



1. WELCOME AND OPENING

1. Attendance

Nikhita Talluri (NT)
Charlie Backhsall (CB)
Annika Leunig (AL)
Oliver Barrett (OB)
Aidan Kirby-Smith (AKS)
Ritika Menon (RM)
Lachy Flavel (LF)
Aimee Chan (AC)
Kassidy Anderson (KA)
Olivia Stronach (OS)
Tabarek Alhaffar (TA)
Selina Al Ansari (SA)
Reihaneh Rezagholilou (RR)
Jude Kamalddin (JK)
Ethan Tan (ET)
Finn Penter (FP)
Aryaman Bhoosreddy (AB)
Ashel Siby (ASI)
Archana Ashok (AA)
Jay Williams (JW)
Lauren Kohlen (LK)
Ojaswi Shrestha (OSH)
Julia Suffell (JS)
Archit Menon (AM)
Naveen Nilaman (NN) (Online)
Lucinda Bartlett (LB) (Online)
Anthony Sims (AS) (Online)
Tony Goodman (TG)
Mutya Maraginot-Joseph (MMJ)
Hukam Kohli (HK) (Observer)

NT proposes a motion to accept online attendees' votes. Motion passes.



2. Apologies

- 2.1 Katrina Soares (KS)
- 2.2 Ruby Membry (RME)
- 2.3 Casey Taylor (CT)

3. Proxies

LK for RME

NT proposes a motion to accept proxies. Motion passes.

4. Absent

- 4.1 Amira Suaya Nunn (AN)

2. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

N/A

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

N/A

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

N/A

5. BUSINESS COMPLETED VIA CIRCULAR

N/A

6. BUSINESS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

AKS moves a procedural motion to move to section 7.

Motion passes unanimously.



7. ELECTIONS

7.1 Returning Officer

Nominated member: Tony Goodman

Nominated by: Annika Leunig

Seconded by: Oliver Barrett

Tony was elected unopposed as Returning Officer

7.2 Chair

- a) To be a member of Guild Council

Nominated member: Aidan Kirby-Smith

Nominated by: Annika Leunig

Seconded by: Oliver Barrett

Aidan was elected unopposed as Chair of Guild Council.

7.3 Vice-President

- a) To be an Ordinary Guild Councillor

Nominated member: Oliver Barrett

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Annika Leunig

Oliver was elected unopposed as Vice-President of Guild Council.

7.4 Deputy Chair

- a) To be a member of Guild Council

Nominated member: Ritika Menon

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Annika Leunig

Ritika was elected unopposed as Deputy Chair of Guild Council.

7.5 Academic Board

- a) Appoints the Guild President (Nikhita Talluri), the PSA President (Charlie Backshall and the ISD President (Archit Menon) as ex-officio members of the Academic Board.

- b) Elects the remaining 3 members from members of Guild Council.



Nominated members: Jay Williams, Annika Leunig and Archit Menon.

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Ritika Menon

Jay, Annika and Archit were elected unopposed to the Academic Board.

7.6 Strategic Resources Committee

a) The Guild President is the Chair of the Strategic Resources Committee.

b) Two (2) members of Guild Council, one of whom must be female.

Nominated members: JeffreyTang and Kassidy Anderson

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Jay Williams

Jeffrey and Kassidy were elected unopposed to the Academic Board.

7.7 Catering and Tavern Committee

a) Elects the Chair of the Catering and Tavern Committee from members of Council.

Nominated member: Oliver Barrett

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Ethan Tan

Oliver was elected unopposed as Chair of the Catering and Tavern Committee.

b) Three (3) members of Guild Council, one of whom must be female.

Nominated members: Annika Leunig, Anthony Sims and Jude Kamalddin

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Ethan Tan

Annika, Anthony and Jude were elected unopposed to the Catering and Tavern Committee.

7.8 Student Services Committee



a) Two (2) members of Guild Council, one of whom must be female.

Nominated members: Selina Al Ansari and Kassidy Anderson

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Annika Leunig

Selina and Kassidy were elected unopposed to the Student Services Committee.

b) Elects the Chair of the Student Services Committee from members of Council.

Nominated member: Ojaswi Shrestha

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Annika Leunig

Ojaswi Shrestha was elected unopposed as Chair of the Student Services Committee.

7.9 Corporate Services Committee

a) Three (3) members of Guild Council, one of whom must be female.

Nominated members: Lucinda Bartlett, Naveen Nimalan and Aimee Chan

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Annika Leunig

Lucinda, Naveen and Aimee were elected unopposed to the Corporate Services Committee.

b) Election of the Chair of the Corporate Services Committee from members of Guild Council.

Nominated member: Archana Ashok

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Annika Leunig

Archana Ashok was elected unopposed as Chair of the Corporate Services Committee.



7.10 Governance Committee

- a) Three (3) members of Guild Council, one of whom must be female.

Nominated members: Charlie Backshall, Lachy Flavel and Jay Williams

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Kassidy Anderson

Charlie, Lachy and Jay were elected unopposed to the Governance Committee.

- b) The Chair of Guild Council is the Chair of the Governance Committee.

7.11 Equity and Diversity Committee

- a) Election of the Chair of the Equity and Diversity Committee from members of Guild Council.

Nominated member: Lucinda Bartlett

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Olivia Stronach

Lucinda was elected unopposed as Chair of the Equity and Diversity Committee.

- b) One (1) member of Guild Council.

Nominated member: Katrina Soares

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Olivia Stronach

Katrina was elected unopposed to the Equity and Diversity Committee.

7.12 Personnel Board

- a) One (1) member of Guild Council.

Nominated member: Aidan Kirby-Smith

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Oliver Barrett

Aidan was elected unopposed to the Personnel Board.

7.13 Enterprise Bargaining Agreement Committee

- a) Two (2) members of Guild Council, one of whom must be female.



Nominated members: Anthony Sims and Charlie Backshall.

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Olivia Stronach

Anthony and Charlie were elected unopposed to the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement Committee.

7.14 Joint Consultative Committee

a) Two (2) members of Guild Council, as per the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

Nominated members: Jeffrey Tang and Katrina Soares

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Annika Leunig

Jeffrey and Katrina were elected unopposed to the Joint Consultative Committee.

7.15 Election Culture Committee

a) Five (5) members of Guild Council, at least two of which must be female or nonbinary.

Nominated members: Naveen Nimalan, Jay Williams, Olivia Stronach, Ethan Tan and Jeffrey Tang

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Archana Ashok

Naveen, Jay, Olivia, Ethan and Jeffrey were elected unopposed to the Election Culture Committee.

7.16 Tenancy Committee

a) Election of the Chair of the Tenancy Committee from members of Guild Council.

Nominated member: Ritika Menon

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Archit Menon

Ritika was elected unopposed to the Tenancy Committee.

7.17 Publications Committee

a) Two (2) members of Guild Council, one of whom must be female.



Nominated members: Charlie Backshall and Aryaman Bhoosreddy

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Aimee Chan

Charlie and Aryaman were elected unopposed to the Publication Committee.

7.18 Volunteering Committee

- a) Two (2) members of Guild Council, one of whom must be female.

Nominated members: Tabarek Alhaffar and Ruby Membry

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Oliver Barrett

Tabarek and Ruby were elected unopposed to the Volunteering Committee.

7.19 Young Leaders Council

- a) Election of the Chair of YLC to be an Ordinary Guild Councillor.

Nominated member: Julia Suffell

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Jay Williams

Julia was elected unopposed as Chair of the Young Leaders Council.

- b) Two (2) members of Guild Council.

Nominated members: Ethan Tan and Lachy Flavel.

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Jay Williams

Ethan and Lachy were elected unopposed as members of the Young Leaders Council.

7.20 Workplace Health and Safety Committee

- a) One (1) member of Guild Council.

Nominated members: Olivia Stronach

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Archit Menon

Olivia was elected unopposed to the Workplace Health and Safety Committee



b) The Guild President is the Chair of the Workplace Health and Safety Committee.

7.21 Alumni Engagement Committee

a) Three (3) members of Guld Council.

Nominated members: Annika Leunig, Ritika Menon and Archit Menon

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Ethan Tan

Annika, Ritika and Archit were elected unopposed to the Alumni Engagement Committee.

b) The Immediate Past President (India Creed) is the Chair of the Alumni Engagement Committee.

7.22 Referendum Standing Committee

a) Three (3) members of Guld Council, one of whom must be a female.

Nominated members: Anthony Sims, Ojaswi Shrestha and Archana Ashok.

Nominated by: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded by: Annika Leunig.

Anthony, Ojaswi and Archana were elected unopposed to the Referendum Standing Committee.

AKS moves a procedural motion to go back to section 6.

Motion passes.

NT moves a procedural motion to go in camera.

Motion passes.

NT moves a procedural motion to stop in camera.

Motion passes



8. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (OPERATIONS)

8.1 The 112th Guild Council thanks Indi Creed for her contributions and efforts as the 111th Guild President.

Moved: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded: Annika Leunig

NT mentions that we are going to see a lot of positive change going into next year because of the efforts Indi and the 111th Council have put in this year.

No questions for the motion.

DEBATE

For: OS mentions how much work the staff have put in and how everyone on council was helped and made better through their efforts and hopefully the students can appreciate their hard work.

Motion passes.

8.2 The 112th Guild Council thanks the Guild Staff for their contributions and efforts throughout 2024 and looks forward to another productive year in 2025.

Moved: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded: Annika Leunig

NT mentions how the Guild would not be able to be run without the staff and thanks the staff for their efforts from last year and hopes to continue to have a great relationship with the staff going into this year. NT also wants to raise for members of Guild council to be respectful towards the staff and that they are here to help us and help us get things done which cannot happen without respect. NT reminds guild council that the guild is a workspace, and we are all here to do good work.

No questions. No speakers for or against.

The motion passed unanimously.



8.3 The 112th Guild Council accepts the dates as attached to be tentative meeting dates for all Guild Council meetings for the upcoming year.

Moved: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded: Annika Leunig

NT mentions how OS has raised that the meeting in October, initially 29th October, falls during exam period.

Amendment to move meeting to the week before, 22nd of October.

MMJ mentions how that might be a problem for the End of Month report so suggests moving it to the week after. OS mentions it will still be during exam period. TG suggests circulating the finances at a different time than the October meeting.

No questions. No speakers for or against.

The motion passed unanimously.

8.4 The 112th Guild Council approves the 2024 Preliminary Budget Deficit-Surplus figure of -\$116,097 (deficit).

Moved: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded: Annika Leunig

NT mentions how AL and herself went about making the 2025 Budget by comparing the actual spending from the guild council departments from last year and their budget to make adjustments and how Office bearers were also consulted during the process. Incoming office bearers were also consulted with their opinions on new budget and adjustments were made where necessary. NT also thanked AL for her efforts to alongside with the finance staff propose this budget for 2025.

TG mentions how 2024 was budgeting on a \$280,000 loss but it is looking more like a \$107,000 profit. So hopefully we'll be looking forward to sort of keeping a good even steer on where the finances are going.



Questions:

OS: So last year did we budget for a loss but ended up on a surplus? And is this what we are hoping for this year?

TG explains that we budget for worse case and that anything above that is ideal but that our aim is to at least try and break even. Called the shocking organisation, make sure that the "Guild is shock proof".

No speakers for or against.

Motion passes.

8.5 The 112th Guild Council approves the line items in the 2025 Preliminary Budget Pack.

Moved: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded: Annika Leunig

NT highlights how the special projects budget was increased significantly to account for the free O'day memberships project budgeted at \$5 per incoming fresher. It was initially in the Presidential budget but has been now moved to the Guild council projects budget so that any surplus budget can go to GC special projects. The increase of about \$17,000 in the Presidential Budget is to accommodate for the free essential items in the Guild Central, free pregnancy tests and funding for free food during exam period.

AL mentions how the budget is based off the actual spending of departments from last year and any feedback so hopefully it will better reflect actual spending this year and reminds guild council that if they need there is the mid-year budget review.

NN: Just wondering about the difference between forecasted and actual budget for the Tavern in 2024?

MMJ explained that Tavern 1 faced significant challenges in 2024 due to unforeseen circumstances, including a nearly six-month closure for renovations that greatly impacted operations and profitability. Additionally, early-year initiatives, such as extending happy hour and drastically reducing beer prices, backfired, resulting in lower volumes and substantial profit losses. Consequently, the forecast for the year ended at a \$30K loss compared to the budgeted profit of \$57,210. Despite this, the 2025 budget was increased based on several factors: the Tavern's upcoming 50th-anniversary celebrations, the



absence of further renovation closures, a new supplier deal allowing cheaper beer without fully absorbing the cost, and improvements in labour efficiency observed in 2024. For catering, the unexpected extended closure of COBA, its largest profit centre, caused a \$180K profit loss and a 2024 catering loss of \$56K against a budget of \$19K. However, with COBA now reopened, better results are expected for 2025, with the catering volume conservatively based on 2019 levels, accounting for changes like the absence of IGA. Mutya also noted that ISD's budget was impacted by the lack of sundry income that was anticipated in 2024 and the absence of a university grant that had been received in 2023. Overall, the team remains cautiously optimistic about 2025, aiming to recover from 2024's setbacks with improved strategies, reopened facilities, and conservative forecasting.

LF: About ISD, it has gone from \$6,000 to \$16,000?

NT explained that ISD had budgeted for a significant amount of sundry income in 2024, but almost none materialized, leading to adjustments in the budget. Without the sundry income, the budgeted amount increased. She clarified that sundry income refers to revenue from miscellaneous activities, such as hosting events. Additionally, in 2023, ISD received a \$10,000 grant from the university, which inflated the actuals for that year. This grant was not expected to recur in 2024, resulting in year-to-year budget differences of approximately \$1,800.

No speakers for or against.

Motion passes.

9.0 MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE (OPERATIONS)

NT explains that the CAPEX Budget was only received on Friday before Council meeting (two business days before council meeting) and therefore not enough notice could be provided).

Motion to hear the motion passed unanimously.

9.1 The 111th Guild Council approves the Budgeted 2024 Capital Expenditure.

1. New Accounting System, Second Phase - \$100,000
2. Tavern - \$200,000
3. Catering Van - \$50,000
4. Corner Area of Guild Precinct - \$50,000



5. Website and App - \$70,000
 6. Office Set-up - \$50,000
 7. Server - \$75,000
 8. Computer Renewal (Including POS attachments) - \$40,000
 9. Screens for Refectory - \$30,000
 10. Catering Equipment Replacement - \$15,000
 11. Guild Council Screens - \$10,000
- Total = \$690,000

Moved: Annika Leunig

Seconded: Nikhita Talluri

AL explains that this is all the expenses that Guild needs to put money towards next year and this totals to \$690,000, we need to do this to keep up operations.

QUESTIONS

OS: Is the Guild Council screens for Bob Nic or in Guild Council room?

NT explains it is for Guild council room. Mutya explains it gives Guild council members an opportunity to view the documents we discuss in meetings in a much easier way. OS asks if a TV could do the job instead as it is very costly. TG acknowledges you can do that, however, explains that it would not be as big and that it gives guild council members a proper meeting room.

AB: Asks for clarification on the catering van.

MMJ explains that it is the refrigerated van that transports food to our outlets.

LK: Asks for the quotes for the screens to be installed, \$10,000 seems steep.

MMJ explains it is for 2 screens, includes installation and wirings.

LF: Asks if the screens would include a camera.

TG reports that it would not however, it is something that they can look into.

JS: Asks if there is a cheaper option for the screens, such as a projector?

TG explains that a projector costs about \$6,500 and that the maintenance is too expensive compared to the screens. TG also says they can go back and do more research on the screens but highlights that this is the top limit of spending and says it is likely to be under that budgeted figure.



SA: In terms of the website app, is that money going into fixing the website or development?
MMJ provided updates on the app and website development. The app is still pending approval from the university, with NT following up on cybersecurity requirements. It has been with the university for four weeks, and delays are due to integrating the app through the university's firewall, a process that has taken nearly a year. Once approved, the setup will be straightforward as it is an off-the-shelf product. Regarding the website, they are evaluating options to improve its speed, as the current site is large and slow due to hosting extensive content. One solution under consideration is splitting the servers to create what appears as a single website but operates as two or three sites to manage volume better, particularly for events. The website, catering website, and app are integrated with the catering system to streamline orders, inventory updates, and other operations. Mutya likened the system to the Varsity app, emphasizing that once university approval is secured, the capabilities will be demonstrated to the team.

No speakers for or against.

Motion passed.

Ritika moved a procedural motion to take a five-minute welfare break.

The procedural motion passed.

10.0 MOTIONS ON NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)

11.0 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)

OS explains that the announcement for the legislation only came out a few days before the council meeting, so proper notice could not be given.

Motion to hear the motion passed unanimously.

11.1 The 112th Guild Council:

1. Recognises the establishment of the National Student Ombudsman as an important step to address university focused issues like:
 - a. Gender based violence.



- b. Complaints about actions of universities.
 - c. Complaints about handling of student welfare issues like racism, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination.
 - d. Reasonable adjustments for disabled students
2. Notes that 1 in 20 students have been sexually assaulted and 1 in 6 have been sexually harassed since starting university.
 3. Acknowledges the importance of this reform in addressing complaints of students.
 4. Expresses dismay that there has not been explicit confirmation about the handling of disability discrimination by the National Student Ombudsman.
 5. Calls for the National Student Ombudsman to address disability discrimination so that students are no longer required to go to the Australian Human Rights Commission with their complaints.

Moved: Olivia Stronach

Seconded: Jay Williams

OS expressed that the initiative to address issues like sexual harm and other forms of discrimination at universities is a positive step, as it ensures these matters are handled by a dedicated body. However, they highlighted a significant gap in the current framework regarding disabled students. There has been no explicit confirmation that disability discrimination or issues related to reasonable adjustments will be addressed. Currently, students facing such issues must take their cases to the Human Rights Commission, a process that can take months—an impractical timeline in a university context where semesters are only a few months long. While they remain hopeful that these concerns will be addressed in the future, they view the initiative as a commendable overall step forward.

QUESTIONS

CB: Do we know if the decisions they're producing will be binding?

OS explains that the plan for the Ombudsman involves giving them the authority to investigate complaints, facilitate resolutions by bringing parties together, make actionable recommendations to universities, and monitor their implementation. If a university fails to



implement these recommendations, the Ombudsman will have the power to impose penalties. Additionally, a significant improvement is that Vice-Chancellors and CEOs will now be held accountable for many of the university's actions, ensuring greater responsibility at the leadership level.

RM: Would you recommend any action points to that?

OS noted that since the implementation details have not yet been announced, they chose not to include specifics for now. However, with NATCOM approaching in December, they felt it was important to establish a stance on the issue to guide discussions, especially given the extensive range of topics where clarity on their position is already established.

FP: Point 2, is that just for UWA?

OS clarified that it is for all universities and that it is one of the main points of the ombudsman. FP suggests that we should clarify that it is not just for UWA with wording for "Australian students".

Amendment to wording "Australian Students" is friendly.

NT: What specific steps can we take? Is there anything the Guild can advertise or put on Instagram?

OS: Reiterates that that since the implementation details have not yet been announced, they chose not to include specifics for now

NN: Does the NSO address students with disabilities or experiencing special circumstances and is this motion just highlighting that there isn't enough announced around disability discrimination in particular?

LB said it's about how the Ombudsman isn't clear about what level of complaints about disability discrimination. It will take on adjustment issues, but nothing around academic decisions. It's just generally picking and choosing discrimination experienced by students in uni. LB also mentioned how only including some types doesn't sit right with her. OS expresses concern that while the legislation addresses certain issues, it doesn't fully confirm whether it will cover all forms of disability discrimination. They highlight the long wait times with the Australian Human Rights Commission, which are a major issue for students who cannot afford to wait for resolutions.

DEBATE

For: AB reviewed the legislation and appreciated that it includes homophobia as an issue



the Ombudsman can address. However, as Pride Officer, they would have preferred the term "queerphobia" for greater inclusivity, especially given the growing influence of the "LGB without the T" movement. Despite this, they acknowledged the effort made in addressing these concerns.

Against: FP expresses sympathy for the concerns raised about gender-based violence, but questions the effectiveness of the proposed legislation. They note that after searching the legislation, terms related to sexual violence or discrimination are not mentioned, which leads them to believe the body being discussed is not focused on combating discrimination but rather serves as a general complaint system. The speaker raises concerns that the system could be misused for political purposes, such as suppressing rival organizations or targeting pro-Palestine students. They also criticize the idea of going to university management or government to make political complaints, especially as these institutions may be antagonistic to student unionism.

Motion passes.

11.2

RR explains that the motion was only passed on Thursday (a few days before Guild Council) so enough notice could not be given.

Motion to hear the motion passed unanimously.

11.2 The 112th Guild Council:

1. Condemns the Migration Amendment Bill 2024, the Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024 and the Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2024 as anti-migrant and anti-refugee, that could adversely impact the livelihoods of over 80 000 non-citizens in Australia.
2. Expresses solidarity with all refugees, asylum seekers and migrant communities impacted by these Bills, acknowledging that barriers may be placed between migrant and refugee diaspora and their extended families.



3. Condemns the fact that the Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024 may put thousands of people, including recognised refugees, at risk of forced removal to countries where they may face persecution.
4. Condemns any efforts to criminalise seeking asylum in Australia.
5. Calls upon the Australian government to re-consider these Bills in order to protect multiculturalism and refugee rights within Australia.
6. Acknowledges the broad negative impact that these laws will have on UWA students and their communities, as well as the multiculturalism within our student body.
7. Directs the Ethnocultural Department and the International Students Department to publish a statement condemning the Bills and expressing solidarity with all those affected
 - a. Reaffirming the UWA Student Guild, Ethnocultural Department and International Students Department's commitment to supporting CaLD communities, including migrants and refugees
 - b. Outlining support services for affected UWA Students and referring them to Guild Student assist.

Moved: Reihaneh Rezagholilou

Seconded: Archit Menon

RR expresses concern about the wide-reaching impact of the bills, particularly on multiple communities. They emphasize that their main focus in bringing forward the motion is to understand how the bill will specifically affect UWA students and local communities. AM adds that it is not a safe environment for UWA students, especially those who cannot afford to pay those bills.

QUESTIONS

LF: Ask for clarification on CaLD communities.

RR explains it means Culturally and Linguistically diverse communities and that they should probably clarify this.



DEBATE

FOR: AB mentions he supports the motion however, suggests that along with statements from departments, students should be provided with resources or information about available recourse and aid organizations. AB express uncertainty about the current resources but believe it would be helpful to include this information in the statements published by departments. NT mentions that it is referred in Part b. AB means he wants something more specific other than Student services. JS suggest information that can be found online. No amendment was put forward, but guild council says they will specify the support services when the motion is acted upon.

FOR: NT speaks for and emphasizes that she appreciates that there are specific actions the guild council can take in this motion and for the future we should aim to have actions attached to our motions.

FOR: FP expresses concern and that these bills are appalling and that it is an extremely racist attack. FP puts forward an amendment for the motion to be more condemning and change the wording of "Australian Government" to "The Labour Government". FP would also like to add to point four that not only do we say, "seeking asylum" but also "a better life in Australia". FP emphasizes the distinction between seeking asylum, which they believe everyone has the right to do, and migration for people who simply wish to move to Australia. They express concern that the bills are attacking migration rights, asserting that everyone should have the right to come to Australia, though they are uncertain about the specific impact of the bills. RR acknowledges that although the adding of the wording "Labour" is friendly she does not want this motion to be more condemning rather than supporting UWA students and that she doesn't want it to distract away from the main message.

Amendment to add "seeking a better life in Australia" and "Labour Government" is friendly.

FOR: SA emphasizes the importance of reminding students that the Guild supports them, regardless of whether they are migrants or refugees, and highlights the value of multiculturalism in their community. They express concern that the bills threaten this support, noting that seeking asylum is a human right, which the Guild upholds. The speaker acknowledges both the structural and emotional distress students may face due to these issues and stresses the need for clear communication and resources to support students, even if they are not directly impacted by the laws. The Guild's role in providing this support is seen as vital.



FOR: TA stresses the importance of addressing harmful bills that negatively affect communities. TA propose adding amendments to make the content of the bills less transparent for students, ensuring they better understand what is in the bills. TA suggests the following amendment to add between point 3 and 4:

- “Condemns the lack of safeguard mechanisms in the Bills to ensure that non-citizens are not harmed, persecuted or subject to detention once deported to unknown third countries.
- Acknowledges that the new legislation risks violating the principle of non-refoulement under the Refugee Convention, of which Australia is a signatory.
- Condemns the expansion of the Australian Immigration Minister’s existing powers to ban visas from specific countries and overturn protection decisions without sufficient safeguards in place.”

Amendment as outlined above is friendly.

Motion unanimously passes.

11.3 The 112th Guild Council:

1. Acknowledges the growing concern regarding foreign political interference in religious spaces within Australia, including places of worship, which threatens the sanctity of these sacred spaces and the unity of multicultural and multifaith communities.
2. Recognises that such interference undermines core societal values of respect, religious freedom, and harmony, creating divisions within communities and weakening the social fabric of Australia’s multicultural society.
3. Stands in solidarity with all faith and cultural groups impacted by foreign political agendas, including but not limited to Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Jews, Christians, Catholics, Palestinians, and Ukrainians, and condemns the exploitation of places of worship for political purposes.
4. Commends the efforts of UWA’s religious and cultural communities for raising awareness about the detrimental impacts of foreign interference and advocating for interfaith unity and dialogue.
5. Recognises the mental, emotional, and spiritual toll such interference imposes on individuals and communities, particularly among students of diverse faiths and



cultural backgrounds, and encourages them to access support services provided by UWA and the Guild.

6. Directs the PAC, Ethnocultural Department, and relevant societies and clubs to collaboratively publish a statement that:
 - a) Expresses solidarity with students of all faiths and cultural backgrounds at UWA who feel affected by foreign interference in their places of worship.
 - b) Strongly condemns the misuse of religious spaces for political purposes and all forms of division or hate instigated through such acts.
 - c) Reaffirms the Guild's commitment to fostering an open, inclusive, and accepting campus environment, free from external interference.
 - d) Promotes education, interfaith dialogue, and collective action to ensure the values of tolerance, respect, and unity remain deeply ingrained within the UWA community.

7. Encourages the Guild Council to support and share the petition currently before the Australian Parliament, which advocates for laws preventing foreign consulates from using religious places for political agendas, as an expression of solidarity with the broader Australian community in preserving the sanctity of these spaces.

Moved: Aimee Chan

Seconded: Selina Al Ansari

AC expresses that as the PAC President multiculturalism is a core principle of their organization. AC explain that the petition was created to urge the government to take action against foreign nationals to address multicultural issues. She argues that with the challenges already present in daily life, there is no need for further actions that could divide communities.

Aimee passes a procedural motion to pass her speaking rights to the observer.

The procedural motion passes.

HK provides context for the motion, explaining that the Australian government has identified foreign political interference, particularly through religious institutions, as a major threat to democracy. The motion aims to raise awareness of a petition before the Australian Parliament, which, with enough signatures, could lead to a debate and potentially become legislation. HK emphasizes the importance of keeping religious institutions apolitical, as any



political involvement undermines the peace and prosperity people seek from these places of worship and introduces ulterior motives.

SA highlights the importance of the Human Rights Act and reaffirms the Guild's commitment to supporting tolerance and harmony within the community. They stress that the Guild, through its Ethno PAC, will continue to be a voice for students, offering support during times of distress or challenges. The speaker advocates for putting out a statement to remind students that the Guild supports religious and cultural communities.

QUESTIONS

RM starts by saying she is totally for the motion but asks about the wording "political interference" and points out its vagueness. Asks if there was anything specific?

HK refers to an incident in Canningville, Codora, unrelated to a previous motion passed by the 111th Guild, highlighting the rising global tensions between communities. They emphasize that interfaith and religious harmony should be the goal of all religions, and any involvement by foreign agents would undermine these efforts, ultimately disrupting religious harmony.

JK: Is there a plan that PAC or the university has for foreign interference?

TG explains the University of Western Australia's foreign interference unit, which is investigating various claims. TG mention being asked by the federal government to sit on panels to highlight how club societies can be influenced, sometimes subtly, such as receiving funding in exchange for member lists. This raises concerns about privacy, as individuals may unknowingly share their information. TG notes that this issue is ongoing and will likely be explored further by NT and CB at the university over the course of the year. JK then clarifies that she would like a definition for foreign interference and then if anything can be done? TG explains that the current process for addressing concerns should go through the SOC President, with clubs developing guidelines and pointers. TG mention David Norman, who heads the relevant department and would be willing to speak at a SOC council meeting to provide general advice on what students should be aware of regarding potential influences or threats. The speaker acknowledges that such issues can affect research students, some clubs, and even student councils. They suggest offering contact information for support and emphasize that the university has a unit dedicated to handling these matters confidentially.

DEBATE

FOR: CB flags that in point 3 a phrasing issue. Suggest instead of "Muslims, Hindus, Sikh, Jews" to change to "Muslim students, Hindu students" etc. SA and AKS points concern that it may be too wordy and shortens to the following suggested amendment.



Amendment to point 3. as follows “Stands in solidarity with all faith and cultural groups impacted by foreign political agendas” is friendly.

FOR: JW flags that in point 6 it says, “directs the PAC, ethno cultural and relevant societies and clubs.” JW brings up the issue that GC cannot direct clubs to post things so suggests changing the wording to “encourages”.

Amendment to “Directs the PAC, Ethnocultural Department, and encourages relevant societies and clubs, to collaboratively publish a statement that” is friendly.

ABSTAIN: FP expresses confusion about the issue of foreign political agents, feeling that the discussion has become vaguer. They are against foreign interference in religious communities but acknowledge that for oppressed religious groups, politics is often central to their experience. The speaker also raises concerns about the use of the term "foreign interference," viewing it as a potential tool to stoke tensions, particularly with China and other Eastern blocs. This, they warn, could lead to racism against people perceived as "foreign." Due to these red flags, the speaker decides to abstain from voting.

FOR: OS reflects on their own lack of involvement in a religious group but recalls attending the NUS Ethnocultural Conference, where the importance of faith spaces was a key topic. They emphasize that people deserve to experience their faith in a calm and peaceful environment, free from interference by political agendas also proposes an amendment to include the link to the petition in the motion for convenience.

Amendment to add <https://www.aph.gov.au/e-petitions/petition/EN6817> to the end of the motion is friendly.

Motion passes.

12.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

NT thanks everyone for their attendance and efforts and looks forward to working with everyone in the new year. AKS reminds all of Guild council to do their IT and Marketing inductions.

17. CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING



UWA STUDENT GUILD
The University of Western Australia
M300, 35 Stirling Highway | Crawley, WA 6009
(08) 6488 2295 | hello@guild.uwa.edu.au
facebook.com/UWASStudentGuild | [@UWASStudentGuild](https://twitter.com/UWASStudentGuild)

Guild Council Minutes
112th Guild Council
Tuesday 3rd December, 2024
Guild Council Room @ 6:00pm

The next meeting is scheduled for **6pm Wednesday January 29th 2025**. 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.