



1. WELCOME AND OPENING

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on Wadjuk Noongar land and paid respects to elders past, present, and emerging.

Meeting starts at 2:06PM

1.1 Attendance

Aidan Kirby Smith AS

Ritika Menon RM

Aimee Chan AC

Jay Williams JW

Olivia Stronach OS

Jeffrey Tang JT

Ethan Tan ET

Tony Goodman TG

1.2 Apologies

None

1.3 Proxies

None

1.4 Absent

Naveen Nimalan

2. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

1.1 N/A

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

N/A

5. BUSINESS COMPLETED VIA CIRCULAR

1.1 N/A

6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1 Appointment of Executive Officer

The Chair nominated RM to serve as Executive Officer. The nomination was seconded by JW, and RM was unanimously appointed



6.2 Committee and goals

Discussion: Election Regulations and Handbook

- Regulations Revision: The Chair and Tony Goodman provided an update on the ongoing revision of election regulations. The committee will receive a copy of the draft regulations for review and input.
- Handbook Significance: The Chair emphasized the importance of the election handbook in providing guidance on evolving election-related matters not covered in the regulations, such as the use of AI-generated content.

Discussion: 2024 Election Review

- Returning Officer's Role: Concerns were raised about the limited authority of Returning Officers in addressing election misconduct, with a call for clearer guidelines and enforcement mechanisms.
- Misconduct Consequences: The committee discussed the need for stronger consequences for election misconduct, including potential removal from council positions, even if investigations extend beyond the election period.
- Student Verification: The process for verifying student eligibility to participate in elections was discussed. Suggestions included using student ID numbers for verification and addressing the participation of non-student campaigners.
- Increased Staffing: The committee explored the possibility of increasing WAC staff presence at polling booths to enhance monitoring and enforcement of election rules.

6.3 Personal group agent information on campaign material

- Group Agent Contact Information (6.1.3): OS raised concerns about the requirement to include personal phone numbers of group agents on campaign materials. The committee discussed the possibility of using email addresses instead to address privacy concerns. The matter will be raised with the WAC for further consideration.

6.4 Pelican and blackout

- OS raised: Blackout Period and Media Coverage: The committee discussed the definition and interpretation of campaigning during the blackout period, particularly concerning media coverage in Pelican. Concerns were raised about the accuracy and potential bias in reporting. The committee will explore options for addressing this issue.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 2:35pm

Next meeting will be held TBD. Please contact the Committee Chair; Aidan Kirby-Smith (chair@guild.uwa.edu.au) with any apologies or proxies. If unable to attend, please advise which dates you are available to reschedule if a quorum cannot be met.



1. WELCOME AND OPENING

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land

Meeting starts at 1:05PM

1.1 Attendance

Aidan Kirby Smith AS
Ritika Menon RM - Online
Jay Williams JW - Online
Ethan Tan ET
Naveen Nimalan NN
Tony Goodman TG
Olivia Stronach OS

1.2 Apologies

Aimee Chan AC

1.3 Proxies

None

1.4 Absent

Jeffrey Tang

2. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Aiden asked committee to confirm March minutes, seconded by Ethan. The previous minutes were accepted by committee.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

N/A

5. BUSINESS COMPLETED VIA CIRCULAR

5.1 N/A

6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.2 Election handbook formatting

6.2.1 The current election handbook's formatting was deemed difficult to read and navigate. Suggestions for improvement included clearer chapter/section breaks, better use of landscape orientation for important dates, and a more user-friendly layout.

6.2.2 The handbook's purpose as both a general guide and a document outlining specific rules was discussed. The committee agreed on the importance of aligning the handbook with the election regulations.



- 6.2.3 The possibility of creating a separate, more concise document specifically for candidates, outlining essential information and responsibilities, was proposed

6.3 T shirts

- 6.3.1 The use of t-shirts as campaign material was discussed. Concerns were raised about potential cost, environmental impact, and whether they create a divide between parties. The committee agreed to explore the option of t-shirts further, considering factors like cost-effectiveness compared to flyers and potential restrictions from the university.

6.4 Update on the regulations

- 6.4.1 The committee discussed the authorization process for online campaign materials. Concerns were raised about the clarity regarding what constitutes "official" campaign material on personal social media accounts versus personal posts. It was suggested that clearer guidelines for online content authorization be included in the handbook.
- 6.4.2 The use of languages other than English in campaigning was debated. Concerns were raised about transparency and potential for misinformation if the majority of those present cannot understand the language being used. A suggestion was made to follow the University of Sydney's approach, where flyers can include other languages but must also have an English translation.
- 6.4.3 The importance of promoting sportsmanship and positive campaigning practices was emphasized. This included encouraging respectful conduct between parties, avoiding aggressive campaigning tactics, and allowing voters the opportunity to engage with different parties before making their decision.
- 6.4.4 Concerns were raised about instances of unsportsmanlike behavior observed in previous elections, such as shepherding voters towards booths without allowing them to engage with other parties. The committee agreed on the need to address such behavior and promote a more inclusive and fair campaigning environment.

6.1 Election of OCMs

- 6.1.1 The committee discussed the process for electing new members and confirmed the successful candidates: Salon, Syed, and Caitlin Holden. It was agreed that the new members would be briefed, and their input would be sought, particularly regarding their experience as students during the elections



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Election Culture Committee | Minutes

112th Guild Council

16/05/2025, 2025

Meeting Room 1 @ 13:00

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Discussed having a meeting with Mary to discuss regulations

8. CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm

Next meeting will be held TBD. Please contact the Committee Chair; Aidan Kirby-Smith (chair@guild.uwa.edu.au) with any apologies or proxies. If unable to attend, please advise which dates you are available to reschedule if a quorum cannot be met.