



## **1. WELCOME AND OPENING**

### **1.1 Acknowledgement of Country**

### **1.2 Attendance**

Nikhita Talluri (NT)  
Annika Leunig (AL)  
Oliver Barret (OB)  
Aidan Kirby-Smith (AKS)  
Charlotte Backshall (CB)  
Ritika Menon (RM)  
Jay Williams (JW)  
Ojaswi Shrestha (OSH)  
Archit Menon (AM) (Late)  
Rama Sugiartha (RS)  
Ashleigh Petkovic (AP)  
Julia Suffell (JS)  
Naveen Nimalan (NN)  
Katrina Soares (KS)  
Selina Al Ansari (SA)  
Aimee Chan (AC) (Online)  
Ruby Membry (RMe)  
Ethan Tan (ET)  
Olivia Stronach (OS)  
Lucinda Bartlett (LB)  
Finn Penter (FP)  
Aryaman Bhoosreddy (AB)  
Libby Bailey (LBa)  
Jeffrey Tang (JT)  
Manasvini Sharma (MS)  
Lachy Flavel (LF)  
Tony Goodman (TG)  
Zered Robinson (Observer)  
Eleka Marshall (Observer)  
Helen Trien (Observer)  
Thoman Pearce (Observer)  
Claudia Mulvey (Observer)



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**Guild Council Minutes**  
112th Guild Council  
Wednesday 27th August 2025  
Guild Council Room @ 6:00pm

Yasawi Shrestha (Observer)  
Jack Cross (Observer)  
Annabelle Brennan (Observer)  
Jennifer Woo (Observer)  
Zen Hatley (Observer)  
Alevine Magila (Observer)  
Suchi Kalia (Observer)  
Jack Fairley (Observer)

### **1.3 Apologies**

Archit Menon (AM)  
Jude Kamalddin (JK)  
Reihaneh Rezagholilou (RR)  
Archana Ashok (AA)  
Damien Zhang (DZ)

### **1.4 Proxies**

MS for AM  
*Proxies were passed by council.*

### **1.5 Absent**

Kassidy Anderson (KA)  
Casey Taylor (CT)

## **2. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

OS declares that she is an NUS office bearer.

## **3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### **3.1 July Council Minutes**

*Minutes were passed by council.*

## **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

## **5. BUSINESS COMPLETED VIA CIRCULAR**



## **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 said the team is progressing on several fronts. Venture, Volunteering and PROSH standing orders are expected to go to the Government's Committee and Council for approval soon. Departmental work is largely complete, though recruitment continues for a Senior Marketing Manager and a Student Services Manager. TG noted that the Master Plan is advancing, pending approval for the Cameron Hall lift. University elections are underway, with letters to candidates regarding conduct being sent out shortly. The app experienced a slight slowdown due to a UWA data breach, but progress is continuing. TG highlighted that the Taverns Alumni event was a success, with 180 attendees, and marketing efforts for future bookings are now resuming. Upcoming volunteering ventures will open in the next few weeks, and TG encouraged interested individuals to get involved. Student services have been very busy recently, with the ads campaign performing strongly and nearly 1,000 student assists tracked so far.

TG said the organisation has a year-to-date accounting profit of \$342,000, well above the budgeted loss of \$54,000. Only two areas are slightly off budget: increased accounting software costs in finance and timing issues with postgraduate grants and legal fees. Aside from these, revenue and functional accounts are tracking strongly, and overall performance is solid.

*NT moves a motion to go into camera. Motion passes.*

*Motion to move out of camera passes.*

*All Directors' reports were passed by council.*

## **7. QUESTIONS TIME – Directors' Reports**

## **8. STUDENT REPORTS**

### **8.1 Guild President: Nikhita Talluri**



*as read*

NT thanks everyone for their efforts towards the Tavs 50<sup>th</sup>, alumni event and battle of the bands.

**8.2 Guild Vice-President: Oliver Barrett**

*as read*

OB flags a project that NT and JK have been working on with him. Called food for fines and to please let other people know about it.

**8.3 Guild General Secretary: Annika Leunig**

*as tabled*

**8.4 Chair of Guild Council: Aidan Kirby-Smith**

*as tabled*

**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 talks about how last week women's week went well and the Damsel magazine will come out this week and it will launch on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September.

**8.9 Wellbeing Officer: Jeffrey Tang**

*as tabled*

**8.10 Postgraduates Students' Association President:**

Charlie Backshall

*as read*

CB mentions she went to CAPA this month and the report will be available next council

**8.11 International Students' Department President:**

Archit Menon

*as read*

ISD week is going on and encourages everyone to come down.

**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 read*

JS gives a big shoutout to OB for his speech at the fossil fuel protest and for all of guild council for supporting the event.

**8.15 Sports Officer: Damien Zhang**

*as tabled*

**8.16 Access Department: Lucinda Bartlett**

*submitted late*

*as read*

LB notes how the university had cut funding to the support accessibility audit and how disappointing that is.

**8.17 Pride Officer: Aryaman Bhoosrheddy & Ashel Siby**

*as read*

AB notes that on Friday it is 'wear purple day' which raises awareness for mental health of LGBTQ+ individuals. They are going to host a sausage sizzle which will raise funds for Transfolk WA and they need volunteers if anyone is available.

**8.18 Ethnocultural Officers: Selina Al Ansari &**

Reihaneh Rezagholilou

*as tabled*

**8.19 Volunteering Chair: Casey Taylor**

*not submitted*

**8.20 OGCs: as follows**

Archana Ashok

*as tabled*

Finn Pentter

*as read*

FP said that on Sunday there was a large pro-Palestine rally across Australia, which was amazing to be part of. FP expressed disappointment that the UWA Guild was not present as a visible contingent, noting that individual attendance was not sufficient. FP suggested the Guild should have participated collectively, similar to the Curtin Guild, with a banner identifying their presence. On a positive note, FP said the recent student general meeting was extremely successful, reflecting strong pro-Palestine sentiment on campus, and expressed pride in being part of it.



Jude Kamalddin

*as tabled*

Kassidy Anderson

*as tabled*

Katrina Soares

*as tabled*

Lachy Flavel

*as tabled*

Naveen Nimalan

*as tabled*

Ojaswi Shrestha

*as tabled*

Olivia Stronach

*as tabled (late)*

Ritika Menon

*as read*

RM said that she completed her OGC project last Thursday, hosting an event called *Tapestry: Honor the Past, Celebrate the Now, Inspire the Future*. She thanked ISB and Ethno for their collaboration. RM explained that the event partnered with the Association of Culturally Appropriate Services, which supports seniors from ethnic and linguistically diverse backgrounds, particularly those with dementia. The event raised around \$2,500 for workshops and community resources. RM highlighted the importance of community service for students, especially international students, as an investment in both their future and the wider community. She noted a challenge in booking the Octagon Theatre for fundraising events and suggested this could be addressed in the future. RM concluded by expressing pride in the event and offered to share photos with anyone interested.

Rama Sugiarta

*as read*

RS said that the Australian Human Rights Commission's *Racism at Uni* survey has been distributed to all students, with each student receiving a unique link in their inbox. RS noted the survey is intended to be anonymous, but students concerned about traceability can contact him to submit their responses in person, by paper, or online.

*All student reports were passed by council.*



## **9. QUESTIONS TIME – Student Reports**

JW asks JS about the interclub cleanup and how it went, feedback and if they would run the event again? JS replies that it went really great and about 112 students came and picked up 225kgs of rubbish and there was still some after. The feedback from the clubs was that they really enjoyed going to the tavern after and that they would be really keen to run it again.

RM asks RS if there is a way that we can let students know they can contact RS if they are concerned about the survey and anonymity? RS replies that there is a few ways they can and he is trying to figure out how to get the NUS resources without logos so he can just put the guild logo and then redistribute those materials. RM mentions the email says to ignore the email if they're concerned about anonymity rather than talk to RS. AKS asks if there can be a drop off point for students who don't want to talk to RS in person. RS agrees to figure something out.

RMe asks OJS about the food pantry working group and how it is going. OJS said that food insecurity has been a global challenge, and the Food Pantry Working Group aims to address this within the UWA community. OJS reported that past projects, in collaboration with the Convocation Council, collected around 40 bags of non-perishable food and daily essentials. Upcoming initiatives include starting food refines in September and participating in UWA Market Day on 9th September, in collaboration with Food Bank and Allianz. OJS said these efforts help students focus on their studies and extracurricular activities without the burden of food insecurity.

AKS asks for clarity of when food for fines will be released. NT clarifies it will go out this week. NT explains that you can pay for \$25 worth of food donations instead of the \$35 fines. Students can bring a receipt to show they have paid for the donations and also ensure products will not be expired when they are donated.

## **10. BUSINESS FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

**10.1.1** UWA Students censure the Australian government for its complicity in the genocide in Gaza. We demand an end to all weapons sales to Israel by Australia and Australian companies and call for sanctions on Israel.

Moved: Oliver Barrett

Seconded: Nikhita Talluri



OB said that the motion discussed at the special general meeting was very important, opposing the two-way arms trade and the ongoing supply of arms and materials to Israel in the context of the ongoing genocide against Palestine. OB noted the high proportion of civilian casualties and the ongoing starvation, describing the motion as unequivocally deserving a “yes” vote, and praised the strong support it received at the meeting.

NT said that OB had covered everything they wanted to add and noted that the discussion had been extremely respectful.

## **DEBATE**

FOR: FP said they are unequivocally in support of the motion and praised the points made during the meeting, noting that 83% of casualties cited come from IDF statistics and are corroborated by human rights organizations such as B'Tselem and Amnesty International, confirming the situation as a genocide. FP expressed concern about the conduct during the meeting, criticizing those managing it for siding with university management, dismissing questions on relevance, and violating standing orders when procedural motions were raised. FP said this conduct was appalling and not conducive to the Pro-Palestine Guild's values.

AGAINST: OS said they are not opposed to labeling the situation a genocide but disagreed that the Australian Government is complicit. OS noted that the Government has taken diplomatic steps, including recognizing Palestine, and while more could be done, failing to do more does not make the Government complicit. For this reason, OS will be voting against the motion.

FOR: RS said they support the motion, emphasizing that denying it would be denying humanity. RS noted the large student turnout at the meeting and argued there is no reason to vote against the motion. RS expressed difficulty understanding why weapons are being sold, questioning the ethics of selling them to others while also supplying oneself.

FOR: SA said it is important to call the situation a genocide and to highlight the Government's complicity. SA also noted the large student turnout, emphasizing that it



reflects strong student support for Palestine and that the Guild should continue to reflect that support.

AGAINST: LF said that they agree with (OS) that Australia has done more than most, including taking refugees and providing aid, and therefore it is not correct to call the Government complicit.

FOR: JS said they support the motion, highlighting the importance of the university's fossil fuel program but emphasizing that the high civilian casualties, 83% of those killed, are unacceptable and that more should be done to address the situation.

FP said that the Australian Government has had opportunities to take stronger action, such as expelling the Israeli ambassador or imposing sanctions, but has done neither. FP noted that the only action taken was calling for a two-state solution, which they criticized as meaningless given that Gaza is in ruins. FP said this deflects from the widespread and growing movement supporting Palestine and expressed that it is appalling to defend the Government's inaction.

OS responded to FP, saying that the Australian Government should not expel the Israeli ambassador, as doing so would sever diplomatic ties, which are important for continuing advocacy with Israel. OS emphasized that expelling an ambassador should be reserved for situations where diplomatic relations are completely broken, such as with Iran, which is not the case with Israel. OS noted that Israel does not pose an imminent threat to Australia and that maintaining dialogue is essential. OS also said that changes in the Government's stance on Palestine reflect evolving circumstances and are not politically motivated, arguing that it is unfair to criticize the Government for adjusting its position as the situation develops.

FP said that the Government has not truly changed its stance, noting that recognizing Palestine is not new, most of the world has done so, and is meaningless because, in practice, Palestine does not exist as a state. FP criticized the provisions of that recognition, highlighting that the Palestinian Authority, a collaborator with Israel, would oversee Gaza, which FP described as authoritarian rather than democratic. FP also emphasized the extensive ties between Australia and Israel, arguing that the Government could expel ambassadors if it chose, and called out what they saw as hypocrisy in prioritizing foreign interference over the proven genocide.



*Motion passes.*

**10.2.1** UWA Students call on all Australian universities to end their complicity with Israel's genocide by ceasing all partnerships with weapons companies.

Moved: Oliver Barrett

Seconded: Nikhita Talluri

OB said that most points in favour of the motion have already been raised. They added that universities, as places for learning and education, should reflect ethical considerations in their investments. OB criticized the inconsistency of ethics in human studies compared with investment decisions and stated that this is shameful, affirming their support for voting in favour of the motion. NT echoes OB sentiment that our money as students should not be going towards funding a genocide.

## **DEBATE**

FOR: RS says fund education, not war.

AGAINST: LF said that some people at the meeting argued for Australia being unarmed. LF countered that if the motion passes, it could imply that Australia should not have any army or defence industry, which would prevent students or future professionals from engaging in related research. LF suggested that those who do not support this extreme view should vote against the motion.

FP said they are proud to be anti-war and against the military-industrial complex, citing Australia's historical military actions, including invasions of Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and West Papua. FP clarified that the motion concerns the University of Western Australia's research and funding ties, particularly with L3Harris, which creates guidance systems for smart bombs used in Gaza. FP stated that while students can choose to develop weapons if they wish, universities should not support research that contributes to warfare. FP emphasized full support for the motion, arguing that universities should be places of education, not centers for producing weapons of mass destruction.

*Motion passed.*

## **10.3.1 NUS Discussion**



NT said that the motion regarding NUS fees will likely be processed via circular. NT noted that the full NUS fee is typically around \$65,000, but a fee waiver has meant the Guild has never paid the full amount. Microsoft Forms have been sent to relevant office bearers to assess support received from NUS, and these KPIs will be reviewed by the Governance Committee before coming to Guild Council for a circular vote. NT emphasized the need to finalize enough of the fee waiver by 13th September and clarified that last year the Guild paid approximately 35% of the full amount, around \$15,000. TG clarifies this was due to KPI discussion and how a lot of NUS duties were not done last year.

FP states that he thinks KPIs are dumb and that it isn't a corporation, and that we should give 100% of our dues to the NUS. RM replies and questions how would we assess if the NUS is actually doing its job without it? FP asks what we have done for the NUS as a student guild.

RS said that while they would like to support paying NUS its full fees, the organization is not performing as expected. RS criticized underperformance by national office bearers, delays in equity grants, inadequate funding for state branches, lack of budgeting transparency, and insufficient support for Western Australian students. RS emphasized that NUS should produce tangible outcomes for students rather than serving as a political playground, arguing that the affiliation fees paid have not resulted in meaningful benefits.

LB said they have a conflict of interest as OS's friend but agreed that NUS is in need of reform. LB noted their experience as a long-term recipient of equity grants and emphasized that active participation in NUS is essential. LB highlighted recent efforts to address funding issues, such as reopening the student desk, and stressed the importance of being cautious with student funds while contributing actively to get the most out of NUS.

FP agreed with LF, noting that NUS does not do enough and describing it as a "playground for young labour." FP said the issue is political, reflecting insufficient activism and left-wing engagement within NUS. FP emphasized that the solution is to participate actively in NUS rather than stripping its funding.

RM agreed with FP and LB, emphasizing that the issue is not just about funding. RM said that activism and advocacy are important, but accountability is equally crucial.



RM highlighted the need to review NUS's performance annually, suggesting KPIs as a way to do this, and noted that many students in the room have not received adequate support. RM urged the council to carefully consider the \$65,000 fee before deciding how much to allocate to NUS.

RMe said that while NUS officials are being paid, they have not received meaningful support from their NUS counterpart. Rme noted that communication has been limited to a general group chat with other women's officers, and the first direct email from their counterpart was a request for assistance rather than support, raising concerns about the effectiveness of NUS engagement.

LF asks a question to the floor of what do we expect that is tangible from the NUS, and what do they expect from us?

OS offered a perspective as an unpaid NUS national office bearer, noting that it can be difficult to contact students across multiple campuses and understand their needs. OS explained that while they made efforts to communicate via emails and group chats, the effectiveness of outreach depends on both office bearers and students actively engaging. OS highlighted challenges with low response rates from other office bearers and emphasized that NUS suffers from both lack of engagement and limited funding, which constrains its ability to operate effectively.

*RM moves a procedural to move her speaking rights to Suchi Kalia (SK). Motion passes.*

SK said they sit on NX for NUS and highlighted the work done with international student officers regarding anti-migration protests and recent visa fee increases. SK emphasized that NUS provides a critical platform for international students to have their voices heard, especially since approaching the government directly carries risks. SK acknowledged flaws in the system but noted that those actively engaging with NUS are achieving tangible results.

NT said that NUS has value as part of a broader student union, allowing collaboration and broader impact. NT noted that participation can occur without paying the full fees, citing past involvement such as sending delegates to conferences like EdCon. NT emphasized that while engagement and learning opportunities are important, the full NUS fee should not be paid if the Guild is not receiving full value.



RMe suggested that next year's office bearers should be informed early about the role of NUS counterparts, as they were initially unaware that the counterpart's purpose was to provide support and guidance rather than just share information. RMe noted that contact was only made after being introduced by Olivia and recommended that this be clarified earlier for future officers.

LF asks if NT has a rough idea of what we will give them. NT replies that they probably are looking to give a similar amount as last year.

JS brings up the concern that the NUS doesn't even have an environmental officer representative even when we are facing the biggest climate crisis. RS suggested that any funding provided to NUS should have conditions attached, requiring NUS to demonstrate tangible outcomes or "show cause" for the money received. NT requested that any feedback on the motion be sent to them so it can be incorporated before submission to governance, emphasizing the need to avoid extending the discussion further.

OS explained that the NUS does not currently have an environment officer partly due to funding constraints, as each office-bearer receives a travel allowance. OS also argued that environmental issues are not unique to students and therefore do not require a dedicated national student office-bearer.

*Motion for a welfare break passes.*

## **11. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (OPERATIONS)**

## **12. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE (OPERATIONS)**

## **13. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)**

### **The 112th Guild Council:**

**13.1.1** Welcomes the Education Minister's review into the powers of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) as an important step towards rebuilding trust in Australia's universities.

**13.1.2** Notes with concern the findings of the Senate Education and Employment Committee Inquiry into University Governance, which highlighted serious



governance issues at the Australian National University and raised broader concerns about university governance culture.

**13.1.3** Recognises that current corporate-style governance structures, introduced under the Howard government, have created a disconnect between universities and their key stakeholders: students and staff.

**13.1.4** Supports reforms to strengthen student representation in university governance, including:

- a) Amending the Higher Education Standards to embed student (including HDR and postgraduate coursework) participation in all governance structures.
- b) Empowering TEQSA to independently audit or appoint auditors to review the governance of Australian universities.
- c) Reducing reliance on external members disconnected from the institution in favour of greater representation of students, academics, and professional staff.

**13.1.5** Affirms that postgraduate students, as researchers, academics, and future leaders, must be central partners in shaping governance structures that affect the quality of higher education and research.

**13.1.6** Calls on the Federal Government to accompany governance reform with increased public investment in research and development to at least the OECD average, while ensuring such funding directly benefits researchers, academics, and HDR candidates.

**13.1.7** Will contribute and support CAPA's submission on the drafting report and circulate important information and media statements as they become available.

Moved: Charlotte Backshall

Seconded: Jay Williams

*Motion passed.*

CB briefly explained that TEQSA is the governing body overseeing quality and standards in Australian universities. They noted that Minister Jason Clare recently announced a review to potentially strengthen TEQSA's powers. CB highlighted concerns about the Higher Education Standards Framework (section 6.3.3), which addresses academic governance but does not specifically mandate HDR or



postgraduate student representation. The motion was framed to welcome the review and strengthen TEQSA's powers.

JW thanked Charlie for her advocacy for postgraduate students and her work on the motion and at CAPA. JW welcomed the Minister's announcement and emphasized the need for stronger laws and regulations to ensure universities adequately represent students, particularly postgraduates, giving them a voice and seat at the table.

### QUESTIONS

RS wants to clarify what the action item for the motion is. CB says it is 13.1.6 and that it is just showing support and solidarity. RS asks if they're going to write a letter or make a post? CB clarifies that she is working with CAPA but she is happy to amend the motion to include. Motion amended as above.

### DEBATE

FOR: OS expressed support for the government's efforts to strengthen local university governance. They acknowledged existing problems with university governments nationwide and welcomed increased oversight in WA to ensure students receive meaningful support.

AGAINST: LF stated they are generally not opposed but questioned the need for a partisan initiative driven by a political party or a government that was in power 20 years ago. CB explained that John Howard's government introduced full fee-paying university places, marking the start of university commercialization. They noted this shift led to more business executives on university boards rather than students and academics, which motivated their inclusion of this context.

FP argued against increasing government oversight of universities, describing a false dichotomy between corporate control and state oversight. They advocated for a more democratic system run by staff and students and criticized the Labor government for undermining university funding and quality, increasing international student fees, and repressing speech on campus.

FOR: LB expressed excitement about the university reform inquiry and encouraged those interested to review the submissions, noting contributions from CAPA and the NUS and highlighting the growing momentum of the process.

*Motion passes.*



#### **14. MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)**

The speaker apologized for being late, explaining they were waiting for the NUS campaign launch. They noted that international student visa fees had doubled last year and increased again this year to \$1,000, before calling for a vote to hear the motion.

*Council votes to hear the motion.*

##### **14.1 The 112th Guild Council:**

- 14.1.1** Expresses its utmost disappointment and opposition to the Federal Government's for the further increases to the International Student Visa (Subclass 500) fees from \$1600 to \$2000, on top of the initial increase seen in 2024 from \$710 to \$1600.
- 14.1.2** Calls on the Federal Government to withdraw this policy that not only impacts international students but also sets a dangerous precedence to incoming students that they are not welcome in Australia.
- 14.1.3** Calls on the Federal Government to recognise the value of international students and their contributions to Australia's multicultural society and condemns how international students are being unfairly scapegoated for financial housing and cost-of-living crises.
- 14.1.4** Endorses the National Union of Students' Campaign " Welcoming Words, Exclusionary Policies: Stop the Student Visa Hike"
- 14.1.5** Encourages the Guild president alongside the International Students' Department to send a letter to the Federal Government condemning this increase.

Moved: Archit Menon

Seconded: Ojaswi Shrestha

*Motion passed.*

MS highlighted that international student visa fees increased from \$1,600 to \$2,000 this year, following a previous doubling. They noted the financial burden amid other challenges like housing and cost of living, criticizing the fees as sending a message that education is a privilege for those who can afford it. MS emphasized that



international students contribute skills, perspectives, and culture, and that higher fees risk excluding talented students from equal opportunities.

OJ expressed disappointment at the federal government's increase in international student visa fees from \$1,600 to \$2,000, following earlier rises. They emphasized that these costs, including medical insurance and other fees, send a discouraging message that education is a privilege for those who can pay. OJ stressed that international students contribute skills, perspectives, and culture, and that rising fees risk excluding talented students from equal learning opportunities.

## DEBATE

*FP moves speaking time to Eleka Marshall (EM). Motion passes.*

FOR: EM argued in support of the motion, stating that the university exploits both domestic and international students. They emphasized that education should be free and accessible, criticized structural racism in international student visas, and highlighted the financial and social pressures on international students, including work restrictions and threats of deportation for speaking out on issues like Palestine. EM stressed that students deserve support rather than additional burdens.

FOR: RS spoke in support of the motion, condemning the treatment of international students as a revenue source. They highlighted that visa application fees are disproportionately high compared to countries like Canada and the UK, noting that recent fee increases are excessive and recurring each semester. RS emphasized that these costs are inequitable, sometimes equaling what domestic students pay for an entire degree, and argued for alternative revenue mechanisms rather than burdening students.

FOR: SA spoke in support of the motion, stressing the importance of recognizing the government's complicity in systemic issues affecting international students. They highlighted the strong student turnout as evidence of widespread support for Palestine and emphasized that the Guild's actions should continue to reflect and uphold the values and concerns of the student body.

FOR: RM spoke in support of the motion, providing additional perspective on the disproportionate financial burden on international students. They highlighted that annual fees for international students average \$44,000 compared to \$4,000 for



domestic students. RM also noted that visa application fees, including extensions or reapplications due to minor issues, are non-refundable and add significant financial stress. They criticized the rationale that high fees filter “genuine applicants,” framing it instead as exploitative revenue generation targeting a vulnerable student population.

OB spoke in support of the motion, emphasizing the contributions of international students such as Archit, OJ, and Ritika to the UWA Student Guild and the wider university community. They argued that any measures that limit international students or hinder their participation cannot be supported in good conscience by the guild.

OS expressed support for the motion and suggested an amendment to ensure it is directed at the appropriate level of government. They clarified that visa fees are set federally, so the motion should address the federal Minister for Education or Home Affairs rather than the state minister for International and Tertiary Education. OS also recommended framing the motion as carrying the full backing of the guild council to strengthen its impact. Motion is amended as above.

*Motion passes.*

AM explains how the motion below was just launched yesterday so that is why its late.

*Council votes to hear the motion.*

## **14.2 The 112th Guild Council:**

**14.2.1** Strongly condemns the racist narrative surrounding the March for Australia anti-migration protest being held on Sunday 31st August around Australia, acknowledging it has been organised by the far right.

**14.2.2** Affirms its commitment to inclusion, and diversity within our university community, and rejects scapegoating of migrants and international students for broader social and economic challenges.

**14.2.3** Recognises that issues such as housing shortages, cost-of-living pressures, and job insecurity affect both domestic and international students alike, and that migrants are not the cause of these systemic challenges.

**14.2.4** Acknowledges the significant contributions of international students and migrants to our campus, local economy, and broader Australian society, including cultural diversity, innovation, and global engagement.



**14.2.5** Endorses the National Union of Students' Campaign "Unity Over Division: Addressing the Real Causes of Social and Economic Challenges"

**14.2.6** Acknowledges that the "March For Australia" has been promoting racist sentiments towards people of colour.

**14.2.7** Encourages the UWA Guild International Students' Department and Ethnocultural department to share and promote mental health and wellbeing services provided by UWA Student Guild and the university.

Moved: Archit Menon

Seconded: Selina Al Ansari

AM spoke in support of the motion, highlighting the emotional and financial toll international students face. They described how policy changes and increasing visa fees reinforce feelings of being unwelcome and undervalued, despite the significant cultural and economic contributions international students make to Australia. AM stressed that it is vital for the Guild to oppose such measures, as they contradict the values of inclusivity and diversity that the Guild represents.

SA addressed the upcoming anti-immigration protests, describing them as deeply concerning and harmful, particularly for people of colour and immigrant communities. They emphasized that current social issues are systemic and should not be blamed on immigrants. SA stressed the Guild's commitment to supporting affected students, sharing support services, and ensuring that no student feels isolated or unsafe in response to these protests.

## QUESTIONS

AB questioned why the motion did not explicitly address racism, noting that pamphlets from the "March for Australia" group target Indian rather than European migrants, showing the issue is racial. They suggested the motion should acknowledge this dimension more clearly.

## DEBATE

FOR: FP spoke strongly against the upcoming march, urging it be called a racist, far-right rally. They noted it is organised by the NSM, a neo-Nazi group, with organisers openly advocating for violence against non-white attendees and restricting participation to white people. FP highlighted that migrants are not to blame for housing or social crises, instead pointing to wealthy landlords as a true source of exploitation.



They proposed amendments to strengthen the motion's wording by replacing "expresses concern" with "strongly condemns" and explicitly recognising the rally as neo-Nazi organised.

RM questions if they know if *everyone* who organised it is far right. FP argued that the rally is inherently far-right, emphasising that anti-migration politics are a hallmark of the far right. They stated that by attending the rally, participants are aligning themselves with far-right ideology.

FOR: RS spoke in support of the motion, condemning the protest as a disgraceful, racist, and anti-migration event. They argued it reflects a broader systemic issue in society that allows such organisations to gain support by scapegoating migrants, international students, and people of colour. RS also noted that even First Nations peoples could be targeted by the "March for Australia," denouncing the rally as fundamentally un-Australian.

FOR: OB spoke in support of the motion, describing participation in the March for Australia as pitiful and rooted in ignorance. They argued that those attending lack the ethical, moral, and educational grounding to see how wrong their views are.

FOR: OS spoke in support of the motion, emphasizing that Australia relies on immigrants to sustain its population and fill essential workforce roles, such as in schools and other critical sectors. They stressed the importance of discouraging counter-protests to prevent potential violence, noting that such clashes play into the far-right organisers' desired narrative. OS highlighted that the March for Australia is organised by far-right and neo-Nazi groups, framing the protest as fundamentally racist and underlining the need to call it out explicitly to challenge its legitimacy.

FOR: OJ spoke in support of the motion, sharing a personal perspective as an international student. They emphasised that immigrants and international students are a strength, not a problem, for Australia. OJ noted that research demonstrates migrants are not responsible for issues like housing shortages or economic struggles, and warned that marches like these spread fear and hatred, normalising racism and division within society.

FOR: RM expressed support for the motion, noting that the racist march distracts from genuine issues affecting international students and migrants, such as the cost-of-living



crisis and rising rents. They highlighted that most migrants come to Australia eager to embrace its culture, learn, and contribute, and that framing them as a threat misrepresents their intentions. RM emphasised that the march is racist, particularly in the context of recent attacks against international students and reinforces harmful stereotypes rather than addressing real societal problems.

FOR: FP spoke in strong support of the motion, framing migration as a fundamental human right. They rejected arguments linking migrants to economic benefits or birth rates, emphasizing that all people coming to Australia should have access to basic needs such as shelter, food, and support, regardless of their economic contribution. FP highlighted that migration is a long-standing aspect of human history and argued for open borders rather than evaluating migrants based on utilitarian benchmarks.

OB adds that she thinks it's important to include neo-nazis to call them out for what they are.

FP and OS want to amend the motion to add the wording neo-nazis. FP emphasized the need for precise language in describing the organisers of the March for Australia, noting that the far-right label is too vague. They clarified that the event is organised by the National Socialist Network, explicitly a Nazi group, and described the politics behind the motion as fascistic or neo-Nazi, highlighting the extreme and dangerous ideology driving the protest.

AKS noted that the wording of the motion is ultimately the prerogative of the mover and seconder. They suggested that while procedural changes could be proposed, the final choice rests with those sponsoring the motion and how they want their names associated with it.

NN asked why the term "neo-Nazi" isn't being used, highlighting that far-right ideas are increasingly mobilized, including in government. They argued that explicitly calling out the organisers as neo-Nazis is an important step to accurately identify and confront the threat.

LF suggested that the term "Nazi" should be reserved for individuals who genuinely identify as Nazis. They acknowledged that the group organising the march should be condemned, noted that such extremists are a very small part of Australian society, and conceded that there may be actual Nazis present at the event.



RM explained that explicitly labelling the organisers as Nazis or neo-Nazis could politicise the motion and distract from its main purpose. They emphasised that the focus should remain on why the march is harmful and its impact on migrants, rather than debating the exact classification of the organising group.

AB responded to the discussion about the presence of Nazis, noting that if the National Socialist Network is indeed organising the march, which they are described as a neo-Nazi group, then it is very likely that members of that group will be present.

Building on Ritika's point, NT emphasised that the focus should remain on the broader issue addressed by the motion, rather than narrowly condemning a single group. They argued that limiting the condemnation to just one group risks overlooking others who contribute to the problem, and stressed that the motion should address the wider harm caused by the march.

OS argued strongly that the organisers and participants should be explicitly called Nazis, regardless of how they self-identify, stating that their behaviour and ideology clearly align with Nazism. They emphasised that merely calling them "far-right" downplays the severity of their actions and warned that failing to call it out emboldens such groups. OS also drew parallels to Nazi marches in the U.S., stressing the urgency to confront this ideology to protect the diversity of the student community.

*RM moves a procedural to vote on the motion as it stands with no further debate. Procedural motion passes.*

*Motion passed.*

NN asks for clarification why amendments don't need to be discussed by council and why we can vote to not hear them. TG emphasised the procedural importance of maintaining the integrity of the motion, noting that trying to hijack or significantly alter its intent would be counterproductive. They also cautioned against introducing another motion immediately afterward, as it would be redundant given the similarity to the motion that had just been passed.

## **15. GENERAL BUSINESS**



AB raised a general business item regarding sexual health resources, noting that while free pregnancy tests are available, it would also be beneficial for the Guild to provide free condoms. They suggested collaborating with Guild representatives to ensure that condoms are accessible in the Guild Student Centre, highlighting that the current provision comes in 20-pack packages and is freely available.

AKS commented on the recent SGM, praising how well it was conducted. They highlighted that students from diverse backgrounds were able to attend, express their views, and be heard respectfully. AKS also acknowledged the efforts of Nicky, Jay, Charlie, and others for their support and solidarity during the meeting, noting that the event reflected positively on the campus community.

AM spoke to remind council about the constraints faced by international students due to visa conditions, which can restrict what they are able to say or express. They emphasized that these restrictions are not a matter of unwillingness but concern for personal safety, referencing a recent incident at the SGA. AM requested that council members show understanding and extend courtesy regarding these limitations.

## **16. CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for **6pm Wednesday September 24th 2025**. Please contact the Guild General Secretary ([secretary@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto: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.