

Report to the ECU Student Guild Senate

20 Feb 2018

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President

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Visited, alongside some of the operations team and other Secretariat members, commercial operations being operated by the Curtin and UWA Student Guilds. This was hugely beneficial as we learned about organisations such as TAG that will allow us to reduce the cost of alcohol at our future commercial operation at JO22.

Met with Kathryn Clarke and Rajes Shenton. This was the first contact regarding the 2018 SSAF Steering Committee that will eventually allow for the 2018 Guild Budget to be approved. We made headway into more detailed reporting regarding the University's SSAF and they have agreed to publish a detailed annual report outlining their SSAF expenditure. They have since followed up on this and are contacting all university departments responsible for spending SSAF money.

I began work on what will become our new Partner Portal; that is, a section of our website that will put into a single place an access point for any organisation that we have a partnership with. At current, this is the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA). Going forward we will have formal partnerships with:

- Unions WA
- National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU)
- Retail and Fast Food Workers Union (RAFFWU)
- State School Teachers Union of Western Australia (SSTUWA)
- Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation (ANMF)
- Teaching and Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA)
- Foundation for Young Australians (FYA)
- Headspace
- Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC)
- United Voice WA

The trade unions were chosen following research into the predominant employers of our membership. We found that approximately 65% of students aged 18-24 were employed in either the retail or hospitality sectors, and a further 15% were involved in a sector that would either be covered by United Voice or by the NTEU. The SSTUWA and ANMF were chosen for their capacity to represent education and nursing/midwifery students whilst on prac, respectively.

I was the Guild's representative on the Student Appeals Committee and took part in 6 separate student appeals. While the details of each appeal must remain confidential for the sake of the claimant, we came across a problematic systemic problem with regards to the marking procedure for Honours

students. I intend to lobby to have the policy and supporting procedures changed with support from the Guild Student Assist team. We may have to enter mediation with Edith Cowan University to have the decision in this particular case overturned.

Greg and I met with Careers & Leadership to discuss our Guild Volunteer Program. This was a useful meeting and gave us good direction. Certain members within ECU have been opposing transcript recognition of volunteer hours becoming part of such a program. Subsequent meetings between myself and the Vice-Chancellor, Steve Chapman, have made us aware that the university is very keen for us to get this off the ground. The program has been wholly endorsed by the university's Executive. Meetings will now take place between myself and the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Arshad Omari, to overcome any technical problems that Careers & Leadership initially faced. This will consume most of my time after o-week and Guild week.

Between the 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of January, I attended a Presidents' Summit hosted by the National Union of Students. This was extremely useful and will massively help us develop tools to make effective submissions to parliamentary inquiries, among other things. A detailed report-back of the Summit will be tabled in the Senate for your reading.

The Guild has been asked to get involved with Research Week and I met with its coordinator. We will tie this in without volunteer and so it is important that this is finished ASAP.

Greg and I paid a visit to Bunbury and we quickly went through some budgetary things for 2018. We also came across the fact the food and beverage options are, for lack of a better word, shit. The university has said they will cover the cost of a fitout for us to operate a commercial operation at the Southwest campus. I will keep the Senate updated on this but we've found out that the current situation is only interim.

I had my monthly meeting with Steve Chapman to let him know of our plans. He said he would investigate the university's contribution towards our fitout. He has since said that we should submit an ambit claim and they will help as much as they can.

Several long days were spent to plan and create the program for Guild Clubs' Training Day. The days turned out to be a success and we had lots of positive feedback regarding the format.

Mt. Lawley O-Day was also very successful, and we saw more students come through than we expected.

I gave a presentation to the university's senior executive – about 30 executive staff who run the institution from day to day – detailing our plans and ambitions for the year and what we've achieved so far.

In summary, they said that it was the best content/presentation ever delivered to them by the Guild. They said that we are organised to a level that they have never seen at this stage of the year, that our plans are ambitious and lofty but achievable, and that they believe the Guild is in safe hands.

Jo Quinn has also advised me that they have two analysts who can help us when writing submissions to parliamentary inquiries, should we ask for their help. Similarly, John-Finlay Jones has said that we can make use of staff resources within the Graduate Resource School to make sure that any surveys we run are of statistical value; that is, we ask questions in a way that can be used to make claims about a topic. This will be super important when we run large surveys on the ECU experience or on peoples' rights at work.

Hamish from Traffic & Security is going to have a proper workshop session with us to deal with parking at ECU once and for all. I asked about the option of some parking infrastructure spending and he said it is already on the cards and also offered some other solutions such as using unused oval space for the first 4 weeks of semesters (their data shows that for the past 5 years, beyond week 4, there are always free spots). He has also advised against us running a parking survey or collecting any data because they've spent tens of thousands on equipment that records all sort of data – parking numbers, peak times, number and types of cars, number of students on campus at any time, number of students sleeping on campus – they have it all. He wants to share all of that data with us because he said that he's confident that this Guild Senate might actually be able to help sort it. This has implications beyond just parking and the data could be used for all sorts of programmes and initiatives. Very good indeed. His department has also created an app that can be used by up to 6000 students to signal distress, on and off campus, to his team. Upon pressing the button on the phone, it sends them a signal and GPS location as well as records audio and video. Further, they have committed to having all T&S staff trained in Mental Health First Aid and have also appointed a Gay and Lesbian Officer (GLO) to help deal with Equity issues they may face. He has asked that Caitlin, Vesh and myself work closely together with him on that. They also want to work with us in a closer capacity to deal with on-campus events to reduce costs for us both.

The Chancellery are happy with the legal situation surrounding our café opportunity at JO22 (i.e that it will be set up in a way that protects it from a rogue Senate)

Club affiliations are on track and we are slowly pouring through them when we have a spare hour or two.

An NUS KPI letter was jointly formulated by me and the Presidents of the Curtin, UWA, ANU, Flinders, and Melbourne student unions. Our NUS accreditation this year will likely be \$5000, subject to them meeting the KPIs.