



**Meeting commenced:** 1:00pm

**Meeting adjourned:** 1:56pm

## **1.0 WELCOME AND OPENING**

**Attendance:** Amitabh Jeganathan, April Htun, Lucinda Thai-LeTran, Avery Wright, Alana Thompson, Rosa Catalano, Lisa Goldacre, Zoe Wickham

**Absent/Apologies:** Thomas Cotter, Emma Mezger

## **2.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

N/A

## **3.0 BUSINESS COMPLETED VIA CIRCULAR**

N/A

## **4.0 COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Purpose of Welfare and Advocacy Committee in 2021**

- AJ says that after discussions with Student Assist, and review of last year's W&A minutes, the committee for 2021 will be refocused onto financial welfare and advocacy

### **4.2 Housing Campaign**

- *How to address housing insecurity?*
- *What services currently exist?*
- *Motion Passed:*

### **13.1 The 108th Guild Council**

- 13.1 1** Notes that on March 28, 2021 – the WA State governments moratorium on evictions and freeze on rent increases expired.
- 13.1 2** Acknowledges the adverse effects this will have on the housing security and educational attrition rates of students from Low-SES backgrounds currently renting alone and/or share-housing.
- 13.1 3** Maintains that the universities current provisions for students experiencing housing insecurity is insufficient, inaccessible, and further in tension with the articles stipulated within the University Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
- 13.1 4** Directs the Guild to publish a survey into student housing security in order collate relevant information and ascertain the gravity of the issue.
- 13.1 5** Instructs the Guild to work with the university to introduce a revised crisis accommodation strategy with the hope of securing additional facilities and improved support services for students experiencing housing insecurity or precarious living arrangements.

**Moved:** Omar Ali McIntyre

**Seconded:** Amitabh Jeganathan

- AJ notes that students experienced a lack of a streamlined process when enquiring about accommodation (several redirections to different services).
- LG raises concerns about lost corporate information due to committee turnover and recommends assessing how students utilise available services as a productive way to proceed. Points out that Crawley Village is at capacity, the current accommodation situation should be reviewed, and the accessibility of services must be improved. Regarding the motion, LG highlights that the university does provide actual support.
- LC agrees with the inaccessibility of services and supports increasing the visibility of resources.
- LG notes the impending issues surrounding rent.
- AT raises concerns about the influx of students requesting support due to COVID-19, but was surprised to not receive this
- LG discusses the current housing options on campus
- AJ suggests creating visual material to aid the visibility of resources, such as flowcharts that provide structure and a streamlined process. Also suggests the utilisation of Guild social media platforms to promote such graphic resources.
- AT enquires what services students are actually seeking and suggests the use of a UWA database.
- LG states that this service is only available for alumni and flags a past incident.
- AT notes that Student Assist helps students with applications, moving, etc. Circles back to the confusion and difficulty surrounding how the flowchart would work.
- AW highlights the difficulty in seeking all the required information through the format of infographics and notes the usefulness of working with someone with lived experienced and knowledge. Notes that approaching formal services such as Student Assist upfront can be intimidating and believes this is where student leaders come into play as helpers.
- LG notes the peer workforce of the Living Room and highlights its positive reception from students.
- AW agrees with the approachability of the Living Room and reinforces the importance of having someone trustworthy. Enquires if connections have been made with Perth inner city youth services. Discussed service: Youth Homelessness Service.
  - LGBTQIA+ inclusivity
  - Mix of housing and counselling services
  - Goal is to help the youth navigate getting kicked out of home/homelessness and provide a safer housing environment
  - Limited time frame of stay
  - Point of the service is to help build and secure an individual's life
  - AW will pass on contact details to LG and AT after discussing the matter with the organiser.

### **4.3 Food pantry**

- *How are services currently?*
- *How is food typically sourced? What are the streams?*
- *Food drives + involvement of staff.*
- AJ asks if a food pantry will be necessary at this stage.
- AT states that the food pantry is not accessed by many students, which was surprising.
  - January – 25 students

- February – 22 students
- March – 36 students
- April – 22 students
- May – 16 students
- LG mentions that numerous family packs (nappies, formula, etc) were delivered which was surprising, questions if the notion of the food pantry has changed. Noted that shopping trends have changed due to this (less groceries, more toiletries and gift cards). Regarding the welfare service packs, LG notes that it was an enormous amount of work to deliver the food pantry and served a different purpose at the time (genuine human interaction, flagging at risk students, etc).
- AT enquires about the budget and how it would change after shifting the focus to purchasing gift cards
- LG notes how students experience a loss of dignity when requesting resources that they cannot afford
- Committee acknowledges the positive feedback of the soup initiative.
  - AT acknowledges its low cost and high reception
  - LG agrees with the efficiency and brilliancy of the initiative
  - AJ notes the positive environment it generated
  - AJ notes that it was a fantastic way for the university and guild to come to students, rather than waiting for students to directly reach out.
- LG circles back to housing, stating that a survey will be distributed to investigate student stressors and opinions (re: mental health framework) and focus groups will be formed in the future. Also suggests Breakfast Club, but the committee confirms that this is an existing initiative.
- AT enquires about the visibility of the Breakfast Club and suggests the exploration of a more accessible location.
- AJ questions if student needs have changed or if there are existing barriers, considering the underutilization of the food pantry.
- AT suggests shifting the focus from creating a food drive to another more efficient initiative.
- AJ points out the additional agenda points added by EM, which will be discussed at the next W&A meeting.

#### **4.4 Social Isolation Campaign Updates**

- To be discussed at next meeting.

#### **4.5 Welfare Week Review**

- To be discussed at next meeting.

#### **4.6 Feedback from new CAPS session model**

- To be discussed at next meeting.

#### **4.7 Sexual Assault Survey**

- LC enquires about the progress of the sexual assault survey.
- AJ says that this is a national survey that will go out to all the universities sometime in September. AJ notes that EM suggested communicating the survey appropriately to minimize triggers and for support services to be prepared for students affected by it.
- LG mentions that the exploration of additional support services is required.
- AJ highlights the concern about colleges and notes that only Trinity College has onsite counsellors.

- LG recommends understanding what support services are provided by all colleges as each could be operating under different models.
- AT says that the first international student support group started on Wednesday and will be a fortnightly service.
- LG notes that the listening circle in the Living Room was not well-intended and differs from the purpose of a support group. Further conversation with Michael is required to improve the facilitation of this discussion. Also highlights that the effective working relationships between Guild services has prevented the duplication of resources/services.

#### **4.8 COVID-19 Impacts on Welfare**

- To be discussed at next meeting.

#### **5.0 ALL OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **6.0 NEXT MEETING**

The next Welfare and Advocacy Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 12:00pm. Please send apologies to Amitabh Jeganathan by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

