



1. WELCOME AND OPENING at 6.10 pm

Acknowledgement of country

1.1 Attendance

Christopher-John Daudu (CJD)
Paige Brandwood (PB)
Lauren Kohlen (LK)
Samantha Smith (SS)
Keertikka Ganesan (KG)
Alexia Wood (AW)
Alevine Magila (AM)
Lorenzo Iannuzzi (LI)
Anya Kai (AK)
Max Vinning (MV)
Aidan Kirby-Smith (AKS)
Anthony Sims (AS)
Selina Al Ansari (SA)
Anira Nunn (AN)
Chloe Lazaroo (CL)
Olivia Stronach (OS)
Lucinda Bartlett (LB)
Rama Sugiartha (RS)
Luke Alderslade (LA)
James Hodgman (JH)
Nikhita Talluri (NT)
Akshata Jois (AJ)
Archit Menon (ARM)
Ritika Menon (RM)
Vincent Phone Mya (VM)
Korede Oyemade (KO)
Travis Guantlett (TRG)
Tony Goodman (TG)

1.2 Apologies

Mehardeep Kaur (MK)
Rachel Yeo (RY)

1.3 Proxies

RM for MK
VM for RY

1.4 Absent

Motion to accept voting rights of proxies

That motion passes

2. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST



3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 June Guild Council Minutes

PRB raised a concern about a potential mistake in the June Guild Council minutes specifically the section where MV discussed the ethno-cultural officers having concerns about sharing space with the Slavic Society due to concerns about their behaviour in a SOCPAC meeting. PRB stated that he was not able to find this in the recording and that if it was not actually said in the meeting it raises concerns about the potential harm of such an error being included in the official minutes.

MV responded, explaining that the statement referenced was based on an internal conversation with another officer after the SOCPAC meeting, however, is unsure about the guild council minutes. PRB then inquired whether NT, who was responsible for drafting the minutes, had relied solely on the recording since they were not present at the previous meeting. NT confirmed that the minutes were indeed based on the recording. PRB requested that NT review the minutes to ensure their accuracy, particularly regarding the disputed statement. NT agreed to check and revise the minutes if needed.

Motion to move into camera
Moved by MV
Seconded by IC

That motion passes.

Motion to move out of camera
Moved by JK
Seconded by IC

That motion passes

3.4 Committee Minutes

- 3.4.1 Equity and Diversity Committee**
- 3.4.2. Governance committee**
- 3.4.3 Student Services Committee**
- 3.4.4. Election Culture Committee**

During the meeting, JK proposed confirming the previous minutes, subject to further amendments. OS suggested that the minutes could be passed by circular once the amendments were made. IC clarified that the approval should occur not necessarily after the amendments but after the recording had been changed. A motion was then made to pass the minutes by a circular.

Motion to pass the minutes by a circular.

This procedural motion passes.



Moved by LI
Seconded by IC

That motion passes

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5. BUSINESS COMPLETED VIA CIRCULAR

6. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

6.1 Managing Director

TG provided an update on various ongoing projects and developments. TG was positive regarding the revenue outlook, particularly due to the information received about proposed SSAF changes under the Accord, which appear favourable for Western Australian universities. He also mentioned that two commercial marketing staff members have been hired to job-share a role within the commercial team, and a functions coordinator has been employed to start in a few weeks, transitioning the responsibilities from Gus.

TG reported that the master plan projects, including activities around the Tav and the precinct, are progressing well, staying on schedule and within budget. Additionally, TG discussed the ongoing Guild elections, reminding everyone about the restrictions on campaigning in certain Guild facilities, and emphasised that staff should avoid wearing certain colours due to election-related guidelines.

TG also updated the Council on the BPOS app system, noting that it is nearing completion with just a few technical issues remaining. Regarding the Tavern rebrand, TG highlighted the new tavern logo and the rollout of interior updates, such as painting and carpeting, which are part of a separate project within the broader \$1.9 million budget. A new tavern brand website and a functions website are expected to launch by the end of August, with a focus on appealing to both student and external audiences. The tavern group is also set to launch Instagram and social media pages.

TG concluded by acknowledging the busy and stretched staff but assured that they are available for any questions and support.

6.2 Finance Director

TG provided a financial update, reporting that the Guild is currently in a strong financial position, performing ahead of budget expectations. The Guild's income for the period was \$302,000, surpassing the expected budget of \$280,000. As a result, the Guild recorded a profit of \$4,000 for June, compared to an anticipated loss of \$11,000. This positive outcome was primarily due to higher-than-expected income and effective cost management across various departments.

TG also shared year-on-year data, noting that while a loss of \$89,000 had been projected, the Guild is currently showing a profit of \$171,000. TG



acknowledged that some of this positive variance is due to timing issues, such as pending grants, which may cause fluctuations in the future. July, typically a quiet month, will likely see further financial developments as students return.

Motion to move into camera to discuss the outlets
Moved by IC
Seconded by MV

That motion passes

Motion to move out of camera
Moved by JK
Seconded by IC

That motion passes

- 6.3 Commercial
- 6.4 Student Services
- 6.5 Venture Student Innovation Centre

7. QUESTIONS TIME – Directors’ Reports

RS inquired about the status of the Pilates studio. TG explained that the project is currently delayed due to issues on the university's side, as UWA Sports is responsible for running the studio. The primary holdup is the unavailability of necessary equipment, which UWA Sports has been struggling to acquire. TG mentioned that there have also been difficulties in communicating with UWA Sports, as they have been busy with various tasks at different locations. TG assured that once the equipment is secured, efforts will be made to activate the studio as soon as possible, with the goal of fully utilizing the downstairs space.

Motion to accept directors' reports

Moved by JK
Seconded by IC

That motion passes

Procedural motion to move to item 15 motions without notice
Moved by CJD

That motion passes.

15.0 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)

15.1 The 111th Guild Council:



15.1.1. Acknowledges the importance of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres' Call to Action on Extreme Heat, which calls for an urgent and concerted effort to enhance international cooperation in order to address extreme heat by caring for the vulnerable, protecting workers, boosting the resilience of economies and societies through the use of data and science, and limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C by phasing out fossil fuels and scaling up investment in renewable energy.

15.1.2. Emphasises that the increasingly severe heatwaves driven by our human-induced climate crisis have direct consequences for the wellbeing and safety of UWA students.

15.1.3. Highlights that the escalating impacts of climate change are inextricably intertwined with global patterns of inequality, and that students belonging to disadvantaged and vulnerable communities have and will continue to face disproportionate challenges due to the climate crisis.

15.1.4. Directs the Environment Department in assistance with the Wellbeing Department to coordinate with Student Assist and Shenton House in the creation and publication of a catalogue of support services available to students who may be, or may become, disproportionately affected by climate change.

15.1.5. Commits to supporting the Environment Department and Wellbeing Department in this endeavour where possible.

Moved: Anya Kai

Seconded: Lauren Kohlen

AK proposes a Friendly amendment to 15.1.4: Directs the Environment Department in assistance with the Wellbeing Department to coordinate with Student Assist in the creation and publication of a catalogue of support services available to students who may be, or may become, disproportionately affected by climate change

AK expressed frustration with governments for their role in allowing climate change to escalate to the point where urgent action is now necessary. AK highlighted the critical point made by the Secretary-General regarding the unequal distribution of climate change impacts. Vulnerable communities, which often struggle with basic needs such as housing, water, and air conditioning, are disproportionately affected. AK cited a statistic indicating that extreme heat causes about half a million deaths annually, with many of these deaths occurring among the most vulnerable populations.

AK also noted that members of the UWA community, including students, staff, and alumni, might be or become part of these vulnerable groups. The motion was delayed because the Secretary-General's statement was released on the 25th, and there was insufficient time to include it before the deadline

Motion to hear the motion without notice

Moved by JK

Seconded by

That motion passes.



LK expressed no additional substantive comments but took the opportunity to praise and thank AK for acknowledging the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations. LK expressed enthusiasm about the potential for collaboration between departments to address these issues.

AM moves a procedural motion to pass speaking rights to observer.

Observer expressed support for the motion but criticized it for being insufficiently substantial. Observer argued that the motion fails to address the root cause of climate change, which is driven by profit motives tied to capitalism. They pointed out that the real issue is the role of the capitalist class and their investments in industries like coal and mining. Observer highlighted that institutional investments in these sectors amount to around two trillion dollars and criticized the Labour government for providing substantial tax cuts to mining companies instead of implementing restrictions. Observer emphasized the need to not only discuss the impacts of climate change but also to address the systemic profit-driven forces behind it, which disproportionately benefit the wealthy at the expense of the working class, everyday people, and the environment.

This motion passes

15.2 The 111th Guild Council:

15.2.1. Expresses great concern at the approval of a license to prepare a site for the construction of a Controlled Industrial Facility to manage radioactive waste at HMAS Stirling Naval Base on Meeandip (Garden Island).

15.2. 2. Expresses concern that the public consultation process, run by ARPANSA, did not properly address the issues raised by the public nor provide transparent information to the public related to the environmental impact of the facility, the facility's capacity to dispose of radioactive waste if necessary, and the facility's impact on First Nations communities.

15.2. 3. Expresses concern that ARPANSA stated in their response to public consultation that they would not disapprove a license on the basis that there is currently no Commonwealth disposal pathway for radioactive waste, especially given the potentially disastrous impacts of improper radioactive waste disposal for the environment and the health of WA communities.

15.2. 4. Directs the Guild President to highlight the importance of transparency in government consultation processes with State and Federal Government when meeting with them next.

Moved: India Creed

Seconded: Anya Kai

IC explained that the motion was delayed because Anya and IC needed additional time to review the ARPANSA public responses in detail. This review was necessary to ensure that the motion accurately reflected the feedback and statements provided by ARPANSA to the public.

Motion to hear the motion without notice

That motion passes.



IC expressed concern that the motion already includes much of the relevant information but emphasized that ARPANSA's public consultation process was lacking in transparency. Specifically, IC pointed out that ARPANSA did not adequately address the environmental impact of the proposed facility, its capacity for radioactive waste disposal, or the impact on First Nations communities. IC stressed the importance of transparent government engagement with the public and ensuring that community concerns are addressed before proceeding with projects.

AK echoed these concerns, reiterating frustration with the lack of transparency, particularly during the initial consultation process. AK criticized ARPANSA's responses to public submissions for failing to show a commitment to transparency regarding projects with potentially significant community and environmental impacts.

AM raised concerns about the focus of the motion, questioning why it did not explicitly address opposition to the dumping of nuclear waste on Indigenous land. IC confirmed opposition to such actions but admitted that this specific issue was not mentioned in the motion. IC agreed to add this as an amendment but explained that the initial focus was on transparency and consultation processes.

AM expressed frustration, noting that the core issue with nuclear waste from submarines, which includes the long-lasting impact on Indigenous land, should have been central to the motion. AM questioned why the motion emphasized government consultation rather than outright opposition to the nuclear submarines and their waste.

AK agreed that the motion primarily addresses the transparency of government consultation and suggested that the issue of nuclear waste on Indigenous land should be addressed in a separate motion. AK emphasized that while the current motion deals with the handling of public submissions and consultation processes, a dedicated motion on the opposition to radioactive waste on Indigenous lands would provide the necessary focus on this critical issue.

IC was happy to add an amendment to the motion to include opposition to the dumping of radioactive waste on First Nations lands. IC further explained that the main issue addressed by the motion was the inadequacy of the government's consultation process. Specifically, the consultation did not provide sufficient information for the public to engage meaningfully, which hindered their ability to critique the government effectively. Additionally, in their responses to submissions, the government failed to address the concerns raised, deflecting responsibility and referring the issues to other entities or indicating uncertainty about the processes involved. IC emphasized that while there are broader concerns about the nuclear submarines and their impacts, the motion aims to highlight the deficiencies in the consultation process itself.

Friendly amendment: Opposes the dumping of nuclear waste on First Nations land.



LI shared concerns about nuclear safety, noting that historical nuclear incidents have often resulted from government mismanagement. LI expressed frustration over the government's uncertain stance on future developments and criticized the misuse of Indigenous land as a power play by the Australian government. LI found the government's approach to be deeply troubling.

AM, while expressing support for the motion, added to the previous speaker's comments by highlighting the disregard for communities actively campaigning against radioactive dump sites near their homes. AM condemned the federal and state governments for ignoring these communities' concerns and criticized the consultation processes for failing to address their issues. AM suggested that this neglect reflects broader priorities that fail to address the real concerns of affected communities.

That motion passes.

15.3 The 111th Guild Council

15.3.1 Acknowledges the motion passed by the 108th Guild Council and the constant advocacy and support provided by the Guild since the crisis began in 2021.

15.3.2 Stands against the military coup in Myanmar, which has significantly impacted the livelihoods of the people of Myanmar.

15.3.3 Acknowledges that the enforcement of the mandatory conscription law which came into effect February 2024, is causing significant distress and increasing concerns for students from Myanmar for their family back home.

15.3.4 Endeavours to continue its advocacy and provide adequate support for UWA students affected by any crisis that occurs internationally

15.3.5 Recognises the impact the situation may have on students emotionally and encourages them to seek help through UWA counselling services and student assist

15.3.6 Recognises that the International Student's Department is in conversation with Student Life to further support these students in study adjustments.

15.3.7 Directs International Student's Department and Ethnocultural Departments to release a joint statement on social media to stand in solidarity with students from Myanmar.

Proposed by Rachel Yeo (Vincent Proxy)

Secunder: Rama Sugiatha

Vincent, a master's student from Myanmar, addressed the Council to discuss the severe situation in Myanmar following the military coup in February 2021. He shared personal experiences of the oppression he witnessed, including violent military actions and arrests. Vincent highlighted that the military has continued to use lethal force against civilians, resulting in over 4,600 deaths and 20,000 arrests as reported by the United Nations.

He noted a recent development in February 2024, where the military imposed a mandatory conscription law affecting men and women of specific age ranges, with extended draft ages for those with professional



qualifications. The conscription has led to the deployment of new recruits to conflict zones, increasing stress and anxiety among Myanmar nationals, including those living in Australia.

Vincent expressed support for the motion being considered by the Guild Council and acknowledged the Guild's ongoing support. He condemned the conscription law and human rights abuses by the military. He urged the international student community and others to show compassion and support for the safety and well-being of students and their families affected by the crisis.

RS thanked Vincent for sharing his personal experiences and for speaking at the Guild Council. He emphasized the importance of amplifying the voices of the oppressed, noting that the Guild has a unique opportunity to address representation issues through its motions.

RM also expressed gratitude to Vincent for his contribution to the council meeting. RM highlighted the significance of the Guild understanding and supporting issues faced by minorities, reiterating that acknowledging and addressing these issues reflects the Guild's commitment to support and solidarity.

Friendly amendment - AJ thanked Vincent for their contributions and proposed two minor amendments. First, AJ suggested adding an acknowledgment of the content of the previous motion, as the current wording only references the motion itself without detailing its content. Second, AJ pointed out a grammar error that needed correction.

AM spoke in support of the motion, commending its quality and the impactful introduction. AM emphasized the powerful mobilization of industrial trade unions and radical student movements in Myanmar in response to the 2021 coup. This, combined with the heroic resistance of ordinary people, has been crucial in the fight for democratic rights against the military junta. AM praised the UWA Student Guild's past motions of solidarity and called for continued support and solidarity with the people of Myanmar and other global movements advocating for social, economic justice, and democracy.

That motion passes.

8 STUDENT REPORTS

- 8.1 Guild President - AT
- 8.2 Guild Vice-President - AT
- 8.3 Guild General Secretary - AT
- 8.4 Chair of Guild Council - AT
- 8.5 Education Council President – AR
Submitted on time but updated a meeting
- 8.6 Societies Council President – AR
Submitted on time but updated a meeting
- 8.7 Public Affairs Council President - AT
- 8.8 Women's Officer – AR



PB announced the upcoming Survivors installation event, inspired by the "What Were You Wearing?" exhibit, which will take place next week. The event will be hosted on the Nedlands campus and will feature a dedicated website with details on its background, inspiration, and what to expect. The opening night will include support from counsellors from Student Life, Safe and Circle Communities, and Student Assist. The week will also feature physical support, flyers, educational materials, and social media promotions. PB encouraged attendees to participate if comfortable and to share the event within their networks, emphasizing the significant impact of the installation.

8.9 Wellbeing Officer - AT

8.10 Postgraduates Students' Association President – AR

Was late because it has been busy

8.11 International Students' Department President – NS because of technical difficulties

8.12 Residential Students' Department President – AT – updating due to spelling error

8.13 Environment Officer – AT – but late

8.14 Sports Officer - AS

8.15 Access Department - AS

8.16 Pride Officers - AS

8.17 Ethnocultural Officers – AS – updating spelling error

8.18 Volunteering Chair – AT - late

8.19 OGCs

AKS – AT - late

ALM - AT

AN - AT

AM - AT

CL - AT

KG - AT

LA – AR – will amend to include NUS report RY – AT

SAL - AT

SB – Not submitted

NUS

AJ - AT

AM - AT

IC - AT

KG - AT

LA - AT

OS - AT

SS - AT

MV - AT

Move to welfare break

Moved by JK

Seconded by IC

That motion passes

8. QUESTIONS TIME – Student Reports



IC questioned whether it was necessary to include brief two-minute conversations with Councillors in meeting reports, referring to **LA**'s June report, which was not accepted in the June council, where such a conversation was detailed. **LA** explained that the specific instance mentioned was included because even though it was brief it was a part of a scheduled meeting and was relevant to the discussion on a TAV events committee. **LA** requested that, moving forward, all such brief interactions be included in the reports for completeness.

SA inquired about the status and performance of the ISD (International Student Day) events, wanting to hear more about attendance and the overall progress. **RN** reported that the first event of the current semester achieved a record attendance, surpassing the combined attendance of the previous three semesters. However, quiz time attendance was lower, and no events were held on the day of the inquiry, with preparations underway for upcoming events.

OS asked **LI** about the future of the NUS and the necessary changes, considering the issues raised with the organization. **LI** explained that the key issue is the severe factionalism within the NUS, with major factions such as Unity and NLS not taking smaller factions, like Socialist Alternative and Groots, seriously. **LI** suggested that creating a respected opposition, involving Socialist Alternative and Groots, could address this fragmentation. **LI** noted that past experiences, such as those from the 1990s, showed that a more respectful environment existed when there was a strong opposition, and believes a similar approach could bring positive changes to the current NUS structure.

In the discussion about the National Union of Students (NUS), the key points raised revolve around improving the organization's effectiveness and addressing its internal issues.

OS asked for additional input on the changes needed in the NUS, following a comment by **LI** about factionalism and the need for a respected opposition.

IC highlighted that the NUS is currently suffering from severe factionalism, which detracts from its primary focus of addressing higher education issues. She noted that some factions are intentionally provoking conflict with others, as seen in presentations at the Ed Conference. **IC** believes that for the NUS to improve, all factions need to engage more authentically with important content and be able to criticise of the Labor government on student issues.

CJD pointed out the need to allow **LA** to respond as well, given that he attended the Ed Conference and submitted a report. However, **LA** indicated he had no additional comments.

OS then inquired about potential short-term changes to make the state branch of the NUS more effective, given **LI**'s earlier comments on the importance of having a competent state branch president. **LI** responded succinctly, suggesting that electing a competent state branch president could be a crucial step in improving the effectiveness of the state branch.

In the discussion regarding Luke's June report and his involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh Board at UWA, the following points were clarified:



MV sought to understand in what capacity Luke was engaging with the Duke of Edinburgh Board—whether it was as a Guild Councillor or in another role. LA clarified that his involvement was in his capacity as a staff member at UWA, not as a Guild Councillor. He acknowledged that he had incorrectly reported this in his previous report and would amend it.

CJD questioned whether Luke's role with the Duke of Edinburgh Board was paid and if it was appropriate for reporting within the Guild. Luke confirmed that it is a paid position and likened it to other OGC projects that have transitioned into paid roles, such as the SLAC. He emphasized that no Guild funding was used for the Duke of Edinburgh Award establishment and that the Council had supported it as an event for students.

CJD also inquired about the nature of payments for other Guild-related projects like SLAC. IC clarified that SLAC receives an operational budget rather than staff payments. CJD further asked about the timing of Luke's appointment and whether there was a competitive application process. Luke responded that he became a paid staff member in January and suggested that details of the application process should be directed to UWA.

AJ asked SA why brainstorming for OGC projects was only starting now, rather than at the end of May.

SA explained that upon joining the Council, she wasn't provided with training or guidance on how to initiate projects. She had assumed that others would reach out to her regarding project involvement or that she would be directed to existing events and tasks. Given her late start on the Council, she wasn't sure if she should focus on participating in events like exam R&R and O-Week or start new projects. She was unsure about the budget allocation or the appropriate timing for initiating new projects.

OS asked AJ if they found any educational value in the Education Conference. AJ responded that while they learned some useful information, particularly from the educational policy workshops and conversations with delegates from other universities, the majority of their learning came from informal interactions rather than the structured content of the conference. The conference itself experienced disruptions that affected the formal learning experience. OS clarified that AJ did find some educational value from EdCon.

OS also inquired about SS's perception of attitudes toward accessibility at the conference. SS noted that there was a noticeable lack of sensitivity towards accessibility needs. They recounted an instance where a delegate mentioned their difficulties due to neurodivergence, only to be dismissed by another delegate who downplayed the issue by stating their own similar condition. This, according to SS, highlighted a general disregard for accessibility concerns during the conference.

AM asked OS for their take on the successful press conference organized to pressure the Labour government and address the exclusion of Fatima



Payne, which was widely covered by media outlets. OS agreed that the actions of the Labour government was wrong.

AM also questioned why the press conference was not mentioned in OS's report, suggesting that it was a significant outcome of the education conference. OS responded that the press conference was not included because they believed it was not the most critical aspect of the conference.

OS then inquired why AM did not submit their NUS report AM replied stating that they viewed such reports as unnecessary bureaucracy primarily relevant to bureaucrats.

RS inquired about AS's attendance at ECOMS committee meetings, asking in what capacity AS attended those meetings.

AS responded that attending the ECOMS committee meetings was part of their role as the Education Council representative for ECOMS. AS included this role in their report to reflect their volunteer work with the Guild and mentioned that similar information was included in LK's report regarding their work with Venture.

RS asked if the team's Education Vice-President should include similar information in their reports. AS expressed, hope that they would, but acknowledged it is up to the individual vice-president.

LK explained that they did not include ECOMS committee details in their report because it is already accessible through Education Council reports. LK indicated they could include such details if needed but felt it was separate from their role as a Wellbeing Officer.

AS noted, that the purpose of attending the meetings was to follow up on the council's criteria and representation issues, which they believed were relevant. They also mentioned a meeting with Louis Bird, the Education Council Treasurer, to discuss representation within the council. AS concluded by affirming the inclusion of two-minute conversations in reports as acceptable.

JK commented that meetings outside one's official role should not be documented in reports, suggesting that only meetings directly related to the person's assigned duties should be recorded. They offered to discuss this policy further if needed.

LK asked AN for a verbal update on the halal-free options and multi-faith prayer rooms projects mentioned in their report, noting that the report lacked additional details on these initiatives. LK also requested that future updates include information in their report from an accessibility standpoint.

AN provided a verbal update, mentioning that they would be meeting with the Ethno-Cultural Committee and Indi to advance the initiatives. They are also planning to assemble a group of historians to secure a space. AN said they would update their report to include it.



In terms of the different food options AN has contact Jack Spagnola and is awaiting a response but will keep the council updates.

OS asked IC to elaborate on the style of Socialist Alternative (SALT) discussed in their National Conference (NatCon) report, specifically regarding their approach to holding the National Union of Students (NUS) accountable. A procedural motion to move on from questions was proposed by AM but failed. IC responded that SALT's style involves holding NUS accountable, which can sometimes mean interruptions.

OS then inquired about the role attitudes towards accessibility at the conference and whether it was a safe space for students to engage in discussions and debates. IC replied that the conference was not a safe space and highlighted the need for the NUS to address this issue. IC noted that while robust debate is essential, it should not compromise accessibility. They also expressed that it is important for the conference and the NUS to allow for accountability and critical discussions, as this is a key aspect of their participation.

Motion to accept reports

That motion passes.

15.2.1 BUSINESS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

JK moves procedural motion to move into camera for this item

That motion passes.

Motion to move out of camera

Moved by JK

Seconded by IC

That motion passes.

Motion to move into welfare break

Moved by JK

Seconded by IC

That motion passes.

11. ELECTIONS

12. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (OPERATIONS)

13.0 MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE (OPERATIONS)

14.0 MOTIONS ON NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)

14.1 The 111th Guild Council:

14.1.1 Notes the many accessibility concerns raised at the recent National Union of Students (NUS) Education Conference, highlighting that



accessibility concerns have been previously raised at NUS conferences by students across the country including UWA's own NUS delegates.

14.1.2 Affirms the importance of student representative spaces being accessible to all students to ensure equal representation, particularly of disabled students who are an underrepresented minority in the tertiary education space.

14.1.3 Calls on the NUS to implement measures to safeguard the wellbeing of all attendees and delegates at conferences and events organised by the NUS.

14.1.4 Directs the Governance Committee, in consultation with the Access Co-Officers, to explore the addition of accessibility related KPIs to the UWA Student Guild's existing NUS Accreditation KPIs and report to Council on their decisions.

14.1.5 Directs the Guild President, in consultation with the Access Co-Officers, to write to the NUS National President, NUS National General Secretary, and National Disabilities Officer calling for accessibility measures to be implemented for the 2024 NUS National Conference with the Guild President to report to Council on the response received from the NUS.

Proposer: Olivia Stronach

Seconded: Luke Alderslade instead of Lucinda Bartlett

OS shared that they had heard from multiple attendees that this year's Education Conference (EdCon) was better than previous years' EdCon and better than this year's National Conference (NatCon). Although OS didn't attend, they emphasized the importance of encouraging the NUS to improve in the future, especially concerning accessibility for disabled students. OS highlighted the underrepresentation of disabled students in tertiary education and stressed the need for the NUS to advocate for systematic changes to improve participation rates for these students.

LB added that the term "accessibility" might not fully convey the seriousness of the issue, suggesting that it needs to be addressed with more urgency.

TG pointed out a procedural note, clarifying that only one person from the position can put forward a motion, and another role needs to second it.

JK asked if anyone else wanted to second the motion, to which LA volunteers. JK then noted that this does not alter the substance of the motion.

AM raised a question regarding the perceived conflation of discomfort and unsafety in the motion being discussed. They prefaced their question by mentioning their faction's focus on disabled oppression during the conference. AM argued that there is a significant difference between disagreement and physical harm, suggesting that conflating the two could be a way to suppress discussion and disagreement, which they believe is essential for a thriving environment of debate.



In response, it was clarified that there was no intentional conflation of these concepts in the motion, and if that was AM's interpretation, it was simply their interpretation.

AM then waived their speaking rights to Danika, who voiced their concerns about the motion and the broader discussion around accessibility issues in student politics. Danika argued that the discussion had not addressed the real accessibility issues, which they identified as poverty exacerbated by the NDIS and the impact of COVID-19. They suggested that the motion could be seen as an attack on the approach their faction took at the conference, which focused on these issues. They also pointed out a perceived hypocrisy in the earlier comments made by Olivia regarding the press conference on Palestine and its relevance to the broader discussion on accessibility.

A point of order was raised to ensure that Danika's comments remained relevant to the motion being discussed. Danika insisted that their comments were indeed relevant, as they addressed the substance of the motion and the broader context of accessibility issues. They concluded by highlighting the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Palestine, which they described as a significant accessibility issue, particularly considering the challenges faced by children there.

OS moved a procedural motion to grant Blake speaking rights, which was passed.

That motion passes.

BM began by addressing the grossly inaccessible nature of the NUS conference. They noted that while their disabilities did not majorly impact their participation, others were clearly affected, and many students would never be able to participate in such an environment. BM emphasized that the inaccessibility at the conference affects all students, not just those with disabilities, as the constant disruptions prevent any meaningful progress from being made. They also mentioned that this was not an isolated issue, citing last year's NATCON as even worse, where the disability segment was completely disrupted.

BM argued that both the Guild and NUS need to be active allies of the disabled community and that significant changes are needed to ensure future conferences are accessible and functional. They stressed the importance of the University Student Guild making clear recommendations to the NUS on how to better support disabled students, rather than merely pointing fingers.

AM responded by reiterating the distinction between causing harm and causing discomfort, arguing that it is valid to engage in vigorous debate and political opposition without causing actual harm. They expressed concern that conflating the two could be used as a tool to suppress disagreement and stifle democratic debate within the student union. AM also linked the discussion to the situation in Gaza, arguing that the largest



disabling event currently is happening there, and this should be considered when discussing access and disability within the NUS.

The relevance of AM's comments was challenged, but they maintained that their points were pertinent to the motion and to how the NUS should address disabled oppression.

OS proposed granting Jack Cross speaking rights, citing his attendance at EdCon and his ability to speak on its inaccessibility. However, IC noted that Jack Cross could not speak as he is a Pelican editor.

LB expressed gratitude for the continued acknowledgment of COVID-19's relevance but addressed the separation of discomfort from harm. They argued that while some actions may be seen as merely discomforting, they can cause significant psychosocial harm, especially for disabled individuals. LB emphasized the need for a more accessible NUS where all students, including those with disabilities, can participate fully. They advocated for accessible protests and better preparation for disabled individuals in advance of potentially discomforting events to prevent long-term psychosocial harm.

LI then asked the proposers, Olivia or Lucinda, if they had specific measures in mind for making NUS meetings more accessible and better representing disabled students.

OS responded, mentioning that they are part of a working group brainstorming ways to improve NUS's accessibility and ensure all students can sit at the table. While they acknowledged the difficulty in pinpointing exact solutions, OS emphasized that certain harmful behaviours must stop and stressed the need for cross-factional support. They also noted that better organization and more accessible information would enable greater participation from disabled students.

Finally, LK asked LA if they had any reason for supporting the motion. LA responded that they were not against measures to safeguard students' wellbeing and saw the motion as an important step in that direction.

That motion passes.

14.2 The 111th Guild Council:

14.2.1. Condemns the state sponsored violent response to protesting students in Bangladesh.

14.2.2. Condemns the unjust killings of university students in Bangladesh.

14.2.3. Stands in solidarity with Bangladeshi students and civilians protesting in the aftermath of proposed job quota reforms.

1. Calls for an end to all forms of violence against protesting students.

2. Urges for the protection of student and human rights; to guarantee the safety of protesters and students, refrain from any action threatening their wellbeing, and ensure their freedom of expression.



3. Urges for student and government representatives to engage in constructive dialogue to address concerns, and work towards a fair and just resolution.
4. Condemns the telecommunications black out in Bangladesh, and in particular notes the inability for people in Australia and internationally to contact their family and friends in Bangladesh.
 - 14.2. 4. Recognises the privileges and opportunities that we, as students, have in Australia, that are often not afforded to others around the world.
 - 14.2.5. Encourages students affected by the protests and violence to seek support from Guild Student Assist.
 - 14.2.6. Directs the UWA Student Guild to work with the UWA Society of Bangladeshi Culture to best address the concerns and support needed for Bangladeshi students on campus.
 - 14.2.7. Directs the Ethnocultural Department, International Students Department, and Public Affairs Council to collaborate on a social media statement standing in solidarity with Bangladeshi students.

Proposer: Parham Bahrami
Seconded: Rishav Neog

PRB expressed a how disturbing the current events are, relating them to their home country, where many people have been killed or arbitrarily arrested. They highlighted the distressing nature of these events and emphasized the importance of the motion being discussed.

They also acknowledged the collaboration and consultation with various organizations in bringing the motion forward, including the Society of Bangladesh Culture, the Muslim Students Association, ISD, and other groups concerned with Bangladesh issues.

RN then added that ISD has been actively supporting students affected by these events. They noted that the organization, with university support, arranged a Bangladeshi student support afternoon, which provided affected students with special consideration, financial support, and other forms of assistance. RN emphasized their ongoing commitment to support these students and their needs.

Motion to waive speaking rights moved by Alvin.

That motion passes.

FP expressed strong support for the motion, condemning the oppressive situation in Bangladesh. They highlighted the bravery and resilience of the student protesters, who have faced severe repression, including police violence and abductions. FP emphasized that the courage shown by these activists is both atrocious and inspiring, urging fellow representatives and activists to learn from their example.

Following FP's remarks, AM acknowledged the efforts made by the budget department to support the motion. However, they raised a concern about the lack of consultation with other faith-based organizations, particularly the Association Council. ARM questioned why not more faith



clubs were consulted. PRB noted their personal connection with the MSA president, who is also from Bangladesh, and expressed willingness to consult with more people to ensure broader representation and input on the issue.

RN moves a motion to pass speaking rights.

That motion passes.

Redwan addressed the guild council, emphasizing the severe repression faced by students in Bangladesh. They explained that students demanding reform and equal opportunities have been branded as traitors and collaborators by the regime, which has politicized their struggle and used state forces like the police and military to suppress peaceful protests in cities such as Dhaka, Chennai and Angkor. Redwan highlighted the stark reality in Bangladesh, where the ruling class, clinging to power, relies on coercion and state-sponsored violence against students. Nearly 9,000 students have been wrongfully arrested, an act Redwan described as a blatant attempt to silence dissent and suppress demands for justice. They called for immediate accountability and the protection of students' rights to protest peacefully, urging continued resistance against the oppressive regime. Despite the challenges of mobilizing movements from afar, Redwan expressed a commitment to the cause, underscoring that silence is not an option. They concluded by thanking the University of Western Australia for allowing them to speak and represent Bangladeshi students in distress.

PRB proposed two friendly amendments to the motion. The first amendment (14.2.3) condemns the mass arrests and arbitrary detention of university students following protests in Bangladesh. The second amendment (14.2.8) endorses a "Sit in Solidarity" event organized in collaboration with the Ethnocultural Department, International Students Department, and other relevant stakeholders. This event is to be held at an accessible location on campus, aimed at educating students about the situation in Bangladesh and its historical significance, with encouragement for students to attend.

AM briefly expressed strong support for the motion, praising the bravery of the resistance movement in Bangladesh. They highlighted the courage of the students who continue to stand up for justice and their rights against a terrifying state, describing their efforts as truly inspiring.

That motion passes.

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

LI briefly mentioned that the Pride Department will be addressing two upcoming circular motions: one related to Article 25 and another concerning the Fair Liberation Movement's protest against the gender reassignment legislation. The legislation is criticized for medicalizing transness and restricting 16-year-olds who are already medically



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Guild Council Minutes
111th Guild Council
Wednesday, 31st, July 2024
GCR @ 6pm

emancipated from making decisions about their own care. Members are invited to ask any questions by email or in person.

PRB announced that racism surveys have been distributed and encouraged everyone to spread the word.

AW highlighted that Pride Week is approaching and invited everyone to attend, promising a fun and enjoyable time.

17. CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING closes at 8.34pm

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 28th August 2024 at 6.00pm**. Please contact the Guild General Secretary (secretary@guild.uwa.edu.au) with apologies or proxies. If unable to attend, please advise which dates you are available to reschedule if a quorum cannot be met.