



UWA STUDENT GUILD
The University of Western Australia
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GUILD PRESIDENT Guild Council Report 27/01/2017

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INTRODUCTION

The past two months have not only been very busy but also relaxing whilst I was away on holiday. In this time Megan was acting President and seemed to do an amazing job staying on top of everything and maintaining my ever-growing inbox. There hasn't been a moment to breathe during my time in office and I have had to hit the ground running by immediately taking over all of Maddie's projects and meetings with the University, and starting to get some of our own Guild projects off the ground. Again, if anyone on Council is available and interested in taking up some projects, please let me know.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

Please note that this is not a full list of all the meetings that I have attended. I have only included the main ones worth noting to council.

| Date | Meeting | Purpose |
|----------|--|---|
| 05/12/16 | PIAF & UWA Student Guild | To discuss partnership and social media support for Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF). |
| 06/12/16 | Uni Camp for Kids (UCFK) Camp Approval | Camp approved. |
| 06/12/16 | UWA Students Social Media Calendar | To discuss key dates to include in UWA Students social media including Instagram and Facebook. We managed to include a few Guild events and other important cultural events into their social media calendar. |
| 06/12/16 | McCusker Centre Thank You Event | To celebrate the 2016 achievements of the McCusker Centre. Good networking opportunity and helped me understand what the McCusker Centre does. |
| 07/12/16 | Academic Council | Discussed changes to curriculum and constitution. Announcement of new courses and changes in majors. |
| 07/12/16 | Convocation Council | Convocation Council consists of UWA Alumni that invites both Owen and I to their monthly meetings. We usually have to submit a report, but given that this was our first meeting I was not aware of this. I gave a verbal report on our priorities for 2017 and brief explanation around why I believe the Guild is so important. |
| 08/12/16 | Library & Guild Monthly Meeting | Each month Owen and I have meetings with the Head Librarian. This was mainly an introductory meeting, but we also discussed some of their key |

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| | | projects for 2017. The renovation of the Meddent library is underway. |
| 09/12/16 | Guild Executive Meeting | Discussed strategy, roles and responsibilities for our term. Included brief handover and updates. |
| 09/12/16 | Strategic Resources Committee (SRC) | To discuss 2017 Guild budget and then recommend to Guild Council. |
| 12/12/16 | Senate Meeting | The Senate is the managing board of the University. Prior to each Senate meeting, members are given a tour of a faculty, and for December it was sports science. We then had our Senate meeting which ran for 6 hours and then Senate dinner at UniClub. The Dinner was a great opportunity to learn more about the senators and of course to satisfy my hunger. |
| 13/12/16 | McCusker Centre | First regular meeting with the McCusker centre. Discussed how the Guild supported the McCusker centre in 2016 and how we can work together in 2017. |
| 14/12/16 | Planning & Resources Committee | This is an advisory committee to the Vice-Chancellor. I am the only student that sits on this committee and will be pushing that I remain on this committee for 2017 in order to provide the VC with student feedback. |
| 15/12/16 | Refectory Project Update | To update the Chief Operations Officer about where the project is at and receive direction on what we need to do to go ahead with the project. |
| 15/12/16 | Library Tour | The Head Librarian gave Owen and I a tour of all the libraries (you may already know this if you follow me on snapchat (neviwarren)). We both found it very insightful and developed a better understanding of the services that the Libraries offer to UWA Students. |
| 15/12/16 | International Student Barometer (ISB) Preparation | Each year a survey is conducted amongst international students that measures their satisfaction levels for various aspects within the University and the Guild. We discussed our strategy for 2017 and how we will improve on the success of 2016. |

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| 16/12/16 | UWA Sports Advisory Council Meeting | A lunch to celebrate the success of 2016. |
| 19/12/16 | Guild Volunteering | To receive an update of key achievements for 2016 and plans for 2017. |
| 19/12/16 | SSAF Meeting | Met with director of Student Life to discuss how we proceed with SSAF meetings. We proposed to get rid of the SLA Agreement and instead have quarterly meetings with those receiving SSAF, where we show how each of us have been spending the money over that quarter. |
| 20/12/16 | Governance Committee | Monthly meeting. Discussion of projects for 2017. |
| 21/12/16 | Student Services Committee | Monthly meeting. |
| 21/12/16 | Guild Council Budget Meeting | To set 2017 Guild Budget. |
| 22/12/16 | Western Australian Medical Students Society (WAMSS) Camp Meeting | Camp approved. |
| 22/12/16 | Landscaping and Wayfinding Project Steering Committee | A report was presented to the committee for how the University is expected to transform over future years. |
| 23/12/16 | Faculty Governance Meeting | Met with Simon Anderson to discuss changes to Faculty Governance and ensure that the committees had appropriate student representation. |
| 16/01/17 | Campus Management | Monthly meeting with Campus Management. Main thing to note is that I told them we won't be signing the Quobba Gnarning lease until I have met with the new Vice-Chancellor to discuss our partnership and we will not be handing over our commercial data without certain guarantees as this was a decision made by the 103 rd Guild Council. |
| 16/01/17 | PROSH 2017 | Commenced did the meetings with PROSH Directors. |
| 16/01/17 | Senate Meeting | To appoint the new Vice-Chancellor |
| 17/01/17 | McCusker Centre | Clarification around the Student Advisory Group and whether the Guild VP should sit on this committee. The |

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| | | work is quite intensive and so we decided it best not to have the Guild VP sit on this committee and continue with my regular meetings instead. |
| 17/01/17 | Phone Call with the new Vice-Chancellor | To Receive feedback on proposal for O-Day Festival. |
| 18/01/17 | Tenancy Reallocation | Reallocation of tenancy spaces. |
| 18/01/17 | UWA Alumni | Request for social media support for Alumni events to be held in 2017. |
| 19/01/17 | UWA Local Drug Action Group (LDAG) | Monthly meetings that mainly discuss initiatives of the Health Promotion Unit and of course alcohol and drug safety. |
| 20/01/17 | Strategic Resources Committee | Monthly Meeting. Approval of PSA Lounge Business Case, selling of Guild car, and approval of Second-hand Bookshop Business Case. |
| 20/01/17 | Berndt Museum | Tour of Berndt Museum and request for support to expand awareness and construct a new Museum. |
| 20/01/17 | Corporate Services Committee | Monthly meetings. |

PROJECT UPDATE

Vice-Chancellor

The UWA Senate has appointed Professor Dawn Freshwater as the new Vice-Chancellor. Since the announcement both the Guild and PSA have released media statements. There is one on our website and short post on the Facebook page. I am very happy that Dawn has been appointed and I am optimistic about the relationship between the Guild and the University.

I have briefly spoken with Dawn both before her appointment and afterwards as well. In all of my conversations with her, she has been very approachable, understanding, humble and reasonable. She has a vision to distinguish UWA from the other Universities and really focus on the whole package that we offer at UWA.

The Vice-Chancellor called me the day after her appointment to discuss the O-Day Festival. I found this to be an indication of her dedication to work with the Guild and her willingness to develop a strong partnership with us (given her first day in the job was filled with meetings with the media). She has consistently told me that she really wants to work with me this year and is looking forward to achieving great things together.

Unlike the previous Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dawn Freshwater is very keen to have monthly meetings with me. I expect our first meeting together to take place late January/early February. In this meeting we will discuss our vision and priorities. Dawn is particularly keen to learn more about me and what I want achieve this year and what kind of "legacy" I want to leave behind.

Refectory Project

The Refectory is currently shutdown and will remain this way until construction begins. Our plans are to completely reinvigorate the space and this includes better lighting, better seating options, more open space, and new independent outlets.

We expect the renovation to be completed by the beginning of Semester 2, given we are soon able to get approval from the University Executive. A few of us have prepared a beautiful report that we intend to present to the Executive for approval. This meeting is expected to take place shortly after my meeting with Dawn and we hope to receive their approval following this meeting to proceed with construction.

ISB Strategy

Each year a survey is conducted amongst international students that measures their satisfaction across various aspects within the University and Guild. In 2016, we achieved amazing results and found that they influenced the University's opinion of the Guild. Our ratings for Catering and Postgraduate support significantly increased and I hope to push this even further and focus more on improving results that pertain to student assist and club culture.

Over the past two months I have had meetings to develop a strategy around achieving even higher results this year. I will be working closely with Darryl – our ISS Director to develop a plan around Orientation, ensuring that international students are aware of the services that we offer, and that our services are accessible and accommodating of their needs.

Owen will also have a pivotal role in continuing with the success of last year and introducing more initiatives that will cater to Postgraduate international students. Owen has a very packed events calendar and I am confident that he will be able to help raise the Guild's profile.

Given that the University will be pushing an increase in International and Postgraduate numbers over the next few years, it is very important that we incorporate this into our strategy and be mindful of our readiness to adapt to a quickly changing student demographic.

Orientation

Maddie in her capacity as IPP has been looking after Orientation and has developed a very packed and exciting schedule for incoming students. She has been working very hard to have the Guild involved as much as possible throughout O-Week and has put together a working group to assist her. I would like to thank Maddie and the working group for all the work that has gone into organising Orientation so far. If you have any ideas regarding Orientation or if you would like to get involved, please contact Maddie ASAP.

O-DAY

O-Day preparation is well underway! Kasey and Siobhan have been working extremely hard to bring students the most amazing O-Day ever! I am even more excited to formally announce that we will be hosting our first O-Day Festival or O-Festival (name TBC) after 4 years. Maddie, Megan and I have been in contact with the University executive to discuss the Guild reviving this festival and really providing students with an amazing first impression of what UWA has to offer.

After my phone call with Dawn, she told me that she is broadly supportive of the idea and will be sending feedback from her executive for me to respond to. It is extremely important that this event is a complete success and that there are no hiccups at all. The main concern is that alcohol will be served at the event, however the focus of the event will be the headline act, rather than the alcohol itself. The event will be heavily policed and we will have security guards swarming Oak Lawn on the day. The University will be looking at how we manage this event and if we are to do it well, we are likely to have their support for future O-Festivals as well.

It has been very difficult to find a headline act that we can afford and within the short time given. I would recommend for next year's Council to book an act before their terms even begin and to ensure there is a generous budget for an act that will be able to attract a large crowd.

Induction & Administration

Megan has been working hard to organise a make-up induction session for those who missed the December induction sessions. I want to stress the importance of completing this training as well as attending Student Leadership Training in order to fulfil your responsibilities as a member of Guild Council to the best of your ability.

Megan has also begun to organise Induction Training for next year's council, mainly because we want to make sure we have a suitable venue and that the incoming President can smoothly transition into the new role and have the 105th Guild Council be made aware of the dates well in advance.

T-Shirts

A decision has been made to sell the current Guild T-shirts to all UWA Students as these shirts have been handed out to general students over the past few years and are no longer exclusive to just student reps and staff. We intend to test the success of these shirts and then consider whether it is worth introducing more Guild merchandise and ultimately disseminate the brand in every way, shape and form.

We have now designed some new Guild t-shirts that will only be available to student reps and staff to help other students and guests identify who the Guild representatives are at events.

We have also started looking into getting some Guild hoodies for Winter in the traditional 'Guild navy'.

Tenancies

Megan and I recently attended the Tenancy Reallocation meeting where after many years there was a complete reallocation of the tenancy spaces available within the Guild precinct. It is important to note that commercial spaces were not considered in this meeting as this is a matter for Jack Spagnuolo in his discussions around reallocations with current commercial tenants. The PSA Lounge did however move into the commercial space on the first floor just outside UniPrint. This was a decision that was made in line with the Universities intention to increase Postgraduate numbers.

I have also had discussions with Pelican and after a few minor upgrades, Pelican will remain in their current office until the construction of the Refectory begins. Over the next few months we should have a clear idea of what spaces are available and proceed with the reallocation of the Pelican office when appropriate.

The Guild Executive have approved of the reallocations agreed upon by the Tenancy Committee and we expect current and new tenants to be notified soon.

Catering

If you pop into some of our catering outlets, you will notice a complete overhaul of the menu! We have been again redeveloping our catering outlets across the holiday period in preparation for semester one. The aim is to give each outlet more of an identity and distinguish each outlet to have a unique offering. This venue differentiation has been in the works since 2016 and has really come a long way since then. To complement the new 'themed' menus we are looking at improving the way we present our food and how we theme our cafes. This strategy should bring a new definition to "Guild food" and I am hoping that students will notice the significant improvement in quality and diversity in offering available to them.

Our Point of Sales should also have a major upgrade with a new system that will help us track sales and see what people are buying and who is buying. We will be able to pull important information that will help us tailor our offering. We will also be able to show how much students have saved with their Guild membership and send special offers like a birthday discount/freebie for example. This will really help the Guild show to students the value of being a member and how much value they actually get out of being a member in a dollar amount.

A lot of hard work has gone into the overhaul of Guild Catering and I want to note my appreciation for Jack and the catering team for the amazing work so far.

PROSH

I have recently contacted Grady the Dean of Coursework Studies to get Unit Coordinators to ensure that classes are not being held on the morning of Wednesday, 22nd of March. This morning will be reserved for PROSH and this year we intend to of course make it bigger and better. Great is the theme this year, I can tell you. I will be having regular meetings with Angela and Skevos to oversee the paper and the organisation of the day and help in whichever way I can to maximise engagement and awareness for the cause.

This year the PROSH Directors have chosen to support the following charities:

- Ronald McDonald House
- Millennium Kids
- CARAD (Centre for asylum seekers, refugees and detainees)
- SARC (Sexual Assault Resource Centre)

I will be meeting the college principals soon to discuss ways in which we can get more college students attending the day. Marketing for the event is expected to commence soon and the theme that the directors have chosen will definitely be very popular amongst students this year.

950 Bus Route

I have starting working with campus management to get the 950 bus to adjust their route so that they drop students off at the bus stop outside the Refectory. This involves building a strong case alongside the University that will be presented to Transperth for consideration. This is evidently a big ask, but if successful will considerably shorten the walking distance to class for many students. This change in bus route will pose serious concerns to some of our commercial operations but also some benefits, and I would like Guild Council to consider whether it is worth pursuing this.

Cross-Campus Discount

Earlier in December I contacted Curtin, Murdoch and ECU about the signing of a cross-campus discount agreement. This agreement essentially allows any student that is a Guild member to receive Guild member discounts at catering outlets across the four universities. All the presidents were happy to sign the agreement and so a physical copy is currently being circulated via mail for signing.

We will need to ensure staff are aware of this agreement and that they following correct procedure to allow students to claim the Guild member discount.

GO8 Advocacy Group

The Go8 was incorporated in 1999 and since then has aimed to influence the development of national higher education and research policy, and in developing international alliances. The Go8 board is made up of the eight Vice-Chancellors of the member universities.

In late December, I was contacted by James Connolly, the President of the ANU Student Union about setting up a GO8 Student Advocacy Group that would mirror the Go8 Board. I initially had a few concerns regarding the group but was generally supportive of the idea. Since then, the ANU Student Union President has contacted the other GO8 Union Presidents for feedback and support.

All the Presidents seem to be supportive of the idea and we will be meeting up at the NUS President's Summit to further discuss the Terms of Reference.

Faculty Governance Structure

In late 2016, Maddie was contacted by the University about providing feedback regarding the membership of the various Faculty Committees under the new structure. We were initially given until March to provide this feedback, but shortly after the commencement of my term, I was asked to provide the feedback by mid-December.

The University intended to keep the size of the committee under 20 people, but also have consistency between each of the faculties. This was concerning as the membership for the Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Education (FABLE) would be over the 20-person limit. The other option was to elect a representative from the relevant

Faculty Societies to sit on the committee, but then this would not be consistent with the committee makeup of the other Faculties.

I brought this issue to the Education Council where it was decided that if we could not have the relevant Faculty Society President sit on the appropriate committees, we would instead recommend that either the Guild President or Education Council President sit on the committee.

After a few discussions with staff members, I decided to first recommend that the relevant Faculty Society President's sit on these committees. I have not yet received confirmation of these recommendations.

FINANCES

Budget v Actuals or Project Budget Breakdown. Insert YTD Budget v. Actuals table, and/or description of expenditure.

| Line Item | Description | YTD Budget | Actual |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Conferences | Flights + Registration | \$3000 | 1439.31 |
| | | | |
| | TOTAL | \$3000 | \$1439.31 |

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. 950 Bus Route
2. GO8 Advocacy Group

Kind Regards,
Nevin Jayawardena
Guild President
president@guild.uwa.edu.au



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VICE PRESIDENT
Guild Council Report
20/01/2017

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INTRODUCTION

This month has been a busy one to say the least! It was very interesting and rewarding getting to be Acting Guild President whilst Nevin was on leave. I hope you all felt that I served you and this organisation well whilst I was acting, but now back to only VP duties! This has been a busy month for me, as I will be taking up a fulltime internship until the start of semester, so I've tried to hit the ground running as much as possible.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

| Date | Meeting | Purpose |
|------------|---|---|
| 10/01/2017 | MASA Events Meeting | Meeting with Simone Harrington (2016 MASA Chair) and Kasey Hartung to plan out the events calendar for MASA in 2017. |
| 12/01/2017 | MASA Meeting with Elaine Lopes from MAP | Discuss getting MASA more involved in orientation and how to set up the cloud mentoring program officially – have secured a speaking slot at the student panel, the welcome and the mixer as well as MASA materials being handed out to MAP students upon enrolling and to also get access to the list of incoming Mature Age students for 2017 to invite them to join the cloud mentoring program. |
| 12/01/2017 | Student Hackathon Event | Met with Chris Massey and other members of the university (academic and administrative) as Acting Guild President to discuss hosting a student hackathon event on campus to tackle challenges to the student experience at UWA. |
| 16/01/2017 | Cross-Campus Education Action Network | To discuss strategies for building the March 29 th National Day of Action in Western Australia – including demonstration stunts, stalls and marketing ideas |
| 16/01/2017 | Ethno-Cultural Convenor Meeting | Met with Davina Daudu to discuss how to establish and progress the Ethno-Cultural Collective on campus. We discussed governance procedures, O'Day plans and collated contact details of other Ethno-Cultural Convenors around the country |
| 17/01/2017 | MASA Cloud Mentoring Meeting | To get Angela's (a member of the MASA committee) ideas for how to progress the cloud mentoring program and to confirm her presence at the orientation sessions for mature age students |
| 18/01/2017 | Parking Appeals Panel | To review parking infringement appeals – there were 15 odd appeals, 3 of which we approved to waive. |

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| 19/01/2017 | POPP Campus Walk Through | Site assessment for the potential installation of a POPP contemporary art ping pong table within the Guild Village complex. |
| 20/01/2017 | SRC | |
| 20/01/2017 | Corporate Services | Update on 2016 Projects and discussion of strategic plan and goals for 2017. |

PROJECT UPDATE

MASA Handbook

I'm working on creating a '101 to Uni' guide written by the MASA Committee and General members for incoming students. This so far contains essential contact details, basic information about the Guild and MASA as well as some helpful hints from the committee on how to ace your time at university whilst juggling life. Expected timeline is to have it completed by orientation in print format for the Mature Age Pathway students and the Mature Age orientation activities as well as O'Day. This handbook is intended to bolster the presence of MASA on campus and act as a good one stop resource for incoming students. Currently I'm finalising the final draft to then send to Elise to be formatted and sent to the printers.

MASA Cloud Mentoring

I met with Elaine Lopes to discuss getting the Cloud Mentoring program off the ground for 2017. She kindly has offered to provide me a list of student numbers of students commencing in 2017 at a mature age. From there MASA will email these students letting them know that they can gain access to a mature age student as their mentor if they wish! The intention is to link up MASA committee members and other interested mature age students with incoming students who would like a mentor. I'm going to provide training for the mentors covering the essential info, appropriate conduct and so forth. This will be a trial run to see how successful the program is. The aim is to have students linked with mentors via email, social media or phone before orientation and then have them meeting regularly throughout semester and bring them along to MASA events as well!

Handover Makeup Sessions

I've confirmed with Guild Staff that they are all willing to run make-up induction sessions for Guild Council Members who missed out during December! I'm also considering organising some sessions with the Equal Opportunity Commission regarding sexual assault training for council members as well as getting information to council members about the upcoming student leadership training modules, which I recommend all council members take – especially the modules on sexual assault, mental health and racial, sexual and gender diversity.

Colleges

I've contacted the college presidents regarding Grill the Guild sessions during their orientation or first week plans. Grill the Guild is a great opportunity for students to get to know more about the Guild, ask us questions and learn about services that they could potentially access further along in their time at university. I'm also interested in discussing ways that we can support the colleges more, or market our exclusive services better to college students to ensure that everyone is getting the full benefits of being a Guild member.

Ethno-Cultural Collective

Davina Daudu is going to be taking up the position of Ethno-Cultural Collective Convenor for 2017. We've met to discuss how to go about starting up the Ethno-Cultural Collective as a trial department and what governance procedures need to be followed for that to happen. We've also looked at other collectives around the country to try replicate their structure, assess the resources they provide and implement their suggested guidelines for the collective here at UWA. I've also provided Davina with a list of contacts which include other collective convenors, ethno-cultural or people of colour officers and the NUS National Ethno-Cultural Officer so that she can see what works for them and gain some advice from their experiences. The collective is expected to be ready to meet come orientation.

Access Collective

The UWA Access Collective convenors from last year – Graham and Cara – will be taking up the reigns again this year and training up some new keen committee members as well throughout the year. I am yet to meet with them both but have spoken to Graham briefly about how to support the Access Collective this year. So far, he's asked me to follow up the progress with the library resource rooms and support them during orientation so that they can start off the year with a good presence on campus. We're also brain storming the potential for running Access Collective events and collective meetings which will improve engagement with the collective.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services Committee is yet to meet as I write this report. I will be able to update the council during the meeting on the progress of the 2016 projects such as TASK implementation, NetSuite and the roll out of other projects.

FINANCES

| Line Item | Description | YTD Budget | Actual |
|------------|-------------------|------------|--------|
| Activities | O'Day Stall – 3x3 | \$400 | \$213 |
| Activities | AGM | \$100 | \$30 |
| TOTAL | | | \$243 |

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- I'm really interested in hearing about how council thinks we can improve the format of Grill the Guild sessions to be more engaging for students.

Regards,
Megan Lee
104th UWA Student Guild Vice President
vp@guild.uwa.edu.au



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Pride Department
26/01/2017

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Introduction

Overall, not much has been done for the department during the summer break as both Pride Officers were away during the break. Orientation day planning has been done, but needs to be followed through. The stall for orientation day has been booked but other things outlined in our planned still need to be done. The first major event by the Pride department, which is the quiz night, has been booked at the tavern and will be held on the 13th of April. This needs to be double checked with the Tavern.

Meetings

| | | |
|------------|-------------------|---|
| 16/12/2016 | Marketing meeting | Goals were set regarding the publicity of the Pride department. Marketing strategies were planned with a bit more focus in regards to social media. Plans were made to better circulate posters around campus, and even continue the pride pages. The department is willing to collaborate and receive any assistance from other clubs/departments to ensure its success and publicity. |
|------------|-------------------|---|

Project Updates

Orientation Day

- What will be distributed and done during the the orientation day has been planned. Unfortunately, the absence of both Pride Officers prevented things from actually being followed through.
- The stall has been booked.
- Pride department gift bags containing pamphlets on sexual and mental health, clinic brochures, etc. need to be made. Organisations around Perth also need to be contacted to order/collect handouts.
- Drinks and other things that are required for the stall also need to be ordered in.

Quiz Night

- The Tavern has been booked for the 13th of April, although this needs to be double checked.
- The logistics of what will happen at the quiz night still needs to be planned.

Finances

| Line Item | Description | YTD Budget | Actual |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------|--------|
| <i>O-day Stall</i> | <i>O-day Stall</i> | 250 | 213 |
| TOTAL | | 250 | 213 |

Regards,
Rigel Paciente and Tonia Curby
Pride Officers
pride@guild.uwa.edu.au



Jack Spagnuolo | Associate Director Commercial

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| Task/Item | Status | Notes | Reference |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| CATERING | | | |
| Quobba Gnarning Cafe | Preparation 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Menu commencing 2017• Completion of branding January /February• Expanded grab & go offering including ice cream• Additional coffee machine for semester 1 | |
| Nedlands Cafe | Implementation of review | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sublease of Kitchen to continue semester 1• Long term Kitchen tenant to be confirmed for semester 2• Asset clean-up and sale January/February | |
| Dentistry Café | Planned for 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commencement of works at Dentistry library• Trade will improve with Children Hospital operating 2017• Additional vending machine will be added to site Semester 2 | |
| Guild Village Cafe | Preparation 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Menu 2017• Minor upgrades to interior• Adjustment to kitchen operation | |
| Catalyst Cafe | Preparation 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes to the current menu• Adjustment of opening hours in line with library changes | |
| Kitchen | Production kitchen roll out continues | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing food for Quobba Gnarning, Functions, and Tavern• Kitchen production will extend to Hackett café semester 1• Kitchen costs review completed• Outlet Pricing review in progress | |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Refectory & Refresh Cafe | Refectory Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressed decommissioning of Refectory Space • Staffing structure changes • Kitchen | |
| Hackett Cafe | Implementation of review | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Menu 2017 • Coffee Hatch opening Semester 1 • Production kitchen will be operational | |
| Function Caterers | Planned for 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New function package • Planning for Graduations catering • Prospecting resource in place to achieve growth | |
| Guild Tavern | Continued development of Tavern | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustment to the Tavern Food offering • Changes to the beverage offering • Planning in place to complete the interior • Improved function booking schedule 2017 | |
| TENANCY | | | |
| Tenancy Plan | In progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of poor performing tenancies • Pharmacy upgrade semester 1 • Uniview & STA tenancy space review • Signage policy in progress • GFP Studios new tenant • PSA lounge space added to commercial space 1st floor | |
| PROJECTS | | | |
| Reid Project Quobba Gnarning Café | Completed and open | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Menu and retail offering complete but under 12 week review • Contract/Licence to be finalised between Guild & UWA in October • UWA launch 1st November for library floor • Signage completion 14th October | |
| University Function Caterers | Ongoing development – rebranding and marketing drive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beverage Menu complete • Catering Portfolio in progress • Upgrade of information on Guild website to communicate - in progress • New menu for 2017 rollout – Feb 2017 | |

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|---|--------------------------------|---|--|
| | | | |
| VENDING | | | |
| Coca Cola Vending | Machine review | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased footprint in Reid to 6 machines Coke vending review in February Oak lawn machine site review | |
| Multicultural Vending Machine | Implementation phase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd quarter payment due in December Roll out further machines January 2017 - Engineering Sponsorship commitment for Orientation day confirmed | |
| MOBILE VENDORS | | | |
| Oak Lawn Van | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New proposal Review for Semester 1 2017 – In progress Addition of 3 more vans per day planned semester 1 | |
| Campus wide Vending | Under review with UWA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport & Recreation – in progress UWA Business School UWA Accommodation sites review – in progress | |
| BOOKSHOP | | | |
| New 2nd hand Bookshop | Refresh of bookshop | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uniprint reader sales to 2nd hand bookshop confirmed Clubs Retail space in progress New shelving, carpets, and furniture in progress | |
| COMMERCIAL PROJECTS | | | |
| TASK POS System | Project ongoing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 2 Inventory System live in December Calista rollout for marketing Preorder coffee – in progress | |
| Guild village | Review in line with UWA vision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hames & Sharley Guild Village Retail Strategy – on hold Joint discussion with Campus on precinct security – on hold UWA way finding signage – in progress January rollout | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| | | | |
| Refectory Plan | Timelines under review | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hames & Sharley plans complted• Building Engineer reports completed• Potential tenant outlets list completed and under review• Presentation to UWA executive in progress• Tender process TBC | |
| | | | |



Mutya Maraginot-Joseph | Finance Director

UWA Student Guild | M300, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009

www.guild.uwa.edu.au

| Task/Item | Status | Notes | Reference |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| | | | |
| FINANCE & ACCOUNTING | | | |
| External Audit (Deloitte) | Annual Audit | Interim audit was done beginning of December 2016. The auditors has stayed for one week and will come in February 2017 for the final year end audit. | Finance Strategy/ OPP |
| Process & Systems | Accounting practices and review – Post Netsuite and TASK Implementation | With the completion of the Netsuite and TASK implementation, a thorough review of the finance and operational processes will be made to consolidate all the new processes implemented as well as to identify areas for improvement in internal control, efficiency and customer relations. | Organisation Strategy |
| Affiliate Financial Controls Review (Internal Audit review – KPMG) | UWA internal audit team will test the adequacy and effectivity of the Guild's internal controls in Inventory for both its financial and operational processes. | Due to the implementation of TASK and the massive changes that we are implementing in the inventory and revenue cycle, it was agreed with the UWA internal audit team that the timing of the affiliate Financial Controls review is scheduled for first quarter of 2017. | OPP |

| Task/Item | Status | Notes | Reference |
|--|--|--|---|
| Review of the Payroll system | The existing payroll system has been used since 1996, and an overall review of the payroll system will be done and a possible upgrade or replacement of the existing payroll system may be recommended depending on the results of the review. | Review is expected to start by the second half of year 2017. | Finance Strategy/OPP |
| IT & DIGITAL | | | |
| New Accounting Software (NetSuite) Implementation | NetSuite implementation – POS Integration. First phase - Integration with sales data is complete. Second phase – integration with inventory system is ongoing. | Integration with the inventory system is expected to be completed by end of March 2017. | Organisation Strategy/Digital Strategy |
| New POS System | TASK POS Sales system implementation ongoing. | <p>TASK POS has been configured and deployed to all Catering outlets, effective July 1 2016. The outlets are being monitored for any difficulties or requests to help improve workflow and functionality.</p> <p>The initial inventory stage is near completion. Staff will soon be trained to use the new PDA Stocktaking method, which will send stocktake results to the server in real time and account for product sold during the stocktake. Implementation of the inventory stage is expected to be February 1, 2017.</p> | Organisation Strategy/Digital Strategy |
| Server and Systems Review and Implementation | The Guild's servers are reaching their anticipated end-of-working-life. Initially installed in 2008/2009, the servers are now over 7 years old, and does not support some newer technologies. | <p>SRC approved the Business Case to migrate all email services to Office 365. This will significantly reduce the email issues we have experienced over the past few years. The implementation is completed and training for staff and students is currently planned.</p> <p>Review of the other existing servers will be made this year.</p> | |



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EDUCATION COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Guild Council Report
27/01/2017

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INTRODUCTION

The last two months I have been back and forth from over east attending various conferences and having a bit of a break over the summer. My main focus at the start of my term has been establishing relationships with members of the university, the Education Council and setting up various projects with the Education Council committee. I have various meetings set up with the Faculty Associate Deans over the next couple of weeks in order to discuss how we can work together to best advocate for student interests.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

| Date | Meeting | Purpose |
|----------|---|---|
| 20/12/16 | Education Council - December Meeting | Initial Education Council meeting; introducing members, establishing goals of Faculty Societies and the layout of Education Council for the year. |
| 12/12/16 | Zenith Resources Meeting | See below |
| 18/12/16 | Tenancy Reallocation Meeting | 3-yearly re-allocation of spaces, assessing club applications for spaces. |
| 19/01/16 | Zenith Project Meeting | See below |
| 19/01/16 | Zenith Resources Meeting | See below |
| 27/01/16 | Student Assist & Centre for Education Futures | See below |
| 27/01/16 | Student Services Committee | Discussed the projects for the year with the Volunteering, Engagement, Student Assist and Events teams |

PROJECT UPDATE

Blackboard

Conrad, the Education Vice President is currently in the process of setting up a Blackboard survey – consulting with students in order to establish a Blackboard Survey, which we hope to be rolling out in conjunction with the Centre for Education Futures. This should lead to bringing recommendations to staff and the university in the form of a student-focussed ‘Blackboard Best Practice Guide’ in order for students to get the most out of their online learning experience.

Zenith Project/Centre for Education Futures

I have continued on from last year to be the main point of consultation to the project team for ‘Zenith’ - the learning analytics project run by the Centre for Education Futures (CEF). The pilot is being rolled out this semester, with 12 units participating (approximately 2000 students). There have been a few exciting updates based on them taking my feedback on board.

They have agreed to give only unit coordinators access to the ‘Student Report’ which outlines how individual students within the unit measure up against their peers, how often they access the unit on Blackboard and so on. These reports will now be completely anonymised, and it also eliminates the initial concern that tutors would be able to view this information, as they can be students too.

The second exciting update is that there will now be three “student wellness” buttons which will be included within the student report which I strongly advocated for. As I recommended to them, Student Assist will now have its own button, which will give it a great amount of visibility within Blackboard for these students, and which will provide students with a clearer form of support through the Guild, whether that be academic, welfare-based or financial.

Lastly, we will now be able to add important dates and events as well as announcements from the Guild to the main Blackboard page, which means students will more effectively and consistently get all the important information they need, as well as updates from the Guild on various events and initiatives.

EAN – Your Rights at Work, Uni and Home

The National Union of Students (NUS) Welfare Department is running a Your Rights at Work, Uni and Home which focusses on various aspects of student welfare, and which we will be rolling out this year. Currently it is based on a #FixCentrelinkNow petition and online social media campaign, and will be moving into rights of students in internships, casual work and international students as well as other elements. I hope to work with FacSocs to coordinate events and campaigns for this Rights at Work aspect and will be giving an update over the next few months.

EAN – National Day of Action

The National Day of Action will be held on March 29th for WA, and will have the pro-active central theme of “Make Education Free Again” run by the NUS National Education Department. We will be holding a free BBQ beforehand with events in the lead-up, and will have busses going from UWA into the city for the event. Rachel, the Education Action Network Co-ordinator will be coordinating this with me.

Colleges

This year I want to ensure that colleges are more involved within educational experience of students. Michael and I will be working for colleges to provide education advocate training, inviting them along to discuss orientation and other with FacSocs at Education Council and developing a strong relationship with them throughout the year.

Career Centre/FacSoc Collaboration

I am meeting with Mishelle from the Careers Centre next week to discuss collaboration between Faculty Societies and the Careers Centre this year.

FINANCES

No spending yet.

| Line Item | Description | YTD Budget | Actual |
|-----------|--------------|------------|--------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | TOTAL | | |

Warm regards,

Lina El Rakhawy
Education Council President
ed@guild.uwa.edu.au



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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

27/01/2017

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INTRODUCTION

I've had a very busy December and January working two jobs, have family visit and a trip interstate! Here's a rundown of projects I'm working on.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

| Date | Meeting | Purpose |
|---------|----------------------------|---|
| Pre-Dec | Handover | I had several meetings with Dennis to discuss the running of the department and projects he had undertaken and still in progress. |
| Jan 18 | Marketing & Communications | Met with Madeline & Chelsea to discuss communications and marketing for the department. We discussed planning the Department's social media posts beforehand. |
| Jan 20 | Events | Met with Kasey & Siobhan to discuss O-Day and Enviro Week. |

PROJECT UPDATE

Enviro Week

Enviro Week will be held in week 4 (March 20-24), in conjunction with Bike Week! The Enviro Department has received a grant of \$750 to run Enviro Fest on March 21st. I'm hoping to run themed days, similar to previous Welfare Weeks, where small scale events will take place on oak lawn and students can take pledges in relation to the theme of the day. Plans for Enviro Fest will include the regular succulent stall, stalls from sustainable clubs on campus and live music. Students will also be encouraged to cycle this week as it is run during Bike Week, so promotion of health benefits and the new end-of-trip facilities on campus.

O-Day

O-Day will be a day to outreach to students and how they get involved with the department. The day will consist of interacting with students, making your own succulents and giving out plant seeds. Students will be able to sign up to the department's monthly newsletter as well.

Monthly Newsletter

A newsletter will be established that enviro-minded students can receive monthly updates on what the department has done this month and what is coming up in the near future. It will include some tips/DIY on all things environment such as recipes, gardening, sustainability etc. Information on how students can get involved with upcoming initiatives will also be included in each issue.

Recycling Posters

As many students are unsure what kind of waste goes into which bin, the Creative department will be designing some posters to place on the front/above bins in Guild outlets, similar to those found on the front of bins around campus (but are often hidden when the bins are in their wooden casings!).

Carpooling & Ride Sharing

The '2015 UWA Staff and Student Travel Survey' shows that carpooling for students is on the rise. After some research, many universities around the country do have either a ridesharing service (including smartphone apps like Liftango) or a carpooling permit system in place. Working with UWA Parking, I will further investigate which of these systems works better or if a combination of these can be implemented at UWA.

FINANCES

No expenditure to date.

| Line Item | Description | YTD Budget | Actual |
|-----------|--------------|------------|--------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | TOTAL | | |

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Regards,
Sean O'Leary
Environment Officer
environment@guild.uwa.edu.au



Tony Goodman | Managing Director

UWA Student Guild | M300, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009

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| Task/Item | Status | Notes | Reference |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE | | | |
| | Organisational Strategy | Work will start on new strategy planning in 2017. | Organisational Strategy |
| | Guild Relationship Agreement | Planning and discussion to be undertaken with VC. | Organisational Strategy |
| | Qtr. University Exec Strategy Meeting | First one due January 31. Refectory project to be main focus. | Organisational Strategy |
| | Audit & Risk Committee | Audit and Risk Committee – Interviewing candidates. HR running process and interviews. | Governance |
| | UWA Risk & Audit Committee | Preparing for 2017 – on-going prep with external financial auditors. | Governance |
| | Guild Elections | Review of 2016 completed. Resignations being dealt with WAEC advice and recommendation. | Governance |
| | | | |
| HUMAN RESOURCES | | | |
| Structure | Appointments / Positons | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Work Health and Safety / Admin role looking for implementation and recruitment. | Organisational Strategy |
| Catering | All recruitment will be overseen by AD HR. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- N/A | Organisational Strategy |
| Health & Safety | UWA H&S Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Awaiting on final version of KPMG H&S Audit. | Organisational Strategy |
| | | | |
| BUILDING PROJECTS | | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Solar Panels | Construction set to be underway | Power station upgrade completed. CM preparing for turning on. | Organisational Strategy |
| Ref Project | Design phase completed. | <p>Awaiting University sign off on project to start. Refectory project planning is underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building scoping and designing underway with Hames Sharley and engineering firms. - Revised drawing providing - Reviewing costing estimates for the project. - Review of potential retailers underway. | Catering Strategy |
| Maintenance | PSA Lounge & Bookshop locations | Light upgrades – to both venues. Commercial team implementing. | Organisational Strategy |
| Westpac ATM | Second ATM at UWA Sports | With legal team for sign off on paperwork. Commercial team implementing. | Organisational Strategy |
| PROJECTS | | | |
| | Governance – Guild Regulations | Jackson McDonald working on drafting with Governance committee. | Organisational Strategy |
| | Commercial Strategy | <p>Implementation of business / commercial plan underway. This will tie into the overall Guild strategy including Ref project.</p> | Organisational Strategy |
| | Reid Lease / Legal Document | <p>Guild lawyers are reviewing and providing feedback. Guild will enter into discussion on the lease with the VC.</p> | Organisational Strategy & SLA |
| | Brian & Poulter Feedback | Guild feedback provided to the University. Still awaiting on guarantees from the University on protecting Guild interests. | Catering & Organisational strategies |
| | Guild Village Precinct Plan | Speaking to tenants about developments and options in the precinct. | Organisational Strategy & SLA |
| | Guild Alumni | Proceeding to events ideas and networking evening. | Organisational Strategy |

NUS National Conference 2016 Report

Ben Martin & Michael Heydon

UWA Delegates to the National Union of Students

12th-16th December, Waurn Ponds, Deakin University

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2. NUS Factionalism
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 - 2.2. Faction interaction
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 - 5.4. Constitutional Amendments
 - 5.5. Policy Debated
6. Election Results
 - 6.1. Election Process
 - 6.2. National Office Bearers
 - 6.3. National Executive
 - 6.4. WA Division
 - 6.5. UWA
7. Recommendations
 - 7.1. For the NUS
 - 7.2. For UWA
8. Concluding Remarks and Defining Moments

1.0 Pre-Conference Organisation

The original organisation and dispersion of information regarding key conference information in the weeks preceding the conference was extremely poor and it set the tone for the entire week in terms of Secretariat's capacity to manage the business of conference.

An email as late as the 9th of December, for conference commencement on the 12th of December, was received pertaining key accommodation, travel, communication, and policy information. It was shamefully expected that delegates were to be receiving information from factional heads, word of mouth, or anecdotal advice from previous delegates as to how conference proceeded.

Likewise, the Union failed to get in contact with delegates about registration for the conference. Failure to register would have severe negative consequences on a delegate's ability to exercise their democratic role at the conference. Again, it was only as a result of colleagues on National Executive that we were made aware that there was a registration process to begin with.

Upon reaching the conference, it appears other delegates had similar concerns, although some also noted that additional emails were sent out and not received by others. For whatever reason, some delegates were receiving some emails, some all, and some none at all.

The registration process created further dilemma's when a UWA proxy was required for one of our delegates, yet what was required for registration was still unclear. With both an unknown and seemingly arbitrary closure date of registrations, it was a worrying scramble to know that the proxy would be required to register as an official observer rather than a delegate. Information pertaining to the matter from both the UWA Student Guild and the NUS was immensely unclear and consequently required an amendment to the UWA Student Guild Regulations.

This matter could have been resolved far easier if a representative from the NUS was contactable. However, the lack of contact details or seemingly a personal relationship with the NUS "leadership" compounded the difficulty. Having to wait several days for a reply from NUS General Secretary Cam Petrie due to the fact that he and Michael McKenzie weren't Facebook friends, which was at the time the only viable method of communication, followed by a delay by the UWA Student Guild to make a decision pertaining to the proxy, the acceptance of Michael Heydon as a delegate was an unnecessarily stressful process.

Aside from the lack of information about conference details and an extremely flawed registration process, far more serious concerns referring to policy submissions need to be aired. While conversations with other delegates has informed us that there were several other policy motions submitted by other factions which were not included in the official policy booklet, I'm only able to speak to the experience of the Liberal policy submissions.

Former Tasmanian State President, Clark Cooley, submitted twenty-five policy motions to be considered by conference floor, however only three of those that were correctly submitted,

were entered into the policy document. This includes two Women's policy and one ATSI policy. There is no justifiable reason as to why particular policy motions would be excluded, however it does highlight the internal operations of the National Union. Despite consistently requesting the motions to be accepted into the policy document and allowing delegates their democratically elected right to move said motions, their inclusion was consistently delayed by secretariat, until halfway through conference proceedings.

However, the most notable element is that the three motions that were "successfully" submitted, were the motions that were selected to be debated. The other twenty-two motions were not moved by the business committee to be debated. It seems to be more than a coincidence that the three motions that Secretariat included in the official policy document were moved, debated and passed, becoming official NUS policy.

The inclusion of only the handful of policy motions that were eventually debated indicated that there is potentially an irrelevance to the entire conference, because a knowledge of what will be moved, debated and passed appears to already be known to NUS factional leaders. As such, the failure to include all policy is a disappointing insight into the lack of democratic process, lack of true debate and the potentially corrupt manner in which the NUS determines its policy direction.

Lastly, a major concern was the fact that delegates were not advised to a recount of NUS ballots and that this step was taken by NUS secretariat without consultation. Likewise, it was disappointing that the Western Australian Electoral Commission failed to contact myself as the Launch Group Agent and representative, that a potential recount and change to the accreditation of NUS votes was occurring. According to the NUS, the WAEC's counting of the NUS ballot was not in accordance with NUS By-Law 87 and took it upon themselves to conduct the count again.

In this instance, we were fortunate that only unsubstantial changes in the order of election was made rather than a new delegate being elected or a reallocation of votes. Nevertheless, as both a delegate to the organisation and Launch Group Agent, Ben should have been notified of any recount of ballots and certainly that there had been a change in the order of election. However, unsurprisingly no contact was made by the NUS or WAEC, and we accidentally discovered the change and recount after reviewing the "Final Accreditation Report", which similarly wasn't circulated to delegates by the NUS.

2.0 NUS Factionalism

The NUS conference is highly factional, and includes 6 registered factions: Unity, National Labor Students, National independents, Socialist Alternative, Liberal Students, and Grassroots Left. Together, the factions comprise nearly 98% of conference floor, with the remaining 2% being represented by actual independents.

Most factions, not including the Liberal Students, are binding, meaning that once a decision inside their caucus has been made, factional members are required to vote for that particular person or policy in spite of their personal views. Factions ensure strong factional discipline is displayed on conference floor, with factional heads monitoring their junior members and ensuring they vote the correct way.

This form of heavy factionalism often removes the delegate as a true representative of their University and their fellow students.

2.1 Explanation of each Faction

2.2.1 Labor Unity

Labor Unity, which is practically Labor Right, is the dominant faction at NUS. Comprising of 37% of conference delegates, the Labor based faction is often successful in securing a majority of National Executive, including chief office bearers General Secretary and Welfare officer. The group are extremely strict on factional discipline with their slogan for the year reading “25 years of discipline over talent.” The slogan accurately reflects the factional system of the National Union, with talented individuals being sidelined if they speak out in opposition against the faction.

The ideology of the faction can be expressed as Centre Left. The group supported several policy motions protecting unionism and “worker’s rights”. The faction has a close alliance with the SDA, one of the largest unions in the country.

2.2.2 National Labor Students (NLS)

The National Labor Students are ideologically to the left of Labor Unity and are effectively Labor Left. Due to the extreme factionalism in the Labor party, the Left and the Right factions of the Labor party extend through to student politics, creating two large Labor based factions. NLS make up approximately 21% of conference floor for the 2016 conference and have historically been successful in winning the position of NUS President and the key office bearer position of Education officer. The strict factionalism that Unity adhere to is replicated by NLS.

Previously STAR delegates would sit with NLS, however have more recently made the shift to the National “Independents”. NLS can accurately be described as a less combative version of Socialist Alternative. They are however, extremely left wing and their radical ideas and motions, which often become NUS policy, are of serious concern.

2.2.3 National “Independents”

The National “Independents” compromise 21% of conference floor and consistently claim that they are a “non-binding” faction. The faction shouldn’t be confused with real independents, who upon registration, don’t acknowledge that they are apart of a faction- these real independents compromise 2% of conference floor. Throughout the report, a reference to National Independents will have the word “Independent” spelt with a capital “I” to indicate it’s the title of a grouping. Alternatively, the group are nicknamed the “Indies” and have a similar far-left ideology synonymous the National Labor Students.

Recent shifts have seen STAR elected delegates sit with the Indies, effectively ensuring that Labor Party Members are sitting with three of the five factions. This can give an indication of both how left-wing the organisation is, as well as how factionalised the Australian Labor Party is.

2.2.4 Socialist Alternative

Nicknamed the “Trots”, Socialist alternative had an relatively unsuccessful student election run up to National Conference. Only 16% of conference floor is represented by SAlt. In spite of their smaller numbers, SAlt never fail to make an impact on conference floor, usually just by sheer noise, chanting and intimidation tactics.

Usually the combative arm of the movement, the trots never fail to push the NUS towards it’s reputation of aggressive protests, which is accepted and often encouraged by other factions. At the UWA election this year, candidates were fielded who would usually be delegates in the Socialist Alternative faction, however were unsuccessful in winning any delegates.

2.2.5 Liberal Students

UWA can be proud to acknowledge that of the 4 NUS delegates representing Australian Liberal Students, two came from UWA and from Launch candidates. The faction represents roughly 2.5% of conference floor. Unlike other factions, Liberal Students mark their success by decreasing the pool of overall delegates to the conference and as such a small delegation is not a reflection of an unsuccessful year for Liberal Students.

With the successful disaffiliation and disaccreditations of several universities as a result of Liberal student campaigns, including the University of Tasmania, Wollongong University and University of Adelaide, the total delegate count, as well as NUS revenue sources, for both the conference and the Liberal student factions successful decreased.

The Liberal Students are proud in the knowledge that they are truly non-binding and were the ONLY faction where ballot papers were not proxied out to a factional leader for trade deals or to be filled out on bulk. This means that only the Liberal Students Faction had every single delegate take charge of what they were to do with their ballots- no other faction can claim individual delegate responsibility.

2.2.6 Grassroots Left

The faction that traditionally existed but had little to no representation this year. This can explain why the Liberals were allowed a speaking chair at conference, as the Grassroots Left vacated theirs.

Traditionally representing the Young Greens and a fourth group for disenfranchised Young Labor members.

2.2 Faction Interaction

There is certainly considerable animosity between the different factions which when understood can assist in understanding the defining moments of the conference. Much of the time, the interactions are defined by ideological differences, but often there can be longstanding personal quarrels which can impact the policy debated and the individuals elected.

The most notable rivalry is that between Labor Unity and the National Labor Students. In a national politics scheme, the two would be ideologically compatible, however due to the unrepresentative skew and the far left echo-chamber that the NUS is, the two ideologies can appear quite polarising. Historically, a combination of NLS votes and Unity votes equates to more than 50% of the delegates votes. 2016 was of course no exception, and as a result, the long standing deal between the two factions still stands. NLS will receive Unity votes for the position of President and Education Officer in exchange for voting for the Unity candidate for General Secretary and Welfare Officer.

It is this trade off that ensures the entrenched success of Labor students on both sides of the ALP divide. It is because of this strong factional presence and trade off that democratic process and value of delegate votes is severely diminished to the point of non-existence. Similar factional trade offs are made before and during conference on a whole host of issues, including policy and executive positions.

Despite working together to ensure their dominance on the executive, the opposing factions are very vitriolic towards one another. From an outsider's point of view, it appears that the debate surrounds the key question of "Who like unions and the Australian Labor Party the most". While the National Labor Students are hypocritically critical of Labor Unity for taking a contrary stance to the ALP on Parallel Import Restrictions, Unity are simultaneously hypocritically critical of NLS' opposition to the ALPs stance on refugees.

This important debate between the two dominant factions can help explain why some policy motions are successful or why the NUS runs its particular campaigns- it comes down to each side trying to out flank each other in their "unwavering" support for the ALP.

Similar tension exists between National Labor Students and Socialist Alternative, but not on ideological lines. The two factions would ideologically be very similar and often work together and vote together on policy matter. Tension can be noted when NLS vote contrary to how their ideology or political platform would dictate- often this is a result of a trade off

with Unity or the Indies for something else. SAlt view this vote against as “The Left” betraying their ideological role and was often the result of the Trots most disruptive efforts. If NLS was to ever vote against the Trots shouts of “Scab” could be heard from well outside the conference room and it had an evident impact on the far left agreements.

One of the more peaceful interactions would occur between Labor Unity and Liberal Students. This only occurs because Labor Unity factional leaders recognise that Liberal Students were duly elected and have the right to speak on motions and represent the students that voted for them. Unity are the closest aligned ideologically to the Liberal Students, both of whom respect and uphold democratic values- these values aid in the reason why the two factions can work fairly cohesively together.

The same respect for a democratically elected delegate can not be said for Socialist Alternative. On every single instance when a Liberal spoke or attempted to speak on a particular motion, including myself, Socialist Alternative would erupt from their corner of the room at the concept of a democratically elected Liberal speaking. Socialist Alternative will always oppose a Liberal motion or speaker simply because they are Liberal- no matter the policy.

Similar animosity towards Liberal students exists from NLS, and it was extremely disheartening to see many delegates and observers from the two extreme-left factions act prejudicially towards us and other Liberals based on our political organisation, yet before a policy position had been made.

3.0 NUS Finances

A financial report was circulated to delegates at National Conference from the Financial Year ending 30 September 2016 counter signed by both the NUS President and General Secretary. Key figures from the report indicate a massive deficit incurred by the Union in 2016. In 2015 the NUS recorded a surplus of \$117,020, however in 2016 the movement recorded a very large deficit of -\$61,178.

The profit and loss statement was one cause for concern, however perhaps more significantly was the -\$86,646 cash outflow from the Cashflow statement. Again, a significant outflow, both in comparison to 2015 figures as well as in comparison to remaining liquid assets. 2016 operations appear to have left the NUS vulnerable to financial instability and turmoil in coming years.

Notable line items affecting the dismal state of NUS finances would be the significant reduction in affiliation fees, with 2015 income from the affiliation fees line item totalling nearly \$700,000. In 2016, this income was just over \$475,000. Successful disaffiliation and disaccreditation campaigns can be considered responsible for much of the decreased in fees.

In consultation with Student Union Presidents around the country who have in fact ceased their affiliation payment to the NUS, I'm confident that the thousands of forcibly taken SSAF dollars have been put to better use on their respective campuses rather than being spent on the NUS.

This belief is compounded when other expenditure items from the NUS report is observed, including over \$8,000 on printing and photocopying, \$42,000 on immensely unsuccessful political campaigns (such as the Parallel Import Restriction Campaign), over \$65,000 on travel expenditure, and \$163,226 on Conference Expenditure. After observing the poor quality of NUS National Convention, one must question where over \$160,000 of student money goes.

A significant cause for concern regarding the transparency of the National Union of Students was the missing two pages at the end of every Financial Report. The contents page of the report acknowledges the existence of pages 12-13, an "Independent Auditor's Report", however no such document exists in the report presented to elected delegates. There are however statements included by the National Executive, counter signed by President Sinead Colee and General Secretary Cameron Petrie.

To our knowledge, no statement about the missing pages of the report has been issued, nor has the independent report been provided to delegates. Understandably, this is very alarming, as it appears that only that which the National Executive is happy to be circulated is provided to delegates, and yet crucial information which would assist in holding the executive to account is omitted.

One of the statements as signed by the executive representative's reads:

"In the opinion of the National Executive the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 10...

... 2. At the date of the statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the National Union of Students Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.”

The opinion of the executive regarding the payments of liabilities and the financial position of the organisation only holds so much weight. Far greater value is placed on the opinion and expertise of the independent auditor who can either confirm the executives statement of financial stability, or provide a contrary opinion.

Any contrary opinion outside of the executive’s echo-chamber must be made available to delegates. As the representatives of affiliated organisations and the ultimate decision makers of the Union, delegates should be provided with all statements. It is disappointing to believe that the NUS would act with such disregard for both delegates and the organisation’s transparency to it’s members and students it claims to represent.

4.0 Conference Organisation

The failure of the pre-conference organisation extended throughout the entire conference week, starting at hour one. Three busses were set to depart from Trades Hall from 9:15am on the Monday morning to transport all delegates, national executive members, and official observers to Deakin University. In a manner that truly defined the separate time zone that the NUS conference seemingly operated on, the first bus arrived nearly an hour later than the advised time, delaying our arrival at the conference venue and significantly shortening the conference's capacity to meet for its first session that day.

Upon arriving on the campus, the busses dropped us off at a seemingly arbitrary location and departed, leaving all delegates unaware of where to go to check in and with no representative of the NUS or secretariat to direct us on where to go. This could have been less of a complication if Secretariat advised us of even a building at which delegates could rendezvous, however no such information was provided and the entire conference was left to aimlessly wander the campus until accidentally stumbling across secretariat's base.

The process for check-in was again no simpler. Forms were required to be filled out, which should have and could have been circulated and prefilled by delegates to speed up the lengthy and arduous sign-in process. Secretariat volunteers also appeared to be unsure of the process with several delegates and observers appearing to have trouble signing in as secretariat hadn't prepared adequately.

Delegates were expected to keep up to date with conference proceedings via word of mouth or by following the NUS twitter account, which is nowhere near a primary social media method used by Australian Students. The conference organisation operates very differently to every other conference I've been to. At every other conference, there is a stable order of events with set timings to ensure all matters are covered at an efficient and equitable rate. This isn't the case at NUS.

At NUS, conference starts at arbitrary times halfway through the day and ends at a random point in the evening, arguably when conference organisers have recovered from the night of drinking before or are ready to start drinking again. Again, it was important to keep checking the NUS twitter account (despite there being multiple NUS accounts) to see if delegates were required on conference floor, if we had quorum or if there was a vote.

At some points throughout the conference, these updates shifted from the official NUS account, to be provided by someone's personal account. It was assumed that factional bosses could alert their delegates when they were required to be on the floor or that there had been a change to a random person's account for updates. So not only was there no timing structure or set times for when particular debates were being held, the method of obtaining the information was just as volatile and is both a disappointing, yet accurate reflection of the NUS as a Union and organisation.

As previously noted, by far the most obvious example of Secretariat's lack of organisational capacity was that conference floor was consistently only opened after midday everyday.

Even after the twitter alert was sent that a session was starting, it would often take thirty minutes to an hour for conference floor to have obtained quorum to even open the session. Noticeably, members of the National Executive, including the National President, were consistently absent. As such it was common for sessions to start at 1pm, then after a dinner break, sessions could extend well into the early morning. It somehow didn't make sense to organisers that if the conference started at a reasonable time in the morning, then the same amount, or potentially more content, could be covered at reasonable times.

The issue of quorum on conference floor was similarly a common issue. On at least two or three separate occasions per session, the conference would accidentally lose quorum as delegates left conference floor for whatever reason. At this point, conference proceedings are required to be suspended for 30 minutes until quorum can be obtained again, or the session will lapse. This is a by-product of factions proxying out several delegates votes to one person. As such, this one person can be responsible for potentially 6% of conference floor. If enough of these proxy leader delegates leave, then quorum is lost. The chair and conference organisers are shameless in requesting factional leaders to have better control of their delegates to ensure quorum is held. These needless suspension of sessions by accidental loses of quorum is an organisational flaw and leads to significant losses in time and ability for delegates to debate motions of substance.

Of course, the "pulling of quorum" is also a key factional tool and tactic used to delay conference proceedings and was used several times by factional bosses at opportune times.

5.0 Conference Proceedings

5.1 Debate Procedure and “Standing Orders”

Debate on conference floor can only be described as manic and chaotic. On several occasions, the Chair of the meeting lacked any real authority to control delegates and observer's behaviour on conference floor. It was not uncommon for the Chair to simply shout back at delegates who were causing immense disruption to the conference, rather than actually managing any dispute and resolving it.

Debate on a motion would occur after a motion was “Cogged” by the Business Committee. Cogging is a factional tool where multiple motions in a particular policy chapter are bound together to be debated En Block. Located next to their factional block are tables for all factional leaders, known as “cogging tables”, where deals are made between factions about which motions will be passed and supported together. Deals will often include a trading of support for particular motions. In this sense, quite often factions will vote against their own ideological initiative in order to gain support for an alternative policy position. When discussing policy motions, Liberal students always ensured that they would vote according to the policy platform that the students of their University who voted for them, would expect. For other factions however, it can be argued that their votes on conference floor, do not reflect the views and expectations of the students who voted for them.

Once a deal has been made on conference floor, the motion numbers will be sent up to the factional representatives on the Business Committee situated on the stage, who will then discuss and formally seek to move the motions en block and inform the chair of the committee's decision. This can however cause much disruption. While the internal operations of the business committee are seemingly shrouded in mystery to Liberal Students as we aren't able to hold a seat on the committee, it is still abundantly clear that this disruption can often turn physically violent.

For a block of motions to be considered by the conference floor, the motion number must be written on a piece of paper, signed by relevant factional members and handed to the chair. On multiple occasions physical fights erupted on the stage for the entire conference to see. This behaviour was absolutely repugnant and disgusting, with representatives from all four factions being at fault. People were chased, tackled, wrestled and violently thrown to the ground, all in pursuit of the piece of paper to prevent debate.

According to student leaders of the NUS, it is seemingly better to physically assault another elected delegate, chase and fight each other on stage, and to eat a piece of paper than allow debate on a motion you might disagree with. A policy submitted by Liberal Students referencing greater assistance for Female students with children was subject to this treatment, because members of Socialist Alternative and the National Labor Students couldn't bare the thought of having free and open debate on a policy submitted by elected delegates of a Right Wing Persuasion. This was just one of many disgusting and disgraceful low points for the NUS.

If a block of motions did eventually get passed the business committee and open for debate, any debate pertaining the motion itself was difficult to follow for a number of reasons. Firstly, there are five “speaker’s chairs” situated up the front of the room, one for each faction. The idea, is that factions send their representatives to sit in the chairs and if they would like to speak on the motion, they signal to the chair, rise with some respect and order, and speak in favour or against the motion. This of course wasn’t the case.

Despite one chair being reserved for Liberal students, when Ben sought to speak, a member for Socialist Alternative sprinted in order to prevent him from sitting down, as though it would be a disgrace if a Liberal spoke. However, this made no real difference as around the speaking chairs were at least fifteen to twenty people standing and waiting to speak, with the chair often struggling to control who was speaking next. Many delegates would rush to the podium in order to have a chance to speak with the chair consistently having to turn the microphone off in order to silence the delegate speaking out of turn. It became clear fairly quickly that the “speaking chairs” which were designed to maintain the order, were absolutely redundant.

The standing orders with respect to speakers on the motion was fairly standard in theory, in regards to having a speaker for the motion, and a speaker against. Of course, nothing at the NUS is that simple and in practice, having alternating speakers in favour and then against was often a regulation that wasn’t required to be followed. Leniency was also often extended if the speaker looking to speak out of turn was from the same faction as the Chair. In this manner, motions of little or no substance had several speakers repeating the same set of talking points creating the consistent echo-chamber. If the chair of the chapter had a bit more control of the meeting, then more substantial policy motions could have been considered, and we wouldn’t have run out of time at the end of each chapter and at the end of conference.

Confusion of debate likewise extended to which motion was actually being debated. With motions moved en block and often covering a very broad spectrum as a result of factional dealings, who was debating on which element of the motion often clouded the actual debate of the block. An example from this can be seen from one of the last chapters of discussion in the Queer Chapter. Up for debate all at once were motions 7.8, 7.9, 7.11, 7.12, 7.13, 7.14, 7.16, 7.18, 7.20, 7.21, 7.26, 7.27, 7.29, and 7.31. These motions discussed topics ranging from University relevant motions such as “Safe Spaces on campus for queer-identifying students”, “Encouraging Queer Collectives”, or “Men menstruate, and their rights to sanitary bins in male bathrooms”, all the way to non-university-student relevant policy such as “Inclusive Sex Education”, “More LGBT nightlife options”, and “Fighting back against Trump and Pence”.

Putting aside for a moment the NUS’s belief that it has a role to play in US politics, Australian night clubs or even secondary education, the fact that these motions are clogged together in the first place makes absolutely zero sense. In any other organisation, moving several motions en block, is often only done necessarily out of expediency and when motions are of a very similar nature. There is no reason a student moving and speaking to the inclusion of sanitary bins in male bathrooms should also have to simultaneously cast their vote to condemn the United States Vice President.

It was argued that the Queer policy was clogged due to expediency rather than any other matter. However, this pattern of clogging multiple motions together occurred all throughout the conference. Discussion of Welfare Policy saw motions 5.59, 5.41, 5.42, 5.50, 5.45, 5.46, 5.48, 5.58, and 5.55 all clogged together as well. This ranged from debate on the freedom to smoke and weaker penalties for drug users, opposition to night time exams, transport for students without a car to reach their University Open Day, to the opposition to the removal of Start-up scholarships.

There are countless examples of these motions being clogged with no justifiable reason and no explanation of the similarity of the motions. It seems to be an expectation that multiple motions get lumped together based on factional deals and attempted to get sneakily pushed through because they're attached to a motion that simply can not fail.

Speakers would frequently rise to debate one element of the motion, then be rebutted by another faction, yet speaking on a completely different motion on a completely different idea and policy position. When there are 14 vastly different policy proposals, how does one cast their vote? Do they vote in favour because there might be one policy in the bundle they might actually be in favour of? Do they vote against because they support thirteen but there is one that they ordinarily couldn't vote for? Do they vote based whether they support more than they are opposed to, or vice versa?

The correct answer is that delegates from the four major factions will vote how they've been told, because the bundle is probably part of a factional deal to get someone they've never heard of from another faction elected to some campus rep position in some random state, which has no impact on the students that voted for them. This is a classic example of the NUS's failure to truly directly represent the interests of students that elected them.

During Ben's time on Guild council, we scarcely moved policy motions of any kind en block, and he consistently advocated for motions to be split and moved separately if they were. This is to ensure clarity of what we were voting on and that there was no confusion as to why a councillor was voting in a particular direction. This ideal is clearly not replicated by the National Union.

I was proud to stand with the Liberal Students where we can actually make the truthful claim that we did not make factional deals or trade positions on policy. Instead we voted our conscience on all policy and voted how the students that elected us would expect us to vote, and based on the policy platform we brought to our student elections.

At the end of the process and once debate on a motion or block of motions had concluded, factional 'head-kickers' would shout to their delegates how they are intended to vote. At the time for the vote faction leaders would shout "Unity Up!" or "NLS Up!", indicating to the delegates to raise their lanyards to vote for the motion as one disciplined body. With the factional system and discipline so ingrained in the delegates of these factions, it would consistently be the case and the expectation that many delegates wouldn't even know what they were voting on, yet trusted their factional boss to raise their lanyard when told for the sake of the faction. Again, this was both alarming and a cause for concern to me. The

removal of individual delegate discretion and accountability means that, while they don't even know what they're voting on, how can they be expected to adequately represent their students.

One of the more disappointing sights that again was far too frequent was when the chair called for the vote to occur again because the result of the vote wasn't the previously agreed upon outcome. This would occur if a factional leader wasn't paying attention to the vote and failed to shout to their delegates to raise their lanyards. It was disappointing that other delegates required the advice of their factional bosses on how to vote, but what was more disturbing was that the chair would signal that the vote result wasn't conducted correctly and recount the tally, signalling to their factional heads to keep their delegates in line.

Very rarely, a breakdown in communication can occur between the faction's cogging table, the representative on the business committee and the leader on the ground. This occurred when the very last motion of conference was moved to condemn the SDA, the national union aligned with Labor Unity. When Unity didn't realise what motion was being moved due to a miscommunication between the Business Committee rep and the factional leader, Unity's leader shouted for her delegates to vote in favour of the motion and as such, accidentally condemning their national ally. Not a single junior member of the Unity team recognised this as an error, again noting that all votes for the major factions are simply process and discipline orientated, with no delegate holding individual autonomy over their own vote.

5.2 The "Informal Session" and Conference Filming

The very first session of conference can easily be defined as shambolic and after the session lacked quorum, secretariat was forced to acknowledge that the session was simply "informal" after waiting for over fifty minutes for the requisite number of delegates to be found. The session lacked members from Socialist Alternative and more importantly almost a majority of National Office Bearers and Executive.

Considering the session was set for key procedural motions and Office Bearer reports, the lack of quorum was disturbing. Likewise, having members of the National Office Bearer team fail to show up to deliver their report to the conference at their designated time was a very poor way to begin conference proceedings and only serves to display the Union's complete lack of interest in being held accountable for their year.

Irrespective of this, was the Union and the Chair's complete disregard for appropriate standing orders. It is (disgracefully) customary for the first motion of the conference to be the banning of filming on conference floor. Funnily enough, given the absolute disgraceful behaviour of many delegates on conference floor, it is unsurprising that the establishment of the Union don't like transparency and hope that the public never see what goes on behind closed doors. However, in this instance, because the session was informal due to a lack of quorum, no such motion could be passed.

With the lack of motion being passed, there was no regulation that could justifiably prevent delegates from shining a light on these early conference proceedings. Considering there wasn't much substance to discussion either, but rather just the reports of National Officer Bearers on how they used forcibly taken SSAF dollars throughout the year, one would assume that transparency in this instance could have been accepted.

However, this wasn't the case. When Liberal Students began to justifiably and rightly film conference proceedings, the NUS President and chair at the time, halted conference proceedings in order to sanction the delegates. To clarify, Liberal students were being condemned by the Chair for filming elected representatives, explaining how they were using student funds, despite no regulation nor motion prohibiting the transparency measure. The Chair and Secretariat were both then shameless in explaining that despite it not being illegal, the Chair wouldn't hesitate to name the delegates, remove them from conference floor or even halt the entire session if students refused to stop filming. They then had the audacity to exclaim that we were even unable to refute the chairs decision as due to the fact this was an informal session without quorum, we were unable to move the procedural motion of "dissent against the chair" as no motion could be moved without quorum.

This informal session lacked any procedural fairness expected within any meeting. For starters if conference wasn't quorate, the Chair themselves had no power to make a ruling and the conference itself shouldn't even be proceeding. However, with the decision to transition the session into an "informal session", the Chair and Secretariat continued to pick and choose at their discretion which regulations it would follow, which motions would be acceptable to be moved, and apparently making up rules as they go.

The President's justification for acting out against the filming was that "if we had quorum, we would have moved a motion to ban filming". However, in acknowledging that no such motion had been moved, it would be hoped that NUS leadership would accept that part of their conference would be subject to scrutiny and observations from the students they claim to represent. Disappointingly, and again unsurprisingly, this wasn't the case.

Eventually, once the second session was quorate, the motion to ban filming was put to the conference and it successfully passed with only the Liberal Students actively voting against the motion. This was again despite pressure from University Student Papers such as the University of Sydney's Honi Soit, who issued an open letter to the NUS executive to allow for filming on conference floor in the interest of transparency and for students unable to attend the conference for whatever reason. The pressure from the USyd paper was not alone, with other papers requesting the permission to accurately document the conference proceedings and for several consecutive years now. The request has obviously fallen on deaf ears.

Despite the ban, Honi Soit and Farrago Magazine of the University of Melbourne, were successful in obtaining some footage of the conference and uploading the footage to YouTube. These can be found at the following links here:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njWGFSTPaA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HvlgzlPtQ>

The footage only captures parts some of the disgusting and disturbing incidents of the conference, however, even the footage that can be discreetly filmed from a student reporter's mobile phone, gives a clear indication as to why the NUS doesn't want this footage out there. We remain hopeful that future conferences accept that transparency is a key pillar to any election based organisation and that allowing students to see what transpires at conference, without having to pay a registration fee to physically attend, should be of the upmost importance.

5.3 Delegate and Faction Conduct on Conference Floor

The conduct of delegates and of the factions in general on the conference floor was absolutely appalling and the National Union of Students should absolutely be ashamed of itself for how many and most of their representatives conducted themselves. For a Union where nearly 97% of the elected representatives identify as "Left of Centre", where "tolerance" is the pride of their ideology, we certainly failed to witness any tolerance being exemplified from the vast majority of conference attendees.

As a personal reflection and anecdote, when Ben rose to speak on a motion referencing the concept of free and fair elections at Australian Universities, we were both shocked and appalled to stand at the podium and prior to having an opportunity to speak one word on the motion, members of the radical left-wing from Socialist Alternative and some members of the NLS had risen to their feet in disgust at the concept of a Liberal addressing the room. It was found to be both immensely threatening but simultaneously amusingly ironic that members of the "tolerant left" were attempting to prevent a democratically elected representative speaking on a democracy motion simply because of his political views. When then chair struggled to maintain order of the room, we were comforted that security were alert to the radicals and were keeping watch of the situation.

Throughout his speech Ben was constantly interrupted with aggressive heckles and chanting of "Racist, sexist, anti-queer, Liberals are not welcome here!". He continued to speak on the motion as best as he could, however the conduct of other delegates certainly made it difficult to truly do as best as he could to represent the students of UWA and have his voice heard. Again, we were chiefly disappointed with the prejudicial nature of many of the left-wing attendees, and found it very troubling to think that despite being a democratically elected delegate, as a Liberal we weren't given the same rights to be heard in silence as our fellow delegates. Likewise, prior to even making our position on a particular policy known, it was assumed we had to be a racist, sexist, and homophobic because we wore a blue Liberal shirt.

This disgraceful conduct extended all throughout the conference, amalgamating in various unimaginative chants and slogans. At random points after heated debates, cross-factional chanting matches would erupt, usually in reference to Federal Politics. Socialist Alternative would note that NLS and Unity were voting against the Left Wing revolutionary interest and drift from their chant of "Scab! Scab! Scab!" to "Shame Labor Shame!", which would be met with chants from the two largest Labor factions of "The A, The A, The A-L-P!". A chant that became a Trot favourite was their advocacy of a communist revolution: "What Solution? Revolution! One Solution, Revolution!" The amount of time wasted waiting for delegates to

take their place and to cease chanting was astronomical and probably rivalled the amount of time conference spent waiting for quorum.

While several more chants were aired by the Trots and other factions, the main qualm was that there were no appropriate mechanisms for dealing with delegates poor conduct. The chair had little to no power over the conference floor and mainly acted as a gentle voice of advice. The clearest example of the weakness of the Chair was after a member of Socialist Alternative was named three times by the Chair of the session. The delegate had been named for her ultra-aggressive outbursts during delegate speeches, instigating disruptive chants, halting proceedings and general disregard for other delegates on conference floor. The penalty for being named three times by the Chair of the meeting is removal from session- you are able to return after the session has concluded.

In the case of the Trot who was named three times, rather than leaving conference floor, she simply remained seated and refused to leave with other delegates of Socialist Alternative surrounding her and forming some form of 'protective layer'. As such, rather than forcibly remove her, the chair made the decision to halt all conference proceedings until she left the room. In despair, Unity then pulled quorum momentarily which only further delayed conference proceedings and prevented the conference from debating any more policy. After an immensely lengthy delay, the delegate finally left and conference resumed for at least another 20 to 30 minutes before the session ended and the delegate was able to return. In this instance, its clear that the despicable behaviour of the delegate transpired with almost no sanction, yet at the detriment to the entire conference.

The extent to which the Chair attempted to hold order varied from Chairperson to Chairperson, all of whom were ineffective. The repetitive nature of the Chair exclaiming that "the speaker shall be heard in silence" had no bearing on the conference floor, likewise did their exclamation that the delegate speaking had run out of time. Delegates frequently ignored this and continued to speak over the chair. It got to the point where secretariat had to turn the microphone off at the two-minute mark. This still however didn't phase several delegates, who continued to scream at the conference without a microphone and continuing to disrupt conference proceedings.

As previously noted, it was seemingly acceptable for literal physical fights to erupt on the conference stage. It was commonplace for tackles and wrestling matches to take place on the stage of the Business Committee. It still baffles us that no one was shocked or appalled when these fights were being undertaken in order to prevent free and open debate- this was the expectation that delegates have of the NUS. Yet again, after their fist fight, factional representatives would rise and resume their place at the business committee table as though nothing happened, conference proceeded as normal, no delegate was sanctioned or even named, and everyone acted as though his was an acceptable way to conduct the business of representing Australian students.

Yet in spite of all this, the most disappointing part of delegate conduct was when people were physically prevented and barred from speaking on a motion once debate had opened. This occurred on a number of occasions throughout the conference with some factional delegates opting to charge the microphone and hold onto it to prevent the speaker from

projecting their opinion to the entirety of conference. One particularly disgusting incident of this nature occurred when an Indigenous Student was prevented from speaking on a policy simply because he was a Liberal. This was one of the most despicable moments of the conference and again gives credence to question how this organisation and many of its members can even contemplate describing themselves as “tolerant” to a difference of opinion. This has confirmed what I’ve known for a long time: Left are only tolerant to those on the Left.

With the conference erupting on several occasions with multiple controversial policy debates leading to flashpoints and near riots erupting as they have done in previous years, security was required to be on watch 24/7. At particular points, when there was clear threats and anti-Liberal sentiment being exclaimed, security deemed it necessary to stand by the Liberal students’ cog table as a pre-emptive measure. This violent, aggressive and intimidating nature by several delegates was prompted because someone dared to have a different opinion and to express it. The NUS is seemingly stuck in older age when freedom of speech and freedom of expression were taken for granted.

5.4 Constitutional Amendments

5.4.1 Cessation of Membership

In response to a perfectly legitimate referendum that was conducted by a University in New South Wales, the National Union of Students decided to tighten up ways in which student unions can escape from the national body. While it remains that a student union only requires a majority vote of the elected student council to spend thousands of student dollars in affiliation, the NUS in contrast requires an all student referendum to save money and disaffiliate, rather than just a majority of the council.

The constitutional amendment, which was unfortunately successful in passing, made the rules around referendums very strict and essentially ruled out any autonomy of the individual union, including the exact wording of what the referendum will be, the timing of the referendum and the length of how the referendum will be conducted. This is surprising and baffling to me, that an organisation can’t join and leave as they please or by similar mechanisms. Further to this, it surprises us that an organisations internal decision making process becomes redundant in relation to its external affairs. Surely, if one decision-making body makes the decision to join another, only itself can determine how its membership with the larger organisation shall operate. Ceding responsibility of how internal affairs are conducted should always be opposed by this student union, and we were disappointed to see that several UWA delegates supported the change.

The shift also brings into question our own regulations on referenda as there is a direct contradiction between the two sets of regulations. While the new NUS guidelines stipulate that a referendum can not be conducted in conjunction with any other referendum or election, in other words, it must be its own expensive stand alone election, the UWA Student Guild regulations on referenda are the exact opposite. UWA governance regulations surrounding referenda indicate that the referendum must take place at the exact same time as the election of representatives to the UWA Student Guild. This disjoin between the two

regulations requires either an amendment to our own regulations to bring them into line, or an acknowledgment that the NUS regulations have no bearing on how the NUS conducts its internal business.

5.4.2 Abolition of National Environment Officer

The conference also made the near unanimous decision to abolish the National Environment Officer. The Liberal students were some of the only dissenting voices against the office abolition. Our position on the matter remains unchanged, in that the office should still be in existence. The rationale behind Liberal opposition is based on the question of why should an irrelevant policy office be abolished, when the conference still takes stances on other irrelevant non-student issues.

It appears that the NUS picks and chooses which irrelevant and non-student issues it chooses to campaign on and have people working towards, yet it doesn't appear that the environment makes the cut.

5.4.3 Changes surrounding the naming of National Queer Officer

It appears this has been a perennial debate at National Conference every year, regarding the naming of the representatives, with the title changing several times. This year, instead of flipping the title from National Queer Officer to National LGBTI Officer, conference made the decision to make the position more fluid and have the elected representative to that office define the title as however they would like.

The substantive change then made was that the official title of the office is the "National Queer/LGBTI Officer", until such a time as the elected representative makes a decision about which title they prefer, or both. The hope of this change is that conference isn't required to make a constitutional amendment about this office every two years from here on.

5.5 Policy Debated

Of course, a main purpose of National Conference is to determine the policy agenda of the Union for the year ahead to determine how the NUS can further spend student money on which campaigns. There was a large portion of the debate which was focussed on irrelevant non-student issues. However, the following pages address which motions were carried and have become official NUS policy, which were unsuccessful, and any specific notes about the debate quality, time spent considering the motion, and how passionate the debate tended to be. I'll look to break down the debate as much as possible, shifting between what was discussed at each session, noting any disruptions and timings of each session as well to give the clearest impression of exactly how debates transpired. Noting that session 1, as the "informal session" has already been covered in section 5.2, the forthcoming section will skip straight to session 2.

5.5.1 Session 2

Unfortunately, by the end of session 2 we were still trying to adjust to the bizarre cogging of motions, to a point where it was difficult for those without a representative on the Business Committee (i.e. just the Liberals), to properly know what motions were being debated if you happened to miss the Chair rattle off several of the motion numbers, you were required to read off the whiteboard at the front of the room, which was both tiny and illegible.

After the conference floor was opened to delegates at 7:30pm, we were waiting for quorum until 8:45pm. When the conference started, it was evident that this situation was going to be all about the Labour factions competing for who was the biggest supporter of Unionism. The following tables are not an exhaustive list, however the chief motions up for debate have been recorded. Future chapters for debate are more exhaustive reflections.

5.5.1.1 Admin

| Motion Numbers | Official Motion Name | Carried or Failed | Notes |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|---|
| 2.1 | Continuing NUS EBA negotiations | Carried | |
| 2.3, 2.18 | Moving Out of Trade's Hall Let's Move out of Trade Hall | Carried | Very heated debate. Arguments for regarding the historical ties to the trade's hall. SAlt were arguing to remain as it's close to their own headquarters proximity wise. The debate somehow transitioned from a discussion about utilities at Trade's Hall, to a heated discussion about the quality of Palestinian water |
| 2.5, 2.14, 2.19 | Nation Builder Training for National Office Bearers Just Update the bloody website Updated Website | Carried | There was again excessive debate on this motion, surrounding the most effective way to campaign, leading some delegates to question if you can have both an effective website and effective campaigns. I'm not too certain if these two motions were clogged or not, however if not, both were still moved and carried irrespective. |
| 2.12 | Office Bearer Accountability | Carried | This was perhaps the most surprising debate of the chapter. It was extremely surprising to find that there was a large group of delegates who |

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| | | | were opposed to OB accountability, to reporting mechanisms and to KPIs. Their opposition was not based on practicality, but rather an actual ideological opposition to accountability |
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The remaining bulk of admin policy was centred on increasing affiliations and engaging with other campuses who are fortunate enough not to be members of the Union.

5.5.1.2 Small and Regional Policy

Due to the bulk of Small and Regional Policy being passed nearly unanimously most of the time with little debate, I'm unfortunately uncertain as to which motions were passed or if all were moved. Likewise, as the policy doesn't affect UWA students outside of SSAF funds being allocated to run regional campaigns, it's a chapter without much interest to UWA students. Many of the motions were simply about greater engagement with small and regional universities. The chapter did however provide an insight into relations between some factions, with Unity using it as a tool to attack members of other factions who had neglected small and regional campuses throughout their tenure on the National Executive or as National Office Bearers.

5.5.1.3 Unionism

The bulk of Session 2 was spent on debates surrounding Unionism. Again, however, I'm unable to adequately verify which motions were clogged, moved, passed, or failed as our own time was spent trying to comprehend how the meeting was progressing and the NUS doesn't provide such information. However, the session was essentially a shameless plug for each factions chief Union. Countless motions were moved and supported regarding the SDA or their campaigns, including motions 3.7 on the SDA's recent Federal Court appearance on ALDI workers, motion 3.8 on the SDA's penalty rates campaign, or motion 3.9, about bringing the SDA to student campuses- there were countless more.

There were however, as expected, some immensely disappointing debate contributions from several delegates, and some very disappointing motions that ended up being accepted as official NUS policy. This included motion 3.26, which sought to ban Liberals from the NUS as according to the movers of the motion, we were "enemies to students". This is an outright disgusting and prejudicial motion which would bar democratically elected representatives from doing their job as student reps.

Similarly, motion 3.31 was a motion opposing the Australian Building and Construction Commission. The famous student issue of union corruption on construction sites was important enough to receive a lengthy debate of countless students simply speaking in favour of the motion. This of course was successful in passing and contributed to much of the time wasted not covering student issues. Likewise, motion 3.28 also took a considerable amount of time to debate. The motion was simply about recognising that a strike had occurred at the Coles Redistribution Centre. The action item of the lengthy motion was that the NUS "will extend solidarity" to the workers of the strike.

Perhaps the most shameful motion of the chapter was motion 3.29, and the one that we were most ashamed of as a member of the NUS. The motion, which again had nothing to do with any student, was condemning volunteer firefighters. It didn't think the NUS could stoop any lower than they already had, until they attacked the very people who volunteer their time to save peoples homes and lives. The attack on the Australian volunteers was based around the fact that it got in the way of the Firefighters Union from striking and unionising for increased pay. It was one of the many moments of the conference where we were truly shocked and appalled and simply could not believe what we were witnessing.

While there were several other motions that had nothing to do with students or the national body, including supporting more worker's unions or supporting the NTEU in their latest endeavours, the last policy to address from the chapter is motion 3.32. The motion, entitled "Against the Arts Union Coup". The first note to make is that this motion is calling for free and fair elections on student campuses. Secondly, the motion is moved by members of Socialist Alternative. As such, it would be a simple assumption to assume that members of Socialist Alternative, would support a democratically elected delegate from speaking on the motion about democracy. Ironically not, as this was the motion which saw members of the radical left wing faction arise from their chairs in disgust before Ben even had the chance to speak.

Irrespective of the Socialists attitude towards democracy, the reason this motion is noteworthy is because it raises into question the scope of the National Union. It baffles and surprises me, that many delegates deem it necessary that the internal operations of a faculty society election (which was still pending a tribunal decision at the time the motion was moved), was suitable enough to be moved and debated at National Conference. This was a ridiculous motion to bring to conference, yet for some reason it was treated as a motion worth considerable time and debate by many delegates.

5.5.2 Session 3

This session was far more controversial than the initial. Secretariat called the session open at 1:30pm, yet quorum was not found until 2:45pm. The session was marred by the Chair's inability to remove a delegate who had been named three times, halting proceedings until the issue was resolved. The session was centred around Welfare and Education, two of the major policy areas of the Union. Again, the list of welfare policies in this instance being debated is possibly not exhaustive, however the key policy initiatives are noted and highlights of the chapter are included. Education and other subsequent chapters should again be closer to an exhaustive list.

5.5.2.1 Welfare

| Motion Numbers | Official Motion Name | Carried or Failed | Notes |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|---|
| 5.3, 5.6, 5.9, 5.19, 5.40, 5.43, 5.52 | Simple Extensions We Like to Party! We Like, We Like to Party! Unpaid and Underpaid Internships Support for Students on Placement Expanding Critical & Critical Loan/Grants Free Brekky Bar Put the Brakes on Parking Fees | Carried | This motion wasn't overly controversial, but debate on the motion was difficult to follow with several of the motions having absolutely nothing to do with each other. This bloc of motions was probably clogged together as a consequence of a factional deal, or because they were vaguely similar in that they are about students. |
| 5.5, 5.17, 5.11, 5.34, 5.37 | Emergency Housing Affordable Housing Student Homelessness Facilitate a holistic campaign on student poverty Ready to Rent | Carried | |
| 5.30, 5.31 | Representation and Inclusion for Parents and Carers Struggling to Care - Access to Education and Training for Young Adult Carers | Carried | |
| 5.14, 5.15, 5.21, 5.28 | National Welfare Facebook Group "Student Welfare Day" at Education Conference 2017 | Carried | Purely administrative permissions for the incoming Welfare Officer to act on |

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| | Welfare Action Groups in 2017 | | |
| | Welfare Days of Action – Continue to Engage Students | | |
| 5.32 | Safe Pill Consumption | Carried | |
| 5.54 | Domestic Violence Leave | Carried | |
| 5.33 | What's Next Campaign | Carried | |
| 5.22 | The Online Student Cookbook in 2017 | Failed | <p>While many of the motions moved are fairly uncontroversial and carried without too much dissent, for whatever reason, the motion for the NUS to make its own cookbook received the most attention and the most anguish from delegates in this chapter.</p> <p>This motion was comical in how much time it occupied on conference floor and the passionate opposition to the NUS writing a cookbook. The motion, in fairness was ridiculous that the prospect that the NUS welfare officer needs to occupy her time writing recipes. Nevertheless, simply voting the motion down wasn't enough, and a parade of delegates rose to speak against the cookbook, as though the NUS has never before encountered on a project as insignificant to students.</p> |
| 5.57 | Oppose cuts to student welfare and fight student poverty | Carried | |
| 5.2 | Study Support out of Class and the Impact of Strike Action | Fails | <p>This was a motion we were particularly disappointed to see defeated. The motion was, like the cookbook motion before it, fairly controversial. It acknowledges that when Unions such as the NTEU strike, it can have negative implications on student outcomes when they inevitably lose teaching days.</p> <p>It was quite disappointing to see the body that says they represent</p> |

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| | | | <p>students, vote against this motion so that they can stand “in solidarity” with teachers.</p> <p>I was proud to support the motion as a representative of students and was very disappointed that other delegates chose teachers and unionism over what is best for the students they represent</p> |
| 5.59, 5.41, 5.42, 5.50, 5.45, 5.46, 5.48, 5.58, 5.55 | <p>Opposing the removal of the Start-up Scholarship</p> <p>Smokers left out in the cold</p> <p>National Union of SWED</p> <p>Taking a Stand against Night Exams</p> <p>Affordability of University NRAS Accommodation</p> <p>Transport for students to University Open days</p> <p>Drug Education Kits</p> <p>Omnibus bill</p> <p>Working for 4 dollars an hour is not a ‘career development’: Rejecting the PaTH program and ensuring internships and young workers are respected and accurately paid</p> | | <p>Again, this policy bloc received quite a bit of attention and debate, simply because there is just so many random motions thrown into the discussion. In no scenario does it make sense for a motion about smoking and drugs to be in combination with motions condemning Federal Government policy.</p> <p>On the motions themselves, it’s very alarming that the NUS has adopted as it’s official policy that it’s appropriate to decrease the penalty for driving under the influence of illicit substances.</p> <p>The NUS has also not failed to attack the government in this latest attempt. Here, it shamefully attacks the Omnibus bill and the government’s PaTH program. The Omnibus ended up becoming a buzz word for the Trots, with the faction seemingly able to shift every debate point to the fact that the Omnibus bill was passed by parliament.</p> |

The Chapter ended with several heated debates and a stack of policy. The concern we raise is seemingly questioning how the incoming Welfare officer expects to act on all of the passed motions action items. With each motion passed, were a series of action items for the organisation, most discussing some form of campaign that needs to be run. There is just simply no foreseeable way in which the organisation will have the capacity to

action all of these policies. In which case, moving and passing the motion has absolutely zero impact on students as no motion moved or “gesture” will make any tangible changes

5.5.2.2 Education

| Motion Numbers | Official Motion Name | Carried or Failed | Notes |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|---|
| 4.3, 4.15, 4.16 | Online Lectures HECS-HELP for Entrance Exams Online Learning and Casualisation of the Workforce | Carried | <p>I was very surprised to note that much of the contention and debate around this bloc was centred on online lectures. Again, it appears that far too many delegates were far too concerned about Staff and Lecturer interests rather than the concern of students.</p> <p>Many delegates argued against the motion believing that we shouldn't be encouraging online lectures as it can have a negative impact on lecturers. For some unknown reason, they have no interest in assisting working students in both their work capacity and their studies, as it could impact the staff.</p> |
| 4.39 | Education Campaign in 2017 | Carried | <p>This is the motion that empowers the National Union of Students to be the activist body. It allows the education officer to freely spend student money on campaigns for marches, protests, posters, leaflets, t-shirts, paid advertisements, etc.</p> <p>This campaign again is literally just a front for the Labor party and other bodies like GetUp! to attack the Liberal Party by any means necessary. The very first action item states “The National Education Officer will renew and lead a protest-based campaign against the Liberal government.”</p> <p>The body and this motion is shameless in using student funds simply to promote the interests of the Labor</p> |

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| | | | Party and oppose any move by the Liberal party for the sake of it. |
| 4.50, 4.52 | No to Cuts at Melbourne University Against the Curtin University Staff Cuts | Carried | Again, it is unnecessary for the National Union of Students to make comment or be involved with campus specific motions. Students Unions at Melbourne University and Curtin University respectively can make their own decisions regarding the approach to dealing with their own issues. |
| 4.21, 4.23 | Say no to dodgy university internships! Abolition of Unpaid Internships | Carried | |
| 4.2, 4.6, 4.28, 4.26, 4.27 | Textbooks in the Library Maximise Use of Textbooks Sexuality Education Bring Back Tech Schools Don't trade away our Trades | Carried | This is again a random mis-match of motions, where some of them, such as motion 4.27 on trades, have no reason to be in the Education Chapter. Likewise, for a tertiary education Union, I'm simply confused as to why it feels compelled to comment on secondary education curriculum. This is again, another waste of time for discussion on actual important issues, relevant to University Students. |
| 4.4, 4.24, 4.29 | Solidarity with TAFE Students End privatisation of TAFE Keep the arts in HECS | Carried | |
| 4.31, 4.35, 4.38 | Improved investment in higher education to meet the OECD average An NDA for Everyone Fee Deregulation still a top priority for the Liberals | Carried | Again, any chance to attack the Liberal Government, any one of the four large factions see, they will take. Apparently, despite the Liberal Government making it very clear the Fee Deregulation is not something that is currently being pursued, the NUS still feels the need to dedicate time, money and energy to campaigns on the issue. |
| 4.10 | An NUS that reaches beyond Universities | Carried | |

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| 4.19 | Linking Campus Restructure Campaigns on a National Level | Carried | <p>This motion logistically makes absolutely no sense. The premise of the motion, which has now become official NUS policy, is that every campus restructure ever, is a consequence of Neo-Liberal principles and needs to be quashed because it can only result in negative consequences.</p> <p>This notion is absolutely ludicrous, yet the NUS has assumed that all restructures are the same. So without observing the benefits, without understanding where funds are being reallocated, without understanding how students are impacted, the NUS has made a blanket opposition to changing structures.</p> <p>It's motions like this which makes Universities question the legitimacy of the Union and renders it useless</p> |
| 4.20, 4.22 | <p>Fighting Cuts and Closures on Regional Campuses</p> <p>Employment for Young People in Regional Areas</p> | Carried | |
| 4.36, 4.30 | <p>Improving the ratio of students: uni management on committees that report to Academic Boards/Senates.</p> <p>Recommendation for amendments to state Education Governance legislation</p> | Carried | |
| 4.45, 4.42, 4.46, 4.47, 4.48, 4.44 | No degree factories: Stop the trimester rollouts | Carried | This bloc was an absolutely bizarre and messy debate to watch. The debate wasn't focused on any one motion, with separate speakers spraying random bits of information on random motions. |

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| | <p>They don't deserve a cent: why we hate Vice-Chancellors</p> <p>Stop the Restructure & #LetSCAStay</p> <p>Attacks on Education at Adelaide University</p> <p>In lieu of fee dereg, savage local cuts</p> | | <p>Again though, motions like motions 4.42 is why no one can take the NUS as a serious body for advocacy. They condemn Vice Chancellors who work to ensure that there is in fact a University to attend.</p> <p>Likewise, motion 4.44 contradicts a motion moved a couple of Blocs ago. One motion recognises that Fee Deregulation is no longer on the cards, therefore the NUS should find something else to campaign on, while the other says that Fee Dereg is still a threat.</p> <p>This again goes to show that the NUS doesn't have a clear principle set, but rather all they do is look for different ways to complain and attack the right-wing. Evidently, they don't require reason to do so.</p> |
| 4.34 | Working with the NTEU on Lecture Recordings | Failed | <p>This motion was important as the debate was not entirely centred around Lecture recordings, but rather a whole host of factors, including the NUS's relationship with the NTEU.</p> <p>In the end, the motion failed because several factions voted against it for several reasons. Some voted against it because they believed the relationship with the NTEU didn't warrant consultation on campaigns, while others opposed it because they (for bizarre reasons), didn't want more lecture recordings.</p> <p>Either way, the NTEU won't be consulted on future NUS campaigns for lecture recordings</p> |
| 4.26 | Bring Back Tech Schools | Carried | |
| 4.57 | HEPPP | Carried | |
| 4.51 | Oppose the FlexAp restructure at Melbourne Uni | Carried | Again, another opposition to restructure that should be dealt with |

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| | | | by the Melbourne Uni Guild or SRC rather than the national body |
| MFF | UWA Arts Union motion | Carried | For a second time, the UWA Arts Union was brought into question, this time after the tribunal had handed down it's decision. I'm still confused as to why delegates felt the need to have two motions dedicated to a small election of a single campuses Faculty Society. |
| 4.58 | Don't be a hater, give us your (raw) data | Carried | Effectively gives all member organisations access to the data from NUS surveys |
| 4.32 | Assisting Student Organisation in their funding agreements | Carried | |

Many of the debates in this chapter were aggressive. Motion itself seems placid, but the rationale for it was to attack the Liberal Government and many delegates would consistently stray off topic to make every attempt to attack the Liberal Government's policy. It was in this chapter that we accidentally lost quorum for several minutes at a time while delegates strayed in and out of the room. It was also this session where a Socialist Delegate was asked to leave conference floor due to her constant disruption, yet she refused and halted conference for an extended period.

5.5.3 Session 4

Not all motions from the education chapter were able to be completed in session 3, so the beginning of session 4 was dedicated to completing that chapter. Discussions then began on International Policy, Disability Policy. This part of conference had some very despicable actions taken by delegates and included some very heated and vicious debate. The session started at 9:45pm, as it was only then, when we obtained quorum.

5.5.3.1 International Students

| Motion Numbers | Official Motion Name | Carried or Failed | Notes |
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| 9.1, 9.5, 9.6 | Stop the Violence Against International Students The Racial Discrimination Act protects International Students! | Carried | |

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| | Promoting International Students' mental health awareness | | |
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5.5.3.2 Disabilities

| Motion Numbers | Official Motion Name | Carried or Failed | Notes |
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| 10.1, 10.2 | Specialist's fees for People with Disabilities Long-Term Hospital Stays for Young People | Carried | |
| 10.8 | Inherent Requirements for Distressing Content: Enabling Choice | Motion not put. | <p>This was the motion that ended all discussions for the chapter rather shamelessly and was a defining moment of the conference. The content discussion was chiefly relating to "trigger warnings" or "content warnings" and the motion discussed that those students with disabilities should have these warnings provided to them before embarking on a course because there may be some content which they are required to know which may be distressing to them.</p> <p>It was one of the rare occurrences of the conference where Members of Socialist Alternative and Liberal Students agreed on policy matter. In this instance, members of Socialist Alternative argued that those with disabilities are exactly the same in their capacity to exercise judgment over a course than any able-bodied individual. This argument was one that we didn't believe to be too controversial, but it appears that members of other factions took great distress to the attack on trigger warnings, believing we should be protecting disabled students from seeing potentially uncomfortable content.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Nevertheless, this immensely heated and passionate debate in and of itself was no different to many other debates from the conference. What sets this aside is the fact that halfway through the debate and before the motion could be put, quorum was pulled by the National Labor Students.</p> <p>At the time it appeared that it was Socialist Alternative who pulled quorum in anger at the debate, however it later arose that it was in fact NLS who had already organised for their vote holders to leave conference floor. The reason for doing so, is that it appears NLS hadn't managed to caucus on the policy and so their 'head kickers' weren't able to direct their low ranking members how to vote.</p> <p>As such, instead of allowing a free vote on the issue for the caucus, NLS leadership decided it needed to pull quorum on the disability chapter until they figured out what they were going to do. The walkout effectively ended conference proceedings for the evening as without NLS returning to conference floor, we were unable to continue the session.</p> |
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5.5.4 Session 5

Session 5 required us to get started from where we lost quorum the previous evening, still on the disability chapter. However, the session couldn't get started for over an hour as we waited for quorum from 1:15pm until at least 2:30pm. Even once quorum was found, we were still unable to start the conference session as a verbal fight had erupted between NLS and the Trots. Throughout this session is when the business committee became more indiscreet about their internal rumblings. Physical fights began to erupt and members of the committee plainly and clearly than ever before, grabbed pieces of paper and ate it, almost proud to do so.

5.5.4.1 Disabilities Continued

| Motion Numbers | Official Motion Name | Carried or Failed | Notes |
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| 10.8 | Inherent Requirements for Distressing Content: Enabling Choice | Carried | Over the evening, NLS had a chance to determine how they were voting on the motion and as such, the motion was carried- but not without further debate and attacks thrown to each faction. |
| 10.3, 10.11, 10.16, 10.18 | Students with Disability and the 2016 Student Wellbeing Survey No Cuts to Counsellors at Monash University University counselling services Mental health on Medicare | Carried | |
| 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.13, 10.14, 10.17 | Accessible Campus Elections – everyone has the right to vote Accessible Campus Events - exclusion is discrimination National Students with Disability Conference - It's Time NDA's (Not Darn Accessible) Tutorial attendance Unionism is for everyone: accessible student union events | Carried | |
| 10.7 | Disability Action Plan Implementation on Campuses | Carried | |

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| 10.9 | Omnibus Bill - cuts to DSP | Carried | |
| 10.10 | Anti-deportation campaign demonstrates how to combat ableism | Carried | |

5.5.4.2 Ethno-Cultural

| Motion Numbers | Official Motion Name | Carried or Failed | Notes |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------|---|
| 11.3, 11.6, 11.7 | Ethno-Cultural Mental Health Ethno-Cultural Representation and Support Racism: Your Story | Carried | |
| 11.2, 11.5, 11.12 | Establishment of an Ethno-Cultural Survey Ethno-Cultural Students and the 2016 Student Wellbeing Survey National Survey by NUS Ethno-Cultural Department | Carried | |
| 11.1, 11.4, 11.9 | Halal Not Hanson Religious Intolerance on Campus Opposing changes to 18C | Carried | <p>Discussion on this motion was immensely controversial and the manner in which several delegates conducted themselves throughout was very, very disappointing.</p> <p>When Liberal Student Michael Heydon rose to discuss his opposition to the motion and specifically 18C, the floor of conference again erupted into a series of chants and intimidation tactics. Due to all of the interruptions and the chair's inability to keep the meeting under control, Heydon was barely able to speak for his allotted time, and when he was able to speak, it was not in the same silence afforded to other delegates, but rather he had</p> |

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| | | | <p>to shout over the screaming to be heard.</p> <p>Irrespective of the view, a speaker should have the chance to be heard and then their points rebutted in the debate process, not attacked from all areas of the floor. Ironically, it was this principle of freedom of speech that Michael was seeking to protect in his arguments against 18C and motion 11.9</p> |
| 11.10, 11.18, 11.19 | <p>Refugee Scholarship</p> <p>Let the refugees in!</p> <p>Refugee scholarship campaign</p> | Carried | |
| 11.21 | Solidarity with Syrian Refugees – down with Assad! | Carried | <p>A not so inconsiderable amount of time was spent discussing the merits of this motion and with it the situation in Aleppo. Again, the time spent wasted on motions such as these is inconceivable- no world leader has ever turned to the NUS for guidance on foreign policy- there's a reason for that. The NUS can't be taken seriously when it feels the need to comment on every issue in and outside the country</p> |
| 11.11 | Proliferation of POC/Ethnocultural Officers in Unions | Failed | |
| 11.8 | 2017 NUS National Ethno-cultural Student Conference | Carried | |
| 11.14 | Anti-Terror Laws are Racist | Carried | <p>I was simply in shock when this motion was successful and was proud that Liberal Students stood up to vote against it. The motion calls out all Australian anti-terror laws as racist and condemns them. These are the laws that keep us safe, the laws that have caught and prevented countless terror attacks on Australian soil. This simply adds to the number of increasing low points for the NUS, where it gets to a point where you're no longer surprised</p> |

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| | | | when the organisation takes a position which is outright disgusting, because it has become the norm. |
| 11.15, 11.16, 11.17, 11.20, 11.22 | <p>Fuck Pauline Hanson</p> <p>Challenging Islamophobia in the Media</p> <p>Why we need to confront and not hug racists.</p> <p>#BlackLivesMatter</p> <p>Solidarity with Timor Leste</p> | Carried | <p>It was throughout this motion that chants erupted based on the Labor parties stance on several issues, with half the room chanting "Shame, Labor, Shame", while the other half shouted back "the A, the A, the A-L-P"</p> |
| 11.13 | Australia is a Racist Disgrace | Carried | <p>Like motion 11.14 moved before it, this motion was absolutely disgusting and the debate rhetoric that delegates deemed appropriate was far beyond anything we had ever heard before.</p> <p>Now, according to official NUS policy, the entire country is a national disgrace. Take a step back and note that racism in and of itself is the discrimination and marginalisation of an individual due to their race. It is simply not possible for an entire country to be racist or have racist sentiments. By that extension, as we would assume many of the members of NUS would be Australian's themselves, they have literally just condemned themselves as racist disgraces.</p> <p>This is yet another NUS crisis- they make blanket outrageous statements, condemning every single member of their country for being Islamophobic, anti-refugee and racist. When you blanket an entire country, your own country, as racist, the weight and meaning of what those words mean is lost. If everyone is racist, then no one is.</p> |

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| | | | I was immensely disappointed to see members of Student Unity abstain from this vote, but more shocked and outraged that something like this could even successfully pass. It goes to show how out of touch, how bias, and how irrelevant to society this student body is. |
| MFF | Solidarity with the National Union of Moroccan Students | Carried | |
| MFF | Solidarity with Teachers for Refugees | Carried | |
| MFF | Solidarity with the people of Aleppo | Carried | |

The session had some very heated debate and much of the conduct on the business committee, as previously alluded to, became more clear for all to see. The session ended with the constitutional amendment motions, as previously discussed, and the start of the Women's chapter. For the sake of continuity, all women's motions debated will be covered in section 5.5.5 on session 6, the final session of conference before voting.

5.5.5 Session 6

This was by far the most heated, violent and outrageous of the sessions. The final session saw debates on Women's policy, ATSI policy and Queer policy, yet the session wasn't defined by it's policy measures, yet rather by the disgusting and despicable conduct of conference delegates. The prejudicial nature of delegates towards those on conference floor is simply unacceptable, and the conduct on display throughout this session only worked to cement our position that the NUS as a body needs to be abolished. Throughout this session there were several occasions where we genuinely felt unsafe and at risk of being seriously injured, attacked or watch a riot starting. Three or four physical fights erupted throughout the session with delegates being chased, punches thrown, and people being tackled to the ground- it was simply phenomenal but absolutely disgusting to think that we fund this organisation.

5.5.5.1 Women's

| Motion Numbers | Official Motion Name | Carried or Failed | Notes |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|-------|
| 6.49 | The Gender Pay Gap | Carried | |
| 6.50 | Defend the Burkini | Carried | |
| 6.5, 6.9, 6.16, 6.24, | Consent Campaign Security on Campuses | | |

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| 6.29, 6.30, 6.40 | <p>Sexual Assault on Campus</p> <p>Thursdays in Black</p> <p>Utilising Data from the Australian Human Rights Commission Survey</p> <p>The Hunting Ground Still Rages: Continuing the Campaign to Support Student Safety, Stop The War on Women</p> <p>Universal University Sexual Assault, Harassment & Discrimination Policy</p> | | |
| 6.13, 6.35 | <p>Support Women's Student Wellbeing</p> <p>Supporting Women's Wellbeing following the 2016 Survey</p> | Carried | |
| 6.12, 6.14, 6.27, 6.38 | <p>Stop Taxing my Period</p> <p>What a strange contraception...</p> <p>Stop Taxing My Period, Abolish the Tampon Tax!</p> <p>Blood of the Workers</p> | Carried | |
| 6.15, 6.22 | <p>Women's Officer Handbook</p> <p>Women's Officer Handbook</p> | Carried | |
| 6.31, 6.41 | Support Female Students Experiencing Domestic Violence | Carried | |

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| | We Won't Wait: Joining the Union Fight for Paid Domestic Violence Leave | | |
| 6.6, 6.11, 6.21 | Pink Tax Campaign Not Pretty in Pink - Axe Gendered Pricing Equal Pay Day | Carried | |
| 6.28, 6.33 | Demand More SSAF Funding for Women's Services at University Support Mothers with SSAF | Carried | |
| 6.3, 6.8 | Women In Higher Education Week Sexism and Inequality in STEM fields | Carried | |
| 6.1, 6.7 | Maybe it's Maybelline First Year Feminists | Carried | |
| 6.17 | Not My Women's Minister: Michaelia Cash | Carried | <p>This was also a disappointing motion to see moved as Senator Cash is performing in an excellent capacity as the Minister for Women. The NUS complained when Cash performed the role in her capacity as the Minister assisting the Prime Minister for Women, and now that it's a stand alone portfolio, continue to attack on the basis that she's a member of the Liberal Party.</p> <p>Currently, in coupling with her role as the Minister for Employment, Cash has established a range of initiatives and grant opportunities to increase the number of women in leadership positions in both the public and private sector.</p> <p>Likewise, one of the biggest complaints from the NUS is the lack of paid domestic violence leave, however Cash</p> |

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| | | | has worked tremendously hard on the issue of domestic violence and is leading one of the largest campaigns this country has seen. Again, this is just another way in which the NUS is looking to attack the Liberal party. It was a very disappointing motion to witness with little to no foundation |
| 6.43 | It's Bloody Beyond Time that All People Had the Right to Choose! | Carried | |
| 6.10 | Sensible Sensitivity Training: Respect 5Eva | Carried | |
| 6.19 | Strong Student Unions Need Women | Carried | |
| 6.37 | A National Network of Women | Carried | |
| 6.25, 6.26, 6.32, 6.39, 6.20 | Girls Club: Affirmative Action in Student Unions The Importance of Women's Officers and Autonomous Organising A Woman's Place is in her (Student) Union AA for NUS Delegates Include All Women | Carried | |
| 6.23, 6.44, 6.36, 6.34 | What a Liberal Government Means for Women Students and Why We Need to Fight Back Organising Against the Liberals Attempts to Cut Women out of Higher Education Bluestockings and Women in Higher Education | Carried | |

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| | Women United Against Liberals' Cuts to Health | | |
| 6.42 | Supporting the shift to a more Sustainable, Reactive & Inclusive NOWSA | Carried | |
| 6.53, 6.54 | Growing Support: Helping our Mums Baby pls don't cry | Carried | <p>The final bloc of the chapter was what set the entire conference into complete meltdown. The motions themselves were firstly about having the NUS dedicate one day a year to recognising the difficulties and successes of mothers who obtain degrees, and secondly about having additional support for parents on campus with additional and better child care options.</p> <p>This on the surface, shouldn't be controversial- these appear to be standard motions which most, if not all could get behind and support. However, these motions were different, in that they were being moved by Liberals.</p> <p>This is one of the cog of motions which caused a physical fight on the stage of the business committee. Those on the far left who hate freedom of speech and the concept that the Liberals could be speaking on a motion, did all they could to try and eat the piece of paper to prevent debate and discussion.</p> <p>With no female delegates and Liberal female observers not on the floor at the time, female members of Unity were happy to speak on the motion on our behalf. The speaker noted that she wouldn't be surprised if Liberal women weren't comfortable speaking on any women's motions after the horrible treatment they received at the 2015 conference.</p> |

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| | | | <p>As male Liberal's we certainly weren't sure of what the politically correct course of action was to take after two consecutive speakers of National Labor Students confusingly contradicted themselves. The first speaker attacked the Liberals simply because the motion was moved by a man, she didn't at all speak to the quality of the policy. The second NLS speaker, again decided to attack the Liberals rather than speak on the policy, only this time attacking the males for not speaking on the motion. It seemed to be a case of us being damned if we do and damned if we don't.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the substance of the motion itself was never debated, the only point for discussion is whether it was acceptable for the conference to accept Liberal policy. Thankfully, eventually, cooler and wiser heads prevailed, and while it was highly controversial, the motion passed.</p> <p>It was the first time ever that a Liberal policy was successful in the entire history of NUS.</p> |
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5.5.5.2 ATSI

| Motion Numbers | Official Motion Name | Carried or Failed | Notes |
|----------------|--|-------------------|--|
| 8.13 | Against Cuts to Indigenous student programs & studies | Carried | |
| 8.14 | Don Dale, another racist disgrace by the Australian Government | Carried | |
| 8.15 | Community closures | Carried | Conference floor at this point was starting to get a bit tense. With the conference beginning to run out of time to debate motions, the chair became stricter in enforcing time limits of speakers and started to turn off the microphone when time had expired. |

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| | | | For many, this translated to the Chair attempting to silence Indigenous students rather than anything else. |
| 8.16 | No More Cashless Welfare | Carried | |
| 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8.10, 8.11, 8.12 | <p>Establishment of the National Indigenous Student Network</p> <p>Engagement with Indigenous Units</p> <p>Indigenous Student Success Program</p> <p>Diversity Toolkit for All Universities</p> <p>Teaching Scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students</p> <p>Treaty with Indigenous Australians</p> <p>Adding justice targets to COAG Closing the Gap Strategy</p> <p>Funding Indigenous Language Studies in Australian Schools</p> <p>Indigenous art of campus</p> <p>Create cultural awareness resources</p> <p>Save ITAS!</p> | Carried | |
| 8.17 | Indigenous Engagement: Community | Carried | Throughout the entire report, there has been the acknowledgment of outright disgusting and disappointing actions, but none so as disturbing and outright hypocritical as the events that transpired throughout this motion. |

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| | | | <p>The motion itself refers to how the Indigenous population is significantly underrepresented at tertiary education and noted that-</p> <p>"1) the NUS is committed to providing equal opportunities in regards to access to education.</p> <p>2. That the NUS believes in the influence of community support in the life of a student."</p> <p>The motion also called for the NUS and campus representatives to have better engagement with Indigenous communities to increase the representation of Indigenous students attending University. In spite of how common sense and logical this motion is, where in theory there shouldn't be any opposition to such engagement, conference floor erupted into a near riot when the chair announced the motion was to be discussed. Why? Because a Liberal had moved the motion. But this reaction was of course not uncommon, it was the following events which caused even more disruption.</p> <p>One Liberal delegate, Jackson Newell, is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Officer the University of Sydney. When this Liberal Indigenous Student sought to speak on Liberal Indigenous policy, he was shamelessly physically prevented from speaking on the policy, simply because he was a Liberal. Delegates from Socialist Alternative and some from NLS physically stood in his way and held onto the microphone to prevent him from reaching the podium. It was at this point that due to the intense screaming, chanting and physical barging by many delegates, security</p> |
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| | | | <p>alerted Liberal delegates to be prepared for an emergency exit.</p> <p>After all the talk throughout both this chapter and the entire conference of tolerance and respecting democracy, it was outright disgusting that an Indigenous student was physically silenced from speaking on Indigenous policy that was both non-controversial in nature, and policy his faction proposed. They hypocrisy from NUS delegates and the left as a whole was truly on display for all to see.</p> |
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5.5.5.3 Queer

| Motion Numbers | Official Motion Name | Carried or Failed | Notes |
|---|---|-------------------|---|
| 7.39, 7.35, 7.34 | <p>National Day of Action for LGBTI Rights</p> <p>Safe Schools Coalition Australia</p> <p>We Won't Wait, Marriage Equality Now!</p> | Carried | |
| 7.8, 7.9, 7.11, 7.12, 7.13, 7.14, 7.16, 7.18, 7.20, 7.21, 7.26, 7.27, 7.28, 7.29, 7.31 | <p>Safe Spaces - It's time to catch up!</p> <p>Train University Staff to Protect our Queer-Identifying Students</p> <p>Collectives need to Connect</p> <p>Men Menstruate! - Sanitary Bins within Mens Bathrooms</p> <p>There's a their in there - Non-binary acknowledgement within queer communities</p> | Carried | The most random mis-match of motions we have ever seen. |

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| | <p>The Queers are Bangin' (hot amirite??) - An end to heteronormative and queer-phobic sex education</p> <p>Safe Universities - Safe school's universities, training for tutors, teachers and university administration</p> <p>Catch up Student Unions! Ensuring paid queer representation and organising</p> <p>Allowing Queer officers to choose their own terms.</p> <p>Not just for gay men - pushing for a more inclusive, safe and broadened nightlife for LGBT students</p> <p>All the colours of the rainbow: Beyond marriage equality</p> <p>Supporting YEAH! and accessible sex ed</p> <p>Sex work: a queer issue</p> <p>Solidarity with Queer America: Fighting Back against a Trump/Pence America</p> <p>Inclusion of Marriage equality in future elections campaigns.</p> | | |
| 7.17, 7.19, 7.23, 7.5 | "I'm not Dirty" taking the stigma out of HIV | Carried | |

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| | <p>LGBT ABC's: Instilling positive and correct LGBT/Queer terminology Amongst NUS policy and governance.</p> <p>Queer people exist outside the queer department: Let's get inclusive</p> <p>Fuck the Plebiscite</p> | | |
| 7.30 | 'Neutral' isn't a progressive stance on Marriage Equality, SDA | Carried | The last motion of the conference, was moved and voted on without debate. Due to miscommunication between the business committee reps of Unity and their head kickers, Unity accidentally voted to condemn the SDA, their ally and biggest union supporters in the Labor Party. |

The policy portion of the conference ended here on the Wednesday night, with many delegates angered that there wasn't enough time spent debating Queer policy and that both Environment and Misc. policy weren't debated at all. This is what happens when there is poor conference organisation and time wasted on debating irrelevant policy matters.

6.0 Election Results

6.1 Election Process

The NUS doesn't adhere to the notion of one vote, one value- instead every delegate elected receives a set number of votes depended on the number of FTSE and the order the delegate was elected, with some universities having a varying number of delegates elected. For UWA, the voting structure was as follows:

| Delegate | Number of Votes |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Megan Lee | 12 |
| Jacky Chiang | 11 |
| Ben Martin | 11 |
| Hannah Matthews | 11 |
| Lina El Rakhawy | 11 |
| Emma Boogaertdt | 11 |
| Michael McKenzie | 11 |

Upon registering for your votes, every delegate will receive their wad of ballot papers. For example, for both of us, we received 11 ballot and separate pieces of paper for each Office Bearer position, including Women's Officer, Environment Officer, LGBTI Officer, etc. Likewise, 11 ballots for the National Executive spots. We also will receive ballots for WA positions and UWA specific positions.

As previously stated, other factions have their delegates proxy their votes to a handful of people, with only the Liberal Students having direct control over our ballots, with none of our conference delegates proxying to another person and being responsible for their own ballots. Other factions use their proxies to create a major pile of ballots for each elected position and sit in the ballot room for last minute deals and completing trades that were previously agreed upon. Trades will be completed between different factions which sees, hypothetically, NLS trade environment ballots with the Indies for their Victorian ballots, so that NLS can again pass on those Victorian ballots, plus their own, to the Trots in exchange for National Executive Votes and some policy measures that were successful in the preceding sessions. Of course that was a hypothetical example, although trades like that are common and happen in large quantities with all ballot papers.

To me, this is a very disappointing way of conducting the election of Office Bearers with literally tens of thousands of ballot papers changing hands and ownership a dozen times each until a status quo arrangement has been found between major factions. By the time the ballots have arrived to their final destination, it is no longer representative of the student that cast their own vote at their University campus for their chosen delegate. This is why, many positions will start off as a contested election, but by the time trading is

completed, all other contested delegates have withdrawn and results in an uncontested outcome. It was a sad state to witness the massive piles of ballots on display on the major faction's tables and know that the election of an office bearer wasn't about a candidate's individual capacity to fulfil the role of the office, but rather a reflection of how well their factional boss can barter for the extra 300 votes to meet their quota and which of their factional allies will have to wait another year for "their turn".

Again, by the time that the votes were traded, on most occasions, each individual ballot was worthless and as such Liberal Students made the decision to showcase the little use we had for them and highlight the desperation of other factions. After casting our ballots on position where we believed we could make an impact for the students we represent, with our remaining ballots, individual delegates made the decision to stand in the middle of the voting room and throw our ballots in the air. To us, no matter how these ballots were cast would make no impact on the representation of the students that elected us and instead chose to watch members of other faction's scramble on their hands and knees to collect the ballots and barge through each other to collect bigger piles for them to be traded off again. It was a truly sad yet remarkable sight to watch.

6.2 National Officer Bearers

The election of National Office Bearers resulted in the following students making up the NOBs

| Position | Name | Percent of Vote |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Sophie Johnston (NLS) | 94.11% |
| General Secretary | Nathan Croft (Unity) | Unopposed |
| Education Officer | Anneke Mae Demanvele (NLS) | Unopposed |
| Welfare Officer | Jillian Molloy (Unity) | Unopposed |
| Women's Officer | Abigail Stapleton (NLS) | Unopposed |
| Ethno-cultural Officer | Lorena White (Unity) | Unopposed |
| Disabilities Officer | Taylor Veronica Ficarra (Unity) | Unopposed |
| Queer Officer(s) | Lauren Rose Saunders | Unopposed |
| | Christopher Di Pasquale (SAlt) | Unopposed |
| Environment Officer | Leesa Anna Markussen (Unity) | 68.52% (27.74% informal) |
| Small and Regional Officer | Jason Byrne (Unity) | Unopposed |
| International Officer | Ya Peng Li | Unopposed |
| ATSI Officer | Joseph Herman Bin Omar (NI) | 74.17% |

6.3 National Executive

The election of members to National Executive is the equivalent to an Ordinary Guild Councillor. These include:

| Order Elected | Name | Number of Votes |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 st | Ali Amin | 181 |
| 2 nd | Norma Jean Cooper | 173 |
| 3 rd | Aaron Lee | 165 |
| 4 th | Lachlan Sturt | 163 |
| 4 th | Emma Ross | 163 |
| 4 th | Ashleigh Trevor Braybrook | 163 |
| 8 th | Sarah Tynan | 162 |
| 8 th | Aislinn Stein-Magee | 162 |
| 8 th | Adriana Mells | 162 |
| 8 th | Megan Lee | 162 |
| 12 th | Thomas Quinlivan | 161 |

It's interesting to note that 10 of the 12 National Executive members were elected within two votes of each other. This is because the major factions calculate the exact quota of votes given they know exactly how many votes will be cast, and maximise their votes by ensuring they don't cast too many ballots for one person and instead stretch them out across their candidates to maximise their representation.

6.4 Western Australia

Each state also gets a State President and a State Education Vice President. For Western Australia, these representatives are:

| Position | Name | Percent of Vote |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Lewis Mark Whittaker (Unity) | Unopposed |
| Ed Vice President | Clare Francis (SALT) | 52.70% |

6.5 UWA

Each campus will also receive a campus rep. For UWA, this rep is Lina El Rakhawy who received 77.78% of the UWA vote.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 For the NUS

It really seems that there is a massive cultural problem within the National Union of Students, one that can't be fixed with a silver bullet. There needs to be work done to prevent the crippling factionalism, the voting system requires serious reform and motions need to be far more consistent with student issues. Yet the number one problem that needs to be fixed is the behaviour of delegates on conference floor, and furthermore, how they conduct themselves as representatives of the Union on campaigns around the country.

The largest recommendation to make would be to allow filming on conference floor. The threat of being filmed is one that might curb the vitriolic and violent behaviour of many delegates, despite the fact that it shouldn't have to. Although I'm sure that the behaviour, culture and attitudes of the NUS is far too ingrained and no reforms will be able to correct it.

In light of these observations, we would advocate a complete wind up of the organisation and recommend that it immediately dissolves as it no longer serves the purpose it was set up to do, which is to diligently represent the students of Australia. With increased financial difficulties and Universities consistently disaffiliating, the NUS can no longer claim to be representative and only acts as a drain on the resources of local student guilds and unions.

7.2 For UWA

For the UWA Student Guild, we highly recommend an immediate referendum on the question of our continued affiliation to the National Union and urge all students to vote against our affiliation. We can't keep spending tens of thousands of student dollars on this National Body which delivers no tangible benefits to the students making payment. Likewise, a body as intolerant, violent and disgusting as we have witnessed from the National Conference, deserves no additional funds.

If the Student Guild disappointingly opts not to hold a disaffiliation referendum, then we also recommend it takes a stance in favour of Voluntary Student Unionism. The payment of the Student Services and Amenities Fee means that every single student is forced to contribute to the National Union of Students and contribute to policy positions which I'm certain many would not take. This all would be far less of a problem if VSU was introduced, as students who believed in the NUS could choose to be a member themselves by making their own payment to the UWA Guild. At the moment, students are forced to stand by an organisation which does not hold their interests as paramount.

8.0 Concluding Remarks and Defining Moments

Overall, the conference from start to finish was marred by disorganisation, violent outbursts, unruly debate, blatant factionalism, undemocratic voting, and intolerance to differences in ideology. Prior to heading to conference, fellow delegates from previous conferences warned us as to how the conference operated, yet we just assumed it was all hyperbole. It certainly wasn't and in viewing how the internal organisation operates, it has only aided our sentiment that UWA students will be better represented with no national body.

Some key moments which defined the conference and scarred our already bleak impression of the NUS included the walkout by NLS on disability policy. Instead of allowing a free vote on the policy for their delegates, the factional leaders walked off of conference floor to prevent further debate.

Likewise, watching the business committee on the stage and how they worked often turned into a spectator sport. With several fights erupting on stage and people eating pieces of paper in order to prevent debate and discussion, the conduct was certainly a reflection of the Unions attitude to a difference of opinions.

When "controversial" Liberal motions somehow made it through the business committee, motions including supporting student mothers and increasing Indigenous engagement, conference floor still failed to allow a free and fair debate on the motion. With the conference floor going into meltdown on these motions not because of their content, but because Liberals proposed it, it goes to show how outright bias this Union is. Policy positions taken by the Union is irrelevant, but attacking the Liberals seems to be number one priority.

The most hypocritical and disgusting outcome of the conference was on the ATSI debate itself, whereby a Liberal Indigenous student was physically blocked from reaching the podium to speak on Liberal Indigenous policy. This debate turned violent, physical and vitriolic for no reason, aside from ideological prejudice against Liberal Students.

After we wasted so much time on both irrelevant and some outright disturbing discussion items, such as Aleppo, condemning Volunteer Firefighters, the Coles distribution centre strike, condemning Anti-terrorism laws, the UWA Arts Union, labelling the entirety of Australia as racist, and debate over an NUS cookbook, there was no time left to debate any Queer policy in substance, nor Environment or Miscellaneous motions at all. The wasted time on these and other ridiculously irrelevant motions meant we couldn't talk about several issues facing the students we were sent to represent.

It's important to note that after seeing the NUS first-hand, it's clear as to why no one takes this body seriously and why all they do is take valuable student resources, yet make no tangible gains. It's time for UWA to leave the NUS for good and focus on local campus issues where real changes can be made.



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UWA PSA PRESIDENT MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2017

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INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period from the 1st of December until the Mid-January. Anything that has occurred since this report was written and the meeting will be covered in a brief verbal report.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

This is a list of the official meetings I attended and does not include a large number of more informal meetings with members of the Guild staff.

| Date | Meeting | Purpose |
|----------|--|---|
| 1/12/16 | Science Fully Faculty Meeting | Update to staff regarding activities within the FoS |
| 6/12/16 | Meeting with GRS Admissions Team | Review information provided to postgrads/work on PSA GRS collaborations |
| 7/12/16 | Academic Council | Regular Meeting |
| 7/12/16 | Convocation Council | Regular Meeting |
| 8/12/16 | Library & Guild Meeting | Regular meeting |
| 8/12/16 | PSA Committee Meeting | Welcome Meeting |
| 9/12/16 | Guild SRC | Guild Budget |
| 12/12/16 | Student Assist/PSA meeting | Encourage Postgrad use of assist services |
| 12/12/16 | UWA Senate | Regular Meeting |
| 13/12/16 | Board of the Graduate Research School (BGRS) | Regular Meeting |
| 15/12/16 | Meeting with the University Librarian | Tour of facilities |
| 15/12/16 | Research Training Program Info Session | Information about the new RTS |
| 20/12/16 | Education Council | Regular Meeting |
| 21/12/16 | Guild Council | Budget Meeting |
| 16/01/16 | UWA Senate | |
| 18/01/16 | PSA Committee Meeting | Regular Meeting |
| 20/01/16 | Guild SRC | Regular Meeting |

PROJECT UPDATE

Newsletter

The PSA Newsletter has been rebranded thanks to the hard work of our Engagement Team. The new newsletter, titled *The Post*, contains a number of new sections to help postgraduate students connect with each other and provide advice to each other. Part of this includes using more user-generated content which has been initially quite slow to be received, however it is anticipated that we will receive an increase in content once the new format has been more clearly established. Early signs from the first week of publishing suggest a positive response and an increase in user-generated content.

PSA Lounge

The PSA Lounge has been cleared out ready to move into a new venue. We have selected our carpet and are having that installed, along with frosting and branding on the windows of the new location. The new lounge will have a professional vibe with casual elements and will provide a location for postgraduate students to both study and relax. Included in the new lounge will be some equipment for parents on campus, including toys and a change mat. The space also includes a small kitchette which we will equip with coffee, tea and some snacks that will give postgraduate students a place to enjoy a break from study.

Connect

The location for the Connect has been locked in. We will be using Hackett Café. While the old venue was perfect for our needs, the price has doubled since 2016 and therefore the new venue was required. Financially the new venue is much cheaper than the previous venue, however there may be some slight teething issues as we work out the best way to set up the new venue for the event.

Elections

The PSA still has a number of open positions that need to be filled. We are waiting for Coursework students to return for the Coursework related positions, the remained we are running the nomination process of the coming weeks and are hoping to fill all the newly created positions as soon as possible. We have already received interest from a number of students about filling these positions, so I am hopeful that this will be a very successful process.

FINANCES

Budget v Actuals or Project Budget Breakdown. Insert YTD Budget v. Actuals table, and/or description of expenditure.

| Line Item | Description | YTD Budget | Actual |
|------------|--------------|------------|---------|
| Activities | Events etc. | | 1800.00 |
| | | | |
| | TOTAL | | 1800.00 |

The Activities line item includes a booking for an event to be held in April and therefore may not match the budgeted amount. This is simply a movement of costs, rather than an unanticipated expense.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Renewal

We are watching the renewal process closely and have invited all postgrad to provide feedback and highlight issues to us. Thus far, however, everything seems to be working reasonably smoothly from a postgrad perspective, however this may change when the Coursework students return.

Changes to Scholarships

The PSA has been working with the Graduate Research School to help promote information regarding the changes to postgraduate scholarships. Over the December period we provided information through our weekly newsletter, promoted the GRS's information session and provided a fact sheet and summary document (the fact sheet was provided courtesy of CAPA – the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations).

Regards,

OWEN MYLES

President of the Postgraduate Students' Association

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Societies Council
Guild Council Report
27/01/17

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INTRODUCTION

Hello, it is I... CLUBondo

Since December 1st I have been working with my committee to help prepare us for the oncoming year, brainstorming ideas and organising projects, trying to get as much of a lead as we can. This year as a SOC Committee we are going back to basics and ensuring clubs can easily access all the services we offer them, as well as creating new opportunities for Clubs to engage with the student body. We have decided to call this PROJECT17 and it may be something I refer to frequently in subsequent reports.

My Committee this year comprises of: Brendon Ng (VP), Cameron Mitchell (Tres), Davina Daudu (Sec), Charmaine Kwok (OCM), Daniel Matabishi (OCM) & George Bowen Uy III (OCM). I'm very excited to be working with a group of very hardworking and driven people, who come from a range of club backgrounds and bring with them the knowledge and skills they've acquired.

ADMINISTRATION

As is expected, I have received many club inquiries regarding all aspects of SOC every day. Emails are my new life! Key aspects of administration include:

❖ New Club Affiliations

I have had two expressions of interest in affiliating a club to the Societies Council. I have met with both students and helped them expand on their ideas, directed them through the processes. I am excited for both these new potential clubs who will be ready by February and hopefully join the diverse list of clubs we have on campus.

❖ Re-Affiliations

Two clubs have asked to re-affiliate, after being lapsed. UWA Red Cross and Socialist Alternative.

❖ SOC Executive Roles and Responsibilities

The New SOC Executive have completed most of their handover and well and truly on the way with PROJECT17.

❖ Executive Registration Forms

As always clubs still have the problem of not submitting up to date ERFs. Brendon and I have tried to follow up the current clubs without updated ERFs. We hope to promote the use of ERFs this year, starting by improving where to find them on the website.

❖ Constitutions [VP]

Over the whole of December Brendon worked on approving and helping clubs finalising all the pending constitutions. We can now say that all club constitutions have been approved.

EVENTS

❖ SOC Meetings and Important Dates

I can report back to Guild Council that the dates of the SOC meetings have been confirmed and have been distributed to clubs. This year our plan for meetings is to make the short, simple and engaging for clubs. I have made the effort to invite all departments so that clubs can be aware of the many ways they can collaborate with the Guild.

Below are the Key SOC Dates

| Date | Event |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| 15 th February | SOC Meeting #1 |
| 24 th February | O-Day |
| 7 th March | Club Carnival |
| 15 th March | SOC Meeting #2 |
| 12 th April | SOC Meeting #3 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 24th May | SOC Meeting #4 |
| 8th August | Club Carnival |
| 13th September | SOC Meeting #6 |
| 13th October | SOC Award Applications Due |
| 18th October | SOC Meeting #7 |

❖ **ODAY**

I have been in contact with Events ensuring that as many clubs are participating in ODAY, and sending out information about merchandise and registration to all the clubs in both my emails. Davina has also been in touch with clubs to update their MyGuild information for the clubs' directory.

❖ **Campus Quest**

This year Campus Quest will be occurring on two days 22nd and 23rd Feb. This is due to the large number of students we saw participate last semester and we are expecting greater involvement in Campus Quest this semester.

❖ **Club Carnival**

We have begun preparation for the first Club Carnival on the 7th of March. Poster has been finalised and now we are just creating the checklist and looking forward to an even more successful club carnival.

❖ **Mini-Club Carnival**

I am yet to finalise the dates, but we've been looking into potential locations for the mini club carnivals and brainstorming ways to make them well attended this year.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

| Date | Meeting | Purpose |
|-------------|---|---|
| 7-12-16 | SOC Committee Induction Meeting | Meeting where I inducted the SOC committee members into their new roles. Set projects and goals for 2017 and begun planning the year. |
| 7-12-16 | Meeting with Kelvin | Meeting to discuss how IT can work with SOC to ease some of the processes, and updating some web content. |
| 13-12-16 | Handover Meeting with Jack Looby | Met with Jack who gave me a bit of a SOC handover for me to begin my year and some recommendations for 2017. |
| 17-12-16 | Tenancy Meeting & Busy Bee | |
| 20-12-16 | Tenancy OCM Selection Meeting | Deciding two applicants the Tenancy executive would recommend to Guild Council, to sit on the Tenancy committee. |
| 22-12-16 | Poster and Publication Policy Revision – Chelsea and Maddie | Proposed changes to the Poster Publication Policy to be sent to Governance for Council approval. |
| 10-01-17 | Meeting with Chelsea and Madeline | Discussed 2017 SOC Plans and how we can work with creative and publications and engagement to achieve these goals. Madeline suggested ways we can assist clubs with engaging with the student |

| | | |
|----------|---|--|
| | | body on social media, which are all ideas we would start working on. |
| 10-01-17 | Meeting with Kasey and Siobhan [Events] | <p>I met with Events to finalise my SOC calendar for 2017. As well as outline what we would do for our upcoming orientation initiatives – campus quest and club carnivals. The ladies were very helpful in assisting me in coming up with checklists.</p> <p>We talked about things the Events department would like to see improved on from both clubs and the way we help clubs with events.</p> |
| 16-01-17 | Website Meeting- Chelsea Hayes | Met with Chelsea to discuss my ideas to re-do the SOC page and tabs on the Website and how to make it more functional for clubs to use. We aim to have it done hopefully for the end of this month. |
| 18-01-17 | Tenancy Re-allocation Meeting | Allocation of club rooms |
| 18-01-17 | SOC Committee Meeting | Project Updates, Committee Management and Events Brainstorming |
| 20-01-17 | Corporate Services Meeting (Brendon Ng Proxy) | The meeting was to discuss the status of current tasks that corporate services were undergoing. Major goals and purchases for 2017 were outlined in brief detail. |

PROJECT17 UPDATE DEC- 18TH JAN

Presidents Projects

❖ Completed

- Create SOC important dates ical link for Clubs.
- Created Project 17 Tasks

❖ In Progress

- Marketing and Branding Current Guild Services to Clubs on the website, emails and meetings
- Improve CCZ Signage and Introduce Room Reset Guides
- Introduce Club Consultation Stand for ODAY and Club Carnivals
- Presidents/VP Training material with Brendon.
- Updating SOC Website Page

I have spent time working with Chelsea and drafting the final layout and tabs for the SOC page to make it easy for clubs and students who want to start clubs to navigate the SOC webpage. This will hopefully decrease a lot of the questions regarding not finding information on the Guild website and make it easy for us to keep it updated. In future, I'll be looking at adding more relevant pages to the site e.g. FAQ's

❖ Not Started

- Host Guild emails for clubs i.e. club@guild.uwa.edu.au
This will be hopefully for us to pass down to clubs and they can use these emails for formal correspondence and make it easy for club handover.
- Free/Discounted RSA for Club Execs and Committee

Vice President Projects

❖ Completed

- **Club Directory**
Completed Charmaine and Daniel
- **ERFs Updated**
- **Get Cameron Hall Clubs to Open Club Rooms During O-WEEK**
- **Constitutions updated**

❖ In Progress

- **Presidents/VP Training**
- **Clubs Profile and Category List**
- **Put Printed Handbooks in the CCZ**
- **Signage for Tenancy**
- **Club Incorporation Guide**
- **Updating Tenancy Website**
- **Other Tenancy related business**

Treasurer Projects

❖ Completed

- **Treasurer Training Dates**

❖ Not Started

- **Selling Merchandise/Tickets in Second-hand bookshop**
- **SLT Online**
- **Update Treasurer Handbook**

Secretary Projects

❖ Completed

- **Clubs update information on my Guild**
- **Email admin**
- **Created One Drive**

❖ In Progress

- **Ensure website is Updated**
- **Club Carnival 1 Organisation**
- **Visible online booking system for CCZ, Cameron Hall Loft, May Tannock/ Sue Boyd Rooms**
- **Looking at changing and improving SLT**
- **Campus Quest**

❖ Not Started

- **Develop Secretary Training**
- **TLDR; SOC Meeting Info**

OCM Projects

❖ Completed

- **Club Directory**

❖ In Progress

- **Fresher engagement training**

❖ Not Started

- **Searchable club exec FAQ's**
- **Name the Second Floor**

FINANCES

Budget v Actuals or Project Budget Breakdown. Insert YTD Budget v. Actuals table, and/or description of expenditure.

| Line Item | Description | YTD Budget | Actual Dec-Jan |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| SOC GRANTS | | \$100,000 | 0 |
| SUNDRY | | \$6,000 | 0 |
| AWARDS & PRIZES | | \$2250 | 0 |
| MEETING | | \$2450 | 0 |
| PRINTING AND STATIONARY | | \$400 | 0 |
| TENANCY | | - | - |
| | | | |
| | TOTAL | \$111,100 | 0 |

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Ask me questions if you have anything or email me.

Regards,
Michael Kabondo
Societies Council President
Soc-president@guild.uwa.edu.au



GUILD COUNCIL | REPORT | January 2017

Jenny Ophel | Associate Director, Human Resources

UWA Student Guild | M300, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009

www.uwastudentguild.com

The January 2017 Student Services report focuses on upcoming initiatives and team activities for O'Week, O'Day and start of Semester 1, therefore it is in a different format to previous reports.

| Department | Item | Notes |
|------------|-------------------------|---|
| EVENTS | | |
| | O'Week | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Working with Maddie Mulholland on a full schedule of EventsActivities every day which have been loaded onto Unistart |
| | O'Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Planning well underway with the following stalls confirmed at this point in time:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Corporate 12- Community 16- Clubs 50- Sports 31- Depts 6Over 50% of income target reachedWe have secured WESTPAC as a MAJOR Sponsor (\$7.5k)Carnival Ride for the south end of the of ODAY layout |
| | O'Day Festival | <ul style="list-style-type: none">This will be held on Oak Lawn in the afternoon. Currently trying to secure acts based on student feedback. |
| | Returners in the Tavern | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wednesday 1 MarchWorking with Hayden to get a big name DJ in the tavern |
| | Life Hack Week | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Will be held Week 2In conjunction with Volunteering and Student Assist, a series of events about CV writing, budgeting, Centrelink help. There will be a workshop or similar every day of the week. |

| Department | Item | Notes |
|-------------------|-------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build relationships with other campuses – increasing marketing and access to support. • Twice yearly catch ups with SA officers from other Guilds • Develop a program of workshops delivered by key services and referral partners to respond to the environment and needs of the partner and students concerned. Followed by easily accessible FAQ's • Continue with online "Ask me anything" sessions focusing on key items students have concerns with at key points in their student lifecycle, special consideration, academic misconduct, reviews. • Trial late night Tuesdays, specifically aimed at supporting students who are in classes 8 – 5 daily on different campuses. • Identify trends of systemic issues for discussion with the Education Council President to look to address the potential cause of issues. • Provide training for effective cross skilling so staff are fully equipped to support students across all 3 key areas of service (welfare, academic and financial) • Maintain research to have up to date knowledge on government policies that effect students • Conduct monthly meetings with each student representative for our 4 key areas of diversity; Pride Department, Postgraduate Student Association and Mature Aged Student Association, International Students Services. • Monthly meetings to increase insight from the student's perspective regarding current challenges, opportunities for marketing Student assist services and any gaps identified in current services available through The Guild, UWA and our referral partners. |
| Engagement | | |
| | O'Day | <p>The Engagement team are working on these initiatives leading up to and on O'Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking in with Unistart (including Guild spiel) • Linking in with Blackboard (creating a banner for the page) • Linking in with the UWA Students Facebook page • "Spotlight" Feature • Inclusion in UWA Student Services "pencil case" drop • Ensuring Guild is given selected spots throughout Orientation • International Students packs • Post Grad Student Packs • Creating Blog Channel • Campus Map (currently hanging in the GSC) |

| Department | Item | Notes |
|---------------------|---|---|
| | Bankwest Foundation Social Media Grant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating Guild Website • Planning Social Media • Guild Vlogs • Creating O'Day Marketing and stall holder packs • Create O'Day logo • Create O'Day gifs • O'Day showbags • Floor stickers around Guild Village (awaiting approval by Campus Management) • Design and printing of new Guild t-shirts to be used exclusively by staff and Student Reps • Creation of Guild e-Guide • Training of all GSC staff (incl casuals) <p>Post O'Day, they will be focussing on educating students about the Guilds Key services: Student Assist, Events, Volunteering, Cafes, Council (advocacy and representation).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Engagement Department which was recently awarded a \$10,000 social media grant from the Bankwest Foundation. They will now be working alongside non-for-profit social media specialists, Hancock Creative, to review and implemented a refreshed social media strategy for the Guild in 2017. |
| VOLUNTEERING | | |
| 2016 | <p>Volunteer Contribution</p> <p>Social Media</p> <p>Groups supported</p> <p>Walk Ins</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of student volunteers 2,456 • Total number of hours volunteered 35,088 up 174% on 2015 • Facebook likes have increased by 25% since 2015 • Instagram followers have increased by 61% since 2015 • Twitter followers have increased by 35% since 2015 • Newsletter sign-ups are up 45% since 2015 • Through our website, Guild Volunteering now supports 378 not for profit and community groups up 147% since 2015 • Guild Volunteering had 1538 walk in's in 2016 up 155% since 2015 |
| 2017 | Initiatives | Guild Volunteering are in the process of appointing an Executive in the following roles (all voluntary) |

| Department | Item | Notes |
|------------|------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Legal and Compliance • Director of Grants and Sponsorship • Director of Monitoring and Evaluation <p>The following roles will be re-advertised in the coming month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Design and Media • Director of Marketing and Engagement <p>The Executive Team will support the Department and the Program Directors – who will this year be split into ‘Guild Volunteering’ and ‘Community’</p> <p>A priority for Guild Volunteering in 2017 will be to promote opportunities to virtually volunteer.</p> <p>Guild Volunteering will continue to provide faculty specific and skills based volunteer opportunities as well as event, short term and long term roles and regional trips.</p> <p>Before semester 1, 2017 Guild Volunteering will release a volunteer app, and we continue to work with developers to create a new website.</p> |



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PORTFOLIO NAME
TYPE OF REPORT
DD/MM/YYYY

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INTRODUCTION

After a very busy December organising and presenting the 2017 budget, the focus in January has moved towards Catering on campus. This included familiarising myself in detail about the catering system and the discussion of plans that are going to be made this year.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

| Date | Meeting | Purpose |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Pre – Dec | Handover Meetings with Tom Burke (Previous Guild Treasurer) | Thorough explanation of the Treasurer Role and responsibilities. Handover package and access to all previous documents for reference were also provided. |
| 9 th Dec | Strategic Resource Committee | Discussing and approving the 2017 Budget. |
| 9 th Dec | Executive Meeting | Discussing the executive member roles and responsibilities. |
| 20 th Jan | Corporate Services Committee | Discussion of Strategic plans and goals for 2017. |
| 23 rd Jan | Catering and Tavern Meeting | Review of Coffee Pricing, Menu & Theme for each Café, discussion of wall art ideas and menu changes for the Tavern. |
| 24 th Jan | Discussion about Coffee Suppliers | Discussion of coffee suppliers involving changes in the environmental/ social responsibility the Guild has on Coffee. |
| 27 th Jan | Student Services Meeting | Discussion of Student Assist, Guild Volunteering, Engagement, Events & General Brainstorming. |
| 27 th Jan | Meeting about Mobile Food Van & Tavern Wall Art | Group discussion to determine best food van offering & considerations of changes to tavern wall décor |

PROJECT UPDATE

Review of Coffee Pricing

One of the key points addressed this month was the necessary changes that needed to be made on coffee prices on Campus. The goal was to strike a balance between making sure coffee is profitable whilst also keeping it affordable for all students on campus. It was decided that general coffee prices should be decreased, making it more affordable for part-time students and individuals off campus. There will, however, be a minor % decrease Guild discount provided, most of which will be counteracted by the decrease in the price.

Refectory

This year I will be focusing on the renovations being done to the refectory. I spent most of December familiarising myself with the project which included the expected timelines, any architectural aspects and tenant options. My goal is to allow for as much student input as possible throughout the process. I have organised a meeting with Jack Spagnuolo to discuss what aspects students can be involved in. I will then invite groups of individuals to discuss this with the hope of receiving valuable feedback.

Tavern Wall Art

Although the Tavern received significant renovations in the 2016 year, it is not yet complete. I have been working on improving the Tavern by adding continuous theme throughout the venue by adding wall art. Since the space is most used by students, I think it is highly important to allow for student input. I have organised a meeting on the 27th of January with a group of students to discuss theme ideas.

Mobile Food Van

As the Refectory will no longer be open during the 2017 year due to renovations, there will be an increased reliance on food vans. We are ideally looking to have 6 vendors each day on Oak Loan. As previously mentioned, student input is very important to me, so I have organised another meeting on the 27th of January to select what food vans should be selected.

FINANCES

Budget v Actuals or Project Budget Breakdown. Insert YTD Budget v. Actuals table, and/or description of expenditure.

| Line Item | Description | YTD Budget | Actual |
|-----------|-------------|------------|--------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | TOTAL | | |

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Themes for Tavern Wall Art

Regards,
ALEXANDRA O'BRIEN
Treasurer
Treasurer@guild.uwa.edu.au



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VACE
REPORT TO COUNCIL
14/01/2017

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INTRODUCTION

The VACE Committee has had its first meeting of 2017, where discussions took place about the Guild Volunteering App, Guild Volunteering campaigns for the year and Orientation. We have also successfully received a National Youth Week Grant of \$1000, a project discussed by the VACE Committee at the end of 2016. Special thanks to Zoe Mitchell for a successful grant application. The VACE Committee would also like to recognise the enormous contribution by Ryan Oakley, who has voluntarily developed the Guild Volunteering App. More detailed information is available under the respective Project Update sections of this report.

I will be in Singapore at the time of the January Guild Council meeting, but any questions or queries about the contents of this report can be directed to me at vace-chair@guild.uwa.edu.au.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

| Date | Meeting | Purpose |
|-----------|------------------------|---|
| 10-Jan-17 | VACE Committee Meeting | Discuss direction of committee and initial plans for 2017 |

PROJECT UPDATE

Guild Volunteering App

Description

During the first VACE Committee Meeting, Ryan Oakley, the Program Director for Virtual Volunteering, delivered a presentation about a mobile application he created for Guild Volunteering. The app lists all available roles from the Guild Volunteering website, with smart search allowing users to search by keyword. With a single tap, users can find out more details about each role listed. Students sign in once with their PHEME login details, so is no need to log in every time they use the app to view available roles. Overall, the app offers a streamlined experience that allows students to easily view and apply for volunteer opportunities, with more features being implemented soon.

Project Objectives

The app will allow students to be notified when new volunteer roles become available, easily navigate and seamlessly view the roles. It addresses the problem many students have with using VolHub or the current Guild Volunteering website, where the layout is confusing, requires users to log in every time, not all available roles are displayed, and it is difficult to search for roles.

Project Status

Ryan Oakley has developed a useable version of the app for Android, although he is still in the process of implementing more features such as colorblind-friendliness, event support, notifications and allowing users to 'bookmark' roles. An iOS version of the app is yet to be developed.

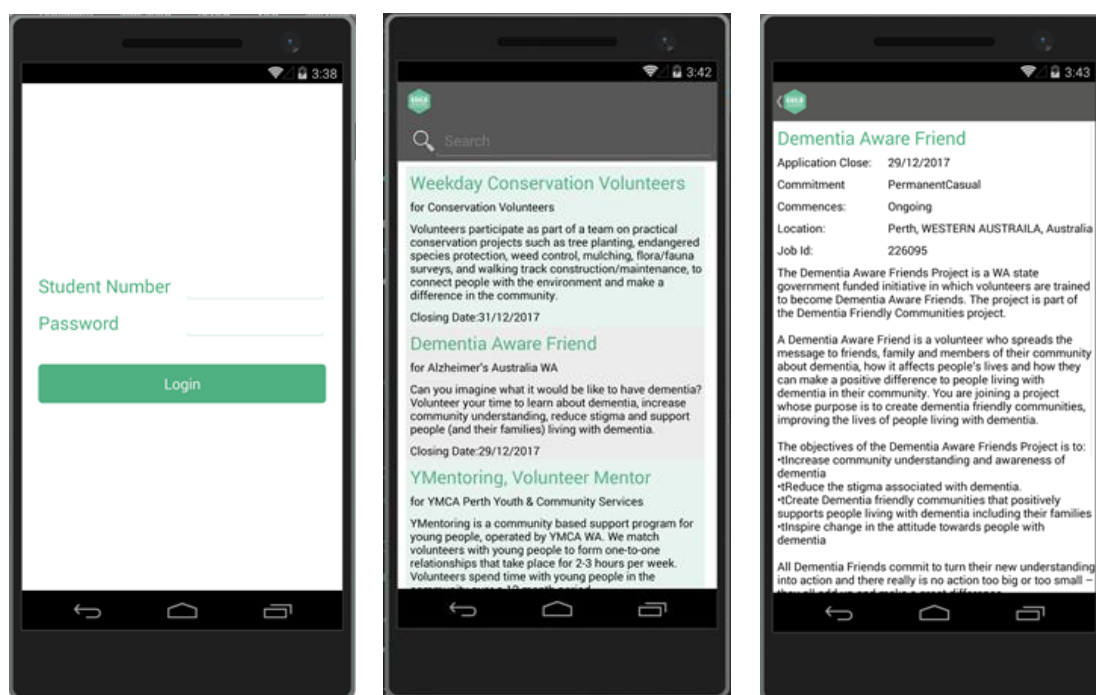
Timeline

Ryan is currently working on implementing monitoring on the Android app and the beta version should be ready for release mid to late January or early February. Other features will be added, with the iOS version built and aiming to be released in time for O-Day.

Budget

It will cost \$30 USD to publish the app on the Android store, and a cost of \$100 USD a year to have the app on iTunes. VACE would also like to note that with Ryan volunteering over 250 hours to develop the app (and counting), his enormous contribution to Guild Volunteering is valued at over \$5000, assuming that a professional developer would agree to work for minimum wage in the first place.

Images



Orientation

At our first VACE meeting, we discussed orientation week and O-Day. Guild Volunteering will be encouraging students to download the app, sign up to the newsletter and express interest in ongoing volunteer opportunities. Applications will also open for Guild Volunteering Fresher Reps (an initiative first discussed by VACE in 2016 in order to better engage incoming students). Drop-in style “Get InVOLved” sessions are also planned to take place at the same time each day during O-Week, which will be daily information sessions about Guild Volunteering and how students can get involved with volunteering while studying.

Guild Volunteering Campaigns for 2017

VACE has decided the general campaign direction for Guild Volunteering in 2017 would be to highlight the different ways to volunteer, with a focus on Virtual Volunteering and Faculty Specific volunteer opportunities that can provide students with valuable experience they can list on their resumes.

A Facebook campaign is scheduled for 2017 that will regularly publish student profiles and photographs to recognise how different students volunteer in a ‘Humans of Guild Volunteering’ style campaign. This campaign aims not only to recognise individual student volunteers, but also to showcase clubs and groups on college campuses to acknowledge their contributions to volunteering and community engagement.

National Youth Week 2017 Event

Description

In 2016, VACE discussed plans for National Youth Week and Zoe Mitchell wrote an outstanding grant application for an amount of \$1000 which has recently been approved by the Department of Local Government and Communities.

This Hackathon-style event will engage approximately 50-60 participants of ages 18-25, who will liaise with stakeholders to identify areas of need and problems faced by youth at risk, then work in teams to develop innovative solutions with an emphasis on incorporating technology to achieve social change. A combination of social, interactive and volunteer activities will be available for the participants over the course of the weekend.

Project Objectives

The event will allow young people to develop their skills in order to create real-world solutions for problems faced by disadvantaged youths. Students will be actively involved in collaborative processes, working with other participants and stakeholders to identify and address needs within the community, with a specific focus on developing technological tools to create innovative solutions to these issues.

Project Partners

Two of our key stakeholders are Guild affiliated clubs (Coders for Causes, UWA Access Collective) on campus, comprised primarily of youth within the 18-25 years age bracket. These clubs will play a principal role during the consultation and planning phase. In the lead up to the event, a series of consultation meetings will be held with Anglicare WA and Volunteering WA, working to determine areas of need within community organisations supporting youth at risk, and needs articulated by youth themselves.

| Organisation | Involvement |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| UWA Access Collective | Consulting |
| Coders for Causes | Planning committee, event organiser |
| Anglicare WA | Planning committee |
| UWA Student Guild | Planning committee |
| Volunteering WA | Consulting |

Project Status

The project grant has just been approved and the project itself is expected to start on 1st March 2017.

Timeline

Estimated project start date: Wednesday 1st March 2017

Estimated project finish date: Sunday 2nd April 2017

Actual event date(s): Friday 31st March, Saturday 1st April, Sunday 2nd April

Event start time: Friday 31/03/2017 17:00

Event end time: Sunday 02/04/2017 17:00

Event location: UWA Crawley Campus

FINANCES

The VACE Committee itself does not have a budget allocated, being mostly a strategic body. However, the following costs should be reflected in Guild Volunteering's finances following suggestions from VACE:

\$30 USD = \$40.13 AUD

One-time cost for publishing GV app on Android store

\$100 USD = \$133.78 AUD

Recurring yearly cost for GV app on iTunes store

DISCUSSION TOPICS

If any members of Guild Council are interested in volunteering as part of our event working groups (particularly for the National Youth Week event) or other ways they can be involved with our projects, please send me an email and we can have a chat.

Regards,
SOFIA KOUZNETSOVA
VACE Chair
vace-chair@guild.uwa.edu.au.



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Welfare Department
27/01/2017

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INTRODUCTION

The Welfare Department has turned its attention to O'day. Preparations are on the way to ensure students can get a copy of Guild material of all the services we provide. At this stage we are confirming everything. January has been quiet with no money spent.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

| Date | Meeting | Purpose |
|------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 22/01/2017 | Welfare O'day | Preparations for O'day |

PROJECT UPDATE

O'Day Stall:

This year Welfare and Student Assist will be sharing a stall during O'day. Both departments are confirming resources and promotional material for the event. A part from that everything is going well.

FINANCES

| Line Item | Description | YTD Budget | Actual |
|-----------|--------------|------------|--------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | TOTAL | 0 | 0 |

DISCUSSION TOPICS

The Welfare department is gearing up for 2017 O'day. We are confirming resources and information. If anyone would like to see any particular resources available for students please contact me via email (below).

Regards,
Tyson McEwan
Welfare Officer
welfare@guild.uwa.edu.au



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**WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT
GUILD COUNCIL REPORT**
DD/MM/YYYY

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INTRODUCTION

It's been a busy couple of months. Lots of projects on the go which you can read about below.

MEETINGS

| Date | Meeting | Purpose |
|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| Dec 5 th | Women's Committee | Introduce VP's and convenors to each other, discuss projects for the year. |
| Dec 9 th | SRC | Budget meeting |
| Dec 20 th | Governance | Discussing governance agenda for the year. |
| Dec 21 st | Marketing | Met with Madeleine and Chelsea to discuss Women's projects & social media and how to best promote them to reach our target audience. |
| Jan 12 th | Damsel | Discussing with engagement department the best way to promote and distribute Damsel content. |
| Jan 16 th | Events | Discussing how to improve student leadership training. |
| Jan 20 th | SRC | Monthly meeting. |
| Jan 25 th | Equity & Diversity | Representing students on equity & diversity matters. |

PROJECT UPDATE

Self Defence Lessons

The department is aiming to deliver monthly free self-defence lessons to UWA Women. We have made contact with a number of providers and are currently in discussions with two providers to determine which will give us the best value in terms of cost and class size.

Mentoring Program

This year the women's department will be introducing a professional mentoring scheme. We are hoping to work with the FacSocs to utilise existing connections and avoid duplication of services. I am in the process of contacting FacSocs to see where we can work together and reaching out to organisations who may be able to provide us with mentors.

Damsel

To increase the reach of Damsel and promote greater continuity of the community the Women's magazine Damsel will now exist year round as an online platform as well as being published in a yearly edition. I have appointed an Editor, Ishita Mathur, to collect and publish content and I'm very excited to see how she goes!

Medical Centre Feedback

There has been an ongoing issue with the sensitivity of some doctors in the Medical centre in regards to sexual & mental health. I have collected and compiled 8 pages of feedback from students and sent it to the coordinator of the centre who expressed her gratitude.

Student Leadership Training

Myself and two deputies (Holly Jian & Davina Daudu) are working with the Events team on how to improve the student leadership training, particularly in regards to the gender & equity sessions.

Security Awareness

Many students are unaware of security services on campus (i.e. security escorts after dark). I have been informed security or the police are not presenting this year at the domestic orientation which is disappointing and I am still working with the University on whether it can be addressed. I am planning to create a video that can be circulated via social media on campus safety & security. I am also ordering merchandise (phone card wallets) for the women's

department which will have the security numbers on it to increase awareness and so these numbers are on hand in an emergence.

Bathroom Audit

I am currently trying to get a list of all the bathrooms on campus so that we can do an audit of them to determine how well they are meeting student needs (i.e. are there working tampon machines, where are there gender neutral facilities).

FINANCES

No spend as of yet.

| Line Item | Description | YTD Budget | Actual |
|-----------|-------------|------------|--------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | TOTAL | | |

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Regards,
Hannah Matthews
Women's Officer
womens@guild.uwa.edu.au

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Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations ACM Report

Prepared by Owen Myles (PSA President)

Background:

The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) is the peak representative body of postgraduate students in Australia. It represents postgraduate students on a national level, dealing with Commonwealth Government, industry and other relevant student bodies, including the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate Association (NATSIPA) and the National Union of Students (NUS). UWA has long been an affiliated and voting member of CAPA, paying an annual affiliation fee to CAPA in exchange for national representation and a vote at all meetings of the Council. This conference served part as a conference on national postgraduate issues and part as the Annual General Meeting for the Council of CAPA.

The UWA Student Guild paid for myself and Patrice Mitchell to attend, whilst Peter Derbyshire & Vikraman Selvaraja also attended as a member of the CAPA Executive (Western Branch President and Policy & Research Advisor respectively). Peter, Vikraman & I were credentialed as voting members, with Peter and I voting on behalf of UWA students. Throughout the conference UWA also held the proxy of Murdoch University who were unable to send a student delegate.

Key purposes of the conference:

1. To elect the new national office bearers for CAPA & vote on important postgraduate issues
2. To discuss and learn about the national issues relating to postgraduate students
3. To meet with, and learn from, other delegates from other universities

Key Purpose 1.

As is standard practice, the elections for the office bearers of CAPA including President, General Secretary, Vice-President Equity, Vice-President (National Operations Committee) and the Branch Presidents, were held at the ACM. UWA's own Peter Derbyshire contested the position of President, and was successfully elected to the position. This is an important win for UWA, ensuring that UWA students have the loudest possible voice at a national level. Additionally, it was announced at the meeting that the Commonwealth Government had agreed to allow the President of CAPA to sit on the ACOLA Review Implementation Panel (more on the ACOLA review below). The Western Branch President was won by Diane Smith of ECU, whose nomination the UWA delegates supported.

UWA also supported policy and operational 2 motions. 1 endorsed a rally to support the proper treatment of indigenous Australians and the other to limit affiliation costs to last year's formula plus inflation. Additionally, UWA supported a new interpretation of the CAPA constitution which allowed for GCAP (the Gold Coast Association of Postgraduates from Griffith University's Gold Coast Campus) to be admitted as a full member of CAPA. GCAP have been strong supporters of CAPA over the past few years

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and the UWA delegation believe that their entry as full members will help strengthen CAPA, as well as UWA's ties to GCAP.

Key Purpose 2.

Day 1 of the conference included a presentation by, and discussion with, the deputy-chair of the ACOLA review panel. The ACOLA review was initiated by the Commonwealth in order to examine how this country could implement research training (i.e. Higher Degrees by Research) in a more effective way. The recommendations from the ACOLA review included giving universities more flexibility on the distribution of scholarships, increasing industry links and engagement and improving support and access to indigenous students. The Commonwealth has accepted all of the recommendations from the review, with the Scholarships changes being implemented over the coming months. This will mean all students currently covered under the Research Training Scheme, or on APA or IPRS scholarships will have those arrangements altered. While we have already received assurances from the GRS at UWA that no student would be worse off under the changes, this information will allow us to plan for any future changes.

Additionally, day 2 included a specialist staff discussion/seminar that was attended by Patrice. The discussion covered common issues in postgraduate assistance across the country and strategies used by different student organisations to assist postgraduate students in difficult cases. By all accounts this discussion was seen as very useful and facilitated the establishment of a national network of postgraduate assistance officers.

Key Purpose 3.

During this conference, I met with postgraduate representatives from every state in Australia. These connections have helped to produce a network of information and experience that I will be able to draw on in my new role as the PSA President. Discussion with delegates from other universities better helped me to understand the wider postgraduate perspective and overarching issues that run across the country. It also helped me to better understand how UWA's treatment of postgraduate students compares to inter-state universities.

Additionally, this was my first opportunity to meet with the relevant postgraduate representatives from Western Australia. We discussed a number of issues throughout WA and decided that greater interaction between the postgraduate representatives was needed. We are aiming to meet regularly throughout the year to help build collaborations between the 4 public universities and also to help support Notre Dame to join CAPA, which would help improve the influence of the Western Branch. One concrete plan developed was to create a checklist of rights and privileges afforded to postgraduate students at each of the 4 WA public universities to help push each university to provide more to their students (and encourage those universities that are doing better than the state average).

Financials:

The total cost of attending the conference was \$2105.60. This can be broken down by the following:



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Conference registration, including 4 nights' accommodation (Owen & Patrice) - \$859.09

Flights to and from Sydney (Owen & Patrice) - \$1246.51

It should be noted that the flights, accommodation & registration of 2 UWA students (Peter and Vik) were paid for by CAPA. The total PSA conference budget for 2016 was \$3000.00 and no other conference expenses were incurred this year. This has resulted in the PSA being \$894.40 under budget for this line item in 2016.

Conclusion:

While the conference was at times tied up with procedural matters, as is standard during the AGM parts of the conference, it was an important chance to meet with other representatives and learn and discuss important postgraduate issues. The ability to share experiences across different campuses will help me immensely in my new role as PSA President. I was struck by the professionalism of the student representatives and the desire from all representatives to have a strong and effective CAPA regardless of political or factional views. Attendance at this conference is highly recommended for future incoming PSA Presidents. CAPA grants UWA postgraduate students a voice at a national level on important policy issues such as the ACOLA review of research training. We look forward to the coming year's executive, led by a UWA student, continuing to work on behalf of us and all other postgraduate students.



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**Guild Secretary
Monthly Report**
27/1/2017

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INTRODUCTION

This month has consisted mainly of familiarising myself with the current system we have in place for Guild administration and trying to make sure that the Council works to the best of our ability to fulfil our promises in an organised and timely manner.

I had a successful handover in December with Michael Kabondo. He thoroughly explained the administrative duties of the Secretary and gave me access to all his documents from the previous year for reference.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

| Date | Meeting | Purpose |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 9 th Dec | Strategic Resources Committee | Discussing and approving the proposed budget for 2017. |
| 9 th Dec | Exec Meeting | Planning the direction of the student guild for 2017 as well as outlining the roles of executive members. |
| 20 th Dec | Tenancy Committee | Reviewed the applications for the two Tenancy Committee OCM's and discussed the candidates whom the committee would collectively recommend to Council, |
| 21 st Dec | Student Services Committee | Brainstorming ideas for events, student assist, engagement and volunteering in 2017 as well as discussing plans for SOC, ED and PAC councils. |
| 21 st Dec | Exec Meeting | Discussing how to organise one's guild involvement on the outlook planner. |
| 21 st Dec | Guild Council | Budget Meeting |

PROJECT UPDATE

Other than compiling the agendas, resolutions and minutes for the past couple Guild Council Meetings, I have been working briefly some other tasks.

O-week and O-day Festival

With Maddie's and Kasey's help, preliminary planning has begun which includes brainstorming music acts, activities and practical aspects of O-week and the upcoming O-day festival. A group of diverse students are being consulted throughout the process for both ideas and approval.

Election Promises

To make good on the promises advertised during the election, I will be organising each portfolios relative promises into their assigned "buckets" on outlook planner for 2017. So far, I have organised the election promises for the welfare department and the women's department. I hope to get all of this done by the time university starts in February.

FINANCES

Not applicable to my role so far.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

I'm interested to see how much contact Councillors would appreciate from me. I'd like to know how everyone's going in their relative tasks and to offer my help when necessary, so if anyone would like me to regularly contact the, please let me know.

Regards,
VINURI GAJANAYAKE
Guild Secretary
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