



Guild President 2023 January Report

Dylan Botica

President's Representation Board Report

Covering Dates: 01/12/2022 – 12/01/2023
Submitted to: January Representation Board

Leave: 09/01/23 – 20/01/23*

NUS NatCon (Reduced Hours)

*Salwa Kilzi's Hours were increased by one day per week to accommodate for two Executive Officers leave.

1. University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
05/12/2022	COO Meeting	Promoting measures to reduce smoking/vaping on campus.
06/12/2022	VC Monthly Meeting	
07/12/2022	Health Sciences PVC Office	Meeting to reduce impacts on students due to 408 closure.

2. Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
01/12/2022	Representation Board	First Meeting
01/12/2022	Guild Council	First Meeting
01/12/2022	Executive Committee	First Meeting
05/12/2022	President x MD	
07/12/2022	Higher Education	
19/12/2022	President x MD	
21/12/2022	Higher Education	

21/12/2022	Executive Committee	
04/01/2023	Higher Education	
05/01/2023	Ashok Meeting	
05/01/2023	Executive Committee	
06/01/2023	President x MD	

3. Other Meetings/Activities

Date	Meeting	Comments
12/12/2022; 13/12/2022; 14/12/2022; 15/12/2022	NUS National Conference	Refer to attached agenda items for specific report.

4. Items of Significance

4.1. Induction and Handover

Due to changes to the Secretary portfolio last year, I was responsible for booking and arranging a large proportion of handover and induction activities. This included a full handover day with training and a dinner provided. I also arranged for handover reports to be provided to incoming representatives.

Following the new term further induction and handover responsibilities were given to the Secretary.

4.2. National Conference NUS

This was a major part of this report and a significant amount of lead up work. Please refer to additional attached report.

4.3. eVALUate Replacement

We have been working with students to replace eVALUate with something (hopefully) better. The name is likely to be chosen by students via a competition. The metrics of assessment have been set by both teachers and students via survey and focus groups.

This is a hopeful improvement and key election priority developed in codesign with students.

4.4. SLIIT Student Guild

Work from last year on establishing a Curtin Colombo student guild is in its final stages. The Student Guild is looking to launch within the next year. The constitution will progress through Council for approval.

4.5. Residential Tenancy Acts

I have written to the Minister responsible lobbying for a change to the Residential Tenancy Act to protect student residents from the many problems caused by shoddy providers like UniLodge and the complete wiping hands of any responsibility by the University.

I have been working with Make Renting Fair to include these in their demands for immediate reform.

4.6. Other Matters

Deeds for lease extensions have been signed for our outlets.

The Guild made a substantial submission to the University Accord. Thank you to Maryanne, Mitch and Veronika for significant contribution.

A Curtin Common concept has been submitted to the University that was presented to Council. I have meeting scheduled with the Chief Operating Officer to discuss.

University Committee appointments have been made largely unremarkable from previous appointments.

Delegated matters – Appointments of ISC / PSC until elections, termination of an ECA employee and waiving notice period for resignation of officer.

5. Travel

December 8th – 19th – NUS National Conference

January 11th – Curtin Singapore

Vice President – Education

Representation Board Report – 19/01/2023

Veronika Gobba – She/Her

Meetings

Date	Meetings	Comments
6/12/22	VPE x VPA planning + strategy	Salwa and I have gotten into a routine of having a check-in most mornings when we get into the office, the teamwork vibe is strong.
7/12/22	Higher Education (Guild)	
8/12/22 – 16/12/22	On Leave (NUS National Conference)	Still recovering from this
20/12/22	Student Assist Video series planning	
21/12/22	Higher Ed	
	Executive Committee Meeting	
4/1/23	Higher Ed	
	FBL Rep intro meeting	Wow what a star rep
	HUM Rep intro meeting	Humanities is in safe hands
5/1/23	Exec Meeting	
6/1/22	Queer Officer intro meeting	Impressive rep who is going places (FIFO, but also better places)
	Newly appointed Women's Officer intro meeting	This one will do great things
9/1/23	PSC Pres intro meeting	Always a star
	ASPM: Student feedback w/ FBL Rep & Jo-Ann	
10/1/23	Health Sci Rep intro meeting	Ambitious and driven, wowaweewee
11/1/23	Higher ed	
	VPE x VPA x Student as Partners intro meeting (university)	

Projects

Accords Submission

On the 19th of December we sent our submission to the Australian Universities Accord, our main recommendations were:

- Course fees fully funded by Government

- Cap Vice Chancellor Salaries and enforce greater transparency by having them set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal
- Change SSAF funding model with Federal Legislation guaranteeing recognised student unions 100% of SSAF funding
- Incentivize international students who wish to migrate to Australia by offering Commonwealth supported places in disciplines where there is a long-term skills need
- Introduce paid placements for all courses
- Age of Independence lowered to 18 years
- Age of Independence lowered to 18 years
- Introduce a Duty of Care Code of Practice
- Abolish the low completion rate requirements of JRP
- Abolish the JRG student contribution fee bands 1-4 for domestic students
- Increasing the repayment threshold for HECS repayment

We will also be putting in a submission soon for the Abolishing Indexation and Raising the Minimum Repayment Income for Education and Training Loans Bill 2022.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_and_Employment/AbolishingIndexation

Student Assist Video Series

I met with the digital engagement officer and manager of student assist along with Jasmyne to come up with some ideas for a student assist video series as well as some life hack videos that Guild can release. Shooting has not started yet so if there are any reps interested in getting involved with this let me know.

Final Comments

I am very impressed with the faculty and equity reps so far, they are all settling into their roles and have lots of fun and ambitious ideas. I truly think we have a fantastic team this year.

I would also like to note something that came up in a higher education meeting: at Wollongong University, the VC has taken a stance on January 26, identifying it as invasion day and explicitly giving the staff an option to work on the January 26 holiday. It is encouraging to see this change starting to happen at a university level and I hope Curtin University can echo this change as well.

BUSINESS & LAW - Representative Board Report #1

For the Representation Board held on Thursday the 19th of January, 2023.

Summary Of Meetings:

Meeting	Date	Type of Meeting	Comments
Handover Meeting	18/11/2022	Guild	Receive the handover from Jasmyne Tweed, attend the last FCC. Activation of the courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • XINO3011 • XINO3012 • XINO3014 • XINO5026 • XINO5028 Deactivation of courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • XINO4000 • XINO4001
Handover Dinner	1/12/2022	Guild	Good food, free booze.
SDP Meeting	9/12/2022	Committee	Consider cases of academic misconduct pertinent to FBL. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active cases: 16.
HoS Meeting	9/12/2022	University	Meeting with Therese Jefferson, discussion of challenges facing students in the school of Accounting, Economics and Finance. Such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of 408 • Reduction of study space north of Camus • Lack of student engagement • Reduced attendance • Final Assessment feedback
Curtin Marketing Meeting	12/12/22	University	Discussion with a representative from Curtin Marketing as to how best to layout the Faculty of Business & Law webpage. Concerning business streams predominantly, options, electives and explanation of course structure and streams under the Faculty.

SDP Meeting	16/12/2022	Committee	Consider cases of Academic Misconduct pertinent to FBL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active cases: 16.
Social Media Photography session	21/12/2022	Guild	Meeting with Ben Adams to take an updated photo to post on the faculty social media pages to introduce myself.
VPE Meeting	4/1/2023	Guild	Meeting with Veronika Gobba (VPE) to discuss KPIs and goals for the upcoming year from the perspective of FBL.
WIB Meeting	4/1/2023	Clubs	Discussion for coordination between the Guild and WIB on common interests, in addition to the proposal of a roundtable of FBL club and society execs. A proposal which will hopefully be implemented once all FBL clubs are receptive and operative following the Christmas break.
Meeting x VPA	9/01/23	Guild	Orientation plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trivia potentially Golf prizes/giveaway
Student Assist meeting x VPE	9/01/23	Guild	Discussion for potential changes to regulations regarding the provision of feedback on assessments for students. ASPM 2.13.

Final Notes:

- The past month has broadly consisted of introductory meetings both to other Guild Reps. and to various staff members at the University. The start of my term has been manageable with limited urgent tasks requiring attention, this has meant that my predominant tasks that I have been left to do are introductory meetings, responding to Emails and formulating my KPIs and personal agenda for 2023. I have been active in reaching out to both staff and clubs, sending an introductory email to the important staff as outlined in the handover report.
- The predominant tasks in the near future is to plan for O-day with Guild staff
- Liaise with curtin staff members and introduce myself to the remaining staff of which meetings have been established.

TLDR:

Standard business, no serious points of progress on the agenda, finalising KPIs and introductory meetings with both University staff and Guild staff/ reps.

As it currently stands there have not been any engagements with student enquiries, my assumption is that when students return to campus this will start.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

REPRESENTATION BOARD MEETING #2 – 19/01/2022

Submitted – 11/01/2023

University Meetings

Oct 20	Equity and Diversity Committee	Attended my first meeting and introduced myself to all the attendees
Nov 2	Learning and Teaching Council	Attended for the first time and introduced myself to the members
Dec 5	Meeting with Dean, Learning & Teaching	A one-on-one meeting to become acquainted with one another.
Dec 08	Student Discipline Panel	Learned how the panel works and handled my first batch of cases.

Guild Meetings

Nov 30	SAE handover	Met with Rachel Taylor who walked me through the basics of my position and gave me some handover notes.
Dec 01	Representation Board	

Other Notes

I will be attending another Student Discipline Panel (Jan 12th) between the submission of this report and the next meeting of the representation board.

I have reached out to all the Science and Engineering clubs as an introduction, as I plan to help increase student engagement with club activities throughout the year.

There have been three queries by students that I have received and assisted with.

Faculty of Health Sciences Report
Hiba Alsoeady (she/her)
Representation Board – January 2022

Guild and University meetings, progress and planning

December	Most of the month consisted of me familiarising myself with internal and external procedures. As well as navigating current resources and thoroughly planning in depth for 2023. I also assisted with a few student enquiries.	
0/6/22	Faculty Courses Committee	Cancelled – Apologies received – It was cancelled as there was no urgent business to discuss – next meeting will be on 14/2/23.
12/12-16/12	Attended NUS as an observer	It was such a surreal experience! I Learned so much just by observing.
Christmas & New Year Holiday Period Observed holiday break.		
January	This month carried on with similar tasks from December 2022. Additionally, the first two weeks of January also included me interacting with a few students on various facebook pages, in addition to attending the GUILD and socialising with other Faculty Staff and Exec.	
06/01	Began the process of organising regular meetings with	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veronika 2. Salwa 3. PSC & Counterparts 4. ISC & Counterparts 5. Heads of School
10/01	Events planning with Salwa & introductory meeting with Veronika	<p>Spoke about possibility of organising the following events in 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular Health Science Representative Pop-Up Stalls - Mini social media campaign of such targeting a different school per campaign. - A outdoor crossfit session with a post meet and greet - Meet a representative from your union/guild session

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosting a first aid session - Meet, Greet and Eat at sculpture garden with Business and Law Faculty Rep
	Set-up guild working place	
11/01	Health Science Student Discipline Panel	Attended my first Student Discipline Panel.
	Health Sciences Report Due	
15/01	NUS Report Due	
19/01	Representation Board Meeting	

HUMANITIES FACULTY REPORT – January

Jude Soussan

DATE	WHAT	NOTES
06/12/2022	Completed induction tasks	
02/01/2023	Completed training modules	
04/01/2023	Meeting with VPE	Discussed KPIs, reports and events. Some guidance on my goals and how realistic they should be.
06/01/2023	Confirmed my Grill the Guild's date	20 th March – I am going to make sure to have allergy-friendly options such as gluten-free etc.
09/01/2023	Filled out nomination form to be on the faculty's student discipline panel	Cases are being heard at 11am every Fridays and I will be alternating with another student member each week
10/01/2023	Meeting with VPA	Discussed activities for O-Day and events for the faculty. Thinking of doing a dart board activity linked to getting snacks as a reward and for an event, potentially having an outdoor cinema night on campus.
11/01/2023	Potential allergy-friendly food video showcasing guild café food options	Emailed Ben to discuss working together to create this video. I think it is important to have a guide for newcomers and older students who struggle to find options on campus. I remember struggling when I first got here as a gluten intolerant person.



PSC President's Report

SUBMISSION DATE: 10/01/2022

FOR MEETING DATE: 19/01/2022

NAME: Mitch Craig

POSITION: PSC President

GUILD MEETINGS/EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Comments
09/01/2023	Fortnightly Catchup w/ Veronika	Updated on current PSC happenings, planning etc
10/01/2023	Catchup w/ Andrew from Student Assist	Spoke about PSC and 2023 priorities, general advice etc

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Comments
09/01/2023	HDR Chill Zone – Library Staff + ADVCR	Saw Library floorplans, discussed utilisation of lib spaces for postgrads. L5 for VC list + postgrads. L7 has event space and “pop-up” space. 105” screen L3 entry (near koi pond) + exhibition space. Possibility to trial a temporary HDR space on L7 in sem2, data on uptake, feedback useful for case for a permanent space.

PROJECTS/General

- Secured an Increase to the Base HDR Stipend at Curtin (starting February), Federal amount \$29,863, Curtin amount \$32,250. This moves the rate above the Henderson Poverty Line and represents a \$3,396(11.77%) increase compared to 2022.
- Have filled some of the PSC roles temporarily, looking for more (FBL, Sci-Eng, Secretary, 3xCouncillors).
- Done intro things and got my website section updated.
- I can't wait for library to return, it looks great.
- Working on Academic Calendar

tl;dr

Not many meetings because it's January. Secured huge stipend increase for Curtin HDRs. Library looks awesome, can't wait. Got 6 PSC members, looking for more.

Bring on 2023!

QUEER OFFICER'S Report
Representation Board Meeting #/2023 – 19.01.23
12.01.2023



GUILD MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Notes
06.01.23	VP-E Catch-up	Catch up and
06.01.23	VP-A Catch-up	O-Day planning and catch up
06.01.23	Current Project check in with President	Check-in on ongoing projects progress and next steps

This month my main focus was getting everything set up and logged in, familiarising myself with everything and planning for O-Day. On top of that I have mainly been working on where the ongoing projects are currently at, and what the next steps are.

IMARI MORRIS (They/She/He)
QUEER OFFICER

**Women's Officer Report – Representation Board
19/01/2023**

Date	Type	Comments
06/01/23	Start Date	Officially appointed as Women's Officer
06/01/23	Meeting	Handover with Salwa, VPA
06/01/23	Meeting	Meeting with VPE regarding Guild protocols
11/01/23	General	Worked on Facebook and Instagram Posts.
11/01/23	General	Worked on focus points and about for website.

Upcoming

- Facebook and Instagram Introductory Posts will be posted by the end of this week.
- Focus points and about for the website will be completed by the end of the current week.
- I've been looking up charities that I can support as part of my project.
- I have been working on my KPI's as well.
- Planning Guild O stall

TL; DR

Mainly focusing on introductory duties, starting to plan charities for project and Guild O Stall.

Aleena Shaji

Women's Officer 2023

Submitted 12/01/2023

Accessibility Department

Representation Board Report: January 2023



University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
21/11	Lab Accessibility Working Group (LAWG)	
23/11	LAWG B311 Tour	Tour of the superlab space in B311
30/11	DAIP Launch Event	See below
05/12	UDWG	
12/12	Neurodiversity CoP	See below
05/01	AccessAbility Services Meeting	See below

Guild/Student Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
01/12	Induction Day	
21/12	Student Meeting	
13/01	VP-A/VP-E/AO Meeting	

Additional Information

DAIP Launch Event

At long last, the DAIP was launched on the final day of the 2022 term. I had the privilege to speak about the importance of Accessible Education and Disability Inclusion alongside Samantha Jenkinson, Director Workforce Quality for the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, and Sunyal Maroo, Curtin DTS employee and co-chair of the Abilities Collective @ Curtin. I hope that together the other speakers and I were able to inspire the Uni executive to actually take the DAIP seriously (allegedly the DVC-A was horrified by my experience of Lab accessibility).

Neurodiversity CoP

This is a group of staff, academics, and NeuroDivergent people all working together to solve issues and improve conditions for NeuroDivergent people working and studying in tertiary education. This particular session was the first I have been able to attend, and primarily served as an opportunity for the NeuroDiversity CoP to be introduced to the LAWG.

AccessAbility Services Meeting

I met with new AAS Manager, Debbie Teh, to discuss what's been going on in the AAS space since she took over in November 2022. Main points are below:

- All CAPs have now been migrated to a newer management system due to the old system contract expiring late last year. Current CAPs are still valid until the expiry date that is noted

[Document title]

on the CAP document. The format of the new CAPs is slightly different but so far doesn't seem to be causing any confusion amongst staff.

- As of November 2022 there is now an automatic distribution system for CAPs. This means that 1 week prior to the study period commencing, participating student's CAPs will be automatically sent to the relevant Unit Coordinators via official communications. There is currently no opt-out capability once a student has opted to sign an online declaration after receiving their CAP. If a student does not want their CAP to be automatically distributed, they can just refuse to sign the online declaration. I have been told that an opt-out feature is in development currently.
- Despite the going live of the automatic distribution system, it is advised that students continue to manually send their CAPs to UCs at the beginning of each study period for the entirety of 2023. This is due to the automated system having incomplete or incorrect UC contact information, leading to a significant portion of CAPs not being successfully sent to UCs. This is also being worked on.
- There are some concerns from AAS and myself about how CAPs are able to be accessed by UCs. Basically all student CAP accommodations are able to be viewed by any teaching staff member, regardless of if that staff member has any interaction with a specific student. While Curtin Legal maintains that this does not breach privacy laws, AAS and I believe that this completely defeats the purpose of students wishing to opt-out of automatic distribution, as well as placing vulnerable students at risk. We are pushing for this to be fixed as soon as possible.
 - It is important to note that specific student diagnoses are not able to be viewed via the staff portal, so technically no sensitive health information is being released. However I maintain that even the fact that a student has a CAP is sensitive information that should not be given out without the consent of the student, and should be treated as 'need-to-know' information.
- We discussed the possibility of speaking to properties about conducting general and lab-specific accessibility audits, as well as asking properties to nominate locations on campus where students and staff who are prescribed medication delivered via inhalant dosage forms can take their prescribed medication on campus. I intend to meet with properties before semester begins to start these projects.

Other Stuff Happening

- There has been an ongoing issue with items from the Accessibility Department Equity Room going missing. So far items taken have been;
 - Ursie, the Accessibility Department Mascot – Found in the Cabin almost 2 weeks after going missing
 - Ursie's Shirt – At least 3 times, leading to my having to sew the current one onto him
 - Beanbags – There were initially 3 of them, but only one has been recovered
 - Weighted blanket – Was found in the Cabin a week after going missing
 - Ordinary blanket – Was lost and found with the weighted blanket

Many of these items have been purchased for the AD with my own funds that I have not been, and will not be, reimbursed for. Users of the AD space enjoy using these items for self-regulating while on campus, and absolutely notice when they go missing. When they do go missing, I receive messages from worried students about the items, and it is extremely frustrating that I must come in and waste my time and energy searching for them.

If you enjoy these items, you can enjoy them in the AD space. **Do not remove items from**

the AD space without the permission of the Accessibility Officer.

- I have been asked to speak at Professional Development sessions for teaching staff in the School of Education to encourage and advocate for inclusive teaching methods. More info to come later.

Ongoing Projects

- Students/Staff with Disability Procedures Review
 - CAP De-Medicalisation
- Student Wellbeing Advisory Board
- ACROD Parking Review
- Chemistry Laboratory Accessibility
 - B316 Consultation
- CSMP/CSG Stability
- DIBC

Events

O-Day: 22nd February 2023

TL;DR – The DAIP is done! I have joined the NeuroDiversity CoP. My first meeting with AccessAbility Services for the year was very comprehensive. Items have been going missing from the AD space - **Do not remove items from the AD space without the permission of the Accessibility Officer.**

Glossary:

- **AAS:** AccessAbility Services – the university body that organises and coordinates CAPs
- **ADCET:** Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training. ADCET's mission is to contribute to the improvement of the educational experiences and to the successful outcomes for students with disability in post-secondary education.
- **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.
- **CCs:** Closed Captions
- **CoP:** Community of Practice
- **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.
- **DAIP:** Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. The University plan regarding disability, equity, and accessibility improvements to the Uni. This is sent to the Department of Communities as a legal

[Document title]

requirement as an educational institution that receives public funding. It is renewed every 3 years, but the 2020 review was delayed due to COVID.

- **DIBC:** Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Committee
- **DVC-A:** Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic.
- **DTS:** Curtin University Digital and Technology Solutions.
- **ISU:** Integrity and Standards Unit – the body concerned with Academic Integrity at Curtin.
- **LAWG:** Laboratory Accessibility Working Group
- **LITEC:** Learning Innovation and Teaching Excellence Centre. The University body that oversees teaching and provides ongoing education for teaching staff. Is also involved in digital modules for students (eg; respectful relationships, Curtin challenge)
- **NSSS:** National Student Safety Survey. An annual survey conducted by the Social Research Centre in collaboration with Universities Australia. Aims to discover SASH rates at universities across the country.
- **NUS:** National Union of Students
- **RNA SteerCo:** Respect Now Always Steering Committee. The University committee tasked with reducing the incidence of sexual assault and sexual harassment at Curtin (including via digital means).
- **SASH:** Sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- **SARN:** Student Accessibility Representative Network. Currently involves Accessibility reps from Curtin, UWA, Murdoch, and ECU.
- **SCT:** Safer Communities Team. Curtins' security and support team.
- **SoE:** School of Education
- **TOIL:** Time Off In Lieu. Overtime hours logged earlier in the year that are being progressively used as-required.
- **UDWG:** Universal Design Working Group. The University committee tasked with improving disability access across Curtin.
- **VP-E:** Vice President – Education

Higher education January 2023

Representation Board

University of Wollongong gives staff option to work on Australia Day

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-01-09/university-of-wollongong-gives-staff-option-work-australia-day/101837094>

The University of Wollongong (UOW) has joined a growing number of Australian organisations giving employees the option to work on Australia Day.

Key points:

- The University of Wollongong has announced it is giving staff the option of working on the Australia Day public holiday
- UOW says it is a sign of respect for First Nations peoples
- It follows similar moves by other major employers

In a statement, the university said it acknowledged that January 26 was not a day of celebration for all Australians.

"That's why, out of respect for all First Nations peoples, in January 2023 all fixed-term and permanent employees of the university will have the flexibility to work on January 26 instead of taking the day as a public holiday," the statement said.

If staff choose to work, they can substitute either January 27 or January 30 for the public holiday.

The move has been supported by staff unions.

In late December, Telstra and Woodside announced they were offering the option of working on January 26, following similar moves by other major companies including Deloitte, KPMG, Spotify and Channel 10.

UOW vice-chancellor Patricia Davidson said the decision was an important step in ensuring its staff's diverse perspectives were valued and respected.

"I am hopeful that 2023 will provide us with outcomes that unite all Australians through a referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our constitution," Professor Davidson said.

The federal government has also given local councils the flexibility to choose whether or not to hold citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day, allowing them to be three days before or after January 26.

The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) is urging university management across the nation to follow UOW's lead.

"For many people January 26 or invasion day is a deeply distressing experience and I think it is really good when universities allow people to choose," national president Alison Barnes said.

UOW is the first university to make the change and Dr Barnes said the NTEU supported the decision

Australian universities to return to 'pen and paper' exams after students caught using AI to write essays

Australia's leading universities say redesign of how students are assessed is 'critical' in the face of a revolution in computer-generated text.

Australian universities have been forced to change the way they run exams and other assessments amid fears students are using emerging artificial intelligence software to write essays.

Major institutions have added new rules which state that the use of AI is cheating, with some students already caught using the software. But one AI expert has warned universities are in an "arms race" they can never win.

ChatGPT, which generates text on any subject in response to a prompt or query, was launched in November by OpenAI and has already been banned [across all devices](#) in New York's public schools due to concerns over its "negative impact on student learning" and potential for plagiarism.

In London, one academic [tested it against a 2022 exam question](#) and said the AI's answer was "coherent, comprehensive and sticks to the points, something students often fail to do", adding he would have to "set a different kind of exam" or deprive students of internet access for future exams.

In Australia, [academics have cited concerns](#) over ChatGPT and similar technology's ability to evade anti-plagiarism software while providing quick and credible academic writing.

The Group of Eight leading universities – the leading research-intensive universities around the country – said they had revised how they would run assessments this year due to the emergent technology.

The University of Sydney's latest academic integrity policy now specifically mentions "generating content using artificial intelligence" as a form of cheating.

Affirmative action program at UTS for female engineering and IT worked

ATAR boost for female engineering and IT student has worked with female participation in the UTS programs has grown to 25 per cent (2021) and 28 per cent (2022).

Big ideas to deliver needed skills for a prosperous nation

Mary O'Kane, chairwoman of the panel advising the Education Minister on the Australian Universities Accord review, says we need to educate many more people to university degree level and provide them with the skills employers are calling for – strong generic skills (reasoning, ability to learn, oral and written communication, digital literacy, ability to work in teams and so on) and the specific technical skills needed for particular professions and industries, especially those with critical skills shortages.

If the skills shift continues at its current rate, we will need to educate lots more school-leavers, ensuring higher education is available to those groups that are under-represented in our universities (notably Indigenous Australians, disabled students and students living in remote regions). We also need to attract older and generally time-poor people who want to retrain, including seniors.

As well as needing to upskill, Australia needs to increase its research firepower addressing urgent and daunting problems – unsatisfactory productivity growth, climate extremes, environment and water, ageing, automation, the changing nature of work, the changing geopolitical environment. We need to harness the expertise of universities and publicly funded research agencies better to address these issues.

The great skills shift: everyone's an expert now

Comment by Bernard Salt founder and executive director of The Demographics Group.

Analysis of the Census data 2021, Bernard Salt has identified a skills shift in Australia.
Article

The great skills shift is evident in the acceleration in demand for more highly skilled workers. Over the five years to 2021, the Australian workforce increased by 13 per cent but the number of skill level 1 workers increased by 21 per cent.

Across the same period the number of skill level 4 workers increased by 1 per cent while demand for skill level 5 workers increased by 3 per cent.

Skill level 1 jobs require a university degree (for example, accountant) or some kind of acquired specialist skill including being an owner/manager of a business (such as a farmer).

Skill level 5 jobs require no formal training but rely on on-the-job training (such as kitchen hand).

Jobs such as chef and police officer (SL2), electrician and personal assistant (SL3) and aged and disabled carer (SL4).

Taliban university ban on women condemned

Australia has joined other nations in condemning the Taliban for its decision to ban Afghan women from universities.

Australia is among the US and UK, France, Germany, Japan and others rebuking the Taliban's "relentless and systemic" oppression of women and girls in Afghanistan since taking power.

"These policies make clear the Taliban's disregard for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Afghanistan," the statement reads.

"We stand with all Afghans in their demand to exercise their human rights consistent with Afghanistan's obligations under international law.

"Taliban policies designed to erase women from public life will have consequences for how our countries engage with the Taliban."

The Australian Youth Barometer

https://bridges.monash.edu/articles/report/The_2022_Australian_Youth_Barometer/21541410/2

Report published 9/12/22. Conducted by Monash University. 500 18-24 year-olds surveyed

Financial findings

Housing, employment and climate change are young Australians' top priorities.

90% of young Australians experienced financial difficulties at some point during the past 12 months.

Young Australians still aspire to home ownership, for example, but many believe it is increasingly beyond their reach. Some groups of young people, such as non-binary, gender diverse and agender young people, are particularly pessimistic about their ability to achieve this goal. This is, perhaps, one of the most important areas in need of urgent policy intervention, particularly during the current economic upheaval.

Mental health a priority. Mental ill health among 16 to 24-year-olds grew from 26% in 2007 to 39% in 2020–21, an increase of 50% in 15 years. (McGorry, P., 2022. *About 40 per cent of young Australians have experienced mental illness—and it's high time we do something about it*. ABC News. 5 August 2022. Accessed 4 November 2022)

The report analysed existing data and according to the 2021 Australian census, 81.7% of young Australians aged 18 to 24 usually received some income. For 21% of young people, this income was less than \$300 per week, for 25% it was between \$500 and \$799 per week, and for 34% it was more than \$800 each week.¹

Work

56% of young Australians reported earning income from gig work in the past year

44% percent of young people who were looking for a job preferred fulltime employment, 33% preferred part-time employment and 22% preferred casual employment.

Young people aspired to work in an area that they felt passionate about and which built on their area of study.

The 2021 Australian census data reveals that 31% of young Australians aged 18 to 24 were employed part-time, 28% worked full-time, 7% were unemployed and looking for a job, 6% were employed but away from work, and 21% were not in the labour force. Twelve per cent of young Australians were not engaged in employment, education or training.² Most of those who were employed (56%) worked less than 35 hours per week, while 24% worked 40 hours per week or more.³

The proportion of young Australians aged 15 to 24 employed on a casual basis increased from 50.6% in the period spanning 2001–2004 to 55.7% of young Australians during 2015–2019.

Education

55% of young Australians currently in education took classes in a mix of online and face-to-face study. Only 19% studied exclusively face-to-face.

53% of young Australians agreed or strongly agreed that their education had prepared them for the future. 3 59% of young Australians reported that they hold or have been enrolled in a micro-credential, micro-degree or micro-masters. 4 32% of young people participated in some form of informal training online, and 27% of young Australians used multiple online sources.

According to 2021 census data, 51% of young Australians aged 18 to 24 were in enrolled in education, 12% had a bachelor degree, 5% had an advance diploma and diploma level qualification, 14% had a certificate III or certificate IV qualification, and 57% had a secondary education qualification.¹ Among those who were in education, 18% were in vocational education and 60% were in university or other higher education.

Most young Australians in education (68%) studied full-time, 20% studied part-time, and 11% did not state their mode of study.

Areas of study

The most common fields of study undertaken by young people were management and commerce (16% of enrolments), society and culture (13%), health (10%), engineering and related technologies (9%) and food, hospitality and personal services (8%).

In 2020, 62% of 20-year-olds were studying for a qualification. Only 37% of these students spent time on campus, a drop from 97% in 2019

Among those who were currently studying, 55% did so in a mix of online and face-to-face study, 23% studied only online and 19% studied only face-to-face.

Young people from a low SES backgrounds were more likely to study only online (40%) than those from a high SES background (15%), and those who were born abroad were more likely to study face-to face (31%) than those born in Australia (17%)

Disability

Disability was also linked to different modes of attendance for young people currently in education. Thirty-four per cent of young people with a long-term illness reported attending online classes only compared with 22% of those with mental health conditions and 7.9% of those with physical disabilities.

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Health and well being

24% of young Australians rated their mental health as poor or very poor, and 41% rated it as good or excellent.

At least 85% of young Australians reported feelings of worry, anxiety or pessimism.

28% of young Australians had received mental health support in the past 12 months, and 16% had sought but not received such support.

24% of young Australians experienced food insecurity in the past 12 months. 51% of young Australians went without eating for a day due to lack of money at some point during the past 12 months.

Physical and mental health

The 2021 Australian census revealed that 28% of young Australians aged 18 to 24 had at least one long-term health condition. Sixteen per cent reported only one health condition and more than 3% reported having two or more conditions.

Among those with a long-term health condition, the most common were mental health conditions (43%) and asthma (31%).

Twenty-four per cent of young Australians rated their mental health as poor or very poor, and 41% rated it as good or excellent. Young women (30%) and non-binary, gender diverse and agender young people (54%) were more likely to rate their mental health as poor or very poor than young men (17%), while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were less likely to report experiencing poor or very poor mental health (14%) in comparison to other young Australians (26%).

Eighty-five per cent of young Australians reported having feelings of worry, anxiety or pessimism.

Most commonly, young people reported they often or very often felt like they were missing out on being young (45%), worried about their ability to live a happy and healthy life in the future (40%), felt like they had lost a year of their lives (39%) and worried about their ability to cope with everyday tasks in the future (39%).

Young people and relationships

21% of young Australians thought that writing insulting things online is not bullying, and 25% believed that there are no rules online so they can do whatever they want.

Stanford Uni erasing language that causes harm

In an effort to ensure that no humans or animals are upset by the websites of Stanford University, administrators at the college have embarked on a bold effort to eliminate all harmful language from its pages and computer code.

BAD LANGUAGE

Basket case: Originally referred to someone who had lost all four limbs and needed to be carried around in a basket. Use “nervous” instead.

Rule of thumb: Although no written record exists, this phrase is attributed to an old British law that allowed men to beat their wives with sticks no wider than their thumb. Use “standard rule” or “general rule” instead.

Karen: Used to ridicule or demean a group of people based on their behaviour. Use “demanding” or “entitled white woman” instead.

Crack the whip: Unnecessary use of violent imagery that paints a person being referred to as authoritarian or oppressive. Use “work hard(er)”.

More than one to way to skin a cat: This expression normalises violence against animals. Use “multiple ways to accomplish the task”.

Trigger warning: The phrase can cause stress about what is to follow. One can also never know what may or may not trigger a particular person. Use “content note”.

Ballsy: Attributes personality traits to anatomy. Use “bold” or “risk-taker”.

You guys: Lumps a group of people using masculine language into gender binary groups, which don’t include everyone. Use “folks”, “people” or “everyone”.

Hold down the fort: This phrase stems from settlers and soldiers resisting “savages” when “on the warpath”. Use “cover the role”.

Long time no see: This phrase was originally used to mock indigenous people and Chinese people who spoke pidgin English. Use “I haven’t seen you in so long”.

Take a shot at, take your best shot at, take a stab at: These represent the unnecessary use of the imagery of hurting someone or something. Use “give it a go” or “try”.

Myanmar university students denied visas to study in Australia

Students from Myanmar are being denied visas to study at Australian universities due to “civil unrest” in their home country, prompting alarm from universities and peak international education bodies who claim the spike in denials has come out of nowhere.

However, denials for student visas have suddenly spiked in the past six weeks, with at least 37 visas denied.

University of Adelaide and UniSA revive merger talks, with new combined uni pitched for 2026

Despite previous stalled efforts, the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia are now closer to merging than ever before, after reviving talks to amalgamate and rebrand as a single institution within three years.

Key points:

- A combined uni would be named Adelaide University and be operational from January 2026
- The government says there will be "no net job losses" as a result of the deal
- A previous merger effort was revealed in 2018 but was scuppered months later

The state government has said the two universities had reached agreement "regarding a formal pathway" to combine, and that they would now work together to create a feasibility and business case to become the biggest university in Australia for domestic students.

The university would be named Adelaide University and be operational from January 2026.

More WA students dropping ATAR exams as early offers sap motivation

An increasing number of year 12 students across Western Australia are being accepted into university without needing an ATAR, raising concerns about the possible impacts on motivation to study, and in turn, lack of preparedness to succeed at university.

University of WA Graduate School of Education associate professor Glenn Savage said the growing number was “not a blip on the radar.”

“A couple of years ago when COVID first hit, recruitment at WA universities dropped and so the aim was to incentivise as many local students as possible,” he said.

“Since then there has been a sea change from exclusive ATAR entry towards more diverse options. There will be a sustained effort to develop these entry models going forward.”

Globally, universities did not look at just one indicator and WA was shifting towards a similar model.

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54th Guild Council - 5 / OC

REPRESENTATION BOARD – 19/01/2023

STIPEND RATE INCREASE

Submitted: Ryan Kirby (Faculty Representative: Business & Law)
Moved: Ryan Kirby (Faculty Representative: Business & Law)
Seconded: Dylan Botica (President of the Curtin Student Guild)

Preamble:

This motion seeks to recognise the work of the PSC in securing an increase to the stipend rate at Curtin University and in so doing, seeks to congratulate the PSC and Curtin Guild on successfully obtaining an increase to the Stipend rate offered to HDR students. An increase that is indicative of 11.77% year on year. (2022 to 2023)

Motion:

That the Representation Board:

Notes the work of the Postgraduate Student Committee (PSC) in successfully advocating for an increase in the Stipend rate for postgraduate students.

Background:

The PSC secured an increase to the base HDR Stipend at Curtin University (starting February, 2023), The mandated Federal minimum amount sits at \$29,863 as of 2022, The new Curtin amount sits at \$32,250. This moves the rate above the Henderson Poverty Line and represents a \$3,396(11.77%) increase comparative to the amount offered by Curtin University to 2022. The increase of 11.77% is indicative of a rate that outpaces domestic inflation.

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54th Guild Council - 5 / OC

REPRESENTATION BOARD – 19/01/2023

2023 INVASION DAY RALLY ENDORSEMENT

Submitted: Veronika Gobba (Vice President – Education)
Moved: Veronika Gobba
Seconded: Ryan Kirby (Faculty of Business & Law Rep)

Motion:

That the Representation Board:

Endorses the 2023 Invasion Day rally as a means of solidarity with First Nations Peoples.

Actions:

1. The Guild will promote the event
2. The Guild will organise a sign making workshop prior to the rally
3. The Guild will organise transportation to and from the event for members and students who wish to attend.

Background:

The 26th of January is a day of mourning for many First Nations Peoples across Australia. The Curtin Student Guild recognises this and endorses and supports the Invasion Day Rally organised by Marianne Yoorgabilya Mackay and Megan Krakouer and the wider campaign to change the date of Australia Day. The legacies of Australian colonial settlement are consolidated and emphasised on January 26th in a celebration of the British settlement and colonial possession of mainland Australia. Settlement of which led to dispossession, struggle, suffering and genocide. The reconciliation and recognition of the atrocities committed to First Nation's Peoples on behalf of colonial powers is an important step in ensuring national solidarity and promoting the unification of all Australian Peoples. The Curtin Guild seeks to echo the sentiments of Sienna-Swann and Krystal Rose in on the topic of changing the date of Australia Day in reinforcing the idea that "Part of a maturing nation ... is the willingness to listen and learn from someone else's view and to keep a dialogue open,"

Subsequently, this year the Curtin Student Guild is continuing our action to be steadfast in our support for and advocacy of the "Change The Date" campaign and recommends all Guild representatives to attend the event, in addition to the sign making workshop.

This land was stolen and sovereignty was never ceded. The legacies of colonisation still echo loudly in the day to day social dialogue in Australia which is why continued advocacy is imperative until action is achieved. From the government to the education system to the legal system undue biases exist as remnants of colonialism which is why it is our duty to seek justice and support Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander people not just on the January 26th public holiday, but rather every day we wake up and step out the front door with the day ahead and realise that this land was and always will be Indigenous land.

Attachment/s:

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54th Guild Council - 5 / OC

Representation Board – 2022-01-19

January 26 is Invasion Day, Abolish Australia Day!

Submitted: Danica Scott (Ordinary Reps. Board Member)
Moved: Danica Scott (Ordinary Reps. Board Member)
Seconded:

Preamble:

Australia is a nation founded on colonisation, dispossession, and genocide, the impacts of which are still viscerally felt by First Nations people today. January 26 marks the start of colonisation, and should therefore be recognised as Invasion Day. The official recognition of January 26 as Australia Day serves to reinforce Australian nationalism and obscure the ongoing oppression of Indigenous people. This is the role Australia Day will play even if the date is changed, and as such we should reject its recognition on any day of the year. Vocally opposing Australia Day and supporting the annual Invasion Day protests has become a fundamental part of anti-racism in Australia. The Curtin Student Guild should be an active participant in the anti-racist struggle by taking a public position against Australia Day and by supporting the Invasion Day protest. This is made more urgent by the fact that WA is among the most racist states in the country, as demonstrated by the appalling treatment of Indigenous children at the Banksia Hill Detention Centre and wildly disproportionate incarceration rate (3.6% for Indigenous adults, as against 0.3% for the overall adult population).

Motion:

That the Curtin Student Guild recognise January 26 as Invasion Day in solidarity with First Nations people and support the movement calling for the abolition of Australia Day.

Actions:

Actions recommended as part of this item include:

1. The Curtin Student Guild will make a public statement recognising January 26 as Invasion Day, calling for the abolition of Australia Day, and condemning the ongoing oppression of First Nations people including the incarceration rate in WA and brutal torture of Indigenous children in the Banksia Hill Detention Centre
2. The Curtin Student Guild will promote the Invasion Day protest (<https://www.facebook.com/events/684090769836041>) on social media and encourage all students to attend

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54th Guild Council - 5 / OC

Representation Board – 2022-01-19

Abortion rights and International Women's Day

Submitted: Danica Scott (Ordinary Reps. Board Member)
Moved: Danica Scott (Ordinary Reps. Board Member)
Seconded:

Preamble:

Protests last year pressured the WA state government to take steps to improving abortion access, including commitments to remove abortion from the criminal code and remove much of the bureaucratic red tape required to undergo the procedure. However, the two largest barriers to abortion access seem likely to remain: the cost, which is several hundred dollars, and the still extremely limited availability. As long as these barriers remain in place, abortion will be out of reach for the poor, including students. On International Women's Day (March 8), the Defend Abortion Action Group Perth will be holding a protest both to continue in the long tradition of standing against sexism and womens' oppression and to further demand that abortions be provided freely, safely, and on demand.

Motion:

That the Curtin Student Guild:

- Note that, while progress has been made towards improving abortion access in WA due to pressure from protests, there is still much more the state government must do to remove the barriers to abortion access, most importantly by making the procedure free and available in all public hospitals
- Support the protest being held on International Women's Day by the Defend Abortion Action Group Perth to demand the increased access to abortion in WA

Actions:

Actions recommended as part of this item include:

1. The Curtin Student Guild will publicly call on the WA state government to improve access to abortion by making the procedure free and available in all public hospitals, as well as by significantly increasing healthcare funding
2. The Curtin Student Guild will share the International Women's Day protest on social media, including through posts on its main and Women's Department social media pages and co-hosting the Facebook event (<https://www.facebook.com/events/2004419156422258>)
3. The Curtin Student Guild will send an all-student email encouraging attendance at the International Women's Day protest
4. The Curtin Student Guild will strongly encourage attendance at the International Women's Day protest by all of its elected representatives

Background:

The overturning of Roe v Wade by the United States Supreme Court was the single largest attack on women's rights in decades. The protests that erupted both in the US and internationally drew thousands into the streets in solidarity. Here in Perth, a snap protest outside the US consulate with only two days' notice was many hundreds strong, and was followed up shortly afterwards by a series of protests, at their height getting well over a thousand people out in support of abortion rights.

These protests took up more than just solidarity with the millions of women in the US who had just had a cornerstone of their rights taken away by only a handful of powerful people. They also took up the fact that WA has the most restrictive abortion laws in the country. These include abortion being ruled under the criminal code, and the requirement to get at least two doctors to approve it if in the early stages of pregnancy or to present to a panel of six doctors if beyond 20 weeks.

Late last year, the public pressure had mounted on the WA state government to the point where they have committed to removing abortion from the criminal code and relaxing the bureaucracy involved. However, there has not been any indication if any action will be taken regarding the prohibitive cost and lack of widespread access to abortion. It's a step forward, but there's still a long way to go.

These protests are not only important in the pressure they can put on the government, but also in standing against the rise of bigotry and the far right. Roe v Wade was overturned after decades of campaigning by conservatives and the far right to strip women of fundamental rights. In Australia, the right are attacking women, queer and trans people, and disabled people through the Religious Discrimination Bill, which was created in direct response to the winning of marriage equality. At the abortion protests in Perth, a small number of Proud Boys – far right misogynists and white supremacists – turned up in a failed attempt to intimidate our side. The largest protest ended with a thousand people, predominantly women and queer people, chasing the Proud Boys off the street with their tails between their legs.

International Women's Day has a long history in the fight against sexism, a fight which clearly still must be fought. In supporting the protest on International Women's Day the Curtin Student Guild will not only be taking a stand in support of abortion rights, but will also be participating in the long tradition of fighting against women's oppression and will be taking a stand on the side of all the oppressed against bigotry and the far right.

Attachment A

[Link to the Facebook event]

<https://www.facebook.com/events/684090769836041/?ti=ls>



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54th Guild Council – 2 / RB

REPRESENTATION BOARD – 19th JANUARY 2023

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS CONFERENCE REPORT

Submitted: Dylan Botica (President)
Moved: Dylan Botica (President)
Seconded: Jasmyne Tweed (Secretary)

Preamble:

The Guild President and other National Union of Students delegates attended the National Union of Students Conference at Deakin University in Waurn Ponds, Victoria for one week in December. The National Conference includes the election of office bearers for the next year, adoption of financial and annual reports and amendment of policy.

Motion:

That the Representation Board:

note the delegates' reports from the National Union of Students National Conference 2022.

Actions:

Actions recommended as part of this item include:

1. Student Guild to set Key Performance Indicators of the National Union of Students (Australia)
2. Review the Travel and Conferences Policy

Background:

The National Conference of the National Union of Students (NUS) takes place from the second week of December of each year in Victoria or the ACT. A requirement of the travel and conference's policy is that each delegate complete a report on the activities and relevant information for the Representation Board and/or Guild Council. These reports are included as attachments to this document.

The National Union of Students policy as adopted will be on the NUS website.

The Financial and Annual Reports are attached to this document.

The relevant officers of the NUS for this year are as follows:

National President	RILEY, Bailey
National General Secretary / Deputy President	GAIT, Sheldon
National Education Officer	DUPE, Xavier
National Welfare Officer	FRANCO, Grace
National Women's Officer	SEARLE, Emily
National Queer/LGBTQIA+ Officers (x 2)	NGUYEN, Damien
	HILL, Grace



National First Nations Officer	TAYLOR, Patrick
National Disabilities Officer	HARDING, Isabella
National International Students Officer	KUSHWAHA, Arya
National Ethnocultural Officer	NAIJU, Ben
National Small & Regional Officer	HOWARD, Cheyne
National VE Officer	KILZI, Salwa
WA State Branch President	BOTICA, Dylan
WA State Branch Education Vice-President	DE ALWIS, Melani

Attachment/s:

Attachment A	National Union of Students Annual Report 2022
Attachment B	National Union of Students Financial Report 2022
Attachment C	NUS Delegate Report – Dylan Botica
Attachment D	NUS Delegate Report – Veronika Gobba
Attachment E	NUS Delegate Report – Athina Hilman
Attachment F	NUS Delegate Report – Salwa Kilzi
Attachment G	NUS Delegate Report – Danica Scott
Attachment H	NUS Delegate Report – Jasmyne Tweed



NATIONAL UNION
OF STUDENTS

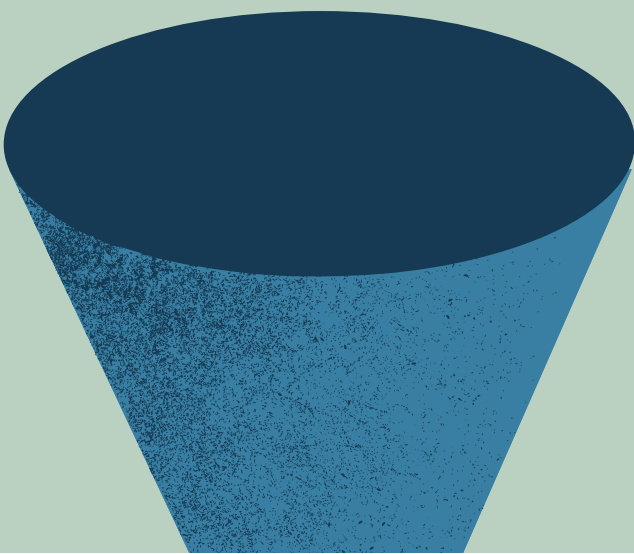
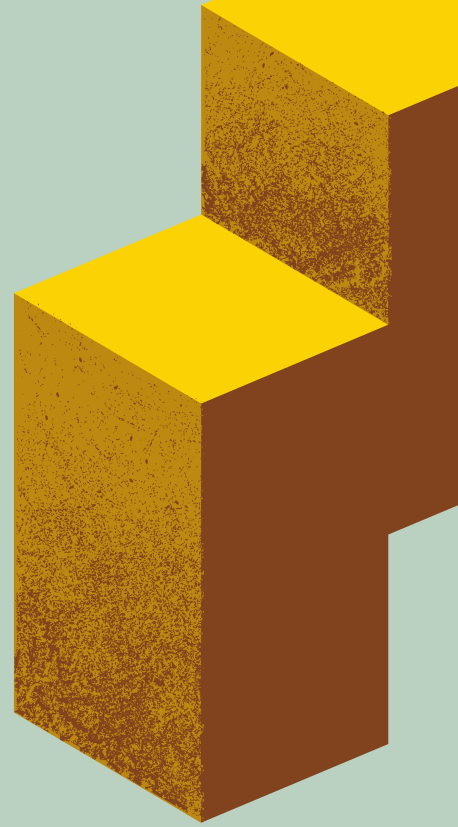
NUS ANNUAL REPORT



2022

Table of Contents

- 1 President Report
- 2 General Secretary Report
- 3 Education Officer Report
- 4 Welfare Officer Report
- 5 Women's Officer Report
- 6 Queer Officer Reports
- 7 Disability Officer Report
- 8 Ethnocultural Officer Report



President's Report

Georgie Beatty

This year we focused on one crucial fact. The biggest barrier to getting a degree is welfare- It's this intersectionality that we need to overcome to allow higher education to be the silver bullet that changes lives for the better. This year that fight has been bigger than ever- with the cost of living crisis hitting students incredibly hard. It's students who work low-paid highly casualised jobs. It's students who live lives of insecurity, changing rentals and jobs constantly. Full time university education is now a luxury that students just can't afford. It's pretty hard to break the poverty cycle when you're struggling to finish your degrees within 7 years and are working 3 jobs. It's our attempt to fix this that I hope defines my presidency.

I, thank fuck- unlike many of my predecessors was the first NUS president in years to be able to travel around the country and meet many incredible student unionists around the country.

The tireless advocacy of unionists was incredible. I was so inspired by some of the most incredible campaign throughout the year- the USYD strikes were incredible. It was an experience I won't forget any time soon and a true testament to student staff solidarity and to the power of advocacy and unionism.



The NSSS was one of the hardest and most rewarding parts of this year. The results were horrific and not surprising at all. In the three years since the 2017 Change The Course survey nothing had changed despite the two years of COVID lockdowns. There was no accountability of universities by TEQSA- the regulatory body for our sector exposing a systematic flaw and gap in the sector. That there is no protection for students- there is no law that says universities should do right by their students. The NSSS exposed why more now than ever we need to institute a duty of care.

I said in my nomination speech that we would lose this year's election over my dead body - and boy oh boy am I still alive. The new Albanese government is the first time in over 10 years. We have an opportunity to make changes in crucial areas like SSAF reform, Ending Job Ready Graduates and lowering the age of independence. The new government has not been perfect or revolutionary in any way- but I am so proud of the relationship we have established with the new government. Small wins like our standing in the accords, the movement of age of independence and the minimum wage increase set the scene for the ability for next year's team to make some massive strides for students.

Honi tweeted me last year saying that the age of Independence is the most important policy we would pass that year- and it is the campaign I am the most proud of. It was a perfect example of doing both... speaking out, doing the research and lobbying to share that report far and wide.



The NSSS was one of the hardest and most rewarding parts of this year. The results were horrific and not surprising at all. In the three years since the 2017 Change The Course survey nothing had changed despite the two years of COVID lockdowns. There was no accountability of universities by TEQSA- the regulatory body for our sector exposing a systematic flaw and gap in the sector. That there is no protection for students- there is no law that says universities should do right by their students. The NSSS exposed why more now than ever we need to institute a duty of care.

We have had a massive year for media- numerous op-eds (have a read trots), Radio and Tv appearances and more comments than I can count. One of the NUS's biggest weapons is our media presence, a legacy I feel has been preserved this year. By focusing on Op-Ed's it allowed us to make our voice heard, without the bias or hangover of a writers opinion.



To my OB team Thank you 4 ur forgiveness, inspiration and drive.

To Billy - it's parma not Parmi- you have done such incredible work this year

To Luc- Thankyou for developing my activism- you truly have made me a much better leftie, and all of your help on everything- I couldn't have done this year without u!

To Emogorl1998- I am so proud of our friendship - the type never really seen before in NUS and not just because of a rumored fanfiction and I hope it's a legacy that continues.



I would also like to thank the faction of nuance the NLS- My magnificent comrades and my absolute favourites the mighty La Trobe Labor Left. To the women of NLS- I stand on the shoulders of giants (even though kate crossin is actually quite small). God knows I owe my housemates- the fitzroyals and Hamish a thankyou, they have put up with many tears and cured them with many laughs- even when I have to do NX in the middle of love island.

Bailey- you are going to be magnificent- you have been my pick since day 1 and I cant wait to see you do magnificent things.



General Secretary's Report

Emily Sagolj

Introduction

This year has been a wild one to say the least, I don't even know where to start because it's felt like a decade of events wrapped into one year. I've had the opportunity to visit member organisations across the country after 2 years of members feeling disengaged due to covid, I've been able to promote our amazing campaigns to students, and have overcome lots of difficult times alongside my fellow office-bearers. As mentioned previously, I have undertaken a lot of responsibility to make governance changes, but the progress has been rewarding to see. Although this year has been tough, I'm really proud of the work that has been done and I'm optimistic that it will be even better next year!

Operations

We have had our current Administration & Finance Officer for just over a year and a half now and he is still incredibly helpful to me in getting through all the admin duties for the NUS. He has put in a lot of work to transition our financial records online and continues to do so. Post-NatCon our plan is to consolidate handover documents from both our areas of responsibility to ensure that future General Secretaries and Admin Officers have an easier time transitioning into the respective roles. Our Media & Communications Officer has been rocking along well. She's been a big help to us with creating posters, social media graphics, videos, and conference booklets. In addition to our part-time staff, we have had a Research Officer from the FYA assisting us. This has been incredibly beneficial for us given our increased expenses throughout the year, so it will be good to look into whether they have capacity to support us again in future.



Finances

We have had an increase in revenue overall, due to all the in person conferences we've had this year, which is great to see. However, something to note is that most of the expenses from NatCon this year will be covered under the next financial year instead of this financial year, which will affect next year's report. Further, we have had a decrease

Finances cont.

in income from affiliation fees which I discuss further below. In turn, our spending outside of conferences is more limited now, hence why the budget review committee had a rough time this year and why we have had to make some spending cuts for the next financial year. We have not had to dip into reserves at least, as we have spent a lot less than expected on staff wages, due to employing a communications and media officer quite late into the year and have not had to employ casual research officers as much, due to the assistance of the Foundation for Young Australians.

Affiliation & Accreditation

Although we have had reductions in affiliation, we have delivered a considerable surplus. This looks crazy at first, but it's mostly due to affiliation fees from last year being paid late (meaning they're in this financial year) and most of our affiliation fees from this year being paid within this financial year, hence why the figure is a lot bigger than expected. The alarming side of our reduction in fees is that whilst our staff wages, honoraria and other expenses increase with CPI (as they should), our affiliation fees are not, which puts us in a tight spot. I am aware that many member organisations have had to reduce their affiliation amounts due to the pressures from CPI that they've also felt, so it's an issue across the board that is paired with the terrible funding situation of student unions at the moment. In turn, I implore the NUS team next year to look into further funding opportunities for the NUS to assist with the stability of funding for the organisation. Besides that, accreditation of members was relatively smooth. Only two members failed to pay their affiliation on time, and most members were prompt with the provision of documents required for accreditation.

Events

As mentioned above, it's been great to have our conferences in full swing again, even though organising them essentially from scratch after two years of lockdowns has been a stressful endeavour. This year we have successfully run our President's Summit, Education Conference, Ethnocultural Conference (for the first time since 2016!) and National Conference (a work in progress). I've put a lot of work into ensuring that the incoming NUS team and future teams can see the planning stages properly, as well as all the things that didn't go smoothly so we can improve on things in future. There has been a lot of trial and error, but it has been a good opportunity to try new things and I'm incredibly proud of all the work that has gone into them and all the contributions of fellow office-bearers as well as member organisations to the fruition of these conferences.

Governance

I've put a lot of time into ensuring information about the NUS is a lot easier to access and that NX has a clearer view of our finances. Members can easily see our schedule of NX meetings on our website, I've created clear observer protocol and guidelines for our NX meetings, I've made NUS event information more accessible through making conference tabs on our website, NX are getting detailed profit and loss reports for each meeting, and I drafted changes to our regulations and by-laws for the consideration of delegates at NatCon, formalised the Executive Committee of the NUS, set strict deadlines for agenda item and report submissions, and improved NX minute transparency. It has been a lot of work, but I'm really proud of the progress that has been made.

The Higher Education Accords

It has been an amazing opportunity to meet with various members of parliament to promote the importance of student issues this year, and it's even more exciting now that we have a change in government after 9 years of not being listened to. Georgie and I had our first higher education accords round table recently, and I'm really excited to see the work the NUS can do whilst being a party to these round tables. In turn, I am very optimistic about the NUS's ability to push for lowering the age of independence, introducing a legislative duty of care, and ensuring that student unions are in control of their SSAF in future.

Acknowledgments

I would like to say a big thank you to all my fellow office-bearers, it has been a tough year, but I'm incredibly grateful to them all for their support. A big shout out to the executive team (Georgie, Billy & Luc) for being an awesome group to work with throughout the year and for putting up with my stressed phone calls. You're all incredibly hardworking and dedicated, and I can't wait to see all the great things you do next. Lastly, I wish the NUS team next year all the best and I hope you thoroughly enjoy your time in your new roles!

In Unity,
Emily Sagolj



Education Report

LUC Velez

The fight continues for a better, free and fully funded education. It's been a difficult and important year for student activists in Australia. We started the year in the lead-up to a federal election where both the Coalition and the Labor Party seemed intent on minimising discourse around higher education. We have seen no significant break from the status quo on a federal policy level by the new Labor Government - no signs that more funding is coming, no movement on HECS debt, and no transformative changes to the corporate model of universities. So it is on students and activists to keep the vision of a better university in the national zeitgeist. We've mobilised students for protests, led political discourse on education in student and mainstream media, and connected with important struggles by unions and the environmental movement. We have laid a solid foundation to continue building towards our universities being places of radical learning, as well as places for resistance and community.

I'm proud to have led or contributed to a number of successful actions and initiatives. There's been a balance of national actions, cross-campus collaborations, national support for actions at single universities, as well as all the behind-the-scenes work with comrades in the sector and the media.

National Day of Action for Free Education

In March and April, I hosted a series of meetings with education officers and education action groups, which culminated in a large national meeting with student activists from across Australia. From this meeting, we called a National Day of Action in April with demands opposing the corporate university, advocating for secure jobs for staff, student-staff solidarity and democratic and well-funded student unions. The action was supported and co-hosted by the NTEU, and was most successful in NSW, where over a hundred students and staff came out for the protest. The action set an important tone of solidarity and resistance for the year and was an important jumping-off point for a series of student support for staff strikes

University Strikes

The waves of university strikes were probably the most significant education actions this year. We know that the quality of education in universities is directly related to the working conditions of university staff - we can't have quality lessons and feedback when our tutors are facing systemic wage theft and burnout. I joined pickets at Usyd, UTS, the University of Queensland, Western Sydney University and the University of Canberra, all of which were energising demonstrations of union power. I was most involved with building for the strikes at the University of Sydney, where I supported the Education Officer, Lia Perkins, and the phenomenal group of education activists in the Usyd EAG. The EAG went to hundreds of classes to do lecture announcements, spent weeks flyering on the main walkways, and put up so many posters it was impossible for any student to miss. Usyd called several strike days throughout the year, and the energy was consistently inspiring. Students and staff linked arms and successfully shut down the entire campus. Students at the University of Queensland were also very impressive. On a trip to Brisbane to support the UQ student union, I helped at a building event where the union combined building for the pickets and their mutual aid projects. Students lined up for free dinner were a perfect audience to have some political conversations about unionism and the staff strike the next morning.

AFR Summit Counter-Protest

Called during the NSW breakout room at Ed Con, we organised a small and agile counter-protest outside the Australian Financial Review's annual Higher Education Summit. Tickets cost \$1000 a head and the summit was essentially a meeting of Vice-Chancellors, industry CEO's and a few politicians to discuss how to further entrench neoliberalism and managerialism in Australian universities. We ended up getting more attention and media than we were expecting thanks to the NSW police's brutal attempt to repress our protest. We were met with disproportionate violence - including liberal amounts of pepper spray. It's an important reminder that the police exist to uphold the political status quo (colonialism, capitalism and patriarchy) and protect the ruling class - they offer little to our communities.

Media

In addition to big mobilisations, I have made a concerted effort to keep higher education and student issues in the public domain. Collaborating closely with Georgie, we've crafted media lines on education issues and been in frequent contact with journalists. We've published several opinion pieces in the SMH, the Age, Crikey and Overland to propagate the NUS's political position to mainstream audiences as well as in student spaces.

Climate Activism

One of the biggest messages young people have been sending over the last decade is that we care about climate. It's seen in opinion polls, voting patterns and in the number of us coming out to climate protests. It is a shame the NUS still doesn't have an environmental or climate portfolio, it's surely time to bring back an enviro officer. Regardless, it's been a significant year for the climate movement and I'm proud to have brought the NUS into the climate movement through the education role. I chaired the Sydney uni student contingent to the first climate strike of the year, and the NUS has joined as cohost for several climate strikes and protests this year. From Ed Con, we called a National Day of Action in August that had successful mobilisations in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra. More recently, The NUS joined a big coalition of activist groups to co-host the COP27 protest and the Blockade IMARC.

Education Conference 2022

With the theme of Radical Education: the Revival of Student Unionism, about 300 students from across the country came together in Sydney for the first in-person conference since the beginning of COVID. Big shout out and thank you to the organising working group, Georgie, Emily, Grace, and Lauren.



Final Thoughts

I want to especially thank our president Georgie Beatty. It was a great year of collaboration and mutual learning, despite our not-insignificant political differences (or maybe because of them). I'm walking away with huge respect and admiration for you. I also want to send my solidarity to all the other NUS OBs, student activists and unionists around Australia, we need to continue fighting together for a more radical and just vision of higher education and the world.

Welfare end of year report

Billy Zimmermann

Being National Welfare Officer in 2022 has been a privilege of a lifetime. I am incredibly proud of the work I have achieved working alongside my fellow office bearers, stakeholders, and members. I feel that this year NUS Welfare has been at its strongest.

By far the proudest achievement I have this year is the ongoing campaign to Change the Age of Independence. We conducted interviews, surveys, pollings, and utilized a range of other resources to capture an image of student poverty and the ways in which the current welfare system is failing. Publishing a report which can be built upon and used by members is excellent and I can't give my thanks to Kelly, Georgie, and the FYA enough. I stood on the shoulders of previous Welfare Officers and I hope this year is a benchmark for future success. I continue to believe that Changing the Age of Independence can be achieved if we keep up the pressure and our campaign. This is our niche, this is where we step into the fight for a proper safety net and when change is achieved, it would have been the NUS playing a leading role.

The highs and lows of this year have been the time of a lifetime. Being published in The Guardian, helping host a fake wedding in Canberra, getting lost in Parliament House, and meeting students representatives from a dozen different unions are all experiences which will stay with me forever. Fun is a word which I would use to describe my time but it has also been incredibly rewarding. NUS can exist outside of the petty factional squabbles which take up too much time on campuses and that is why I have had such a productive time. Looking past factional and political differences within the organisation to do what we all want to do - fight for students. Next year these tensions may escalate but I implore everyone to keep the end goal in mind of changing the world for the better.

I cannot sum up the year without saying that I am proud that Australians have chosen Labor Government's to lead them this year. Both federally and in the great state of South Australia. Labor is not perfect but they are a hell of a lot better than the other mob and have shown themselves to be ready to listen and be in the room with us. I was not Welfare Officer for a

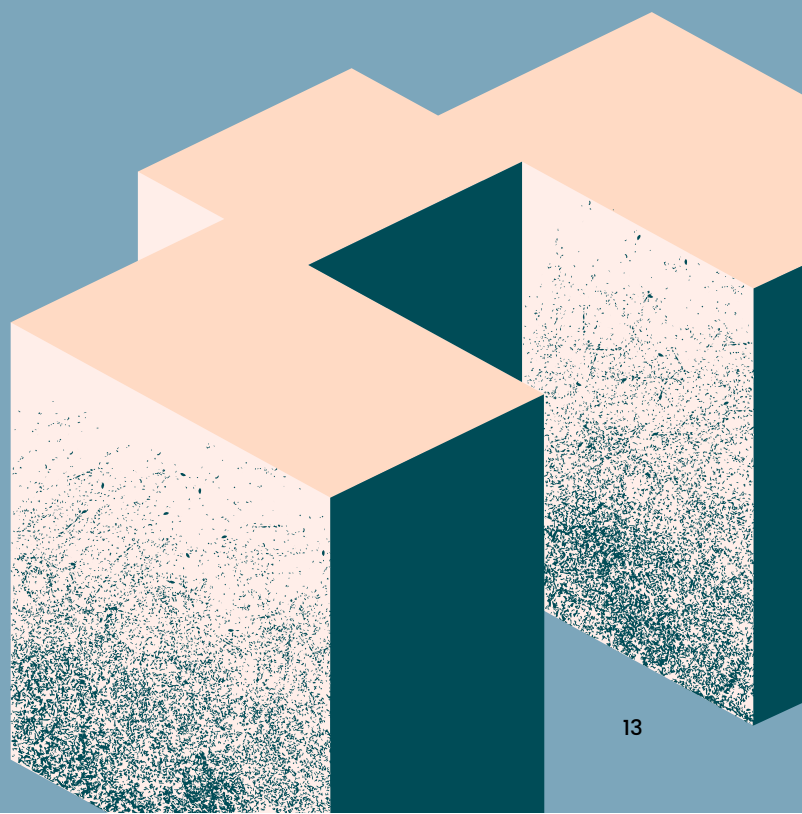
whole year under a Labor Government and the last one who was is now sitting in a state parliament, I wish my successors massive wins in lobbying the Labor Government for strong changes. We can and should do both lobbying and on the ground activism.

There are things I wish I did but unfortunately did not. My hope to release a national mental health survey never came to fruition due to a lengthy ethics approval but I am hopeful that this will happen next year. I also wish I had done more to advocate for student housing; shining more of a light on the dodgy practices of many providers and how they use some of our most vulnerable students. I wish that I was more central to the rest of the NUS team and at times, did not bite off more than I could chew in terms of other commitments.

Though it would be great if I could have changed it, going into next year students are still facing the same issues; rising costs, failing mental health, and an almost punitive welfare system. Fighting around these issues can almost seem an insurmountable challenge but it isn't. NUS Welfare for me has been a chance to be heard and to lead campaigns on the issues which matter.

I feel for all those going through it, suffering on measly welfare payments, if they even qualify. A better world is possible but it will require a strong union movement and everyone getting behind it. God willing one day this will be achieved.

In unity,
Billy Zimmermann



Wemon's Report

Jacqueline Price

This year has been nothing short of confronting, tumultuous, and troubling within the women's space. From the release of the National Student Safety Survey which revealed the reality of sexual assault and sexual harassment on our campuses, to the fight for abortion rights and its accessibility due to the overturning of Roe v. Wade, to showing our commitment to the universality of women's rights and gender equality in light of the brutal and unjust death of Mahsa Amini, the regularity of significant events and reforms both domestically and internationally only served to demonstrate how issues affecting women must continue to be spoken about and advocated for. I've learnt a lot within my year in this role, and I am greatly appreciative to all those I have been fortunate enough to meet and engage with.

National Student Safety Survey

At the beginning of this year, the results of the National Student Safety Survey were released. The NSSS results were confronting and disappointing, but frankly not surprising. Both the qualitative and quantitative reports painted a dark picture of sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH) on campuses, and what's worse is knowing that these results could have been far worse had the pandemic not forced students into lockdown.

In immediate response to the survey, alongside the University of Sydney Women's Collective, Macquarie University's Women Collective, and the UTS Women's Collective, I assisted in organising and running a rally on the steps of Town Hall on April 5th. It was fantastic to be joined by speakers from the NTEU, EROC, and representatives from various universities who all spoke eloquently and passionately about the frustration towards the lack of action being taken by universities to stop sexual assault and sexual harassment on campus and in university affiliated spaces. There was great attendance by students but also the occasional member of the public who stopped by and listened.

More broadly, I have focused my efforts on organising the 'Our Turn' campaign. Emulating a campaign launched in Canada where students graded universities on their sexual assault and sexual harassment policies, drawing upon our own scorecard that was formed with the consultation of various groups and campus representatives, I have graded and marked universities on their current policies and processes regarding SASH. The reports and recommendations are to be written with the hopes of providing this information back to universities and the public highlighting the shortfalls in how universities respond to SASH.

Engagement with Advocacy Groups

A focus for my term this year was remaining engaged with various advocacy groups and NGOs within this space such as, Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) and Equity Rights Alliance (ERA). It was great to be able to participate in meetings with both these organisations and for me to be a representative for women and female-identifying students. Notably, it was great to virtually join ERA's discussion on informing the National Strategy to Advance Women's Equality back in August and hear from different organisations on their plan to advance equality.

Beyond advocacy groups however, this year also provided the opportunity to join a number of roundtables. From a Respect @ Work Roundtable hosted in light of the Kate Jenkins enquiry into sexual harassment in Australian Workplaces, to the opportunity to participate in a roundtable hosted by the Attorney-General's Department regarding coercive control, these were all great opportunities to provide a student's perspective on a number of issues. Furthermore, I provided feedback to the Australian Human Rights Commission on their draft materials that had been developed for young workers on workers rights, and ensured that bystander intervention was something to be included in the final material.

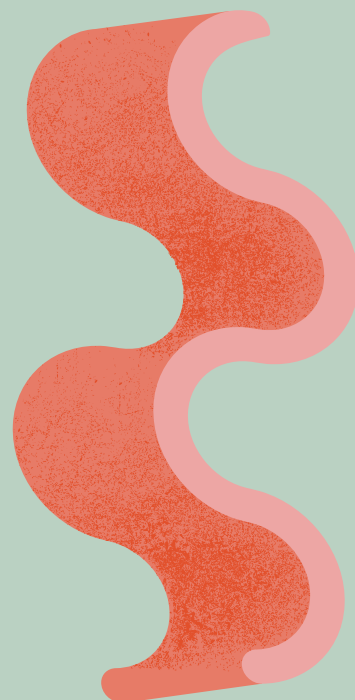
Surveys and Research

A demographic of students who often face hardship and difficulty in completing their studies is student mothers as they are often confronted with many gendered barriers in gaining equal access to education. I have been a partner on a research project conducted by a team at Western Sydney University which aims to create a best practice framework to support student mothers. Thus far, it has been great to speak on the creation of the survey to understand the experiences of student mothers, and engage students with the project. I have also had the opportunity to participate and disseminate a survey conducted by Western Sydney Uni and University of Canterbury titled, 'An exploratory study of students' experience of menstruation in Australian & New Zealand Universities'.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the work of all the women's officers across the country who have worked tirelessly to improve the student experience for women and female-identifying students both on campuses and within society more broadly. It's been a wonderful experience to liaise with you at various points throughout the year and hear about the work you have all been achieving. I would also like to wish the best of luck to the incoming NUS Women's Officer - this year on the NUS has been a rewarding experience and no doubt you will do amazing work in this role.

Jacqueline Price



NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Report

Jordy Duffey and Ella Hickey

Building the NUS Queer Network and Stakeholder Engagement

One of the priorities of the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department was connecting with campus queer representatives around the country and building our relationships through improving communication and having collectives involved with our campaigns as much as possible. We provided this with a Facebook group, regularly updating our social media, sending out emails, organising meetings and visiting over 20 campuses to engage with as many queer representatives, collectives and clubs as possible.

This year the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department was able to work with several stakeholders on multiple activities including Just Equal Australia, Queer Unionists in Tertiary Education (QUTE) and the Australian Queer Students' Network (AQSN). We hope that these relationships will continue to be built upon in the future to ensure we can continue to collectively fight for LGBTQIA+ rights!

Addressing Federal Issues

Earlier this year, the Religious Discrimination Bill was brought to the Federal Parliament. This was a fight we were expecting even with the legislation receiving wide criticism from many organisations including religious and LGBTQIA+ organisations like the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department.

In the lead up to the debate of the Bill, the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department ran a campaign to mobilise students around the country to voice their opposition to the Bill. We worked with Queer collectives and Student Unions around the country encouraging them to attend protests and have members of their collectives attend as contingents. We provided posters which were demonstrated at the protests and had these featured on University Campuses and shared statements made by Student Unions

around the country. We encouraged students to write to MPs to voice their opposition to this bill and we also wrote to every MP voicing our concerns and opposition to the Bill. The NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department will not be silent on this issue, and we had continued to campaign against a religious discrimination bill and for the removal of exemptions in place in Anti-Discrimination legislation to discriminate against the Queer/LGBTQIA+ community. We will continue to campaign against discriminatory bills introduced in the future.

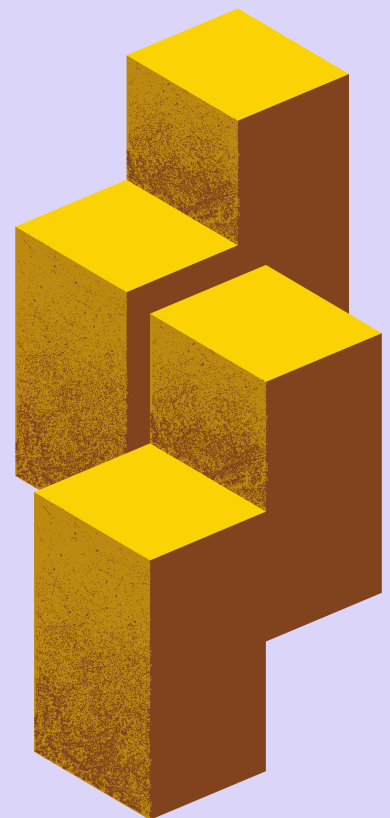
As many would be aware, the federal election happened this year and the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department took this as an opportunity to advocate on eight key LGBTQIA+ issues that we believed were necessary to be addressed by candidates for the Federal election. The issues we campaigned on included: permanently shelving the religious discrimination bill, recognising queer people in the census, having gender affirming surgery included in Medicare, supporting a legislative duty of care for universities, addressing queer youth homelessness, including trans, gender diverse and intersex people in the Fair Work Act, making gender markers optional on all documents and federally banning conversion practices.

We All Need to Pee!

The We All Need to Pee campaign for all gendered bathrooms was started by the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department in 2013 and was continuously worked on by the department throughout the year. We recognised that many campuses still had stickers from many years ago on display or these had stickers had been worn out or vandalised, so we worked with queer representatives and collectives around the country to replace those stickers with a more up-to-date versions and also had additional posters put up.

Queer Collaborations

This year, the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department was involved with the organising of Queer Collaborations - the annual conference for queer/LGBTQIA+ Students. Throughout the year we worked with the Australian Queer Students' Network (AQS) Executive and formed the Queer Collaborations Organising Committee (QCOC) to ensure that Queer Collaborations could happen for 2022. As part of this, we were able to organise and host a conference online with in-person state hubs in September which provided the opportunity for queer/LGBTQIA+ students



to connect with each other in some form, to discuss issues impacting queer/LGBTQIA+ students and the community such as deadnaming at universities and the corporatisation of pride and to connect with key speakers and organisations. It is important that next year and in future years the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department continues to be involved with the organising of Queer Collaborations and supporting the conference. In aid of this we created an ongoing facebook page and discord server for future QCOCs to use.

My Records, My Rights: Stop the Deadnaming at Universities!

This year the NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department ran a national campaign with the RUSU Queer Department calling for Universities Australia and universities around the country to act against the prevalent issue of deadnaming that is occurring on student facing platforms and within the classroom. As part of this we ran a national survey for queer representatives and queer students on their experiences with deadnaming on campus. The results of the survey not only provided us with more information but also helped us towards spreading awareness of the issue and how prevalent deadnaming is on university campuses.

We collectively worked on an open letter that was signed by over 80 student representatives around the country from 21 universities that has been sent to Vice Chancellors and Universities Australia and have continued to run a petition which has had over 2000 signatures supporting the call for an end to deadnaming at universities. We worked with queer representatives and collectives and student unions around the country to get the message out there that there is no excuse to have deadnaming on campuses. This campaign must continue in 2023 as it's important we continue to put pressure on universities and Universities Australia to take action against deadnaming on university campuses and we encourage student unions, queer representatives and collectives and clubs to continue to be involved and fight for the wellbeing and safety of trans, gender diverse and non-binary students.

Let Us Give: Call for Blood Donation Reform

The NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Department has been involved with the Let Us Give campaign calling for blood donation reform and removing the discriminatory and queerphobic policies that are currently in place against gay, bisexual men, trans women and some non-binary people to be sexually abstinent for 3 months before being able to donate blood. The Let Us Give campaign has been using medical research calling for the implementation of an individual risk assessment policy for all that has been adopted by countries like the UK and Canada and screens all donors for the safety of their sexual activity and ensures blood supplies that are safer, more plentiful and less discriminatory.

As part of our involvement, we worked with the Let Us Give campaign and campaigned to the Federal Health Minister and Assistant Health Minister urging them to remove the blood donation ban. We also worked on releasing a public statement of support on behalf of the NUS for the Let Us Give campaign calling for blood donation reform.

Disabilities Report

Georgie McDaid

Hello, it's me. I'm Disabled. I'm a Unionist. I'm a Student. I could do a long introduction, but disabled student unionist covers it.

I would like to highlight that this position was unpaid and I did it because this is a movement I am passionate about. Because I was unpaid, I worked, and studied full-time on top of that. I do hope that future Disability OB's don't have to make the hard decisions I did, like submitting assignments on-time or getting emails sent out to organisations, or getting NUS organising done or putting food on the table. This is coupled with the fact that this role comes with many disclosures of discrimination, which can be incredibly draining to deal with when you have to navigate it yourself outside of work, too - this is a common feature to all autonomous office bearers. Disability especially makes it harder to operate in society as a whole - we're more likely to experience significant burnout even if our work isn't already being affected by our disability, and we're more likely to be victims of financial abuse. My disability is permanent but it isn't static, and no two days are the same for me and that throws spanners in the works constantly. As a staunch disability activist, I will always think about how I could have done more, but I am proud of the work I've achieved this year. I am lucky to have a great support system around me who made this possible, and I am equally grateful to be in a position where I was able to financially support myself this year.

Now, onto what I did...

The start of this year saw a complete return to campuses "post"-pandemic. I air-quote the "post", because it is not over, and it is essential now more than ever for our immunocompromised peers to be safe on campus with the removal of mandatory isolation. At the start of this year, I worked with OBs and the NUS Welfare & Education Officers to work out what was going on on the ground. It wasn't good. It is frustrating for me to see mask wearing be very sparse, inadequate air flow to classrooms, classroom windows which are unable to be opened, and no air purifiers available. Universities have forgotten we exist, again. I have started drafting a new accessible activism guide with COVID in mind to ensure our immunocompromised classmates aren't left behind.

This year was the NSSS year. The NSSS results showed disabled students were twice as likely to be victim-survivors, and it is of utmost priority to ensure these students are submitting to the Disability Royal Commission (DRC) in a way that is safe for them before submissions close in a few weeks. I worked with Your Story Disability Legal Support to help facilitate legal advice workshops for this at a variety of NUS conferences this year, and got disability legal training for campus presidents at Presidents Summit.

The second half of the year was spent largely engaging with stakeholders from many disability organisations to facilitate a joint report on disability in higher education. After the NSSS results reflected numbers seen in the DRC, it was important for NUS to not forget about this and move on. Georgie Beatty has been so engaged with this and essential in reducing my work-load. This year was big for activism and stakeholder engagement in general, starting with the #DefendOurNDIS rally in Melbourne, then the Q&A session from

CYDA with Federal MPs before the federal election. I have also attended many Q&A sessions throughout the year with relevant ministers and shadow ministers, like Bill Shorten and Jordon Steele-John. A massive win for stakeholder relations for NUS this year was engaging with AFDO, as I was lucky enough to be invited to be on their young advocates panel. We are also linked in with AMSA and ALSA now, who in 2022, both had their inaugural Disability Officers. I also worked closely with Jordy (LGBTQIA+ Officer) to facilitate many intersectional meetings with organisations to strengthen the NUS engagement; and better our position as we navigated the release of the NSSS.

I spoke on so many panels this year, had so many media opportunities around disability, sat on organising and advocacy committees, and started an on-going higher education disability action group on Facebook. I hope to one day (well, once I've recovered from burnout!) assist in setting up a national student disability network to further strengthen our relationships with each other; because if we have nothing - we have each other.



I'm not the best at maths, but I do know 2022 ends with an even number, so this year was an AccessCon year! I held it online again, the same as 2020. Over three amazing days, I had organisations, autonomous meetings, and workshops, for learning and networking. Some highlights for me were the Disability Discrimination Act reform workshop, YourStory Disability Legal Support advice workshop, and Australian Network on Disability's Internship program workshop (which had great information on disclosing disability to employers, too!). AccessCon was free to attend by all; and our registrations were higher than the 2020 conference. AccessCon was started in 2018 and held in person at Monash. I have all my fingers and toes crossed that a safe return to in-person will be possible in 2024.

Finally, thank you and see ya later.

I would like to especially thank my partner, Mitch Evans, for all the emotional support throughout a really tough year; the greatest NUS President I could ever ask for, Georgie Beatty, for putting conversations around disability at the front of everyone's minds; NUS Queer/LGBTQIA+ Officer, Jordy Duffey, for collaboration on intersectional issues (and to give me an opportunity to rant about anything and everything that went wrong); NUS First Nations Officer, Zeb Cruickshank, for saving my butt in AccessCon; and Sinead Winn for our unplanned hour long phone vents. The entire NUS team this year held strong, so to all the other OBs, thank you too - we couldn't have gotten through it without each other. I also wish to thank all my comrades in NLS, and 2020 Disability OB Kiz Jackson, who have all supported me for too many reasons to list. And last, but not least, my Swinburnian comrades - for supporting me at home during my national adventure.

Next year is a fundamental year for students with a disability and student carers, and hence, I wish the best of luck to the next Disability Officer. You have a lot of (great!) work ahead of you with the release of the Royal Commission.

Nothing about us, without us.

Ethno-cultural Report

Akshay Jose

Hi everyone as we have come to the end of the year, NUS ethnocultural department has achieved a lot. We organizing the national ethnocultural conference which acted as a space for students to come together and discuss the issues affecting students from CALD backgrounds. We have also worked on a range of campaigns and issues to improve the conditions of ethnic students in universities.

Campaign against the character test bill

My focus at the beginning of the year was to focus on a campaign against the character test bill proposed by the liberal government. We are able to run campaigns on different campuses across the country. We were able to lobby the government to bench the bill and continue to advocate for a better migration program.

Multicultural festivals and celebrating diversity

I had the opportunity to assist different member organizations to plan and secure funding for running multicultural festivals and other events that celebrate and embrace diversity. I had the opportunity to attend and be part of some of the cultural events on campus. It provided an opportunity for the department to further understand the needs of different student communities.

Ethnocultural spaces

This was a big priority of the ethnocultural department. I was able to work with different campuses to organize campaigns to lobby the university for ethnocultural spaces for students to interact and engage with other students from an ethnic backgrounds.



Election campaigns

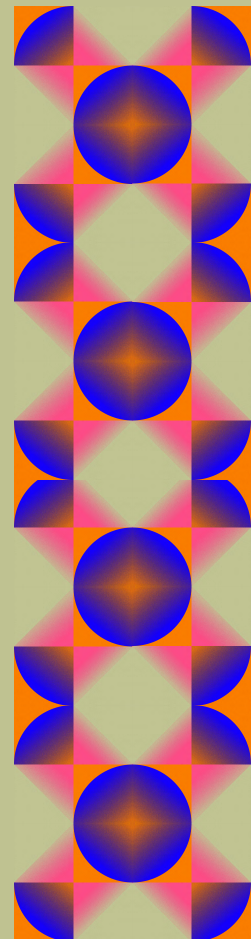
The NUS ethnocultural department was able to significantly contribute to the federal election by being able to strongly advocate for more ethnic representation in parliament.



Ethno-cultural Student Conference

One of the biggest items the department was able to achieve this year was to host the National Ethnocultural Conference. The conference had robust discussions and sessions that were able to provide information and act as a space to discuss issues affecting CALD students. This was the second autonomous Ethno-cultural Student Conference that NUS was able to Deliver with the generous financial support from UNSW SRC. The conference explored contemporary issues of culturally and linguistically diverse students and provided a space for activists around the country to develop ideas and work collaboratively on issues and hurdles faced by culturally and linguistically diverse students across the country.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the UNSW SRC President Nayonika Bhattacharya to help organize the conference and secure the funding to support the conference expenses. I really hope NUS can continue to lobby the government to ensure that issues affecting CALD students are not falling through the crack.



For all media releases, reports and minutes, please go to nus.asn.au

Authorised by G. Beatty, 1/740 Swanston St Carlton 3053

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS INC.

Reg No. AO1837

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

CONTENTS

National Executive's Report	1
Statement of Financial Position	2
Income and Expenditure Statement	3
Cash Flow Statement	4 - 5
Detailed Income & Expenditure Statement	6 - 7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 - 10
Statement by the National Executive	11
Independent Auditor's Report	12 - 13

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS INC.
Reg No. AO1837
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE'S REPORT
For the Year ended 30 September 2022

Your National Executive submits the financial report of the National Union of Students Inc. for the year ended 30 September 2022.

National Executive Members

The names of the National Executive members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

2022

Georgie Beatty, Emily Sagolj, Luc Velez, William Zimmermann, Jacqueline Price, Eleanor Hickey, Jordy Duffey, Zebadiah Cruickshank, Georgie McDaid, Dhruv Sabharwal, Akshay Jose, Jonathan De La Pena, Isaac Solomon, Beatrice Co, Emma Hogan, Beatrice Tucker, Faizan Akram, Adam Steiner, Alex Nancarrow, Grace Hill, Guleid Abdullahi, Isobel O'Dwyer, Jeremy Gilchrist, Kedar Krishnan, Kelly Cvetkova, Sabine Yassine, Sinead Winn, Tiana Myers, Trisha Banga.

2021

Zoe Raganathan, Param Mahal, Chris Hall, Arabella Wauchope, Georgette Mouawad, Emily Boyce, Bridge Truell, Keenan Smith, Katie Sanders, Varun Kale, Maryam Hasanova, Hamish Whitten, James Atkins, Emily Sagolj, Alex Bourikas, Saahil Uberoi, Artin Arjomandi, Faizan Akram, Natalie Simonovski, Grace Hu, Grace Lagan, Mikaela Pappou, Emily Mulroy, Anneke Demanuele, Daniel Hoogstra, Tom Kennedy, Noah Beckmann, Jeremy Gilchrist, Samantha Searle, Tim Smith.

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the National Union of Students Incorporated (the Association) during the financial year was the provision of student service facilities to its members at all levels within Australia.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of this activity occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The net profit of the Association for the year ended 30 September 2022 amounted to \$305,814

Signed in accordance with a resolution for the National Executive by:

Georgina Beatty
President
Dated:

Emily Sagolj
General Secretary
Dated:

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Statement of Financial Position
For the Year ended 30 September 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	755,227	636,491
Trade and Other Receivables	3	696,738	477,948
Total Current Assets		1,451,965	1,114,439
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	4	0	0
Total Non-Current Assets		0	0
Total Assets		1,451,965	1,114,439
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	5	78,338	53,692
Employee Benefits	6	6,745	7,359
Total Current Liabilities		85,084	61,051
Total Liabilities		85,084	61,051
Net Assets		1,366,882	1,053,388
Members' Funds			
Retained Profits		1,366,882	1,053,388
Total Members' Funds		1,366,882	1,053,388

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the Year ended 30 September 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Income from Ordinary Activities		
Revenue	717,574	512,028
Less Expenditure		
Administration Expenditure	61,168	69,090
Conference Expenditure	40,551	31,047
Office Bearers Expenditure	14,021	4,986
Employment and Oncosts	296,019	337,940
Total Expenses	411,760	443,062
Net Surplus / (Deficit) before Tax*	305,814	68,967
Retained Profits at the beginning of the financial year	1,053,388	984,421
Retained Profits at the end of the financial year	1,366,882	1,053,388

* Note the association is exempt from income tax

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Cash Flow Statement
For the Year ended 30 September 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash receipts from customers	498,783	374,054
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	(377,881)	(441,515)
	120,903	(67,461)
Government Subsidies	0	29,402
Net cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities - Note B	120,903	(38,059)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Prepayments	(2,167)	
Purchases of Plant & Equipment	0	0
Net Cash Flows used in Investing Activities	(2,167)	0
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash Held	118,736	(38,059)
Cash at beginning of financial year	636,491	674,550
Cash at end of financial year - Note A	755,227	636,491

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Cashflow Statement
For the Year ended 30 September 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Note A - Reconciliation of Cash		
For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money markets. Cash at the end of the year is shown in the cash flow statement and is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:		
Cash at bank	278,959	160,223
Deposits - Interest Bearing	476,268	476,268
	755,227	636,491
	755,227	636,491
Note B - Reconciliation of Net Cash used in Operating Activities to Profit / (Loss) after Income Tax		
Profit / (Loss) after income tax	305,814	68,966
Non- cash flows in profit / (loss) after income tax:		
Depreciation		
Changes in Assets & Liabilities:		
(Increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	(218,790)	(108,572)
Increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables	24,033	16,549
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefits	0	(15,002)
	111,056	(38,060)
Net cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities	111,056	(38,060)

The Association has no credit stand-by or financing facilities in place.

There were no non-cash financing or investing activities during the period.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Detailed Income & Expenditure Statement
For the Year ended 30 September 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	\$	\$
Earned Income:		
Affiliation fees	654,909	479,671
Other Earned Income	14,361	0
National & other conference income	24,351	2,250
Education Conference	4,966	705
Presidents Summit	9,521	0
Ethnocon	4,716	0
Project Grants Inc	4,750	0
Other Income:		
Cash Flow Boost	0	6,602
Job Keeper Subsidy	0	22,800
	<u>717,574</u>	<u>512,028</u>
Administration Expenditure		
Strategic Planning	2,850	0
Subscriptions	5,095	9,514
Building Maintenance & Cleaning	0	909
General Expenses	0	4,990
Insurance	3,736	3,779
Office Equipment	14	60
Office expenses	1,672	1,433
Rent	24,584	30,962
Computer costs	16	0
Advertising and marketing	3,000	0
Internet	0	23
Interest	559	0
Photocopier expenses	0	658
Printing	0	906
Stationery	0	148
Telephone	567	1,195
Accounting and Audit	7,686	7,257
Bank fees	145	181
Discount allowed	2,151	0
Legal costs	7,564	5,273
Utilities	1,470	0
Sundry	60	1,470
Website Expenses	0	333
Total Administration expenditure	<u>61,168</u>	<u>69,090</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Detailed Income & Expenditure Statement
For the Year ended 30 September 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Conference Expenditure		
National conference	22,703	28,670
President summit	4,764	2,198
Education conference	5,470	0
Ethnocon	4,358	0
Conference Expenses - Other	3,257	178
Total Conference expenditure	40,551	31,047
Office Bearers' Expenditure		
Mobile phones	758	423
Travel	5,494	4,392
Campaigns	956	171
Project Grants	6,650	0
OB Expenses - other	163	0
Total Office Bearers' Expenditure	14,021	4,986
Employment and Oncosts		
Wages	268,961	326,032
Superannuation	27,058	31,386
Workcover	0	604
Employee entitlement provision	0	(20,083)
Union fees	0	0
Total Employment and oncosts	296,019	337,940
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	411,760	443,062
Net Surplus / (Deficit) before Tax*	305,814	68,966

* Note the association is exempt from income tax

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year ended 30 September 2022

1 . STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation ACT 1991. The National Executive has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The Association was incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory on 2 May 2005.

The financial report has been prepared on accrual basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non- current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(a) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Plant and equipment are brought to account at cost. The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

(b) Income Tax

No income tax has been paid, as the Association is exempt from income tax pursuant to section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment ACT 1997, as amended.

(c) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Contributions made by Association to an employee superannuation fund are charged as expenses when incurred.

(d) Leases

Lease payments under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

(e) Accounts of Branch Organisations

These accounts do not include any of the accounts of branch organisations.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year ended 30 September 2022

(f) Comparative Figures

Where required, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in accounting policies and presentation for the current year.

(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the assets and liabilities statement are shown inclusive of GST.

(h) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(i) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short- term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

2 .	CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2022	2021
		\$	\$
	Cash at bank	278,602	157,579
	Prepaid Master Card	356	2,644
	Deposits - Interest Bearing	476,268	476,268
		<u>755,227</u>	<u>636,491</u>
3 .	TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
	Trade Debtors	694,571	477,948
	Prepayments	2167	0
		<u>696,738</u>	<u>477,948</u>
4 .	PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
	Plant and Equipment - at cost	0	0
	Less: Accumulated Depreciation	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
5 .	TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
	Trade Creditors and Accruals	916	0
	PAYG Withholding Tax	10,730	13,752
	GST	66,692	39,940
		<u>78,338</u>	<u>53,692</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year ended 30 September 2022

		2022	2021
		\$	\$
6 .	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		
	Provision for Annual Leave	0	0
	Provision for RDO'S	0	0
	Provision for Redundancy	0	0
	Provision for Long Service Leave	0	0
	Superannuation	6,745	7,359
	Union	0	0
		6,745	7,359

7 . RELATED PARTIES

There were no related party transactions that required disclosure in the financial statements

8 . SEGMENT REPORTING

The Association operates in the student organisation sector providing student service facilities to member of the Association within Australia.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

National Union of Students Inc.
Reg No. AO1837
STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
For the Year ended 30 September 2022

The National Executive has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements

In the opinion of the National Executive the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 10

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Union of Students Inc. As at 30 September 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the National Union of Students Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the National Executive and is signed for and on behalf of the National Executive by:

Georgina Beatty
President
Dated:

Emily Sagolj
General Secretary
Dated:

**National Union Of Students Inc
Independent Auditor's Report
to the Members of
National Union Of Students Inc**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of National Union of Students Inc (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 September 2022, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended with the notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of National Union of Students Inc is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT) and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

**National Union Of Students Inc
Independent Auditor's Report
to the Members of
National Union Of Students Inc**

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of National Union of Students Inc is in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT), including;

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 September 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date and;
- (b) complying with the Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist National Union of Students Inc to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



Simon Jones B. Com
Certified Practising Accountant (No: 1625807)
Simon Jones & Co (ABN: 38 956 048 682)

Attachment C - NUS National Conference Report – Dylan Botica

Introduction

I'd like to thank the students for electing me as a delegate to conference and the Student Guild for providing me the means to be able to attend.

This was my third national conference but first in-person. I was proud to be elected to State Branch President in WA and congratulate Salwa Kilzi on the election to VE Officer. It was disappointing to see some of conference derailed by Socialist Alternative and Student Unity (Labor Right). This is not surprising.

The policies I presented were focused on ensuring that students can expect a union that is sustainable, fair to its member organisations and accountable to the students whose money they spend.

I will provide proposed KPIs to the February meeting of Representation Board.

I recommend you get context by searching Twitter for #NatCon22 or reading the student media outlets who published.

I have peppered some memes and tweets that amused me to help you get through this chungus read.

Conference Day 1

National Conference of the NUS is always important, always poignant but seldom not cursed. The Conference always opens with the election of the Conference Business Committee. Their role is to set the agenda, the rules for debate and whether or not motions get debated at all.

I am one member of seven delegates elected to Business Committee. I subsequently was given the privilege (if you can call it that) of being appointed as Chair of Conference Business Committee (bizcom, later snaccom [sic]).

Policy debated included policy regarding trade unionism and student unionism. I was proud to see some unproductive policy amended including policy that HECS is not best and the need for free and fully funded higher education in our platform.

Student union policy changes included the need to yeet scab unions (see the La Trobe Student Association) and the need to involve oppressed groups in activism. We also rejected changes that rejected the importance of university committees, lobbying and encouraged the union to break the law explicitly.

We also debated urgency, particularly the need to support the recommendations of the Uluru Statement from the heart. Voice, Treaty and Truth.

Some fun procedural motions through bizcom included:

- Motion for Socialist Alternative to show Student Unity some love
- Motion to name a delegate for speaking over time.
- Motion to allow photos during conference for two minutes after BeReal goes off

The day ended with a photo in solidarity with Violet Coco.





The night of day one was marked by the oppressive and relentless suppression of attendees by the Waurin Ponds campus and res security. Truly some of the worst security of all time. Air mattresses were confiscated and noise significantly limited. It appeared the conference was booked under a different name as most Universities will not host NatCon. A smoking area was set up despite the smoking/vaping ban. The smokers scored a victory over campus security attempting to shut it down (power to the people).

An inaugural meeting of dart caucus was held. I was in attendance and assisted with destroying Victoria's control.

Conference Day 2

The second day of conference consisted of Education Policy. This policy is consistently the longest and most laboriously debated.

It was once again decided that HECS is awful and education should be free.

National Labor Students made the best decision of all conference, laminating their motions heading to Business Committee. This made them impossible to be destroyed by non-NLS members of the committee. A motion by Student Unity and SAIt was passed to outlaw laminated motions. This was later overturned by Student Unity and NLS.

Viva la laminator.

The Higher Education accords were on the agenda for debate. This was the most argued motion for day two. Factional positions were as follows:

Socialist Alternative: Staunchly opposed to the accords, the union shouldn't rub shoulders with Labor positions.

Grassroots: Same as SAIt but quieter

National Labor Students: The accords aren't the answer, but we need a two-pronged approach. We shouldn't waste a once in a generation opportunity for higher education reform. "If you are not at the table, you are on the menu".

Student Unity: Hooroo up the accords.

Indies: Largely with Grassroots on this one.

Student Unity attempted to reinstate two points from the original motion. These would gag the NUS Education Officer in 2023 from impeding or criticising the accords.

NLS and SU had the numbers and the NUS will engage with the accords.

A fan favourite discussion item is the approach of the National Union of Students. With a range of opinions from not engaging in activism to only engaging in protest activism. Consensus was not reached, however, with the left increasing its votes at conference, the approach in policy has been made more ambitious.



A Curtin del speaks to right of reply: "I can't help it if SAlt can't win elections in WA".

The day ended with physical altercations and conference organiser and queen Kate Crossin being hit by a member of Socialist Alternative. The level of abuse from Socialist Alternative, particularly directed at NLS was extreme, repugnant and a disgrace to the national union. Rightly, a few members of the faction were removed from conference and not allowed to return.



A late night session of Business Committee and the Conference Organisers decided to separate NLS and SAlt and instate some new rules including ordered entrances to conference and the banning of destruction of motions at Business Committee. (This is why we can't have nice things.)

Other items of note:

- The NUS will support engagement with the Higher Education Accord Process
- Free education is a priority and HECS is not best.
- Student unions are activist unions
- Compulsory materials should be free
- We need a just transition
- Paid placements and internships is in the platform

- We stand against student partnership agreements that aren't in student interests.
- The NUS supports VC pay set by independent tribunals



Conference Day 3

A sense of quiet fills the air and the energy of yesterday has largely left for a solemn tone. Kate started the day by informing attendees that some delegates and attendees have been removed from conference. Good riddance.

Today we discussed issues in the autonomous chapters. These are always difficult for members of the relevant communities.

BizComm motions included:

- Setting up taped exclusion zones on the floor. (I provided the tape)
- Motion to change yes to “yee-haw” and no to “yee-naw” during small and regional
- Rename BizComm to SnaccComm. (I provided the snacks)

NLS moved a motion I strongly supported providing that sex work is work and those workers must be supported. SAIt used this to discuss the religious discrimination bill (which doesn't currently exist) which they oppose on principle.

During First Nations chapter the NUS supported the Uluru Statement from the heart, with members of SAIt speaking against it.

An NLS speaker said ‘Indigenous people decided on this [Uluru Statement], we don't need some white saviour bullshit’. A motion to condemn the ‘tokenism’ of the Voice to Parliament ultimately failed.

The NUS supported amendments to the disabilities chapter including motions to make activism more accessible and the NDIS more effectively delivered by fixing the NDIA. AccessCon is now in policy as a firm requirement.

At the International chapter of Natcon, motions were passed with little dissent supporting free tertiary education for all and non-discriminatory hiring practices. The only exception was criticism from SAIt regarding Labor's tendency towards lobbying. This chapter is usually the shortest at Natcon.

The Ethnocultural chapter of Natcon began with a motion to support the liberation of Palestine. A representative from the Australian Jewish Students Union spoke out against the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, stating that it would exclude Jewish students and risk harm to them. In contrast, a Jewish SAIt speaker argued that the movement to free Palestine is anti-racist in nature, and that BDS should not be considered anti-Semitic. The motion was ultimately passed with the support of SAIt, NLS, and some independent attendees.

This was a very difficult discussion with significant tension. The IHRA definition of anti-semitism is not appropriate and needs to be changed.

At lunch Tyson's curry was brutally attacked by a member of Socialist Alternative.

Small and regional policy was chaired by comrade Cheyne, certainly she was taking no prisoners with her chairing style. Yee-haw.

A motion was passed through BizComm to stop delegates who weren't Middle Eastern from wearing traditional cultural scarves on floor. SAIt were very upset about this stating it's their culture to stand in solidarity with people. Apparently that extends to when people from that culture tell you not to. Really cool.

Results for unopposed elections:

President	Bailey Riley (NLS)
General Secretary	Sheldon Gait (Unity)
Education Officer	Xavier Dupe (SAIt)

Women's Officer	Emily Searle (Unity)
Welfare Officer	Grace Franco (Unity)
Queer Officers	Grace Hill (SAIt) and Damien Nguyen (Grassroots)
First Nations Officer	Patrick Taylor (Unity)
Disability Officer	Isabella Harding (NLS)
International Students Officer	Arya Kushwaha (Unity)
Ethnocultural Officer	Ben Naiju (Unity)
Small & Regional Officer	Cheyne Howard (Unity)
VE Officer	Salwa Kilzi (NLS)

The following people have been elected to the state branches unopposed.

NSW State Branch President	Aidan O'Rourke (Unity)
NSW State Branch Education Vice-President	Ishbel Dunsmore (Groots)
VIC State Branch President	Guleid Abdullahi (Unity)
VIC State Branch Education Vice-President	Mitch Evans (NLS)
WA State Branch President	Dylan Botica (NLS)
WA State Branch Education Vice-President	Melani De Alwis (NLS)
ACT State Branch President	Luke Manning (Independent)
ACT State Branch Education Vice-President	Contested
QLD State Branch President	Edward Uzelin (Unity)
QLD State Branch Education Vice-President	Yi-Hung Chen (NLS)
SA State Branch President	Contested
SA State Branch Education Vice-President	Contested

Questions for national officers largely focused on the embezzlement and problems with the conduct of the previous general secretary. Changes to prevent this occurring in future were later blocked by SAIt as usual.



Conference Day 4

Today was where most of the urgency policy (stuff that is relevant to now) and Regs/By-Law changes. While some motions passed on bloc early in the regs. SAlt was not interested in structural reform to the NUS so delayed debate and pulled quorum. At one point Emily (Deputy President / GenSec) grabbed the mic and tried to pass motions quickly as SAlt attempted to leave. This was quickly restored for the non-controversial changes to the regs and by-laws to be changed. (Hooray for the visual common seal). With a 2/3 vote requirement for other regs to pass the discipline motions failed to get the support of Socialist Alternative, the Grassroots and a scattering of independents. I will personally blame them next time someone embezzles from the union.

Speeches from some of the elected national office bearers included the following highlights:

President-elect Bailey Riley - "I grew up in the shadows of Mt. Panorama and moved to the big smoke to go to UTS, and I'm proud to be your next NUS Pres." Riley, while emphasising the importance of the Accords, responded to a heckling SAlt member by yelling "shut up, white bitch".

2023 General Secretary Sheldon Gait (Unity) said, "So many of the issues we face as students stem from the federal government." SAlt cheered in response. Gait praised Labor's pragmatism, citing the NDIS, Indigenous land rights, HECS and superannuation as Labor wins.

2023 Education Officer Xavier Dupe (SAlt) was highly critical of Labor in their speech. Harking back to a motion by NLS and Unity to prevent the NUS Ed Officer from opposing Labor's Higher Education Accords, Dupe said that they would condemn the Accords, "We need to be clear about who our enemy is, and that is the Labor government."

It is encouraging to see a first nations women as our national president next year.

As urgency debate commenced, Kate the conference organiser informed the conference that quorum had been lost. Georgie stated that conference was over. We never got to debate the motion to condemn Tucker Fresh IGA as anti-student.

Later it was confirmed that members of Student Unity stealthily pulled quorum. This led to the end of important discussion regarding urgent matters.





NuffCon2022
@NuffCon2022

...

What a great week being a prisoner of Deakin University Warun Ponds, going to miss the fasho security guards [#natcon22](#)

6:47 AM · Dec 16, 2022



General Comments and Recommendations

I have recommendations I would like to be considered by the Curtin Student Guild in how it manages its relationship with the National Union of Students:

1. That Key Performance Indicators be set with a specific affiliation fee recommendation and specific metrics that we stick to in January. These should be sent to the National Executive early.
2. Each member of the National Executive is allocated to a Guild Officer to maintain and build the relationship and increase strength in collective action. NUS Officers are paid less than our Officers and have less resources, we should assist the NUS to be effective.
3. The Conferences and Travel Policy should be reviewed to be current with the Guild's financial status. We should only have one ex-officio attendee (the President) and we should review the viability of sending all delegates. Any changes to who is sent to conference must ensure minor party delegates are still able to attend.
4. All delegates who attended conference should be recognised for their contribution. All attendees either drafted motions or spoke passionately on motions. National Conference provides invaluable training and development at the start of the term. Conference provides incredible opportunity for collaboration and connection with student unions.
5. At the end of the day none of the policy passed on conference floor really means much at all and lends itself more to simple virtue signalling, as National Office Bearers (NOBs) are the ones that will decide what they work on regardless of official policy. This needs to be recognised and the work to drive the NUS to complete its duty starts now.
6. The Student Guild should maintain its contribution and affiliation with our national union.
7. The Guild should provide more resources to support delegates to draft and submit policy to conference.
8. GROK needs improvement to be able to reliably report on National Conference and broader student politics. Farrago had excellent coverage of conference and its something we should aspire to achieve.

Motions Drafted and Status:

- Discipline Procedure – Failed

- Tidy Up Governance Documents – Carried
- Fairness and Transparency for Senior Executive Staff - Carried
- (Multiple) Amendments as Below – Carried

Amendment:

That S11 be deleted and replaced by:

11 State Officers are responsible to, and shall be subject to direction from the following, with any inconsistency having priority in the following order.

- The National Conference,
- The National Executive,
- The State Executive,
- The National President,
- and The State President.

Moved: Dylan Botica (Curtin University)

Seconded: Melani De Alwis (University of Western Australia)

Carried

Amendment:

That S9.3 be added to S9:

9.3 That the State President shall be removed from office if they fail to call a meeting before August 1.

Moved: Dylan Botica (Curtin University)

Seconded: February Metcalf (Curtin University)

Carried

Amendment:

For B6.1 to be deleted and replaced with:

6.1 Within 2 weeks of the end of the election and applicable appeals period, the member organisation must send to the Accreditations Committee report on the letterhead signed by the returning officer:

- a. stating the election was conducted in accordance with B3 - B5;
- b. setting out the names of the delegates in the order in which they were elected; and
- c. including:
 - i. the rules under which the election was conducted, and
 - ii. details of voting.

Moved: Dylan Botica (Curtin University)

Seconded: Melani De Alwis (University of Western Australia)

Carried

Amendment:

For R67 to be deleted and replaced with:

R67. Virtual Meetings

The committee may meet by video, telephone link, or by other instantaneous means of communication provided each member present is able to clearly communicate with every other member present.

Moved: Dylan Botica (Curtin University)

Seconded: Melani De Alwis (University of Western Australia)

Carried

Amendment:

For R79.1 to be deleted and replaced with:

79.1 The rules of NUS, with any inconsistency having priority in the following order, are:

- a. the constitution,
- b. the regulations made under C17,
- c. the by-laws made under C18,
- d. the standing resolutions of National Executive made under R30, and
- e. the standing resolutions of each State Executive made under S18.

Moved: Dylan Botica (Curtin University)

Seconded: Melani De Alwis (University of Western Australia)

Carried

TL;DR

Viva la national conference. The left needs to get more delegates elected to National Conference to ensure Unity cannot control conference floor ever again. The conduct at NatCon appears to be better with more policy and less piss ups.

NUS 2022 National Conference Report

Veronika Gobba, she/her

I would like to thank the students for electing me as a delegate to the NUS National Conference and to the Guild for providing me the with means to attend, it was a unique experience which I've taken a lot from, as much as the conference is very factional and chaotic, hearing from passionate student advocates across the nation speak on many issues has been a very motivating and inspiring way to start my term as VP-E.

Prior to the conference, Curtin delegates Dylan, Salwa, Jasmyne, Athina, February and myself as well as Hiba who went as an observer, reviewed the NUS's policy platform and regulations and created policy & regulations changes/proposals which we thought reflected our values as well as the interests of the Guild.

Day 1

Before we get to the conference floor we check into Deakin and our accommodation and as we do I and many others are swarmed by members of Socialist Alternative giving people their telemarketer-style questions which usually started out with 'so what are trying to get out of the conference?' Being my first year at conference along with my fellow delegates who were all new to this I really had no idea but 'hopefully not therapy', I kept thinking to myself.

Start of the conference and some Curtin delegates were already being oppressed, one of our delegate's laptop went "missing", eventually it was located and, on the upside, we got some national coverage for the Curtin Parking Campaign (we love an accidental media stunt).

Trade unionism was the first policy chapter on the agenda, some good policy was passed in this section including a motion for the NUS to condemn youth wages and actioning a national campaign to end youth wages, as well as a motion to encourage NUS State Branches to establish relationships with State Trades & Labour Councils (or Trades Halls).

It soon becomes apparent that there is a reason these conferences usually go into the late hours of the night, SAIt has the strategy of using speakers for against even if they are for the motion. It's always fun to be yelled at by SAIt only to be followed by the whole conference floor unanimously voting for a motion, it's pretty mind-numbing.

Day 2

We got stuck into education policy, much of the discussion here was about the higher education accords, which in the end, resulted in a policy passed that meant the NUS would engage with the accords process. Policy was amended to establish free education is best—not HECS. Paid placements and internships are also now in the platform as well as a motion which supports transparent VC pay set by independent tribunals.

Day 3

This day was mostly made up of autonomous chapters, these are usually hard chapters for many belonging to these autonomous groups to go through. During the Women's chapter it was very sad to see SAIt put up a motion stating that 'Super is super sexist and super anti-working class' and that the NUS should be in favour of scrapping superannuation. It was disappointing to see SAIt put up a motion which is something that the right-wing bodies in Australia have advocated for and using the Women's chapter to improperly identify the causes of the gender wealth disparity. This motion made me think back to Edcon, I remember a member of SAIt member getting up and saying something along the lines of 'We should be campaigning even harder against a Labor government, sometimes its easier to get socialist wins against a liberal government', I started to realise that SAIt will always be against the small steps and wins towards actual progress because when the ALP start to improve the lives of average Australians through schemes such as superannuation, it makes it harder for SAIt to recruit people for their grand revolution, their movement only thrives through hard times. SAIt also opposed The Uluru Statement, their reasons different to the right-wing doiscourse against it, but alignment the same. #itsgivinghorseshoetheory. Needless to say, NLS and SU pushed back against SAIt's ridiculous motion and it was thankfully not passed.

As I mentioned earlier, The Uluru statement from the heart was a major theme in the First Nations chapter, SAIt had opposed it, but the motion was passed that the NUS would support a First Nations voice to parliament.

Much great LGBTQIA+/Queer policy was passed including affirming the Darlington Statement and campaigning against outdated blood donation policies. It was noted in this section that many motions SAIt had put forward in this chapter had an incorrect LGBTQIA+ acronym, despite calling this out and formally amending this, SAIt continued to often leave out the I, A & the +. There were also many times (throughout the entire conference) that speakers were encouraged to state their pronouns along with their name when they went up to speak, not just being good practice but it also helped the student media report accurately, however, SAIt continued to have speakers who did not state their pronouns. It felt like a purposely defiant act considering it is such a simple thing to do.

There were wins in the Disabilities chapter, including mandating Accessibility Conference once every two years and support for the liberation of Palestine was moved in the ethnocultural chapter (without the support of SU).

During the lunch break, a member of NLS had their curry attacked by a member of SAIt, after lunch during the Small & Regional chapter, a member of NLS used some of their speaking time to talk about food insecurity in the regions—referencing the brutal attack on the curry (I believe the victim was a regional student idk it was funny either way). The day ended with reports from outgoing OBs, as expected there was much heckling.

Day 4

On this day we heard speeches from the incoming OBs and went through changes to the regulations and by-laws and the remaining urgency motions.

Bailey Riley, the newly elected NUS President gave a speech which focused on the accords and the Uluru Statement, it is encouraging to see a First Nations President leading the campaign for the Voice to parliament. Another highlight was watching Salwa Kilzi give their speech as new Vocational Education Officer, it is long overdue

for the NUS to have an officer in this position who an actual TAFE student. It was noted at EdCon in 2022 that the NUS' lack of engagement with TAFEs was one of its biggest failures, Salwa being elected to this position is the first step in rectifying that. The position is unpaid so we cannot expect an overhaul in this area, but I hope Salwa can set the groundwork for more TAFE engagement and affiliation to the NUS. I will also note it is fantastic to have Dylan Botica as WA State Branch President and I hope that associated bodies in WA are receptive to his leadership.

As we were going through regs & by-laws, there was a point when there was discussion on structural reform motions in which SAIt decided to pull quorum and Emily (the outgoing General Secretary) from SU grabbed the microphone, attempting to steal the chair from the NUS President and tried to quickly pass motions as SAIt was walking out. It was a disgusting display from SU and SAIt. In the end Georgie (NUS President) was able to take back control and get back to quorum. Unfortunately some good regs/by-law changes which prevent embezzlement and allow for the removal of officers who commit any serious offences were not able to pass due to the lack of support from SAIt, the Grassroots, and some independents.

We went back to some urgency policies, then it was informed that the conference had lost quorum and that the conference was over, it was later found out that SU had strategically pulled quorum without it being obvious, it was very disappointing to see as there were many urgency motions left to discuss—some written and submitted by the Curtin delegates.

Final Thoughts

I took a lot away from this conference, I learned a lot about the history and intricacies of student unionism; I now have more insight from the diverse array of opinions on many different student issues and I am much more aware of how the NUS works and what its main goals will be and how we can best work with them. I do have worries about how effectively this new body of OB's will work together to deliver campaigns and policies, SAIt have the Education Officer position and although this position is a largely activist position and is a crucial position, I believe, to be held by the left—I am worried that SAIt's extreme anti-government collaboration, anti-accords and anti-Voice to Parliament sentiments which sit against much of the policy platform may

cause much tension within the OB team, delaying action and achievements. I hope the OBs can put aside their differences for the greater good of the union.

Recommendations:

1. If you are a trot, get on the hashtag, we want to see you on twitter, fruitful political discourse can happen on there too.
2. The involvement of student media (Woroni, Honi Soit and Farrago) at this conference is great and very necessary due to the no camera or recordings rule on the conference floor. It would be great to see Grok more involved in NUS coverage and general, live on the ground coverage of student happenings at Curtin.
3. Our Guild OB's try to maintain contact with NUS OB's and support them, although they are the national body, the NUS officers are paid less than ours and often have less resources so they must have our collective support to be an effective body. The Office Bearers are the ones who actualise the NUS's goals, even though there is some fantastic policy in the platform, The OB's will each have their individual priorities depending on their position and their factional allegiance—thus we must hold them accountable and remain collaborative and communicative.
4. Until we have #WANatCon, we should review are conferences/travel policy as it is expensive to send every delegate over east for this conference.
5. A procedural recommendation for the NUS (if this even gets back to them) that motions passed through Bizcom are displayed somewhere for all to see, often motions would get passed through Bizcom to change the way the conference works, for example the banning of speakers speaking against a motion if they are in favour of it, these motions often get forgotten throughout all the chaos and delegates often forget the procedural and only call people out for breaking them if it is in their interests to do so.

ACRONYMS GUIDE

SU – Student Unity

SAlt – Socialist Alternative

NLS – National Labor Students

Bizcomm – Business Committee

EdCon – Education Conference

NUS – National Union of Students

OB – Office Bearer

Attachment E - NUS National Conference Report – Athina Himan

Athina Hilman's report for the 2022 NUS conference

Before the conference

In the 2022 Guild elections, I ran as a NUS candidate for the National Conference held at the end of the year. I was fortunate enough to be elected by Curtin students as a delegate which saw me head to Melbourne last December. I admit that I did not know much about NUS before the conference. I knew they were a union representing students, but that was the extent of my knowledge.

One of my main motivations for running as a delegate was to know if the NUS served a purpose for Curtin students. Through my position at Guild Council, I was aware of the Curtin Student Guild's affiliation with NUS. I have, in the past, voiced my concern over our affiliation as I knew our affiliation contribution was sizeable despite getting a special discount. I questioned the contribution publicly during one of the meetings because I felt the Guild could utilise the money for campus-related improvements such as more workshops and free giveaways.

Before the conference, Curtin delegates gathered to write motions they would present at the National Conference. Unfortunately, I could not attend the session as I was overseas.

Pre-conference

This year, some delegates aligned themselves with the National Labor Students. They associated themselves with the Labor left the party, and while the most of these individuals had, in the past, been independents, we evaluate our partnerships each year. One of the differences in aligning with NLS was that we were required to join their pre-conference over three days. As this was my first conference, I was told that we had a schedule of all the motions we would present at the actual conference. These motions were divided into sections such as Small and Regional policies. This pre-conference aims to fine-tune any motions NLS wanted to present and look through the motions other stupol parties have put forward.

They also had motions related to autonomous groups such as Disability, Fem and Queer caucus. During these caucuses, anyone who did not identify as the following groups was instead asked to join the pro caucus. This is where delegates were given worksheets to complete, designed to help people become better allies to marginalised groups. Attending the pre-conference was very unnerving as most people who attended the NLS pre-conference knew each other. These people have gotten together multiple times during the year due to their campus proximity, so we felt (I felt) like outsiders.

On our first day, we got right into the fem caucus. As I identified as a female, I attended the caucus and watched everyone in the room give contributions. February was particularly helpful during this caucus as she spoke on several presented motions. Next was the small and regional policy which was quite short. After this session, we went through any rule changes and urgency motions. This took a while as there were several urgent motions other parties put forward.

Attachment E - NUS National Conference Report – Athina Himan

On the second day, we went through education policies. This took a while as there was a sizeable amount of education motions. We also went through the autonomous caucus chapters such as Queer, Trans, Disability and POC caucuses. As an Asian woman, I identified with the POC caucus and spoke on a few presented motions. They also put motions for International students in this section, which was out of place. There also needed to be international students to speak on these policies. Perhaps a constructive criticism I can put towards NLS would be to recruit international students better.

I could not attend on the third day because I was under the weather.

National Conference

The national conference spanned four days at Deakin University in Warren Ponds. All delegates and attendees were provided with a bus to the conference and checked into our accommodation on our first day. I'm not sure how to best describe the conference other than to describe it as chaotic. It was an intense few days, with some days starting at 8 am and finishing at 10.30 pm.

All the parties entered the lecture hall and were divided into sections like a real parliament. On our first day, NLS was seated beside the Socialist Alternative party and independents. Unity was seated on their side. When the conference finally started, I thought it was insane. People were yelling, screaming and grandstanding about certain policies. This mostly came from the Socialist Alternative (SAIt) party, with other independents voicing their displeasure.

What really grinded my gears was how the socialist alternative party were behaving like rabid animals. Many would encroach on NLS seating areas and crowd around us on the sidelines, yelling insults. It was extremely hard to ignore them. When lunch came around, these SAIt members would come and sit next to us and ask us why we were voting on bad motions etc. This was extremely annoying, and several times, I had to shout and get them to leave. I found this insane as this was essentially harassment, and I'm not sure why they are still allowed to attend these conferences.

On our first day, we passed our motion on Fairness and Transparency for Senior Executive Staff. Essentially it should be a public record of how much university executives make. Jasmyne spoke on this motion as a mover, and it passed. This was a great win for us and our guild, so we were very chuffed this went through. We also watched Dylan run Bizcom (Business Communication), where they essentially passed motions regarding the conference to the chair. An example of a conference motion would be to ensure everyone on Bizcom wore masks, and parties had to sign on to it. If they didn't, the other party should take it and destroy the motion so it doesn't pass to the chair. Bizcom was easily the craziest thing I've ever seen, as certain delegates from certain parties were so grating.

On the second day, we started caucusing with NLS at 8 am. In the morning, we found out that February tested positive for COVID, which meant she had to isolate. As we were staying in the same dormitory as her, we had to test for it just in case. On our second day, I realised we had only made motions from page 47 out of 243. This meant we had a lot more to do,

Attachment E - NUS National Conference Report – Athina Himan

and the fastest way to do it was to move many things on the block. However, Salt opposed doing this as they wanted to go through every motion. Maybe because they're the only ones with jobs as professional students sucking on the government's teet for income.

The second day was also the day I joined bizcom. The motions coming down were insidious. Most of the motions that SAlt wanted to push were extra speaking time or extra speakers to speak on motions. I felt this added more time, which meant we might not finish the conference. I was very strict here; whenever a motion did not have an NLS signature, I swiped it and ripped it. At one (or two points), I ate the paper to stop the motion from coming through. Several SAlt members fat-shamed me by making jokes about how hungry I was, which was such a pathetic comeback. SAlt members were also taking photos of the motion and uploading them on social media to shame certain members of certain political groups. This was extremely uncalled for.

The second day also turned out to be the longest day, which turned violent. SAlt members were attacking and following NLS members while walking out for lunch. Bizcomm ended with a brawl where a man's pants came undone, showing the entire conference his behind. A SAlt member also ended up punching Kate, one of the organisers. Due to all this, the seating configuration was changed to separate SAlt and NLS for the remainder of the conference.

We discussed International and ethno chapters on the third day, to which I spoke. The day started with SAlt members wearing the Palestinian Keffiyeh. This was extremely distressing to some Palestinian students as it was worn in the wrong colour, and white people co-opted it. I left biz com on the third day to speak on some ethnic motions. I spoke on an NLS motion for NUS to stand against police brutality and imprisonment. Unity countered that cops were needed to ensure people were appropriately punished for their crimes. SAlt spoke about how it's an oxymoron for NLS to be against cops when they align themselves with the labour party. I rebutted it with the fact that, yes, Unity has always been pro-police, but that police can sometimes get it wrong. I told SAlt that it was not a collaboration, but we needed to work together to combat issues rather than rally all the time. This motion passed.

The second I presented was an NLS motion to ensure ethnic people are provided with a seat at the table regarding campaigns and rallies. It was extremely unfortunate that an ethnic delegate spoke of it as tokenism when the motion was about giving minorities a voice in these events. SAlt was against this motion too, which enraged me. They were a group of angry white people, so they didn't want to include ethnic people in the decision-making process. I was personally disappointed that this motion did not pass.

During lunch, a brawl erupted when a SAlt member approached an NLS member and knocked his food out of his hands. SAlt was also extremely restless when they discussed small regional policies and kept hijacking the microphone to talk about the nurse's strike in WA, how NLS love working with labour, and Palestine. At this point, my patience had run thin, and I was yelling at certain members encroaching on the speaking area.

On the last day, SAlt walked out when their motions were going to be put on the block. By walking out, they pulled a quorum. To get them back, we had to listen to the motions they

Attachment E - NUS National Conference Report – Athina Himan

wanted to present, which were urgent motions regarding protests. Just before dinner, Kate walked in and said we needed delegates from Unity; therefore, we needed a quorum. We also could not get them to return as they were already on their way to Melbourne and did not proxy their vote. This was disappointing as we discovered that Unity did this on purpose as they needed urgent motions to present.

I loved meeting other like-minded people passionate about education at the conference. It was also nice getting to know the other Curtin guild delegates, as I am not an office bearer. What I disliked about the conference was the political minefield, speakers grandstanding, the harassment and certain incidents which gave me the ick. For example, SAlt members wanted us to chant in solidarity for the Iranian woman who was brutally murdered. Three female SAlt members argued about who would lead the chant, which felt so tokenistic, and I refused to chant alongside them. When told the Palestinian garb offended some Palestinian people, SAlt members who weren't wearing it decided to put it on to spite everyone. It is the very definition of insanity.

I am unsure how NUS will work when there are exec team members who can't even listen to motions presented by other stupol parties. I do not know how the educational officer for NUS will support and push for better policies without wanting to work or collaborate with the government, as some of them hold anarchist views. I came out of the conference unsure whether the NUS would achieve anything with so much political infighting. With SAlt holding a number of positions, it makes me worry about the state of the union.

To end things on a good note, I am glad to have attended, as it gave me more insight into what the NUS does. I am extremely thankful to those who voted me in and my Curtin Student Guild, comrades who supported each other through this chaotic week. It was a great start to the end of my StuPol career as I graduate at the end of the year. My hope for this new year is the hope the NUS can put aside political differences and will continue supporting good educational policies for tertiary students.

National Conference of the National Union of Student Curtin Delegate Report

12th - 15th December 2022.

Salwa Kilzi

I acknowledge that Curtin University is on the lands of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation.

This land is stolen land and was never ceded. I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

Background

I would like to begin by thanking the students at Curtin University for putting their faith in me and the other delegates in representing them to speak for and act on behalf of them I appreciate this opportunity and will fight for us!

National Union of Students (NUS) is a representation body for Tertiary Education, they participate in activism and campaigns to better student's education and overall satisfaction from their university/TAFE. They are broken up into different factions including Student Unity (SU) who identify as Labor right, National Labor Students (NLS) who identify as Labor Left, Grassroots (Groots) identifying as Greens aligned, Socialist Alternative (SAlt), who are identify as Left on the political scale, Australian Liberal Students Federation (Libs) , who are Liberals and independents (i), those with no affiliation.

The NUS hold a National Conference every year, which they vote in the next lot of office bearers and the national executives, as well as go over policy and produce. Every year Curtin Students Vote on their delegates to represent them in the NUS, in 2022, seven people were voted in, Veronika Gobba, Dylan Botica, Danicia Scott, February Metcalf, Jasmyne Tweed, Athina Hilman, Hiba (who came as an observer) and me Salwa Kilzi.

12th Monday December

First Day of National Conference (NatCon) Curtin Delegates arrived at Deakin University, Waurin Ponds, Victoria a cold and windy environment the Western Australians froze seeking their accommodation unaware of the security officers and tension that lies ahead. Delegates, check in and head to conference, seeking their spots in this vast crowd of the Eastern States, longing for warmth sat with NLS. The structure of the conference was NLS on the left, SAlt, Groots, Libs, i in the center and SU on the right, fitting sitting we all assumed, put the left on the left and the right on the right? Makes sense, just you wait and see.



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Georgie Beatty (NLS, La Trobe, NUS Pres) announces that a MacBook with a sticker reading "I went to Curtin University and all I got was a cello parking fine" went missing during the break, and is now up the front of the room. Not a good start for the WA delegates. [#natcon22](#)

I worked hard to find that laptop for the WA delegate, it is found. Delegates vote on motions (P.1-P.7) it passes. P.8 is a motion to prohibit filming on conference floor, it passes. One of the first motions (14.34) moved was the BeReal motion to allow people to suspend orders to be able to take a BeReal. SAlt attempts to move a motion to extend speaking time it fails. Motion passes to extend conference until 9pm. Motion 1.1 Same Job, Same Pay, for the NUS to hold a national campaign to abolish junior wages and engage with the industrial relations minister, NLS speaks for, speaking about how everyone should be payed a fair wage, SAlt speaks for talks about how NLS use a two-pronged approach and how it "doesn't accomplish anything" a SAlt speaker speaks against (yes the same faction can speak for and against a motion), the motion passes. Things move like this for a while a motion that all factions agree with, will have a speaker on for and against by Salt (so that they are able to speak more). Maddy is named for not sitting and respecting their speaking time. There is this trend of SAlt speaking only to NLS as they sit on the left SAlt attempts to convince NLS to vote with them, criticize they aren't more left, in their eyes.



Farrago Magazine @FarragoMagazine · Dec 12, 2022

A SAlt member speaks, asks "my question to NLS is what do you exist for if not to push forward the left wing of the trade union movement? Do you think unions should be like the SDA?" Unity erupts in cheers of "SD-slay!". [#natcon22](#)

SAlt members refuse to sit in their seats so NUS president Georgie Beatty asks everyone to sit down and move off the stair aisles, SAlt protest, Kate conference organizer states "this is an intimidation tactic". During these motions passing SAlt members don't follow the seating rule and a member is named. Business

Committee (BizComm), is elected to the floor. All motions have passed at this point. On BizComm is Dylan Bottica, Azraa Hussain, Caleb Watts, Maddie Clark and Yasmin Johnson, Lana Goodman-Tomsett, Rafael Aquino were elected unopposed. SAlt is criticized for not using the correct acronym for LGBTQIAA+. During all this yelling and motions being passed despite the yelling (even if it is unanimous), BizComm is happening and in BizComm it is a battle with our President Dylan Botica as chair the motion has to arrive to him to be voted on, this can be delayed by factions, grabbing and



destroying the paper and getting pushing others away from the small piece of paper to see if they faction has signed on the motion. BizComm is made up of two NLS, three SU, two SAlt. The goal in BizComm is to give the paper to the chair if you faction has signed the paper at all costs and destroy it if they haven't, which is what leads to Bezoars.

All of Chapter 1; trade unionism passes. Dinner time at last. A break this is needed. Then it continues while all factions struggle to get their delegates back in to hit quorum. Notice for people to stop vaping and smoking in the room, by Kate. Urgency Motions 14.29 Rebuild the student union movement, fails by NLS and SU. Urgency Motions 14.30 fails, 14.31 passes, at this point in the conference it is late and with the chants and yelling people are getting tense, the enjoyment is watching BizComm Rugby games to get motions out or eaten. 14.1 for a solidarity photo with Violet Coco to the end of tonight's session, passes. Chapter 2; student unionism is mixed with a more motions pass than fail rate, at some points with all the sounds I have no idea what the conclusion was. I also had to run to the accommodation a couple times to provide the COVID tested person with supplies, as I had access to the block.



Farrago Magazine @FarragoMagazine · Dec 12, 2022

Procedural motion in the last two minutes to mandate "Unity some love".
[#natcon22](#)

13th Tuesday December

Another day more BizComm being violent, we start on chapter 3; education. The education



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Salwa (NLS, Curtin) speaks on a bloc of motions including 'Unionise TAFE Ploise!'

"TAFE students should have the opportunity to unionise, and to get the education they deserve."

[#natcon22](#)

4:15 pm · 13/12/2022 · [Twitter Web App](#)

and I spoke on the issues surrounding TAFE and the no representation the students have, the motions I spoke on were passed, TAFE as a whole is not well managed, the staff between different areas have no communication and there are issues with equity, resources for students and options and accessible classes and education, overall it is a mess. Chapter 4 moved in blocks so we didn't have many speakers and at the NUS majority of people have never attended TAFE, it wasn't a

chapter is long, BizComm allows for many speakers as it is important to discuss, majority of this chapter the accords is mentioned again and again, the concept of 'fight the power' is brought up in a sense, like chapter 2 more passes than fails and some amendments on motions, during this I am getting ready to speak for chapter 4; vocational education. I spoke about how bad TAFE is and how the NUS hasn't focused on it before and TAFE student's deserve a union just like universities

priority. One of the Delegates got COVID so I worked with the NUS organizers to get people tested, we had to make sure proxies worked and getting someone out one at time and in groups, a block of accommodation and the WA delegates had to get tested, so that was fun to figure out the proxies.



Woroni @Woroni · Dec 13, 2022

4.8 Vocational Education Students Need Fighting Unions.

Not content with a previous motion about unions for **TAFE** students, SAIt wants a fighting, aggressive union.

NLS slams SAIt for not "having a single idea" about apprentices working onsite.

Motion: passes [#natcon22](#)



Woroni @Woroni · Dec 13, 2022

The room seems pretty unanimous in support, and the motions en bloc for **TAFE** unions, free **TAFE**, and more support for **TAFE** workers. [#natcon22](#)

I spent some of the day attempting to get the laminator to work so that important motions to BizComm can't be destroyed, as well as attempting to make deals between NLS and SU, and passing around information, speaking/ texting to other Curtin Delegates. My job for the day as random small things. It was really fun to hear the chants some included, Solidarity forever the song, "get elected", "SD SLAY" "SCAB" "what do we think of Trots, sh*t, what do we think of sh*t Trots" "what's in the bill" "Shame" "Talk to them" and many more that is a mix from different factions. Things are moved around chapters aren't in order any more, Chapter 5; welfare, discusses social security, finances of students, the housing being not under the rights for residences for student accommodation's, wanting free, accessible and quality health care, getting that sweet duty of care <3.



Farrago Magazine @FarragoMagazine · Dec 13, 2022

The motion to oppose the Accord fails. [#natcon22](#)

Chapter 6; women happening. Chapter 6, included a lot of yelling SU and NLS agreed to only have those who identify as women speaking to insure that the correct voice is speaking on the motions. This chapter discusses how super is sexist and how the education system is made for AMAB (assigned male at birth) people and discussed abortion rights and mentioned how in WA it is still under the criminal code and in the Eastern states it is inaccessible and expensive as well as all the barriers and roadblocks that surround Women's health care and simple access to the right to decide what happens to their body. Now we are on LGBTQIAA+/Queer Chapter 7, and the speaking of the religious discrimination bill (that currently does not exist) does not leave the mouth of SAIt during this whole chapter. Today we finished at 10pm, as per a motion passed earlier today. During today I

would run down to BizComm and provide snacks, made an agreement with SU that they provide water and SU and NLS snacks and water only.

14th Wednesday December

Very slowly we enter the conference as the seating has changed SU now in the middle, as SAIt has been harassing NLS and it has gotten to a point where it is not safe and during existing yesterday Kate was injured by a SAIt member as the groups were leaving from the pushing/hackling. There is also an ID check for everyone to make sure no one is using fake names (cause people were). Today is very tense and SU and NLS has after NLS have taken a lot of the heat SU have started attempting to redirect the attention to themselves with chants and being a physical barrier between SAIt and NLS. Continuing on with Chapter 7; LGBTQIAA+/Queer, this chapter though many words were said basically all passed, so we are in agreement to not be homophobic, great stuff. This Chapter covered, services, dead naming, healthcare, Sex Work, conversion therapy and basic rights of them Queer's. This Chapter SAIt and NLS voted similarly in support of the community. The i and Groots, voting throughout these days changed with each motion generally voting whoever they sat next to. Chapter 8; First Nations, as someone who is not from that community the only thing I can say is that I appreciate that the speakers were First Nations Peoples, in this chapter it was mentioned in having more involvement in participating in First Nations Peoples campaigns and supporting the community. 14.56 'End the racist torture of children.' Passes. 'Motion 14.55 The NUS opposes the racist violence of police.' Passes.



Farrago Magazine @FarragoMagazine · Dec 14, 2022

...

David (UWA, Indie) is yelling for NLS to explain themselves. He's been named three times now. Chants of "kick him out!" He has been ejected for the rest of the session. [#natcon22](#)



Farrago Magazine @FarragoMagazine · Dec 14, 2022

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A motion to wish a happy birthday to Taylor Swift and play her music during the breaks. NLS for, SAIt against. We think it passes? [#natcon22](#)

Happy Birthday Tay Tay <3. Break time, the group entering happens very slowly. Chapter 9; disability, NDIS is mentioned a lot, this chapter ends quick, talks about making things accessible and how we should combat ableism and discrimination. I'm not sure the exact moment but for a good section of this day I was on BizComm, this is after BizComm rules was changed no more physical just words, during my time on BizComm I passed some motions that I made at the table, one being no one who is not speaking to be on conference floor, another is reducing speaking time, we also allowed more speakers, to make these happen I made deals with SU at the table, with all the snacks there it helped ease the table to be able to talk about things. Another motion I pushed for is to have

everyone sit in their seats or they will be named, at many occasions I did raise my voice at people who stood near BizComm who weren't a part of it who were trying to make deals I pushed for a motion to be passed that, that is not allowed no one talks to BizComm, an agreement we made on the table is that, we would consider things and allow time for groups to check before voting if necessary. At this point SAIt faked signatures so the papers could not be trusted we had to check if the factions actually signed things. I enjoyed by time on BizComm, I felt I got some change and I also made the convention run smoother, with the deals and motions I made.

Chapter 10; international, was short and quick talked about accessible education and secure employment. Chapter 11; ethno cultural I was in BizComm for this whole bit, I know Palestine was a topic of interest and as someone who is Palestinian I did not appreciate some things that were said and will be monitoring the NUS on the motions passed regarding it. Ethnocultural section was quiet confronting to me a person of color and they discussed things liked decolonizing our health care which I think is a priority, refugees and migration, religious beliefs, nationalism, war, military's, the factions were very spilt between motions, as this is a sensitive topic, not going to lie it did make me uncomfortable, I did appreciate SU and NLS for only having POC people speak but even then it did not stop people from viewing these issues in a political sense only and forgetting about the individuals involved in these cases, I will be monitoring and ensuring the motions carried are actioned in a fair and just way, during these times I appreciated my fellow Curtin Delegates, Dylan, Veronika, Athina, Jasmyne, Hiba and February for being supportive during those moments. Chapter 12; small and regional motion passed at BizComm to say Yehaw and Yeno instead of approve/denying a motion, you can read more about those fun motions at SnackComm (Motion passed for BizComm to only be addressed as SnackComm) and Dylan requested and made it happen. THAT'S MY PRESIDENT! (we would shout when Dylan did great at SnackComm).

15th Thursday December

Last day! Exciting times all that is left is some motions and the procedures, reports of NUS office bearer is done as well as questions and answers, this takes most of the day, and speeches of new office bearers. Glad to announce two Curtin delegates got positions Dylan Botica as WA State Branch President and Myself as Vocational Officer of the NUS. I said a speech and we did not finish the conference as quorum was pulled.



Woroni @Woroni · 25m

Replying to @Woroni

We're now hearing from the first ever Vocational Ed officer.

Promises to keep this short and sweet.

Thanks NLS and their guild.

"Let's unite some TAFEs." #natcon22

🗨️ 🔄 ❤️ 📤

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National Office Bearers

National Secretary	Sheldon Gait (SU)
Education	Xavier Dupe (SA)
Welfare	Grace Franco (SU)
Womens	Emily Searle (SU)
Queer	Damien Nguyen (GI)
Queer	Grace Hill (SA)
Ethno-Cultural	Ben Naiju (SU)
First Nations	Patrick Taylor (SU)
Disabilities	Isabella Harding (NLS)
Small and Regional	Cheyne Howard (SU)
International	Arya Kushwaha (SU)
Vocational Education	Salwa Kilzi (NLS)

State Presidents

NSW	Aidan O'Rourke (SU)
QLD	Edward Uzelin (SU)
SA	Isaac Solomon (SU)
VIC	Guleid Abdullahi (SU)
WA	Dylan Botica (NLS)
ACT	Luke Manning (IND)



Salwa's shout out is to the North Metro Tafe Student Association @Nmtsaw! #natcon22

Farrago Magazine @FarragoMagazi... · 48m
Replying to @FarragoMagazine
Salwa finishes, asks us to give a group a shoutout but we didn't catch it (please tell us)!

A procedural to go straight to rule changes passes with NLS and Unity support. #natcon22
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Replying to @FarragoMagazine

"...and fight for the campaigns we care about. I am dedicated to this cause and fighting for students who are voiceless in their struggle against a uni management who don't care about them." #natcon22

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Farrago Magazine @FarragoM... · 32m
Replying to @FarragoMagazine

Now onto Salwa Kilzi (NLS, Curtin, inaugural Vocational Education Officer-elect):

"I understand the value and importance of TAFE in providing accessible, hands-on education. As a union, it is our responsibility to advocate for student interests and what they need..." #natcon22

That's all folks!

Vibes and Aesthetics

Salwa Kilzi ☺

Attachment G - NUS National Conference Report – Danica Scott

NUS report - Danica Scott

Compared to recent years, NatCon 2022 took place in a new context. The Labor Party is in government federally, and the conference returned to an in-person format which allowed for much more productive debate and collaboration than has occurred in the past couple of years while the conference was online.

The ALP being in government should be no reason for the NUS to celebrate. Labor is continuing along many of the same paths that the previous Coalition governments were on. They continue to uphold the brutal regime of refugee persecution and torture, and still plan to hand out billions in tax cuts to Australia's richest while neglecting welfare and wages. Where their policies differ, they remain inadequate. The unambitious target of 43% emissions reduction comes with no means of being enforced, and is at odds with Labor's own plans to continue expanding the fossil fuel industry. The proposed Indigenous Voice to Parliament will be only a symbolic advisory body with no binding powers that will achieve very little when it comes to addressing the structural inequalities imposed on Indigenous people, such as the disturbingly high incarceration rate (in WA - a Labor state - it's 3.6%, while the overall incarceration rate is 0.3%).

This is all to say that the question of the attitude that the NUS takes towards a Labor government is an important one. Will it stand against Labor, taking a position to its left, and criticising it when its policies and actions go against what is in students' interests? Or will it be an uncritical cheerleader, giving the government left cover while it continues to act only in the interests of Australian capitalism? This was the central question of NatCon 2022.

Unsurprisingly, the Labor students chose the latter, and removed almost all criticism of Labor from motions put forward. The main proposal put forward by NLS was that the NUS should lobby Labor to improve conditions for students, for instance by participating in the Australian Universities Accord. Not only will this be ineffective in pressuring Labor to better the lives of students, but it will leave the NUS relegated to a rubber stamp for the government to strike whatever deal it likes with the vice-chancellors and big business. The premise of the Accord is to direct the higher education sector for the needs of the Australian economy, not any genuine desire to better the lives of students.

As it stands, the NUS holds very little sway over the government. Its orientation to lobbying has left its activist muscle to atrophy to the point of near non-existence, and it is no coincidence that this is happening at the same time as the NUS is declining in relevance for the majority of students. In order to be in a position to genuinely challenge Labor, it needs to rebuild this muscle. This will be a long-term process, but it is one that has to begin as soon as possible. An activist NUS defeated the Abbott government's 2014 austerity budget, and there's no reason similar fights couldn't be taken up around the direct attacks on students Labor shows no sign of changing (fee increases, cuts to education funding, and the neglect of welfare) or broader political issues.

With this in mind, I think there were several positive, if early, steps taken in this direction. Motions were passed in support of Palestine, against the far right, and to oppose the Religious Discrimination Bill. Most importantly, a climate National Day of Action (NDA) has been set for March 17. It was very positive to have participation and commitments made by delegates from Curtin and UWA, and it will be a very good thing to see both the NUS and Curtin Student Guild involved in organising not just the March 17 NDA, but also continuing that involvement in other campaigns as they arise. How the campaigns will play out remains to be seen, and the Guild should treat them - starting with the March 17 NDA - as an opportunity to get students involved in activism and rebuild its activist muscle. If this opportunity is taken up, it will surely be the most beneficial outcome for all involved.

Students and workers are being forced to bear the brunt of the economic crisis unfolding while the rich continue to accumulate wealth with the help of the Labor government. NUS in its current state is in an incredibly weak position to fight this, but it can be - and should be - a body that takes up major fights on the side of students, workers, and the oppressed. As long as the NUS maintains its current approach, it will continue to decline in relevance among the student body and influence in broader society (the same applies to individual student unions, including the Curtin Guild). This does not have to happen. The outcomes of NatCon 2022 don't reflect a major change in this approach, but small steps have been made in the right direction.

The National Union of Students Annual Conference – Report 2022

The NUS Annual Conference (NatCon) sets the direction and agenda for the NUS for the coming year. Policies, campaigns, and strategies are discussed, debated, and put to vote, it also serves as a forum for the members to discuss and put forward the issues and concerns they see students face on the campuses. The conference is open for any student who is a member of NUS to attend. As a Curtin NUS Delegate, I discussed and voted on the policy that impacts the lives of Curtin students, including wages of people under 21, lowering the age of independence, the price of degrees and the upcoming Higher Education Accords. The main factions that NUS delegates are a part of are Unity (Labor right), National Labor Students (Labor Left), Socialist Alternative and Grassroots/independence.

Speaking of the Accords, Socialist Alternative (SAlt) and Grassroots voted against participating in the upcoming Accords as they think the NUS would only be there to approve, not meaningful contributions. The 2022 NUS President reminded everyone with an iconic quote "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." With or without the support of Student Unions, the Accords will be happening. With the submission and consultation process, the NUS being involved will allow students to be represented on a national level when policy changes are being made. Thankfully, the motion that the NUS will participate in the Accords process passed (Veronika and Dylan worked very hard when we got back from Melbourne to ensure we made the submission deadline in time).

SAlt continued to act the way they do by screaming at 2023 President Bailey Riley from National Labor Students (NLS) to condemn the Labor party for any possible, future Religious Discrimination Bills. In doing so they were disturbing the Autonomous Chapters which really showed how much they care about students with disabilities. Especially, after they demonstrated that they had no clue that there is a difference between the NDA and NDIS. At the beginning of the Ethnocultural policy chapter, a procedure was passed through Business Committee for anyone (it was latterly just SAlt) to ban non-Middle Eastern delegates from wearing scarves. Hiba (ICON) called out SAlt members for appropriating Middle Eastern culture. This procedure went through twice and SAlt continued to wear the head scarves claiming it is their culture to stand in solidarity with people.

Despite the clear divide that existed among factions, there were policies that (basically) everyone voted in favour of. Including a motion that I spoke on for the salaries of university executive members to go through the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal or each State's Salaries and Allowances Tribunal. Universities are publicly funded and therefore are public assets. VCs and other University Exec should not be able to set how much they get paid. Like other High paid public Officers, University Exec salaries should be determined by an independent statutory body.

One of the most shocking developments with this conference was that SAlt and Unity had a deal to secure National Office Bearer positions. That group that hates Labor decided to make a deal with the Right for their gain, instead of working with the other left factions who were all actively working towards a progressive policy book. That was not very SDslay of them.

Attachment H - NUS National Conference Report – Jasmyne Tweed

Overall, NatCon 2022 was extremely chaotic, emotionally draining and expensive but the NUS delegates of Curtin were able to represent the students of Curtin and more broadly Western Australia on a national level. I congratulate Dylan for his election as State Branch President and Salwa for their election as Vocational Officer.