



**UWA STUDENT GUILD**  
The University of Western Australia  
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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**

**Oliver Barrett**

**Guild President**

**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT January**

**28/1/2026**

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## SUMMARY

I think the only appropriate summary of the last two months is, WOW!! First Guild Council report as President, and it made me realise we're already 2 months in which I can barely believe. I've been on the steepest learning curve I've ever been on since November. The catch ups with the Guild staff have really helped me solidify my understanding of how much goes on here – I now realise how much Nikhi had on her plate! Overall, settling in and setting up, getting ready before semester 1 starts. Lots of preparatory work with UWA for projects this year, I'm pleased to report that there is plenty planned! Well done to all of you student reps as you've been finding your feet this year. It's a marathon, so take your time, ask questions, and keep putting one foot in front of the other. I've never been this glad to be working with such an incredible group of people, so here's to 113!

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
25/11/2025	<i>UWA Media Training</i>	<i>To not mess up with the media</i>
	<i>Lisa Goldacre, Michael Burgess</i>	<i>Provide feedback on Uni/Guild interaction</i>
	<i>Alison</i>	<i>Intro meeting and rundown on upcoming projects for 2026</i>
26/11/2025	<i>Council Transition Training</i>	<i>Self-explanatory</i>
27/11/2025	<i>Scott Nichols</i>	<i>Library meeting</i>
28/11/2025	<i>Farewell to 112<sup>th</sup> Council</i>	<i>Saying goodbye!</i>
1/12/2025	<i>Reel making</i>	<i>Day in the life of reel</i>
	<i>Guild Council Meeting</i>	<i>Monthly meeting</i>
2/12/2025	<i>Student Digital Experience Project Steering Group</i>	<i>As exciting as it sounds! Steering the digital experience in UWA.</i>
	<i>UWA reel making</i>	<i>Messaging for school students as they finish up.</i>
	<i>Robyn, Alison</i>	<i>2026 vision for marketing</i>
3/12/2025	<i>Christina Young</i>	<i>2026 vision</i>
	<i>Elaine Yan</i>	<i>2026 vision</i>
	<i>Lia Schimith</i>	<i>Voiceover for reel</i>
	<i>Sue Boyd, Geemal</i>	<i>Past St Cats' guild presidents meeting</i>
	<i>Convocation Council</i>	<i>Monthly meeting</i>
4/12/2025	<i>Arnie Senth, Tony Goodman</i>	<i>2026 vision</i>
	<i>Guild Christmas Party</i>	<i>Building team culture</i>
5/12/2025	<i>Senate induction</i>	<i>Learning about senate</i>
	<i>Handover with Nikhi</i>	<i>Handover</i>
	<i>Sue Boyd</i>	<i>1969 Guild President catchup</i>
8/12/2025	<i>Commercial team</i>	<i>2026 vision</i>
	<i>Jack Spagnuolo</i>	<i>2026 vision</i>
	<i>Fiona McAuliffe</i>	<i>2026 vision</i>
	<i>Senate photo</i>	<i>Photo for senate</i>
	<i>UWA Senate</i>	<i>Senate meeting</i>
	<i>Senate Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner with VC/C/other senate members.</i>
9/12/2025	<i>Mutya</i>	<i>2026 vision</i>
	<i>Leigh + Alice</i>	<i>2026 vision</i>
	<i>Gypsy Treacy</i>	<i>Initial meeting</i>
	<i>Budget Council Meeting</i>	<i>Budget</i>

10/12/2025	Student Portal/Gen AI showcase	Observed the work of some masters students
	Macebearer training	Trained up for macebearing
	Macebearing ceremony	Macebore at the graduation ceremony
11/12/2025	Chloe Bull	2026 vision
	Director of Student Living interviews	Interview panel for the director of student living
12/12/2025	Guild x Student Wellbeing monthly meeting	Caught up, ran through plans for 2026
	Heng + Kelvin catchup	2026 vision
15/12/2025	Student assist team	2026 vision
	Lizzie and Christina from Volunteering	2026 vision
	Student Life monthly meeting	monthly meeting
16/12/2025	Christmas reel	Reel
	Marketing/Creative	2026 vision
	Chloë Keller	2026 vision
	Student Digital Experience Steering group	Meeting about scope, terms of reference
	Courseworks scholarships committee meeting	Monthly meeting
17/12/2025	Future Students meeting	Bimonthly meeting
18/12/2025	Bottomless brunch reel	Reel
19/12/2025	Annabelle Brennan	Catch up about Genseccing it
20/12/2025	PROSH exec catchup	Met exec, discussed 2026
7/1/2026	Student engagement team	Planning activities for 2026. (all dates below here are 2026 dates, not writing it every time).
8/1	Kelvin Lee	Guild licences review
	TRCB architects	Reviewing plans
12/1	Sharon Tan	Meeting about engineering meet and greet, how we can help international students
13/1	Interview	HR/admin assistant
	Interview	HR/admin assistant
	Harishma	2026 vision
	Nigella	2026 vision
	interview	HR/admin assistant
	PROSH committee meeting	Met prosh committee! Some of them at least.
14/1	TRCB architects	Reviewing plans
	Annabelle Brennan	Meeting about 2026
	Kassia	2026 vision
	Venture Advisory Committee	Meeting about future of Venture
	Interview	Venture 2IC
15/1	Reel filming	Meet ollie reel
	Reel filming	Alone on campus reel
	Interview	Payroll/admin assistant
	Karl Thompson, Hans	Meeting about the Student Digital experience inflight projects
16/1	Gus Potenza	2026 vision

19/1	Barbara Buxmann	2026 vision
20/1	Café photoshoot	Filming
	Interview	Event coordinator
	Interview	Payroll/admin assistant
	Interview	Events coordinator
	Louis Bird	Plans for 2026
21/1	Interview	Venture 2IC
	Kabilan	Discussing student reps on academic board subcommittees
	Governance Committee	Monthly meeting
	Iranian student	Consultation on a motion
	Daniel Tyers	Catchup about 2026
	Craig MacKenzie	Food for Fines catchup
	Rama Sugiatha	OGC/NUS catchup
	NUS ENx meeting	Emergency national executive meeting
22/1	Interview	Venture 2IC
	Employability centre meeting	Discussed traffic flows in car park 11
	Tony Goodman	Discussed plans for while Tony is off
	Interview	Venture 2IC
	Ask me anything on Instagram	Marketing
23/1	Interview	Governance assistant
	Interview	Governance assistant
	Fernanda Fauzi	UWA Open Day 2026 plans
26/1	Abby Rai	Plans for 2026
	AJ Church	Plans for 2026

94 meetings total – I’m sure there’s some that even the all-seeing Google Calendar missed, so let’s call it an even 100 :)

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Guild Councillor check-ins

- Have been progressing nicely with these, still a few to catch but everyone is looking switched on coming to semester!

### Guild Master Plan update

- Reviewing TRCB documents to look at feasibility of restructuring how the Guild flows from the GSC to the offices, to look at a new lift near the GSC, and to work in

### O-Week

- Getting platinum tickets ready for launch
- Planning for O’Day afters – headliner band is locked in!! no spoilers though
- Planning for Tav Wednesday in O Week too!
- Lots more fun Guild activities happening each day during O-Week, thank you to Leigh and Alice for all your work on these ones!!

### NUS Engagement

- Been in contact with the new NUS President Felix Hughes, who will be visiting UWA in February
- Also been in contact with our new State Branch President, Rama Sugiatha (congrats!)
- Planning for the Presidents’ Summit coming up Feb 5/6<sup>th</sup>.



**Food for Fines**

- Running this year in the months of March and August!
- Preparing marketing campaign

**Budget Bites**

- Reviewing \$5 meals, would love UWA to subsidise so we can get better meals but this is with them at the moment
- Bringing \$4 cereal breakfasts to cafés soon! Thank you to Barbara for her help on this!

**Period Product Dispensers**

- Have expressed to UWA that there is want for them in all-gender bathrooms and on College Row, however this relies on UWA's budget for this. Waiting on them at the moment

**Drug testing kits**

- Unfortunately, UWA won't be supporting this, so we will be progressing with this ourselves

**Drink Spike Testing Kits**

- Please, if you talk about this project, be very careful to say drink spike TESTING kits, not drink spiking kits! Very important distinction
- Progressing ourselves as well

**Guild x India**

- Preliminary meetings with Nashid Chowdhury have been positive, still working out what the Guild presence will be there!!

**Parking**

- Unfortunately, despite the dissent of Jay and I in Senate, UWA has decided to increase the daily caps to student and staff parking prices. Still working to see what improvements can be made to the physical reality of parking. Sad.

**Framework for student consultation in Digital Experience Projects**

- This one came out of a meeting with Karl Thompson regarding the Student Digital Experience Project Steering Group, so maybe it isn't as dry as it sounds!
- Asked what level of student consultation there had been for the inflight projects coming throughout 2026 and beyond, and there was no clear answer as they weren't aware of a framework by which students are involved in the process
- Will bring this to the next full Student Digital Experience Project Steering Group meeting, and proceed from there!

**Timetabling reform**

- Have discussed with Student Life, needs checking where this has progressed to

**Blue Tree Project**

- Raised with Student Life, waiting to hear back about where this was up to within UWA

**Free condoms**

- Ordering these to begin in sem 1!

**Free HIV self-tests**

- Beginning the planning for the implementation of a free HIV self-test dispenser in UWA!

## Venture

- Chloe has some updates about this, look at her report. I'm not sure what is confidential and what isn't, but for a general summary, we want Venture to grow bigger and better, and expand their offering to more students!! Lots of planning in progress here.

## AI

- Academic Conduct Essentials has been updated with content regarding AI
- Looking into training through the libraries on AI

## Guild Culture

- Joke of the day is ongoing now – if you find me and ask, you can hear the joke of the day! I can't promise that it will make you laugh though...
- Flowery/Fun/Fruity Shirt Fridays is ongoing for me personally, need to communicate this Guild-wide
- Interviews have had some positive people in them! Always good to see

## Academic Policy

- Have chatted with Marc Tennant about mandatory practice papers, will bring this to the review of assessment working group.
- Also bringing up capping final exams at 50%, receiving final exam marks, and a centralised platform for assessment marks.

## FINANCES

Only circa \$50 spent on my Guild shirts, and some overflow from receipts from the 112<sup>th</sup> GC that have flowed over to this year. Still working out whether this is the right screenshot to include but this is my summary!

Fiscal Month Year	Dec 2025			Jan 2026			Total		
Global Dimension 1	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance
NC-01-PRESIDENT	<u>10,805.99</u>	<u>5,104.70</u>	5,701.29	<u>-630.28</u>	<u>30,062.54</u>	-30,692.82	<u>10,175.71</u>	<u>35,167.24</u>	-24,991.53
Total	<u>10,805.99</u>	<u>5,104.70</u>	5,701.29	<u>-630.28</u>	<u>30,062.54</u>	-30,692.82	<u>10,175.71</u>	<u>35,167.24</u>	-24,991.53

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Gotten some laughs from the joke of the day
- \$4 breakfasts incoming!
- Tav Summer Saturdays running smoothly
- Met with the majority of Guild staff to prepare for 2026
- Feels like it's been a lot of setting up, less tangible wins yet but they're coming!

## DISCUSSION POINTS

Cheers!

Oliver Barrett

*113<sup>th</sup> Guild President*

[president@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:president@guild.uwa.edu.au)



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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
**REANA BOSE**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY**  
**28/1/2026**

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## SUMMARY

During this period, I have been taking time to gain a clear understanding of my responsibilities as Vice President. I met with the PSA President, Jay Williams, and have remained in close communication with Guild President Oliver Barrett to ensure I am meeting all expectations of the role. In my capacity as Chair of the Media and Publications Committee, I have also begun planning for the Committee's first meeting.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
10/12/2025	IT induction	Sorted my guild email access and login. Also, went through cyber safety.
13/01/2026	Met with PSA president, Jay Williams	To understand the position of chair for Media and Publications Committee
19/01/2026	Call with Guild President, Ollie Barrett	To discuss sitting on scholarships committee and Guild Cafe Shoot time
20/01/2026	met up with Marketing, Guild President Ollie Barrett, ISD President - Ojaswi Shresta	Shoot Guild cafe promotion content
22/01/2026	Call with Ollie Barrett	Discuss upcoming meetings and guild content that needs to be filled
26/01/2026	Call with AJ church	Discuss whether AJ would be interested in taking up the role of Executive Officer for the Media and Publication Committee

## PROJECT UPDATE

N/A

## FINANCES

N/A

## ACHIEVEMENTS

N/A

## DISCUSSION POINTS

I have also been elected as President for DESI Student Society. So if any department wants to collaborate feel free to reach out



Regards,

**Reana Bose**  
**113th Guild Vice President**  
[vp@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:vp@guild.uwa.edu.au)



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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**

**YASASWI SHRESTHA**

**CHAIR**

**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY**

**28/01/2025**

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## SUMMARY

The first two months were relatively quiet, focussed on the handover and adjusting to the new role. With the support of Chloe, Tony, Aidan, Ollie and Jay we completed the PROSH rules. I also chaired the first Governance Committee meeting, which proceeded smoothly.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
01/12/2025	Guild Council	Monthly Meeting
03/12/2025	IT Induction	Received my Guild email address from the IT department
04/12/2025	Guild Christmas Party	Went to the Guild Christmas party and met students and staffs of the 112 <sup>th</sup> and 113 <sup>th</sup> team
09/12/2025	Special Council Meeting	
09/01/2026	Meeting with Ojaswi and Emma	Discussed plans and initiatives for the year
21/01/2026	Meeting with Ollie and the Aidan (112 <sup>th</sup> GC Chair)	Edited and reviewed the PROSH Rules
21/01/2026	Governance Committee	Attended the first Governance meeting: Eva as EO elected, Insiah as Gensec recommended, PROSH rules approved, and committee activities for the year discussed
23/01/2026	Meeting with Deputy Chair - Eva	Discussed Deputy Chair roles and responsibilities, reviewed Standing Orders, went through the plans for Governance Committee and Election Culture Committee
23/01/2026	IT Department	Resolved Governance Committee email issue

## PROJECT UPDATE

N/A

## FINANCES

N/A

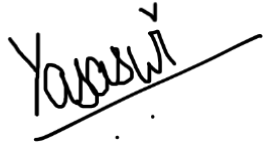
## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed the PROSH Rules!

## DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Yasaswi', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

**YASASWI SHRESTHA**  
*113<sup>th</sup> Guild Council Chair*  
[chair@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:chair@guild.uwa.edu.au)



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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
**BLAKE MERCER**  
**ACCESS OFFICER**  
**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY**  
**28/01/2026**

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## SUMMARY

Looking forward to a productive year in the Access Department, we've got a couple of projects underway, and looking forward to what we can achieve in semester 1.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
02/12/2025	IT induction	
02/12/2025	UAAP Working Group	Discuss the ongoing review of the University Academic Adjustment system
02/12/2025	Marketing Induction	
16/12/2025	UAAP Working Group	Discuss the ongoing review of the University Academic Adjustment system
16/12/2025	Handover w/ Lucinda Bartlett	
19/01/2026	Access Committee Meeting	Discuss plans for the department leading up to O-Day and the start of semester

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Autism Social Group

- Have confirmed continued use of the Access room for the Autism Social Group.

### UAAP Reasonable Adjustments Review Working Group

- Continued to attend UAAP Working Group meetings.
- Have been able to provide feedback from a student's perspective on a number of proposals for changes that could be made to the system.
- Future meetings scheduled throughout 2026.

### Cross-campus collaboration

- Have reached out to my counterparts at Curtin and Murdoch to discuss future opportunities for collaboration.
- Plan to schedule a meeting in the future to discuss issues with accessibility across our campuses.

### Future projects

- Access week is now scheduled for week 7 of semester 1.

## FINANCES

Have been unable to get the finance induction completed so far, but the only expense so far is \$25 for a guild t-shirt, and I will provide a proper finance report as soon as I am able to.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Watch this space.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

If anyone has anything they'd like to collaborate on, or anything else they'd like to raise for that matter, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blake Mercer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Blake Mercer

*113th Access Officer*

[blake.mercer26@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:blake.mercer26@guild.uwa.edu.au)



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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**

**Eva Coulter**

**Deputy Chair**

**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT January**

**25/01/2025**

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## SUMMARY

Work has been slow throughout January due to external factors. This month has been used to identify and assess the feasibility of projects.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
09/12/25	Special Guild Council Meeting	As outlined in GC agenda
18/12/25	Guild IT induction	Induction into IT systems
21/1/26	Governance Meeting 1	Elect executive officer

## PROJECT UPDATE

N/A

## FINANCES

N/A

## ACHIEVEMENTS

N/A

## DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

Regards,

**Eva Coulter**  
**113th Deputy Chair**  
[eva.coulter26@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:eva.coulter26@guild.uwa.edu.au)



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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
*Emily Bunschoten*  
*Education Council President*  
**Guild Council Report January**  
**28/01/2026**

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## SUMMARY

*While balancing full-time work across December and January, I focused on laying the foundations for the year ahead, recognising that Council activity would formally ramp up from February. An early handover with Jay Williams, the 2025 Education Council President, in November was particularly valuable in clarifying the scope of the role and how best to get started. Given the limited window during this period, priority was placed on defining Education Council goals and priorities and initiating early engagement with Faculty Societies.*

*I met with a number of Faculty Society Presidents to discuss shared objectives for the year. The Education Committee has met once formally during this period to discuss the year ahead, alongside ongoing planning through regular meetings with the Vice-President, Nina. These discussions have focused on shaping Council priorities, projects, timelines, reviewing Education Survey results, and considering how these insights can be translated into meaningful and actionable outcomes for students. The Education Council Instagram account has also been launched during this time, providing a foundation for communication and engagement as activity increases throughout the year. I have been very fortunate to work alongside a committee who have made this initial planning period productive and smooth.*

*The Student Services and Media and Publications committees have not met yet and are scheduled to commence activity from February as Council operations formally begin.*

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
<i>1/12/25</i>	<i>Guild Council</i>	
<i>9/12/25</i>	<i>Special Council Meeting (Budget)</i>	
<i>5/1/26</i>	<i>IT Induction</i>	<i>Completed IT induction and received access to email account.</i>
<i>5/1/26</i>	<i>Education Council Vice - President</i>	<i>Review of projects for the year and task allocation.</i>
<i>6/1/26</i>	<i>Ed Council Committee</i>	<i>Overview of goals and roles for the year.</i>
<i>7/1/26</i>	<i>Education Council Vice-President</i>	<i>Meeting preparation.</i>
<i>7/1/26</i>	<i>Health Students Society President and Ed Vice-President</i>	<i>Introduction and discussion.</i>
<i>7/1/26</i>	<i>Blackstone President, Blackstone Ed Vice-President and Ed Council Vice-President</i>	<i>Introduction and discussion.</i>
<i>8/1/26</i>	<i>Marketing Induction</i>	<i>Completed marketing induction and created the Education Council social media accounts.</i>
<i>8/1/26</i>	<i>Finance Induction with Ed Treasurer</i>	<i>Completed finance induction with ed treasurer.</i>
<i>8/1/26</i>	<i>Arts Union President</i>	<i>Introduction and discussion.</i>
<i>15/1/26</i>	<i>University Engineers Club (UEC) President</i>	<i>Introduction and discussion.</i>

## PROJECT UPDATE

### **Ed Council**

*I have begun meeting with each Faculty Society represented on Education Council to discuss shared expectations and goals for the year, review Education Survey results, and build strong working relationships to support the effective running of Council. Where I was unable to attend all meetings, the Education Council Vice-President attended on my behalf. Across these discussions, we actively gathered feedback on what Faculty Societies want to see from the Education Council and Student Guild this year.*

### **Education Council Social Media**

*Education Council has launched its own social media presence, and we have already begun posting content. This is an exciting step that will allow us to better communicate our work, share key updates, and engage more directly with students and Faculty Societies. The Education Council committee and Faculty Societies have already contributed ideas and insights for content, helping ensure our communications are relevant and student-focused. We began with introductory videos and will soon launch our UWA Unlocked series in anticipation of O-Day, sharing information about getting started at UWA and other useful tips for students.*

### **Student Feedback Portal**

*We are exploring the development of a student feedback portal to provide a clear and accessible way for students to share concerns, ideas, and experiences throughout the year. This initiative aims to strengthen two-way communication between students and Education Council and ensure that feedback is captured consistently and meaningfully to inform advocacy and decision-making. This project will be assigned to an Education Council OCM.*

### **Weekly Internship Updates**

*We will also introduce weekly internship updates, led by the Vice-President, to inform students about current internship opportunities that may be counted towards Work Integrated Learning. These updates aim to improve visibility of relevant opportunities and help students more easily identify pathways that align with their academic requirements and career development. Updates will be shared via the Education Council social media accounts.*

### **Student Rights Campaign**

*Education Council will be running a Study Rights campaign, inspired by the 2024, Your Rights Campaign, to raise awareness of students' academic rights and the support available to them. The campaign will feature a series of dedicated posts on the Education Council Instagram, which are currently being brainstormed, covering topics such as exams and tutorial-related rights. This initiative aims to provide students with clear, accessible information so they can confidently navigate key academic processes throughout the year. This will be worked on by myself, the Education Council Vice-President, and an OCM.*

### **Education Survey**

*Education Council will also be revisiting the Education Survey, with a focus on making it more targeted and effective. This includes reducing the number of questions, incorporating input from Faculty Societies, and improving distribution to ensure higher-quality feedback and stronger student engagement. This is still in the planning stage; we are hoping to have it out by the start of semester 2.*

## FINANCES

Nothing to report on the finance, Ed hasn't spent any money from our budget.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- *New Education Council social media created*

## DISCUSSION POINTS

*I am looking forward to the year ahead and seeing what both the Guild and Education Council achieve!*

Regards,



**Emily Bunschoten**

***113th Education Council President***

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113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL  
Zered Robinson  
Environment Officer  
GUILD COUNCIL REPORT [December/January]  
[26th]/2025

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## SUMMARY

December/January has been a quiet but productive period for Enviro, focused primarily on planning and groundwork for the year ahead. As I was away for a large portion of this period, and the departmental handover was still in progress, the majority of my work during this time was administrative and centred on forward planning.

During this period, I began the process of selecting the Enviro committee, organised initial meetings scheduled for late January and February, and commenced early planning for EnviroFest. This time has been important for setting priorities and establishing direction for the year, as well as ensuring the department is prepared for a strong and active first semester.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

No meetings attended during this reporting period due to the December/January recess and my availability during this time. Meetings have been scheduled for late January onwards heading into February.

## PROJECT UPDATE

Progress has started on Containers for Change at UWA, with discussions currently underway via email regarding implementation. I will be engaging further with this project in the coming period to support next steps.

Work has commenced on exploring opportunities to increase native species planting on campus, with a proposal currently being developed to outline the environmental benefits and feasibility of the initiative.

Began looking into the feasibility of some new events for 2026, more details will be provided when they are more fleshed out and properly constructed with the committee.

## FINANCES

Not applicable. No finances used as have not completed finance induction/no expenditure.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

N/A

## DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

Regards,

**[Zered Robinson]**  
**113th [Environment Officer]**  
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## 113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL

Emma Meunier

Ethnocultural Department Officer  
GUILD COUNCIL REPORT - JANUARY  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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## SUMMARY

Kicked off the week with multiple Guild Council inductions and an exciting, positive meeting discussing the multifaith prayer room initiative!

Also dived into a couple of exec meetings to get a head start on O-Day and Guild on the Green prep. Feeling energised by the exciting collaboration prospects forming with other departments!

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
5/01/2026	Small discussion with Hukam Kohli - Ordinary Guild Councillor	Shared ideas and thoughts about multifaith prayer room project and expression of interest to work together with the department
09/01/2026	Meeting with Ojaswi - ISD President and Yasaswi - Chair of Council	Discuss on our vision and projects for the year and see where Ethno and ISD can collab
10/01/2026	Meeting Fiona McAuliffe - Student Central	Discuss progress and next steps for the Multifaith Prayer Room project
20/01/2026	Meeting with Hayley Paku - Pride Department Officer	Discuss potential collaborations and projects for 2026
21/01/2026 - 23/01/2026	Department Committee Interviews - Teams	
26/01/2026	O-day Planning Meeting with Ethnocultural Executive Team	Plan activities, logistics, and engagement strategies for Orientation Week

## PROJECT UPDATE

### **Multifaith Prayer rooms:**

During this reporting period, a meeting was held to continue progress on the Multifaith Prayer Room project, with a focus on next steps and stakeholder engagement. One of the key points discussed was connecting with concerned committees to gain additional perspectives and support for the project. This was seen as a positive step to help ensure the space is safe, inclusive, and aligned with broader University priorities.



The group also discussed how the space could be used by students from different faith backgrounds, as well as for broader wellbeing purposes such as meditation and quiet reflection. It was agreed that more information is needed on who would use the space and how, to ensure the room is flexible and meets the needs of a diverse student community.

A main outcome of the meeting was the decision to create and distribute a survey to relevant clubs and societies. This will help gather feedback on interest, likely usage, and preferences around the size and type of space needed. The survey will also help inform whether students would prefer an indoor space, outdoor access, and what capacity would be most appropriate. It was agreed that the ideal location should be central but also discreet, to balance accessibility with privacy.

A follow-up meeting is planned for early February (after 3<sup>rd</sup> February) to review progress and finalise the survey for release. Fiona will also be reaching out to Curtin Guild and other universities with existing multifaith spaces to learn from their experiences. At this stage, identifying a suitable space on campus remains the main challenge and will continue to be a key focus moving forward.

#### FINANCES

Have not attended the finance induction yet, as out of the country for holidays; no purchases made to date.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

nil

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

Thoughts on organising a multicultural festival on campus on the last day of Harmony Week, featuring diverse food stalls, cultural performances, and potentially dancing. This is a proposal to be further discussed and approved!

Kind Regards,



**Emma Meunier**

113<sup>th</sup> Ethnocultural Department Officer

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## 113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL

OJASWI SHRESTHA

International Students'

Department President

GUILD COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY

28/01/2026

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## SUMMARY

The past couple of months has been great as I've settled into my role. Much of my time over the past two months has been spent brainstorming, managing logistics, and developing event ideas for 2026, specially the Lunar New Year event, which we have been planning in close collaboration with International Student Support.

Attending the National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference was also an interesting and valuable experience, offering insight into advocacy.

ISD received over 55 applications, and we were able to fill every position with motivated and capable candidates. I'm incredibly grateful to the ISD executive team, Ayush (VP) and Nicole (Secretary), for their support throughout the application and interview process and for the ongoing support they've provided. Their commitment has made this transition significantly smoother, and I'm looking forward to working closely with the team as we move into the year ahead.

Alumni Engagement Committee and Equity and Diversity Committee didn't meet this month

Lunar New Year event is happening on 24th February (Tuesday) from 11am-2pm. We've locked in performances like the Lion Dance, light refreshments and a few traditional performances. I've reached out to Lizzie for volunteers for the event, but I would love to see the council members in Oak Lawn during the day helping out and moreover enjoying the vibes. Let me know if you'd like to support in any way.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
27/11/2025	Meeting with Leigh	Brainstorm Lunar New Year
28/11/2025	Meeting with Mary Portex from UWA Industry Engagement – Careers and Employability	See where ISD and Careers and Employability can collaborate in 2026
28/11/2025	Lunch with DVC Guy Littlefair, Ollie, Jay, Emily and Nikhi	Introductory lunch and discuss plans for 2026
01/12/2025	Guild Council Meeting	Monthly Meeting
04/12/2025	Guild Christmas Party	
08/12.2025	NatCon - NUS	
09/12/2025	NatCon - NUS	
09/12/2025	Guild Council Meeting - budget	
10/12/2025	NatCon - NUS	
11/12/2025	NatCon - NUS	

15/12/2025	Interview panel for Director of Student Success and Progression	Sat on interview panel for Director of Student Success and Progression, heard from candidates and gave my opinions and views on them to the panel
16/12/2025	Meeting with UWA College Student Experience Coordinator and College Services Officer for Wellbeing and Engagement (Laura and Grace)	Brainstorm of ideas for collaboration with ISD and UWA College for 2026
17/12/2025	UWA International Student Support Welcome Session	Speaking to the new cohort
18/12/2025	UWA Guild Marketing for the tav	Promotion for bottomless brunch
07/01/2026	Meeting with Tennille, Jocelyn, ACYA and SSS	Initial discussions on Lunar New Year
08/01/2026	Meeting with Henry	Student Services Committee handover
	Meeting with Tony and Jack	Discuss Lunar New Year ideas/logistics
09/01/2026	Meeting with Emma and Yasaswi	Discuss on our vision and projects for the year and see where Ethno and ISD can collab
12/01/2026	Meeting Ollie and Sharon Tan (International Student Support Coordinator, Engineering)	Discuss Engineering Events/workshop to support international students
13/01/2026	Finance induction	
13/01/2026	Meeting with Leigh and Lizzie for Lunar New Year event	
14/01/2026	Meeting with UWA College (Laura and Grace), Juvincia (Welfare Director for ISD) and UWA College student ambassadors	Discuss ideas for collaboration with ISD and UWA College for 2026 and give welfare packs



15/01/2026	Meeting with Tennille, Jocelyn, ACYA and SSS	Discussions on planning and logistics for Lunar New Year
19/01/2026	Meeting with Professor Guy Littlefair, Paula and Jocelyn	Updates on planning and logistics for Lunar New Year
20/01/2026	UWA Guild Marketing for the cafes	
20/01/2026	Meeting with Pride Officer – Hayley	Introduce ourselves and see where ISD and Pride can collaborate

## PROJECT UPDATE

**Lunar New Year** - The event is scheduled for Tuesday, 24 February, from 11:00am to 2:00pm at Oak Lawn. Planning is well underway in collaboration with International Student Support, and we've confirmed key elements including a Lion Dance performance, light refreshments, and several traditional cultural performances

**ISD Committee** – Secured a full committee with over 55 highly potential candidates. If you need to get in touch with the ISD team, key contacts include Ayush Kalyanpur (Vice President), Nicole Kwaramba (Secretary), Juvincia Riadi (Welfare Director), Sakindu Dassanayake (Education Director), Aditi Podder (Social Director), and Tashla Widanage (PR Director)

**Collaboration with UWA College** – Going for UWA College Orientation on 13 Feb with Reana to introduce the Guild and ISD. We've set up regular catch-ups to see how we can support college students, and ISD successfully handed out welfare packs for UWA College Jan/Feb exams

## FINANCES

Income Statement by Month

Fiscal Month Year	Jan 2026		Feb 2026		Mar 2026		Apr 2026		May 2026		Jun 2026	
G/L Account (Level 1)	Actual	Budget Amount	Actual	Budget Amount	Actual	Budget Amount	Actual	Budget Amount	Actual	Budget Amount	Actual	Budget Amount
5002 PROFIT/(LOSS) BEFORE FINANCE INCOME/(EXPENSE)	223.85	1,398.46	2,872.46	1,572.46	1,272.46	1,227.46						
5003 Operating (Profit)/Loss	223.85	1,398.46	2,872.46	1,572.46	1,272.46	1,227.46						
7000 Administrative Expenses	223.85	1,398.46	2,872.46	1,572.46	1,272.46	1,227.46						
7031 Activities & Functions		1,050.00	1,000.00	1,250.00	1,050.00	1,050.00						
7035 Orientation Day Expenses		225.00	150.00									
7043 Printing & Stationery		33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00						
7060 Advertising & Promotion Expenses			40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00						
7109 General Expenses			14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00						
7176 Equity Initiatives			45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00						
7184 Publications	228.10		1,500.00	100.00								
7283 Software Digital		36.84	36.84	36.84	36.84	36.84						
7566 Depreciation - Property		10.62	10.62	10.62	10.62	10.62						
7620 Utilities	-4.25	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00						
8000 Other Income												
8023 Other Income - Other												
Total	223.85	1,398.46	2,872.46	1,572.46	1,272.46	1,227.46						

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Distributed welfare packs for UWA College for January exam

## DISCUSSION POINTS

To reiterate from summary and the report, I'd love to see the council members in Oak Lawn during the day on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 11am-2pm helping and enjoying. Let me know if you'd like to support in any way.

Also, open to collaborations with the departments, so reach out to me if you have any ideas!

Kind Regards,



**Ojaswi Shrestha**

*113<sup>th</sup> International Students' Department President*

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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**

**Abby Rai**

**ORDINARY GUILD COUNCILLOR  
GUILD COUNCIL REPORT DEC/JAN  
26/1/2025**

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## SUMMARY

Begun discussing small projects prior to the start of university.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
27/11/25	Guild Induction	Introduction to Staff and Guild structures
10/12/25	IT induction	Received Guild email account
26/1/25	Meeting with Guild President	Discussed potential projects and meetings to attend

Commercial Committee did not meet.

## PROJECT UPDATE

### **Zucchini Fries at the Tav**

#### IN PROGRESS

Discussed with Oliver Barrett (Guild President) on points of contact within preparing the Tav menu – due to zucchini fries increasing popularity at places like Grill'd. Have begun liaising with Tav staff around feasibility.

### **Tissues in Every Classroom**

#### PREPARATION

Discussed with Oliver Barrett (Guild President) about the idea of supplying tissue boxes around campus to alleviate pressure on students to bring/source their own tissues (especially during winter months). Preparing for a meeting with library staff to discuss tissue supply in each floor of Reid and other libraries.

### **Wellbeing Initiatives in Week 5-6/11-12**

#### PREPARATION

Discussed with Oliver Barrett (Guild President) about potential food ideas to improve student wellbeing during stressful weeks around mid-semester and before exam study break. Preparing for a meeting with student well-being and engagement.

### **Mid-Sem Study Break in School Holidays**

#### IDEATION

Discussed with Oliver Barrett (Guild President) about changing the mid-semester study break to fit with school holidays, allowing students (with children) to look after their children, supporting working students with retail/entertainment jobs – more shifts during school holidays, enabling students to participate in volunteering programs/lead camps involving children.

## FINANCES

N/A

## ACHIEVEMENTS

None yet.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

None.

Regards,

**Abby Rai**

***113th ORDINARY GUILD COUNCILLOR***

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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
**AJ CHURCH**  
**ORDINARY GUILD COUNCILLOR**  
**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY**  
**26/01/2026**

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## SUMMARY

Over the last two months, I've had a few meetings to discuss potential projects and ideas to improve the student life at university. I'm eager to get into this role and am excited to see at what I can do to benefit students, and hope that my ideas can come to fruition in this upcoming semester.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
01/12/2025	First Guild Council Meeting	
04/12/2025	IT Induction	To set up and have access to my Guild account
09/12/2025	Guild Council SCM	A special council meeting to discuss and approve the budget for the upcoming year
11/12/2025	Guild Council Training by Guild President	To understand my role as an OGC and as a member on guild council. I was unable to make the official one, so this was to catch up.
11/12/2025 & 26/01/2026	Oliver Barrett (Guild President)	Briefly discussed some ideas for projects I could work on this year and committee positions.
26/01/2026	Reana Bose (Guild VP)	Meeting to discuss committee position.

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Men's Mental Health Week + Blue Tree on Campus

- Have a range of activities to raise awareness & to invite the conversation that it is okay to not be okay. This would entail things like the return of the push-up challenge, some workshops of some kind, a Wear Blue Day, and most importantly, bringing a Blue Tree onto campus.
- There was discussion of bringing a Blue Tree onto campus back in 2022, where they painted a Blue Tree on McGillivray Oval (UWA Sports Park) and at University Hall, but I thought I'd reignite the conversation of bringing one onto the main Crawley campus, I've discussed this with Ollie, and we are currently awaiting a response from the Student Life team about whether this can happen.
- Men's Mental Health week officially falls during the exam period (8-14 June), we would have to run it likely a few weeks prior.

### Blood Drive

- Blood is always in demand, and we could make a positive impact throughout Australia through a blood drive, encouraging people to donate blood, potentially by having a pop-up blood donation station on campus (if possible or encourage people to go to their local one / the one in the city).
- Would be nice to get the clubs, colleges, and the community involved as well and have a "club that contributed the most blood", as Lifeblood let you join "teams" for donating blood. Troy (RSD President) is currently in contact with Lifeblood to see where this can go.

## Stationery Supplies Pantry

- *Similar to the food pantry, I think it'd be nice to also have some form of pantry for stationery supplies where people can also donate pens, books, calculators, etc.*
- *Makes it easier to have access to stationery especially in an emergency (e.g., right before an exam) when people can sometimes often forget/have run out of pen ink and need something quickly.*
- *Also allows people to donate old stationery that they aren't using anymore that someone else could use.*

## FINANCES

N/A

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Not yet.

All of the projects are still in a discussion stage.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- Are any of you interested in getting involved with these project ideas?

Kind Regards,

**AJ CHURCH**

**113<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY GUILD COUNCILLOR**

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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
**DANIEL TYERS**  
**ORDINARY GUILD COUNCILLOR**  
**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY**  
**26/1/2026**

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## SUMMARY

Spent most of my time away on a short-term exchange. Preparing some projects to begin work on.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
03/12/2025	IT Induction	Set up email
11/12/2025	Guild Training	Introduction to the Guild, missed original training due to commitments with TLG
21/01/2026	Guild President	Discussed feasibility of potential projects

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Calculator Library

- Libraries currently have limited stocks of scientific calculators and there is little knowledge on this service amongst students
- Will be joining a Guild-Library Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of Feb to discuss increasing stock and/or visibility

### Bouldering Wall on Campus

- Discussed with the Guild President, may be difficult to resource this project, due to having to find a space for the wall and justifying the cost
- Will be reaching out to a UWA Sport contact regarding the feasibility of the project

## FINANCES

N/A

## ACHIEVEMENTS

None.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

None.

Regards,

**Daniel Tyers**

**113th Ordinary Guild Councillor**

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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**

**HENRY WALKER**

**OGC**

**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY**

**26/01/2025**

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## SUMMARY

This month, I have been coordinating with Kings Park (BGPA) to organise both community and volunteering engagement with our neighbours in the park. Additionally, I have begun research into the pricing of UWA sporting and entertainment venues to assess the feasibility of reducing costs for club and individual usage.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

NA – SSC yet to commence, SRC meeting not required in January

## PROJECT UPDATE

Kings Park Engagement:

- Clarified objectives for the volunteering program
- Discussed potential dates and logistics for a proposed education-based volunteering engagement
- Discussed potential community engagement projects between the Guild and BGPA in relation to events such as Lightscape, Spring festival and ODAY
- TO DOS: Forward partnership offer to Guild Volunteering, reach out to the UWA School of indigenous Studies for involvement in this engagement

Venue hire research:

- Collated a list of venue hire listed pricings from Guild, UWA and UWA Sport sources
- Discussed pricing with clubs RE: what prices have they actually paid in the past, and what price would they pay for certain venues (listed prices vs actual prices do vary)
- TO DO: Write a proposal to send to different venues structured to show the value proposition to the venue and for students

## FINANCES

NA

## ACHIEVEMENTS

NA

## DISCUSSION POINTS

NA

Regards,

**Henry Walker**

**113th Council - OGC**

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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**

**Hukambir Singh Kohli**

**OGC**

**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY**

**27/01/2026**

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## SUMMARY

Having completed IT induction and started induction and handover process for Tenancy Chair position

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

N/A

## PROJECT UPDATE

Building a multi-faith and multi-religious prayer room for students of different backgrounds to be able to use, in collaboration with Ethno department and other relevant stakeholders. Process has started by Emma in attending and organising meetings, which I too hope to attend in the near future.

## FINANCES

N/A

## ACHIEVEMENTS

N/A

## DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

Regards,

**Hukambir Singh Kohli**

**113th OGC**

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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
**LOUIS BIRD**  
**ORDINARY GUILD COUNCILLOR**  
**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY**  
**28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**

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## SUMMARY

I have had a number of preliminary meetings to start each of my projects and have been working on them over the break. I have gained an understanding of potential issues and who needs to be involved in various decisions which will inform my project planning. Unfortunately, as I am not on campus until early February, I haven't been able to meet with staff since December. I hope to continue planning over the break and be ready to meet with staff members and student representatives once semester starts.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
<i>16<sup>th</sup> October 2025</i>	<i>Tony Goodman- Managing Director</i>	<i>Discussed my plans for 2026, with a focus on Student Assist.</i>
<i>21<sup>st</sup> October 2025</i>	<i>Ollie Barrett</i>	<i>Discussed my plans for 2026 and what support is needed from the Guild and University.</i>
<i>18<sup>th</sup> November 2025</i>	<i>Jack Spagnuolo- Associate Director Commercial</i>	<i>Discussed the introduction of Food Waste Bins for students on campus.</i>
<i>19<sup>th</sup> November 2025</i>	<i>Lizzie Moorhouse- Volunteering Manager</i>	<i>Discussed Guild Gardens and what can be done to improve the gardens and overall program.</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> December 2025</i>	<i>Guild Council</i>	<i>New constitutions passed and positions elected. See minutes.</i>
<i>9<sup>th</sup> December 2025</i>	<i>Special Guild Council (Budget)</i>	<i>Passed final policy documents and budget. See minutes</i>
<i>20<sup>th</sup> January 2026</i>	<i>Ollie Barrett</i>	<i>Discussed plans for 2026 after my discussions with staff members.</i>



## PROJECT UPDATE

### **Guild Gardens**

This project is to revitalise the Guild Gardens and the associated volunteering program. The current gardens are near a construction site and need to be reestablished as a pleasant space for students. I have discussed the gardens with Ollie and Lizzie on multiple occasions and plan to work with the coordinator of the program within Guild Volunteering. I am currently working out a plan of what the garden could look like and considering how it can become a space that students would like to use. More work will be done once I have met the coordinator.

### **Student Assist**

I would like to ensure that student assist remains an effective support service for students, by matching student demand with the service provided. I have discussed this project with Tony Goodman (Managing Director) and Ollie Barrett (President). I am gaining a better understanding of the current operations of Student Assist and will look to communicate with staff and pursue this project through the Student Services Committee once semester commences.

### **Food Waste Bins**

My aim is to have food waste bins in accessible to students, likely in student kitchens. I have discussed this project with Jack Spagnolo and there is the possibility of a trial. I have written a draft project plan and hope to see a trial of food waste bins in student kitchens during the year.

## FINANCES

N/A

## ACHIEVEMENTS

N/A

## DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

I am looking forward to being back on campus and engaging with both representatives and staff to see these projects progress!

Regards,



**Louis Bird**  
*113th Ordinary Guild Councillor*  
[louis.bird26@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:louis.bird26@guild.uwa.edu.au)  
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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
**RAMA SUGIARTHA**  
**ORDINARY GUILD COUNCILLOR**  
**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY 2026**  
**25/1/2025**

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## SUMMARY

Small projects have been commenced prior to the start of uni. Relatively quiet months as students are away.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
8/1/2025	IT Induction	Added another mailbox to the ranks.
21/1/2025	Guild President	Discussed possible projects, proposed Australian Tertiary Education Commission (Universities Australia) legislation, and proposed motions.

Media and Publications, Equity and Diversity did not meet. Attended the National Union of Students National Conference 8-12 December as an elected delegate.

## PROJECT UPDATE

### **Livestreaming / Conference Equipment in Guild Council**

#### IN PROGRESS

Liaising with Guild IT informally about viability before launching a formal push. Provides improved connection when Councillors are joining online and improves the space as a meeting room for larger club committees.

### **Reviewing Guild Stances**

#### IN PROGRESS

Reviewing the Guild Stances for stances that may conflict with current positions but not yet directly opposed. Reviewing for gaps in stances where strong support exists and writing motions to fill these gaps.

### **Protest and Privacy Rights Campaign**

#### PREPARATION

Developing material to be shared when the Guild endorses protest action so students have a better understanding of what to expect. Will draft and distribute to Council members for their feedback and subsequent iterations.

### **New CCZ Lockers**

#### IDEATION

Briefly discussed with Oliver (Guild President) the idea of removing little used computer desks in Club Collaborative Zone and future replacement with further large lockers, always in high demand for clubs. The Guild should also investigate options for the long term storage of club equipment such as marquees on a space restricted campus.

More fun, impactful projects to come soon, stay tuned!

## FINANCES

N/A

## ACHIEVEMENTS

None yet.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

The Guild must be dynamic and responsive to the happenings in the world. It must keep track of higher education policy at the state and national level. It should provide information to students on their rights, political developments to watch, and satisfy student amenity needs.

Regards,



Rama Sugiarta

*113th Ordinary Guild Councillor*

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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
**RUBY WOOD-HILL**  
**ORDINARY GUILD COUNCILLOR**  
**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT DEC/JAN**  
**28<sup>TH</sup> JAN/2026**

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## SUMMARY

Back home for the holidays. Enjoying rest/planning/brainstorming for year to come!

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
16/01/26	IT Induction	To be educated on cyber safety and gain access to guild email.
20/01/26	WA Fossil Fuels Greenwashing Collab	Met virtually with climate activists/organisations working on campaigns organised by CCWA to get inspiration for divestment campaign.
20/01/26	Debrief call with Victoria Pavy (Go Beyond Gas)	Briefly talked about points brought up that we can use here at UWA!

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Divestment Campaign

- Weekly meetings? Might help with momentum
- Contact staff union to get their support
- Maybe an insta post talking about guild's intentions, link to petition for students and staff to sign

## FINANCES

N/A

## ACHIEVEMENTS

N/A

## DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

Regards,

**RUBY WOOD-HILL**

**113th ORDINARY GUILD COUNCILLOR**

[ruby.wood-hill26@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:ruby.wood-hill26@guild.uwa.edu.au)

## **OGC Thomas Pearce January Guild Council Report 2026**

The beginning of 2026 has seen a barrage of new horrors.

Trump's fascist regime in America continues to wreak havoc on the world, kidnapping the President of Venezuela and threatening to annex Greenland. The US is the strongest military power, and is exerting its power to dominate the world and exert its will to shape the world as it sees fit. Might is right.

Within America, fascist militias are roaming the streets—ICE has executed two civilians within the past two and a half weeks, both in Minneapolis. They have detained children in kindergarten, they continue to break into schools, hospitals and homes to deport immigrants and working class people. People in Minneapolis are fighting back; following the murder of Renee Good, a strike of 50,000 workers drowned the streets of Minneapolis in resistance, demanding ICE is kicked out of Minneapolis. Following the murder of Daniel Pritty, these protests escalated and spread to other states. This is the character of the government that the Australian Labour Party is desperate to maintain a working relationship with.

Isaac Herzog, the President of Israel, is being toured around Australia in February by the Australian Labour Party. Herzog is the head of a genocidal regime, and has been personally indicted for war crimes. He has overseen the destruction of 94% of hospitals, and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in Australia. It is outrageous our government invites this war criminal to Australia and underscores the deep support that Albanese has for Israel as they continue their genocide in Palestine.

I have used my time and representation as an Ordinary Guild Councillor to attend organising meetings of Students of Palestine, particularly to build and promote the protest being organised against Isaac Herzog in February. I also built and attended the most recent Invasion Day march, to stand in solidarity with Indigenous people in this country who continue to resist their oppression and racism under this racist system.



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113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL

NAME

POSITION

GUILD COUNCIL REPORT [MONTH]

[DATE]/2025

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### SUMMARY

Transitionary period between council years, worked to establish communications for Commercial Committee. Worked on PROSH, chose Charity Partners, roughly outlined media schedule and Guild collaboration, finalised designs, shirts and logos for this year's PROSH. Worked with Ollie and Leigh to discuss plans for O-Day and O-Day Afters. Have been planning PROSH events.

### MEETINGS ATTENDED

Date	Meeting	Purpose
5/12/25	With Hannah Bygrave, Lizzie Moorhouse	Selected PROSH Charity Partners
9/12/25	Guild Council Special Budget Meeting	Discussed and approved Guild budget.
12/12/25	With Hannah Bygrave, Lizzie Moorhouse	PROSH business, outlined plans for following months.
14/1/26	With Gus Potenza	Established communications for Commercial Committee, first introductions. Additionally, discussed future PROSH events and sponsorships.
16/1/26	With Kelvin Lee	Discussed plans for PROSH's eftpos machines on PROSH day, and planned Marshall Training to set up Square Apps for participants on PROSH Day.
23/1/26	With Gypsy Treacy	Discussed plans for PROSH collaboration with Guild marketing team, outlined schedule for posts, PR events and media releases, as well as potential future media interviews.

### PROJECT UPDATE



PROSH is progressing ahead of schedule compared to previous years. Will schedule a first meeting and appointment of EO for Commercial Committee following the Guild Council Meeting 28/01/2026

#### FINANCES

NA

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

NA

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

NA

Regards,

**Xavier Anthony**

**113th [OGC]**

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113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL

Tara Mishra

Public Affairs Council

GUILD COUNCIL REPORT – December & January

26/01/2025

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## SUMMARY

December and January has been a slow 2 months of mostly learning the roles and duties of PAC. Theme weeks are beginning to be organised, as well as grant allocation and orientation week activities.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

Date	Meeting	Purpose
1/12/25	Guild Council	
8/12/25	Marketing Induction	Gain access to PAC socials
8/12/25	IT Induction	Gain access to emails, one drive and teams
9/12/25	Special Budget Meeting	Discuss and pass the guild budget
11/12/25	Ollie Barrett Guild President	Discuss guild council training and the main takeaways to be aware of as I was not present for the session previously
13/1/26	Finance Induction	Learn about the finance allocations for PAC and how to gain reimbursements
16/1/26	PAC Committee	Discuss O'day and guild on the green activities and participation
25/1/26	Koki Chong PAC Treasurer	Discuss possible grant allocation for theme weeks and innovation grant
26/1/26	Ethan Tan	Discuss the role of PAC within clubs and gain advice for the year

## PROJECT UPDATE

- Nothing yet!

## FINANCES

Fiscal Month Year	2026	Sep 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026	Total	
G/L Account (Level 1)	jet Amount	Actual	Budget Amount	Actual	Budget Amount	Actual	Budget Amount
5002 PROFIT/(LOSS) BEFORE FINANCE INCOME/(EXPENSE)	2,153.00		1,338.00	1,038.00	38.00	38.00	5,236.56
5003 Operating (Profit)/Loss	2,153.00		1,338.00	1,038.00	38.00	38.00	5,236.56
7000 Administrative Expenses	2,153.00		1,338.00	1,038.00	38.00	38.00	5,236.56
7031 Activities & Functions			800.00				1,200.00
7035 Orientation Day Expenses							400.00
7042 Theme Week	715.00		500.00				1,800.70
7043 Printing & Stationery	13.00		13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	6.05
7250 Grants, Awards & Prizes							1,000.00
7251 Awards & Prizes				1,000.00			1,000.00
7253 Grants	1,400.00						2,247.42
7283 Software Digital	25.00		25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	182.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,153.00</b>		<b>1,338.00</b>	<b>1,038.00</b>	<b>38.00</b>	<b>38.00</b>	<b>5,236.56</b>

- No money has been spent from the budget so far.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- None for this month but slowly working there

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- None for this month

Regards,

**Tara Mishra**  
***113th PAC President***  
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## SUMMARY

January has been a productive month for the Pride Department, with a key focus on refurbishing the club room to make it an environment conducive to planning and hosting club events. We are thrilled to have filled all of our committee positions with individuals who are intent on ensuring Pride advocates for LGBTQIA+ students on and off campus. Our main goal before the semester begins is to create an agenda and action plan for the events and projects our committee will undertake in 2026.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<i>Various dates</i>	<i>Pride Officer and Deputy Meetings.</i>	<i>Committee Management: to organise the committee structure, evaluate candidates, follow-up with prospective members and determine standards for communication and delegation. Project planning: To prepare a potential timeline, note key dates, and partition budget for our proposed endeavours. Pride Room Development: To continue the process of refurbishing and renovating the Pride room together; key actions taken include taking stock of inventory, ensuring all perishables were within usable dates, and establishing an online library loaning system while organising books to be donated.</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025.</i>	<i>Informal discussions with the International Students Department, Women's Department, Ethnocultural Department, Access Department.</i>	<i>To discuss collaboration between our departments.</i>
<i>9<sup>th</sup> December 2025</i>	<i>Meeting with Human Library Perth.</i>	<i>Ongoing discussions to organise an LGBTQIA+ focused "Human Library" event on campus. Aiming to provide a conduit for education and awareness for both LGBTQIA+ students and the broader UWA community.</i>

12 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Meeting with Deputy Officer.	To discuss the Pride Department's stall at O-Day, cost ideas and book the equipment required.
20 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Teams meeting with Emma (Ethnocultural Officer).	To discuss collaboration between our departments – events and projects.
20 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Teams meeting with Ojaswi (International Students Officer).	To discuss collaboration between our departments – events and projects.
22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	Teams meeting with Blake (Access Officer).	To discuss collaboration between our departments – events and projects.

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Renovation of Pride Club Room

In December, we began painting and deep cleaning the Pride Clubroom. Over two months, we have been building and installing new pieces of furniture, organising inventory, curating a loanable LGBTQIA+ bookshelf and finally, refurbishing the room to ensure it functions as a safe and welcoming environment for all students who access it. We prioritised education and awareness in our club displays, focusing on paying tribute to our earlier department members, people who fought for change globally, and those whose voices were silenced. The loanable bookshelf was established as one of our first projects because we felt it was necessary to have an abundance of resources on Queer activism, oppression, and history available to the student body. As the semester goes on, our efforts to promote education and underscore the very importance of Pride itself will remain at the forefront of all our projects.

We would like to thank the 2025 committee for their assistance in painting the club room.

### Pride Committee 2026

We are holding our first committee meeting on the 3rd of February. This meeting will serve as a warm onboarding for our committee members, while we establish standards for communication and collaboration. We hope to finalise our agenda for orientation day and produce a timeline for our department's undertakings in the year ahead.

### Outspoken Publication

We have decided that we would like to produce an issue of Outspoken in 2026. Outspoken is an annual magazine that Pride produces, which collates submissions from students centred around a key theme. No updates to share on this project yet, but we will be liaising with both our Education & Publication Officer and the rest of the department to determine a working theme and create an action plan for its implementation.

We are interested in collaborating with other Guild departments who publish an annual paper.

### UWA at Pride 2026

We have noticed that UWA has not been visible during the Pride WA parade for a few years, and we as a collective department feel it is essential for prospective and current students to see UWA visible alongside many other educational institutions.

We were keen on reaching out to see if anyone within the Guild would be interested in helping us organise a float for the 2026 parade which will be held in November.

## FINANCES

Budget Comparison														
Fiscal Month Year	Sep 2026		Oct 2026		Nov 2026		Dec 2026		Total					
Global Dimension 1	Budget Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance
NC-12-PRIDE	490.00	-490.00		610.00	-610.00		585.00	-585.00		25.00	-25.00		4,495.00	-4,495.00
Income Statement	490.00	-490.00		610.00	-610.00		585.00	-585.00		25.00	-25.00		4,495.00	-4,495.00
8024 Sundry Income	-120.00	120.00											-1,860.00	1,860.00
7740 Uniforms													20.00	-20.00
7283 Software Digital	25.00	-25.00		25.00	-25.00		25.00	-25.00		25.00	-25.00		300.00	-300.00
7179 Handbooks													200.00	-200.00
7109 General Expenses	85.00	-85.00		85.00	-85.00		85.00	-85.00					850.00	-850.00
7043 Printing & Stationery													500.00	-500.00
7042 Theme Week	300.00	-300.00		300.00	-300.00		275.00	-275.00					2,000.00	-2,000.00
7035 Orientation Day Expenses													460.00	-460.00
7031 Activities & Functions	200.00	-200.00		200.00	-200.00		200.00	-200.00					2,025.00	-2,025.00
Total	490.00	-490.00		610.00	-610.00		585.00	-585.00		25.00	-25.00		4,495.00	-4,495.00

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Filled all advertised executive and ordinary committee roles: Secretary, Events, Social Media, Logistics and Finance, Advocacy and Engagement, Education and Publication.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- If you are interested in collaborating with the Pride Department for events or projects over the course of 2026, please email [pride@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:pride@guild.uwa.edu.au) and we can organise a meeting to discuss further.

Regards,



Hayley Paku  
Pride Officer  
[pride@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:pride@guild.uwa.edu.au)





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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
*Jay Williams*  
*PSA President*  
**January Council Report**  
*28/01/26*

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## SUMMARY

*It's been an exciting and hectic two months as I've taken over and settled in to being the PSA President. Definitely an adjustment to running a Department and planning events but I've enjoyed the change of pace and am looking forward to the year ahead. I attended my first Senate, have gotten stuck into some good work with my executive team, and went to the National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference! I feel incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated and hard working executive team who I know will help make PSA more visible and able to engage with postgrads in 2026.*

*PSA have been planning a lot of different things and event ideas for 2026 and are currently working on a marketing and events schedule to scale up our engagement with postgrads, especially in anticipation of O-Week. I've really enjoyed settling into this role, advocating to the University and working much more collaboratively and closely with the Guild's incredible staff!*

*Want to give a special shoutout to my predecessor Charlie Backshall for being elected the Media and Communications Officer for the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) and also extend an extra congratulations to UWA students Suchi Kalia and Rama Sugiartha for their elections to NUS Office Bearer positions. Looking forward to seeing UWA students be great advocates at the national level.*

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
01/12/25	Managing Director	Council discussions and regulation changes update.
01/12/25	Guild President	Preparation for first Guild Council.
01/12/25	Guild Council	
02/12/25	Chloe Keller	Discussed the Guild Council minutes, resolutions and updates on the rules that passed previous nights Guild Council.
02/12/25	Guild President, Isaac Petruzio and Sam Irwin	Reel filming for Year 12's as ATAR results are pending and wishing them luck for the break.
02/12/25	Marketing Induction	Got access to the PSA Instagram and Facebook so I can prepare committee applications.
03/12/25	PSA Coursework VP	Sat down with Max to go over his plans and vision for the year and discuss what areas of the University he's particularly passionate about working with.
03/12/25	Convocation/Alumni Council	Attended my first Convocation Council Meeting, introducing myself to members and getting updates from the Treasurer, AB Chair, the Warden, and other members.
04/12/25	Student Advisory Working Party (SAWP)	Attended the SAWP meeting and received updates from all the stream leads on their activities over the year. Nothing of significance to note.
04/12/25	Guild Christmas Party	Attended the Guild Staff-Student Christmas Party. Was a nice way to bring 112-113 Councils' together and celebrate the work of

		<i>the Guild for the past year and prepare for the year ahead.</i>
<i>05/12/25</i>	<i>Council of Australian Postgraduates Association (CAPA) ACM</i>	<i>Attended online and listened to the activities of CAPA for the year. Then voted to elect the new office bearers for 2026.</i>
<i>05/12/25</i>	<i>Mace Bearer Training</i>	<i>Went to mace bearer training to prepare to bear the mace at an upcoming graduation.</i>
<i>05/12/25</i>	<i>Senate Induction</i>	<i>Attended Senate Induction with Ollie where we received a Governance presentation for Kimalee and Mia, talking us through our roles as student members of the UWA Senate.</i>
<i>08/12/25</i>	<i>Christina Young</i>	<i>Received my HR Induction for Christina so I can be set up in Employment Hero and started getting paid.</i>
<i>08/12/25</i>	<i>Senate Headshot</i>	<i>Had my official Senate photo taken in the Chancellor's Room.</i>
<i>08/12/25</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>Attended my first Senate as a UWA Senator. Contributed to the meeting and heard a lot of interesting items.</i>
<i>08/12/25</i>	<i>Senate Dinner</i>	<i>End-of-year Senate Dinner at the University Club. Was great to sit down with some of the Senators and have a more in-depth discussion about my role and learn about them and their professional experiences.</i>
<i>09/12/25</i>	<i>National Union of Students Conference Day 2</i>	<i>Day 2 of National Conference, it was unable to meet quorum due to some factions abstaining so not much happened this day.</i>
<i>09/12/25</i>	<i>Special Guild Council Budget Meeting</i>	<i>Passed the Guild budget and CAPEX for the year.</i>
<i>10/12/25</i>	<i>National Union of Students Conference Day 3</i>	<i>Day 3 of NatCon, finally met quorum and went through the Student Unionism and some of the Education Chapter. Lots of spirited debate.</i>
<i>11/12/25</i>	<i>National Union of Students Conference Day 4</i>	<i>Day 4 of NatCon, finished the Education chapter, Ethnocultural Chapter and Women's Chapter. Elections were held for the NUS positions as well.</i>
<i>12/12/25</i>	<i>Director of Student Life and Community Interview</i>	<i>Sat on the interview panel for the new Director of Student Life. Met and heard from the outstanding candidates and provided my opinions and insights to the rest of the hiring panel.</i>
<i>16/12/25</i>	<i>Reel Filming</i>	<i>Filmed reel with Ollie to wish students a happy holidays and a nice Christmas.</i>
<i>16/12/25</i>	<i>University Appeals Committee (UAC) Hearing</i>	<i>Confidential.</i>
<i>16/12/25</i>	<i>Mace Bearing</i>	<i>Was the Mace Bearer at one of the graduations, was great to see all the</i>

		<i>students graduating and celebrate their achievements and hard work.</i>
17/12/25	<i>Guild Staff Christmas Delivery</i>	<i>Went around to all the Guild staff with Ollie and Tony and delivered them hand-signed cards and a bottle of wine.</i>
17/12/25	<i>Future Students Bi-Monthly Catch-Up</i>	<i>Cancelled.</i>
17/12/25	<i>Guild President</i>	<i>Sat down with Ollie to discuss Council for the year and different goals and objectives we want to achieve in our term.</i>
17/12/25	<i>TRCB Architects</i>	<i>Met with the Guild's Architects to discuss the renovations to the North Wing of the Guild.</i>
18/12/25	<i>Helene de Burgh-Woodman, Zach Aman and Chloe Bull</i>	<i>Met with the PVC's of Innovation and Research Training as well as Chloe to discuss a new PhD in Entrepreneurship.</i>
18/12/25	<i>Bottomless Brunch Photoshoot</i>	<i>Attended the photoshoot to promote the Tavern's new bottomless brunch.</i>
05/01/26	<i>Charlie Backshall</i>	<i>Met with Charlie to discuss some University Club matters and other final PSA handover stuff.</i>
07/01/26	<i>Peter Toll, Chair of University Club Board</i>	<i>Caught up with Peter for a coffee in the city to discuss my role as a member of the UniClub Board and further opportunities for collaboration between PSA and UniClub.</i>
07/01/26	<i>PSA Executive</i>	<i>Had my first meeting with my executive team for the year. We did some expectation setting, set goals for the year, appointed committee positions, discussed some plans and events as well as general plan for O-Day and Guild on the Green.</i>
08/01/26	<i>Finance Induction</i>	<i>Had my induction with the finance team so I can get my head around how to use the systems and submit/approve POs. Shoutout finance team for a great induction.</i>
12/01/26	<i>PSA Research VP</i>	<i>Met with Hunter to discuss his role as Research VP, including different committees, expectations and the role of PSA in supporting HDR students.</i>
12/01/26	<i>Guild President</i>	<i>Discussed various different University Committee appointments with Ollie.</i>
13/01/26	<i>Farewell Morning Tea for Fernanda</i>	<i>Went to a Guild staff farewell morning tea for Fernanda who is moving on to work at the City of Perth. She will be missed!</i>
13/01/26	<i>PSA General Secretary</i>	<i>Met with Annika to discuss her role as General Secretary, including the management of budget, role expectations and managing the committee.</i>
13/01/26	<i>Guild Vice-President</i>	<i>Met with Reana to discuss the Media and Publications Committee and her role as Chair of the Committee.</i>

14/01/26	Venture Advisory Committee	Sat down with Ollie, Tony, Chloe and Isabelle to brainstorm Ventures future and different ideas we have for Venture going forward.
15/01/26	PSA Engagements VP	Met with Alyssa to discuss the Engagements VP role. We brainstormed different events we can run, the budget she has to work with, and the socials committee.
20/01/26	Events Coordinator Interview	Sat on the interview panel for a candidate for a casual Events Coordinator position at the Guild.
20/01/26	Volunteering x PSA	Met with Lizzie to discuss different volunteering opportunities for postgraduate students and how we can better engage the postgrad cohort.
21/01/26	Governance Committee	Attended first Governance Committee meeting of the year where we elected Eva the EO, recommended Insiah to be GenSec, passed PROSH Rules, and then discussed the activities of the committee for the year.
21/01/26	PSA Welfare VP	Met with Kai to discuss the Welfare VP role. We brainstormed different events we could run, utilising the sub-committee, the PSA common room and the general expectations of the role.
21/01/26	PSA Engagements VP	Met with Alyssa to discuss my meeting with volunteering and the opportunities for engagements and volunteering to collaborate.
21/01/26	PSA Engagements Sub-Committee	Sat down with the entire engagements sub-committee to map out the events for the semester, the social media calendar and brainstorm plans for Guild on the Green and O-Day.
22/01/26	Guild President and Guild Vice-President	Spoke to Reana about joining Academic Board and the responsibilities that come with it, and chatted about other consultation matters.
22/01/26	Sports Officer and PSA Engagements VP	Caught up with Zen and Alyssa to flesh out the details of PSA Sporting Event, including the potential to collaborate with Sport and UWA Sport.

## PROJECT UPDATE

### **Nominations for University Committees**

Received a list of University Committees that the PSA President or nominee sits on from the Academic Secretary, Kabilan. I went through the process of deciding who was bit fit for these committee's including Hunter and Max (my Research and Coursework VPs) and various Faculty Society leaders from Blackstone, ECOMS and HSS. This project has now been complete, look forward to seeing how they all contribute!

### **Nappy Boxes in Parent Rooms**

*This project was launched by the previous PSA President, Charlie, in her term to great success in both the Reid and Barry J Parent Rooms. I've decided to keep the project going and expand it further. I spoke to the Library team about opportunities for expansion and they identified the Medical-Dental Library. Huge shoutout to Jack and the Commercial team who ordered various sets of nappies for me as well. Next steps are securing another box and then dropping it off to the med campus. Will continue to check all three boxes every 6 weeks to 2 months to ensure they remain stocked for our parents on campus!*

### **Common Room Upgrade**

*The Common Room is taken care of the PSA Welfare Vice-President! Feel grateful that I got an extraordinary VP in Kai who is keen to get stuck into his role. I'm meeting with him in-person next week to tour the Common Room and will brainstorm ideas with my executive on how we can further upgrade and promote the space to postgraduate students to ensure they can maximise its use. Will also be creating a cleaning roster so the space remains tidy and fit for use all year round.*

### **PSA Volunteering Program**

*Early in my term I spoke to Lizzie who mentioned that a lot of postgraduate students come down and get involved in volunteering events throughout the year. That got me thinking about different opportunities for PSA and Volunteering to collab and potentially create a postgraduate-specific volunteering program. I set up a more formal meeting with Lizzie to discuss various opportunities including a blood drive, involvement in sports clubs, and different skill building volunteering.*

*Next steps for this project are to flush out a more solidified plan with my team, including Alyssa and Kai. Will also be meeting with Julia and potentially Ethan soon to get their thoughts and perspectives on how we can bolster postgraduate volunteering. Looking forward to seeing what comes of this and hope to have a bigger update in February or March!*

### **PSA Survey**

*I have a feeling there is definite survey fatigue amongst the student body, especially after the onslaught of surveys there were in 2024. In saying that, 2024 surveys gave us a lot of good data to guide what the Guild did in 2025. To my knowledge there hasn't been a postgraduate-specific survey in a while. In speaking with Hunter in our sit down it was something that came up that we are interested in exploring.*

*Hunter and I are going to start going through the process of writing the survey and getting feedback from the committee, and then speak to marketing about how we can push it out to collect a lot of data we can use to inform the support and events we run in 2026, as well as include in the handover for PSA in 2027.*

### **Guild on the Green and O-Day**

*Guild on the Green and O-Day are fast approaching and are a core opportunity for PSA to get our faces out there and engage with new and returning postgrad students. We have begun planning for both days including different games, prizes, reels and promotional things we can do at our PSA stall. We've also ordered new PSA shirts, stubby holders and pens to give out on both these days. Looking forward to seeing how this takes shape and hope for a successful O-Week!*

### **Meeting with FacSoc and Club Leaders**

*As is typical for PSA Presidents of the past, I've begun scheduling meetings with various Faculty Society and Club Presidents who represent large portions of postgraduate students. These meetings are beginning next week and include the PMSS, Blackstone, UEC, WAMSS, Science Union and Physics Presidents'. Look forward to discussing how we can collaborate and support them and will update in February report.*



### University Club Engagement

A key part of my role as PSA President is to sit on the University Club of WA Board. UniClub offers a lot of opportunities for PSA to run events and provide value to our students. I'm currently in the process of setting up meetings with Brad and Nicole to discuss the commercial side of this relationship (running events here, holding meetings here, attending breakfast by the bays etc). I also sat down with Peter Toll, who is the Chair of the Board, and discussed my role as a Board member and how I can effectively contribute over the coming year. Look forward to further developing this relationship and working with UniClub.

### PSA Committee Appointments

PSA has a massive committee so I was so glad to see so many people apply to be a part of this year, I think that's a major testament to the hard work of Charlie and her executive last year making the PSA more visible and engaged. We had well over 30 applications and were able to fill almost every position, including the Welfare Vice-President. The process involved the PSA exec meeting and going through every applicant, and agreeing by majority who was the most suitable for each role. In the end we were able to fill every position bar two research reps and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer, all three will be reopened around O-Day so we can hopefully have a full PSA Committee by the start of Semester 1!

### Events Calendar for Semester 1

Alyssa and I are currently in the process of mapping out an events calendar for PSA in Semester 1, with a flushed out list of different events we want to run, from Social, to Welfare, to Education and Networking. Will also align with our volunteering goals we are working on. If any Department is keen to collab, please reach out. Hope to have this finalised by the end of February.

### PSA Newsletter

The PSA Newsletter, the Post, is making a comeback in 2026! Haven't exactly decided on the format but thinking I will send out roughly 4 newsletters a Semester to keep postgrads informed on the work of the PSA and the Guild and promote upcoming events and promotions that they might be interested in checking out. If any Department wants something added to the Post, reach out. Aiming to send the first Post out on the first day of Semester.

## FINANCES

### Budget Comparison

Fiscal Month Year	Sep 2026			Oct 2026			Nov 2026			Total		
Global Dimension 1	ial	Budget Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance
☐ NC-11-PSA		13,790.83	-13,790.83		7,102.59	-7,102.59		17,640.83	-17,640.83	1,799.90	123,254.98	-121,455.08
☐ Income Statement		13,790.83	-13,790.83		7,102.59	-7,102.59		17,640.83	-17,640.83	1,799.90	123,254.98	-121,455.08
6811 Annual Leave											217.65	-217.65
6835 Superannuation		308.56	-308.56		337.95	-337.95		308.56	-308.56	21.71	3,756.27	-3,734.56
6841 Workers Compensation		24.97	-24.97		27.34	-27.34		24.97	-24.97	-4.16	304.90	-309.06
6850 Long Service Leave		58.90	-58.90		64.51	-64.51		58.90	-58.90	-438.06	719.34	-1,157.40
6880 Salaries and Wages - Permanent Staff		2,356.12	-2,356.12		2,580.51	-2,580.51		2,356.12	-2,356.12	527.79	28,774.24	-28,246.45
7031 Activities & Functions		2,700.00	-2,700.00		2,700.00	-2,700.00		13,500.00	-13,500.00	744.00	42,750.00	-42,006.00
7035 Orientation Day Expenses										548.91	2,500.00	-1,951.09
7043 Printing & Stationery										75.08	500.00	-424.92
7060 Advertising & Promotion Expenses		100.00	-100.00		100.00	-100.00		100.00	-100.00		1,000.00	-1,000.00
7109 General Expenses		30.00	-30.00		30.00	-30.00		30.00	-30.00	147.00	360.00	-213.00
7141 Affiliation Expenses											8,000.00	-8,000.00
7147 Conferences					550.00	-550.00		550.00	-550.00		2,200.00	-2,200.00
7184 Publications		70.00	-70.00		70.00	-70.00		70.00	-70.00		700.00	-700.00
7351 Awards & Prizes		500.00	-500.00								1,500.00	-1,500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,790.83</b>	<b>-13,790.83</b>		<b>7,102.59</b>	<b>-7,102.59</b>		<b>17,640.83</b>	<b>-17,640.83</b>	<b>1,799.90</b>	<b>123,254.98</b>	<b>-121,455.08</b>

*For some reason my Wiise isn't working properly so I couldn't export my budget properly. Will see finance sometime this week to sort. This screenshot was the best I could do.*

## ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY

### **Convocation Council**

*Attended my first Convocation/Alumni Council of my term. Was nice to meet some of the convocation members and see some familiar faces. Ollie and I gave verbal reports outlining who we are, our roles and some of the big goals for the year.*

*Main aspect of the meeting was a recap of the activities of the group for the year including Treasurer's report, an Academic Board update, Convocation Senator's report, a Strategic Plan update, Award Committee's report, and the Warden's Report. Not lots to update in this meeting, was mostly just a recap of the activities for the year.*

### **Student Achievement Working Party Meeting**

*The SAWP meeting mainly consisted on discussion of student experience at UWA this year and a recap of all the SAWP streams. Was mostly just verbal reports so nothing really to add but we also approved the new meeting dates for next year so will continue to contribute to this group in the coming year. Streams included:*

- *First Year Experience*
- *Inclusion, Belonging and Wellbeing*
- *Student Experience 2030*
- *Employability and Career Development*
- *Journal Club*

## DISCUSSION POINTS

I've really enjoyed settling into my role as PSA President. As you may be able to tell from my report I am anticipating a hectic Semester for the Department and so trying to get as organised and everything planned if possible whilst I also juggle studying my Masters. I am very open to collaborating on events or just lending a hand where needed with other Departments, just reach out! Happy to take a meeting if you just want to bounce ideas around as well. I have a feeling 113 is going to be the best one yet!

Warm regards,



**Jay Williams**

**Postgraduate Students' Association President**

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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
**TROY WOOD**  
**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**  
**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY**  
**26/01/2026**

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## SUMMARY

Over the December and January period the Department focused on two goals during this period: establishing a long-term strategic direction for inter-college engagement and ensuring the continuity of core operations ahead of Semester 1, 2026. This period has seen many successes with stakeholder relationships and strategic planning, mainly the success of Memorandums of Understanding being signed with Colleges. This period has also had its challenges due to Guild's training being in-person only, although this has not stopped the Department from setting itself up for a fantastic year.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
1-5/12/25	NAAUC Conference	As outlined in NAAUC report attachment
01/12/25	Guild Council Meeting	As outlined in GC Agenda
08/12/25	Guild Marketing Induction	Be inducted to RSD social media pages
08/12/25	Guild IT Induction	Be inducted to Guild IT systems
09/12/25	Special Guild Council Meeting	As outlined in GC Agenda
11/12/25	Executive Meeting	Discuss RSD business and strategic planning
06/01/26	Trinity Residential College Staff	Establish working relationship and, Agree on an MoU agreement
12/01/26	St Thomas Moore College Staff	Establish working relationship and, Agree on an MoU agreement
13/01/26	University Hall Staff	Establish working relationship and, Agree on an MoU agreement
23/01/26	Lifeblood	Discuss potential RSD Blood Drive collaboration

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Fresher Dance

*Fresher Dance is a long-standing tradition held at Matilda Bay Reserve with all of College Row's Freshers. Scheduled for Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am, the event features choreographed performances by all College Freshers which is approximated to be 500 and is supported by college staff. This high-energy, amateur dance competition has been noted as a highlight of the College Row experience, fostering social connection.*

### Project Achievements

- Rules have been finalised and distributed to the Colleges,
- A draft song-list from each College has been approved by RSD Executive,
- A judging EOI has been made public for judges without actual or perceived conflicts of interest,
- A fee-waiver of \$300 was received by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction by RSD,
- RSD will book 3 sites of Matilda Bay for Fresher Dance for a cost of \$450.

### **LipDub**

*LipDub is a long-standing tradition between College Row Colleges to film the best lip-sync video in one take without major editing.*

#### **Project Achievements**

- Rules have been drafted and ready for Committee approval
- In-principal support has been gained from UH to again host the LipDub showing.

### **Working Relationship with – Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

*A concerted effort has been made by the current Executive to build an effective working relationship with the 5 Colleges on College Row, inviting all Colleges Head and Deputies to meet the Executive. This endeavour has been successful and led to a majority of the Colleges thus far agreeing to an MoU between the Department and College(s) for successful long-term engagement and by-in benefiting both parties.*

#### **Project Achievements**

- Successful meetings between RSD and:
  - o Trinity Residential College (TRC),
  - o St Thomas More College (STMC) and,
  - o University Hall (UH).
- Meeting invite accepted by St Georges College,
- TRC, STMC and UH have all signed or are signing the MoU agreement.

### **RSD Ball**

*One of two Balls held in Semester 1 specifically for College Students. In 2025 a record number of 480+ people attended the RSD Ball.*

#### **Project Achievements:**

- Venues have been contacted to provide a quote,
- The RSD Ball (pending venue availability) will be held on the week of the 18<sup>th</sup> of May.

### **Vampire Cup**

*This competition previously existed many years ago with Colleges. It was decided by Executive to investigate the viability of this event between Colleges. This friendly 'competition' is hoping to support the work of Lifeblood in saving lives.*

#### **Project Achievements:**

- A meeting has been organised between RSD's Head of Department and Lifeblood to discuss the viability of the event.

### **IC Afters**

*An event held after the IC athletics carnival to support inter-college connections.*

#### **Project Achievements:**

- Contact has been made with the TAV team to look at booking this event,
- UWA Sports has been requested to share all IC-Sport dates with RSD so we can book in this event.

## FINANCES

A financial update cannot be supplied for the January and December period due to an inability to complete the Guild Finance training. This training must be completed in person, and the elected Executive do not reside in Perth over the holiday period; something that is common for those attending Colleges.

The Department strongly recommends the Guild to allow all required training for Student Leaders to be able to be facilitated online; especially those not residing in Perth, not only benefiting the majority of College Row residents but many other students, enabling them to undertake Departmental business within a timely and orderly manner.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### RSD Committee

- Inter-College representatives from 4 of the 5 Colleges have been appointed,
- Fresher Representatives will be appointed once finalised by Colleges in February,
- Ordinary Committee Member applications will be circulated through RSD channels from the First Week of Semester 1.

### Inter-College Council

- All Presidents, Co-Presidents or Senior Residents have been appointed to Inter-College Council.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

The Department has already achieved many successes with our 2026 plans this include but are not limited to:

- We have formed strong and mutually beneficial relationships with College Staff through the MoUs and,
- Meeting with Lifeblood WA to discuss the revival of the Vampire Cup.
- Fee-Waivers received reducing costs by \$300 for venue hire.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

The Department wishes to express its concerns on the need for making all mandatory training online, this has stifled our ability to undertake Departmental business in a timely manner.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Department would like to thank all College Staff who have engaged thus far with RSD in a constructive and productive manner, we are excited to continue this vital relationship.

I'd personally like to thank, Alexis Mark and Will Brennan my Deputy and Secretary who have been vital to the current success of the Department over December and January period allowing us to push for a new and invigorated 2026 plan.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Wood', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

**TROY WOOD**

**113th HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS' DEPARTMENT**

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DRAFT



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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
Jonathan Tay  
**SOC January Guild Council Report**  
**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT [JAN]**  
**28/01/2026**

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## SUMMARY

It has been a challenging start to the year for the Societies Council, with many members either being away or busy with commitments. This has made coordination and early progress more difficult, however we are confident momentum will build as availability increases and the semester progresses.

The first SOCPAC meeting was held on 27 January, and I would like to sincerely thank PAC for their support and assistance during this period, particularly as SOC works through these initial operational challenges.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
27 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	SOCPAC Meeting	SOC Introduction, ERFS, Affiliations

## PROJECT UPDATE

## FINANCES

## ACHIEVEMENTS

## DISCUSSION POINTS

Regards,

Jonathan Tay

**113th SOC President**

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**UWA STUDENT GUILD**  
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**113TH GUILD COUNCIL**  
**ZEN HATELY**  
**SPORTS OFFICER**  
**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT (JANUARY)**  
**28/01/2026**

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## SUMMARY

This month I've been working on a few Sports initiatives. We're moving the **Revo/Fitness Passport project** forward, connecting with '**On My Feet**' PROSH and UWA run clubs, scouting for **University Nationals** talent, planning **Wellbeing Wednesdays** with yoga and mindfulness, and organising a **postgrad dodgeball event** with a BBQ and prizes. Progress is steady, and next steps are focused on coordination and outreach.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
03/01/2025	Jennifer Woo Wellbeing Wednesdays Collab.	Discussed details of collaboration on a WW event focused on breathwork/mindfulness.
14/01/2025	Tim Buchan–UWA Sport Inter-fac preparation	Discussed roles and expectations of each position and confirmed dates of operation.
19/01/2025	Xavier Anthony-PROSH	Discussed how the Sports dept. Can best support PROSH's 'On my Feet' charity and hiring of equipment for 'Proshlympics'
22/01/2025	Ollie Barrett Pre-game to UWA Sport meeting	Identified the guild's desired outcomes around projects discussed in following entry.
22/01/2025	Tim Buchan, Georgi Powers-UWA Sport Progress meeting	Identified projects UWA Sport and Guild will collaborate on.
22/01/2025	Alyssa Iozzi, Jay Williams –PSA Dodgeball event	Discussed collaboration on dodgeball event for postgraduate students.

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Guild Sports Projects

#### **REVO Fitness**

POC: Georgie Powers (UWA Sport)

The Revo owner has expressed strong interest in the initiative, with potential for implementation through the Fitness Passport system to allow access to a wider range of locations. The initiative had previously progressed up the approval chain to UWA's Vice-Chancellor but has since been placed on hold, primarily due to structural design limitations within UWA Sport that prevent effective separation between the gym and other UWA Sport facilities. The next step is to organise a meeting with UWA Sport, key UWA stakeholders, and Guild representatives, including Oliver Barrett and myself, to reassess feasibility and explore potential solutions.

#### **Wellbeing Collaboration**

POC: Jennifer Woo

Planning a collaboration between the Sports and Wellbeing departments for Wellbeing Wednesdays, focused on breathwork and mindfulness to help students manage study and personal life, and support athletes in tuning into their bodies. Several venues are being considered, with the current favourite being Great Court South under the trees near the Botanical Garden. The event is planned for the late afternoon to avoid midday heat. I have secured 15 yoga mats from UWA Sport for free. Initially, a prerecorded session will be used, with later evaluation of participant enjoyment and budget to determine whether hiring an instructor for future events would be worthwhile. There will also be a social component afterwards with tea and healthy snacks.

## **PSA Collaboration**

**POC: Jay Williams, Alyssa Iozzi**

**Postgrad Dodgeball Event** featuring team and individual sign-ups, with a post-game BBQ, food voucher prizes, and a snack stand offering water and healthy, high-GI options for refuelling.

## **PROSH Support**

**POC: Xavier Anthony:**

Planning to meet with the 'On My Feet' PROSH charity representative and Xavier to discuss how the Sports Department can support and promote the initiative. I've also been gathering info on UWA-based run clubs to reach out for cross-promotion opportunities.

## **UWA Sports Projects**

### **Interfaculty Sport**

**POC: Tim Buchan (UWA Sport)**

Sessions will run fortnightly from 3 March on Tuesdays between 11:00am and 2:30pm. We will be proactively reaching out to faculty societies whose participation has declined in recent years, strengthening contact with FacSoc Sports Representatives to streamline communication and reduce barriers to entry. Sports Representatives will provide expected participants the night prior to each session to reduce time spent at the start of each session coordinating and sorting teams.

### **University Nationals**

Scouting for potential University Nationals athletes will take place at the Western Series events, including UWA's International Student Challenge and the ECU Invitational, as well as through social and interfaculty sports. The goal is to maximise UWA's overall participation—including athletes, spectators, and volunteers—with the aim of winning the University Spirit Award. I will be actively involved in the recruiting process.

## **FINANCES**

Department finances not used in this reporting period.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

NA

## **DISCUSSION POINTS**

NA

Regards, ☐

**Zen Hately**

**113th Sports Officer**

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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
Julia Suffell  
Volunteering Chair  
Guild Council Report - January  
28<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

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## SUMMARY

### MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
26/11/26	Guild Council Training	
3/12/26	IT induction	
4/12/26	Guild Christmas Party	
6/12/26	Special Council Meeting	Discuss and approve budget for 2026
16/1/26	Marketing induction	
17/1/26	Keep Cup Delivery	Managed to get an absolute steal off Facebook – 1000 keep cups for O'Day giveaways
19/1/26	O-Week Ethan Tan, Activations Coordinator	Discuss Guild Volunteering activations for Guild on the Green and O'Day

### PROJECT UPDATE

#### **Project Update:**

##### Guild Volunteering Leadership Training:

- Planned a training day, very similar to Guild Council training to ensure the Guild Volunteering coordinators
- Schedule:
  - Lovely morning walk at Matilda Bay, visiting the Swan Estuary Action Group area (fingers crossed we see dolphins!)
  - Ice breakers
  - Learn about the Guild, our Departments and digital assets, and how to log volunteering hours, complete EMP's etc. with Christina
  - Ethan Tan (Activations Coordinator) will run a session to discuss goals and visions for Guild Volunteering
  - Tav lunch (so keen!)
  - Micro-volunteering activity
  - Team games

##### O-Week:

- Guild on the Green
  - We will be collaborating with the Women's Department to host 'Share the Dignity' card writing session
- O'Day:

- WA Aids Council will be running a condom packing workshop
- The Guild Volunteering + Environment Department Op Shop will be bigger and better, raising money for Solaris Cancer Care
- In the process of planning a 'Volunteering-themed Giveaway' – reaching out to NFP's and WA based small businesses for giveaway prizes

#### Beach Safety Program:

- Started brainstorming ideas of how to run the program
- Looking to possibly collaborate with Sports Department and International Students Department

#### Committee Applications:

- Committee applications were posted and has now closed
- In the process of reviewing applications and organising times for interviews

#### Coordinators:

- Guild Volunteering's Coordinators have been selected and are starting in their relevant areas

#### FINANCES

N/A

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Starting to plan O'Day

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

Regards,  
Julia Suffell  
Environment Officer, 112<sup>th</sup> Guild Council





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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
Jennifer Woo  
Wellbeing Officer  
Guild Council Report – January  
11/01/2026

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## SUMMARY

*After many interviews, the Wellbeing Committee was successfully formed in January! We have started to plan out events and initiatives for the year ahead, including forecasting the predicted expenditures, requesting price quotes from different companies and talking to different Guild departments about potential collaborations.*

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
12/12/25	Linda Jenkins and Sally Stott Manager and Associate Director of Student Wellbeing	Monthly meeting regarding Student Wellbeing and Engagement
27/12/26	Raviina Magendran Wellbeing Secretary	Discussing vision for 2026 Wellbeing Committee events
2/1/26	Multiple Applicants for Wellbeing Committee	Interviewing applicants for Wellbeing Committee Positions
3/1/26	Zen Hately Sports Officer	Discussing potential collaboration between the Wellbeing and Sport department
5/1/26	Multiple Applicants for Wellbeing Committee	Interviewing applicants for Wellbeing Committee Positions
8/1/26	Anna Tran Manager at Inlife Wellness	Discussion of a collaboration between the Wellbeing Department and Inlife Wellness Balcatta (Pilates Studio)
8/1/26	Minerva Liu and Benjamin Tan Wellbeing Event Officers	Discussing jobs needed to be completed by the Events team for O-day
10/1/26	Nicholas Chan Wellbeing Vice President	Forecasting predicted expenditures for the Wellbeing Department in 2026

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Upcoming events

#### **Wellbeing O-day Stall:**

The Student Guild Wellbeing Department is planning to set up a stall on O-day. At this stall, we plan to give out flyers detailing cheap-eats around campus and UWA's help services regarding academic stress. Additionally, we will be giving up small goodie bags that can be won by playing a game.

#### **Wellbeing Wednesdays:**

We are in the midst of planning small events to occur most Wednesdays of each month. Each type of event is planned to take place on a Monthly basis (cyclically).

## FINANCES

#### Budget Comparison

Fiscal Month Year	Sep 2026		Oct 2026			Nov 2026			Dec 2026			Total		
Global Dimension 1	Actual Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance	Actual	Budget Amount	Variance
☐ NC-18-WELFARE	<u>576.00</u>	-576.00		<u>876.00</u>	-876.00		<u>276.00</u>	-276.00		<u>61.00</u>	-61.00	<u>4,673.26</u>	<u>10,084.00</u>	-5,410.74
☐ Income Statement	<u>576.00</u>	-576.00		<u>876.00</u>	-876.00		<u>276.00</u>	-276.00		<u>61.00</u>	-61.00	<u>4,673.26</u>	<u>10,084.00</u>	-5,410.74
7031 Activities & Functions	<u>175.00</u>	-175.00		<u>175.00</u>	-175.00		<u>175.00</u>	-175.00				<u>4,443.93</u>	<u>3,250.00</u>	1,193.93
7035 Orientation Day Expenses													<u>600.00</u>	-600.00
7042 Theme Week	<u>300.00</u>	-300.00		<u>600.00</u>	-600.00								<u>3,800.00</u>	-3,800.00
7043 Printing & Stationery	<u>40.00</u>	-40.00		<u>40.00</u>	-40.00		<u>40.00</u>	-40.00		<u>40.00</u>	-40.00		<u>960.00</u>	-960.00
7103 Bank Charges												<u>0.17</u>		0.17
7109 General Expenses	<u>40.00</u>	-40.00		<u>40.00</u>	-40.00		<u>40.00</u>	-40.00					<u>800.00</u>	-800.00
7281 Subscriptions												<u>138.54</u>		138.54
7283 Software Digital	<u>21.00</u>	-21.00		<u>21.00</u>	-21.00		<u>21.00</u>	-21.00		<u>21.00</u>	-21.00	<u>104.62</u>	<u>634.00</u>	-529.38
7740 Uniforms													<u>40.00</u>	-40.00
8024 Sundry Income												<u>-14.00</u>		-14.00
<b>Total</b>	<u>576.00</u>	-576.00		<u>876.00</u>	-876.00		<u>276.00</u>	-276.00		<u>61.00</u>	-61.00	<u>4,673.26</u>	<u>10,084.00</u>	-5,410.74

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Wellbeing Committee has been formed and everyone is fulfilling their responsibilities excellently in preparation for O-day

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

- Nothing for this month 😊

Regards,

**Jennifer Woo**

**113th Wellbeing Officer**

[wellbeing@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:wellbeing@guild.uwa.edu.au)





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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**

**Ava Ebbutt**

**Women's Officer**

**GUILD COUNCIL REPORT January**

**28/1/2026**

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### SUMMARY

January has been quite slow, applications for the Women's Department committee are still open, as well as applications for Damsel editors being up. Planning the O-day stall activities and decorations.

### MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
-------------	----------------	----------------


## PROJECT UPDATE

### **The Damsel Magazine**

Working on finding Damsel editors to run the project.

### **O-Day**

Planning small activities and decorations for the stall

## FINANCES

N/A

## ACHIEVEMENTS

N/A

## DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

Regards,

**Ava Ebbutt**

***113th Women's Department Head***

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# NUS REPORT

## Introduction

This was my second year attending the National Union of Students Conference (NATCON), this year was wildly different from last year. NATCON definitely had its ups and downs, but was ultimately quite inefficient and fundamentally flawed, a lot of time and money was wasted.

From the perspective of the majority of our UWA delegates, we sat and entered into discussions with the members of a faction called the broad left, this allowed us to have our say and input into the NATCON policy and allowed for our voices to be heard and receive positions. This agreement also maintained that no notion of “vote binding” occurred as UWA and WA Universities as a whole, have fundamentally different concerns and needs as compared to our Eastern states counterparts. This allowed us to take different stances and to solidify our priority and views with the wants and needs of UWA students and not beholden to the agendas of other universities, the government or political parties.

## Day 1

Monday conference did not even start; there was no attempt from any faction to try and meet quorum. There were issues surrounding a specific deal between Unity and The Broad Left.

## Day 2

Tuesday morning there was an attempt to reach quorum. This attempt was unsuccessful as members from Socialist Alternative refused to enter the conference floor.

## Day 3

Conference managed to return after a deal was brokered between Unity, The broad Left and Socialist Alternative. With Thursday being the last full day, this was largely inconvenient as nearly 500 pages of Policy needed to be debated and voted on, all within 48 hours. There was a large attempt to move many motions “en bloc” (meaning together), but alas this was not enough and any motions not voted on would be brought the next NX meeting. Putting motions en bloc did cause a lot of confusion and lead to some serious disappointment (such as Socialist Alternative abstaining for the vote on the entire Women’s chapter)

## Day 4

There was very minimal conference on the last day as the financial reports and the voting for positions had to take place. Once the speeches for positions concluded, Socialist Alternative was not interested in continuing the conference and chose to walk out of the venue (pulling quorum) and ending NATCON 2025.

## Conclusion

Personally, I made good connections with many other delegates and gained an insight into how their unions and universities functioned. This benefit was over-shadowed by the dysfunctional nature of how the groups behaved at the conference. Regarding disaffiliation, I think it’s an option, however I do believe that the greatest change we can make would be from within the Union.

## **NUS Report - Alevine Magila**

Ahead of NUS National Conference this year, student independents from the UWA Student Guild elected as NUS delegates sought to stitch up a deal with Labor students that excluded socialist activists from office bearer positions.

This came after a year where socialists organised the nationwide referendum into Palestine. It's a year where socialists in the NUS organised dozens of student Palestine solidarity actions, mobilising thousands of students across the country for something that many students are passionate about: opposing Israel's genocide in Gaza. It's a year where a socialist NUS education office bearer organised the important People's Inquiry into Campus Free Speech on Palestine. The report and results of which will be vital as University students this year can continue to expect unacceptable and draconian crackdowns on freedom of speech.

Socialist Alternative insisted at the conference that this was unacceptable. Almost all the other factions, including UWA independents, were aiming to settle for a deal that purged the left. This would have destroyed the activist and left-wing elements of NUS. We could not allow this to happen.

We wanted the conference to continue and it took the other factions, including the UWA independents, over two days to find a way to *not* purge the left, and allow a set-up next year that wasn't so destructive to NUS' palestine activism and left-wing representatives. Finally, the conference was able to start.

UWA independents contributed nothing positive to the conference. They did not speak. They did not intervene on the conference floor. They mostly said nothing and sat by themselves, sulkily, in the corner of the room. They were impotent. At some points, they appeared to be hungover, possibly from heavy drinking the night before. If this was the case, it speaks to how seriously they take the conference. But worse, they didn't seem to stand for anything except for possibly the most banal, vacuous motions that were inoffensive at best and conservatively managerial at worse. On the major debates had out at the conference about what next for NUS, the student movement, and major political questions, UWA independents were silent. A deal was almost put together that nominated one of their own to become the education officer. This was given with no political justification or argument whatsoever. It seemed to be a power grab.

The NUS conference was not a waste of time, money or effort. But the attendance and participation of the UWA independents was. Opposing the policies and agenda of Labor students - who are more interested in apologising for the Labor government than fighting for students' interests - is important. This is what Socialist Alternative did, and what we will continue to do, to build a fighting movement that can fight for students' rights and interests.

Alevine

## NUS Report

From December 8 to 12, 2025, I attended the National Union of Students (NUS) Annual National Conference (NatCon), held at Federation University in Ballarat, Melbourne. The conference aims to represent the interests of university students across Australia and to establish a shared position on key student issues. The NUS acts as a representative body to the federal and state governments, as well as to other external organisations. The primary purposes of NatCon are to determine NUS policy for the coming year and to elect the executive team for the following term.

Each year, delegates are elected from accredited student organisations and sent to NatCon. As not all student organisations pay accreditation fees to the NUS, not every Australian university was represented at the conference. Delegates may attend as independents or align themselves with a faction. The factions represented at this conference included:

### **Unity**

Aligned with the Australian Labor Party's right faction, with vote bind.

### **National Labor Students (NLS)**

Aligned with the Australian Labor Party's left faction, with vote bind.

### **Socialist Alternative (SAIt)**

A far-left faction that supports Marxist and Trotskyist political views.

### **Western Australia Independents (Windies)**

Delegates from Western Australian universities who are not affiliated with any federal political party.

### **Forge Alliance**

A smaller faction that split from NLS, primarily consisting of delegates from Western Australia and Queensland universities.

This year, I attended NatCon as part of the Forge Alliance.

### Day 1

The first day involved delegate arrivals and registration at Federation University. Although the conference was scheduled to start in the afternoon, proceedings could not begin as Socialist Alternative delegates refused to enter the conference hall, preventing quorum from being reached.

### Day 2

A second attempt to reach quorum was made in the morning; however, this was unsuccessful, as Socialist Alternative continued to withhold participation, and the conference could not proceed.

### Day 3

An agreement was reached with Socialist Alternative, allowing their delegates to enter the conference hall. As a result, the conference was able to proceed. However, due to the time lost, policy discussions were significantly rushed through, with many policies being passed "en bloc," meaning they were voted on together rather than individually.

### Day 4

The final day focused on passing as many remaining policies as possible, again largely through en bloc. Policies that were unable to go through during NatCon were deferred to be voted on at the next National

Executive (NX) meeting. The conference concluded with the election of the new NUS executive team for the following year.

Although the conference did not proceed as planned, it was still a valuable opportunity to attend. I was able to meet and connect with students from a range of universities and gain insight into how different student organisations operate, the challenges they face, and the initiatives they have successfully implemented. This experience encouraged me to reflect on strategies and practices that could be adapted and applied at my own university. It also provided a meaningful opportunity to contribute to policy discussions that directly affect the student body.



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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
**CHARLOTTE BACKSHALL**  
**PSA IPP**  
**NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS REPORT**  
**JANUARY 2026**

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## DAY 1: MONDAY 08 DECEMBER 2025

Due to Senate commitments at the end of my term, I was unable to attend the first day of the conference. Having said that, the conference itself did not actually run due to SAlt pulling quorum. It is my understanding that this was in protest to the deals made over the NUS elections.

## DAY 2: TUESDAY 09 DECEMBER 2025

Again, this day was spent waiting for SAlt to make quorum.

What was supposed to be student unions coming together to vote on real issues that impact their campuses, SAlt was overcome with bureaucratic differences and subsequently our precious SSAF was again wasted for yet another day.

After dinner, NUS organisers made the call that there would be no conference today.

Honi Salt tweeted:

NUS gets \$556,000+ from affiliate universities (fees & NatCon tickets) paid for by student fees. Each USyd undergrad pays ~\$400 a year out of pocket in non-HECS fees that go towards this. 2 days in, no conference meant to stand for the students that pay for it.

I tend to agree.

## DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2025

Day 3 commenced with optimism, with multiple factions arriving bright and early for accreditation. Woroni tweeted at 10:50am that “quorum has still not been met. Remember, 400+ motions need to be passed.”

At 11:00am, SAlt delegates finally graced us with their presence and began accrediting. Quorum was met at 11:16am and conference finally kicked off..... almost 2 and a half days later than it should have.

The standard procedural to ban filming was passed unanimously, with an independent delegate tweeting “shame on NUS delegates for banning filming, yet again. It’s a basic form of accountability and accessibility for the students we all represent”.

By-laws were passed, including the introduction of an Environment Officer role within the NUS, which in my opinion is well overdue. It is particularly unfortunate this was the conference that the role was created, given the Environment chapter ultimately was not heard due to time constraints.

Then, the inevitable mass bloc-ing began. It was at this point we realised it would be incredibly difficult for the important and meaningful conversations to take place while conference organisers were just desperate to move through as most of the agenda as humanly possible within the mere 48 hours left.

Factional lines began to show, with issues of the genocide in Palestine sparking debate. An independent delegate tweeted “shame on Unity for having a Liberal party member sitting amongst them, all together laughing at SAlt trying to condemn a genocide”.

Woroni noted “soon after the filming ban came into play, it became clear why a majority of delegates wanted it in place. The behaviour of all factions is abhorrent”.

Chapter 2 continued after lunch, massively blocked and minimally dissected. Topics ranged from SSAF funding and spending to voluntary student unionism.



Disappointingly, all 26 motions from the Women's chapter were to be moved en bloc, with only 5 speakers allowed for either side of debate. Women's issues being reduced to a single motion felt incredibly telling. Our own Guild Immediate Past President had prepped tirelessly to speak to this chapter, yet it was another instance of women's issues being treated as a mere afterthought.

The Education chapter was then blocked to around 5. All while chapter 2 was still being voted on.

UWA was brought into the spotlight, with a SALT rep claiming "at UWA we were told we can't put up posters, flyers, or do chants in relation to freeing Palestine. It was the President of the Student Guild who said that to us. Shame". Context, as always, is important. Nikhi Talluri was repeating what had been said to her by the University Executive. She was not in favour of it. In fact, Nikhi, myself, and the Guild Education Action Network advocated tirelessly to find a solution with the University moving forward, work which I have no doubt the 113<sup>th</sup> Guild Council will continue.

Dinner finished, but chapter 2 had not. We went back to finish these motions and then commence Chapter 4 (Education), wrapping up at around 11:00pm.

#### DAY 4: THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 2025

The final day of conference kicked off with delegates receiving an email of nominations for the NUS elections.

Then, in true NatCon25 fashion, the RO got into a car accident and balloting was pushed back a number of hours.

Upon meeting quorum we continued with the Education chapter. At around 3pm on the commencement of chapter 5, massive blocs began to pass yet again. We then moved onto the Ethnocultural chapter, kicking off with a bloc that contained a whopping 26 motions. Upon completion, dinner commenced.

The Women's chapter was moved en bloc, as suggested the previous day. The floor observed a minute of silence for women who have lost their lives this year to acts of gender based violence.

It was determined that all remaining chapters would be referred to NX. Queer voices, First Nations voices, Differently-abled voices, Regional voices, and the voices of International Students all left unheard.

Welfare, Trade Unionism and Environment were also amongst the unheard chapters.

More motions were left unheard than those that were.

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

##### **How can UWA support the NUS to rebuild and do better next year?**

In solidarity,



**Charlotte (Charlie) Backshall**  
**Postgraduate Students Association IPP**  
[charliebacks13@gmail.com](mailto:charliebacks13@gmail.com)



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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
*Jay Williams*  
*NUS Observer*  
**National Conference Report**  
*28/01/26*

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## SUMMARY

Attending the National Union of Students (NUS) Conferences is always a unique and eye-opening experience. This was my third NUS conference, and second national conference, but the behaviour of 'adults' at these conferences still manages to surprise me. The UWA Student Guild pays a lot of money to be a member of the NUS and pays even more to send our student representatives to Victoria to champion UWA interests at a national level. Whilst this wasn't as insane as the first National Conference I attended, it was deeply disappointing that for two of the four days of conference, our delegates were sitting around doing nothing as conference activities stalled. There were some fantastic motions, commitments and campaigns the NUS got passed but I believe so much more great work could've been done had conference started on time. Alas, this report includes my insights and thoughts on the 2025 NUS National Conference.

## WIDER GROUPINGS OF THE NUS

### STUDENT UNITY

Student Unity were once the largest faction of the NUS who positioned themselves as the common sense alternative to left-wing infighting at the National Conference. They are effectively the Labor Right students of the NUS. However, this year they fell victim to infighting themselves when Victorian Unity split from the National bloc, dividing their faction and stalling conference business until the Wednesday. Victorian Unity also forced all OBs to go to a ballot meaning over 25,000+ pieces of paper had to be printed, before they chose to withdraw, meaning all that paper went to waste. A big loss for the environment.

Unity for the most part are a very organised group and were sat in the centre of the conference this year between the socialists and the broad left. They had two coggings tables and lots of technology meaning they were easily able to get their amendments down to Business Con for consideration and approval. Unity, as always, had some unfortunate positions, including support for the AUKUS Nuclear Submarines and believing HECS is better than free education.

It wasn't all bad from Unity, however, as they had some good policies on student unionism and supported our push to raise the RTP Stipend to minimum wage, to expand paid pracs and also to support free period products being available on every University campus across Australia. They were pretty reasonable to negotiate with on the whole as well.

### BROAD LEFT

The Broad Left is a new bloc that emerged this year of left-wing, progressive students who believed the NUS can be more than what Unity was offering. The broad left was made up of various groupings, including but not limited to:

- National Labor Students (NLS)
- FORGE
- Windies
- Vic Alliance
- NSWLS

The Broad Left bloc delivered the first left majority to the NUS in over 30 years and unlike Unity didn't vote bind meaning delegates could vote on their own beliefs each motion and didn't have to listen to a factional headkicker like Unity. This was the group I sat with, however as an observer I didn't carry any votes.

This bloc worked well together to pass progressive policy reforms and push the NUS as an institution to be better and fight for more. Also very lovely to sit with.

## **SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE**

SAlt are the socialist, far-left faction of the NUS. They've stayed very consistent throughout my engagement with the NUS and advocate very strongly for activism within the NUS and for the adoption of a far-left policy platform. This year at the beginning of the conference it seemed as if SAlt were going to be shut out of all office bearer positions, which led to them pulling quorum. In the end, after negotiations, they were able to secure a few OB positions!

They were very organised, passionate and well-spoken and good to negotiate with on the whole. Definitely most antagonistic to Unity but they are always curious to hear what NLS has to say.

## **OVERALL GROUP THOUGHTS**

Despite conference not happening for 2 days, and some very close verbal harassment from some members of SAlt, I thought the behaviour and decorum at this NUS National Conference was much better than the previous one I attended. I believe it's best for UWA Student Delegates to sit in factions that don't bind as sometimes what's best for WA isn't what's best for the Eastern States so it's not good to vote against our own interests. I thought this year the groups were able to work together slightly better than in the past and ultimately got some good policy done. I do regret that NatCon that could have been had quorum been met on Day 1 and a lot of policy got to actually be debated and passed instead of en bloc or at the first National Executive of the year.

## **KEY MOMENTS**

### **WILL CONFERENCE EVER HAPPEN?**

Due to various issues, including SAlt being shut out of the officer bearer positions and Victorian Unity deciding to split from their faction, conference didn't happen for the first 2 days. I arrived early on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day and it seemed for a bit that it might happen but ultimately didn't.

In the end a deal was broken between all factions and conference finally began on Wednesday morning... only two days late! So that answered the question, will conference ever happen?

### **BIZCON TURNS INTO A UFC FIGHTING RING**

As factions were fighting it out, runners were delivering amendments to the bizcon table, which led to leaps across the table, ripping up of amendments and the scratching and bleeding of some members. Very adult behaviour! One amendment even had to get laminated so it couldn't be ripped up for the fourth time.

### **UWA DELEGATES DELIVER ON PROMISES (INCLUDING FOR POSTGRADS)**

As promised UWA delegates wrote and passed multiple policy items at the NUS, including advocating for the expansion of paid placements, raising the RTP stipend to minimum wage, and a requirement for free period products to be available on every campus. Passionate student reps can still get things done, who would have thought?

## **POLICIES WE CAN APPLY AT UWA**

There was plenty of great policies passed at the NUS, including the ones I've already mentioned as well as free University degrees, 100% SSAF for student unions etc. I will say though, in my opinion UWA are leaps and bounds ahead of most other eastern states unions so I would caution looking too much to them for guidance. We are innovative and do a lot right here already – the NUS could definitely learn a thing or two from us.

## CONCLUSIONS

I left the 2025 NUS National Conference much better this time than the last NatCon I went to. Although I still maintain that I think the real value of NUS Conferences comes from less factionalised ones like the Education Conference. I believe our extraordinary delegates at UWA had a real positive impact on the conference and contributed effectively, including Nikhi, Aidan, Alyssa, Ojaswi and Rama. I'm proud of the policies and efforts put forward by the UWA delegates as a whole.

The conference had various positives included:

- Making a real difference on the policy platform passed by the NUS, including passing the policies we promised we'd champion earlier in the year.
- Meeting student leaders from across the country to build connections, share stories and swap ideas. I hope some of what we do here at UWA can be transplanted to other Guilds to the benefit of their students.

There were plenty of negatives as well, including the major waste of money to the tune of more than \$500,000+ with the conference not occurring for 2 of the 4 days, the behaviour of attendees as always, and the increasing polarisation of the NUS that limits the potential for common ground and collaboration. You can't separate the National Conference from the NUS as an organisation, and I do believe we need to seriously think about our enduring role in the NUS and how we want to approach our engagement going forward.

I find myself listening to the reports of NUS office bearers, discussing the amazing work they've done to meet with X amount of ministers or government MPs and think about how the real power of the NUS is the students across the country. I think a major shortfall of the organisation has and will continue to be the lack of engagement from OBs with Guilds across the country. Will this change with the new OBs? Maybe but probably not. It would be wise if we try to hold the organisation we pay so much money to, to more account. Like scheduling our own meetings with OBs and pushing them for support, resources and campaigns. I think what I've learnt in my years of engagement with the NUS is you can't wait for them to act anymore.

When I got back from the 2023 National Conference I was tired and a bit shaken. It was truly one of the worst things I've ever experienced and the worst behaviour I've ever seen. I didn't feel the same after the 2025 conference. I recommended the Guild reevaluate and potentially disaffiliate. After attending EdCon I'm not sure I hold the same perspective but I do still feel, on the whole, the NUS remains a waste of money. Should we go to the conferences but not pay for affiliation? Much to think about, I would be curious to hear other people's thoughts. This might (hopefully) be the last NUS conference I ever attend and the most enjoyable part of it was hanging out with friends, old and new, but such is life.

In solidarity,

Jay.



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113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL

LOUIS BIRD

National Union of Students Delegate

National Conference Report

28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

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It is important to note that because the conference started late and ran for a shorter time than usual all the policies were not discussed. As a result at this point we are not sure which policies have passed and some will be going to the National Executive meeting of the NUS which is yet to come.

## SUMMARY

This is the first NUS (National Union of Students) Conference that I have attended, and before going I was warned about the conduct of attendees and the ineffective nature of the organisation. Unfortunately, many of these warnings came true to a certain extent, and it is at once obvious that the NUS is not a well-functioning, effective union representing students' interests. Nonetheless the conference was an interesting experience and having gone I feel I am in a better position to comment on the organisation.

The conference only started on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day due to Unity splitting into Unity and Victorian Unity. This impacted the conference significantly as we lacked time to properly discuss all the motions put forward in the policy book. Although, due to the conduct of those at NatCon I am unsure whether there is ever constructive discussion of the motions. NatCon perhaps represents the worst side of the NUS and personally made me embarrassed that the Guild is associated with an organisation which is so polarised and seems to accept conduct which would be completely unacceptable anywhere else as par for the course. I am still undecided about the value of the NUS. A working group should be established to determine the value which the NUS gives the Guild and monitor their performance. I believe that as a Guild we have a duty to keep a close eye on the organisation and think critically about whether affiliation helps us fulfil our role of representing students at UWA.

## FACTIONS OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

### *Student Unity*

This is the faction which I sat with. This faction is Labor Right aligned. It is dominated by students who are members of Labor Right and various associated unions including the Transport Workers Union (TWU), Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association (SDA) and the Australian Workers Union (AWU). This party and union involvement helps to explain some of the perspectives and stances held by this group. Broadly they can be characterised by the most pragmatic group present, who although broadly progressive, are less left wing than either NLS or SAlt. They generally supported motions which called for achievable change on campuses, but unfortunately also spend a fair amount of time supporting motions relating to Labor Party policies which at times creates issues at the conference. This year, for the first time in a while Unity came into the conference knowing that they didn't have a majority, usually they have a near majority and are a major force at the conference. This lack of a majority effected their ability to secure various executive and office bearer positions. Student Unity is widely viewed as the most organised faction and usually hold the majority of elected positions by virtue of the number of votes they hold at the conference.

### *SAlt*

Socialist Alternative is the far-left Trotskyist faction of the NUS. They replicate their on-campus activities on a national scale at the NUS, by seeking to pursue an activist agenda. They traditionally

hold a number of positions as one of the larger factions. This year they were set not to receive the position of Education Officer, but due to the Unity split, under a renegotiated deal a member of SAlt was again elected to the position. This faction is the most counterproductive at the NUS, their extreme, and fairly idealistic position on the majority of issues means they would rather vote against a motion than support an imperfect attempt to improve the experience of students. As such I am extremely disappointed they continue to control the most important portfolio in the NUS and use it primarily for their own ends without a resolute focus on essential education related issues.

### ***Broad Left***

This is a broad grouping of students who in the past were connected with Labor Left politically and called National Labor Students (NLS) but now includes those who desire a stronger bargaining position and don't associate with Unity. They include last year's WA Independents (Windies) made up of Curtin students and some from UWA. It also includes Forge, a loose alliance of University of Queensland students and the majority of UWA representatives. This year they may have held the most votes, perhaps just above the number held by SAlt. This faction is noticeably further left than Unity and tends to support motions that are perhaps a little more idealistic in some cases. They will support the majority of common-sense motions, but the ones they put forward tend to support slightly more left-leaning causes and in some cases will cross over with the opinions of SAlt. They are somewhat more activist and concerned with the situation of students in marginalised groups. Although a core part of the group is obviously Labor Left aligned, there are a number of people who are simply there so that they can negotiate as part of a larger group and support their motions as part of this obligation.

### ***Victorian Unity (SDA)***

This was the new group that came about as a result of the split in Unity on the Sunday evening before the conference started. They represented an aggrieved section of Unity all from Victoria. They sat as an independent group for the first time this year as a protest. They are unhappy with the main part of Unity for a number of reasons and chose to break away from the faction on the Sunday night preceding the conference. This group holds similar views to Unity but no longer had confidence in the General Secretary and convenor of Unity. As a new faction with little organisational structure and no deals in place Victorian Unity got no elected positions. They also struggled on conference floor and appeared to be disliked by most factions, but notably Unity who jeered at them occasionally. The faction still put people forward for many positions and didn't withdraw their candidates even when it was obvious they would not win. This resulted in all the positions going to a vote, which doesn't ordinarily happen and required in excess of 24,000 ballots be filled out. Victorian Unity is a sizeable faction by the number of people they send and votes they have, so could potentially be an important force in the future if they remain outside the other factions.

### ***Independents***

There were also a couple of students sitting as independents. One most notably stood up and drew attention to the lack of support they had and the unnecessary barriers which they had to navigate to attend the conference. I was disappointed but not surprised to hear that the NUS makes no effort to clearly communicate with independents. It appears that the majority of communication happens through factional leaders, and as I can attest, individual delegates are given little guidance or advice about what is happening. One independent noted that information such as conference start



times and mealtimes was simply not communicated. It is a shame that the NUS entrenches the factional system in this way and is unable to effectively communicate with delegates so they can get the most out of the conference.

## THE CONFERENCE

### *Pre-Conference*

This was an opportunity to discuss all the upcoming motions as a faction and was an instructive weekend on the ways of Unity. I appreciated the opportunity to hear everyone's thoughts on the motions and how we as a faction would vote. Unity as a faction chooses to vote bind, which means that any decisions made before the conference on how they will vote is binding upon those who sit with the faction. The discussion of each motion unfortunately is very quick as the policy book was long (over 500 pages). Despite this it was a useful exercise, even if close scrutiny of the motions was not possible. I was shocked by the number of motions put forward, the choice was essentially taken to support all motions which no one had a problem with or the majority supported. This is a fairly uncontroversial way to go through the policy book, but I would have liked to see an attitude at NatCon where people choose to only support a limited number of key motions which could realistically be achieved bearing in mind the resources of the Union and the number of office bearers who are paid. The sheer number of motions passed renders each one rather limited in its impact. The office bearers for 2026 have the ability to simply pick and choose from amongst a large number of motions and can ignore the majority.

### *Day 1*

The first day involved travelling to Federation University outside Ballarat where the conference is held. The campus is quite nice, and the accommodation is fairly well suited to the nature of the conference. A significant portion of the morning was spent checking into accommodation. Due to the Unity split the previous evening the conference didn't start on Monday, although this was communicated fairly poorly and we still accredited (verified we were there and collected our votes) and went into the conference venue. We sat around for a while before being told that the conference would not be commencing, this was arguably information which they already had, but the NUS appears to prefer a frantic energy and miscommunication to a well-run conference. Time was needed for the factions to renegotiate the deals which determine who received which positions as Unity's numbers had radically changed. This meant that Monday afternoon was spent relaxing and speaking to other representatives.

### *Day 2*

The second day of the conference started with more promise of the conference commencing, but again this failed to materialise. Again we were given the impression that the conference may start, and again went into the conference venue only to be told that the conference was not starting. I was very disappointed that the conference was not starting, as the schedule showed that we were well behind time and essentially only had one full day left. This would have a significant impact on the amount of time spent discussing motions. As I had come to NatCon to represent students and hear motions discussed it was disappointing that this time would be extremely limited. By this

point I was also concerned that I may have to return to UWA with the conference having not commenced at all. I spent some time on Tuesday speaking to representatives about the issues facing their student organisations, which was informative and interesting, as our Guild differs significantly from some of the Student Unions in other states.

### *Day 3*

The conference finally commenced at around 11 A.M on Wednesday. The new deal which had been negotiated meant that SAlt would yet again receive the position of National Education Officer, which I view as the most important portfolio. This was disappointing, but the conference beginning was uplifting. Almost immediately the realities of NatCon became evident, as the factions geared up to heckle each other and only support their own members. The business committee had representatives from each faction and determined which motions would be heard and when motions could be heard together due to their similarity. One of the first orders of business for the conference was to pass motions creating a sensory room, but also to restrict members of the business committee from assaulting other members and destroying the motions (written on paper) amongst other potential transgressions. From then on, the motions given to this committee were laminated to prevent their destruction or consumption by those on the committee (there are representatives from each faction). This was not an auspicious beginning and the conduct of those on business committee left a lot to be desired. The conduct of those at the conference in general was apparently better than in previous years, the lack of time meant that Unity (thankfully) chose not to engage in their traditional chants. This did not dampen people's enthusiasm to heckle others while they were speaking, I thought this was disrespectful and not conducive to decent debate.

Changes to the Bylaws were passed which was an important improvement to the governance of the organisation. These changes also included the addition of an unpaid national environment officer, as a number of campus' have environment officers there is the potential for this role to make a difference and play a useful part in the organisation.

There was discussion of Student Unionism and Education, which was good, as these are some of the more important chapters with motions affecting the majority of students. I heard from a number of representatives who were able to speak well about the motions, and it was informative to hear different perspectives and about issues which don't usually arise at UWA.

It was obvious that UWA is often in a privileged position in terms of the status our Guild has compared to Student Organisations in other states. I was happy to see a motion pass calling for the end of the Jobs Ready Graduate Program and thus reduce the cost of Arts and other non-STEM unit fees. This is the work that the NUS should be focussing on. Unfortunately, at times the Education Chapter was derailed by accusations that student unions were siding with management, or by bringing international conflicts into the discussion of education motions. It was a shame that this portion of the conference had to be disrupted and discussion taken from the motion at hand to respond to these strange directions which the debate was taken.

I would also like to note that I was disappointed that we were presented with a dichotomy in relation to the issue of free education, SAlt and the Left supported it while Unity chose to oppose it and support HECS. Education funding and course fees are complex issues, but it was a shame that there appeared to be support for an unchanged HECS system and no mention of lower course fees across the board which may have been a useful middle ground.

Wednesday concluded at 11 P.M after a post dinner sitting of the conference.

#### ***Day 4***

Thursday started in much the same way as the previous days, the Returning Officer for the election that was meant to occur on the final day of the conference (day 4) was in a car accident and unable to come. This meant that the conference and voting didn't resume until after lunch. To save time voting occurred concurrently to the conference debate continuing. In the conference the Welfare, Ethnocultural and Women's chapters were discussed. Due to the time constraints most of the motions were debated together, including the whole Women's chapter. This limited the debate on individual motions, and there was a sense, especially on a fairly empty conference floor (many were in separate rooms filling out ballots), that we all simply wanted the conference to end. It was a shame to have such short discussion on a number of fairly important motions, but as ultimately factions have already decided on which way they intend to vote the debate has little bearing on the outcome.

The conference concluded in the early evening after some of the people running for various positions made speeches.

#### **POLICIES OF NOTE**

These are a few policies which raise relevant issues and may be things which the Guild should consider.

2.04 Up the Unions: Mandatory SSAF. Perhaps not a policy we can apply at UWA, but certainly good to call for more SSAF to be given to the Guild.

2.08 Safeguard student advocacy. Again an important policy to promote independent Guild ran academic advocacy services such as Student Assist. Independent support for students, separate to the University, to provide advice and support in relation to any academic issues is an important function of the Guild.

2.39 Annual Ethical Investment Report Across All Universities. Being aware of the nature of a universities investment portfolio is important for transparency, and is something that the Guild should continue to emphasise.

4.01 Modernising University AI and ChatGPT Policy. In a rapidly changing environment, the Guild should be having discussions with the University around ensuring that various plagiarism and academic integrity policies continue to be fair and reasonable. A similar motion is '4.17 Why is my Turnitin AI score 70%? Approach to AI needs a Rethink.'

4.04 Extension Due Dates Cannot Fall on Weekends or Public Holidays. An important thing to bear in mind for our Guild with the recent change in extension policy. Due dates falling on a weekend is disruptive and unhelpful for those who work on the weekend.

4.18 Staff Working Conditions are Student Learning Conditions. As a Guild we should be mindful of the experience of staff and attempt to support university staff where possible as smaller class sizes and better conditions for staff lead to a superior learning environment for students.

4.29 Show Us the Receipts. This motion concerns how the university spends SSAF money, it would be useful as the Guild to be aware of how these funds are spent and ensure that the University remains accountable.

4.65 Abolish Jobs Ready Graduates. An excellent motion which I hope the NUS continues to work on and we see a reduction in Arts fees soon.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS

Overall, I was very disappointed with the conduct of those at NatCon and not impressed with the impression this gives of the overall effectiveness of the NUS. At times during the conference, I felt embarrassed that we as a Guild are a part of an organisation which so conclusively fails to operate effectively or fulfil its purpose. I feel that we are a particularly effective Student Union and our association with the NUS may drag us down.

The majority of the votes are held by those from eastern states universities as are the majority of those who attend. Each university gets a number of votes dependent on the Equivalent Full Time Study Load of the students on their campus', and this impacts the number of votes which WA universities receive as we have less students. I was somewhat frustrated by the lack of a voice I had within my faction as a WA delegate as well as more broadly across the conference. This results in motions which don't reflect reality for us and may in fact be something which WA doesn't desire to change.

I personally felt the guidance given by the NUS is insufficient for a first-time delegate to have any meaningful impact. There are no clear instructions on how the conference will run, and as mentioned little communication from the conference organisers. It is also impossible to find past conference minutes or motions passed. This alone significantly detracts from the conference as an opportunity for delegates from each university to debate policy for the coming year.

The conduct of those at the conference is abysmal, there appears to be an attitude that anything goes for that week, and one can live out their dream of being a politician. This appears to result in heckling, chanting and harassing attendees in a way which would be unheard of in any other forum. I was told at the conference to stay in pairs on Tuesday to avoid being harassed by other factions. I was amazed that it appears acceptable to be harassed and feel unsafe. Peoples' conduct detracts significantly from the quality of debate at the conference and they feel the need to support their faction above all else meaning that no one in the conference is willing to change their mind or actively listen to discussion.

As discussed above I believe it would be more effective for the NUS to pass only a few of the most well written and achievable motions in each chapter so the organisation has a genuine focus determined by the membership. Instead, we have a system where the office bearer can simply pick from a number of policies or pursue their own aims.

An organisation which claims to represent the students but is unwilling to release minutes or make documents publicly accessible is a travesty. The NUS appears to operate in such a way where only



those who are elected office bearers or national executive members can have any idea of how resources are allocated or which policies are pursued. As someone who believes that students need to be better engaged with their representative bodies, accessible documentation would be a nice place to start. Unfortunately, one gets the impression that this is not the aim of those who hold NUS positions, who either don't have the will or the support to make fundamental changes of this kind. Significant improvements in the transparency of an organisation which last financial year spent over \$700,000 is surely a necessity.

As a result of my experience, I would seriously question the Guild continuing affiliation to the NUS. To explore this issue, I have posed a number of questions which I think should deserve some consideration. I also suggest that the Guild establish a working group. to properly explore this issue and make the right choice for UWA Students whose lives we are meant to be improving through our attendance at the NUS.

What benefits do attendance at NatCon and involvement with the NUS more bring?

As far as my experience goes I would suggest that the benefits are somewhat limited. I took advantage of the situation on the first two days of the conference and enjoyed hearing the opinions of those from other student unions. The ability to connect with those across the country is useful, and at times could provide information for our Guild. In the main though I learnt that in comparison to many other student unions the Guild is better off financially, has a better relationship with the University and enjoy a greater degree of independence. Attendance at NatCon may bring value to those coming from student unions who haven't yet enacted many of the policies in the Policy Book or who have significant struggles. I noticed that our Guild has in fact enacted many of the changes suggested in the Policy Book and it seems that we are in fact a leader. Although supporting other organisations is a good thing to do, the NUS hardly has the ability to effectively help a Guild which is so far advanced compared to the others.

Discussion of policy as mentioned above is little more than a theatrical performance, one does hear all the different views, but they are put across in an environment which is not conducive to proper debate and as a result I would safely assume that most delegates do not or cannot listen to the speeches. In a forum where many speeches ends with a wrestle for the microphone by the next speaker, one can hardly expect constructive debate. I would suggest there are less expensive ways of being an audience member to such a spectacle. Expecting debate at NatCon to influence voting on the motions put forward is a fool's errand, and the only information one garners is the opinions of each faction.

One may argue that attendance at NatCon improves WA representation. I believe that NatCon certainly needs WA voices, but the structure of the conference means that WA voices are minimal. The conference location also means there are fewer people from WA in attendance, as the Eastern States universities are able to easily send observers to create a bigger physical presence at the conference. Major national issues are brought up by other representatives, and NatCon is not really about tackling state-based issues. My feeling is that without UWA delegates present little would change and the NUS would continue to pass motions calling for action on the major issues of the day.

Cost of the NUS?

I see the overall cost of the NUS as a secondary issue, although this continues to be a reason to disaffiliate, I am not sure this should be the main motivator. Despite this I would still like to mention that the Guild pays fees to remain affiliated to the NUS and funds elected delegates to go to NatCon as well as the Education Conference amongst other conferences. The money spent on this is a not insignificant amount. It is important to consider as a Guild whether we are allocating money in a way which benefits students. If the NUS provides genuine value, I don't think that the cost should be a concern as improving the student experience is a priority. On the other hand, if the NUS provides little value, it is worth bearing in mind the costs associated with our membership of this organisation.

#### Impact of the State Branch?

I recognise that having a state branch which represents WA is a useful part of the NUS. I think that there is great value in having coordination at a state level especially with the upcoming university merger. I would simply suggest that this function doesn't necessarily have to occur within the NUS framework, and as WA is home to two capable Guilds' at UWA and Curtin, I believe we could continue to cooperate where necessary in the absence of the NUS.

#### **How should the Guild determine if we should remain affiliated?**

A working group needs to be established in order to give the NUS a fair hearing and make a decision which is in the best interests of students. We need to consider a number of factors and try to establish a way to determine the effectiveness of the NUS and the benefits students at UWA derive from membership of the organisation. I would like to note at the outset that I am as yet unsure whether we should remain affiliated and recognise that I am not the only stakeholder. At present I would suggest that we strongly consider disaffiliation but believe that this decision should not be rushed. I am of the opinion that we should either remain affiliated and pay fees or choose to disaffiliate. I am unconvinced that remaining affiliated, while not paying fees and essentially limiting the capacity of the NUS to represent UWA students is in our best interests. We need to formulate benchmarks/performance indicators/ KPI's soon to ensure that we are able to assess the performance of the NUS across a reasonable period of time. It is also important that we encourage Guild Council and Office Bearers to reach out to the NUS proactively and see if they can offer support. As a Guild we need to consider:

What have our interactions looked like with the NUS?

Have they reached out to us and are we able to effectively reach out to them?

Are they listening to WA voices? (At NatCon and during the year)

Are they improving transparency across the organisation?

What constructive actions have they taken to solve national student issues?

Do we get value from attendance at their conferences? What have we learnt that we otherwise wouldn't have?

Is our membership with the NUS delivering tangible benefits for UWA students? Has their experience changed for the better? This is the overall determinative question which we should be considering throughout the year and in every interaction with the NUS.

These are just some of the questions which we should be asking ourselves. We need to make a genuine attempt to engage with the organisation and put ourselves in a position where we have the information to make a decision. Every year we are disappointed with the performance of the NUS, UWA delegates come back from NatCon disappointed and jaded by the experience. Despite this the Guild remains affiliated to the NUS. This is why we need to put ourselves in a position where we can feel comfortable that we are able to an informed choice as to whether we remain affiliated.

I look forward to constructive discussion on this matter with Guild Council.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louis Bird".

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113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL

*Nikhita Talluri*

*NUS Delegate*

National Conference Report

*28/01/26*

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## SUMMARY

This was my first time attending NatCon, but I was not unfamiliar with the NUS or its ongoing issues. Through my role as Guild President, I have interacted with NUS office bearers throughout the year, and I also attended the Education Conference earlier. From that, I was already aware of the dysfunction within the organisation. Even with that understanding, it was still disappointing to see the behaviour that occurred during the national conference.

Once again the main issue at NatCon was factional fighting, which dominated the conference and limited what could realistically be achieved. Much of the time was spent on conflict rather than policy, with Socialist Alternative playing a central role in escalating tensions. It was also clear how fractured the left has become. Even where there was broad agreement on policy positions, cooperation often broke down simply because delegates belonged to different factions.

It was disappointing to see so much student money was spent on an organisation and conference that barely went ahead due to factional disputes.

The silver lining of this conference was the emergence of a non-vote-binding left bloc that allowed for respectful communication and collaboration as well as elevating the WA student voice to the national stage.

## Conference Delays and Use of Time

The first two days of conference did not go ahead as scheduled due to quorum being withheld. During this time, delegates were largely left waiting while negotiations took place behind closed doors. There were no formal sessions, no structured debate, and no meaningful use of delegate time.

When conference eventually commenced, it was already two days behind schedule. As a result, the remaining agenda was heavily compressed, and much of the policy discussion was rushed. Fewer than half of the policy chapters were debated on the floor, with several passed without discussion or deferred entirely. This included the women's chapter, which I had prepared to speak on but did not get the opportunity to due to time constraints.

This significantly undermined the purpose of holding a national conference. Delegates are elected to attend, speak, and vote on behalf of their students, and much of that role was lost due to decisions made before conference business even began.

## Western Australian Representation

One of the more positive aspects of the conference was the level of engagement from Western Australian delegates. In previous years, WA has often been overlooked within the NUS, with a strong focus placed on eastern states universities. This time, WA delegates were more coordinated and more involved in caucus discussions and negotiations.

There was a clearer WA presence within broader conversations, and delegates worked together to ensure local issues were raised. It is good to see the number of WA representatives in NUS positions to ensure the WA perspectives is not ignored in the same way they have been in the past.

## Student Unity

Student Unity are affiliated with the labor right and has historically been the dominant faction at NatCon and often controls much of the conference floor. This year, however, Unity experienced internal division, particularly with Victorian Unity splitting from the national bloc.

This split contributed to early confusion and inefficiencies, including unnecessary administrative processes such as ballots being printed and later withdrawn. From my understanding it was also partially the reason why quorum was not met.

Despite this, Unity remained well organised and prepared throughout the conference. They were effective in managing amendments and internal coordination and were generally open to negotiation. On policy, Unity supported some positions that aligned with UWA priorities, including increasing the RTP stipend and expanding paid placements.

However due to their political affiliation they do find it difficult to go against some of the labor party platform such as AUKUS and HECS.

## Broad Left and Non Binding Voting

The Broad Left emerged as the largest voting bloc at the conference and consisted of several progressive student groupings, including National Labor Students, FORGE, Windies, Vic Alliance, and NSW Labor Students. Together, this bloc secured the first left majority at NatCon in over thirty years.

A defining feature of the Broad Left was its non binding approach to voting. Delegates were able to vote based on the interests of their own universities rather than following factional instructions.

There were multiple occasions where universities held different views on motions due to local conditions. The non binding model allowed those differences to be reflected honestly, rather than forcing artificial consensus. This is what national student representation should be about, where delegates represent the students who elected them rather than acting as numbers for political factions.

## Socialist Alternative and Impact on Conference Funding

Socialist Alternative had a significant impact on the conference. Early in proceedings, they withheld quorum after being excluded from negotiations over paid office bearer positions, which directly prevented conference from running for the first two days. This decision reduced the time available for policy debate and placed pressure on the remaining agenda.

While Socialist Alternative later secured some office bearer positions through negotiation, the initial decision prioritised factional leverage over the functioning of the conference. This approach had consequences beyond procedural delays, as it contributed to an increasingly hostile atmosphere throughout NatCon.

Outside formal sessions, Socialist Alternative members also engaged in behaviour that reflected the extent of infighting on the left. Around lunchtime on multiple days, delegates from other blocs were approached and accused of not caring about Palestine, questioned on their morals, and criticised for sitting with factions. These interactions did not contribute to policy discussion and instead reinforced division, even where delegates shared similar views on the issues being raised.

### Outcomes for UWA

Despite the challenges throughout NatCon, UWA delegates were still able to achieve meaningful outcomes. Several policy commitments were passed, including support for paid placements, increasing the RTP stipend to minimum wage, and ensuring free period products are available on university campuses.

These outcomes demonstrated that preparation and coordination can still result in positive policy outcomes, even within a disrupted conference environment. UWA delegates worked effectively to advocate for these priorities despite limited time and ongoing tensions.

### Policy Relevance for UWA

A range of national policies were passed at NatCon, including support for free university degrees and full allocation of SSAF funding to student unions. While these align with UWA values, it is important to recognise that UWA is already ahead of many eastern states unions in several areas.

In many cases, UWA is leading on policy and practice rather than relying on national direction. This should be considered when assessing the value of NUS policy outcomes for UWA students.

### Comparison to Education Conference

In comparison to NatCon, the Education Conference was a more productive and constructive experience. It allowed for clearer information sharing, more respectful engagement, and less factional conflict. This highlights that the issues at NatCon are not unavoidable but are the result of how the conference is run and the behaviour that is tolerated.

### Conclusion

UWA delegates made meaningful contributions at NatCon and were able to deliver important policy outcomes. There were positives, including policy wins and the opportunity to build relationships with student leaders from across the country.

However, these were outweighed by significant issues, including wasted time, poor behaviour, and ongoing factional conflict, driven largely by Socialist Alternative. I still question the value of ongoing affiliation with the NUS, particularly given the disconnect between office bearers and campus level unions.

We need to continue to take a more active role in holding the NUS accountable and critically assessing whether affiliation continues to deliver value for students. While the social connections formed were positive, they do not outweigh the structural issues that continue to limit the effectiveness of the organisation.

Regards,  
Nikhita Talluri  
Immediate Past President of the UWA Student Guild



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Ojaswi Shrestha  
**NUS REPORT**  
26/01/2025

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## SUMMARY

The National Union of Students conference, held from 8–12<sup>th</sup> December this year, was an interesting experience. The conference aims to represent the interests of university students and to discuss key issues affecting us nationally. However, nothing could have fully prepared me for how the conference unfolded.

As a first-time attendee, I often felt confused about what was happening, when sessions were meant to begin, and how the overall process worked. Many motions were passed 'en blocs', with the majority of chapters (those representing minority groups like international students) not being discussed at all, which was disappointing. I genuinely believe the NUS has significant potential to advocate effectively for students, but this depends on delegates and observers acting respectfully and ensuring the conference is run on time.

## FACTIONS

The three major factions were:

- **The Broad Left** was the first left-wing majority in the NUS in over 30 years and did not enforce vote-binding. This was the group I sat with, and it felt nice to be able to vote based on my own understanding and judgement rather than being directed by factional leadership. This approach encouraged more genuine discussion and engagement with each motion, allowing delegates to participate meaningfully in the decision making. Overall, it created a more open and collaborative. The groups in broad left consisted of :
  - Forge
  - National Labor Students (NLS)
  - NSWLS
  - Western Australia Independents (Windies)
  - Vic Alliance
- **Student Unity** was the party aligned with Australian Labor Party's right faction. Traditionally the largest faction in the NUS, experienced internal division this year when Victorian Unity split from the national bloc. This stalled conference proceedings and led to a large, ultimately wasted ballot process.
- **Socialist Alternative (SAIt)** are the far-left faction of the NUS and remained consistent in strongly advocating for activism and a far-left policy platform. Early in the conference, it appeared they would be excluded from office bearer positions, leading them to pull quorum; however, following negotiations, they secured several OB roles.

## CONFERENCE- DISCUSSION POINTS

### Day 1

We arrived at Federation University in Ballarat. Although the conference was scheduled to begin in the afternoon, it did not start, as members of SAlt refused to enter the conference hall and quorum could not be reached. In short, Nothing Happened!

### Day 2

Attempts were made throughout the day to reach quorum, but none were successful. The entire day was gone to waste waiting in the hope that quorum would be reached. Despite this, we made new friends and at least had meaningful conversations.

### Day 3

The conference to proceed. However, because the first two days were lost, many motions were passed en bloc, meaning multiple policies were voted on together rather than individually. As a result, opportunities for discussion and meaningful debate were limited.

### Day 4

Similar to Day 3, many motions were passed en bloc, leaving numerous chapters undiscussed. These remaining matters were deferred to the National Executive (NX) meeting. The conference ultimately concluded with the election of the NUS executive team for 2026.

## CONCLUSION

Overall, the conference was a mix of challenges and learning experiences. While delays, quorum issues, and motions being passed en bloc limited meaningful discussion, it was also an opportunity to observe student politics, meet passionate delegates, and engage with different factions. I hope future conferences are better organised, start on time, and provide more time for debate, collaboration, and meaningful participation specially within the minority representation.

Thankyou,

Ojaswi Shrestha  
NUS Delegate



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**113<sup>th</sup> GUILD COUNCIL**  
**RAMA SUGIARTHA**  
**DELEGATE**  
**NUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT**  
**25/1/2025**

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## DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Rama Sugiarta was elected as the State President (Western Australia) of the National Union of Students. Rama Sugiarta was the 2025 State Vice President (Western Australia) of the National Union of Students.

This report contains policy yet to be considered by the NUS. Policy not considered at Conference has been deferred to the National Executive meeting in February.

## SUMMARY

This report provides a detailed account of the 2025 National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference, outlining its proceedings, challenges, factional dynamics, and limited policy outcomes.

Across four days, Conference was marked by dysfunction, including repeated failure to reach quorum, factional disputes, and overall delays that prevented the consideration of the full Conference Policy Book. Day 1 and 2 saw no substantive progress due to walkouts and factional disputes. Delegates faced harassment, procedural obstruction, and no opportunities to speak to motions. Only on Day 3 did Conference meaningfully begin, with debate and key motions passed on free education, solidarity with Palestine, and NUS governance transparency. Day 4 was dominated by the National Executive elections and truncated policy discussions, with remaining chapters deferred to National Executive.

Factional tensions defined much of the Conference. The split with Student Unity, the attempted lockout of Socialist Alternative, and a culture of secrecy and hostility highlighted structural weaknesses in the supreme body of the NUS.

Despite the dysfunction, several policy wins emerged, including the reinstatement of the National Environment Officer, support for free higher education, and paid placements. Appendix A also outlines motions I submitted across student unionism, education, welfare, First Nations issues, and the environment.

While the NUS remains an important vehicle for national advocacy, its operational shortcomings, inequitable resource distribution, and limited engagement with WA campuses raise serious concerns. I recommend the Guild establish a working group to monitor the performance of the NUS, surveying students on NUS visibility, advocating for quorum reforms, opposing filming bans. I further recommend that Council works to strengthen our direct relationship with government.

While improvements were evident in some areas, the deepening dysfunction of at least the National Conference threatens the legitimacy and effectiveness of the NUS. A member wide consultation should be considered before a disaffiliation referendum is considered.

## REFLECTION

I attended the conference as a UWA Student Guild Delegate. I sat with the WA Independent Student Left within the Student Left faction. I attended for the full duration of all sessions, with the current Guild stance requiring delegates to be on the floor for at least 80% of conference.

**Quorum requires 50% of all elected delegates to be present, however many send proxies, giving small groups the ability to pull quorum and delay conference.**

The National Union of Students cannot be afraid to call out Labor governments or any government for that is a fundamental reason for its very existence.



## **DAY 1 – NOT MUCH**

Check in was paused for the Welcome to Country, which was meant to be followed by the Rules and Student Unionism chapters. Factions continued negotiations to bring delegates to the floor. No conference sessions were held as Conference Organisers believed quorum could not be established.

## **DAY 2 - NOT MUCH WITH AN DELICIOUS MOTION**

There was an expectation for conference to commence however the SAlt delegates had not yet accredited by the time other groups were sat in the conference venue, and it was apparent that conference would not start.

I was followed and verbally harassed throughout Monday and Tuesday by a small contingent of SAlt delegates who seemed to believe I had some almighty power to convince the other groups to give in to their demands. I would like to clarify that none of these were UWA students, and I have a strong working relationship with those from UWA. I do not believe this is representative of their whole caucus, and intolerable action is conducted by all groups and should be called out in member's forums such as Council.

All groups are entitled to fair representation at the National Union of Students, and the NUS must work to uphold this principle.

On the Business Committee, which approves motions to be considered by Conference through faction representatives, there were some disputes including the ripping and consumption of motions not yet considered, resulting in some having to be laminated. Business Committee exists to minimise amendments without support from taking up conference time.

No policies were passed on Day 2. If the National Conference does not convene and accept the financial, annual, and Returning Officers report, then the conference is determined to have failed and may serve as grounds for winding up the National Union of Students in its current form.

## **DAY 3 – RULES, STUDENT UNIONISM, EDUCATION**

Quorum was established with the participation of all groups on Day 3. The By-Law amendments saw the reintroduction of the National Environment Officer. An urgency motion in solidarity with the people of Palestine introduced by SAlt was passed. Unity voted against and deserved at the least the shame it received. The Student Unionism chapter followed in large blocs, supporting transparency, full funding, and strong campaigns for student unions.

I spoke to 2.33 Accounting for Accountability, pushing for the NUS to improve its communication and governance structure allowing it to operate effectively and openly, which passed. This was my only opportunity to address the Conference due to reduced speaking lists and blocs as the length was effectively halved.

The Education chapter followed with an overwhelming support for free education except from the Student Unity group. Free education would fundamentally improve access to education, drive interest in innovation, and push economic stimulus. Instead, Labor Right students continue to point to costs, ignoring Resource and Defence subsidies and expenditures, and near backwards arguments about how their grandparents “had to do it tough” and they like the “struggle”. This is a deep shame.

10 chapters of covering 300 motions were yet to be moved at the day's end.

#### **DAY 4 – NATIONAL EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS, EDUCATION, WOMEN’S, ETHNOCULTURAL, WELFARE**

Conference floor extended to include the ballot room. I spent much of my day around the ballot room to provide my group and the Student Left with updates on where the Returning Officer, who unfortunately was involved in a road accident, was. I would like to thank the Curtin delegates who moved motions on behalf while I was in the voting room. Voting was meant to occur in the morning but would not be completed until shortly before 11PM.

Ethnocultural and Women’s chapters were moved in large blocs, before candidates were invited to address conference in their bid for election. Few spoke in hope that policy could continue. The Welfare chapter was briefly discussed.

Remaining chapters and the Returning Officer’s report were referred to the National Executive to be considered. The Returning Officers report was considered in late December and accepted. The Conference Policy Book will be considered in early February delaying the release, once again, of the National Platform. The NUS Platform expires at the commencement of the next National Conference.

#### **FACTIONS**

Student Left – Coalition of independents, National Labor Students (NLS) and NLS campuses, with the (contested) largest portion of votes, and now holding a 1 vote majority on the National Executive. Includes Victorian Alliance, Independent Student Left / Western Australian Independents, Forge, New South Wales Labor Students and remaining NLS. No vote binding.

Socialist Alternative – Also referred to as SAlt, the most left leaning grouping, extremely well organised and either the largest or second largest grouping depending on who you ask. Does not hold votes on the new National Executive. Vote binding.

Student Unity – Composed of students aligned with the Labor Right, deals with Labor Left groups to negotiate positions and policy. Refutes free education despite being students. Will deal with Liberal tickets on their campuses to secure NUS Delegates, one of the Liberal delegates elected did come to the Conference and was booed by others in attendance, to which this delegate seemed to enjoy garnering the attention of mostly left leaning delegates. Second largest group on the new National Executive. Vote binding.

Victorian SDA (Shop, Distributive, and Allied Employees Association) – Former Victorian chapter of Student Unity, splitting on “moral grounds” from National Student Unity at least for NUS purposes. Withdrew candidates after ballot papers had been printed resulting in waste of over 24000 A4 sheets (each position ballot is on an A4 sheet, and you get one per vote you hold, so a University of Melbourne delegate could find themselves with more than 75 sheets. Highlights partisan nature of some factions. Vote binding.

Independents – There was a handful of nonaligned delegates however less than previous years. The lack of speaking time limited the ability for independent delegates to participate meaningfully.

#### **POLICIES WE CAN APPLY AT UWA**

The full wording of the motions as passed at the National Conference or subsequently by the National Executive of the NUS is yet to be released in the National Platform. Following this vote, I will share policies as an appendix to my regular Council report.

Notable outcomes from passed policy include:

- The reintroduction of the National Environment Officer
- All my Chapter 2 and 4 motions
- Emergency motion condemning Labor's complicity in the Gaza genocide
- The upcoming National Day of Action for Palestine
- Support for free higher education despite Unity opposition
- Support for paid university placements
- Support for increase to Research Training Placement (RTP) payments
- Support for the abolition of junior wages

## CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION POINTS

### Revisiting 2025

Last year I put forward a set of questions to members of Council to consider. Reflecting on the 2025 Conference, my reflections on these questions are as follows:

*Can the UWA Student Guild justify NUS fees when the state of Western Australia is neglected?*

It is difficult to justify fees when WA must spend more money in simply getting to NUS events and seemingly receives less attention, resources, and campaign support.

While student unions in Western Australia are incredibly strong and healthy, there are systematic statewide issues in higher education that require coordination to tackle, including the threat of university mergers, the underfunding of universities, the lack of housing, student safety, and academic freedom to name a few.

Without the NUS, WA students would unfortunately have even less of a political voice. Federal education policy affects just as much, HECS changes, university funding, student income support, international students, workforce planning all impact WA students. The NUS provides a vehicle for collective advocacy that individual student unions could not match. It is essential the NUS works to achieve its potential.

*How can you or I effectively engage in national campaigns when funding for said campaigns is not distributed?*

Some ways to improve engagement include:

- Working strongly with local student unions, interest groups, and student groups to build the local student movement.
- The strong campus presence, and relatively vast resources of the UWA Student Guild should be used to amplify campaigns organically and provide guidance to less established student guilds in Western Australia.
- There must be a push for structural reforms in the NUS that strengthen regional representation and resource allocation that is fair to the student unions who are buying in, and not necessarily directly proportional to enrolment numbers, as base costs for campaigns are often relatively flat.
- Media relationships need to be built in Western Australia and shared amongst student unions to bring the student union movement into the broader public eye.

*What does the NUS do with our fees?*

The NUS is insistent that it runs campaigns. The cost of conferences is not cheap, and no student union pays full accreditation fees. There are a handful of paid Office Bearers (at minimum wage, and collectively less than 4.5 FTE employees).

The NUS must make what money it does have work, be visible, and engage the broader student population. It should reallocate budget to State Branches to allow campaigns to be better coordinated locally and across campuses. Have you ever seen an NUS campaign? If your answer is no, then the NUS is not doing good enough.

*How are you or I going to effectively communicate with the National Union of Students in the coming year to get value for money, and importantly, unpaid student representatives, time?*

It is essential that you contact your equivalent National Officer, for they may not take the care to find you otherwise. I will be distributing a contact list in the immediate term following Council. Say hello! These representatives are all fresh to the role, and it is important we give them a fair chance. Many National OBs should be contacting you at least 4 times throughout the year.

Request the NUS KPIs early and know what you are looking for in a good Office Bearer. If they aren't meeting your expectations contact myself (State President) or Ollie.

#### **Quorum and Lack of Delegates**

Just over 50% of elected delegates attended conference, with 50% needed for quorum. This enable every single grouping to pull quorum if they were dissatisfied with proceedings and resulted in the two-day blockade. Unions should only allow proxies to attend for Delegates under exceptional circumstances.

#### **SAlt Lockout and Media Access**

The Labor factions attempted to lock out SAlt. This was shameful, and I continue such actions. I do not believe that the motivation from the lock out stemmed from SAlt's Palestine advocacy but rather a distinct ideological difference – they are not the Labor party. Some members talked that Labor ministers were nervous about meeting with the NUS for fear of public criticism. That is exactly what the NUS should be doing. It should be challenging the government. It should make ministers nervous of public criticism. The complicity in genocide, Western imperialism, and the degradation of higher education in Australia is shameful and It must be challenged. There was a viral moment on where observers from SAlt were in the venue and all delegates from remaining factions were present, in which Yasmine Johnson (SAlt, National Education Officer) shouted support for Palestine and accused remaining delegates of locking out the only pro-Palestine activists in the NUS. This was met with shouting back predominantly from Student Unity and the prompt exit of the Student Left.

One of the rules moved in the opening chapter is typically to ban filming and photography of the conference floor. Since conference had technically not yet started, filming was allowed. The video is available online and shows some of the dysfunction and factionalism that plagues the NUS at National Conference and drives the argument for a focus on local branches and actions. The reaction supports the need for unrestricted journalism at National Conference and transparency in student unions broadly. NUS and Guild Council should be livestreamed.

#### **Student Unity Split**

The crisis of Student Unity falling apart leaving them and Student Left without the combined majority, spoke to the factions within factions further fuelling the flames. A vote of no confidence in the National Convenor Aidan O'Rourke and accusations of undemocratic process saw Victorian SDA leave Student

Unity. This is particularly interesting because the Western Australia State Executive passed a resolution of no confidence in Aidan for being an unresponsive General Secretary of the NSU earlier in his term.

### **Financial Implications**

The delay in the conference has been reported by various student media organisations to have wasted around \$300 000. It is difficult to say if this is necessarily true. Is the cost any greater than it would have been should the conference have started truly on Day 1? Greater cost saving could be found in alternate venues and considering whether a policy voting conference is at all necessary for the NUS, with the cheaper and smaller scale Education Conference and Diversity Conference seemingly providing greater value than the National Conference.

### **Recommendations**

I am supportive of the establishment of a NUS Working Group to monitor engagement, value, and training with the NUS to assess if accreditation is proper. For full fee-paying unions, which we are not, the 2025 accreditation fee was \$2.17 per equivalent full time study load (EFTSL). I recommend that Council:

- Surveys UWA students about their awareness and satisfaction with the NUS at the start of the year and at the end of the year
- Sets clear performance expectations for the NUS, and ensure OBs with equivalent National Officers know what the KPIs are and how they should be met
- Advocates for a reform of the quorum rules to prevent tactical withdrawals of quorum
- Votes against resolutions banning filming of National Conference
- Develops direct relationships with government departments and representatives

### **Conclusion**

While policy development and interactions with other delegates had improved on the previous year, the dysfunction of the National Conference seemed to grow. It will be important to watch if the National Executive is able to overcome this. Affiliation should be reconsidered through a Guild-wide consultative process at the end of the 2026 term.

I pose the following questions to Council:

- Can an organisation that bans filming claim to represent student democracy?
- Does the NUS provide actual advocacy or simple political theatre?
- What do you want the NUS to do differently, and who will you tell?

And if you don't mind, **give @nuswestaus a follow** to see what we can do locally to improve the NUS.

Regards,



Rama Sugiarta

UWA NUS Delegate

113th Ordinary Guild Councillor

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Delegates should be taking the opportunity to propose policy to the NUS, in addition to speaking to policies where time allows. Below are the policies I proposed (and wrote) or seconded from the Conference Policy Book and may not appear as written in the finalised National Platform.

I was disappointed that other UWA delegates or proxies moved or seconded collectively 4 motions in the Conference Policy Book. Please contact me if you require evidence of this claim.

### Guide to Chapters

- Chapter 1: Rules Changes
- Chapter 2: Student Unionism
- Chapter 3: Trade Unionism
- Chapter 4: Education
- Chapter 5: Welfare
- Chapter 6: Women's
- Chapter 7: Queer
- Chapter 8: First Nations
- Chapter 9: Disabilities
- Chapter 10: International
- Chapter 11: Ethnocultural
- Chapter 12: Small and Regional
- Chapter 13: Environment

### 2.33 Accounting for Accountability

#### Preamble

A strong, democratic student union movement is essential for advancing student interests and building collective power. Student unions, especially the National Union of Students, must be transparent, accountable, and make genuine effort to represent the interests of their member organisations towards the goals of their member organisations - and bend to no other organisation. We believe in solidarity over competition and collective action as the ultimate mechanism of change.

#### Platform

1. The NUS will provide material support to member student unions
2. The NUS will build and strengthen relationships with non-member student unions
3. The NUS will operate with transparent governance, and make all necessary financial records, minutes, and other records available to member organisations upon request
4. The NUS will support member student unions in implementing transparent budget processes that prioritise direct material support for students
5. The NUS will advocate for student autonomy and institutional independence, and it itself will be independent including from other political or otherwise special interest groups, however, may from time to time work in collaboration with these other organisations.

#### Action

1. The NUS National Executive will create a new Register of Conflicts of Interest and Relational Engagement policy to which all National Officers, State Officers, Secretariat, Delegates, and Observers must comply with.
2. Establish a mechanism for knowledge sharing on best practices in student union governance.



3. Develop a standardised governance training module for student union leaders covering the basics of conflict resolution, Australian Charity and Not for Profit Commission guidelines, and inclusivity.
4. Create an accessible platform for student feedback and policy input.

## **2.34 The National Union goes National**

### **Preamble**

An independent student union is essential to ensuring student success. Not all students are represented by a student union, or at the least, not an institutionally independent student union. Student representation at these institutions are either non-existent or heavily influenced by university administration, undermining the autonomy and effectiveness of the student voice.

The NUS should assert itself as the de facto student union of those unrepresented at their home institution and support these students in the creation of their own local student union. This empowers students to have a say in university governance, access vital services, and advocate for their needs.

All students should have access to effective representation to have a meaningful role in shaping their education.

### **Platform**

#### **1. The NUS:**

- a. Believes that every student deserves independent representation.
- b. Supports the creation and maintenance of student unions independent of university administration.
- c. Seeks to be a source of support for these students in their efforts to establish independent unions.
- d. Will work with students and other stakeholders to support the establishment of independent student unions at universities, TAFEs, regional student hubs, and other higher education providers.

### **Action**

#### **1. The NUS will:**

- a. Work to act as a national network of student unions connecting student unions to facilitate collaboration and mutual support, enabling the sharing of resources, strategies and the strengthening of collective advocacy.
- b. Provide organisational assistances to students seeking to form independent unions, ensuring they are compliant and maintain their independence from university administration, including 52 providing templates for constitutions, advice on structure, and how to navigate policies that may pose as barriers to union formation.
- c. Advocate for legislative changes that encourage the formation and autonomy of student unions beyond universities, including TAFEs and other higher education providers, and send material and campaigns to these institutions,
- d. Create a public campaign to raise awareness on the importance of independent student unions at a range of higher education institutions that highlight the benefit of strong student unions in improving campus life, ensuring academic success, and providing a platform for student activism.
- e. Build solidarity in the student union movement by supporting student organisations and movements with similar goals in Australia and internationally,
- f. Assert itself as the de facto student union for representation until an independent local student union may be established.

## **4.66 Fair Funding for Universities**

### **Preamble**

The increased corporatisation of our institutions didn't happen by itself, the funding level from the government pushed them towards caring more about their bottom lines than the welfare and education of their students.

Universities need more funding that can only be put towards their students. This will mean Universities will seek less funding from private sources such as weapons companies and mining.

#### **Platform**

1. The NUS calls for full funding of University Teaching and Learning and an end to the reliance on funding from weapons companies.
2. The NUS calls on Universities to fund research for the public good, not because it brings in money.

#### **Action**

1. The NUS will campaign for greater government funding to universities
2. The NUS will call for research that contributes to the public good
3. The NUS will call for universities to cut ties with weapons manufacturers

### **4.68 A Public Good for Good**

#### **Preamble**

All students should have equal access to quality education regardless of background, financial circumstances, or other barriers. Education is a public good, not a commodity.

#### **Platform**

1. The NUS advocates for educational justice through:
  - a. Vehemently opposing the marketisation and commodification of education
  - b. Supporting accessible, free, and quality public education
  - c. Recognition of diverse learning needs and educational pathways
  - d. Protection of academic freedom and intellectual inquiry

#### **Action**

1. The NUS will:
  - a. Oppose fee increases across all institutions and actively campaign for free higher education
  - b. Campaign against forced university mergers without extensive student consultation
  - c. Advocate for the immediate amendment to the Higher Education Support Act 2003 to remove funding based on so-called national priorities, and to expand funding for Higher Education generally.

### **5.41 Minimum Standard Guidelines for Mental Health and Sexual Harm**

#### **Platform**

1. The NUS recognises that University's approach to sexual assault is insufficient and often creates more stress for the victim and that there are measures that can be put in place to create safer spaces on campus. The NUS will advocate for Universities to:

- a. Have trauma-informed guidelines regarding their approach to sexual assault based on expert and student opinion.
- b. Have minimum standards for lighting across all University campuses.

#### **Action**

1. The NUS will consult with member campuses and make recommendations to the government on minimum standard guidelines for support services for mental health and gender-based violence

### **5.51 Move more, stress less**

#### **Preamble**



We all know the stresses that University can bring. One of the best, scientifically proven ways to help manage stress is through exercise. Despite this, research has shown that starting Uni is associated with decreased physical activity, poorer diet, disrupted sleep and worse mental health. At the same time students want and expect access to exercise. In a national survey of school leavers, 63% said they expect cheap gym access on campus. This shows that this is an access issue, which Universities have the ability to control and directly affect. Accessible exercise equipment and movement opportunities provide a tangible net benefit to students. Exercise acts as an escape, improves mental health and greatly reduces the risk of general mortality. Some campuses offer cheap student memberships, but they're often only during certain "sale" times and other campuses charge hundreds of dollars per year on top of SSAF fees. Amenities should include basic access to exercise facilities. With rent, food and transport costs rising, regular exercise is becoming a luxury instead of a basic health right for students.

#### **Platform**

1. The NUS recognises access to exercise and movement equipment as a core student welfare issue, not a lifestyle extra.
2. The NUS believes no student should be priced out of basic gym and recreation facilities at their own institution.
3. The NUS believes that SSAF-funded sport and recreation must deliver clear, affordable benefits to students - especially to disadvantaged students who come from an international, rural or low-income background.
4. The NUS calls on Universities to clearly identify what proportion of SSAF funds go to sport/gym areas for students and to offer a membership at or below the National Student Gym Pricing Standard

#### **Action**

1. The NUS will promote a National Student Gym Pricing Standard, calling for:
  - a. At least one core student membership per campus with total effective cost (including SSAF-funded components) equivalent to no more than \$5 per week for full-time students, indexed annually
  - b. Membership pricing takes in account students that are on income support, scholarships based on financial hardship or staying in on-campus accommodation
  - c. Transparent public reporting of gym and sport fees on all university websites

### **8.04 Cultural Awareness Taught from a Student Perspective**

#### **Preamble**

First Nations knowledge systems, cultures, and perspective, are central to understanding Australia's history and society. These perspectives have been marginalised within mainstream education. The NUS acknowledges the deep value of First Nations knowledge systems and recognises the importance of integrating them into all levels of higher education. This knowledge must be protected from appropriation and taught in a culturally appropriate and respectful way. Building cultural awareness and sensitivity amongst students is critical.

#### **Platform**

1. The NUS:
  - a. Advocates for a student-led approach to cultural awareness, ensuring that workshops and training are grounded in student experience and perspective.
  - b. Acknowledges that cultural awareness should not be imposed top-down, but rather an experience of active learning that encourages empathy, respect and meaningful engagement with First Nations peoples' histories, cultures, and lived experiences.
  - c. Believes students should be empowered to lead this initiative in a way that feels relevant and authentic to them.

- d. Supports the idea that students should complete cultural awareness workshops when joining student organisations and clubs.
- e. Supports the idea that staff should engage in student led workshops to engage with the unique perspectives of First Nations students on campus.
- f. Advocates for the promotion of Indigenous knowledge across all disciplines through the introduction of mandatory Indigenous studies components in all degree programs., and the promotion of culturally responsive teaching methods.

#### **Action**

##### **1. The NUS will:**

- a. Provide a framework for students to conduct cultural awareness and sensitivity training for their peers.
- b. Support First Nations student leaders to travel to Diversity and Education Conference(s) where these conferences take place.
- c. Advocate for mandatory Indigenous studies components in all degrees
- d. Challenge the appropriation of Indigenous knowledge and culture
- e. Launch an educational campaign to raise awareness of the historical significance of National Sorry Day, the Stolen Generations, and the ongoing challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, encouraging engagement in national conversation of reconciliation and cultural competency, ensuring First Nations perspectives are centred in these discussions.
- f. Monitor the implementation of cultural awareness and sensitivity training at higher education institutions ensuring these programs are meaningful, impactful, and aligned with the principles of respect for First Nations peoples and ensure institutions are held accountable to providing resources and support to continue cultural learning beyond initial workshops.

#### **8.08 Shut Down Banksia Hill - Why are Children Still in Prisons?**

##### **Preamble**

The conditions at Banksia Hill Detention Centre, where Indigenous youth are disproportionately detained, highlight severe human rights violations. Detainees are often confined under "lockdown" conditions, spending up to 23.5 hours a day in tiny cells, with reports of one inmate enduring 79 days of solitary confinement in 98 days.

In addition to the psychological harm of prolonged isolation, detainees at Banksia Hill face numerous other abuses. Regular dehumanizing strip searches, the use of dangerous restraint techniques that risk suffocation, and degrading, racist insults from prison guards have been reported by former detainees. These practices further exacerbate trauma and highlight systemic failures in the treatment of vulnerable children in detention.

##### **Platform**

##### **1. The National Union of Students calls for:**

- 1. Governments to take immediate action by investing in community-led, culturally appropriate diversion programs and support services for young people, emphasising a proactive approach to addressing the systemic issues that lead to youth involvement in the justice system.
- 2. The Western Australian government to close Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre and stop funding into the expansion of the Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre.

#### **Action**

- 1. That the WA NUS State Branch campaign for the closure of Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre
- 2. That the NUS campaign for state and federal governments in culturally safe diversion and support services for young people.

## **8.26 Sorry Day is for Sorry Business**

### **Preamble**

National Sorry Day is a day to remember and acknowledge the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were forcibly removed from their families and communities. It provides time for reflection on the 342

historical and ongoing impacts of the Stolen Generations, which caused irreparable harm to countless individuals, families, and communities. The effect of these policies are still felt today, contributing to cycles of trauma, grief, and loss.

National Sorry Day provides time to acknowledge and show support and solidarity for past and ongoing injustices towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Students should be free to spend the day with their families and communities. They should not be pressured with assessments on this day of commemoration.

### **Platform**

#### **1. The NUS:**

- a. Recognises the importance of National Sorry Day on March 26 annually as a day of commemoration to remember and acknowledge the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were forcibly removed from their families and communities.
- b. Stands in solidarity with First Nations students and recognises the importance of providing them with space and time to participate in community activity and ceremony.
- c. Students should not be required to participate in assessments on this day, and universities should provide cultural support, counselling, and community activities to support the emotional, mental, and cultural wellbeing of First Nations students and all students who wish to participate in the commemoration.
- d. Educational institutions should foster greater understanding and respect for National Sorry Day, including awareness of the history and ongoing impact of the Stolen Generations, and encourage dialogue around reconciliation.

### **Action**

#### **1. The NUS will:**

- a. Advocate to institutions and support member student unions to bar assessments due on March 26, Sorry Day.
- b. Support student unions across Australia to support their campaigns to implement this platform locally, providing time for reflection, cultural connection, and participation in community activity and ceremony.
- c. Offer practical support for cultural ceremonies, and community building amongst First Nations students and the broader student body.
- d. Advocate for universities to provide adequate mental health and cultural support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, ensuring access to counselling, cultural liaisons, and community groups.
- e. Establish mechanisms to monitor implementation, including gathering feedback from students and student unions to hold institutions accountable to their commitments.

## **13.29 No More Gaslighting the Climate**

### **Preamble**

The Burrup Hub is projected to be one of the most carbon intensive fossil fuel developments in the world. Its expansion on the North West Shelf threatens unique cultural heritage, accelerates climate impacts and undermines Australia's commitments to climate action. Young people and students who will inherit the

consequences of this project have made it clear that continued gas expansion is incompatible with a safe and liveable future.

The NUS notes that the Federal Government's approval of new gas projects contradicts scientific advice and the demands of communities, Traditional Owners and climate experts. Students across the country expect leadership that prioritises long term environmental and cultural protection over short term industry interests. The NUS recognises that large scale gas expansion is a direct barrier to achieving net zero and threatens both the stability of the climate and the wellbeing of future generations.

#### **Platform**

1. The NUS opposes the Burrup Hub development and any further expansion of gas extraction on the North West Shelf.
2. The NUS believes that new fossil fuel projects are incompatible with a safe climate future and Australia's international obligations.
3. The NUS recognises that the Burrup Hub threatens irreplaceable cultural heritage on the Burrup Peninsula and undermines the rights of Traditional Owners.
4. The NUS believes that government decisions on major projects must follow scientific advice, climate commitments and community consultation.
5. The NUS recognises that young people bear the brunt of climate impacts and rejects policies that lock in decades of carbon pollution.

#### **Action**

1. The NUS will publicly oppose the Burrup Hub project and any associated gas expansion on the North West Shelf.
2. The NUS will call on the Federal Government to withdraw approvals for expansions linked to the Burrup Hub and to halt new fossil fuel developments.
3. The NUS will support Traditional Owners, community groups and climate organisations campaigning to protect the Burrup Peninsula and broader North West region.



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## SUMMARY

The attendance of the Guild's Residential Students' Department at the National Association of University Colleges' (NAAUC) National Convention (NatCon) occurred from 1 – 5 December 2025 in Meanjin (Brisbane) at the Women's College in the University of Queensland (UQ).

The Department send Troy Wood, Head of Department to attend the NatCon to:

1. Learn the contemporary teachings of best-practice inter-college management,
2. Work toward Departmental objectives and,
3. Continue to build relationships with WA college delegates.

The NatCon was a worthwhile expense for the Department to ensure continuous improvement and continued work towards the objectives of the department, specifically objectives a, b, d and e. Colleges which sent delegates were University Hall, St Thomas Moore College and Trinity Residential College; St Catherine's College holds the WA State representative portfolio and was therefore represented.

The Department is quite unique amongst existing intercollegiate alliances/organisations, there are limited Student Guilds/Unions who support residential students through an autonomous Department. Conversations with other heads of Inter-College alliances/organisations found that we are extremely successful in our objectives. Anecdotally RSD may have the highest residential attendance at inter-college events in the country. This is a success of the Guild and deserves recognition.

I am excited to see the improvements across College Row from colleges who sent delegates ensuring that leaders amongst the Colleges and Department are working towards a collaborative, safe and fun environment for Residents.

## ACADEMICS

Academic sessions were delivered by the NAAUC team and invited experts with the goal for delegates to expand knowledge on particular areas acknowledged as important within colleges across Australia. These sessions were run congruently and as the Department sent one delegate, I was not able to attend all academics, although Colleges did usually send more than one delegate to fully benefit from the various academics.

### **BURSTING THE BUBBLE**

The overarching learning is that student leadership in residences is not just a co-curricular activity, but a high-impact training ground for future professional roles. It is important to support residents to develop a clear personal brand and learning to articulate their leadership journey using professional terminology, we explored the learnings college residents would need to confidently step into future roles, leveraging their university residence experience as a significant career asset.

### **THE CULTURAL AUDIT**

This academic explored the critical elements of cultural renewal in residential life, emphasizing that while culture and traditions can provide unity and sanctuary, negative elements are damaging and require intentional change. It guided us through understanding how residential culture is built and broken down, analysing both its positive and negative effects on the residents, and identifying key stakeholders necessary for renewal. The session challenged us to critically evaluate own community's position on the continuum of renewal, urging us to dismantle harmful traditions and return to their core purpose to ensure safer, welcoming, and vibrant spaces for all.



## **SEX CULTURE**

This academic explored the distinct and often challenging sex culture within university residences, recognizing that issues related to expectations, relationships, and power dynamics can increase the risk of unsafe or inappropriate behaviour. It aimed to equip us with the awareness, language, and practical tools to critically analyse our culture by exploring key factors such as first-time narratives, the Proximity Principle, consent, and diverse sex education experiences (including LGBTQIA+ inclusion). The session also examines the influence of toxic masculinity/femininity and pornography, providing practical strategies through interactive activities to help us navigate power dynamics, support disclosures, and actively shape positive and inclusive environments.

## **ACCESSABILITY AND NEURODIVERSITY**

This academic explored the experiences of neurodivergent students and those with disabilities in tertiary residences, providing insight into the realities of their lives and the specific aspects of the residential environment that may impact them. It encourages us to critically assess existing practices and strategies to promote equity and build truly inclusive and accessible environments within their communities. The session is designed to empower us to become active agents of change, embracing neurodiversity and accessibility as an everyday necessity and consideration in all our decision-making.

## **ADDICTION, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

This academic explored the complex reality of addiction, substance use, and harm minimisation in residential settings, acknowledging that the lines between personal choices and community responsibility often blur for college leadership. Rather than focusing on prohibition, the session adopts a realistic and informed approach, providing us with practical strategies to navigate difficult situations by exploring common misconceptions, how addiction develops, and the social factors that make residences high-risk. It aimed to equip us with the knowledge to lead with care and influence culture, focusing on creating opportunities for help-seeking and responding with compassion, while clarifying the boundaries of our responsibilities based on research into harm minimisation, mental health, and student development.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN OFFICE BEARER**

This academic explored the responsibilities of a student office bearer in a residence club or association, which often serves as many students first encounter with regulations and legal duties. This session went over the fundamentals, focusing on the office bearer's duty to ensure compliance with the law and maintain the integrity of club processes, while also unpacking the specific requirements and interdependencies of each individual role. It further provides information on effectively executing these tasks, including crucial updates regarding recent changes to tax obligations for incorporated student clubs.

## **RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

This academic explored the concept of respectful relationships in shared college environments, recognizing that while diverse living can foster growth, it also exposes communities to tensions and harmful dynamics. The session specifically responds to the urgent societal issue of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence as they surface within college settings, providing guidance on how we can encourage self-awareness, facilitate difficult conversations, and build communities founded on empathy and accountability. Recognizing the complexity of these issues, the academic aimed to empower delegates to support others as compassionate and informed community members and also introduces key external frameworks like the Universities Accord and the Student Ombudsman to clarify the implications for their leadership roles.

## **FOOD CULTURE**

This academic explored Food Culture within university residences, recognizing that the prominent diet culture in media and society often influences young people's self-image and relationship with food and exercise. It unpacked how the unique residential environment, including dining halls or customisable meal plans, can be a high-risk environment for disordered eating and poor body image. We were given the

opportunity to explore our own residence's food-, diet-, and body-image-related culture and traditions, and critically evaluate how these factors impact not only individual risk but also the wider college culture.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EFFECTIVE CHANEGOVER**

This academic explored how to overcome the challenges of short tenures and high turnover in student residential leadership by focusing on strategic planning and effective changeover. Drawing on industry-standard change management and goal-setting frameworks, the session provides practical guidance on developing clear, achievable, and sustainable initiatives, including how to create SMART goals and foster stakeholder engagement. Ultimately, it provides leaders with essential tools and templates to craft well-documented handovers, ensuring that outgoing teams leave a lasting legacy and empower their successors to lead with clarity and confidence.

### **WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU F\*CK UP**

This academic explored the crucial aspects of handling inevitable mistakes effectively in residential student leadership, acknowledging the pressure of making errors in a living and working environment. The session aimed to equip us with confidence, resilience, and compassion to recover from unavoidable mistakes by discussing strategies for acknowledging and owning errors, learning and adapting from them, communicating proactively, and seeking support. By focusing on managing controllable mistakes, the content and skills learned will prepare us to stand tall and face criticism, enabling them to focus their energy on making real, lasting, and positive changes in our communities.

### **INTER-RES RELATIONS**

This academic explored Inter-Res Relations, focusing on the complex dynamics between different residential colleges, including competition, collaboration, and the influence of tradition. It aimed to equip us with an understanding of this unique environment and provide practical strategies for building respectful relationships, effectively managing conflict, and promoting inclusion across the entire campus. Whether navigating inter-res sporting events, academic collaborations, or social traditions, the session provided the insights and tools needed to create a broader culture of mutual respect and support.

### **ACADEMICS NOT ATTENDED**

Due to conflicting academics, the following are academics I was not able to attend:

1. Resident Advisor Realities,
2. Event Planning,
3. Mental Wellbeing,
4. Engaging in New Traditions,
5. Working with Res Staff and,
6. Engaging with International Students

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The attendance of a delegate from the Department was a worthwhile expense for the Department due to various factors. Academics contributed to a further enrichment of knowledge within the Department, especially with the conference's focus on colleges around Australia. The peer, professional and hands-on learning through the National Conference should be recognised as a priority for the Department to repeat.

### **THE NATIONAL CODE**

These sessions were facilitated by Kim Copeland and Renee Hamilton about the 'National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence', aka the "Code". This will be brought in from 2026 and is a responsibility of the University to manage including ensuring compliance with affiliated colleges.



## **‘THE CODE’**

The Code has 7 main principles; these include:

1. Accountable leadership and governance
2. Safe environments and systems
3. Knowledge and capability
4. Safety and support
5. Safe processes
6. Data, evidence and impact
7. Safe student Accommodation

The training while short left me with many take aways with how this will affect the Department, colleges and the University. This legislation requires Universities to submit their compliance plan to the Government; Colleges are also required to have a plan, although they only have to publish this on their respective websites. The University and Colleges now have a requirement to act within 48 hours of a disclosure and finalise investigations within 45 days unless an extension approved by the Vice-Chancellor. With the worrying statistics within universities nationally it is commendable that the prevention of gender-based violence.

It is to be acknowledged that in an investigation conducted by the University of Western Australia in 2018 found that College Row’s culture was positive, reporting 97.1% of residents felt safe living at their college. The report also noted a very low number of reports of bullying, sexual assault and hazing, recommending better training and reporting mechanisms.

While the two speakers were main leaders of this legislation, they still struggled to answer many operational questions such as:

1. Who do you escalate a report to if a resident and/student isn’t satisfied with the handling of the disclosure,
2. With the mandatory reporting Residential Leader’s relationship(s) with college residents it’s unclear if:
  - a. Student Leadership Associations Committees will be subject to this disclosure – as the speakers insinuated this, but the code guidance does not include this provision,
  - b. How the information will be handled, and who will have access,
  - c. How the college will implement mitigations/risk planning for reporting and,
  - d. The consequences for failing to disclose a relationship.

It is also unclear what the definition of an intimate relationship is.

The code is a good step in the right direction for the University sector and colleges although many students are still unsure how Universities and Colleges will respond and implement required policies.

## **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **NAAUC MEMBERSHIP**

#### Explanation

NatCon hosts a national forum and AGM where delegates are able to speak on issues pertinent to College residents and vote for the executive of NAAUC. The Department could not be a part of this debate nor AGM due to no financial membership of NAAUC. Currently only University Hall and St Thomas Moore College are financial members of NAAUC. NAAUC provides discounted NatCon tickets, advisory services and training for financial members, this could be then extended to the Department’s members.

### Recommendation

It is my recommendation that the Department works with the Guild to investigate the financial feasibility of membership noting:

1. Membership will be a net positive if the Department sends two delegates,
2. The Department would be further empowered to meet the following objective:
  - a. *Represent and advocate for residential students residing at the colleges*
3. NAAUC provides advisory and consultative services to member organisations,
4. Budget constraints of the Department.

## **AGREEMENTS ON COLLEGE ROW**

### Explanation

Various College administration and student associations have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support collaboration. Previous RSD Executive have had MoUs with Colleges and their student associations (if relevant), to support communication, collaboration, and culture amongst College Row.

### Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that the Department draft MoUs to be negotiated with colleges to support the objectives of the Department and confidence of Colleges with the Department.

## **FUTURE ITINERARY VARIATION**

### Explanation

The Trinity Residential College delegate and I travelled together to Meanjin on the red eye on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, arriving approximately 5am the next day. This led to only 2 hours of sleep and inhibited the ability to be fully present during the first day, and close to burn-out on the following days due to a packed schedule.

### Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that the Department investigate the financial feasibility to support the arrival of delegate(s) a day prior at the host City. It is also recommended that the Department investigate cost sharing with college(s) sending delegate(s) through booking a shared accommodation a day prior.

## **INTERCOLLEGE COMPETITIONS**

### Explanation

It was highlighted through discussions with inter-college representatives across Australia that competition ranking was an uncommon practice, Colleges within UQ don't even judge their fresher dance. This is done to limit negative intercollegiate competition. The largest qualm residents continue to have with the Department is intercollege judge appointments, with the RSD Committee members, College staff and resident associations noting their opposition to previous judges.

### Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that the Department investigate the following changes:

1. Only announcing the winner or winner and runner-up at inter-college events,
2. Having a further emphasis of sportsmanship within point allocation within inter-college competitions,
3. Having gift cards for judges to require a higher calibre of judging.

## INCLUSIVE EVENTS

### Explanation

Following the neurodiversity at colleges academic, it was discovered various Colleges use a tool that is used to communicate, noise level, activity level and crowd was noted as useful for event advertising. This has been noted as highly successful with residents living with a disability and neurodiversity.

### Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that the Department investigate the implementation of a communication tool that NAAUC and other colleges uses on event promotion assets.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### CONGRATULATIONS

I would like to extend my gratitude and congratulations to the NAAUC team who have again pulled off a fantastic National Convention; I would specifically like to credit the three current and former College Row residents who have contributed to the success of NatCon2025:

1. Carys Butler, Vice President – Engagement | St Thomas Moore College
2. Thomas Lynette, WA Representative | St Catherine's College and,
3. Kiona Fry, Working Party | University Hall

The Department also extends a congratulations to Kiona Fry, the NAAUC President-elect, a former University Hall resident and graduating UWA Student. Now noting the Department's opportunity to work with a previous College Row resident to advocate for residential students along College Row.

### PEER MENTORSHIP

The peer mentorship in the conference paired up delegates in similar positions, i.e. Presidents together etc. This allowed for a great opportunity to compare and contrast experiences within our new and/or existing portfolios. This network continues through the year to support continuous peer learning. This is a great opportunity for the Department and adds to the cost benefit of the conference ticket price.

I would like to personally thank the following Presidents within my peer group who have supported my learning at the National Conference including but not limited to: Sharon Anthony, Abigail Clements, Georgia McCardel, Hunter Roomes, Jade Bindon, Josh Smith, Madi Powell, Penny Friend, Shannon Du Plessis, Shanti LB and, Taj Townsend.

## CONCLUSION

The Department's participation in the 2025 NAAUC National Conference has proven to be an invaluable investment in the growth and development of the Department leadership. The insights gained from academics, peer networking, and exposure to national best practices will directly inform our strategies for fostering safe, inclusive, and collaborative college environments. The recommendations outlined in this report which range from supporting the implementation of the National Code to enhancing intercollege engagement and inclusivity, are actionable steps that align with the Department's objectives and the Guild's commitment to student welfare.

Continued attendance at future conferences and exploration of NAAUC membership will ensure that the Department remains at the forefront of advocacy and innovation for residential students. By prioritizing these initiatives, we strengthen College Row's reputation as a leader in student experience and set a benchmark for excellence across Australia.

The Guild should be commended for the Australia leading approach it takes to inter-college relationships and prioritise supporting the Department in its goals. The NAAUC National Conference is an excellent opportunity to support the growth of Residential College leadership and RSD Executive. The recommendations and actionable tasks gained through the conference speakers to the importance of sending representatives from the Department and supporting College Row.

I would like to finish by thanking the 2025 RSD Executive, specifically the Department's General Secretary Jack Cross who organised this opportunity for myself. I also thank the 2025 RSD Executive's fantastic fiscal management which allowed for myself to attend, a continued goal of the 2026 RSD Executive.