



UWA STUDENT GUILD
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**ACCESS DEPARTMENT
GUILD COUNCIL REPORT**
15/02/2022

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SUMMARY

This month we have been organising the finer details of Orientation Day as well as Guild on the Green. We have now appointed our executive committee, have arranged to meet with each of them individually and is in the progress of arranging a bonding activity for the whole team! We have also been busy with finishing the editing of the Accessible Education Guide; inquiring upon the cost of disability diagnosis; researching the assistance of Neurological/ADHD coach.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
17/01/2022	Finance Training	The Access Department completed finance training with Fiona Lie.
25/01/2022	The Living Room	<p>The Living Room (TLR) project was introduced to new people part of the Living Room Student Reference Group. The purpose of the Student Reference Group was outlined, and we brainstormed potential events/activities TLR could hold for the year as well as ways The Living Room can communicate to students better.</p> <p>The Student Reference Group was introduced the SafeZone App which alerts for help when there is an emergency and first-aid assistance needed.</p> <p>The Student Reference Group also participated in a pitch video for the Living Room to send to an Innovation Grant application.</p>
25/01/2022	Student Wellbeing Catch-up	The Student Wellbeing group met up with the focus to discuss the need for a Student Wellbeing Group. We decided that the group will be dissolved. Instead, the minutes of the Welfare and Advocacy committee will be given to Lisa Goldacre and McAuliffe by Sapphire Carter, Amitabh Jeganathan and us.
09/02/2022	Guild President x Access Meeting	This meeting was arranged for Amitabh to stay up to date with the Access Department goals and projects for 2022. We discussed the progress of the Accessible Education Guide, and the distribution of the Accessible Clubs Guide. We talked over our problem with the university refusing to include more than one power point slide about UniAccess Academic Adjustment Plans (UAAPs) during Orientation Week. Amitabh will try and talk

		<p>to the university on our behalf over communicating UAAPs more during Orientation Week.</p> <p>We also talked on providing more support services to students with ADHD and ADD who make up a substantial portion of students with UAAPs at UWA. We discussed Access Department's intentions of speaking with students who have neurodivergent conditions to see if bringing in a specialist mentoring program to receive guidance on academics is needed.</p> <p>We also raised the issues of the cost of disability diagnosis for students over 18; Access UWA Students voting rights; affiliation with WA for a Human Rights Act.</p>
16/02/2022	<i>Student Wellbeing Monthly Meeting</i>	<p>This meeting was with the Amitabh (Guild President), Sapphire (Welfare Officer), Lisa Goldacre (University Associate Director of Success and Wellbeing) and Alana Thompson (Manager of Student Assist). We started the conversation with what the group's purpose is for 2022 and how we can set ourselves apart from the Welfare and Advocacy Committee which includes the same people and covers the same topics. At the end, we agreed that this group is an informal group that raises issues and conversations with Lisa and Alana concerning welfare. We will also go over the minutes of the Welfare and Advocacy committee to raise any issues brought up by the committee to the staff.</p>
28/01/2022	<i>Student Assist x Access Meeting</i>	<p>The purpose of this meeting was to introduce ourselves to the Student Assist team individually and to familiarise ourselves with each other's services. Both departments discussed over each other's goals for 2022, the projects we will work on and how we can help each other. Student Assist talked mainly about their Meditation Centre which is to be launched March 8th, 2022. We talked over the accessibility of the room for people with physical disabilities and discussed keeping it as low sensory as possible for students with neurodiverse conditions.</p> <p>We discussed over how we can better</p>

		communicate Uniaccess Academic Adjustment Plans (UAAPs) as there is an epidemic of students not knowing about UAAPs until later in their degrees because it is not a widely advertised by the University. UniAccess has also raised the issue of receiving an influx of students requesting UAAPs later in the semester which leaves them unable to attend to all of them in a timely manner for end of semester assignments and exams.
21/02/2022	<i>Access Department Meeting and Bonding</i>	Melani met with our executive committee for handover and explained the plan for O-Day.

PROJECT UPDATE

Affiliations with the WA for a Human Rights Act

We have talked with Tony Goodman (the managing director of the Guild) and Amitabh Jeganathan (Guild President), about affiliating with WA for a Human Rights Act. We are intending to discuss with the rest of Guild Council especially the autonomous departments such as Ethnocultural and Pride Department before we present it at a Guild Council meeting.

Guild on the Green

We successfully planned and executed our Guild on the Green stall. We held a craft activity where people can paint a terracotta pot and received a free succulent, too. Additionally, we handed out resources from Headspace and our own resources.

O-Day

O-Day is being held on the 25th of February 2022. We have a slushy machine and will sell them for \$3.00 each. All proceeds from O-Day will go towards Auslan classes. Our committee will also be there to share information and resources about the services UWA, and the Guild has to offer.

Committee Applications

We have finalised our executive committee, appointing a Marketing Director, Events Director, Campaigns Director and Partnerships Director. We have given each of the directors a handover, describing the roles, responsibilities, and expectations.

We had released the Ordinary Committee Member and International Student Representative applications on the 17th of February. We have introduced the International Student Representative role to the Access Department after a discussion with the ISD President on the need for international representation within the disability community at UWA.

Accessible Education Guide

The Accessible Education Guide was a guide created by the previous Education Council and Access Department. The guide highlights several academic processes (such as Special Consideration and Appeals), on-campus resources, and off-campus resources. We have completed the draft of the guide and will submit it to Xander for design.

Accessible Clubs Guide

The Accessible Clubs Guide was originally created by the 2021 Access Officers. It was recently disseminated on the Guild Facebook page and the webpage by Caitlin. We have also used it to create our 'Events Inclusivity and Accessibility' presentation for Student Leadership Training (SLT), which has been well received.

Access UWA Students' Voting Rights

Access UWA is a program in which students can take up a few units without having to fully enrol. Whilst they can enjoy the benefits of being a Guild Member, they do not qualify as a student because they do not pay SSAF. However, we strongly believe that to fully experience university culture, they should get the right to vote. Further consultation with the University is needed.

Learning Disability and Neurodiverse Conditions Diagnosis

Diagnosis for students with neurodivergent conditions who are over eighteen years of age can be extremely difficult. This is because to receive a diagnosis people usually must spend 4 sessions with a psychiatrist or undergo testing and then receive a diagnostic report which can incur a cost over \$1000. UniAccess requires a diagnostic report to provide academic adjustments to students. Students who cannot afford these fees will not receive the equitable academic adjustments they require, which can have a detrimental effect on their studies and can lead to them being unable to continue their degree. We have reached out to both University of Western Australia Medical Centre and the Robin Winkler Clinic to offer a neuropsychological assessment program to reduce these costs.

The UWA Medical Centre no longer has a psychiatrist so they cannot help us with this issue. We are awaiting Robin Winkler Clinic's response to discuss this issue.

Neurodiversity Coach

The Access Department has received several suggestions by different students on having a specialist mentoring program (individually catered academic guidance) for students with Neurodivergent conditions. This was brought to light as the Robin Winkler Clinic has a specialist mentoring program for students with Autism but not for any other neurodivergent conditions. Taking the feedback on board, the Access Department will create a survey for students with Neurodivergent conditions to convey if a specialist mentoring program is something they would benefit from, in what way etc... We are planning to use this feedback to present to the Robin Winkler Clinic and Student Assist to potentially create a similar program for all students with Neurodivergent conditions.

FINANCES

N/A (the receipts/invoices for O-Day and Guild on the Green have been given to Guild Finance but has not been processed yet)

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Presented to incoming students in Bilya Marlee
- Presented Event Inclusivity and Accessibility training to Club and FASOC executives
- Recruited executive committee
- Presented at Student Leadership Training

DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

Regards,



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Dana Fung