

Minutes

Murdoch University Guild of Students

Acknowledgement

"We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands on which this meeting is held. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to country and pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal peoples".

December 2021-2022 COUNCIL

Details

Date: 13th December 2021
Time: 13:00
Venue: Guild Building

2022 Council Attendees

- David Ugrinov Guild President
- Chewe Chisanga General Secretary
- Shaanan Suthesh Education Vice-President
- Vishwa Hewage Women's Rep
- Gisele Pang Misa President
- Luke Morgan Queer Rep
- Tarek Mohammed MUPSA President
- Allira Scott Indigenous Rep
- Kevin Kurian OGC
- Christopher Nonis OGC
- Ryan Garvey OGC
- Andre Hoogenboezem OGC
- Minh Hoang OGC

2022 Council Apologies

- Jaztine OGC

- Zoe

Sustainability Rep

Agenda

Content:

Part A: Standing Items

1. N/A

Part B: Items for discussion and decision

2. General updates

Meeting starts: 1:18PM

David: This first meeting, we do not have too much on. It's the end of the year and the university's winding down. It is this time of the year where they do all sorts of things like the summer art soirée, the art gallery, the last meeting with the academic council and senate. We have met with Jane ?.... She's our new interim. A very wise and experienced lady. She has been at UWA, Deakin and a couple of other universities. She has been the Vice Chancellor, so it has been very good to have her as the interim. We also have announced our new Vice Chancellor, Andrew Deeks coming in from Ireland after Easter. He is just finishing an 8-year term as Vice Chancellor/ President.

We also had the MSL Graduation that we attended and also negotiating additional lease extensions on our commercial operations. I did mention a little bit before in the induction that essentially our leases on the Tavern and the office space ran out in March. It was a 15-year lease and the Chief-Operating Officer at the time gave the guild a 15year lease. However, the recent COO offered us a very small lease on the office space in the Tavern. We negotiated with him, and he bumped it up to five years on the office space and three years straight on the Tavern. That is still not very secure long term, so we are now negotiating with the acting Chief- Operating Officer and so far, we are going to get 15 years on both, as well as an increase

on the Kadj lease. We are doing some renovations in there. I want to do a separate presentation on that so we can bring in the Architects and Project manager from PDCSO to give a recap or show it to you for the first time. We are just waiting on the prices on that.

We had the end of year Senate dinner. We were all there. The Chancellor said very good things about us and the Guild, about our conduct within the university and our professionalism. We also had the **council induction** last month and we have been having our one on one with the councillors. Previous Guild President Jethro has just been elected to Senate as an alumni representative and we are all very busy at the moment in the office. We have the yearly audit on the way. Every year we undertake an audit and usually it's a top-tier firm, but they were unavailable this time around, so we are going with **RSM** which is still very reputable. So far no issues have come up with that but I will let you know what they say at the end of the audit.

One thing I do want us to set is the monthly council day and time. We want to see if it will work easier if everyone knows they have to be free on one day and time of every month or whether it has to be more flexible during the semester, but we wanted a trial to see how it goes. That way, we can put it in place for the rest of the year. We will get a poll set up or something Chewe or if anyone has any ideas on how we can do that, better.

We had the one on ones with people to figure out what they want to do with the year 2022 and how we can facilitate that. Thank you to everyone who has done the one on ones and those who have not, please reach out to us as soon as possible. We want to catch up and hear your ideas and see how we can make those come to life. Does anyone have anything they want to discuss? Those are the general updates. Do you guys have anything you want to add?

Chewe: Yes, the role of EVP. It was a busy one year. I helped over 600 students with complaints, appeals and misconducts. The university is structured in a way where we have the Student Appeals Committee, **so the Education Vice President is the one who sits there with academic staff.** It's the highest point where students can appeal to in case of anything that they have.

So it is like the high court of the university. I sat on those and we had more than 70 cases brought to us and the majority of them were wins for the students. The students benefitted with that. I also sat on the university education committee, where we discussed the majority of issues like the GPA being

restructured starting 2023 so there is going to be a way in which we calculate our GPA and I think Shannan will continue from there.

We also discussed some confidential stuff which I cannot release now but I think all students will know what is going on with that around June/July 2022. We also discussed the restructuring of the misconduct policy. It's something I have been looking at and I worked with Student Assist on how we can restructure the misconduct policy and hopefully it will be of benefit to students because staff only know what is going on their side.

They do not know how it impacts students so getting it from a student's perspective was really helpful. We also had a restructure with Academic Council.

So, starting 2023 we are now going to have ex-officio of the international president of MISA because MISA is not included in Academic Council.

David: Yeah, the two VPs

Chewe: So, starting 2023, we will make sure that we have MISA plus the two elected students. Another thing we also worked on this year was the restructuring of the Nursing Calendar because nursing students have a way in which things are organised.

Most units are structured in a way whereby you can only do them in Semester 1, so if you fail, you have to wait for the following year in order to do that unit.

So we have tried to restructure it so we can have some units that students need to graduate on run for the whole year and that's something that has also been happening in Law where we pushed for them to offer a unit for the whole year because it was only offered in semester 2 but it's something we worked on and it's going to happen next year.

For Nursing, it's also going to start happening in 2023. We also looked at the academic calendar for 2024, 2025 and 2026 so we have already planned that, so we organised it with the previous council we had and it's already been planned.

It's going to be something different unlike the one we have always had and the one we are used to, so good luck to those that will be here in 2024, 2025 and 2026. I think that's all for the EVP role.

We have a lot to do. We will mostly be organising the sports activities because when we went to Senate, we talked about revamping sports activities on Murdoch campus. I am looking forward to working with you council, in revamping that idea and hopefully it will be a success next year. I think I will pass it on to Shannan.

Shannan: I will just talk a bit about the Guild ball that happened. So, me and the committee organised the Guild ball. We started in July.

It was pretty slow when we started organising it. When it happened, there were a couple of issues but nothing big to the extent where students were impacted during the ball. I took it upon myself to lead the team and it went great.

This year hopefully, I can pass that reign onto someone else. I will definitely help because it's a pain organising a ball. Other than that, for the ball, good feedback.

So now I am EVP, and we just had the Senate meeting where I presented some of my ideas which were the Aspiring Artist program and the changes to MSP. People in the Senate were really happy about it and will definitely be looking at Council to come on board this project and assist with me.

There will also be a lot of opportunities for education committees like **Academic Equality, ...** I haven't received my email yet so I will let you know when I know all of these committees but definitely if any of you all are interested in the education portfolio, just reach out to me and we will figure something out.

Minh: Can I just explain on that note, it's obviously a lot of information so I'm thinking, is there a way we can better organise this huge amount of information? I get that you guys have a lot of tasks and I feel like at some point you do need help and assistance from other members of the Council as well. So, should we share a Google Doc or something like that where we can put all the information?

Shannan: Yeah, I mean, that would be perfect but now we are having issues with our emails so that's why you guys haven't received your emails as well. So, once we have figured the technical side of it out, we will have an open document for everyone to have a look at as well.

Then I can update everyone on the different committee positions available and you can choose, and I'll put a short description on each committee because each committee has a specific task that they are heading towards so it will be good for everyone to know what these committees are and then see if they feel that this will be of best interest to themselves as well.

David: One thing we did last year, and I did mention it, actually I'll say it again though. There are some committees, where we saw that some of your roles weren't ex officio on there so there was like a queer committee and the queer wasn't ex officio on there, like, the university just found someone and

put someone on there. So, once the emails get sorted out, which is tomorrow, we will find out whether we're staying on the same emails or whether we are going onto the university system which is with Outlook, which I would rather not because I hate Outlook, it's so bad. So, at the moment we use Gmail. It just works so much smoother and is so much easier to see. So, that's one thing to do with those committees, so, those generally fire up about February, so we still have the rest of this month and next month. We will put you guys in touch with the people once their emails get fired up and that kind of thing. So, yeah, we don't really have anything more to say, but, do you guys have anything you want to talk about? You don't have to talk about it here, you can speak to us after. Any sort of issues you guys have or anything like that. I'm going to say, just make sure you get to us for the one on ones and we can catch up for a coffee or lunch and have a chat. Do you have a question?

Minh: Yes, so I am still confused in terms of the budget. So when are we going to have the final numbers

David: Yeah, we don't have the staff numbers yet

Minh: Yes, but do we have an expected date that we are going to have the numbers?

David: Probably in the next month maybe

Chewe: Yes, it's usually presented in late Feb because that's when we have enrolments in, everything sorted out, staff numbers are out

David: We haven't been given the staff numbers so we have to wait on the numbers

Minh: So that will be another two months?

Chewe: At the most, two months

Shannan: Hopefully we can get it by January

Minh?: So we should be expecting January/ early Feb or early to late Feb ?

Chewe: Late January or probably near February

David: We will do a separate presentation on that too 5 days before the council meeting, have a think and then come into the next council meeting. It gives us some time to probably think about it.

Luke: This week will be busy for me...

David: I can imagine before Christmas probably everyone is trying to wrap things up for the year

Luke: Early January, I was planning on having an unofficial event at mine. Just inviting everybody, you're more than welcome to come if you would like

David: 100% will come for that

Minh ? : I feel like the university has a tendency of doing whatever they want without consulting us as the Student Council. I know for a fact that this year, Minh's both Queer Representative and working as the student ambassador so it's a bit different but I'm sure without her role as student ambassador, the university is going to implement Pride month and all the programs without consulting the queer representative.

Luke ? : Yes, so my impression is that Minh is on leave at the moment. But, the impression I got from them was that it's through the queer committee on campus, which I'm already a part of. That was my impression but I'm already going to get in contact with quite a few people in order to organise events like orientation day and the quiz speech at orientation.

Minh: That's good but just bring up the issues for the whole council in general. I feel like we should really demand more attention or at least consultations from the university.

Luke: Are you meaning with the ???

Minh: With anything. We were discussing Disability/ Disability day, etc. Not until it was brought up that we need to consult disability representative as well ??

Disability Rep : Yes I think that's something the Council has to work on this year. We have to put our foot in the door. We need to have a say in all the different committees and events especially for people representing groups that will be attending certain events. I know I personally have a plan for being more involved in the committee and how they are interacting with the students, so I think it might just have to be a personal objective until we find a unified fund.

David: So it helps if you know who is running but there's the line of them reaching out to you because they know you or they are reaching out to you because you work in a capacity or because you're on the council. It's hard to know. As long as you are getting reached out to. Unfortunately, if they do not include us then we don't know until it's too late. I think it was last year that we started getting involved in orientations and there was a little bit of a gap apparently – 2018 or 19. Sometimes it's difficult with the university in some departments they have a high turnover rate. The team that was doing the orientations used to swap around every semester/ every orientation and that makes it difficult. So to work on that, I can speak to the line manager of that department. If it's the pride months that fall under the Health, Equity, wellbeing, I can speak to the manager for that and just let him know. How far away is that?

Luke: Pride month?

David: Yes

Luke: It's in November

David: I can always chat to these people in January.

Minh: Not a statement but a good impression in terms of wanting to be more involved

David: Yes I can just catch up with them

Luke: I want to set up a stall for the Queer Collective at orientation. Do you know who I need to speak to about that?

David: The team hasn't been set up yet for orientation.

Minh: Do you know when they will assemble or start taking names essentially? When will that be? I assume next year

David: Yes, in January. So, this time of the year, they're all wrapping up 2021 things and January they start. I know that from the looks of it, the orientation seems to be a bit more preplanning. I remember in 2020 they planned it 6 months in advance because they were doing something different every year and it was a different team. There is a bit more stability with them now. I know the guy who will be in there. I will tell him, and I will let you guys know.

Meeting ends: 1:41PM

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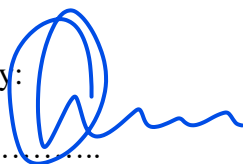
Approved by:



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