



## **1. WELCOME AND OPENING**

Jack formally opened the meeting by acknowledging that the Guild Council was meeting on Noongar land and that the Noongar people remain the spiritual and cultural custodians of the land and continue to practice their beliefs, languages and traditions.

### **1. Attendance**

Nevin Jayawardena (Guild President), Alexandra O'Brien (Treasurer), Megan Lee (VP), Vinuri Gajanayake (Secretary), Owen Myles (PSA President), Audrey Tascon (PAC President), Lina El Rakhawy (Education Council President), Jack Looby (Chair), Sean O'Leary (Environmental Officer), Darryl Loke (ISS), Tyson McEwan (Welfare Officer), Hannah Matthews (Womens Officer), Jacob Colangelo (Sports Rep), Bryan Quah (OGC), Joseph Chan (OGC), Luke Andrew (OGC), Pheobe Ho (OGC), Zee Ibrahim (OGC), Justin Workman (OGC), Michael McKenzie (OGC), Lewis Hutton (OGC), Rigel Paciente (Pride Officer), Tonia Curby (Pride Officer), Jayne Rae Whitby (WASAC Chair), Sofia Kouznetsova (VACE Chair), Alexander Robinson (Sports Council President), Ruth Thomas (Pelican Editor)

### **2. Apologies**

Dionel Desuzer (OGC), Danni Carol (RSD President)

### **3. Proxies**

Chris Scherini (for Reece Gherardi), Sean O'Leary (for Michael Kabondo)

### **4. Observers**

Taylor Home, Nadhan Wythin, Jeremy Cole, Alexander Thatcher

### **5. Absent**

None.



## **ACCEPTED**

### **2. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Megan declared a conflict of interest with motion 8.5 as she is on the National Executive and stated she would be abstaining.

Owen declared a conflict of interest with motion 8.3 as he is a member of senate. Council deemed that no action needed to be taken.

### **3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

1. February Meeting Minutes
2. April Meeting Minutes

## **ACCEPTED**

### **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None.

### **5. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

1. Catering and Tavern
2. Corporate Services
3. Equity and Diversity
4. Governance
5. Student Services
6. Volunteering and Community Engagement
7. Welfare and Advocacy
8. Workplace Health & Safety



## 9. Tenancy

**ACCEPTED**

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

## 7. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

### 1. Managing Director's Report.

Report as tabled.

### 2. Associate Director Corporate Services & Finance Report

Report as tabled.

Most departments below budget, the only one over budget is Guild Council because legal expenses in April, but that is because of timing differences so the overall Guild Council budget is still below.

Due to timing issues in the previous months, Pelican was over-budget by quite a bit. However, as of April they have cashed out and are now over by about \$1000.

ISS is also over-budget due to additional expenses of the publication, particularly with lower sales this month. Additionally, the cost of their Rottnest excursion was higher than anticipated and the revenue was lower.

The Welfare Department appears to be over budget because they received a grant which was put in the President's budget, so they just offset each other.

SSAF for this month was higher than budgeted, as some has accrued from last year. The Tavern is under-budget by around \$1000, which is a very good improvement



from last month which recorded a loss. Catering had a pretty good first three months of the year which allowed them to recover some of the loss from this month, so they were only around \$23 000 short of the budget.

A procedural was moved to move into camera. **Carried.**

An in camera discussion was had.

A procedural was moved to move out of camera. **Carried.**

**3. Associate Director of Student Services Report**

Report as tabled.

**4. Associate Director (Commercial) Report**

Report as tabled.

**ACCEPTED.**

**8. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (OPERATIONS)**

1. That the 104<sup>th</sup> Guild Council accepts the resignation of Sophie Coffin from WASAC Chair and welcome Jayne-Rae Whitby into the position.

*Moved: Nevin Jayawardena; Seconded: Vinuri Gajanayake*

The motion was put. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. That the 104th Guild Council accept the attached Guild Vehicle policy as approved by Corporate Services and Governance committee.

*Moved: Luke Andrew; Seconded: Jack Looby*



Jack moved the Chair to Nevin.

Luke said the policy governs the use of the Guild car and has gone through both Corporate Services and Governance Committee.

Jack acknowledged some comments Owen made regarding section 12.4(b). It should read that "Insurance cover may be voided if the driver is breaking the law subject to the Vehicles Insurance Policy".

The motion was put. **PASSED.**

**For:** Nevin Jayawardena, Alex O'Brien, Vinuri Gajanayake, Owen Myles, Sean O'Leary (for Michael Kabondo), Audrey Tascon, Megan Lee, Lina El Rakhawy, Jack Looby, Bryan Quah, Darryl Loke, Hannah Matthews, Luke Andrews, Joseph Chan, Zee Ibrahim, Justin Workman, Lewis Hutton, Alexander Robinson, Chris Scherini (for Reece Gherardi)

**Against:** None

**Abstentions:** Michael McKenzie

3. That the 104<sup>th</sup> Guild Council accept the drafted UWA Partnership Document, which will then be submitted to the University for approval.

*Moved: Vinuri Gajanayake; Seconded: Nevin Jayawardena*

Vinuri emphasized that the partnership provides a guideline for the undertones that any documents between the University and the students should have and the values that need to be kept in the minds of both parties.

Nevin reiterated that it was a draft to be sent to the university to provide their feedback on it as well. Once the feedback has been received, it will be sent to



Council for approval then further to Academic Board and potentially Senate. The document is largely symbolic and aims to achieve a cultural change and to model the relationships between students and Universities in the UK. It allows us to encourage more representation on the decision making bodies and the University Exec will also consult more with students not only in the final decision, but during the whole decision making process.

The motion was put. **PASSED.**

**For:** Nevin Jayawardena, Alex O'Brien, Vinuri Gajanayake, Owen Myles, Sean O'Leary (for Michael Kabondo), Audrey Tascon, Megan Lee, Lina El Rakhawy, Jack Looby, Bryan Quah, Darryl Loke, Hannah Matthews, Luke Andrews, Joseph Chan, Zee Ibrahim, Michael McKenzie, Alexander Robinson, Chris Scherini (for Reece Gherardi)

**Against:** None

**Abstentions:** Lewis Hutton, Justin Workman

4. That the 104<sup>th</sup> Guild Council accept the Sustainable Meeting Guidelines and follow the guidelines for all Guild run meetings and events where possible.

*Moved: Sean O'Leary; Seconded: Zee Ibrahim*

Sean said these guidelines would help us minimize the negative environmental impacts of Guild Council and Committee meetings and reduce our carbon footprint.

Owen clarified that these guidelines were non-binding- they were just thing we should try and achieve.

The motion was put. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**



5. That the 104th Guild Council requests that the Managing Director writes to the WAEC in order to conduct the petitioned referendum addressing the question "That the UWA Student Guild disaffiliates from the National Union of Students", in conjunction with the 2017 Guild elections.

*Moved: Michael McKenzie; Seconded: Lewis Hutton*

Michael M said he was approached by a surplus of different students that have a problem with NUS and wanted to move this referendum. He said that a lot of people believe the NUS is a waste of money. This motion is a formality which will allow Tony to speak to the WAEC, and the referendum will take place during Guild elections.

Lewis said that they collected over 500 valid signatures which resultantly triggers a referendum. He said we would want it to be during Guild elections to save costs so we need to speak to the WAEC as soon as possible.

Nevin said that as per 5.3.2 of the Guild Regulations which says that the "Guild Council will determine all matters of detail in connection with any referendum" it would be counterproductive for the whole Council to be a part of that process. He proposed an amendment that Council directs Governance Committee to create a terms of reference for a Referendum sub-committee that would determine the process and rules of the referendum.

Lewis said the amendment was not substantial or necessary, as the wording of the motion was made on advice from Tony.

Nevin said it would take a lot of time for Council to all review the details, and it would actually be counterproductive. The sub-committee could establish a set of regulations for the referendum and present that to Council for approval. He said it's better sooner rather than later to have a set of rules for the referendum.



The amendment was put. **Passed.**

**For:** Nevin Jayawardena, Alex O'Brien, Vinuri Gajanayake, Owen Myles, Sean O'Leary (for Michael Kabondo), Megan Lee, Lina El Rakhawy, Bryan Quah, Darryl Loke, Hannah Matthews, Luke Andrews, Joseph Chan, Zee Ibrahim, Alexander Robinson, Chris Scherini (for Reece Gherardi)

**Against:** Michael McKenzie, Justin Workman, Lewis Hutton

**Abstentions:** Audrey Tascon, Jack Looby

Megan asked if they had done this in accordance with the NUS constitution.

Lewis said that after this year the UWA Guild Regulations say that such a disaffiliation has to take place with the Guild elections whereas the new NUS regulations say that they have to be separate. He said that whilst the two conflict, out regulations should trump those of the NUS.

Megan clarified that her question was whether Michael and Lewis had checked with the NUS on the wording of the motion as there have been some changes as to what such a referendum should look like.

Lewis said that on consultation with Tony, that was unnecessary.

Zee said that she is fully in support of the motion, but she believes it is a political move as opposed to a genuine question of student interest because NUS has fought and won three times against the cuts to higher education. She said she believes that paying around \$1 from her SSAF for affiliation to the NUS is much better than paying large sums of money for her degree.

Justin said that when he spoke to people he saw that they were appalled at the events that occurred at the conference and when he tried to break down the





benefits of spending all this money for one conference each year, a lot of people were disappointed at the amount of money we are sending over East.

Owen said he spoke to Tony about the cost of running the referendum, and he said that as we are losing the Senate ballot this year, the actual cost this year shouldn't change that much from last year as we would be substituting one ballot for a new one.

Lewis said he looks forward to seeing students being able to have a say on this and that UWA moves forward from this referendum.

Jack moved the Chair to Nevin.

Jack said that it's fantastic to see the engagement from a petition for a referendum but his concern was that it is something already covered in Guild elections. Whilst he appreciates that this may not directly increase the costs of the election, this is something that is a well known policy point at Guild elections and a well known differentiation between the two major tickets. He said we could've saved money from not conducting a referendum, and that the \$1 spent on federal representation is perhaps a good thing.

Justin asked what price could we put on democracy. He said that whilst he appreciates the money that Jack would like to save, the money that could be saved after disaffiliation would outweigh the costs of the referendum. He added that as per the regulations, we need to have the referendum in conjunction with the elections.

Jacob said that there are people who have never voted in Guild elections but are interested in this topic and want to vote for NUS affiliation/disaffiliation as it is change that they can make by themselves.



Michael M said that he was overwhelmed by the response from the student body and that this referendum allows for accessibility to this issue, and that he would encourage everyone on Council to give a lot of thought into what UWA can do better than it already does in terms of its internal focus on UWA students.

The motion was put. **PASSED AS AMENDED:**

That the 104th Guild Council:

- a) requests that the Managing Director writes to the WAEC in order to conduct the petitioned referendum addressing the question "That the UWA Student Guild disaffiliates from the National Union of Students", in conjunction with the 2017 Guild elections.
- b) Directs Governance to create a terms of reference of a Referendum sub-committee that will determine the process and rules of the referendum.

**For:** Nevin Jayawardena, Alex O'Brien, Vinuri Gajanayake, Owen Myles, Sean O'Leary (for Michael Kabondo), Audrey Tascon, Jack Looby, Bryan Quah, Darryl Loke, Hannah Matthews, Luke Andrews, Joseph Chan, Zee Ibrahim, Justin Workman, Lewis Hutton, Alexander Robinson, Chris Scherini (for Reece Gherardi), Michael McKenzie

**Against:**

**Abstentions:** Lina El Rakhawy, Megan Lee

Nevin passed the Chair back to Jack.

## 9. REPORTS

### 1. Guild President

Report as tabled.



**2. Vice-President**

Report as tabled.

**3. Secretary**

Report as tabled.

**4. Treasurer**

Report as tabled.

**5. Education Council President**

Report as tabled.

Lina has approached the university libraries to get student consultation on a CARS review and they are looking for a second year student and a first year student to be a part of that.

They have also received the numbers from the FacSoc food pantry competition and they have raised 1247 items, with ECOMS being the winners.

**6. Public Affairs Council President**

Report as tabled.

**7. Societies Council President**

Report as tabled.

**8. Women's Department**

Report as tabled.

**9. Welfare Department**

Report as tabled.

**10. Environmental Department**

Report as tabled.

**11. International Student Services**

Report as tabled.

**12. Pride Department**

Report as tabled.

**13. Guild Sports Representative**

Report as tabled.

**14. WASAC Chair**



Report as tabled.

**15. Postgraduate Student's Association**

Report as tabled.

**16. Pelican Editors**

Ruth said that Pelican were working on their 5<sup>th</sup> edition and have appointed two new section editors- one fashion editor and one news editor.

**17. Volunteering and Community Engagement Committee Chair**

Report as tabled.

**18. PROSH**

Angela said that the amount raised was around \$51 000. Three charities were given \$9000, and \$4000 was given to the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC). The three other charities applied to be PROSH beneficiaries, but PROSH approached SARC as they are a government agency and can't apply for these kinds of things.

Nevin congratulated Angela and Skevos on the time and effort they had put into the development of the event and acknowledged how much of an impact that PROSH has not only on UWA but also the wider community.

**19. OGC's**

1. **E&D Chair-** They have done a survey being circulated to student parents on campus and are in the process of talking to Easter Universities about their models. They also ran a Lived Experiences event in conjunction with the Welfare Department which went well.

**20. Governance Chair**

Jack said that Hannah has been working on the proxy agreement and the PSA honorarium which will be brought to the next Council. He will be writing briefing documents regarding the Guild regs to be sent to Jackson McDonald.



**ACCEPTED.**

## **10. QUESTION TIME**

Michael M asked if Alex could explain what she was doing with the collegiate system project.

Alex said she is currently doing research into what other universities are doing and would have more information at a later date.

Nevin explained that as part of the University's refreshed education strategy, there are going to be four key focus areas: mentoring (co-chaired by Vinuri), research (co-chaired by Owen), new orientation plan (co-chaired by Megan) and the collegiate system (co-chaired by Alex). The collegiate system involves setting up 'colleges' within the university that each student is assigned to, with the idea of setting up a sense of belonging and establishing an easier point of contact for students. Initially, the university exec were going to be running it by themselves but the Guild managed to get student co-leads on each of the projects so Nevin nominated Alex for the collegiate system project.

Lewis asked about the Guild election promise of having healthy meals for \$5 or less at all Guild outlets and whether we have made progress on that.

Alex said that they're currently test-trialing the meals so that if they are successful they would continue them afterwards.

Nevin added that we had \$4 value meals which consisted of things like rice and meatballs, but since then Jack has been working on creating a more extensive menu e.g. the \$3 paella at Quobba Gnarning.

Jack asked Lina how the NUS protest went.



Lina said that there were quite a few students in front of Reid Library, which was a good meeting point as a lot of students walked past. There were quite a few speakers and then they headed into the city, which had a good turnout. There were also a lot of other things on such as the panel discussion, so people could go to those if they didn't want to protest.

Michael M asked how many people were at the protest.

Nevin said it would've been around 100.

Jacob asked Rigel and Tonia on their thoughts on the ECOMS LGBTQ networking night.

Tonia said that they both attended and congratulated ECOMS on a fantastic night that should definitely be done more.

Rigel agreed and said that a lot of his projects for Sem 2 require collaboration with people outside of the Guild, which was something that the LGBTQ night really facilitated.

## **11. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)**

1. That Guild acknowledges that importance of Volunteering to students and the University, and approves the following for inclusion in the Guild Policy Book:
  - a Guild Council recognises the economic and social benefits of volunteering to the UWA, Australian and International communities. Encourages all students to participate in volunteering activities that are available to them through Guild Volunteering and other external organisations.
  - b That all volunteering should as far as possible be acknowledged and recorded. In particular, that volunteering done by UWA students be able to be recognized in either their academic or Guild transcripts.



- c That Guild will provide opportunities for students to volunteer in a diverse range of fields through Guild Volunteering and will continue to promote the value of volunteering to future students.

*Moved: Jack Looby; Seconded: Vinuri Gajanayake*

Jack passed the Chair to Zee.

Jack said that he and Vin approached Sofia and found that there was nothing in the policy book about volunteering. As a growing and very important part of where the Guild is heading, it's beneficial to include this in the policy book to recognize the work that has been done. The wording has been vetted by Sofia who helped them write it and she is very happy to see Guild Council acknowledging all the work of the volunteers.

Vinuri added that volunteering is a huge part of the student experience and that adding this to the policy book reiterates our stance that we are in support of the value that students hold for volunteering

Michael M spoke for the motion and said it was excellent initiative to continue showing the Guild's support for volunteering.

The motion was put. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. The 104th Guild Council condemns the creation and distribution of any materials that deny or diminish the atrocities committed as part of the Holocaust. It pledges it's full support behind the Australasian Union of Jewish students and any students at UWA who have been affected by this act of anti-Semitism and



reaffirms it's stance taken in 2015, that all

UWA students have the right to feel safe on campus.

*Moved: Megan Lee; Seconded: Owen Myles*

Megan proposed to amend the motion to:

"The 104th Guild Council condemns the creation and distribution of any materials that deny or diminish the atrocities of the Holocaust and acknowledges that these leaflets have no academic basis whatsoever. Furthermore, the Guild Council

condemns all forms of antisemitism as defined by the London Declaration on Combating Antisemitism and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. It commits itself to supporting all students at UWA, particularly Jewish students, who have been affected by acts of antisemitism and reaffirms its stance taken in 2015, that all UWA students have the right to feel safe on campus. The Guild Council further commits itself to continuing to work collaboratively with the

Australasian Union of Jewish Students to tackle issues related to antisemitism and Holocaust awareness."

Megan said she sent the original motion to the President and VP of the Australian Union of Jewish Students who were substantially happy with the motion but added some extra things in to be more in line with the stances that other Guild Councils have taken around the country.





The amendment was put. **Passed.**

**For:** Nevin Jayawardena, Alex O'Brien, Vinuri Gajanayake, Owen Myles, Sean O'Leary (for Michael Kabondo), Audrey Tascon, Megan Lee, Lina El Rakhawy, Jack Looby, Bryan Quah, Darryl Loke, Hannah Matthews, Luke Andrews, Joseph Chan, Zee Ibrahim, Justin Workman, Lewis Hutton, Alexander Robinson, Chris Scherini (for Reece Gherardi)

**Against:** None

**Abstentions:** Michael Mckenzie

Megan said that in conjunction with AUJS they have been collecting witness statements and working with the Head of Security who has found multiple persons of interest. That footage and information has been sent to the WA Police.

Owen said that his car was one of the ones that got hit by the flyers, which are quite deceptive and don't appear to be harmful until you go on the link that they promote. It's not an isolated incident and appears to be a coordinated campaign occurring in universities all around the country. CAPA, the national body for postgraduate students, has put out a press release on this and provided some guidelines for what people should be doing. This motion is a symbolic point to support the students affected by this and to stop it at the source.

Nevin said that yesterday some swastika stickers had been going up as well and there were a few people wearing a Nazi flag as a cape at one of the events in the Tav. He encouraged anyone to report any behavior they find suspicious.

The motion was put. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED:**



The 104th Guild Council condemns the creation and distribution of any materials that deny or diminish the atrocities of the Holocaust and acknowledges that these leaflets have no academic basis whatsoever. Furthermore, the Guild Council condemns all forms of antisemitism as defined by the London Declaration on Combating Antisemitism and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. It commits itself to supporting all students at UWA, particularly Jewish students, who have been affected by acts of antisemitism and reaffirms its stance taken in 2015, that all UWA students have the right to feel safe on campus. The Guild Council further commits itself to continuing to work collaboratively with the Australasian Union of Jewish Students to tackle issues related to antisemitism and Holocaust awareness.

3. The 104th Guild Council directs the Student Services committee to ensure that in the review of the Guild Media Policy, a clause is included that ensures that all the Guild's audio and video communications be closed captioned. The 104th Guild Council acknowledges that this is a small but important step in ensuring that the Deaf and hard of hearing students have equal access to the Guild and the student experience at UWA.

*Moved: Megan Lee; Seconded: Pheobe Ho*

Pheobe and Megan have been working with Drisana who is a member of the access collective and also a deaf student. The access collective is asking for the Guild's support in ensuring that the university is catering to those students who are hard of hearing, as currently they don't have the ability to access the Guild's services and student experience in the same way as other students. Close-captioning the Guild's audio and visual communications will ensure that all students will be able to engage with the Guild, and this motion directs the Student Services Committee to ensure that.



Pheobe echoed Megan's comments.

Zee asked how our situation was in terms of AUSLAN.

Megan said it's done on a needs basis e.g. a student who is registered with UniAccess and needing an interpreter will have one for all of their classes, but may have to negotiate with university for extracurricular activities as interpreters are very expensive.

The motion was put. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### 4. The 104th Guild Council:

- endorses the National Union of Students, 'Your Rights at Work, Uni & Home' campaign;
- condemns the cut to penalty rates which will disproportionately impact students, locking them out of equal access to a higher education; and
- condemns the 2017 Federal Budget's proposal to introduce drug testing, cashless welfare cards and a demerit system for welfare recipients.

*Moved: Tyson McEwan; Seconded: Megan Lee*

Tyson said that the campaign revolves around Centrelink and the issues that students have with it. The cuts to penalty rates makes it very difficult for students to gain an income and support themselves whilst in uni.

Megan said that the proposal demonizes welfare recipients and the drug-testing is quite cost inefficient. She said it's important that the Guild supports this campaign for the number of students who receive youth allowance and require those payments to be able to access higher education.



Ruth said she didn't understand why the Guild made motions like these as they don't seem to have any power to enact any change by passing them.

Megan said that the Guild has both a service delivery function and a representative function, so we are also there to be the collective voice of students. Additionally, by endorsing the campaign, the Guild can do things on campus to support that campaign e.g. petitions. She said that whilst it may look performative, it's important for student who are impacted negatively by the budget to see that their student representatives stand with them.

Nevin said he received an email from the NUS Welfare Officer asking for UWA's support in putting together a letter opposing the cuts to the crossbenchers in the Senate. This motion allows for Nevin to sign that letter on behalf of the Guild.

Lina added that Guild Council has a representative function. For example, if the government were to ban Muslim people from the country, Council would say that they condemn the governments anti-Islamic decision so that Muslim students at UWA know that they are supported by their representatives. The point of these kinds of motions is to fulfil the Guild's representative function.

Jacob said that more needs to be done than just a stance if Guild Council wants to address issues such as this. He said that students don't see the point in these motions being passed if they can't see the tangible action being taken.

*\*The rest of the discussion was cut off during the recording so the following notes were taken\**

Zee, Tyson, Lina and Megan spoke in favour of the motion and outlined that the said proposals made it difficult for students to get welfare payments, treated students



like criminals and disproportionately impacted students with disabilities. They said that it essentially punishes those that need help instead of providing support.

Justin spoke against the motion by explaining that some welfare recipients were actually wasting government money and putting Australia further into deficit. He added that the issue wasn't relevant to students and as it was federal policy, the Guild would not be able to do anything about it.

Megan responded that the government should get their priorities right and stop giving the multinationals tax cuts in order to fix the deficit.

Nevin added that the motion would allow him, as the President, to sign a letter to Senate cross-benchers on behalf of UWA students.

The motion was put. **PASSED.**

**For:** Nevin Jayawardena, Alex O'Brien, Vinuri Gajanayake, Owen Myles, Sean O'Leary (for Michael Kabondo), Audrey Tascon, Megan Lee, Lina El Rakhawy, Jack Looby, Bryan Quah, Darryl Loke, Hannah Matthews, Luke Andrews, Joseph Chan, Zee Ibrahim, Chris Scherini (for Reece Gherardi)

**Against:** Justin Workman, Lewis Hutton, Michael McKenzie

**Abstentions:** Alexander Robinson

**Absentia:** Vinuri Gajanayake



5. That the Guild Council:

- a reaffirms its stance that Student Representative workspaces, such as the Student Representative Room and Bob Nicholson Room, should not be used for Guild election campaigning to ensure there is a divide between the operations of the Guild and Guild politics;
- b Extends this stance against Guild election campaigning to communal club spaces, such as the CCZ and Cameron Hall, so as not to impact the facilities available to clubs and their members.

*Moved: Jack Looby; Seconded: Owen Myles*

Jack passed the Chair to Nevin.

Jack said that the motion reflects the current policy of the Guild that student representative spaces are to remain separate from campaign spaces. He said we need to keep the operations of the Guild separate from the club spaces and acknowledge that communal club spaces need to be respected.

Owen said that this doesn't mean a candidate can't take a phone call about the election in the office etc. It just means you can't go into the space for the purpose of campaigning. Extending this to club rooms and the CCZ didn't exist when this policy was put forward initially, but it's reasonable to create a divide between Guild politics and the responsibilities of club execs.

Justin asked if any recent incidents have provoked the motion.

Jack said it was something he had been thinking about for a while, and as he wrote the CCZ policy it is something that is important to him.

Nevin moved a procedural to give Taylor speaking rights.



Taylor asked if 'club spaces' extends to club rooms or whether it was the loft and the CCZ specifically.

Jack said that the intention of the motion was just for communal club spaces.

Lewis asked if it was true that in previous years the NUS club room was used as a campaign room.

Jack said it was true and it was with the permission of the State Branch President at the time. If a particular political faction were to use a room without permission, he would find that to be a serious assault on club spaces.

Lewis asked if this motion would prevent such use.

Jack said it wouldn't- the motion only relates to communal club spaces e.g. the CCZ, Cameron Hall loft etc.

Michael asked what the tangible difference of this motion would be in terms of the rules being broken.

Jack said he would expect this to be binding such that if a political party did for example take over a room of the CCZ, Guild Council would have to take action accordingly.

Michael asked whether this includes the Bob Nicholson Room and the President's Office.

Jack said that student representative spaces are currently under this policy.



Lewis spoke in favor of the motion and said that it would stop people from using spaces such as NUS club rooms and the president's room for campaign meetings.

Jack reiterated that this motion isn't against clubs deciding whether they want to support a political party and offer them their club room, but simply against political parties using communal spaces as well as club rooms without the club's permission.

The motion was put. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. The 104<sup>th</sup> Guild Council condemns the rise of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on University campuses (including UWA), stands strongly in support of the Australian Jewish Community, and updates our policy handbook to reflect these changes.

*Moved: Lewis Hutton; Seconded: Justin Workman*

Lewis said he thinks it's horrible to see such actions happen on campus and this behavior is spreading to Australia from America and the UK. He said that after speaking to people from AUJS and students from the Jewish community, they have said that they want the Guild to take a stance on which side they wish to be on. He encouraged Council to vote for this motion in order to show that they are not on the side that discriminates against Jewish people and denies them of their spiritual home.

Justin echoed Lewis' comments and added that it's important to stand with Jewish students, particularly those coming from Israel, so that they feel comfortable in Western Australia.

Lina asked whether this motion reflected the same spirit of the motion passed earlier.





Lewis said that it's a similar spirit but a drastically different motion, as the one before was reactive to what had happened whereas this one was both reactive and proactive in creating a safe space for Jewish student from Israel.

Nevin proposed an amendment to split the motion into two parts, as he believed most people would support the 'anti-Semitism' part of the motion but there would be more discussion surrounding the 'anti-Zionism' part.

Michael M said that by dividing the motions it loses the point of them. He said he didn't see the rationale of doing so as it weakens the message behind the motion, which was worded to have specific effects by the elected representatives, and that doing so was silly politics.

Lina said that she didn't think it was Michael's place to say that it's not okay to divide the motions, as it is in the standing orders that democratically elected

representatives are able to amend motions as they see fit. She said she didn't think it's silly politics to divide it into one motion that all or most of Council would be in favor of, and another motion that is much more controversial. Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism are completely different issues that shouldn't be voted up together or voted down together.

Lewis said it was hypocritical to do this as there was previous discussion on the first part of this motion being the same as the previous motion. He said the motion had been made in consultation with students from AUJS and the wider Jewish community on campus, and that it's important to take a stance in support of the religious freedoms of students from Israel.



Nevin said that he wanted to have the choice to vote for the part of the motion that he agreed with and not vote for the part that he didn't agree with. He said that Michael saying he should just vote down the motion all together is a political move in itself as there as been a history of 'Save Campus Culture UWA' posting motions without context saying that members of Guild Council didn't agree with the whole motion when in reality they just didn't agree with parts of it.

The amendment was put. **Carried.**

Motion was amended as follows:

- 1) The 104<sup>th</sup> Guild Council condemns the rise of anti-Semitism on University campuses (including UWA), stands strongly in support of the Australian Jewish Community, and updates our policy handbook to reflect these changes.

Lewis said that it's good to take a stance, update the policy handbook and create a safe space for Jewish students.

The motion was put. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 2) That the 104<sup>th</sup> Guild Council condemns the rise of anti-Zionism on University campuses (including UWA), stands strongly in support of the Australian Jewish Community, and updates our policy handbook to reflect these changes.

Lewis said that he has had students from the Jewish community approach him on campus and saying that they don't only feel unsafe because of discrimination based on their religion, but they're also not feeling safe in the way that people are telling them that the country they come from is inferior and doesn't have a right to exist.



He said that Guild Council should accept that these students have the right to be proud to be from a country that has the right to exist after a genocide of six million people and create a safe space for them. By passing this motion, we would be one of the first universities in Australia to take this stance and we would see an influx of students by creating a safe space for them.

Justin echoed Lewis' comments and said that Israel is a place where people are welcome regardless of their background, which is in stark contrast to other areas, so it's a shame that people are misled to believe that Israel is not a place of happiness.

Owen asked Lewis what he defined 'anti-Zionism' as for the purposes of the motion, as there are a number of different definitions that exist.

Lewis said he used the Oxford dictionary definition.

Owen read the Oxford dictionary definition for 'Zionism' which states that it is "a movement for (originally) the re-establishment and (now) the development and protection of a Jewish nation in what is now Israel. It was established as a political organization in 1897 under Theodor Herzl, and was later led by Chaim Weizmann".

Lewis clarified that anti-Zionism is the idea that the state of Israel doesn't have the right to exist.

Justin reiterated that its profoundly disgusting the distaste people have for Israel- an area set up as a place of refuge for people after the atrocities of the Holocaust. He said that Palestine is incredibly racist towards Israel and is literally set up to not let Jews in as a country that denies Jewish entry and hates Jewish people.



Jack said he understands that there are very deep political views on this issue and it's important to be respectful to both sides of the spectrum. He said it'd be good for the speaker to avoid inflammatory speech whilst making their point.

Justin said that it's important that the Guild takes a stance in support of students from Israel and we cannot discriminate in these issues regarding who we stand in support of.

Lina said that her being against this motion is not her being against students from Israel, but rather her against Council being in support of the State of Israel itself, which is two very different things. She said that Justin made it seem as though the people from Palestine were kicking the people from Israel out, but in fact Palestine was an established State until it was colonised by what is now the State of Israel, and we are now erasing the experience of the Palestinian people just like we did when calling Australia, a British colony when it was Aboriginal land. She added that she didn't think they could say Centrelink isn't relevant to students but then say that anti-Zionism is relevant to students. She said she personally has had family who went to Palestine to provide medical aid and got shot dead by Israeli soldiers, so it is something very close to her heart. She added that she knows a very well-spoken Israeli person who's grandparents died in the Holocaust but he completely opposes the State of Israel because what Israel is doing to the Palestinians now is exactly what happened to the Jews in the Holocaust. She said that this isn't something that we should be taking any political stance on, especially this particular one.

Jack passed the Chair to Nevin.

Michael said that this is a proactive motion in protecting the Jewish students of UWA and whilst it may look like a battle of ideological stances, we are actually making a proactive policy to let students know that we support them. By being one of the first



Australian universities to take this stance, it welcomes incoming students to the UWA community. He said that the issue is an important one to many students and at the end of the day we can come to a conclusion with rational, logical understanding of one another.

Jack spoke against the motion. He said anti-Semitism is something that shouldn't be tolerated on campus because discrimination against people of different backgrounds is never okay and the Guild needs to support that. On the other hand, anti-Zionism is a political issue. They are two very different issues and should be treated separately.

He said that supporting anti-Zionism does not mean that you are condemning the Jewish people or religion, but rather the political actions by that particular community. He also acknowledged the power imbalance involved- the Israeli people are some of the wealthiest and most technologically advanced in the world whereas people in the Gaza strip are getting killed and living in slums. He said that when Zionism has perpetuated human war crimes as set by the UN it self, it's not trite of the Council to split the motion and debate the two issues separately.

Lewis said that to compare what is happening to the Palestinians to the Holocaust is a falsification of facts. He said that anti-Zionism is the belief that Israel shouldn't exist, when the state was created by the UN after the Holocaust so that the Jews could have a safe place to live. He said that students really care about the issue and Council should condemn the rise of anti-Zionism on campus just as we should condemn the rise of any other extreme movements like it.

Zee said that you can't say that the atrocities that are happening in Palestine are any less than those that happened in the Holocaust, as they are different types of atrocities within different political scenes and you cannot compare them. She asked Lewis how he can compare two different lives.



Lewis said he would rather see no one be killed and he is not saying that we shouldn't stand in support of Palestinian students on campus. He said he thinks the Holocaust was different to this scenario, as the Holocaust involved Jews being taken into concentration camps and killed, whereas the Israel Palestine issue is a war where terrorists are attacking the Jewish state and the Jewish state is responding. He said it's not very relevant to bring up that comparison, and the most relevant point is that Jewish students on campus are feeling unsafe. He added that the website on the posters said that "the Holocaust was fake because the Israelis wanted to take over the holy land" and AUJS asked him to respond to that, which he is doing by condemning anti-Zionism.

The motion was put. **FAILED.**

**For:** Justin Workman, Michael McKenzie, Lewis Hutton

**Against:** Nevin Jayawardena, Alex O'Brien, Sean O'Leary (for Michael Kabondo), Megan Lee, Lina El Rakhawy, Jack Looby, Bryan Quah, Darryl Loke, Hannah Matthews, Luke Andrews, Joseph Chan, Zee Ibrahim, Justin Workman, Lewis Hutton, Alexander Robinson

**Abstentions:** Chris Scherini (for Reece Gherardi), Owen Myles, Audrey Tascon

**Absentia:** Vinuri Gajanayake

## 12. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

## 13. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Guild Council Governance & Conduct- A matter will be referred to the discipline committee for breaches of in-camera Guild Council discussion.
2. Partnership and Strategy Update
3. NUS KPI's- OB's will receive an email from Governance asking for feedback on NUS.



4. Statute Package- The Chair asks that Departments send their rules and policy through to him.
5. The Tenancy Chair and Welfare and Advocacy Committee position are to be elected at the next Guild Council, as Reece is stepping down. Nevin asked that everyone be respectful of the parties involved so that no further rumours would be spread.

#### **14. CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00pm. Please contact the Guild Secretary ([secretary@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:secretary@guild.uwa.edu.au)) with any apologies or proxies. All office bearers and department officers will be available at 5.30pm immediately prior to the meeting. If unable to attend, please advise which dates you are available to reschedule, if a quorum cannot be met.