in 2020, when UniPrep launched.

### **Push to make university course material free. ABC News**

Richard Heller wants course material to be made free for all as part of the federal government's bid to overhaul higher education.

### **Government open to changes on how indexation applies to HECS-HELP debt. ABC News**

Federal Education Minister Jason Clare has left the door open for changes to how HECS-HELP debts are paid back, including how indexation is applied to the original debt.

#### **Key points:**

- The education minister says he is open to changing how HECS debts are indexed
- Indexation of 7.1 per cent has added \$1,775 to the average \$25,000 HECS-HELP debt
- Under the current rules, indexation is applied to the original debt and not the current balance

More than 3 million Australians saw their student debt rise with inflation on Thursday as an indexation of 7.1 per cent was applied to the debts.

It is the highest indexation in more than three decades, with average \$25,000 HECS-HELP debts rising by \$1,775.

The increase has caused [major concerns that the increase could have a lifelong impact](#) on the borrowing capacity of those affected and their ability to enter the housing market.

Under the current rules, indexation is applied to the original debt and not the current balance.

Mr Clare said changing indexation to have it apply to the original debt should be considered for reform and he has ordered that it be part of a wider review into higher education.

"If you've got a debt of \$20,000, you pay off about \$2,000 over the course of the next 11 months, then the ATO index is based on the original \$20,000 not the \$18,000 — that strikes me as not right," he said.

It comes ahead of an interim report to be handed down next month — which will include immediate recommendations — and a final report at the end of the year.

Independent MP Kylea Tink said a review of Australia's student loan scheme was urgently needed.

"The interest is added to their loan before any payments they made in the previous year are deducted — how can this be fair? To me, it makes no sense," she said.

"Inter-generational equity is one of the biggest challenges of our time: in the tax system, on climate change and on a forward-focused economy.

"The existing scheme also perpetuates gender inequity, with women holding 60 per cent of HELP debts and 58 per cent of the total \$74.3 billion debt pool."

In April, a Senate committee rejected a private member's bill proposed by the federal Greens — and backed by the National Union of Students — to halt indexation on student loans, freezing \$74 billion in debt.

It also pushed to raise the minimum repayment threshold for student loans — which currently is at \$48,361 — and tie it to the median wage.



While members of Labor and the Coalition rejected the proposal, the committee agreed for student debt to be reviewed at the upcoming Universities Accord.

The Greens argue the federal government has left millions of Australians worse off by not stopping the significant indexation increase.

The education minister said the Greens' proposal would cost the taxpayer \$9 billion.

"I don't want people thinking that universities are not worth it," Mr Clare said.

"It has real value — the average income of someone with a university degree is about \$100,000. The average income of somebody whose last year of education was year 12 is \$70,000 — that's a \$30,000 difference every single year."

"There's absolutely no doubt that the government can afford to make university and TAFE free and wipe student debt, and they can start with abolishing indexation."

"It's just a matter of priorities and, unfortunately, Labor is prioritising hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts for the wealthy and dangerous war machines over public education."

### **Student debt indexation to have lifelong impacts on Australians' borrowing capacity**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-31/hecs-student-debt-indexation-borrowing-capacity-futurity-study/102409826>

#### **Key points:**

- The average \$25,000 HECS-HELP debt will rise by \$1,775 because of indexation
- There is more than \$74.3 billion in outstanding HECS-HELP debt
- Debts affect the ability of more than 3 million Australians to secure other loans such as mortgages

More than 3 million Australians will see their student debt rise in line with inflation tomorrow, adding more than \$1,000 to the average loan and sparking warnings of a lifelong impact on borrowing capacity.

Indexation of 7.1 per cent — the highest in more than three decades — will be [applied to more than \\$74 billion in outstanding HECS-HELP and vocational education loans](#).

For the past decade, indexation averaged 2 per cent per year.

Lending institutions consider HECS-HELP debt in the same way as other personal loans and credit cards when evaluating a client's ability to service a loan, and it features in debt-to-income ratio calculations.

Independent education-focused financial institution Futurity Investment Group has analysed HECS-HELP debt levels and outcomes, most recently through a survey of 1,000 current or past university students.

It has found the average time to repay a debt is nearing a decade.

Group executive Kate Hill said rising student debt, coupled with the increasing cost of living, had made it increasingly difficult for university-educated Australians to become homeowners and realise other goals.

"Buying a first car, buying a home, starting a business — those sort of financial decisions that more often than not require borrowing for young people — just won't be available because of the level of debt they will have sitting there because of their education," Ms Hill said.

"There are a whole lot of issues converging that mean, we believe, we'll see a very limited ability for many people to be able to access borrowing as and when they'd like."

Ms Hill said the high rate of indexation would have an ongoing impact on graduates' life decisions.

"Many graduates and current students view HECS debt as cheap, interest-free loans, however, with these indexation levels, it's a view that's clearly flawed in this new reality," she said.

"There will be long-lasting financial and social implications, and it impacts things like their ability to achieve those key life goals like getting married, starting a business, starting a family.

"University-educated females have more HECS debt and earn less than their male contemporaries, and when we think about indexation for a cohort finding it more difficult to pay down larger amounts of that debt, you can see that gap will continue to widen."

Ms Hill's study found 59 per cent of respondents reported student debt had impacted their ability to buy a home, with 51 per cent still repaying debt in their 40s.

Of the 3 million Australians with HECS-HELP debt, 60 per cent are female and they hold 58 per cent of the total debt.

*Other stories*

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-04-15/hecs-help-debt-financial-advice-indexation-student-loan/102218826>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-31/fears-of-long-lasting-impact-as-student-debts-set-to-rise/102413988>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-24/university-graduates-brace-for-a-sudden-hike-in-student-debt/102387082>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/jun/01/falling-behind-australian-graduates-fear-for-their-future-as-record-high-student-loan-indexation-kicks-in>

<https://atn.edu.au/news-and-events/latest-news/atn-op-ed-help-for-university-students/>

### **International students and researchers concerned tools to detect AI-generated text may be inaccurate**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-02/international-students-say-ai-detectors-are-inaccurate/102394894>

The rapid advent of generative AI programs such as ChatGPT, which are able to produce material such as university essays that some students have been able to pass off as their own work, has universities scrambling to respond.

Some have started using the tools that detect AI-generated text as one way to pick up assignments possibly written by machines.

But AI experts say the technology can be inaccurate, and some argue the detectors should not yet be used to monitor student assessments.

As universities started using it for the first time, a study from Stanford University in California urged caution, after it found programs to detect text generated by AI could be biased against "non-native English writers".

The researchers put 91 essays written in English by Chinese students, and 88 English essays by US students, through seven different publicly available detectors.

The tools found 61 per cent of Chinese students' essays were AI generated, but showed "near-perfect accuracy" for the US students' essays, meaning their work was not flagged.

Report co-author James Zou, an assistant professor of biomedical data science at Stanford University, said he would not trust AI detectors right now because the research showed they could be easily fooled and made too many mistakes.

Professor Zou said many of the current AI detection algorithms had an over-reliance on a "perplexity" metric, a measure of complicated words being used in the text.

"If there are a lot of complicated words, then they'll have high perplexity," he said.

Non-native speakers' writing was often misclassified as AI generated, Professor Zou said, because they did not use as many "fancy" words.

### **Australian universities accused of 'entrenched non-compliance' with workplace law over staff underpayment. The Guardian**

The university sector is facing growing calls from parliament to crack down on institutions underpaying staff after being accused of "entrenched non-compliance" by the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO).

In a submission to the Australian Universities accord panel, the largest review into the sector in more than a decade, the deputy ombudsman, Rachel Volzke, said institutions had created a culture where underpayments were rarely raised.

Institutions were continuing to breach workplace laws and lacked systems to identify risks, Volzke said.

The panel, chaired by Prof Mary O'Kane AC, is due to hand down its interim report later this month, with a final report to be released at the end of the year.

Volzke said universities needed to introduce payment structures where "non-compliance is not indirectly incentivised" and that underpayment reviews had revealed a "pattern of repeated and often entrenched non-compliance," particularly affecting casual staff.

The Labor senator Tony Sheldon took the university sector to task during Senate estimates on Friday, calling the wage increases of vice-chancellors "outrageous and disgusting".

He told Guardian Australia Labor had inherited a "[governance crisis](#)" in universities.

"Between exorbitant vice-chancellor salaries, widespread casualisation and rampant wage theft ... it's essential that the accord addresses the [structural rot](#) that was left to fester in universities' governance processes," he said.

Since 2020, the ombudsman has reached out to 27 of Australia's 47 universities, urging them to ensure compliance with workplace laws.

It has open investigations with several universities and has commenced two separate court proceedings against the University of Melbourne.

It has also entered into enforceable undertakings with Charles Sturt University and University of Newcastle.

### **Curtin University: Risks of uni merger outweigh advantages. West Australian**

WA's biggest university has warned the risks of merging the State's public universities far outweigh any advantages.

Curtin University said it was “very concerned” that a merger would create significant disruptions to the institution, the university sector and the State in its submission to a State Government review.

The review panel has been tasked with examining options for structural change for WA’s four public universities — Curtin, the University of WA, Edith Cowan and Murdoch University — in light of declining research grants, slowing enrolments and low numbers of international students.

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But Curtin noted it contributed significantly to the State’s critical workforce, graduating the largest number of health professionals across the widest range of health disciplines, and ranked second in the world for mineral and mining engineering.

“Curtin is not a university in crisis,” the submission said. “We are very concerned that a merger would create a significant opportunity cost to Curtin, the sector and the State.

“The financial cost, the time and the distraction of a merger would disadvantage WA for decades to come.”

It suggested any funding earmarked for a merger could be put to better use strengthening collaboration across the sector, with industry and the State Government.

“We can see no advantage — and indeed many risks — in structural change,” it said. “In general, we are of the view that any forced merger of WA’s public universities would in fact significantly decrease and impede their individual and combined performance and sustainability.”

Murdoch University, which is WA’s smallest institution, argued that structural change would not solve problems in the sector.

“There is no compelling evidence to suggest that any structural change in the framework is likely to deliver improved performance or sustainability,” its submission said. “There is also no evidence to suggest that WA public universities are not sustainable.”

The West last week revealed ECU was also staunchly opposed, arguing that WA should set up a task force to look at ways to increase the number of kids taking harder high school subjects to Year 12 instead of focusing on university mergers.

However, UWA’s submission declared it would “remain open” to any structural change that would strengthen the sector to better serve the State’s needs.

It said “efficiencies of scale” could be achieved through different structural models, including federation or merging some or all operations, to reduce competition for infrastructure funding and duplication of equipment.

“A structure which retains stability, identity and job security would reduce the risk of WA losing key expertise and knowledge,” it said.

“A federated or consortium model in which institutions retained a high degree of autonomy over the research and education vision and priorities while benefiting from shared

infrastructure and resources would have the most positive impact on culture and staff morale.”

### **Most WA universities reject the merger option in state government review. The Australian. The West Australian**

The West Australian government faces strong resistance to mergers from most of the state’s public universities, signalling a major battle ahead if a review now under way recommends joining one or more institutions.

Murdoch University vice-chancellor Andrew Deeks said his institution questioned whether a merger of any of the state’s universities would solve the problems that the review, led by former James Cook University vice-chancellor Sandra Harding, was examining.

The McGowan government announced the review in February, pointing to lagging performance by the state’s universities including lower growth in domestic students than other states, a poor record in attracting international students and a decline in the share of national research grants going to WA universities.

The government asked the review to consider options for structural change, including mergers, for the state’s four public higher education institutions: the University of Western Australia, Curtin University, Edith Cowan University and Murdoch.

In its submission to the review, Murdoch University says: “While there are opportunities to improve the performance and sustainability of the WA public university sector, we are not aware of any evidence that structural change involving mergers would achieve this goal.”

Other universities have not released their review submissions but it is understood that Curtin University and Edith Cowan Universities are also firmly opposed to mergers. Only UWA is open to the possibility.

Murdoch University told the review that ongoing discussion about mergers “is unhelpful to the sector and works against our efforts to increase performance”. The university argues in its submission that structural changes are not the solution to the challenges facing universities in WA.

“There is no evidence that any of (the) structural changes under consideration would grow the aggregated WA university revenue or reduce the administrative cost base,” Murdoch University says in its submission.

Murdoch is often seen as the most likely to be involved in any merger because it is the smallest of WA’s public universities and has performed less well financially than the others. But Professor Deeks said Murdoch University was on a sustainable path of improvement. “Instead of saying structural change is the solution, let’s look at the issues and see what’s the most effective solution,” he told The Australian.

## [Review of the Australian Research Council Act 2001](#)

An independent review into the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* (ARC Review) considered the role and purpose of the Australian Research Council (ARC) within the university research system so it can meet current and future needs.

*Final Report*

[Trusting Australia's Ability: Review of the Australian Research Council Act 2001](#)

<https://campusmorningmail.com.au/news/the-arc-review-team-on-new-ways-to-evaluate-research/>

## **Call for paid Student Placements . Campus Morning Mail**

[Paying for student placements.](#)

*Unions NSW has recommended that paying teaching and nursing students national base pay would attract more students, reduce burnout and boost retention.*

However, the Fair Work Ombudsman advises, “placements that meet the definition of a vocational placement under the FW Act are lawfully unpaid.”

But surely there are ways to fix this – as in Canada, where the University of Waterloo organises paid placements for students.

### **Paid Placements example**

[Work placements: paying people is the fair thing to do.](#) Claire Field. Campus Morning Mail

In Canada at the University of Waterloo's [co-op programme](#), students undertake four-six paid work placements of four months each during their degree. Students typically earn between Can\$8400 and \$19 800 per work term. Unsurprisingly 75 per cent of undergraduate students cite the university's co-op programme as the key reason for choosing to study there.

<https://clairefield.com.au/news/>

## **Group of Eight submission to Measuring What Matters Statement – second consultation process**

<https://go8.edu.au/group-of-eight-submission-to-measuring-what-matters-second-phase-consultation>

The Measuring What Matters Statement will be Australia's first national framework on wellbeing and will evolve over time.

Traditional economic indicators provide important insights, but not a complete picture or holistic view of the community's wellbeing. The Statement will seek to assess progress on a broad range of social and environmental indicators alongside traditional economic measures.