



UWA STUDENT GUILD
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**ACCESS DEPARTMENT
GUILD COUNCIL REPORT**
20/04/2022

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SUMMARY

This month we held two successful events, one to promote the education of disability and sexuality and the other to promote science as a discipline being accessible to all people regardless of gender identity, age, study level and accessibility requirements. We made significant progress on our projects, especially the project to provide financial help for students who require diagnosis for neurodiverse conditions. We also presented at three events, promoting the inclusion of accessible policies and strategies.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
01/04/2022	Meeting with Janneke Koorn from the Robin Winkler Clinic	<p>The purpose of this meeting was to establish how a loan program to help students who need financial assistance getting diagnosis for a neurodiverse conditions might ease the burden on the Robin Winkler Clinic's diagnosis program and the waitlist it has. The clinic has stopped adding people to their waitlist and will only open their waitlist after June. The people on the list themselves will have to wait six months before receiving help.</p> <p>Janneke also extended her help in establishing this program so it may be completed as quickly as possible for students to use immediately.</p>
04/04/2022	WA for a Human Rights Act Meeting	<p>The Access Department met up with Anna Copeland and Graham Hansen from Western Australia for a Human Rights Act (WA 4 HRA) to discuss on how we move forward in establishing a partnership. We discussed having a meeting with those in the 109th Guild Council who are interested in asking questions from WA 4 HRA about the campaign and this proposed partnership.</p>
05/04/2022	Meeting with Student Assist	<p>We met with Student Assist to discuss a grant or loan program in collaboration with the Robin Winkler Clinic. We discussed the possibility of them facilitating the processing of the loan program.</p> <p>Additionally, we discussed the possibility of students opting for some time off from university assessments during the week of their GAMSAT exam as it is a very arduous exam to sit. We have had many students report an increase in stress, anxiety and</p>

		<p>symptoms of depression when undertaking the GAMSAT. Student Assist kindly explained that they are unable to provide students with that sort of special consideration as the university does not recognise external examinations as a reason for adjustments to assessments. Student Assist suggested running wellbeing workshops teaching strategies on managing personal welfare during GAMSAT season.</p> <p>We have already undertaken this by reaching out to Science Union and the Robin Winkler Clinic about possibly running a workshop on this topic.</p>
05/04/2022	Meeting with Georgie McDaid, National Union of Students (NUS) Disability Officer	This was our first meeting with our NUS disability representative. Dana brought up the vague reasonable adjustment policy of the GAMSAT, and how inaccessible the test can be for students. We discussed the potential for it to be modelled on the UCAT's reasonable adjustments as it has changed considerably in recent years. Georgie has agreed to write a letter to ACER regarding reasonable adjustments. We also talked about promoting the 'Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability' and encouraging people on our committee to fill it out.
10/04/2022	Access Committee Meeting 2	In our recent Access Committee Meeting, we delegated projects out to our OCMs and International Representatives.
12/04/2022	Meeting with Professor Vaska Dervisovski from Charles Darwin University	The Access Department had a meeting with Professor Vaska, a lecturer of social work at Charles Darwin University (CDU), to discuss social work, human resources and management degrees at both CDU and UWA. The conversation led to potentially forming a partnership with our university to have internship placements. We will be reaching out to the health promotion unit, the Living Room, Student Assist and UniAccess to see if they would be able to facilitate student placements.
19/04/2022	Meeting with Jenny Ophel	We had a brief chat with Jenny about providing disability sensitivity training for all student representatives of the 109 th Guild Council. She agreed it is necessary to provide training and will contact an organisation she

		<i>knows that might conduct in-person, and online, disability sensitivity training.</i>
<i>20/04/2022</i>	<i>Equity and Diversity Committee Meeting</i>	<p><i>This meeting started by selecting an executive officer for the Equity and Diversity Committee, which Dana put her hand up for, and was accepted into the role.</i></p> <p><i>We talked about what the purpose of this group should be, other than updating on equity and diversity-related projects, which can be achieved through Guild Council reports.</i></p> <p><i>The departments involved gave an update on projects they are working on and raised issues we needed consultation and advice on. Access brought up the issue of the Disability Sensitivity and Stigma Prevention Course needing more than students being involved in the making of the content. Pride brought up the issue of a gender studies unit that is very cis-centric and sought advice on how to take this issue further as the unit coordinator is not responsive to emails sent by students who have requested changes.</i></p>
<i>23/04/2022</i>	<i>Meeting with Partnerships Director</i>	<i>Dana and Melani discussed with Jit, our Partnerships Director, updates to different projects we are currently working on.</i>

PROJECT UPDATE

Accessibility of GAMSAT

The GAMSAT is an exam that is required by many medical and health professional programs as a prerequisite of entry. This exam is a highly competitive, lengthy, and arduous test that does not provide adequate reasonable adjustments to students in the Access Community. This makes the test inaccessible and discourages students from taking the test. This will ultimately reduce the diversity of students entering the health sciences field. We discussed this issue with Georgie McDaid, the NUS Disability Officer, and they have agreed to write a letter to ACER (the company that conducts GAMSAT) with the help of the NUS president. Hopefully, this letter will encourage a discussion between the NUS, student representatives who are part of the disability community and ACER to be more accommodating to other reasonable adjustments.

Access Week

Our Events Director, Isabella, has started working on planning the week. Whilst we have sorted out the events, we will be amending the events after more brainstorming with our committee. We have had some trouble securing our Semester Two Week Four timing due to PROSH week being rescheduled to the same week. We are looking to reschedule for Semester Two Week Two.

Accessible Education Guide

The Accessible Education Guide is almost done! We have received a draft of the design from Xander and will be meeting with him as soon as possible to revise it. We will also be getting pictures taken of our committee to include original images in the guide.

Accessible Clubs Guide

There is now a team from the Access Department committee researching content and working on updating the guide.

Access UWA Students' Voting Rights

After consulting Tony, the Managing Director of the UWA Student Guild, we have contacted Sue Moore, the University Secretariat, to see if there will be any issues within the university rules to have Access UWA Students have voting rights in Guild elections. Sue has not replied to the email yet. We will try and reach out to them again, if not, we will contact another UWA liaison to address this issue.

Learning Disability and Neurodiverse Conditions Diagnosis Help

The Access Department had a meeting with Janneke Koorn from the Robin Winkler Clinic about this project of giving students a loan to seek assistance in receiving diagnosis for learning disabilities and neurodiverse conditions. They are very receptive to this project and will help the Access Department in building this program.

We conducted a meeting with the whole Student Assist team about this project. Student Assist agrees there is a need for assistance, and they will happily facilitate the process and paperwork that would come with a loan program. We have, informally, discussed with Tony the potential to have it funded through the Guild. He agrees with the need to assist students and take the weight off the Robin Winkler Clinic and the waitlist they have. He believes a grant program might not be feasible, but a loan program might be better suited if the Guild will be funding it. Tony suggests arranging a meeting with Mutya, the Director of Finance in the UWA Student Guild, and talking through how many students can be facilitated through this program.

Specialist Mentoring Program for Students with Neurodiverse Conditions

No major updates on this project for this month. We are waiting to re-schedule a meeting with Robin Winkler Clinic staff and move forward from there. We will be raising this topic at the upcoming Living Room Meeting to consult other student representatives.

Disability sensitivity and Stigma Prevention Course

This month, we have been conducting research and agreeing on topics to include in this course. After researching so much we've discovered this is a project that cannot be achieved by the Access Department alone, given that some of the topics needed to be covered require qualified knowledge and expertise. After discussing this idea extensively with the Access Department Committee, as well as the Equity and Diversity Committee, we've come to a decision of contacting UniAccess and the Health Promotion Unit recommended by Chloe, the Women's Officer, to create the course in collaboration with the Access Department. Chloe mentioned that the Health Promotion Unit has made a LMS course before so it's worth asking them. Paris, the Pride officer, also mentioned that this was an issue for the Pride Department previously and they had created Project Peacock to share the experience of students who are from the LGBTQIA+ community at UWA, so UWA students altogether can learn from each other's experiences. This is a great suggestion to pursue if a LMS course is not possible.

We will be raising this change to the project in the upcoming Living Room meeting to get suggestions from other student peers and representatives about what topics should be included as it is students who will ultimately be learning from this course. We have contacted the UniAccess Department and the Health Promotion Unit, to arrange a meeting to discuss this project and their capacity to take it on.

Student Learning Entitlement Legislation

This month, we had a meeting with Georgie, the National Union of Students (NUS) Disabilities Officer on how to approach this issue. Georgie mentioned that the NUS may be working on a campaign against this issue after May of 2022. They are informally waiting on the results of the Federal Election, as the future of this legislation will be dependent on which government will come into place. Either way, the Access Department committee is reaching out to Student Offices to inquire if newly enrolled students will be informed about them only having seven years to complete a degree. We will also be reaching out to the Education Action Network on a potential campaign UWA could run with the NUS.

Access x UWA TikToks

The TikToks were planned to be filmed this month, however, the person organising the filming from the university, unfortunately, cannot film due to COVID related issues. We have rescheduled to film next month.

Wellbeing Volunteering x Access Department Partnership

We have now created the position description for the Access Representative position including the responsibility of the representative and the training they must complete. We are still open to not having an Access Representative position but giving the accessibility training for all wellbeing volunteering. We will make a decision with the Wellbeing Volunteering team. The Partnerships Director has reached out to Guild Volunteering to organise a meeting with the new Wellbeing Volunteering Coordinator.

Disability Sensitivity Training for the 109th Guild Council

The Access Department has been in discussion with Amitabh (Guild President) and Jenny Ophel (Associate Director of Human Resources and Student Services) to provide students representatives in guild council disability sensitivity training. Jenny is reaching out to an external council that may provide this training in person, if not, the Access Department has found an adequate online course. However, we will try our best to find a good training course to be conducted in person, and online. We will also work on disability sensitivity training being included in the Student Leadership Training that is provided to all guild council representatives at the beginning of their term.

'Stuff You Parents Never Told You About Sex' Event

This event went turned out to be a great event, with over 20 students in attendance. We had a few hiccups the few days leading to the event, as our speaker who was meant to speak on taboos within Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities had COVID-19 related issues could no longer present at the event. Unfortunately, we could not replace the speaker as we had found out two days before the event. As a result, we, unfortunately, could not facilitate that much of a conversation about taboos of sex within CALD communities. We also had some of our other presenters go into isolation as close contacts, so we decided to switch the event to an online format, which was risky as we changed it the day before the event. Despite the obstacles, the event went amazingly. We had so many students engaging with the speakers in the Q + A session that we had to cut short, so the event does not go over time. We were so glad students felt safe and comfortable enough to ask questions about taboos to do with sex. The quiz at the end had great engagement, and we had five winners who won plushies and chocolates. We want to extend our immense gratitude and appreciation to the UWA Science Union and the Ethnocultural Department without whom this event would not have been possible.

Science Union x Access Department – Accessible Science Event

The Access Department held this event in collaboration with Science Union to encourage a new passion for science or reignite an old love for the discipline through our line-up of fun workshops in a calm, sensory-friendly environment. All individuals were welcome no matter the level of ability! The Access Department ran a stall on the different soil layers in sub-tropic regions compared to the arctic. We demonstrated the differences by creating ice cream sundaes, making the soil layers through different foods. Science Union prepared invisible ink artwork, CHEMnBio club extracted DNA from strawberries, and the PsySoc Club had drunk buster goggles for people to wear and do activities in. Overall, it was a fantastic event and we had people of all different ages, study levels and accessibility requirements attend. We would like to extend our thanks to all the clubs involved, and Science Union especially for organising this event.

FINANCES

Budget vs. Actual

FINANCIAL ROW	AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Gross Profit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Expenses				
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				
305068 - Orientation Day Expenses	\$792.66	\$300.00	\$492.66	264.22%
305079 - Theme Week	\$0.00	\$800.00	-\$800.00	0.00%
305080 - Activities and Functions	\$46.36	\$1,070.00	-\$1,023.64	4.33%
305083 - Advertising & Promotion	\$0.00	\$120.00	-\$120.00	0.00%
305147 - General Expenses	\$29.00	\$180.00	-\$151.00	16.11%
305155 - Interior decoration	\$0.00	\$150.00	-\$150.00	0.00%
305180 - Printing & Stationery	\$0.00	\$40.00	-\$40.00	0.00%
305187 - Software Digital	\$92.55	\$401.05	-\$308.50	23.08%
305207 - Special Projects	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	-\$1,100.00	0.00%
Total - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$960.57	\$4,161.05	-\$3,200.48	23.08%
Total - Expenses	\$960.57	\$4,161.05	-\$3,200.48	23.08%
Operating Profit	-\$960.57	-\$4,161.05	\$3,200.48	23.08%
Other Income				
OTHER INCOME - OTHER INCOME				
103069 - Sundry Income	\$260.00	\$0.00	\$260.00	0.00%
Total - OTHER INCOME - OTHER INCOME	\$260.00	\$0.00	\$260.00	0.00%
Total - Other Income	\$260.00	\$0.00	\$260.00	0.00%
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$700.57	-\$4,161.05	\$3,460.48	16.84%

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Presented Event Inclusivity and Accessibility training to Club and FASOC executives
- Spoke at a Man Up x Radiant Event called 'A Conversation for Men About Gender Equality'
- Successfully ran the 'Stuff Your Parents Never Taught You About Sex' Workshop
- Successfully ran the 'Science Union x Access Department Accessible Science' Event
- Presented to high school students about promoting accessibility as student leaders at the Young Leader's Council Event

DISCUSSION POINTS

- It is imperative that UWA Student Guild representatives consider accessibility within the spaces they represent, especially spaces pertaining to education

Kind Regards,



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