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ACCESS DEPARTMENT  
GUILD COUNCIL REPORT  
24/03/2022

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## SUMMARY

*This month has been a very busy month for the Access Department and the impact of COVID has been very difficult this month, especially. We haven't held any events this month but have been tirelessly working on campaigns and events happening soon. On a positive note, we have filled all committee positions and are excited for what's to come.*

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
<i>08/03/2022</i>	<i>Election Culture Meeting</i>	<i>In this meeting, we discussed and voted on the proposed changes to the election regulations. We discussed capping the number of OGCs, increasing nomination fees, the introduction of co-signatures in a nomination form, personal statements, and changes to the election timeline. Some of the proposed changes were approved to be taken through to Governance, but others weren't such as increasing nomination fees and the introduction of co-signatures. Access was very vocal against the increase of nomination fees as well as the restructuring of the nomination period, where party nominations would be during one of the most stressful times of the semester (Week 12).</i>
<i>08/03/2022</i>	<i>Guild Councillor Training</i>	<i>This training was a refresher training on the structure of the Guild, the expectations, and duties of Guild Councillors.</i>
<i>09/03/2022</i>	<i>Student Wellbeing Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>This meeting was similar to the last meeting (see February report). We spoke about the dissolution of the group, but this has not been finalised yet. Melani and Dana asked about bringing back a psychiatrist to the medical centre\ but were told that it was unlikely, and that engagement was low with the service. We gave an update on our Accessible Education Guide.</i>
<i>10/03/2022</i>	<i>DAIWG Meeting</i>	<i>This was the first DAIWG meeting of the year. We reviewed the terms of reference for the group and the action plan for this year. We discussed the importance of amplifying the voices of staff members with disabilities and how the University can be more inclusive. Furthermore, we discussed promoting Ally as a tool for staff to use to make their lectures more accessible.</i>

11/03/2022	Access Executive Meeting	<i>This was our last in-person meeting. Firstly, we celebrated Jit's (Partnership Director) birthday! Then, we went through our agenda which included updates on our projects, plans for this year, what's next, and homework. We also debriefed O-Day and Guild on the Green – what people were grateful for, what went well, what we could improve. Overall, it was a successful meeting.</i>
15/03/2022	Equity and Diversity Committee Meeting	<i>This was the first EDC meeting of the year. We spoke about the constitution for the group, which Jenny kindly sent us. Then, we discussed our action plan and any issues we noticed. Access then announced what our plans are for the year, as well as plans that are currently in motion (i.e., Accessible Education Guide).</i>
15/03/2022	Full Stop Australia Workshop	<i>This workshop was conducted by Full Stop Australia on how to receive disclosures of sexual, domestic, and family violence. We were taught about different types of domestic, and family violence as well as sexual abuse. We were provided with different resources for obtaining statistics on the issues in discussion. We were given training on empowering practices, initial responses to disclosures (what to and what not to say), and important things to say during a disclosure. We were also taught what to expect from our initial feelings during a disclosure, and how to look after ourselves afterwards. It was a very informative workshop and something we will be sharing with the rest of our committee.</i>
17/03/2022	Access Executive Meeting – Avery	<i>We met with Avery to discuss her role as Campaigns Director. We went through our campaigns document and explained what campaigns we wanted to work on. As a group, we workshopped some of the ideas and focused on the key ones we aim to achieve this year. We discussed our plans for Purple Day too.</i>
18/03/2022	Access Executive Meeting – Jit	<i>Melani and Dana spoke with Jit, our Partnerships Director, about his role and what partnership projects we have for this year.</i>
18/03/2022	Access Executive Meeting – Kylie	<i>We spoke with our Marketing Director about her roles for this year, software to use to produce content, social media accessibility,</i>

		<i>and upcoming campaigns. We went through our vision for the Purple Day Campaign posts.</i>
<i>19/03/2022</i>	<i>Science Union and Access Meeting</i>	<i>This meeting was held regarding Screw Week. We discussed who our guest speakers were and what was left to do such as booking a venue, completing the EMP, creating the marketing material and making a link to get questions for the Q and A portion of the event. At that time we had confirmed two speakers and had ordered the prize for a quiz at the end of the event. Dana created a to-do list for what was left.</i>
<i>19/03/2022</i>	<i>Access Executive Meeting – Isabella</i>	<i>We met with our Events Director to discuss her role and what events we will be holding. We briefly discussed the upcoming Screw Week event and went through our plans for Access Week.</i>
<i>24/03/2022</i>	<i>Access meeting with Xander</i>	<i>The draft of the Accessible Education Guide has been completed and has been sent to Xander to be laid out. We discussed what look we are going for and the accessibility of the document.</i>
<i>27/03/2022</i>	<i>Committee Bonding</i>	<i>We held our first full committee bonding over Teams. We played a Kahoot that informed our members on some common myths and facts about the Access Department. We also played Pictionary through Skribbl.io for bonding. We also briefly gave an overview of the team drive so that they could familiarise themselves with their roles.</i>

## PROJECT UPDATE

### **Committee Applications**

We have finalised our general committee, taking on six Ordinary Committee Members and four International Representatives. A committee bonding was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March to welcome everyone to the team and have them be acquainted with each other. A projects meeting is being organised for the coming week.

### **Accessible Education Guide**

The draft of the Accessible Education Guide has been submitted and we have had a meeting with Xander to layout the design and to make sure the document will read out well with text to speech software. Xander has asked us to send him some examples of what the guide should look like.

### **Accessible Clubs Guide**

The Accessible Clubs Guide needs some updates to include more information on how online events can be more accessible, and more information on how events can be accessible to students with neurodivergent conditions.

### **Access UWA Students' Voting Rights**

No updates on this project yet, Access is in consultation with Tony to figure out who in the university we can contact to progress with this project.

### **Learning Disability and Neurodiverse Conditions Diagnosis**

The UWA Medical Centre no longer has a psychiatrist so we, unfortunately, cannot have this change be established there. The Robin Winkler Clinic charges \$400 for neuro assessments but it's \$300 for a full-time student or pensioner. We are in conversation with the clinic about making the costs \$300 for students who are part-time and how they can reduce the costs. It is unlikely they can reduce the costs since it seems to be the lowest rate they can charge, compared to other medical institutes that charge well over \$1000.

We have also arranged a meeting with Student Assist to see if there can be a grant program provided to students who cannot afford these fees.

### **Neurodiversity Coach**

We have reached out to Hanna Dwyer and Melissa Tan who are the program coordinators of the Specialist Mentoring Program run by the Robin Winkler Clinic. We are planning on discussing the need for a similar program for students with other neurodivergent conditions, and if it is feasible.

### **Screw Week**

In collaboration with Science Union, we are holding an event called, "Stuff Your Parents Never Told You About Sex." It is centred on exploring domains of sexual health and pleasure that are not typically talked about in school. The event will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. So far, we have SECCA, Yvonne Kesselring, Hanna Saltis, Kai Schweizer and Carol Kaplanian coming to speak about a variety of topics such as cultural approaches to sexual health, LGBTQIA+ sex ed, and sexuality and disability.

### **Access Week**

Our committee has started planning out Access Week which will be held in Sem 2 Week 4. Dana, Melani and Isabella (the Events Director) are finalising the kind of events we would like to hold including collaborations. So far, we plan to organise micro-volunteering events for tangible opportunities to make a difference in the community, wellbeing workshops, and mindfulness through art sessions.

### **Science Union Handbook - Access Service Page**

The issue of students not knowing about UniAccess Academic Adjustment Plans (UAAPs) and not applying for them on time is something we have been addressing in all parts of the university. Keegan, from the Science Union, allowed us to include a page in the Fresher Handbook solely on applying for UAAPs, who to contact, the forms to be filled out etc... We are also hoping to send an email to all the heads of school to include the Accessible Education Guide on the resources tab of LMS.

### **Disability sensitivity and Stigma Prevention Course**

The disability sensitivity and stigma prevention course is an information course the Campaigns Director, and the Co-Officers are currently working on. This course aims to better educate students on different disabilities, increase confidence in working and studying with people with disabilities, and increase self-assurance when speaking to people with disabilities. The Campaigns Director, Dana and Melani have

started researching the content needed to be included and are in the process of researching different organisations to consult and verify the information being included.

### **Student Learning Entitlement Legislation**

As of January 2022, the Student Learning Entitlement legislation under the Higher Education Act 2003, forces students to finish degrees within seven years to receive HECS/HELP support. Any time over the seven years taken to complete a degree will have no financial support, which means paying for units upfront before commencing the semester. This will have a devastating impact on student carers, students with disabilities and students from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Students with disabilities often take on tertiary education at one or two units per semester and even take a few semesters off due to the circumstances of their disabilities, which means they would need well over seven years to complete a degree. The same circumstances apply to student carers. Students who are of a lower-socioeconomic background often take a reduced workload to be employed and support themselves and/or their families. They also take periods of time off university for financial and/or employment reasons, which means they need much more than seven years to complete a degree.

The Access Department has reached out to the National Union of Students Disability Representative to talk about this issue. We are also planning to reach out to the Student Offices to see how they will implement this legislation and the Education Action Network on how we can effectively inform students of these changes that could affect them in the future.

### **Access x UWA TikToks**

The University of Western Australia has reached out to the Access Department in producing a few TikToks of our committee signing some basic Auslan. Video 1 will cover Basic Auslan for everyone to learn, I.e. Hello, How are you etc... Video 2 will be about the basic fingerspelling alphabet in Auslan. Video 3 will cover signs for all the different schools I.e. Engineering, Arts, Business, Law etc.... Video 4 is to cover UWA/student-focused phrases I.e. study, library etc... The TikToks will be filmed in two weeks.

### **World Blood Donor Day**

World Blood Donor Day will be held on 14 June 2022. Every 5 minutes, a new blood donor is needed and 1 in 3 Australians will need blood in their lifetime. Hence, we have planned an initiative to promote blood donations. As a committee, we will all go donate blood (provided everyone is comfortable in doing so) and film it so we can create a "Day-In-The-Life"-type video for our socials.

### **Wellbeing Volunteering x Access Department Partnership**

Wellbeing Volunteers are student volunteers who provide safe, non-judgemental, and peer-appropriate aid to students at university events. The volunteers are provided physical and mental health first aid training, however, no sort of training in disability sensitivity or disability first aid is provided. We believe an Access representative with all the given training attending these events would be a start to addressing care for students with disabilities at events. There is also an option of training all the volunteers with disability sensitivity and disability first aid. The Access Department Partnerships Director has reached out to the Guild Volunteering Department to form this partnership.

## FINANCES

### Budget vs. Actual

FINANCIAL ROW	AMOUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>				
305068 - Orientation Day Expenses	\$95.45	\$300.00	-\$204.55	31.82%
305079 - Theme Week	\$0.00	\$800.00	-\$800.00	0.00%
305080 - Activities and Functions	\$0.00	\$1,070.00	-\$1,070.00	0.00%
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%
<b>Total - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$217.00</b>	<b>\$4,161.05</b>	<b>-\$3,944.05</b>	<b>5.22%</b>
<b>Total - Expenses</b>	<b>\$217.00</b>	<b>\$4,161.05</b>	<b>-\$3,944.05</b>	<b>5.22%</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>-\$217.00</b>	<b>-\$4,161.05</b>	<b>\$3,944.05</b>	<b>5.22%</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
<b>OTHER INCOME - OTHER INCOME</b>				
103069 - Sundry Income	\$260.00	\$0.00	\$260.00	0.00%
<b>Total - OTHER INCOME - OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$260.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$260.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total - Other Income</b>	<b>\$260.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$260.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$43.00</b>	<b>-\$4,161.05</b>	<b>\$4,204.05</b>	<b>-1.03%</b>

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Appointed all OCM and International Representative positions
- Completed Science Union *Fresher Handbook* Access Services Page
- Participated in a McCusker Intern's video for UniAccess to promote their service
- We wrote a piece for the UniAccess weekly email for week 7 to promote the Access Department
- Successful online campaign for Purple Day – 26<sup>th</sup> of March (Epilepsy Awareness Day)

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- Council members should endeavour to submit their reports 2 days prior to the deadline so that everyone gets a chance to read the reports before approving them.
- Council members should communicate with each other in a respectful and friendly manner; we should always try to be kind to one another.

Kind Regards,



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