



UWA STUDENT GUILD EDUCATION COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES | WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2017

UWA Student Guild IM300, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009
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1. Welcome and Opening

1.1. Attendance

Faculty Societies:

Tyran Hanlon (ALVA President), Hannah Smith (Arts Union President), Jacob Fowler (Arts Union ED VP), Joshua Sanchez-Lawson (Blackstone President), Jessica Zuiderwijk (Blackstone ED VP), Izaak Wesson (MSS President), Nicholas Gibb (Science Union President), Daniel Girgis (UDSS ED Officer), Julian Bocking (UEC President), Rowan Sobey (UEC ED VP).

Committee:

Conrad Hogg (ED President), Lincoln Aspinall (ED VP), Patricia Paguio (ED Secretary), Kevin Fitzgerald (ED OCM), Megan Lee (Guild President).

Standing Invitees:

Peter Watson (PSA President), Julia DeLorenzo (BPhil President), Fraser Windsor (Pride Officer), Su Sugandha (Guild VP).

Proxies:

Daria Buic for Sharon Ndj (HSS ED VP), Emma Mezger for Alice Dix-Matthews (Science Union ED VP), Benjamin Palladino for Marissa Loh (WAMSS VPI), Lianne Leung for Karen Bromley (WAMSS ED VP).

Apologies:

Emily Bell (HSS President), Cate Tweedie (MSS ED VP), Joshua Clune (SNAGS President), Kieran Zilm (SNAGS ED VP), Ruth Roo (UDSS ED Officer).

Absent:

Rigen Paciente (ED Treasurer), Phoebe Burrage (EAN Coordinator), Trayan Politis (ECOMS President), Stacey Kent (ECOMS ED VP), Paul Chung (UDSS President), Alexander Tan (PSA VP Coursework), Charlotte Groom (BPhil ED VP).

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

- This is the first Education Council meeting. There are no minutes to confirm.

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- Nil.

4. Reports

- It is expected that each Faculty Society, Education Council President, Education Council Vice President, Guild President, and the EAN Coordinator submits a report for each meeting.

4.1. Guild President

- There have been changes made to Orientation Day, which Megan has been barred from circulating.
- PROSH will be on the 21st of March

- Jacob Colangelo, one of the PROSH directors, has asked Megan Lee to remind everyone that PROSH counts towards points for awards.
- There will be updates about the themes soon, and Megan will send Patricia Paguio important dates to be circulated.

4.2. Education Council President

- As tabled.
- Conrad Hogg's main focus is planning and strategies in 2018.

4.3. Education Council Vice-President

- As tabled.

4.4. EAN Coordinator

- Nil.

4.5. PSA Representatives

- Peter Watson said that PSA is currently focused on planning for 2018.
- He has also said that one of PSA's goals in 2018 is to collaborate a lot more with postgraduate orientated clubs. If a club has a significantly sized postgraduate cohort, specifically WAMSS and Blackstone, Peter encourages them to reach out to PSA for assistance, such as advertising postgraduate events in the PSA newsletter.

4.6. ALVA Society

- Tyran Hanlon has said there is nothing to report at this point in time.

4.7. Arts Union

- Hannah Smith has said that they had handover yesterday, December 19th, and are running a little late.
- Jacob Fowler has said they had a meeting with the Director of the Bachelor of Arts, Martin Forsey, who is keen to work with the Arts Union to make the Bachelor of Arts at UWA a good degree to have.

4.8. Blackstone Society

- As tabled.
- Joshua Sanchez-Lawson says that the main project over the summer is the Law Library refurbishments, with things coming in.
- They are also working on alternative faculty handbooks, which is a publication to be sent around to incoming Juris Doctor students. The handbooks are student produced to give a student perspective on units they are studying (or not studying) based on their feedback.
 - Joshua has said that he would like to hear from Megan how differences in the Orientation program will affect the postgraduate student societies.

- Joshua wishes to raise a question about exam venues. There have been complaints that exams were scheduled in venues with very small desks. Since all law exams are open book, this brings up efficiency and time issues as students have trouble accessing their notes. He was wondering if the Ed Council, or other FacSocs, has had history with successfully lobbying to change this situation?
 - o UEC agrees that small desks at open book exams is a problem and should be addressed. They offer Joshua an alternate solution of holding in-house exams in order to minimise venue issues as unit co-ordinators can book their own venues.
 - o Megan has said she has regular meetings about exam venues, scheduling, and timetabling so any further complaints can be e-mailed to Megan and she will follow it up. She suggests to speak to Conrad first, and if he is unable to deal with it, he will escalate it to her

4.9. ECOMS

- Nil.

4.10. HSS

- Daria Buic has said there is nothing to report.

4.11. MSS

- Izaak Weston has said that December was spent going through handover. He also says that tomorrow, the 21st of December will be MSS' second planning meeting, which will be spent formulating strategies for events and educational resources.

4.12. Science Union

- The Science Union has been working a lot with the Faculty of Science to run the "Science Experience" program. The program involves top year 9 and 10 students coming to UWA to get a feel of what university is like and how it's different to high school. The Science Union is working with UEC on this.
- They are also working on camp, which will be on the second weekend. It is still in early stages, but they have EMP and RMA done. Milly Dacker and Peter Watson will be organising this.

4.13. SNAGS

- Nil.

4.14. UDSS

- Danie Girgis has said there hasn't been anything to report so far except for the course changing next year. Normally it is four year course done at the oral centre. Next year, first year will be done on main campus with medical students. UDSS will be working towards integrating the medical students with the dental student with the at the oral health centre. There haven't been too many problems so far.

4.15. UEC

- Julian Bocking has said that UEC has quite a different committee this year than previously.

- UEC has been catching up with all the subsidiary engineering clubs, and also physics, computer science, and maths clubs to start the year on a good foot with them since UEC has not had the best relationship with them in the past. They are trying to fix this relationship.
- One of the biggest things is that UEC will host is 100th ball in 2018.
- Rowan Sobey has said that “Exploring Engineering” is one of the early events they are planning for. He is organising it and it will be held in the first week. It will be similar to “Science Experience”, with school kids participating in workshops at uni.

4.16. WAMSS

- Lianne Leung has said they had their first cohort of MDs graduate, which is exciting.
- There is also a course restructure, which they are working with the faculty with.
 - o Planning day was held a couple of weeks ago where they went through feedback from past years in order to plan for the upcoming year.
- Lianne said that planning for the MD camp has been solid.

5. Motions

- Conrad: “Unfortunately I’m gonna have to move a motion of notice to accept the resignation of my treasurer. Unfortunately, they’ve been having a few personal issues and they’ve been forced to resign and I need approval from this council to accept their resignation. So I would like to move to accept the resignation of the Education Council Treasurer, Rigel Paciente.”
 - o Passed unanimously. The motion carries.
 - o Rowan has asked about the replacement.
 - o Conrad has said that at the next education council meeting, there will be nominations open to fill out the vacancy and council will vote for the new treasurer. Each Faculty Society will get two votes.

6. General Business

6.1. Funding

- Conrad has said that this year, the funding pool for Faculty Societies has increased to \$64,000, \$1,500 of which will go to Faculty Society awards: \$1,000 for best Faculty Society and \$500 for most innovative society. The remainder is for funding.
- Funding is split 50% for semester one and 50% semester two – roughly \$30,000 each semester. It is split into half between base funding and special project grants. Conrad will send an e-mail out when the time comes to look more closely at funding.
- Base funding will be dependent on the amount of students represented, and the sponsorships and resources a Faculty Society has. Special project grants are prospective funding for events and initiatives run, particularly for new initiatives or anything that give students new experience. These events and initiatives makes Faculty Societies eligible to apply for project grants.

- Conrad has said all this information will be coming out around late January. Special project grants and some information about each faculty society's financial situation will be due at the start of semester.

6.2. Higher Education Funding

- Conrad has said that the Education Minister, Simon Birmingham, proposed a freeze to the university funding model. This means that universities, including UWA, will get the same amount of funding this year and next year despite the amount of students enrolled. Previously university funding has been based on the amount of students enrolled. The funding freeze means funding will remain the same as what the universities had in 2017, in 2018 and 2019. This has a few implications:
 - o Rowan has brought up that any increases in the number of students enrolled is a cost to the university.
 - o Conrad has said that universities in Australia have CPI increase of approximately 1.5% each year, stripping \$2 billion out of the higher education sector over the next two years. This means that universities will be forced to either reduce the amount of spots they have to give some students non-commonwealth supported spots, or universities continue to enrol larger amount of students whilst dealing with the same amount of resources.
- Conrad continues to add that the plan involves changes to the HECS system, which involves lower repayment thresholds so that people who make smaller amounts of money are forced to pay back HECS debts.
- The Guild has a formal stance about this, which was passed in Guild council; the Guild is opposed to the movement and will be working around.
 - o There will be a petition and a link to the education action network group on the Guild Facebook page.
 - o In collaboration with the National Union of Students, there will be national day of action in March to take a stance against this issue.
- Peter Watson has said that the Commonwealth supported places are most important for postgraduate students.
 - o Rowan asked why it would affect postgraduates more.
 - o Peter has said it's because postgraduate courses cost more
 - o Conrad has said that if you look at Juris Doctor at the University of Melbourne, for example, a student can be offered a spot where they would have to pay \$10,000 a year, or a spot where they would have to pay \$60,000 a year. This is something he thinks would be bad to see at UWA. This is another reason the Guild is opposed to it.
- Jacob has asked if there is anyway they can find out, from Conrad, how the laws affect each individual Faculty society.
 - o Conrad has said it is difficult to say as it depends how the university chooses to allocate its funding, but as Peter said it is more likely to negatively affect

postgraduate. This means that faculty societies such as Blackstone and WAMSS may be disproportionately affected.

- Peter adds that traditionally, UWA has been bad at it in that it allocates funding to a spot no one takes up. He has said they have to be smarter about the way in which they do it or it will start to hurt
- Hannah has said that the day of action is on the day of PROSH. She asks when it will be moved to.
 - Conrad said he will push for the 28th, but it's a tentative date and still needs to be confirmed.

6.3. WiFi Upgrades

- Conrad has said that this year, he is sitting on a WiFi upgrades group with the university as UWA has realised that they need to put more funding and priority for upgrades to WiFi zones. Conrad has asked for feedback if there are places, especially within the faculties, where there is poor WiFi should be prioritised.
- Peter Watson has said that he is worried, looking at the Music Library due to the large amounts of concrete there.
 - Izaak has said there are a couple of rooms where it works but, there are places where students are walking around unable to find a connection.
- Julian has said that at the moment, Monadelphous has a bit at the moment, but the E-zone construction will result in an increase in demand.
- Science Union has said that certain rooms in the engineering building are dead zones.
 - Rowan agrees that there are particular rooms in ECM where WiFi is completely dead and you can't do anything.
- Hannah Smith has said that the whole humanities building, and the Patricia Crawford courtyard are problem areas.
- Izaak has said that more specifically, the tutorial rooms and teaching rooms where one on one tuition is held, none are covered.
 - Conrad has said he has heard a lot about this from music students and it's something that's been raised, and will be prioritised.
- Conrad has said if there are any places that come to mind, send him an e-mail and he will raise it up with the group.

6.4. O-Day

- Conrad has said that in regards to Orientation Day stalls on James Oval, registrations with Guild Events is now open. This can be done through the guild website, or through the link on the O-Day Facebook event

- Conrad has said that traditionally, Orientation Day is traditionally when many clubs and Faculty Societies get a lot of their sign ups. He recommends having a stall at O-Day as it's a great day to engage with people, and sell merchandise.

6.5. Strategic Planning/Breakout Session

6.5.1. Background

- Last year, every meeting had a theme and there was a round table discussion for 10-15 minutes. Conrad has said this proved to be a good avenue for people to skill share and learn from everyone else.
- Conrad has compiled the notes from the last year. It is currently with the Guild design team and they will make it up for Conrad to send out hopefully just after Christmas depending on how long it takes them to get back to Conrad.
- It will contain a lot of tips from Faculty Societies last year.

6.5.2. What do you seek to gain from Ed Council this year, and how do you plan to contribute?

- Jacob Fowler has said they want help because the difference between the committee they had last year and this year is quite different. He says it's very critical to the Arts Union, and they might not have much to contribute at this stage because they are still learning.
- Rowan Sobey has said to steal ideas from other people and see if they have ideas they want to steal too so that everyone can be a bit better.
- Julian Bocking has said that historically, they haven't been great at Ed Council so they want to work on it.
- Conrad has said he wants to be able to gather a lot of feedback from the Faculty Societies to take back to the university and put in large representational effort.

6.5.3. What are the goals of a FacSoc?

- Julian Bocking: As a FacSoc we aim to represent students on a variety of issues ranging from educational issues to welfare issues to benefiting our students through careers-oriented events, and entertaining our students with fun social events.
- Joshua has said listening to students, which is something Blackstone historically struggled with.

6.5.4. How can we engage new members this year?

- Joshua has asked if there is a split high school cohort coming to university next year that's different.
 - o Peter has said there's a split cohort reaching postgrad.
 - o Conrad has said that is his cohort. There is a small cohort coming into postgrad next year.

- Jacob has said that their committee last year didn't have many social events. This year they want to focus on social events to attract students and get them through the door.
- Fraser Windsor has said that a great way to get engagement is to collaborate with the Pride Department, and if anyone would like to collaborate they could send through an e-mail. They want to get more involved with clubs and FacSocs, and would also like some advice on organising camp.
- Julia DeLorenzo has said they run a lot of social events, and that the BPhil Ball is their most successful event. However, they want to engage more people on the education side of things, running study sessions for members. They also want to open it up to other students outside of BPhil. They have a few ideas on how to reduce the reputation that BPhil is elitist. She says that BPhil has a fresh committee with a lot of ideas.

6.5.5. How can we retain members from last year?

- UEC is looking to make constitutional changes. Julian has said they currently don't charge for memberships, which means that UEC memberships are essentially useless as you don't get a lot of benefits from it, such as discounts. UEC is also planning to change their logo.
- Izaak has said that MSS runs historical events, which are all the same. This means if students go in first year they may not find a reason to come in second year. MSS is looking at revitalising events to draw people from upper years.
- Julian has said that they have spoken to the EMS faculty about is having a monthly catch up with staff and students, similar to the ay PSA holds Connects. This would be a way to have people actively involved, such as monthly beers with engineers.
- Conrad has asked WAMSS, who has a strong brand recognition with cohort, what makes them retain it so well?
 - o Lianne has said that on the one hand, they have a diverse cohort in their current year, and they ran a lot of family friendly events this year. However, the upcoming cohort will be mainly assured pathways, presenting a different target audience. They are thinking about what they can do on social media to cater for different audiences.
 - o Benjamin Palladino has said they have lots of contact with faculty, and standing up for students is their main goal. They also run a lot of different events, sometimes an event or two a week, which means they're constantly being recognised. They also use social media to provide people with information about upcoming WAMSS event. Given they are off-campus for the most part, they don't have as much overlap with other events on campus.
- PSA is working on getting demographic info from the university about the ages, faculties, international or domestic, male or female, and student numbers of everyone doing postgrad degrees. They want to use this to have super targeted marketing in the upcoming year.
- Su Sugandha has said to collaborate with companies. For example, ECOMS collaborates with companies for networking sessions, which encourages students to come down because it gives them something to think about for when they graduate.

6.5.6. What can I do to give value to my members?

- Rowan has said discounts.
- Julia has said mentoring relationships, which BPhil has a lot of. This gives the students encouragement to come to events, and introduces new students to committee.

6.5.7. What ways do you aim to innovate and grow as a society this year?

- UEC is getting a portfolio for the first time, as well as more ed reps than previously. UEC also claims to collaborate a lot more with the faculty and unit coordinators to get faculty-supported events.
- Conrad has asked Science Union how they innovate so well, considering they were the most innovative in 2017.
 - o Science Union has said they had a very successful camp, which was a large part of it. This resulted in a lot of retention, which means an increase attendance in future events.
 - o Conrad has said that something he liked to see Science Union innovate around was Science Week, which was the deciding factor in the award as it involved many students and added value through it.
- Jacob has said that in the past, the Arts Union hasn't done many career oriented events. They hope to increase career events in the future.
- Hannah has said that Arts Union has had a discussion with the Director of the Bachelor of Arts around the fact that Arts is a part of FABLE (Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Education), which makes it challenging to connect with staff.
- Izaak has said that MSS they want to shift their calendar to increase events at the start of the year, engaging people earlier on. The music department is also releasing new units and MSS is collaborating with staff to see how their concerts can be worked into some of the units.
- Blackstone is looking through their archives to get ideas from the past, and they said this has proven useful in innovating a society.
 - o Arts Union agrees. Getting in contact with an archivist will give you access to many resources and historical documents that can give you ideas from the past.
 - o Science Union also agrees about the usefulness of archives, having gained access to minutes from past years through it.
 - o Conrad has said that Melissa is the Guild archivist, working Wednesdays and Fridays, and has an assistant working other days. She can be contacted by email for resources.

6.5.8. What can the Guild do to better support you to reach these goals?

- Lianne has said there has been a lot of advertising this year, but more plugging of Student Assist, which is an amazing service.

- Conrad has said there will be a staff member addition in 2018, so there will be four full-time employed staff members.
- Julian has said UEC will send Conrad a lot of SPG's for welfare.

6.5.9. What were the strengths and weakness of your FacSoc last year? How can you learn from these points to ensure that you achieve your goals over the next twelve months?

- UEC has listed pros and cons:
 - A pro is that they had a strong fresher intake, which means a fresh and new committee in 2018.
 - Weaknesses include financial mismanagement, lack of organisation, failure in advertising events, which kept events from being successful
 - A way to address this is to attend more Ed Council meetings.
- Hannah has said that FacSoc committees tend to get caught in a bubble, and forget they are representing a larger group of students. Arts Union wants to increase their events so that they connect with a larger number of students, and have events that appeal to any student.

6.6. Research-led Teaching Project

- Conrad has sent out a discussion paper that's been part of a project group the university put together this year. The group has had focus on making teaching at UWA more informed by the research done.
- Julian has said that it's good to see the university increase focus on education and making Ed Council a higher priority.
- Conrad has said there have been four strategies running in 2017. These are the research-led teaching group, the mentoring project, which was discussed a lot in Ed Council last year, the collegiate system, and refresh orientation. These strategies that the university has been working on in the last year and has produced discussion papers that will go to the academic board, and from this the university will action plans to refresh education.
- Rowan has brought up Recommendation 10, about the SPOT and SURF surveys. He has said that less than a third of students do it, so pushing it to students to show them that if they wish to give feedback and see changes done, this is the way to do it. Rowan has said that teacher reviews are good as it tells the tutor if their teaching is done well. On the other hand, he has asked what the unit reviews do.
 - Conrad has said it is primarily used as a benchmark to compare units.
 - Rowan has said that if it can have a bit more impact or students can learn a bit more about it, somehow make it part of the online first year compulsory units, can show students how they can improve their education with their feedback.
- Peter has said that the university has a new Deputy Vice Chancellor of Education – David Sadler. Peter has said that one of the things David Sadler agrees on is that students are being surveyed at many different levels. This request of information overloads the students.

He wants to simplify it and restructure many of these surveys to actually give useful information back.

- Conrad has asked for general thoughts about the way teaching at UWA can be more research informed.
 - o Lianne has said the university needs to make clear how it will be useful when students graduate. Many students do research-focused units and not know what to do after they graduate.
 - o Julian has said that most of the research things he's found out is by actually talking to researches so a way to inform students is to have more events that link students up with them.
 - o Rowan has said that in finding out things like this, web resources and uni staff are not particularly useful. The best way for undergraduates to find out more is talking to postgraduate students and postgraduate supervisors.

6.7. Future Meeting Dates

- Julian has said that the proposed meeting for Tuesday the 20th March is the night before PROSH.
- Everyone agrees it's best to move it so that it's not on the night before PROSH. The March 20th meeting has been moved to the 13th of March.
- Conrad has said that any meeting dates can be moved if it's a big problem. He will send out meeting requests for meetings.

7. Close/Next Meeting

The next meeting of Education Council will occur on Tuesday 23rd January, in the Guild Council Meeting Room.

Proxies and Apologies must be sent to Patricia Paguio (ed-secretary@guild.uwa.edu.au) [21972436@student.uwa.edu.au] 48 hours prior to the meeting. Motions and Motion Attachments must be received by the Education Council Secretary by COB on the Monday, one week prior to the Education Council Meeting, which is to be circulated by COB on the Tuesday, one week prior to the Meeting.

All reports must be submitted to the Education Council Secretary by COB the Friday prior to the Education Council Meeting, to be circulated by COB the following day, on Saturday.