

**109<sup>th</sup> Guild Council** May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Guild Council Minutes

# 1. WELCOME AND OPENING

### 1.1 Attendance

Prisha Goel (via Teams) Ethan Nicholas (via Teams) Rashdina Ramil (RR) Aidan Mansfield (AM) Amitabh Jeganathan (AJ) Charlotte Kennedy (CK) Saphire Carter (SC) Chloe Bryant (CB) David Hallam (DH) Tony Goodman (TG) Geemal Jayawickrama (GJ) Melani De Alwis (MDA) Adam Elyousef (AE) Dana Fung (DF) Amira Suraya Nunn (AN) Daniel Roden (DR) Robert Whitehurst (RW) Nicole McEwen (NM) Paris Javid (PJ) Kaelin Abrahams (KA)

# **1.2 Apologies**

Iknur Virik Tanisha Kothari Boni Riad Misha Riaz Joeseph Kaddis

#### **1.3 Proxies**

Jak Beard (proxied by Saphire Carter) Catherine Cheesman (proxied by Phoebe (P) ) Natasha Nicoe (proxied by Finn Penter) (FP) Maria Waters (proxied by Vyvienne Bautista)

### 1.4 Observers

Jelena Kovacevic (Pelican) Jit Singh (Pelican) Alevine Magila (AM) (Pelican)

#### 1.5 Absent

# 2. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None



# 3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

RR passes a procedural motion to accept the April Guild Council minutes. This passed.

# 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

# 5. BUSINESS COMPLETED VIA CIRCULAR

None

AJ moves a procedural motion to move to motions on / without notice and then go through reports. This motion passed.

### 6. DIRECTORS REPORTS

#### 6.1 Managing Director

TG mentions that the recent risk and audit meeting went well, and the Guild was successful in meeting their compliance obligations. TG mentions that the election regulations passing was another huge win and congratulates everyone. TG mentions that master planning with TCRB is going ahead. The lawyers are finalising the SOC PAC regulations. TG also mentions that the second-hand book shop rebrand will be presented at next council.

#### 6.2 Finance Director

TG mentions that the Guild is ahead of budget but still sitting on a loss overall. They are sitting on a ~\$80,000 loss, but this is much better than the budgeted loss of ~\$154,000. TG mentions that the SSAF payments were received but will not be banked immediately and kept in reserves. TG mentions that hopefully an increase in 2023 will happen as more students come back to campus. TG highlights that most staff budgets are under which is good and RSD budget is temporarily over due to ball. TG mentions that overall the finances are looking good, and constantly encouraging students to get back onto campus should be encouraged.

6.3 Commercial6.4 Student Services

TG lists all other director reports as tabled.

#### 7. QUESTION TIME – Directors Reports

None.

RR moves a motion to accept the director reports. This passed.

#### 8. STUDENT REPORTS

- 8.1 President (AT = As tabled)
- 8.2 Vice President (AT)
- 8.3 General Secretary (NS = Not submitted)
- 8.4 Guild Chair (NS)



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- 8.5 Education Council President (AR = As read) Had productive conversations to NUS reps
- 8.6 Societies Council President (NS)
- 8.7 Public Affairs Council President (AT)
- 8.8 WASAC Chair (NS)
- 8.9 Women's Officer (AR)
  - 2 more additional events
- 8.10 Welfare Officer (AT)
- 8.11 Postgraduates Students' Association President (NS)
- 8.12 International Students' Department President (AT)
- 8.13 Residential Students' Department President (AT)
- 8.14 Environment Officer (NS)
- 8.15 Sports Officer (NS)
- 8.16 Access Department (AT)
- 8.17 Pride Officers (NS)
- 8.18 Ethnocultural Department Officers (AT)
- 8.19 Volunteering Chair (AT)
- 8.20 OGC (3/13)
- 8.21 MASA President

# 9. QUESTION TIME – Student Reports

- GJ asks why DH didn't submit an expense report.
  - RESPONSE: DH says he can't access net suite.
- AE asks AM what the process was in getting the 29 more parking bays.
  - RESPONSE: AM mentions that the university is in the process of consolidating the car parks around university, so it's easier for students to find bays. AM mentions that the existing lift and go bays were removed and repurposed. NG adds that a bay sharing agreement is hoping to come in semester 2.

RR moves a motion to accept the student reports. This motion passes.

# **10. BUSINESS FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

None

# **6 ELECTIONS**

None

# 7 MOTIONS ON NOTICE (OPERATIONS)

7.1 The 109<sup>th</sup> Guild Council appoints TCRB as its master planners and approves the business case budget of \$40,000' (business case, masterplan and budget are available to view in the agenda pack)

Moved: Narendra Gammanpila (NG) Seconded: Amitabh Jeganathan (AJ)

Speaking on motion 7.1:

NG mentions that this motion reflects the Guilds desire to proceed with TCRB as its master planners. AJ mentions that TRCB were very keen to get



student involvement and engagement which was a contributing factor to choosing them.

*DH* moves a procedural motion to move in camera. This procedural motion passed.

*RR* moves a procedural motion to move out of camera. This procedural motion passed.

Question time / Debate for 7.1: Nil

RR conducted a vote on 7.1. This motion passed.

7.2 The 109<sup>th</sup> Guild Council confirms and approves the new election timetable for 2022. (Available to view in the agenda pack)

Moved: Amitabh Jeganathan (AJ) Seconded: Aidan Mansfield (AM)

AJ mentions that the nomination fee has been reverted to \$10 per nominee. AJ also mentions that the regulations have been amended to include "if a student is awaiting a sentence or currently in prison, then they are unable to run".

Debate time for 7.2: Nil

RR conducted a vote on 7.2. This motion passed.

# 8 MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE (OPERATIONS)

None

# 9 MOTIONS ON NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)

- 9.1 The 109th Guild Council:
  - a) Supports the University of Melbourne Student Union's stance on the Palestinian crisis, which emphasises the importance of Palestinian activism against the Israeli regime
  - b) Stands in solidarity with Palestinians mourning the death of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was murdered by Israeli forces as she was carrying out her job at a refugee camp in press gear.
  - c) Condemns the woeful acts of violence by Israeli forces attacking innocent mourners carrying her coffin
  - d) Recognises that the struggle of the Palestinian people corresponds to continuous support to Israel by the Australian government.
  - e) Urges UWA student representatives and all students to educate themselves on the Palestinian crisis, and to show support to Middle Eastern & Palestinian students on campus affected by this crisis.
  - f) Supports the vigil hosted by the Palestinian Cultural Society of UWA, Friends of Palestine WA, and the Palestinian Community of WA held on Saturday, 28 May, to commemorate Shireen Abu Akleh and the Palestine Nakba.

Moved: Adam Elyousef (AE)



Seconded: Nicole Mcewen (NM)

Speaking on motion 9.1:

- AE mentions that he has been impacted by this conflict personally. AE commends University of Melbourne and last year's student Guild for passing a similar motion. AE highlights how a well-known journalist has died at the hands of Israeli soldiers. AE mentions that it not okay for governments to get away with behaviour like this. AE mentions the impact this conflict has had on his family and encourages everyone to learn more about this issue and to show support. AE mentions that there is a vigil happening on Saturday and encourages all to attend.
- P mentions that the Guild should have a role in fighting for Palestinian rights. P highlights how rough life is for Palestinian people under the Israle occupation. P mentions that a "right wing Zionist" is trying to sue the Melbourne Student Guild for moving a similar motion, and that this action is a blatant attack on democracy. P also encourages members of Spark to vote on this motion and highlights how last year they didn't.

# Question time on motion 9.1:

- NG asks what the actionable next steps are for this motion.
  - RESPONSE: AE mentions that showing explicit support for Palestinians is important. P also replies that the Guild has a huge wealth of resources / reach and that this should be used to promote the upcoming vigil on Saturday.
- AE asks AJ how his stance has changed from last year.
  - RESPONSE: AJ replies during debate.

Debate time on motion 9.1:

- FOR MDA wishes to provide unbiased resources to this issue and highlights the "Amnesty International" resources. MDA also highlights the importance of using the correct terminology when discussing this issue. MDA overall describes the Israeli government as "apartheid" and expresses her disapproval.
- FOR AJ replies that last year he was less informed. AJ believes that moving this motion doesn't change the situation or "move the needle" in any substantial way. AJ sums up by saying that moving this political motion is great but without actionable next steps, this won't do much. AJ also mentions the idea of the "stance page" that is currently being worked on and how this could help ensure actionable next steps are generated from political stance motions that are passed within council

DH moves a procedural motion to continue debate, despite this going against the standing orders. This procedural motion passed.

 FOR – NM mentions that motions such as theses show solidarity with the students and represents symbolically what the guild stands for. NM also brings up how the motion passed by Melbourne University Guild suggests boycotting companies with close ties to Israel, as this will put pressure on Israel. NM suggests that this Guild should look into the BDS campaign and follow suit with Melbourne University Guild.



- FOR AN mentions that with each motion that passed by Guilds across Australia, this increases solidarity and makes students more aware of the issue and ultimately enact larger changes.
- FOR AE mentions the existing register of stances and encourages it to go online. AE mentions that this motion is uplifting for Palestinian students at UWA and reiterates the ideas bought up by NM by boycotting companies linked to Israel. AE encourages everyone to not underestimate the impact such a motion can do and highlights how powerful the Israeli government is.

# DH moves a procedural motion to move in camera. This procedural motion passed.

# *RR moves a procedural motion to move out of camera. This procedural motion passed.*

RR conducted a vote on 9.1. This motion passed.

- 9.2 The 109<sup>th</sup> Guild Council:
  - a) Supports the Ethnocultural Department's petition with over 240 signatures as of 23/05/2022, to secure a safe space for students of CALD backgrounds.
  - b) Recognises the importance of these 240 signatures that represents the 46% of students that were born outside of Australia and 25% of students that speak languages other than English at home, from 23,944 students enrolled at UWA
  - c) Directs Guild council to give priority access to Ethnocultural Department to acquire a clubroom at the next tenancy reallocation or whenever a space becomes open.
  - d) Calls upon the Tenancy committee to reconsider a space for the Ethnocultural Department and prioritise the Ethnocultural Department
  - e) Commits to allocating a space to the Ethnocultural Department at the soonest possible opportunity or once the tenancy cycle ends.

Moved: Amira Nunn (AN) Seconded: Adam Elyousef (AE)

Speaking on motion 9.2:

- AN speaks on the motion. AN mentions that the motion is acquire a club room for Ethnocultural department. AN calls upon the tenancy committee to reconsider their request for a club room or at the very least give them priority access.
- AE urges the Guild to let Ethnocultural department get a clubroom as AE believes this best represents the CALD student's needs and allows CALD students to have a safe space on campus.

Question time on motion 9.2:

- GJ asks AE why he didn't push for an Ethnocultural department room in 2021 which was an allocation year, when AE was on the Guild and was the Guild VP too.
  - RESPONSE: AE mentions that he wasn't involved with the process and hence why he didn't do anything at that time.



- SC asks AE why the Ethnocultural department's petition was very similar to the one made in 2021, and why AE was so silent last year but so active this year and directly target two of his fellow council members.
  - RESPONSE: AE claims that he did advocate it as the previous year's petition didn't get brought up in council. AE mentions the intentions of this petition was not to be vindictive or bring anyone down, but to represent their stakeholders.
- SC asks AE that considering last year was a reallocation year, but this year is not, which club room he suggests gets unfairly displaced to fulfil his request.
  - RESPONSE: AE doesn't reply to the question at hand but mentions that he got just one email from CK explaining that there is no space. CK clarifies that this was communicated to AE multiple times either via email, in person or during council.
- SC asks AE why Ethnocultural club was removing public comments that didn't fit their agenda from their petition for a clubroom.
  - RESPONSE: AE explains that the comments were malicious and hence removed. TG mentions that Ethnocultural department has no right to remove public comments as this goes against the freedom of speech act, and instead should be sent to Caitlin to monitor.

# Debate on motion 9.2:

• FOR - AJ mentions that they have exhausted their options and have not been able to find a space for Ethnocultural departments. AJ suggests the following amendment to the motion:

"c) directs Guild council to give priority access to Ethnocultural Department to acquire a clubroom at the next tenancy reallocation or whenever a space becomes open."

- CK clarifies that Guild departments get priority access over club rooms and mentions that she will pass this information along to the next tenancy chair.
- This amendment was friendly and thus passed.
- FOR TG mentions that understanding the requirements of the space will make allocating a club room for the department easier and quicker.
- AGAINST DH mentions passing a motion such as this can set a dangerous precedent for council and may encourage whoever is on council to lobby for their club's wishes. DH mentions that club rooms should be allocated based on the merit of their application.
  - RESPONSE: AJ mentions that last year Ethnocultural department tried getting a room and failed. AJ mentions that this motion will help prevent that from happening again and ensure they get a room in the future.
  - RESPONSE: DH believes that passing such a motion will just bias the tenancy chair, which should be an impartial position on council.
  - RESPONSE: PJ mentions that no one on council is impartial and brings up the idea of "Leisure" having a club room for many years. PJ believes the final part of the motion is thus essential to ensure that Ethnocultural department gets a clubroom.
- FOR GJ supports the motion and believes that all CALD students deserve a safe space on campus.



- FOR AE encourages everyone to take the motion seriously as the petition demonstrates a need for a safe space for CALD students.
- AGAINST DH disagrees with PJ's point and reiterates his own points about such a motion biasing the future tenancy chair.
- FOR CK mentions that she does support Ethnocultural department getting a clubroom. CK mentions that they are measures in place to help tenancy chairs not be biased however there is still a risk of them being biased.
- FOR TG suggests conducting an audit on how spaces are being used around campus to see if there is an underutilised space that could be better used.

RR conducted a vote on 9.2. This motion passed.

# **10 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)**

- 10.1 The 109<sup>th</sup> Guild Council:
  - a) Welcomes the defeat of the Morrison Government, after 9 years of Liberal party rule in Australia that was reactionary on all economic and social questions, especially the climate.
  - b) Recognises that the Albanese Labor Government will continue neoliberal attacks on students, workers and the oppressed as it has promised to be a "pro business, pro employer labor party"
  - c) Commits to fighting for economic, social and climate justice under the ALP Government, which includes but is not limited to protests demanding: rapid action on climate change, free and fully funded higher education, an end to all mandatory detention for refugees, and real wage increases.

Moved: Nicole McEwen Seconded: Finn Penter (FP) (proxy for Natasha Nicole)

Speaking on motion 10.1:

NM moves a procedural motion to move her speaking rights to AM. This procedural motion passed.

- AM mentions that it is important to register opposition to the incoming labour government, despite the shortcomings of the Morrison government. AM highlights the labour governments desires to keep coal around until 2030, their stance on refugees and minimum wage increases as examples.
- FP mentions that Labour isn't a viable alternative for working class people. FP mentions that Sri Lankan refugees have been already deported in the first few days of the Labour Government. FP condemns the Labour party budget and mentions that it isn't catering for the working-class people. FP also condemns the Labour government's actions regarding the climate crisis, in particular the use of coal moving forward. FP encourages the council to take a firm stance against the Labour government.

Question time on motion 10.1: nil

Debate time on motion 10.1:



- FOR DH suggests that the Labour government isn't something to celebrate. DH expresses the need for an amendment to take next steps to help communicate this motion better to students.
- AGAINST KA mentions that the student guild represents students from all political backgrounds. KA mentions that passing a motion like this is very hyper-partisan. KA recognises that both governments in the past have made significant strides for the LGBTQI community. KA puts forward that this motion should make recommendations on what governments should do, rather than attacking them.
  - RESPONSE AM responds by saying perhaps Clive Palmer is the better alternative. AM firmly disagrees with KA's characterisations of the previous governments and disagrees with the fact that the Liberal or Labour party are progressive on key issues. AM mentions that Labour didn't support gay marriage "until it was popular or widely accepted"
  - RESPONSE KA mentions that trying to work with the federal and state government is what we should be trying to do as a Student Guild. KA mentions that politicians are people just like us and thus they do have similar agendas to everyday people. KA mentions that condemning every politician is "radical and ridiculous".
- AGAINST SC mentions that every politician believes in climate change, however they can't be more vocal about it because that's not what their voting majority believes in. SC mentions that many rural individuals don't believe in climate change. SC puts forward those motions such as these forces politicians to have a conscious.
- FOR P mentions that this Guild is a political body and believes the Guild should be taking as left wing a stance as possible. P believes the Guild should be "radical and uncompromising". P says that if the Guild does want to stand up for key issues such as education and LGBTI rights, then we should do it with our full force. P encourages everyone on council to vote on this motion in its entirety.
- AGAINST PJ prefaces that she is very left wing. PJ questions the usefulness of such a motion. PJ mentions that passing such a motion will not help the everyday student believe the Student Guild isn't overly political. PJ reiterates the sentiment bought up by KA.
- FOR DH mentions that politicians are out of touch with the everyday
  public which goes directly against the points raised by SC previously.
  DH brings up that despite the climate emergency stance the Guild took
  a few years ago, the Government is adamantly encouraging the use of
  more mines, hence suggesting the Government isn't acting in the public
  or student's interest. DH suggests that supporting this motion will help
  recognise the shortcomings of the major parties and their inability to
  represent the people's interest.
- FOR DR mentions that he is in support of the motion but he isn't fully sold on 10.1.b. DR opposes 10.1.b because he believes this is too preemptive as nothing that has been outlined has occurred, and would suggest to pass similar opposing motions if / when they happen or at the very least be more specific about what issues the Guild is opposing.
- DR puts forward the amendment to remove 10.1.b. Seconded by AM.
  - RESPONSE NM is not friendly to the amendment. NM mentions that the Labour government policies are not representative, and they have already taken adverse actions against refugees within the first 3 days. And thus, NM believes we can already see what will happen in the coming years. NM furthers her point by saying that all the "new progressive



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politicians are all fucked" and that even the Greens are only seeking a "stable government".

- SPEAKING ON the amendment:
  - DR mentions that what NM mentioned is more articulate and should be included in the motion. DR mentions that we should push back on stances against key progressive issues but not condemn the whole government.
- QUESTION TIME on the amendment:
  - NM asks AM why he is seconding it. AM mentions that he agrees with DR. AM believes 10.1.b is very general.
- DEBATE TIME on the amendment:
  - AGAINST AM disagrees that 10.1.b is vague and believes that it is a clear opposition to the Albanese Labour Government.
  - FOR KA believes that characterising that the government that the public just voted in as a failure, is unfair.
  - AGAINST P mentions that the point of the motion is to expose the true intentions of the Labour government and encourages students to be more vigilant about the neoliberal attacks on students to come.
  - AGAINST DH mentions that the Labour government's policies give us an insight into what the next few years will look like, and thus gives us enough ground to oppose the Labour government right now.
  - FOR KA mentions that 10.1.b is very negative and already alienates a government that so much faith has been placed into by various groups of people. KA mentions that 10.1.a and 10.1.c help to condemn the shortcomings of the past and convey what's important in the future.
  - AGAINST P mentions that Labour got their lowest primary vote in years, and thus mentions that most people just voted against Scott Morison as opposed to actively voting for Labour.

*RR* conducts a vote on the amendment to remove 10.1.b. The amendment didn't pass.

NM moves a procedural motion to move straight to a vote on 10.1. This passed.

RR conducts a vote on 10.1. This motion passed.

# 11 GENERAL BUSINESS

# 12 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 6:00 PM. Please contact the Guild General Secretary (secretary@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.