Minutes

Senate Meeting 9

Senate 2026

Date	17/09/2026
Time	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Location	JO.31.447
Present	Aneeba Ashraf, Sheharyar Sahi, Kerrianne Romero, Hamed Kariman, Sadiq Abbas Badriwala, South West Officer, Sonam Wangmo, Deshithan Manokaran, Wasif Aurko, Masoumeh Alikhani, Bhautik Khetia, Valentina Vorotilova, Yashkamaljot Cheema, San Kader San Kader, Jackson Bell, Joel Muchengi, Lisa Dwyer, Michael Agostini
Absent	Asad Ali
Note Taker	Aneeba Ashraf

Agenda

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1 - Senate Meeting 9

2 - Acknowledgement of Country

3 - Attendance

The Chair opened with attendance confirmations, including several participants joining online and the presence of observers from operations and finance. The roll call was partially affected by transcript distortion, but the discussion established that the Senate was proceeding with the listed office bearers and staff observers.

4 - SSAF Feedback Presentation

Kylie Austin presented an early analysis of the 2027 SSAF survey after a rapid turnaround following the survey's closure on Friday. She reported about 1400 responses, later referring to about 1500 participants, and said the current 2027 SSAF yield estimate was roughly $2.8 million. She clarified that there had been no structural change to 2027 charging, while 2026 changes had already lifted online student SSAF from 30 per cent to 50 per cent and removed charges for incarcerated students.

Kylie also outlined a proposed future change for part-time students, moving from the current semester-based approach to charging by EFTSL. Under that model, students at 0.25 EFTSL would pay 25 per cent, half-load students 50 per cent, and 0.75 EFTSL students 75 per cent. She said the change would be fairer, would not materially alter overall SSAF application, and might affect around $40,000 annually, but would require approximately $200,000 in student-system changes and about a year to implement.

In the early priority analysis, the top five student priorities overall were student health and wellbeing, affordable food and drink on campus, financial and emergency support, employment and careers, and study skills and academic support. Kylie separated out the areas most relevant to Guild-deliverable services, identifying affordable food and drink, financial and emergency support, advocacy and advisory services, and student volunteering and community engagement as the strongest Guild-facing priorities. She also noted that health and wellbeing, affordable food, and financial support had all become more important over the past four months.

By contrast, study spaces and transition to university had become less important since last year. Kylie linked that shift to improved orientation work over the previous 18 months and the effect of new facilities at City Campus. She said the strongest single impact area identified by students was cost-of-living support, including emergency financial assistance, hardship grants, affordable food, accommodation support, affordable housing, placement support, and scholarships or bursaries.

Kylie said the University had already invested $3 million this year in new scholarships and bursaries and had added financial counselling on campus. She also said further work was underway with Lisa and Sheharyar on food security solutions, with early discussions already held and a further meeting to be scheduled in the coming weeks. Additional demand themes included internships, industry placements, networking, and career coaching, with students linking employment outcomes closely to the value of attending university.

Support for online and regional students also came through strongly, with Kylie reporting that online students were feeling isolated and saw too much activity focused on those physically on campus. She said this would shape Student Life priorities, alongside stronger support for international students. Health and wellbeing needs remained prominent, with students asking for expanded counselling, crisis support, online mental-health support, and peer wellbeing programs.

Kylie added that students often found support pathways difficult to navigate, and the University therefore wanted to create a single front door so students could go to one place for help. On awareness and usage, she said awareness of Guild services was high but utilisation remained lower than expected, especially in some areas. Students who had used services reported strongly positive experiences, community programs supported belonging, and a significant cohort still did not understand the full range of services available, pointing to a need for more targeted communication and outreach.

Masoumeh asked whether future planning would address physical health support as well as mental health. In response, Kylie said the University had increased counselling staffing to 20, reduced the waiting time from 8 weeks to less than 10 days, and could often see students within 3 hours on the same day. She said the Living Room now operated year-round from 9 to 4, online mental-health needs were under review, and broader health planning now included exploring allied health options such as dietitians and physiotherapists at the health service.

Masoumeh also raised the need for better gym access and later campus food availability. Kylie said the University was considering what should be added in the second City Campus building and was conscious of feedback about sports and health facilities, especially gym operating hours. She also acknowledged the issue of cafés closing before evening classes ended and said discussions were beginning with campus environments about food provision. In response to a further question on food support, she said ECU was examining food pantries, possible expansion to Bunbury, and the model of low-cost student food outlets used at other universities, while recognising that these programs require substantial institutional investment.

The Chair thanked Kylie for the presentation and noted that the findings aligned with increasing demand across food, financial support, and other student services. Kylie said a fuller data pack would be prepared and shared with Senate after the rapid initial analysis.

Task: Prepare and circulate the fuller SSAF survey data pack to Senate following the rapid initial analysis.

[redacted]

5 - Proxies

6 - Declaration of Conflict of Interest

7 - Circular Motions

The Chair noted that two circular motions had been sent out during the month and that both had already been approved, each with one abstention. The discussion did not revisit the substantive merits of those motions in detail during the meeting.

8 - Approval of Previous Minutes

The Chair invited senators to review the minutes from Senate Meetings 7 and 8 and asked whether there were any questions. The exchange was procedural and brief, with no substantive amendment discussion captured in the transcript. Yashkamal Cheema moved the approval of the previous minutes, Deshithan Manokaran seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Decision: Motion SM2609/01 [Proposed]
The ECU Guild Senate agrees that the attached minutes from Senate Meeting 7 and 8 are accurate and can be published on the Guild's website once redacation has occurred. Moved: Seconded: Results:

9 - Office Bearer Reports

Senate then moved through office bearer and staff reports. Most items were progress updates covering meetings, events, onboarding work, collaborations, and upcoming semester activity, with the most detailed governance content arising later in the Operations Manager report.

9.1 - President

Sheharyar reported attending multiple Faculty meetings, Secretary meetings, food-pantry review sessions, and the CTP Project Board meeting. He said work on the food pantry was continuing, including volunteer arrangements, and he had also held operational follow-ups with Lisa and Michael, reviewed club share requests that would return later in the agenda, and attended the last Council meeting.

He also referred to planning and coordination work across several Guild activities, including the annual dinner, an online support event for online students, academic-integrity working group participation, and event planning with Kerrianne and Valentina. He closed by noting recent work over the previous two weeks on additional Senate-related matters.

9.2 - General Secretary

Aneeba reported attending weekly meetings, annual club-related work with Sheharyar, and follow-up discussions with Lisa and Michael. She said she had reviewed clubs, discussed podcast ideas with Sam, prepared meeting agendas, and progressed planning for upcoming events including the cultural festival and social activities.

She also referred to email management, first-onboarding communication, and administrative work associated with active files and Senate processes. The report was brief and operational in focus.

9.3 - Vice President Social Responsibility

· Met with the President to discuss ongoing departmental priorities, updates, and upcoming events and initiatives.
· Met with the Equity Officer to plan upcoming equity events, orders and logistics, scheduling, and ongoing departmental activities.
· Met with the Environmental Officer on planning the second Thrift and Thrive event, Zoo Tour, Animal Farm, and other environmental and initiatives.
· Met with the First Nations Officer to discuss departmental events, student surveys, and weekly online chillout sessions.
· Attended Secretariat meetings t
· Attended three Student Appeals Committee (SAC) hearings t
· Met with ECU People & Culture, Student Life, and Guild Advisory Officers to discuss collaboration, on R U OK Day and planning the day.
· Met with the Student Hub Director and Graduate Research Dean to discuss concerns raised through Danjoo and explore follow-up actions.
· Attended the Respect at ECU Advisory Group Meeting
· Attended the Equity and Diversity Committee meeting
· Attended the TACTLC meeting
· Maintained ongoing discussions with Unions WA regarding collaboration and relevant women workshops.
· Conducted four representatives' interviews
· Attended the ECU Online Connect Services session with the President to present Guild services and provide information to students.
· Four sessions of free yoga classes with snacks and drinks provided to students.
· Assisted with the Women's Workshop at the Joondalup campus.
· Assisted with the Equity Quiz Night at the Joondalup campus.
· Assisted with Wear it Purple Day at the Joondalup campus.
· Worked with ECU Student Life to coordinate and deliver R U OK Day activities at the City and Joondalup campuses.
· Supported First Nations student online chill-out sessions and discussed student engagement initiatives.
· Coordinated and delivered the Zoo Tour event.
· Worked on the Animal Farm and Equity Movie Screening event planning and delivery.
· Assisted with the Garden Therapy event to support student wellbeing.
· Assisted with the First Nations student survey to First nation officer to gather student feedback and engagement.
· Supported the First Nations team performance at Multicultural Night.
· Approved event forms for the Wellbeing Club
· Continued coordination and arranging relocation of the Equity Space to the Pride Room.
· Worked on the development of the sunscreen initiative.

9.4 - Vice President Academic

· Had done couple of meetings with President, Postgraduate and undergraduate officers.
· Had couple of meetings with Lisa and Michael

· Attended Secretariat meetings
· Attended couple of meetings regarding Food pantry
· Attended 5 SAC meetings
· Interviewed and appointed School rep for SMHS
· Chaired PSD & USD meetings
· Had meeting with Career and employability team and discussed the event with collaboration
· Attended curriculum and academic board meetings
· Attended orientation lunch sessions for SAH & SB&L
· Attended ECU Musallah Usage meeting with security, equity and staff members
· Done couple of meetings with Academic club team members
· Successfully organized Lunch and Learn event
· Successfully organized Industrial tour
· Successfully organized Career connect event for School of Engineering
· Successfully organized Maritime Museum Tour
· Successfully organized Aviation tour
· Organizing Barista training on 7th September
· Organizing First Aid mental heath training on 9 october
· Organizing White card training on 12th October
· Organizing focus writing and wellbeing session on 9th October
· Attended office and managed day to day affairs
· Attended Independence day event
· Attended club carnival
· Attended Start of semester party

9.5 - Vice President International

Valentina noted that she had been appointed Vice President International at the end of August. She said this period included completing a career-connected event linked with her previous representative role and then shifting into induction and access arrangements for the new position.

Her main recent focus was the multicultural dinner held on 11 September, including promotional work, external invitations, and preparatory meetings before the event. She said the international budget had since been reviewed and there was still remaining funding for additional activities. Planning was now moving towards both entertainment and educational programming, including possible work rights information, observatory-style education activities, a movie night, and collaborative events with the social and activities areas.

She also referred to work on events with the Malayali Club and to outreach with alumni and other industryconnected contacts who might support future workshops or presentations for international students. The report emphasised that the portfolio was still in an early establishment phase following her appointment.

9.6 - Vice President Activities & South West

Yashkamaljot reported regular planning meetings with portfolio colleagues and South West officers, as well as repeated contact with the library engagement coordinator. He had also attended meetings with a club at Joondalup regarding parties there, attended a food-related meeting, and supported recent events including a start-up themed event and broader social programming.

He said he had also assisted with the multicultural celebration dinner and continued planning for forthcoming activities including a Halloween party and music-related events. The report highlighted continued work with clubs and event organisation to support international collaboration and wider student engagement.

9.7 - Social Officer

Bhautik reported successfully hosting a Bollywood party with strong student participation and helping to organise weekly Tuesday activities with Yash. He also assisted at the multicultural dinner and discussed further ideas including a possible Rottnest Island trip and the upcoming Halloween party.
He said the team was continuing to develop future social events and explore ways to improve student engagement through those activities.

9.8 - Sports Officer

The Sports Officer’s report was only partly intelligible in the transcript, but it referred to recent participation in a discussion session, involvement in the multicultural festival, career-connect related activity, and volunteerstyle support work. The record was not clear enough to extract further reliable detail.

9.9 - Southwest Officers

Participated: South West Officer

Jackson reported weekly kitchen orders, grocery receivals, and daily top-ups in the student common room. He also restocked merchandise tables, updated posters weekly, responded to student enquiries about the Guild, passed on student complaints to campus support, and maintained weekly follow-ups.

He said he had also supported RUOK Day through the smoothie bike and information table, undertaken general communications with the Operations Team, Senate, campus support, and the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and voted on the circular motions. Two meetings had been postponed due to illness and were scheduled to occur the following week.

Joel's update in the transcript was brief and fragmented, but it referred to collaboration with Social Responsibility and the President, organisation of RUOK Day at City Campus, a free workshop activity, and participation in a celebration event the previous week.

9.10 - Equity Officer

Sonam reported communication with the Vice President Social Responsibility regarding upcoming events and said she had organised and run a garden therapy event at City Campus in collaboration with ECU. She also participated in a representative interview alongside Wasif, attended the RUOK Day event at Joondalup, and was planning an Old MacDonald-style activity and another event in the following week.

9.11 - Environmental Officer

Garden Therapy Event – 9 September: Organised and coordinated the Garden Therapy event at ECU City Campus, including event planning, communication, logistics and coordination with relevant stakeholders. The event focused on student wellbeing through decorating pre-potted succulents with positive affirmations. · Representative Interview: Participated in a representative interview as part of my Student Guild responsibilities and contributed to promoting the role and student engagement.
· Email Correspondence: Managed and responded to emails regarding events, student engagement, bookings, logistics and coordination with internal and external stakeholders.
· R U OK? Day Event: Attended and supported the R U OK? Day event at Joondalup Campus, engaging with students and supporting wellbeing-focused activities.
· Perth Zoo Event – 24 September: Organised and coordinated the Perth Zoo student event, including participant arrangements, communication, logistics and coordination with the relevant stakeholders. · Old MacDonald's Farm Event: Currently organising the Old MacDonald's Farm animal interaction event at Joondalup Campus, including coordination, risk assessment, logistics and event planning.

9.12 - First Nations Officer

Kerrianne reported organising Welcome to Country for the multicultural dinner and liaising on cultural protocols and arrangements. She had also launched the First Nations Student Engagement Survey, with 18 responses received by the day of the meeting and about half of respondents entering the separate prize draw. She provided follow-up support to students who had difficulty accessing or completing the survey and was progressing the associated incentives, including vouchers and incentives linked to the online meet-andgreet.

She also hosted the first Come Yarn with Kez online meet-and-greet, which drew 3 attendees, and had begun planning the next online session for 30 September. In addition, she met with Masoumeh to explore a hybrid First Nations student event in October and continued engagement with Kurongkurl Katitjin on future opportunities and collaboration.

Kerrianne said she had debriefed recent activities with Mister May, started building a Guild reference list of Elders and appropriate contacts for Welcome to Country, established contact with the National Union of Students' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander officer, and continued attempts to connect with the Guild's First Nations student representative. She was also beginning analysis planning for the student engagement survey once it closed the following week.

9.13 - Undergraduate Officer

Wasif reported convening a USD meeting with school representatives and holding multiple meetings with Asad around organised events. He also onboarded a new representative for the School of Arts and Humanities.

On activity delivery, he said he had organised an aviation tour, supported the Bollywood party, helped at RUOK Day in the South West, joined a quiz-style event with Yash, assisted Sonam with the garden therapy event at City Campus, and attended the multicultural dinner. He also organised career-connect sessions for the School of Arts and Humanities and for Business and Law, and said future work included mental health first training and white coat-related training.

9.14 - Postgraduate Officer

Hamed reported a number of meetings with Asad and with school representatives, particularly from the School of Medical and Health Sciences and Nursing. He had also attended the School of Engineering RTS Committee.

He said the portfolio had already run a career-connect event for the School of Business and Law and was planning a showcase for the end of October as well as a further career-connect event for the School of Medical and Health Science.

9.15 - International Officer

Participated: Sadiq Abbas Badriwala

Sadiq reported several planning and debrief meetings regarding the multicultural dinner, including discussions with the President, Aneeba, Nicole, Valentina, and other organisers. He said the portfolio had successfully delivered the Multicultural Carnival, AMAC, a Party of Migration event, and the Multicultural Dinner Festival.

He thanked the wider Senate and operations team for their support and described the dinner as a successful event. Looking ahead, he said he had begun discussing future events with the Vice President International, including movie nights and planning for the Malayali and autumn festival activities.

9.16 - Operations Manager

Lisa reported that Guild membership had decreased to 26,109 students. She said academic support appointments had reduced, but demand for welfare and financial support had increased. Use of Guild spaces remained strong, with City Campus recording 4,221 engagements and Joondalup 2,491 engagements, which she said demonstrated sustained student use during the semester transition.

On governance risk, Lisa warned that Senate meeting minutes remained unpublished and that this was now creating material governance and funding risk for SSAF compliance. She said the University had advised that Quarter 3 SSAF funding would not be released until the minutes were made available to members. She also pointed to recent governance concerns in the wider sector, including developments at the University of Queensland Union, as evidence that regulators were paying close attention to financial controls and publication obligations.

Quarter 2 had been submitted to the University, although no feedback had yet been received. Lisa then moved to operational matters at City Campus, noting that internet provision remained unresolved after the original Telstra contract was cancelled because no timely installation commitment had been provided. A different plan was now being developed. She also raised acoustic issues in office 1.N441B, saying Multiplex intended first to install a door seal even though she believed the problem related to sound transfer through the vent.

Cleaning issues at City Campus were said to be largely resolved, although they would continue to be monitored. In work health and safety, Lisa said the point-of-sale drawer ergonomic issue had now been fixed and reminded everyone to seek assistance when moving large deliveries after a recent injury. She also reported a burn incident in the Joondalup kitchen when a student preparing noodles spilled hot water onto their hand. First aid was provided, the kitchen layout was adjusted to improve movement, CCTV coverage was widened, and the student had since been checked on without further reported issues.

The most significant WHS matter was an electric shock incident involving a club member undertaking unapproved activity in a lab. Lisa said the club had not sought approval for the activity or the space, and the student had not initially reported the matter through Guild processes. Because the incident involved electric shock, it had to be reported to WorkSafe WA and Western Power. Western Power had already advised the

University about the use of certain power points in that lab, and the University had removed them. Lisa said WorkSafe had not yet issued guidance but was likely to require a report.

She stressed that the incident had intensified focus on the risk management of clubs. The University was introducing controls starting in the School of Engineering before broader rollout, and the Guild would also need stronger oversight to meet obligations under work health and safety law. Lisa noted that if a similar incident had occurred off campus without protections such as RCDs, the consequences could have been catastrophic. She explicitly reminded senators that significant personal penalties can attach to serious WHS failures.

On major projects, Lisa said the food pantry was now fully onboarded, volunteer numbers remained low but were improving, and stock issues had improved significantly after the introduction of a one-entry-per-week rule. The branding rollout was largely complete, with city signage still awaiting approval and Joondalup signage approved but pending an installation date. For the website redevelopment project, she said the circular motion had already passed, the request to the Vice-Chancellor to draw down reserves had been formally submitted, and the successful supplier was waiting on confirmation.

Risk management activity remained high, with 21 risk assessments completed across operations and events in the past month and no extreme or high risks above tolerance identified. Lisa said the main weakness was insufficient detail in some event plans, making it harder to judge whether controls were appropriate. She therefore asked senators to provide fuller event descriptions when submitting forms. Across investigations, 2 had been completed, 3 were ongoing, and 1 possible incident was still being examined.

Lisa also reported two complaints in the previous month. One concerned support received through the Guild Advisory Service and was closed without any finding that staff had acted improperly or given incorrect advice. The second concerned election nomination wording using the phrase mentally unfit, which had been taken directly from the Constitution. She said the student was advised the wording could be considered in any future constitutional review but could not be changed ad hoc, and the complainant was satisfied with that response.

On finance and compliance, Lisa reiterated concern about underspend. She said the mid-year underspend at the end of Quarter 2 was $191,000, which would attract ECU's attention, and that a more detailed Quarter 3 analysis would follow. She identified International, Postgraduate, Social, Sports, and South West as the Senate budgets then tracking well below allocation, stressing that the period ahead was the last realistic opportunity to avoid reporting material underspend.

Club finances showed the opposite pressure. Lisa said club floats were $2,000 over budget after a strong increase in demand over recent months. She reported that 17 clubs had reached a third float top-up, 9 had reached a fourth, and 3 had reached a fifth. In grants, 56 had been issued to date, leaving just over $10,000, with roughly another $6,000 already in the pipeline and subject to Secretary approval.

She closed with broader compliance items. August superannuation and employee super were up to date, although a live contract review suggested there might be some exposure still being worked through. On insurance, she said a new travel policy was being established to cover staff and senators travelling on Guild business, which would avoid the need to arrange individual insurance for each trip.

9.17 - Financial Controller *Participated:*

Michael Agostini Key finance-related matters were addressed within Lisa's operational report, including underspend, club floats, grants, superannuation status, and the upcoming travel insurance arrangement. No clearly separate Financial Controller presentation was captured in the transcript.

10 - Priority Items

Senate then turned to the formal priority items. The transcript captured substantive discussion on the CIDC policy package, especially the acceptable use changes, while the clubs affiliation item did not receive separately identifiable discussion.

10.1 - Clubs Affiliation

The two clubs affiliated were The Nutrition Hub and WASMA Film Society. Yashkamal Cheema moved the motion, Sadiq Abbas Badriwala seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Decision: Motion SM2609/02: [Proposed]
The Guild endorses the successful affiliation of the above clubs under their respective Tier. Mover: Seconder: Result:

10.2 - CIDC Policies

Senate considered the CIDC policy package that had already been reviewed through circular motion CC2026/03 and presented for approval for distribution. Members were directed to the circulated summaries of changes, with discussion concentrating on the Acceptable Use Policy rather than reopening the procurement or corporate credit card amendments.

A member asked for clarification on the strengthened bring-your-own-device requirements, particularly the reference to support for remote wipe functionality, and questioned whether the wording implied remote access to personal devices beyond Guild-related data. In response, the explanation given in the meeting was that personal devices used to access Guild systems should have built-in protection features allowing access and Guild-related material to be removed if a device became compromised, and that the control was intended as a standard safeguard for organizational systems rather than unrestricted access to personal content.

Further clarification was sought on the Artificial Intelligence section, specifically what would count as an approved tool. The meeting response was that approved use was intended to be limited to controlled, closedsystem tools within the Microsoft 365 environment, such as Copilot, and that Guild data should not be entered into open external tools such as ChatGPT or Claude. One member remained concerned that the BYOD wording was not sufficiently clear and indicated dissent on that basis, while the chair agreed to seek further wording clarification outside the meeting.

Following that discussion, Senate proceeded with the motion and approved the CIDC policies for distribution. Deshithan Manokaran moved the motion, Sonam Wangmo seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Decision: Motion SM2609/03 [Proposed]
Senate approves the reviewed policies for distribution. Mover: Seconder:

11 - Items for Discussion

The discussion section was used to introduce a substantive governance proposal concerning club administration, compliance, and event oversight. The detailed discussion and member feedback are captured under item 11.1.

11.1 - Clubs Support Officer and Review of Club Governance Framework

Senate reviewed the proposal to create a 0.6 FTE Clubs Support Officer role alongside a broader review of club governance, compliance, and support processes. The discussion was framed around recent pressure on the existing model, especially the administrative burden on the General Secretary role, increasing complexity in club activity oversight, and the need to improve governance consistency without weakening the relationship between vice presidents and their clubs.

Lisa explained that the proposed role was intended to cover club administration rather than replace Senate decision-making. Under that model, the staff member would receive affiliation applications, constitutions, and related documentation, assess them against policy requirements, prepare the material for Senate consideration, and support grant administration within existing approval rules. She also linked the proposal directly to heightened risk concerns following a recent club-related electrocution incident, noting that the event had not been approved through Guild mechanisms and had triggered university and external regulatory attention.

The operational risk argument was presented in detail. Lisa said the incident was reportable to WorkSafe WA and Western Power, and that the consequences could have been far more serious if protections such as residual current devices had failed or if the activity had occurred off campus. She stressed that affiliated clubs cannot be treated as fully separate from the Guild for work health and safety purposes, and that stronger affiliation-stage checks, school liaison, training, and ongoing oversight were now required to reduce legal and governance exposure.

Members questioned whether a new role was the best response. One line of concern was that the existing events and work health and safety support structure might instead be strengthened, for example by changing approval workflows, adding dedicated event support capacity, or requiring fuller club risk assessments without creating an additional position. Questions were also raised about whether the proposal would blur

responsibilities, reduce vice presidents to an informational role in club matters, or overcomplicate processes for volunteer-run clubs.

In response, Lisa said the issue was not limited to event-day support and could not be absorbed by the current team. She noted that existing operations staff were already stretched, that part-time and full-time staff did not have spare capacity to take on the required club governance, reporting, training, liaison, and compliance work, and that other universities used comparable support roles. Aneeba added that the pressure reflected a backlog inherited from earlier periods and that a dedicated support role could help create clearer boundaries and more sustainable administration.

The discussion concluded without approval of the proposal at this meeting. Instead, members indicated that clearer delineation of responsibilities, alternative options, and the exact decision-making pathway would be helpful before Senate considered the matter again. It was stated that related policy drafts had been prepared in alignment with the proposal and that the paper would return to Senate after further feedback was gathered.

12 - Items for Noting

Senate moved through a broad noting section covering operational updates, governance reminders, budget pressures, and portfolio activity. The substantive detail is recorded under items 12.1 to 12.3.

12.1 - Updates on ongoing Projects

Members received a wide-ranging update on student priorities, service demand, and campus operations. A rapid analysis of the 2027 SSAF survey was presented after roughly 1400 responses had been received, later described as about 1500 participants. The estimated 2027 SSAF yield was put at roughly 2.8 million, with no new structural charging change proposed for 2027 itself. The meeting also heard that earlier 2026 changes had included lifting online student SSAF payments from 30 percent to 50 percent and removing charges for incarcerated students.

A further piece of work on part-time student charging was outlined. The current model was described as unfair because students enrolled over more semesters could end up paying more despite taking the same total number of units. The proposed future model would align charges with equivalent study load, with examples given of 0.25 ESL students paying 25 percent, half-load students paying 50 percent, and 0.75 ESL students paying 75 percent. The total annual redistribution effect was described as relatively small at about 40000, but implementing the system change would take about a year and cost the university about 200000.

The survey results showed the strongest overall priorities for 2027 were student health and wellbeing, affordable food and drink on campus, financial and emergency support, employment and careers, and learning and study support. For Guild-relevant activity, the main priorities were affordable food and drink, financial and emergency support, advocacy and advisory services, and volunteering and community engagement. It was also noted that over the preceding four months health and wellbeing, affordable food, and financial support had become more important, while study spaces and transition support had become less prominent, possibly reflecting recent orientation improvements and new City Campus facilities.

Discussion then moved into what kinds of investment students believed would make the greatest impact. Cost-of-living support emerged clearly, including emergency financial assistance, hardship grants, affordable food, accommodation support, placement assistance, scholarships, and bursaries. The university reported that it had already put 3 million into new scholarships and bursaries that year, introduced financial counseling on campus, and was working further on food security solutions with Guild representatives. Employment outcomes were also emphasized, with demand for internships, industry placements, networking, and stronger transition-to-employment support.

Online, regional, and international student support featured strongly. The presentation said online students were reporting isolation and that many activities still felt directed toward students physically on campus. Health and wellbeing support also remained prominent. The update noted increased counseling staffing, a reduction in waiting times from about 8 weeks to less than 10 days for continued appointments, and sameday support often being available within about 3 hours. The Living Room had also been expanded to operate year-round from 9 to 4, while work was underway to understand what online students needed from mental health support.

Members asked whether the health and wellbeing focus was overly weighted toward mental health and whether broader physical health provision was also being considered. In response, the university said the health service had already been moved into the City Campus and refurbished, creating more usable space, and that options such as allied health partnerships with dietitians and physiotherapists were being explored. Preventive wellbeing activity was also being piloted, including planned blood pressure checks and similar activations in partnership with HBF.

Further questions covered physical facilities and campus amenity. Members raised the need for better communication around gym access, especially in light of the new City Campus buildings, and flagged student feedback about operating hours. Concerns were also raised about cafes closing before late classes finished, leaving little food access after 4 p.m. The response indicated that campus environment discussions were already underway and that affordable food models used at other universities, including food pantries and lowcost meal concepts, were being explored, although those options would require significant investment and careful planning.

Operational reporting then shifted to Guild performance and governance. Student membership was said to have decreased to 26109. Academic support appointments had reduced, while demand for welfare and financial support had increased. Space usage remained high, with City Campus recording 4221 engagements and Joondalup 2491. A major governance risk was highlighted around unpublished Senate minutes, with the university advising that quarter 3 SSAF funding would not be released until minutes were made available to members. The sector context was also referenced through reported governance concerns at the University of Queensland Union, reinforcing the importance of timely publication and transparent reporting.

Campus infrastructure, safety, and project updates were also noted. City Campus internet provision remained unresolved after the original Telstra service arrangement was canceled, and an alternative plan was expected in the next few weeks. Sound transfer issues in one City Campus office were still being addressed. Cleaning issues had largely improved. A point-of-sale ergonomic issue had been resolved, but a kitchen burn incident in Joondalup was reported after a student spilled hot water while making noodles. First aid was provided, the student had no further reported issues, the kitchen layout was adjusted, and CCTV coverage was widened to support future incident review.

A more serious work health and safety matter concerned a club member who suffered an electric shock during an unapproved activity in a university lab. The student had not initially reported the matter through Guild channels, but the university advised the Guild of the incident. The meeting heard that the person was fine, though the incident was reportable to WorkSafe WA and Western Power. The university had already acted on advice regarding the power points involved, and wider policy changes beginning in the School of Engineering were expected to inform broader controls. This incident was presented as a key reason for reviewing club risk management and administration.

Financial and project tracking updates were then provided. Food pantry volunteer numbers remained low but were improving, and stock availability had improved after introducing a one-entry-per-week rule. Branding rollout was largely complete, though signage was still pending in both the city and Joondalup. The website development drawdown request had been formally submitted to the Vice Chancellor, and the successful provider was waiting for confirmation. In risk management terms, 21 risk assessments had been completed in the past month, with no extreme or high risks above tolerance identified, although event descriptions were said to lack sufficient detail in some cases.

The budget position remained a concern. Quarter two had been submitted to the university without feedback, and the mid-year underspend at the end of Q2 stood at 191000. Senate budgets for international, postgraduate, social, sports, and Southwest were specifically identified as trailing. In club finances, flights were about 2000 over budget because of increased uptake, with 17 clubs already on their third float top-up, 9 on their fourth, and 3 on their fifth. A total of 56 grants had been issued, just over 10000 remained, and about 6000 more was in the pipeline subject to Secretary approval.

Senate then considered a budget adjustment to respond to that pressure. The proposal was to transfer $4056 from underspend across previous months into the grants budget so that the grants line and associated flight demand could be covered as required. After clarification that the pressure included the 2000 overrun on flights, the motion was moved by
Yashkamal Cheema and passed unanimosly.

Senate also approved the affiliation of two clubs, The Nutrition Hub and WASMA Film Society. The motion was moved by Yashkamal Cheema, seconded by Sadiq Abbas Badriwala, and passed unanimously.

Senate approved the CIDC policies. The motion was moved by Deshithan Manokaran, seconded by Sonam Wangmo, and passed unanimously.

Portfolio reports from officers and senators were also noted across the meeting. These updates covered volunteer onboarding and seven training sessions for the food pantry, three newly onboarded student representatives, regular equity events, multicultural dinner planning and delivery, Bollywood and other social events, aviation and career-focused activities, Southwest operational support, First Nations survey work with 18 responses and 3 attendees at an online meet-and-greet, and continuing event planning across multiple portfolios.

12.2 - Reminders

Reminder points were embedded throughout the operational update rather than handled as a separate standalone discussion. The most significant reminders concerned the need to publish Senate minutes promptly to protect governance transparency and avoid jeopardizing quarter 3 SSAF funding, the need for senators to use the remaining part of semester 2 to reduce underspend in trailing budgets, and the expectation that event and activity descriptions be completed with enough detail to support meaningful risk review.

Members were also reminded to seek assistance with heavy or awkward items following a recent deliveryrelated injury, and to report any further cleaning or campus facilities concerns so they could be followed up. These matters were noted as governance and operational reminders rather than separate resolutions.

12.3 - Senator of the Month

The meeting closed with brief recognition of the Senator of the Month
Yashkamal Cheema. The acknowledgment highlighted strong feedback on recent event support, particularly in relation to the Bollywood party and broader contribution during the period.

✨ - Other topics

A small amount of material sat outside the provided agenda structure and is captured here to preserve completeness. Early in the meeting, members were told that two sets of motions circulated that month had both been approved by extension, and prior minutes from Senate Meetings 7 and 8 were tabled for confirmation without any substantive discussion recorded. These governance references were noted but not linked to a separate agenda item in the provided structure.

The transcript also contained introductory attendance, presentation handover, and meeting-close remarks, including confirmation that the meeting ended at 12:39. Those procedural elements did not carry substantive decisions or action items beyond what is already reflected in the relevant agenda entries.