

# Vice President – Education

## April Representation

Reporting Period 8/03/2023 – 4/04/2024

Veronika Gobba (she/her)

### University / External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
5/4/24	Courses Committee	Curtin has had to temporarily move some units from Kalgoorlie to Bentley campus in response to the housing shortage in Kalgoorlie.
7/4/24	Student Voice Australasia student network session w/ NUS	SVA is an ineffective organisation that does nothing to raise the voice of students. I recommend our representatives stop wasting our time engaging with this organisation.
8/4/24	UnionsWA International Women's Day	
11/4/24	NUS Education Officer's Meeting	
	University LSEC	Changes to self-certifications were discussed (not for approval), currently, the Academic registrar is in favour of recommending most of our recommendations for self-certifications, including automation and keeping the 5-day extension. Due to pushback from some staff, the current proposal includes disallowing self-certs for some types of assessments including group assignments and exams. We are still in negotiations about this.
12/4/24	Student Support Policy Implementation w/ director of people & culture	The support for students policy and procedures are a result of new government requirements for universities to better advertise support and the census date to students. We are currently in consultations with the university for the procedures.
18/3/24	Student Support meeting with foreign risk team	New supports in place for students who wish to speak freely without foreign risk/foreign interference + Curtin is going to do a campaign about academic freedom and freedom of speech and has asked the Guild to put some posters up to support.
22/3/24	Academic Board	

26/3/24	Global Positioning Committee	Attended as acting President

### **Guild Meetings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Comments</b>
4/4/24	Higher Ed	
11/4/24	Exec Committee	
12/4/24	President x VPE catch-up	
13/4/24	Exec Committee	
14/4/24	HUM Rep x VPE catch-up	
	Representation Board	
15/3/24	Darlington Statement chat with HR	All Guild forms that collect personal information should now be more in line with gender inclusive standards.
19/3/24	Guild Exec	
21/3/24	Humanities Rep catch-up	
25/3/24	Operations Committee	
	Exec Committee	
28/3/24	Hum Rep x VPE catch-up	
4/4/24	Student accom/housing campaign discussion	
	Exec & Student engagement catch-up	

### **First Year Representatives**

The EOI form was put on the website and advertised via social media, 15 eligible EOIs were received and a first meeting has been set up for 5/4/24 and 8/4/24.

### **ASU Paid Placements Campaign**

In pleasing news, the [Australian Services Union](#) has started a national campaign to lobby for paid placements for community service degrees (eg. Social work).

# Vice President – Sustainability & Welfare

March Representation Board (07/03/2024 – 04/04/2024)

Jacque Bicanic (she/they)

## University / External Meetings:

Date	Meeting	Comments
05/03/24	Carbon Literacy – Train the Trainer	
06/03/24	Respect @ Uni Week	Event update
08/03/24	International Women’s Day	Unions event outside Parliament House
13/03/24	Sustainable Development Working Group	First meeting of this working group. Discussed what the goals are and steps we need to take.
26/03/24	Gender-based Violence Working Group	

## Guild Meetings (Or Guild-Related Meetings):

Date	Meeting	Comments
11/03/24	Exec Meeting	
13/03/24	VPSW & President Check In	
13/03/24	Queer Officer Check In	President present. Discussed project proposal from Queer Officer.
13/03/24	Continuation of Exec Meeting	
14/03/24	Events Team & VPA catch up	
14/03/24	Reps Board	
18/03/24	Higher Education	
20/03/24	Respect at Uni Week Event (Respect Fest)	Please see below.
20/03/24	Health & Safety Committee Meeting	
21/03/24	Events Team & VPA catch up	
21/03/24	Guild Council	Attended online
25/03/24	Operations Committee	
25/03/24	Exec Meeting	
26/03/24	Meeting with Aimee Smith (Planet Positive)	Met with Aimee. We discussed Planet Positive. She invited me to a dinner event at St Catherine’s - sustainability and a positive future for our planet. I accepted and will be given a few moments to discuss sustainability at the Guild.
27/03/24	Queer Officer Check In	Discussed projects the QO would like to deliver for 2024 and the Queer room in the equity space.
27/03/24	Events Team & VPA catch up	
29/03/24 – 26/04/24	Easter Break	
03/04/24	Recycling Hub on campus meeting	See below.
04/04/24	VPSW/President Check In	

04/04/24	UniLodge Campaign Presentation Discussion	
04/04/24	Exec meets new staff member	Bella – Student Engagement

**Leave Taken:**

None

Easter Break Public Holidays

**Further Notes:**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Details</b>
O-Day	O-Day went well. The succulents generated a lot of interest and through those giveaways I gained over 570 responses to my cost of living survey. Since O-Day the survey was shared to the Guilds Social Media and the responses are now over 750. I will be announcing the prize winners early next week.
Containers For Change	I am in the process of putting together a proposal for the reverse cycle 10c vending machines on campus.
Recycling Hub on Campus	I met with the deputy director of the Library with David and discussed if the library would be amenable to having a recycling hub in 105. The seemed interested in the idea. I now need to write up a proposal and include details like what we would/wouldn't collect, who would be in charge of managing the station, how often it would be serviced and costings.
Respect @ Uni Week	<p>The event was delivered as <i>Respect Fest</i>. The Guild ended up delivering the majority of this event, and I felt that we were heavily relied on for the delivery of this event; we delivered 3 out of 5 stalls and the BBQ and sourced giveaways.</p> <p>This is the first year Curtin has delivered this event, and we recognise that there is a learn curve involved. We note there was little to no advertisement around the event from Curtin, and a sever lack of branding and awareness that lead to students being confused as to what the event and its purpose was.</p> <p>We support this event and what it stands for (Respect at Uni, sexual consent and sexual health), however the event was ill organised and the Guild provided a lifeline. Should Curtin wish to deliver this event next year, it is suggested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a Curtin events team member take the lead (someone who does not have a background in events was assigned to deliver this event)</li> </ul>

- To have clear expectations around the event and clear responsibility allocation
- There be a marketing plan behind the event to ensure students are aware of the event occurring and what the event is.

The events team will be reviewing how the Guild will be involved, and what expectations there are, should Curtin deliver this event again next year.

## Faculty of Business and Law Representative Report

**Name:** Hannah Northey

**Meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Updates:**

Date	Meeting/Event	Comments
12/3/2024	FBL FCC	First FCC for 2024 as the February meeting was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. This went well and I got some clarification on the new Business Innovation/ Health Sciences/ Nutrition double degree including an improvement in further standardising course entry requirements.
13/3/2024	FBL Student Consultative Committee Training	I have been going to this program for two years so to go as a Guild rep was a different experience. I got to present on the Guild and all that we offer for students.
14/3/2024	March Representation Board	
15/3/2024	Campaign meeting with Health Sciences rep Nini and Humanities rep Imari	Discussions about our campaign goals for 2024.
18/3/2024	Talent pool meeting with VPA Max, Ben and Bella	Discussions about student talent for Guild content.
20/3/2024	Health Sciences x FBL Stall	A stall with Nini in the library where we offered advice to students as well as encouraged them to complete our general wellbeing survey for those taking either a single or double degree in either or

		both faculties. We also gave out free lollies and pens.
21/3/24	Fortnightly catch-up with FBL Student Engagement team	Meeting related to discussions about FBL SCC and Guild campaigns.
22/3/24	Legal Committee	First Legal Committee meeting for 2024. I was the minuter for the first time. Discussions around plans for the year as well as Guild Constitutions.
22/3/24	CBCA Networking event	A good opportunity to speak to students about their issues and experiences at Curtin. The event was a success with a great turn out.
25/3/24	Sustainability in Business and Law Steering Group	First meeting for 2024. There was discussions around plans with regards to sustainability at Curtin.
26/3/24	Monthly meeting with PVC Vanessa Chang	Discussions around 2024 campaigns, recycling spots on city campus (via request of VPESW) as well as student internship issues and economics units queries which have been reported through the correct channels.
27/3/24	Faculty rep campaign stall near Clubs Carnival	Nini, Imari, Thane and myself organised and ran a stall as a first step in order to gather survey results with the goal of improving assessment feedback at Curtin.
3/4/24	FBL Clubs meeting	Discussions around club events for 2024.

### Additional Information:

- The assessment feedback campaign amongst all four faculty representatives is now officially up and running- and results have been high level in both quantity and quality.
- This month has consisted of a greater diversity of meetings within the Guild and also outside of it with new faculty members as well as new students.

- I intend to continue to dedicate as much time as possible to building connections with as many members of the Curtin community as possible.
- This was a month of many first meetings of different groups whom I look forward to working with to improve the student experience and ensure a student voice.



Science and Engineering faculty Report

Thane Roberts (They/Them).

Representation Board 11/04/2024

Date	Event type	Name	Comments
13/03/2024	Meeting	ED&I Committee	<p>Athena Swan progress was discussed, the focus of the conversation was how can more actionable outcomes for women in the academic pipeline be achieved. The creation of focus groups was also talked about.</p> <p>We discussed about how e-scooters are often used as mobility aids by both staff and students, however are currently not allowed in office spaces. This is due to the perceived fire safety risks of electrical fire. The discussion focused on if the mobility benefits out weighed the safety cost.</p> <p>The limited amount of blue parking spaces was also another issue raised at the meeting. Many staff have children that they have to drop at school, the limited amount of spaces makes it harder for these parents and carers as they tend to arrive later when spaces aren't available.</p>
13/03/2024	Meeting	Faculty Courses Committee	<p>The School of Molecular and Life Sciences course Undergraduate Certificate in Land, Sea and River First Nation Ranger Management and Practice was discussed at length.</p> <p>The 2024 work plan and the Chairs report were talked about at length.</p>
25/03/2024	Panel	SDP Panel	<p>There was an increase in cases involving plagiarism and AI tools.</p>
27/03/2024	Faculty Committee	Meeting	<p>Highest timely completion rate. HDR student numbers have stabilised. Work underway for an expectations and responsibility's for academic staff.</p> <p>Employee Assistance and wellbeing was discussed. Upcoming wellbeing</p>

			<p>webinars and training. Accessibility adjustments and support services were also discussed.</p> <p>Proposed 2025 projects were discussed, some of the high priority projects include EFY Lab space increase, Mechatronics Lab extension, WASM Fibrous Ore Lab and Fatigue testing machine.</p>
27/03/2024	Student Engagement	Meet and Greet	At the clubs carnival students were made aware of my role in the guild and encouraged to reach out.
28/03/2024	Engineering Board	Meeting	<p>Math requirements for engineering were discussed, numerous universities have applications as the math requirement for engineering. In WA methods numbers have been dropping. While students are recommended to do the highest level of math specialist as it helps significantly with key concepts in engineering course work, many are choosing to not do specialist or even methods. Some schools recommend that their students drop to applications to boost ATAR numbers.</p> <p>EFY was discussed. Improvements were suggested to improve learning outcomes.</p> <p>AI in teaching and learning was also discussed. The possibility of using ai tools to generate and mark assessments</p>

**HEALTH SCIENCES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT  
REPRESENTATION BOARD Meeting – April 2024**



Meeting/Project	Date	Comments
Faculty Courses Committee	12/3/24	Discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foreign risk to students.</li> <li>- Double degree with Bachelor of Innovation – FBL rep and I overlooked an adjustment for the online descriptions for requirements about course switching to make it easier for students to understand</li> <li>- Communications of expectations of courses considering accessibility</li> <li>- Consistency about requirements of nursing</li> </ul>
Meeting with Health Sciences Student Engagement	12/3/24	Discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment feedback project</li> <li>- Requirements for feedback and how to communicate it to students</li> </ul>
Meeting with Student Assist	13/3/24	Discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Action plan for assessment feedback project – assessment feedback models and linking to Curtin policies</li> </ul>
Meeting with Dean of Learning and Teaching	13/3/24	Discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Feedback on final assessments. What does good feedback look like?</li> <li>- Understanding VIVA feedback</li> <li>- Changing messaging for assessment expectations</li> <li>- How Grammarly can be counted as AI</li> <li>- Up to date content material being taught</li> <li>- Vague feedback is not acceptable</li> </ul>
Meeting with FBL rep and Humanities Rep	15/3/24	Task allocation for assessment feedback campaign: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion to clubs</li> <li>- Making the survey, flyers, and Link Tree QR</li> <li>- Flyer distribution around campus</li> <li>- Document of academic policies that relate to assessment feedback</li> <li>- Online promotion on Facebook groups and guild social media by contacting Digital Engagement team</li> <li>- Responding to any enquiries</li> <li>- Contacting students for focus group</li> <li>- Researching assessment feedback models for prompting questions on the survey and focus group discussions</li> </ul>
Increasing student engagement	15/3/24-15/4/24	Continuing consistent Facebook engagement to drive students towards the FBL x Health Sci rep survey and the assessment feedback survey. I pinned flyers across the billboards on health sciences buildings that has a QR code linked to my social media and email for enquiries. I also pinned

		flyers for the Health Sci x FBL and assessment feedback survey and stall across buildings.
SafeTALK training	13/3/24	Recommended by VPSW to better support students with mental health issues.
Contacting Guild clubs in Faculty of Health Sciences	21/3/24	Contacting to arrange introductory meetings to see how I can work with the clubs to increase student engagement with Guild. Contacted to spread awareness about the assessment feedback campaign.
Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Working party	16/3/24	Attended with Accessibility officer. We have requested to also be included in the faculty DIB meetings and not just the medical school DIB meetings as we were not aware that we were only in the medical school DIB and not the faculty one. I have now been scheduled to attend the faculty DIB that is hosted every 2 months. Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diversity events</li> <li>- Bystander training</li> <li>- Student DIB survey</li> </ul>
Engagement Stall with FBL rep	20/3/24	Completion of KPI. Discussed with students about the Guild and issues they may be facing. Gained around 20 responses to the survey and gained insight on some Health Sci issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Placements</li> <li>- Course switching based on work experience</li> <li>- Academic, sensory, personal, welfare and financial issues</li> </ul>
Student Feedback Stall with FBL rep, Humanities rep, Sci Eng rep	27/3/24	Promoted our survey for assessment feedback and engaged with students about what the guild does. Our next step is to formalise the focus groups to help gather more qualitative and quantitative data for our campaign.
Donation collection from The Studio East Vic Park	22/3/24	Collected an introductory yoga/pilates pass to use as an incentive for O-day or other events.
Organising giveaways	3/4/24	Arranging and contacting the winners of the first aid kit giveaways for the FBL x Health Sci stall and the assessment feedback campaign stall.
Project planning based on survey feedback	28/3/24	Received a lot of feedback from both the stall with FBL rep and the faculty stall for the assessment feedback campaign. Brainstorming ideas to address concerns.
Meeting with President	20/3/24	Discussion about unions.
SDP	11/4/24	Sitting my first Student Discipline Panel. 12 cases.
Reviewing inclusive language guide	29/3/24	Sent by DIB, gave feedback.
Meeting with VPE	27/3/24	Regarding student enquiry about course switching and portfolio entry and placements.
Meeting with Faculty Reps	11/4/24	Task allocations for next steps for assessment feedback campaign.
Ally Level 3 Training	10/4/24	Guild training to help support LGBT+ community students.

## Faculty of Humanities Report Representation Board Meeting – 11.04.24

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### Guild Meetings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Weekly	VP-E Catch up	
13.03	Chat with DBE student	Discussion with some students from the School of Design and Built Environment about some of the issues they face
15.03	Campaign Meeting – FBL/Health-Sci/HUM	As all faculty reps were working on projects relating to assessments and assessment feedback so the three of us got together about how we can collaborate on this campaign.
20.03	President x Reps Catch Up	Good Chat
21.03	Meeting with Jo-Ann re: School of Education	Ad Hoc meeting with Jo-Ann from Student Assist about my concerns within the school of education and the graddip and we discussed ways of supporting those students throughout the year

### University Meetings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
13.03	DBE “Student Leaders” Briefing Session	Met the new head of school for DBE Sue Ane Ware and the schools Director of Learning and Teaching Natalie Beard as well as members of the Curtin Architecture Students Association (CASA) and a Construction Management Student. The purpose of the meeting was so that the faculty can learn how to support students through the work that the clubs are already doing and hear from the students any issues that are occurring.
13.03	HIB Student Members EOI Discussion	Met with Rebecca Walker (DPVC Humanities) to develop an EOI for the two student members of the committee and discuss how to best increase student involvement with the committee.
14.03	Courses Committee	Mostly focused on OUA courses/units
14.03	Humanities x Guild Catch Up	Met with Nicole Slatter and Humira Mirza. Discussion mainly focused around the Content Warning Project and plans to start rolling it out in a small number of units as a “trial”
20.03	Content Warning Project Meeting w/ Linda Adnyana	Brought this project to Linda as the Director of Student Life and Community, not only because many of the people I have already spoken to report to her but also to get her input on who else can assist me in the project. She was fully supportive of the project and impressed by the amount of work already completed.

21.03	UniReady Content Warning Discussion	Spoke with Trish Thompson who runs the UniReady Humanities unit about the Content Warning project and she was interested in being involved in the trial-initial roll out of Content Warnings
27.03	Content Warning Project Meeting w/ Mandy Downing	Meeting with Mandy (Dean, Indigenous Futures – Humanities) to discuss the content warning project and get her perspective and feedback on it.
28.03	Teams Meeting with UC re: student concerns	Productive Conversation, still working on final solution.
28.03	Meeting with Humanities Student Engagement	Chat with Humanities Student Engagement about organising casual chill out event for students from the School of Education prior to them going on Prac.
04.04	Call with Melissa Greenberg	Teams Meeting with Melissa (Senior Student Experience Coordinator) to organise the briefing session for the staff involved in the Content Warning Pilot.

## Projects

**Content Warnings:** Four unit coordinators have agreed to participate in the initial rollout of the content warnings this semester with the aim to start week 8. This will allow us to gather both student and staff feedback on the “Good Practice Guide” that has been developed by the Guild as well as the current recommendations within the guide for implementing content warnings and the topics listed as a guide for what topics need content warnings. Towards the end of semester I will be working to gather the feedback of those included in the pilot units so that it can be taken back for any further tweaks needed before it is implemented wider. The nuances associated with the discussion of content warnings and when they should be used has been brought up a few times now, so alongside the work already done after the trial period it is likely that I will start to have those more in-depth conversations outside of the core info that is passed on in the guide.

**School of Education:** I have had a few student’s come to me with concerns from within the school of education, although not all of them are related to the GradDip it is still concerning to see how many reported issues are coming from the school. I am planning on doing a casual event for education students roughly two weeks before the majority of them go on placement to remind them that myself and Student Assist are available if they have any issues or concerns during or after their placement.

**Assessment Feedback:** Working with the other faculty reps on the survey to collect students experiences and opinions on their assessment feedback. The survey will be open for a bit longer so we can get as many responses as possible before analysing them and collating it into a case to take towards the university.

## Other

**Fac Rep Feedback Stall:** Got a lot of engagement and was great to see so many students and be able to chat with them about this project and other questions/concerns they had. Glad we were in the shade with how hot it was.

Imari Morris (they/she/he)

Faculty of Humanities Rep

## April 2024 Representation Board Report – Student Assist

### March overview:

Academic sessions were mainly in relation to responding to Academic Misconducts and Complaints.

Non-academic sessions were focused on providing information to domestic students looking for support with paying their tuition fees and students seeking financial support.

	January	February	March
Academic sessions	171	131	99
Non – academic sessions	36	89	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>130</b>

Total may not tally as case management system calculates sessions with both case areas as a single session.

Both the Lifehacks and Loan Laptop programs were on hold for January.

	January	February	March
Lifehack participants	0	115	135
Loan laptop	0	9	17

### **Welfare**

Student Assist provided emergency relief to three students through our grants.

	Intl Student?	Total
Childcare grant	Yes	3
Hardship grant	Yes	0

## International Student Committee Report – April 2024

Date	Event	Details
19.03.2024	Café Connect	This event was organized in collaboration with Curtin Connect staff. It was open to both domestic and international students. Around 50 students attended a huge success. The aim of the event was for students to network and socialise in a relaxed environment. ISC reps delivered opening speeches. The event had free drinks and bites for students.
20.03.2024	Summer Sundowner – ISC and PSC event	Summer Sundowner is a tradition, organised by the ISC and PSC for international students and postgrad students. It was held in the Tav this year. The number of attendees exceeded expectation which was amazing to witness. ISC reps were present at the event. Free food and drinks were handed out to students. 200 students attended!
22.03.2024	Academic Board Meeting #2	The meeting was very insightful. The guild representatives presented their report and there was good discussion on the agenda for the month.
26.03.2024	Global Positioning Committee	The ISC submitted a report to the committee for the first time this year.
27.03.2024	ISC Committee elections	The elections were held for the vacant positions of ISC councillors and ISC humanities representative. The committee positions are now filled for 2024. Congratulations to the new members.

Upcoming events –

ISMAP session #2 – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Kimberley Pinto

ISC President



### Postgraduate Student Committee Reports

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Comments</b>
8/3/2024	LSEC pre-Meeting, VPE, PSC, ISC	Preparation for LSEC meeting agenda
11/3/2024	LSEC Meeting	Having LSEC regular meeting
13/3/2024	Reviewing FBL HDR Handbook	The FBL has published its new handbook for HDR students
19/3/2024	HDR Internships – Curtin Industry Exchange	A discussion between the PSC and Curtin Industry Exchange team in order to promote wider internship opportunity for HDR students.
20/3/2024	PSC x ISC Sundowner event	A regular event held annually by PSC and ISC to engage and connect with postgraduate and international students at Curtin.
21/3/2024	Closing the Gap, Eliminating Racial Discrimination, and the Harmony Day debate: recognising March 21	I represent the Guild to become one of speakers in the event where we discuss and debate regarding the racial discrimination and the harmony day. I also talked about the role and position of the guild in promoting better and equal rights for everyone in the country.
22/3/2024	Pre-meeting Academic Board	A pre-meeting discussion with guild president, VPE, and ISC regarding the agenda and report of the Academic Board
22/3/2024	Academic Board meeting	Having a regular academic board meeting

27/3/2024	PSC and Student Assist Meeting	A meeting to discuss and explore the university guidelines and procedures for HDR students. We decided to propose some new changes to the university regarding the HDR guidelines and procedures.
27/3/2024	Meeting with postgraduate student	Assisting general student matters

### **Students' Academic & General Issues**

- The university has driven the International Risk Management Team to set new frameworks and guidelines to handle and deal with any potential risk faced by Curtin students. However, it is not clear about the definition of international risk and how to manage and handle it. PSC has questioned about this one in the Academic Board meeting.
- Student Assist and PSC have worked together to review some HDR policies and procedures for new change proposals to the university. Some new changes will be introduced and proposed to the university.
- PSC has discussed further with the Curtin Industry Exchange to provide more opportunities for HDR students to get access to internships.

### **Events**

- PSC and ISC have held sundowner event for postgraduate and international students. The event was intended to engage and connect with the students in order to have better communication with them.
- I also became one of the speakers to represent the Student Guild at the university event called Closing the Gap, Eliminating Racial Discrimination, and the Harmony Day debate: recognising March 21.

## **General Activities**

- PSC Committee election has been held and the elected persons have been informed about their results. The PSC will invite and meet all committee members soon.
- PSC has discussed the HDR issue related to research ethics with the Student Assist. This issue will be followed up by the Student Assist to the university. I will also talk about this issue in the next Research Committee meeting.

**QUEER OFFICER'S REPORT**  
**Representation Board Meeting - April 2024**  
Zavier Wileman (they/them)



**GUILD MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
13/03/2024	Check-in w/ VP-Sustainability & President
15/03/2024	Queer Collective meeting
20/03/2024	'Spill the Tea' QD event
27/03/2024	Check-in w/ VP-Sustainability

**UNIVERSITY MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
08/03/2024	Repsect @ Uni Week – Pronouns/Deadnaming video filming
08/03/2024	Meeting with the Director of Gender Equity & Inclusion
20/03/2024	GEI catch-up

**PROJECTS**

Peer Support Groups: I took my project proposal to the executive & Guild president, and received their support to move forward with my project. I have recruited some members of my collective to be involved in co-facilitating biweekly social groups/peer support groups. These groups will aim to provide more opportunities for the community to come together, share resources, and socialise together. I will also be there as an experienced peer worker to be able to provide conversation around difficult life issues & mental health, and hope to levy these groups as an opportunity to refer students to Curtin services and external services, to bridge some of the service gaps for queer people trying to access appropriate services but not knowing

where to go. I am meeting with my co-facilitators from the collective shortly to get some preliminary planning done, and some posts will be shared to social media shortly to spread awareness about the groups and bring people in.

We All Need to Pee: With help from my collective, I've done a final survey to be distributed. The survey has been distributed to a group of students who will be surveying bathrooms in the upcoming weeks. I am still looking for more students to be involved.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Respect @ Uni week: I had a disappointing experience with my social media post being shared on the Curtin Life Australia Instagram page. My video was me discussing pronouns, the importance of respecting pronouns, and highlighting the work being done on the Stop Deadnaming campaign. Sadly, the comments section was quickly filled with hateful, transphobic comments, ridiculing me and the general usage of they/them pronouns. I am grateful to the social media team running the Curtin Life Australia account, as once I brought this issue to their attention, they were quick to delete comments, disable more comments, and put up a response to the situation. Here is their response:

*“Hi Curtin Life Australia community, we have had to make the unfortunate decision to turn off comments on this post due to the negativity being shared, which is not reflective of the Curtin values that we so proudly champion. At Curtin, we’re committed to fostering an inclusive environment where students and staff of diverse sex, sexuality and gender are welcomed, respected and valued, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. To learn more about our LGBTIQ+ support and Ally programs you can visit: <https://www.curtin.edu.au/students/personal-support/lgbtqia/> This week we are celebrating Respect at Uni in partnership with all other WA universities to promote the importance of respect, equality and inclusion on our campuses and online spaces. Everyone deserves the right to feel safe, included and valued on campus – and it all starts with respect.”*

I was impressed with their professionalism and responsiveness, and recognition of the seriousness of the transphobia. However, this remains a significant issue that such a problem occurred in the first place. I am considering whether there needs to be a policy of some kind to ensure that when sensitive issues are shared on social media, that the comments do not become a breeding ground for hateful behaviour – which, as we all know, the Instagram comments section tends to devolve into. I will continue to look into how I can help to prevent issues like this from happening in the future.

QD Meeting: I met with my Queer Collective for the first time in person and I took the opportunity to get to know everyone, their ambitions for the year, and get some ideas down for what we want to achieve in the upcoming months. We spoke about ideas for craft sessions and discussion topics for the peer support groups. The group was keen to run some queer study

groups in the library, so this is something I am looking into running in the library during exam weeks.

Spill the tea session: A lovely group of students came and joined me in the Queer Equity Room for an afternoon of colouring pages, chats, and jigsaw puzzles. It was a very chill vibe, and everyone was quite talkative. We spoke about gender affirmation, what everyone was studying, sharing of resources, and of course some light discussions about TikTok. I feel that the success of this session bodes well for the peer support groups, which will be ran quite similarly.



Representation Board Report  
April 2024

UNIVERSITY & COMMITTEE MEETINGS		
Date	Meeting	Notes
14.03.24	Meeting with Debbie	
20.03.24	DIB Working Party	
25.03.24	Abilities Collective Gathering	
28.03.24	DIBC Meeting	

GUILD MEETINGS		
Date	Meeting	Notes
11.03.24	Meeting with Nika	
14.03.24	Reps Board Meeting	
18.03.24	Meeting with Guild Secretary	
20.03.24	Guild Staff Meeting	

EVENTS		
Date	Event	Notes

OTHER		
Date	Topic	Notes
18.03.24	Met with a student	Addressed their concerns regarding their course
23.03.24	Met with a student	Addressed their concerns regarding their course
27.03.24	Met with a student	Addressed concerns regarding on-campus housing

## Higher Education News 25 March 2024

### **WA university bosses pocket six-figure pay rises, Curtin vice-chancellor Harlene Hayne now on \$1m salary**

#### Key points

- Curtin VC is first to earn more than \$1 million a year in WA
- At Curtin, total revenue climbed by almost \$70 million

In figures released through the universities' annual reports for 2023, the vice-chancellors of Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University and Curtin all pocketed pay rises of more than \$100,000 last year.

Curtin vice-chancellor Harlene Hayne's salary climbed 13 per cent from \$910,000 to more than \$1m — making her the first WA university boss to earn seven figures.

The West Australian understands Edith Cowan University boss Steve Chapman's take home rose by more than 17 per cent, from, \$820,000 to at least \$950,000.

Murdoch University vice-chancellor Andrew Deeks' pay rose from at least \$750,000 to \$860,000 in 2023.

At Curtin, total revenue climbed by almost \$70 million, driven entirely by an increase in overseas fee-paying students. UWA (\$40 million), ECU (\$70m) and Murdoch (\$80m) all enjoyed revenue increases.

### **ECU Health Centre Yanchep unanimously approved by State planners. The West Australian**

#### Key points

- A \$7m medical centre will be used to clinical training and research opportunities for ECU students and staff

State planners have unanimously approved a \$7 million ECU medical centre in Yanchep which is expected to benefit both local residents and students.

The development comprises one half of the ECU Health Centre Yanchep, which is launching in two phases — west and east — to create a combined medical hub for the far northern suburb.

The east half of the development is a two-storey medical centre bought by ECU and expected to open this year.

The west half, which was approved by State planners, is currently vacant and expected to be built and in operation in 2026.

The ECU website said the multidisciplinary health centre would include general practice, pharmacy, allied health and nursing services.

“The centre will also provide clinical training and research opportunities for ECU students and staff, contributing to the development of the future health workforce.

### **Suicide Prevention Toolkit**

Universities Australia, in partnership with Suicide Prevention Australia, has released a new e-learning tool to help university staff and students build the skills they need to help prevent suicide.

“The e-learning package will help people understand safe communication, how to read warning signs, risk and protective factors, how best to respond to people in distress and self-care strategies.

E-learning modules can be accessed [here](#).



## **ARC amendment legislation passed**

The legislation paves the way to establish an independent ARC Board that, instead of the Minister, will be responsible for the approval of research grants within the National Competitive Grants Program.

The Minister will be responsible for approving the funding guidelines, which will be subject to Parliamentary scrutiny.

The Board will also be responsible for appointing the CEO and members to the ARC's trusted College of Experts.

The Minister will retain the power to approve nationally significant investments. This includes projects which can drive research, infrastructure, training and collaboration.

The Minister will also have the power to direct the Board not to approve a grant, or to terminate funding to research grants, based on national security concerns and will be required to notify Parliament of these decisions.

[Australian Research Council Amendment \(Review Response\) Bill 2023 passes into legislation](#)

## **University leaders created many of the problems universities face. Comment Alison Barnes national president of the National Tertiary Education Union. The Australian**

### Key points

- Vice-chancellors have presided over upwards of \$160 million in stolen wages from more than 100,000 individual university staff in recent years.
- In 2022, 10 Australian vice-chancellors had bigger pay packets than the person in charge of Oxford.
- Universities and Universities Australia did not want to address sexual violence on campus or fought against change.

The vice-chancellors of Australian universities have exposed themselves as some of the nation's biggest hypocrites.

The Universities Accord correctly diagnosed the enormous problems higher education is mired in. Casualisation and insecure work. Scary rates of sexual harassment and assault. A disastrous funding model.

But to hear the university vice-chancellors respond, you'd be forgiven for mistaking them as passive players on the sidelines. Group of Eight chair and University of Sydney vice-chancellor Mark Scott called the findings "a pressing case for urgent action".

RMIT vice-chancellor Alec Cameron called it essential reform and said "the current system needs transformative innovation". Charles Darwin University vice-chancellor Scott Bowman declared "we need change now".

Well if only someone had been in a position to do something. It's incredible to see the very people who created and fuelled the major problems in our sector now nodding gravely about the crisis while keeping a straight face.

Yes, the hypocrisy is frustrating and insulting for university staff. But it's actually more dangerous than just us being affronted by disingenuous platitudes. What hope do we have in actually reforming universities if the people responsible for the crisis are pretending they had no part in it and can't make immediate changes that help?

Vice-chancellors have presided over upwards of \$160 million in stolen wages from more than 100,000 individual university staff in recent years.

And it's no accident higher education is a wage theft epicentre of our economy. Two-thirds of all university staff do not have secure jobs. If you're on a casual or fixed-term contract, you're instantly more vulnerable to exploitation because your livelihood is at stake. The fear of retribution is real.

Not only that, casual staff are often pressured to do extra work on the side, or do it simply because they care about students. University managers like casualising their workforce because they see tastier bottom lines. But in actual fact, they're putting teaching standards at risk and causing a huge level of emotional and financial stress for their most precious resource.

Scott also claimed: "Universities are not-for-profit and every dollar is invested back in strengthening their teaching and research".

An astonishing statement from someone on \$1.1 million a year. How does paying Scott double what the prime minister earns qualify as every dollar being invested in teaching and research?

And he's not even the highest paid of the bunch. In 2022, 10 Australian vice-chancellors had bigger pay packets than the person in charge of Oxford. These are completely out-of-touch financial rewards for people who now acknowledge we're in a crisis almost entirely of their making.

That's why we want a cap on excessive executive salaries. As a starting point, why don't we peg vice-chancellor wages to the premier of the state they work in?

We have also witnessed uni bosses' "road to Damascus moment" on the Morrison government's disastrous Jobs Ready Graduates funding model. Back when the Coalition was forcing these changes through, uni bosses showed all the resistance of a wet noodle.

That passive resistance pales in comparison to the flat-out refusal to deal with gender-based violence on our campuses. After years of campaigning from victim-survivors and advocates, and years of resistance from universities, federal and state governments agreed on a landmark national plan to tackle the issue as part of the Accord.

Even leading up to the plan's official announcement, Universities Australia made a victim-blaming submission that created a straw man to muddy the waters. The peak body actually claimed that a national student watchdog could be hijacked by students settling scores.

They argued voices of victim-survivors should be prioritised, but not at the cost of ensuring principles of natural justice, a proposition precisely no one had suggested.

Confronted with a mountain of evidence from our union, student unions and groups like End Rape on Campus, the leaders of public universities either fought against reform or did nothing. Worse still, in some cases they fought against change.

The accord report links so many of these issues back to one massive issue: governance.

The review repeatedly heard about failures to ensure students are safe, particularly from sexual assault and sexual harassment, and about staff employment concerns, especially relating to casualisation and underpayment.

These are the people we now need to embrace the accord's reform agenda. If we really believe they're invested in fixing things, we need vice-chancellors to act on fixing insecure work, wage theft and gender-based violence.

Why wait for the government to legislate when you control so many of the factors that have led us to this crisis point? It's beyond time for vice-chancellors to stop the hypocrisy and get their houses in order.

## **Uni frustration grows at government student visa delays**

### Key points

- 10,000 international students have missed their start date this year waiting for their visas to be approved
- University concern about increases to visa risk rating

More than 10,000 international students have missed their start date this year and are sitting in limbo as universities and colleges wait for the Home Affairs Department to process their visas.

The delay has forced universities, as well as colleges, to postpone course start dates for thousands of students until the second semester, causing reputational damage in the competitive market and organisational chaos as institutions are forced to change plans and [face financial losses](#).

Dozens of universities and colleges, each with hundreds of visa applications outstanding, fear the department will raise their visa risk rating in the regular biannual review due this month, which would lead to even slower processing.

Home Affairs Minister Clare O’Neil issued a directive in December ordering [student visa processing](#) to be prioritised by risk rating, which favours the universities, mainly in the Group of Eight, whose students are regarded as low visa risk, and penalised mid-tier universities that are more active in recruiting students from India and other subcontinental markets.

### **Foreign students to face ‘targeted questions’ under genuine student test**

- New international student visa test introduced

International students will be interrogated about their prior education and reasons for wanting to study in Australia, under a new immigration requirement to be introduced this week amid a federal government [crackdown on overseas students](#) in a bid to curb migration.

The test will ask international students direct questions about their links to Australia, for an “explanation of their choice of course” and the benefits the course will provide them, replacing a requirement to write a 300- word statement. Students will also be asked for details on the visa type they currently hold, their reasons for applying for a student visa and their study history.

Under changes announced in Labor’s overhaul of the migration system designed at weeding out applicants using the student visa scheme as a backdoor to gain work rights, foreign students will no longer be penalised for revealing a desire to emigrate to Australia in their visa application.

The Department of Home Affairs informed industry leaders that the transition from the Genuine Temporary Entrant requirement to a [new Genuine Student Test](#) will take place on March 23.

### **Western Sydney Uni reduces casuals and offers ongoing jobs**

Western Sydney University has boosted its numbers of permanently employed academics and reduced its reliance on casuals by making appointments to more than 60 early career positions.

The new jobs follow [30 appointments made last year, part of a plan](#) to create 150 full-time equivalent roles and reduce casual employment for academic staff that the university negotiated with the National Tertiary Education Union.

### **New AI Report**

The Year13 report – in collaboration with KPMG and [Microsoft](#) – is one of the first to measure AI use among the first generation to use the bleeding-edge technology at school and university. It reveals [alarm about the dangers and benefits of AI](#), with at least two-thirds of Gen Zs fearing AI would spread misinformation, eliminate jobs, invade privacy, endanger data security and generate deepfakes.

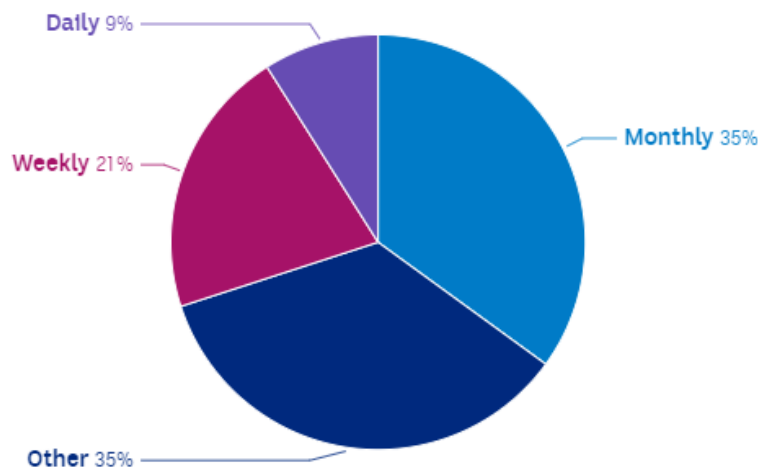
### **How are Australian universities tracking racism on campus? These students stepped in where their university didn't. ABC**

Key points

- A student-led report into the experiences of University of Melbourne students has found more than two-thirds of students surveyed have experienced casual racism.
- Only five of Australia's 41 universities ask students about their experiences of racism in some form, an ABC analysis has found.
- Curtin University did not respond for comment
- **What's next?** The University of Melbourne has said it is developing an anti-racism action plan.

### How often have you experienced casual racism?

Around 65 per cent of students surveyed said they had experienced casual racism at least once a month.



*Casual racism, or microaggressions, are casual or subtle expressions that perpetuate racist stereotypes and ideas.*

Source: University of Melbourne Student Union / [Get the data](#)

### New study hubs announced

- **Key points**
- Education Minister Jason Clare announces \$16 million to build 10 new study hubs.
- Study hubs assist remote students to obtain a degree and currently support 4,000 university students.
- 2 in WA (Katanning and Ashburton)

The new sites, which will open in the next 12 months will be in East Arnhem Land (NT), Victor Harbor (SA), Warwick (Qld) Chinchilla (Qld), Innisfail (Qld), King Island (Tas), Katanning (WA), The Pilbara (WA), Longreach (Qld) and East Gippsland (Vic).

The Study Hub in Ashburton will have sites located in Onslow and Tom Price.

It Hub will be operated by Pilbara Kimberley University Centres, which operate existing hubs in Broome, Karratha and Port Hedland.

The new Katanning Hub will be operated by Regional Development Australia Great Southern

The study hubs allow regional students to enrol in higher education from their home towns without moving away. The study hubs also attempt to replicate services available on campus that remote students would otherwise miss out on.

As well as computers, high-speed internet, video conferencing and small classrooms, students can get pastoral care and advice as they transition to higher education.

There are currently 34 [existing](#) Regional University Study Hubs located across the country, including five in Western Australia.

### Minister Statement

#### ABC story

### **Change to Youth Allowance age of independence rule would improve equality for regional uni students, report finds**

#### Key points

- Advocates for regional students want Centrelink to lower the Youth Allowance cut-off age for a dependent tertiary student to 18, from 22.
- Regional students who have to pay to live away from home to study at uni would then be eligible for increased support payment

Isolated Children's Parents' Association tertiary portfolio leader Kate Thompson said regional students often live independently to study, so they should be classified as such.

"For rural and remote students who have no choice but to leave home to access further education, [that move] should be enough to qualify you as independent," Ms Thompson said.

In a statement, federal Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth said the age of independence was set at 22 as the system was "based on the principle that financial support for students is a shared responsibility between parents, guardians, the government and students themselves".

"That's why students aged under 22 years are considered financially dependent on their parents or guardians and are subject to both parental and personal means testing," Ms Rishworth said.

She said financial support such as the Relocation Scholarship, Fares Allowance and Tertiary Access payment may be available for regional students.

The Relocation Scholarship is only available to students receiving ABSTUDY or Youth Allowance payments from Centrelink.

### **'Frankenstein's bride': Student visa architect takes aim at Labor's uni clampdown**

#### Key point

- Government is using university risk ratings to preference institutions in its migration crack down

The architect of Australia's student visa scheme says he did not design it to be wielded against universities as the Albanese government is doing, and has called for an end to the "Frankenstein's bride" system that is costing providers millions in lost fees.

Former department of immigration official Mike Ferguson said university risk ratings – a key tenet of the new visa program – were meant to help streamline student visa applications, rather than for the government to preference institutions in its migration crackdown.

Now a pro vice-chancellor at Charles Sturt University, he said the simplified student visa framework had reached its use-by date after Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil in December told bureaucrats to

prioritise visa processing for the least risky institutions. This had created a backlash throughout the sector and meant universities had to cancel enrolments.

Risk ratings, which are also known as evidence levels, are determined by factors such as the number of visa cancellations and refusals associated with certain providers and countries.

Ten universities will face greater difficulties recruiting international students – a key source of revenue – after they slid from first to second-tier institutions on Wednesday in the latest reshuffle of risk ratings conducted by Home Affairs.

They are among 114 providers whose rankings have worsened based on data from January to the end of December last year, which captures the first fortnight after O’Neil’s directive to the department. The rankings of 47 institutions improved.