Guild Council Minutes

112th Guild Council Wednesday 24th September 2025 Guild Council Room @ 6:00pm

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

1.2 Attendance

Charlie Backshall (CB)

Nikhita Talluri (NT)

Aidan Kirby-Smith (AKS)

Oliver Barrett (OB)

Jay Williams (JW)

Ritika Menon (RM)

Ojaswi Shrestha (OJS)

Archit Menon (AM)

Katrina Soares (KS)

Ruby Membry (RMe)

Lachy Flavel (LF)

Lucinda Bartlett (LB)

Olivia Stronach (OS)

Jeffrey Tang (JT)

Archana Ashok (AA)

Rama Sugiartha (RS)

Ashleigh Petkovic (AP)

Brechto Bezuidenhout (BB)

Casey Taylor (CT)

Julia Suffell (JS)

Naveen Nimalan (NN)

Reihaneh Rezagholilou (RR)

Selina Al Ansari (SA)

Aimee Chan (AC)

Zered Robinson (ZR)

Danica Scott (DS)

Annabelle Lillian (ALi)

Miles (Observer)

Jack Cross (Observer)

Zen Hatley (Observer)

Alevine Maglia (Observer)

1.3 Apologies

Annika Leunig (AL)

Finn Penter (FP)

Kassidy Anderson (KA)

Jude Kamalddin (JK)

Damien Zhang (DZ)

1.4 Proxies

ALi for AL

DS for FP

ZR for KA

All proxies were passed by council.

1.5 Absent

2. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 3.1 August Council Minutes
- 3.2 Committee Minutes
- 3.3 SGM Minutes

All minutes were passed by council.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5. BUSINESS COMPLETED VIA CIRCULAR

5.1 The Guild Council accepts the resignation of Libby Bailey.

Moved: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded: Annika Leunig

5.2 The guild council appoints Brechto Bezuidenhout as Residential Student's Department President on the recommendation of the governance committee.

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Moved: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded: Aidan Kirby-Smith

5.3 The Governance Committee recommends to Guild Council that 25% of the NUS accreditation fee for 2025 be approved.

Moved: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded: Aidan Kirby-Smith

6. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

6.1 Managing Director

6.2 Finance Director

6.3 Commercial

6.4 Student Services

6.5 Venture Student Innovation Centre

TG reported that the guild been very busy recently, with new hires including a HR officer and ongoing recruitment for a Student Services Manager. They discussed safety updates following fire alarms, emphasising improved fire safety practices and upcoming building safety campaigns. TG also mentioned progress on the campus master plan, including meetings with architects and departments to refine project designs before consulting students. Recent elections were completed successfully, congratulating Oliber as the incoming 2026 president. Finally, TG noted that the new app is awaiting approval from the university's Chief Information Officer, committee reviews are underway, and overall developments are progressing as planned.

TG provided a financial update, noting that revenue has been slightly below budget due to reduced activity in some areas, such as catering and tenancy income. However, this shortfall is typical for this time of year and is expected to balance out over the coming months. Spending across departments remains within targets, and despite minor budget variances, the organisation is still projected to make around \$135,000 in surplus. Overall, TG reported a positive financial outlook heading into the exam and summer period, with current figures at \$310,000 compared to \$176,000 budgeted.

7. QUESTIONS TIME – Directors' Reports



LF asked about the SCM around governance. TG mentions they would like to move it along as quick as possible, and more information will be put out soon.

NN asked about Tavern budget.

Motion to move in camera passes.

Motion to move out of camera passes.

8. STUDENT REPORTS

8.1 Guild President: Nikhita Talluri

as tabled

8.2 Guild Vice-President: Oliver Barrett

as tabled

8.3 Guild General Secretary: Annika Leunig

as tabled

8.4 Chair of Guild Council: Aidan Kirby-Smith

Submitted late WRC

8.5 Education Council President: Jay Williams

as tabled

8.6 Societies Council President: Ethan Tan

as tabled

8.7 Public Affairs Council President: Aimee Chan

as tabled

8.8 Women's Officer: Ruby Membry

as read

RMe adds that she has attached resources for victims of sexual assault so if anyone has come up to any of the members of council after the exhibition, they can direct them to the resources. NT adds that RMe put on an incredible event last week and thanks her for her efforts.

8.9 Wellbeing Officer: Jeffrey Tang

as read

JT reminds everyone it is Wellbeing week and shoutout PAC and ethno for collaborating and thanks everyone who helped out.

8.10 Postgraduates Students' Association President:

Charlie Backshall

as tabled



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8.11 International Students' Department President:

Archit Menon

as tabled

8.12 Residential Students' Department President

Libby Bailey

as tabled

8.13 WASAC Chair

Ashleigh Petkovic

as tabled

8.14 Environment Officer: Julia Suffell

as tabled

8.15 Sports Officer: Damien Zhang

as tabled

8.16 Access Department: Lucinda Bartlett

as tabled

8.17 Pride Officer: Aryaman Bhoosrheddy & Ashel Siby

as tabled

8.18 Ethnocultural Officers: Selina Al Ansari &

Reihaneh Rezagholilou

as tabled

8.19 Volunteering Chair: Casey Taylor

as tabled

8.20 OGCs: as follows

Archana Ashok

as tabled

Finn Penter

as tabled

Jude Kamalddin

as tabled

Kassidy Anderson

as tabled

Katrina Soares

as tabled

Lachy Flavel

as read

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LF talks about the debate night and lessons he has learnt from it to apply for next year. The tav was a very good venue for it and people really enjoyed having a forum for it. LF continues with encouraging someone to take it over for next year.

Naveen Nimalan

as tabled

Ojaswi Shrestha

as tabled

Olivia Stronach

as tabled

Ritika Menon

submitted late WRC

Rama Sugiartha

as tabled

All student reports passed.

9. QUESTIONS TIME - Student Reports

RM asks LB if the access report submitted was the right one as it was blank. LB replies and said she believes it best reflects access this month.

OS asks how much CB spent going to CAPA. CB said probably about \$1,500. The budget covered flights, accommodation and the ticket to CAPA. OS follows up and asks if she recommends the next PSA president to go. CB said that she would, but she thinks that we should have had more involvement with CAPA throughout the year. OS asked what the total fee to CAPA this year was. CB said they paid \$8,000 at the start of the year but it was negotiated down from \$25,000 but she just got sent the affiliation fees again so she can share.

RS asks AA about the corporate services subcommittee applications are going given it is now the end of September and have they been able to navigate or plan meetings. AA apologises for her lack of involvement but that is due to her other commitments.

RS asks AP how her month has gone. AP says it has been very quiet.

RS asks KA on notice how is her projects going.

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RS asks LB if she is still chair of equity and diversity committee. LB answers yes. RM

asks how often they've met. LB answers once this year. RS stresses it is an important

committee. LB says she understands. RMe also mentions she is on equity and

diversity and has not been shared information. LB says she can discuss it outside of

council.

UWA STUDENT

NN asks if corporate services is that important as a committee. NN thinks it is a bit

redundant. TG says they are at the point to have a review of all the committees and

what they do. NN asks if there is a way to improve the guild structure. TG says it would

go back to governance.

RS asks how council is supposed to know what committees are doing things if these

things are all happening online. OB clarifies that it is too difficult to do things in person

all the time especially when some things are time sensitive. RS asks if council should

still be receiving motions from these committees. TG said they probably should be but

there are some committees that just need to get things out.

LB asks to the council who the publication chair was, and AKS responds they

discussed this issue previously.

10. BUSINESS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

10.1 Annual Report Reminder

NT reminded everyone that committee and departmental reports are due by 12 PM on

October 1st. They asked members to check the spreadsheet that was emailed to

confirm which reports they're responsible for and to contact Chloe Keller if they have

any issues. NT also clarified that submissions must be made during regular working

hours.

10.2 The 112th Guild Council congratulates Oliver Barrett on being elected as the

113th Guild President.

Moved: Nikhita Talluri

Seconded: Aidan Kirby-Smith

NT congratulated Oliver Barrett on being elected as the 113th Guild President,

expressing pride and appreciation for his support and leadership as Vice President.

NT commended Oliver for his dedication and contributions to the team, saying

everyone is excited to see the great things he will achieve in the coming year.

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AKS echoed NT's congratulations to Oliver Barrett, praising his growth and commitment throughout the year. They acknowledged the effort and dedication required to run for Guild President and commended both Oliver and his team for their hard work and success.

OS congratulates OB and RS for running for president and how it has been great to see and she congratulates OB.

OJS congratulates OB.

JW congratulates OB.

OB thanks everyone for the positive sentiment that has been passed around today and congratulates RS for running his campaign and OB express how excited he is for next year.

- 11. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (OPERATIONS)
- 12. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE (OPERATIONS)
- 13. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)

14. MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)

LF explains why the motion was late.

Motion to hear the motion below passes.

14. 1 The 112th Guild Council:

- 14.1.1 Unequivocally condemns all forms of political violence, including the attack on Camp Sovereignty in Melbourne and the assassinations and attempted assassinations of President Trump, multiple Democrat legislators, and Charlie Kirk.
- **14.1.2** Acknowledges that extremists of different persuasions have sought to excuse political violence to justify their own ends and affirms that such attempts are unacceptable.
- **14.1.3** Affirms that Australian democracy requires all people to be free to engage in political discussion without fear of harm.

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14.1.4 Encourages all students to maintain respect for one another and to resolve disagreements through dialogue instead of violence.

Moved: Lachy Flavel

Seconded: Olivia Stronach

LF reflected on the recent murder of Charlie Kirk and the destruction of a campus sovereignty display in Melbourne, expressing sadness and concern about safety on university campuses. LF emphasised that such events are a reminder not to take campus safety for granted. They also noted that the recent election was conducted respectfully and peacefully compared to previous years and urged everyone to continue supporting open and civil dialogue within the community.

OS spoke in support of the earlier motion, reflecting on conversations about the rise of political violence overseas, particularly in the United States. They highlighted how threats and attacks on political figures, such as the recent shooting of a U.S. legislator, show how such violence can become normalised. OS urged awareness and vigilance in Australia to ensure similar patterns don't take hold, emphasising how fortunate Australians are that such incidents remain rare and stressing the importance of preserving safety and civility in politics.

QUESTIONS

DS asks if in the event of this merchant passes, will it be followed by a motion calling on the Australian government to cut ties with the US military, seeing as that's the biggest of political violence in the world? OS responds by saying they are welcome to move that motion themselves later.

DEBATE

AGAINST: DS spoke against the motion, explaining that while they oppose political violence in general, the motion's examples were too selective and one-sided. They argued that referencing the killing of Charlie Kirk ignores how such events are used politically, such as by the far-right Trump government, to justify authoritarian crackdowns on civil liberties. DS added that some forms of political violence, such as Indigenous resistance to colonisation, the Stonewall Rebellion, and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, cannot be condemned because they represented justified struggles against oppression. Therefore, DS said they could not support the motion as written.

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OS replies by offerring a point of clarification, explaining that they do not consider acts of resistance, such as Indigenous resistance to colonisation or the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, to be political violence. Instead, OS viewed these as forms of self-defence against oppression or genocide, distinguishing them from acts like targeted political shootings, which the motion aimed to address.

AGAINST: CB spoke against the motion, stating that while they strongly oppose all forms of political and gun violence, they could not support a motion that appeared to mourn political figures whose actions or beliefs they personally found threatening, particularly as a woman. CB argued that it was inconsistent to condemn violence while also memorialising such individuals and suggested removing the specific examples from the motion's wording before reconsidering their position.

OS asks for a point of clarification. OS says she does not agree with what Charlie Kirk stands for but she does not believe that means he deserved to be shot. CS agrees. OS stresses the freedom of speech aspect of this motion. RMe backs up what CB has mentioned where although she agrees with what OS is saying, she is not personally mourning Charlie Kirk. LF stresses that this motion is not to focus on mourning anyone, but he believes that the names of people are important in this motion as they are individuals who had violence against them due to them speaking their individual opinion. LF adds that inflammatory language after Charlie's death is wrong.

AGAINST: CB speaks against the motion, although she agrees with the message of the motion, she does not want to vote for it as it stands. CB adds there is many cases of horrific violence that could've been included in thi, so to name Charlie Kirk but not all of the other individuals who have been affected due to political violence does not sit right with her.

DS objected to equating the attack on Camp Sovereignty with the killing of Charlie Kirk, noting that the Camp Sovereignty attack was carried out by organised far-right extremists (Neo-Nazis), a group aligned with the political views Charlie Kirk supported. They argued that treating these two events as equivalent is inaccurate and stressed that the contexts and actors involved are fundamentally different.

JW suggested that the motion would be stronger if it condemned political violence more broadly rather than listing specific examples. They noted that political violence occurs worldwide and is unfortunately increasing, and that including particular

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incidents can distract from the motion's intent. JW recommended removing the

examples to make the motion clearer and more inclusive in its condemnation.

OS clarified that, while they strongly disagree with Charlie Kirk's views, they believe no one deserves to be killed for their political opinions. They argued that including examples of political violence, such as the killing of Charlie Kirk or attacks on democratic legislators is relevant to highlight the rise of political violence and its impact on creating a culture where people are targeted for their beliefs. OS emphasised that the Council should stand against killings motivated by politics, regardless of the

person's views.

UWA STUDENT

Motion for a break passes.

AKS says he is unsure of where he stands at the moment however, he doesn't think the motion does not need the examples for the motion to be substantial. AKS echoes he agrees with the motions aims but does not feel he can vote for the motion with the

examples.

NN mentions that he had a great chat to AKS. NN offers a slightly different perspective where he believes the examples in the motion are why the motion is relevant and therefore, why the examples should be kept in. NN believes the examples add value to the motion. However, NN does note that there is not many tangible action items in

this particular motion.

RMe also adds that someone had bring up a Charlie Kirk situation at the college where someone had invited other to a candlelight vigil. RMe stresses how this can affect a lot of students as he did have quite harmful views that do upset many students. RMe thinks students can understand the motion without the example and therefore will not vote for the motion as it stands. RMe stresses that she does not stand for gun violence but does not agree with the examples in the motion. OS asks council if they would be more open to voting for this motion if a line was added about the council not supporting

the views of Charlie Kirk.

NT feels that this motion still gives a platform to all these people and she will not be voting for it with Charlie Kirk's name on it.

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LF mentions he believes this is very typical of a motion and the example is relevant especially as it occurred on a university campus. OS agrees and reiterates LF 's sentiments.

LF puts forward the following amendment.

Unequivocally condemns all forms of political violence. Without supporting the views of the people listed, this violence includes the attack on Camp Sovereignty, the attempted assassination of Donald Trump, 2025 shootings of Minnesota legislators which resulted in the assassination of Melissa Hortman and her husband as well as the attempted murders of John Hoffman and his wife, and the murder of Charlie Kirk.

Motion fails to pass.

15. GENERAL BUSINESS

OS congratulates Louis Bird for being the first independent to be elected for both OGC and NUS as far as she can tell.

OJS shared that following recent anti-migration protests, there has been a noticeable increase in hostility toward international students, including incidents of harassment, something OJS has personally experienced, particularly on public transport. They urged everyone to be mindful of these challenges and to check in on their friends and peers who might be affected.

AKS provided an update on regulations and upcoming council matters, noting that members should expect more emails regarding consultations. They flagged a likely special council meeting next Wednesday to address minor changes related to upcoming autonomous department elections, with more significant changes expected at the October or November council meetings. Members were advised to stay alert for updates.

AM provided an update on the upcoming Diwali celebration at the university, scheduled for 16th October. They highlighted that the event is free, open to all, and includes food, noting strong interest with over 350 registrations in the first 24 hours. AM also requested that attendees consider helping out on the day to support the event.



LB stresses that she thought the governance and regulation changes was going to be a whole guild council process, where they would be able to see the changes, talk to the lawyers and meet multiple times. TG says they could delay the next elections but that the university would require a new round of elections.

ET reminds everyone Spring Feast is tomorrow and that AC worked really hard and needs some help as well if any councillors can spare some time.

16. CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for **6pm Wednesday October 22nd 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.