



## 1. WELCOME AND OPENING

Emma Mezger (EM) acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which the Guild operates, the Whadjuk Noongar people in Perth and the Menang Noongar people in Albany. This land was stolen and never ceded. She acknowledged that they continue to be the custodians of this land, and paid respects to elder's past, present, and emerging.

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

N/A

## 3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

EM notes that there are no previous minutes to confirm as the 2020 OGM did not take place due to COVID

## 4. GUILD PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

EM says it has been a pleasure to serve as your 108<sup>th</sup> Guild President. This year has seen a number of challenges and achievements for the staff and students at UWA. She congratulates the 108 Guild Council who have been working hard to improving our campus whilst navigating the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic, extending this to all students who have contributed to the student experience. In summarising the Guild's strategic achievements for the year, she notes the following:

- Improving student support
  - Secured Ungraded Passes (UP) for summer school for students impacted by the COVID lockdown
  - Secured 7-day, no questions asked, special consideration as a result of the Semester 1 COVID lockdown
  - Increased emergency funding as a result of many COVID stack lockdowns
  - Co-ordinated COVID-19 India relief fundraiser as well as support groups and listening circles for students impacted by crisis overseas
- Increased student engagement
  - Provided weekly updates on social media to all UWA students
  - Incorporated faculty society introduction videos into LMS
  - Hosted weekly free breakfasts and Night Markets at The Grove
- Representing the student voice
  - Relocated the semester 2 mid-semester break to week 6
  - Introduced 7-days' notice for assessment changes
  - Advocated for a Welcome to Country to be included onto the LMS Blackboard
  - Submitted proposals for the underpass refurbishment
  - Worked to improve spaces on campus; refurbishing furniture and do an amenities upgrade in the Catalyst Café and giving students access outside of library hours.



## 5. CONSIDERATION OF 2021 BUDGET

William Norrish (WN) says that the 2020 budget has been tabled in the 2020 Annual Report, highlighting that we ended last year with a surplus of around \$850k. He adds that the 2021 budget will be reflected on at next years OGM.

To touch on this year and how we are travelling thus-far, he notes that due to COVID snap lockdowns and the loss of Jobkeeper there has been substantial impacts our commercial partners and guild outlets. By mid-year budget review, we were looking at a \$400k deficit in light of this, we organised 1-on-1 consultations with Guild departments to reduce expenditure and minimise impact on our bottom line. This resulted in reducing printing expenses, reclaiming orientation and o-day funds and conference costs, no grant money for clubs were affected by this review.

Currently we sit on an anticipated \$200k or less loss by the end of the year. WN thanks the Guild staff and student departments who have endeavored to work within the restrictions of the mid-year budget review. He notes that some student departments have been unable to do so, but we are actively working to reduce this.

Fortunately, due the surplus from last year, the Guild is looking to being in a stable financial position heading into 2022.

## 6. ANNUAL REPORT

EM notes that the 2021 report is currently being finalised and will be released at the end of this year or early next year.

Summarising the 2020 Annual Report, she says that the Guild worked to improve student support during the COVID-19 crisis introducing operational efficiency with student assist enhancing student access. We worked with the university to provide grants, food and advice to students as they navigated the pandemic. During lockdowns, we successfully transitioned online and continued to engage with students in online formats. We enhanced spaces on campus, introducing IGA and Roll'd into the Guild Village. We worked hard in advocating for students through the Critical Incident Management team which saw ungraded passes and a 14-day, no questions asked, special consideration.

## 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mutya (MMJ), the Guild Finance Director, outlines that in 2020 the Guild produced an income of \$879,068. As expected, due to COVID the revenue from the outlets were significantly down as well as resulting rent abatements. However, she notes that Jobkeeper more than covered depletion in revenue providing a significant amount of income.

Due to this income, we were able to increase our investment portfolio by close to \$250k and spent significant money in capital expenditure to improve student spaces on campus. She says that we will still have expenditure in 2021, but it will be lower due COVID uncertainties.

## 8. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

### 8.1. The 108 Guild

- 7.1.1. accepts the results of the referendum held between Sept 20 to 23 in which students rejected the current restructure.
- 7.1.2. Implores the student representatives in the Senate to vote according to the referendum results in any vote which occurs during future senate meetings.
- 7.1.3. Directs the student representatives in the UWA Senate to act in accordance with the results of the referendum. This includes, but is not limited to:



- 7.1.3.1. Raising the referendum results at the senate meeting on Oct 18, 2021.
- 7.1.3.2. Asking the Vice Chancellor for an official response to the results to be emailed to all students.
- 7.1.3.3. Releasing a statement that reflects the student senate representative's acceptance of the result and willingness to challenge it in the senate meeting, in collaboration with the UWA Education Action Network coordinator

Moved: Nicole McEwen

Seconded: Scott Harney

Nicole McEwen (NM) speaks on the motion saying that the campaign run this semester has been incredibly successful, resulting in 2 staff jobs saved in Social Sciences and the delaying of outcomes in Social Science and Molecular Science. We saw hundreds of students coming out to protest against these cuts which saw students occupying the Vice-chancellery and thousands lending their support in the referendum. Given that 89% of students voting in the referendum supported action against the cuts, NM implores student representatives in senate to represent the student voice like a Guild is supposed to do, noting the hurdles presented by representatives in galvanizing student action. She further encourages students to go to the next senate protest on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm and to continue putting pressure onto elected representatives to defend student rights and raise these issues.

Scott Harney (SH) notes that the strategy of guild is working with management instead of confronting it, ignoring its basic function - to defend the rights and interests of students at every juncture. The UWA student Guild should be leading the charge on these fights for students and for staff. He implores representatives on senate to go into the next meeting ensure the student voice is heard and a response from management needs to be pushed for. He reiterates the need for a re-orientation of the student, noting times where student senators have voted for restructures and cuts.

EM opens the floor to debate, seeing no questions.

Emily Wolf (EW) is an anthropology student who is concerned about their future, not knowing what, where or if she will be studying next year. Acknowledging that despite the Vice Chancellor assuring students that Anthropology will exist next year, staffing of the major will be significantly reduced. She explains that there needs to be better student representation from the UWA Student Guild noting this guild has had deafening silence on issues like this. They need to do their duty as representatives – particularly those in senate, emphasizing that more students voted in the referendum than in the election which proves students care about this issue.

Madison Lee (ML) is disgusted by the UWA Student Guild for pandering to management and not acting in the student's best interest reiterating points raised by EW. The referendum is only half the work, we need to hold management accountable through senate. She asks what student representatives' thoughts are on the referendum, considering she hasn't heard anything other than through the Education Action Network (EAN).

Fraser Windsor (FW) is a PHD student from the school of molecular science. Today we are finding the results of the proposal which seeks to half the student-to-staff ration with potential supervisor cuts. They note that PHD students often forgetting about by the guild and general student body suggesting they aren't active voices; they are engaged politically, and we need support them, raising issues in senate as our last line of defense to say we are against the cuts.

Catherine Chelsea (CC) says that the campaign is notable because students are throwing their support despite potentially not being involved in student activism previously. She emphasizes that this isn't centralized to students affected, all students are galvanizing around this issue.



When ordinary students are throwing their weight behind this campaign, it is understandable that they then feel demoralized by the lack of action from the Student Guild. She emphasizes that the UWA Student Guild is a union at its core and should, with that in mind, be actively fighting this and putting resources toward the campaign. She highlights that we are fighting for the livelihood of 400 staff, noting the significance of saving 2 jobs given that the fight has been led primarily by student activists. The Guild owes students to raise the concerns and build the campaign.

Amitabh Jeganathan (AJ) notes that we are at a critical point in this campaign, we need to go to the university and actively fight for students and fight for student democracy.

**EM moves a procedural motion to limit speaking time to 1 minute, seconded by WN  
Procedural motion passed**

Esa Chrulew (EC) supports the motion voicing their distaste for the current approach of the UWA Student Guild in pandering to management, noting that past student senate representatives has expressed that in senate, they are voting as members of the university executive, not as student representatives. She says student senators, not only need to raise the student voice at the next meeting, but they also need to press senate members to respond and give justification. She further implores student representatives sitting on senate to speak on this motion and take a stand.

NM asks for other student representatives to speak on the motion and respond to student concern. She says that they need to stand up and commit to fighting for students and commit to doing more as a student union.

**Motion passes unanimously**

**9. GENERAL BUSINESS**

N/A

**10. CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING**

Next Ordinary General Meeting will be held in 2022 on a date yet to be decided.