Minutes

Senate Meeting 7

Senate 2026

Date	26/06/2026
Time	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location	JO.1.447
Present	General Secretary, President, First Nations Officer, Postgraduate Officer, International Officer, South West Officer, Environmental Officer, Equity Officer, Undergraduate Officer, Vice President - Social Responsibility, Social Officer, Vice President - International, Vice President - Activities & South West, Sports Officer, Lisa Dwyer, Michael Agostini
Absent	Vice President - Academic
Note Taker	General Secretary

Agenda

1 - Senate Meeting 7

Senate Meeting 7 was held on June 26, 2026, in JO.1.447, chaired by Sheharyar Sahi, with Aneeba Ashraf acting as minute taker. The meeting proceeded in a formal senate format covering procedural matters, office bearer reports, priority motions, discussion items, and items for noting.

A late request to raise an additional honorarium-related matter was flagged near the start of the meeting, but the chair directed that the agenda proceed as published and indicated the issue could be revisited later if time allowed. That matter was ultimately discussed at the end of the meeting. The meeting concluded at 11:53 AM.

2 - Acknowledgement of Country

3 - Attendance

Attendance was confirmed at the outset. The Vice President Academic was absent, the Vice President International role remained vacant, the Social Officer, Environmental Officer, First Nations Officer, Undergraduate Officer, Postgraduate Officer, International Officer, and one South West Officer joined online, and accredited observers Lisa Dwyer and Michael Agostini were present.

The meeting also noted that the Sports Officer was absent. The attendance record established the operational quorum for the meeting and provided the basis for the proxy confirmations that followed.

4 - Proxies

Three proxies were recorded. Jackson Bell assigned his proxy to Kerrianne Romero, Sanjatul Tuhin assigned his proxy to Masoumeh Alikhani, and Asad Ali assigned his proxy to Yashkamaljot Singh Cheema.

These proxy arrangements were acknowledged as part of the formal opening procedure before the meeting moved into declarations and reports.

5 - Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was initially declared. Sadiq then attempted to raise a conflict connected to an honorarium matter he wanted discussed, but the chair noted that the issue was not listed on the published agenda and directed that the meeting continue with scheduled business.

A procedural exchange followed about whether the matter could be added during the meeting. The chair maintained that the agenda should stand as published and indicated the concern could be revisited later if time permitted.

6 - Circular Motions

7 - Office Bearer Reports

The Senate received office bearer and observer reports covering student advocacy, semester planning, events, risk, governance, finance, and major projects. Several reports highlighted strong engagement during exam support activities and continued preparation for semester two events and operational rollouts.

The most detailed reporting came from the President, Operations Manager, and Financial Controller. Common themes included volunteer recruitment, club support, compliance pressures, budget underspend, food pantry preparations, rebranding rollout, and the need to accelerate activity and expenditure in semester two.

7.1 - President

Sheharyar reported attendance at secretary meetings, multiple SSAF meetings, multiple food pantry working-group meetings, and regular check-ins with ECU executives, Senate members, Lisa Dwyer, and Michael Agostini. Volunteer recruitment and training for the food pantry were progressing with Nicole and Anishka, and more than 40 expressions of interest had been received against a target of 50, which he described as enough to begin but still below the preferred level.

He also confirmed that the expression of interest process for the Vice President International role would remain open for two weeks, with the aim of filling the vacancy by the next meeting. On student advocacy, he addressed more than 10 complaints in one week concerning a unit in the School of Medical and Health Sciences, secured review of the unit as part of the curriculum transformation project, and obtained a deduction of marks outcome for affected students after discussions with the course coordinator, Associate Dean Teaching and Learning, and Executive Dean.

A second student matter involved an ECU administrative error that placed a student into the wrong course. After discussions with student success and admissions staff, a positive outcome was secured rather than requiring the student to complete the incorrect certification and reapply. Sheharyar also noted an increase in general misconduct matters following exams and said multiple students had been referred to Guild Advisory Officers while some cases remained under investigation.

Exam support services were reported as successful across City, Joondalup, and South West campuses, with free lunches, a Joondalup trolley service, and South West snacks all receiving positive feedback. He personally handled daily food and trolley ordering and delivery, and thanked senators who assisted. He closed by noting that he, Aneeba, and Yash would travel the following week to attend the National Union of Students education conference at UTS Sydney.

7.2 - General Secretary

Met with Sheharyar to discuss the upcoming podcast collaboration with the Library.
Chaired the Secretariat Meeting.
Attended the Food Pantry Meeting.
Attended the Executive Leadership Meeting.
Attended a planning meeting for the Multicultural Dinner.
Assisted with the afternoon lunch service and trolley distribution during the examination period.
Prepared the agenda for Senate Meeting 7.
Sent emails to clubs regarding Quarter 2 (Q2) reporting requirements and the Semester 2 Clubs Carnival of Colour.
Scheduled meetings with ISA, Nippon Connect, Joondy, the Civil Engineering Club, and AFSA.
Attended the AFSA event held in the city.
Reviewed club affiliations with Sheharyar.
Attended the Academic Dinner.

7.3 - Vice President Social Responsibility

Meetings:
• Had meeting with the President

• Met with Equity Officer
• Met with Environmental Officer
• Attended 2 Student Appeal Committees
• Attended Secretariat meetings
• Was in contact with SETT team (Discussed collaboration for O'Week and pride parties and Equity Quiz Night)
• Discussions around collaboration on pride party with Rainbow Migrants Living Lab
• Attended respect at university advisory meeting 2
• Attended equity and diversity committee meeting
•meeting with sports centre regarding resuming yoga classes
• Meeting with student life and GAOs for RUOK Day Planning - Guild and Student Life
• Followed up on the HIV vending machine installation and period pack vending machines in city campus with operations team and ecu
Events:
· Assisted with exam week support including breakfast, lunch and trolly multiple days
· 3 yoga sessions and provided snacks and drinks
· Rescheduled women workshop on both campuses
· Working on pride party in orientation in collaboration with SEET
· Working on first natin department welcome event
· Working on food waste workshop with city of Joondalup and foodbank
· Working on the recycling event and quiz at the city campus with the city of Perth
· Attended academic dinner event
· Discussed collaboration with Cyril Berjot Owner of Elite Supplements Forrest Chase, regarding collaboration in one of wellbeing focused events
Clubs:
• Helped with exam support week breakfast, lunch and exam trolly
• Approved grant form for wellbeing club
• Reached out to 3 students representative EOIs that we received
• Ongoing discussions with Wellbeing Club Presidents
• Attended Wellbeing Club and chef in progress clubs' events
• Pride ECU items from equity space cleanup and organisation
• Followed p women community club forming and new roles

7.4 - Vice President Academic

Meetings:
Held meetings with the President, Undergraduate Officer, and Postgraduate Officer.
Met with School Representatives.
Attended the Curriculum Committee Meeting on 19 June 2026.
Attended the Student Appeals Committee (SAC) Meeting on 16 June 2026. The student appeal considered at the meeting was unsuccessful.
Attended the Food Pantry Committee Meeting.
Conducted interviews for the SAH Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Candidate Representative. The onboarding process is currently underway.
Attended Secretariat Meetings on 4 June 2026 and 18 June 2026.
Events:
Organised the Academic Dinner held on 23 June 2026.
Coordinated First Aid Training scheduled for 26 June 2026.
Continued planning for the Water Corporation Seminar scheduled for 6 August 2026. The event form has been approved.
Assisted with lunch service and trolley distribution during the examination period.
Submitted the event form for the Career Connect Series, which will be delivered across each school. The series is scheduled to commence on 13 August 2026 and will run fortnightly until mid-October.
General:
Managed correspondence and responded to emails.
Undertook routine administrative duties and day-to-day responsibilities.

7.5 - Vice President Activities & South West

Meetings:
Held regular meetings with Sheharyar to discuss ongoing matters and provide updates.
Met with Bhautik, San (Vice President – Social/Sports), and the Southwest Officers to plan upcoming events, including a proposed event at the Southwest Campus.

Attended the Food Pantry Committee Meeting.
Met with Clair to discuss Orientation activities.
Attended the Academic Dinner and the Senate–Staff Lunch.
Events:
Continued planning for upcoming events, including the Start of Semester Party.
Assisted with the Exam Trolley and Exam Lunch Program during the examination period.
Administration
Prepared the minutes for Secretariat Meetings 10 and 11.
Engaged with new clubs and event organisers to explore opportunities for future collaboration and partnerships.

7.6 - Social Officer

Bhautik reported a catch-up with the Vice President on updates, attendance at the ECU City Campus launch event, event-planning discussions with the President and Vice President, and a separate planning meeting with Yash regarding future activities and student engagement.

He also reviewed upcoming priorities and indicated continued involvement in event coordination for the next phase of semester activity.

7.7 - Sports Officer

Meetings:
Met with the Vice President Activities to discuss upcoming events and collaborative opportunities.
Held collaboration discussions with the ECU Run Club regarding future sporting initiatives.
Events:
Continued planning for the FIFA World Cup Semi-Finals and Final Watch Party.
Progressed planning to introduce Surf Lessons for ECU students, including contacting potential surf lesson providers.
Began planning and developing content for the Guild Podcast.
Attended the Academic Department Dinner as a representative of the ECU Student Guild.
Professional Development:
Successfully completed the mandatory GAS Training.
Administration:
Responded to emails received through the Sports Officer account, including student enquiries, stakeholder communications, and event planning correspondence.

7.8 - Southwest Officers

Participated: South West Officer

Joel reported meetings with the President and Bhautik concerning activities and operations in the South West, along with collaboration with a fellow South West officer on exam-period refreshments and related student-facing activity. He also mentioned follow-up on student emails and initial work reviewing the financial policy as it relates to students, noting that the review remained in progress.

A separate South West-focused update later in office bearer reports noted attendance at the South West Aboriginal Medical Service Research Forum, which enabled introductions with the University Department of Rural Health and other regional support organizations. Further discussions wit[redacted] at the Department of Rural Health explored collaboration opportunities and the needs of First Nations students, especially on the South West campus.

Additional work included coordinating Welcome to Country arrangements for semester two and Club Carnival of Colours, checking culturally appropriate protocols before approaching Elders, joining the National Union of Students First Nations network to strengthen advocacy connections, and planning semester-two First Nations engagement activities. Preparations were also underway for NAIDOC Week responsibilities beginning on July 5, with acknowledgement that school-holiday and cultural obligations would affect scheduling.

7.9 - International Officer

Participated: International Officer

Sadiq reported several meetings with Sheharyar regarding upcoming semester events and other matters. During exam week he organized chill-out sessions, attended exam lunches, and personally helped organize food required for General campus support activities.

He outlined a forward event schedule that included a PMAP workshop planned between July 21 and July 27, planning for the Onam festival, India and Pakistan Independence Day activity commencing on August 17, weekly chill-out sessions returning every Wednesday next semester, movie nights with dates still to be decided, a Rottnest Island activity with dates still to be confirmed in the first 20 days, and an additional event planned for September 15.

7.10 - Equity Officer

Meetings:
Attended the R U OK? Day planning meeting with the Housing Advice Officer (Student Success) and the Vice President of Social Responsibility.
Contributed to discussions on key wellbeing priorities and strategies to create a supportive and approachable environment for students during the event.
Participated in planning and coordination discussions regarding volunteers, event logistics, and collaboration between Guild departments.
Events:
Completed a shift as part of the Exam Lunch Program, assisting with event setup, food service, and pack-down.
Assisted with the distribution of free lunches to students during the examination period, helping to ensure efficient service and positive student engagement.
Attended the Guild Academic Dinner.
Engaged with students from various schools, supporting networking opportunities and fostering a sense of academic community.

7.11 - Environmental Officer

Meetings:
Participated in meetings with the Vice President Social Responsibility to plan and coordinate upcoming student engagement initiatives, including the Food Waste Awareness Sessions, Thrift and Thrive, and Paint and Plant events. Discussions covered event logistics, stakeholder engagement, promotional strategies, participant capacity, and event delivery.
Events:
Continued planning for the Food Waste Awareness Sessions at the Joondalup and City Campuses, including liaising with relevant stakeholders regarding participant capacity and event logistics.
Progressed preparations for the Thrift and Thrive event, including discussions on event structure, student engagement opportunities, and sustainability outcomes. Liaised with Good Sammy's regarding potential collaboration and participation.
Continued organising the Paint and Plant event at the City Campus, focusing on event logistics, resource requirements, and promoting sustainability and student wellbeing.
Assisted with Exam Week student support activities at the City Campus by preparing, delivering, and serving food to students.
Projects and Initiatives:
Prepared and submitted a Container for Change proposal to the Vice President Social Responsibility, recommending the installation of Container for Change bins at the Joondalup Campus to improve recycling accessibility, encourage responsible waste management, and support sustainability initiatives across the ECU community.

7.12 - First Nations Officer

Meetings & Engagements:
Attended the SWAMS Research Forum at ECU South West Campus, facilitating introductions and connections with the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH).
Met wit[redacted] (UDRH) to discuss opportunities for collaboration and gain insights into the experiences, needs, and engagement of First Nations students at the South West Campus.
Received an invitation to attend the UDRH NAIDOC Week event at the South West Campus, providing an opportunity to strengthen relationships and explore future engagement opportunities.

Held discussions with [redacted] regarding coordination of Welcome to Country arrangements for the Semester 2 Clubs Carnival of Colour.
Contacted Kurongkurl Katitjin to arrange a meeting to discuss culturally appropriate Welcome to Country protocols and best-practice approaches for ECU events.
Connected with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer at the National Union of Students (NUS) regarding the NUS First Nations Network and submitted a request to join the network to strengthen sector connections and advocacy opportunities.
Events & Planning:
Continued planning for Semester 2 First Nations engagement activities, including Welcome to Country arrangements, student engagement opportunities, and initiatives supporting both on-campus and online First Nations students.

7.13 - Undergraduate Officer

Wasif reported a meeting with the Vice President Academic on upcoming matters, a meeting with the undergraduate nursing school representative about a conflict affecting one student, and a meeting with the undergraduate business school representative regarding upcoming events.

He also attended and helped photograph the academic dinner, attended the staff lunch, supported several City Campus launch events, and assisted with exam-related activities.

7.14 - Postgraduate Officer

Meetings:
Held multiple meetings with the Vice President Academic and the President.
Held meetings with HDR representatives and Postgraduate Representatives from various schools.
Events:
Organised and delivered the Academic Dinner on 23 June 2026.
Attended the Senate–Staff Lunch on 24 June 2026.
Assisted with the Exam Lunch Program and Exam Trolley operations over a two-week period during the examination period.
General:
Attended the office, managed emails, and undertook day-to-day administrative responsibilities.

7.15 - Operations Manager

Lisa reported continued positive membership growth, no material breaches in risk management, effective work health and safety controls, and no serious accidents. Guild Advisory Services usage had increased, particularly for academic misconduct, and was expected to rise further over the next few months. At the same time, governance and compliance risks remained significant, with several SSAF KPIs still unmet, driven by weak local engagement, incomplete training, governance gaps, and ongoing Senate vacancies.

She said financial performance remained a key concern because staff expenditure was running below expected levels, creating compliance and funding risk. Infrastructure limitations at City campus and operational capacity issues linked to staffing delays were also affecting delivery. The City campus store had been closed because of low student presence, while a new retail and campus support officer, Natalie, was due to commence on June 29 and spend a week in training before moving into the city. Lisa also noted that internet provision for City campus remained outstanding.

On work health and safety, the point-of-sale ergonomic issue had been resolved by removing drawers, closing that investigation. There were still two ongoing investigations at City campus, both relatively contained: one relating to trip hazards and storage needs, and one involving replacement digital-signage options after a broken television. She emphasized that there had been no notifiable incidents, no systemic control failures, and no risks exceeding the Guild's accepted tolerance.

Lisa then provided a major-project and performance snapshot. Food pantry planning was progressing well, but volunteer numbers remained a concern because they could materially affect operations. Rebranding was advancing through a soft launch, with a full launch planned for week one during Club Carnival. Website redevelopment preparation was underway; she and [redacted] had completed a backend review of a site that had grown to 2,500 pages since 2015, removing or archiving historic material to improve performance and clarify quoting requirements. The SharePoint project had also advanced, and she was reviewing a 200-page

Purview report to ensure record-retention and disposal settings aligned correctly with the State Records Act before implementation.

Membership in May stood at 26,878, up by 312 from the prior month. The member profile was 64 percent undergraduate, 29 percent postgraduate, and 7 percent other; 73 percent domestic and 27 percent international, with the international share up 2 percent. Academic support activity reached 50 appointments supporting 75 students, which was 47 more appointments than April but 15 fewer students, suggesting more repeat users; 72 percent of supported students were undergraduate, 28 percent postgraduate, 52 percent international, and 48 percent domestic. Financial assistance reached 36 appointments, up 12 from April, supporting 25 students, up 5, with $7,005 distributed in May, an increase of $2,415. Those recipients were 60 percent undergraduate and 40 percent postgraduate, and again 52 percent international and 48 percent domestic.

Kitchen facility usage reached 1,796 engagements in June, down 522 from the previous month, representing 526 individual students. Of those individuals, 81 were domestic and 445 international; 210 were undergraduate, 315 postgraduate, and 1 was classified as other. City campus recorded 3,853 engagements in May, an increase of 950, including 1,041 new engagements with individual students. Those students comprised 448 domestic and 593 international members, with 523 undergraduate, 511 postgraduate, and 7 other students.

Risk reporting showed 11 risk assessments had been conducted across operations and events in May, with no extreme or high risks beyond tolerance. Event delivery and compliance remained key themes, with improvements in risk assessments still inconsistent. Alcohol-related club events remained a gap because the relevant policy was still moving toward review at the next meeting, and broker and insurer feedback was likely to require stronger questions in club forms for higher-risk external events. Lisa also noted one internal complaint concerning student interference in Guild activities and said explanatory communication had already been circulated.

7.16 - Financial Controller

Participated: Michael Agostini

Michael reported that the Q1 underspend sat at 137,000 and that Q2 was also likely to exceed 100,000, with final confirmation due at the end of the month. He said that level of underspend would attract attention and that a detailed mid-year review would be prepared and shared once the month closed. He stressed that all departments needed to accelerate activity in semester two to avoid carrying a significant underspend into year-end.

At department level, First Nations and Postgraduate were the only areas roughly on pace, with about 50 percent of budget used, while other departments were well behind. On club floats, the budget was 24,750, of which 17,047 had been issued, leaving 7,700. Eighteen clubs had reached a second float top-up, up from 14, and 6 clubs had reached a third float top-up.

Grant spending was tighter. Thirty-five grants had been issued to date. The grant budget, including the 10,000 contingency, was 42,500, while 38,360 had already been allocated, up from 29,000 previously, leaving only 4,100 remaining. Michael said additional funds would therefore be needed to top up the club-grants budget, and that matter was listed on the agenda.

He also confirmed that the May PAYG statement had been lodged, the ATO had been paid on time, and all outstanding superannuation had now been cleared before the July 1 payday super changes. Going forward, super would be paid on the same day as each pay run. On insurance, the mutual renewal was due at the end of July and the drafting process was about 75 percent complete.

8 - Priority Items

Priority items were the most decision-heavy part of the meeting. The Senate considered club affiliations, reallocation of funds to support club grants, establishment of new term deposits, and endorsement of continued exploration of an EFTSL-based SSAF model for part-time students.

Each matter was introduced with operational or financial context, opened for questions, then resolved through formal motions. All four motions recorded in this section passed, with the first two explicitly noted as unanimous and the remaining motions passing without dissent.

8.1 - Club Affiliation

The Senate considered two clubs for affiliation at Tier 1: ECU Civil Engineering Society and Joondy Student Social Club. The chair confirmed that both had met the relevant affiliation requirements before putting the motion to the room.

Motion SM260601 was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously, approving the successful affiliation of both clubs under their respective tier.

Decision: Motion SM2606/01 [Proposed]
The Guild endorses the successful affiliation of the above clubs under their respective Tier. Mover: Masoumeh Alikhani Seconder: Yashkamaljot Singh Cheema Result: Passed
Decision: Affiliation of ECU Civil Engineering Society and Joondy Student Social Club at Tier 1 was approved.

8.2 - Reallocation of Funds

Michael's earlier financial update framed the need for a club-grants top-up. Grant spending had reached 38,360 against a budget of 42,500 including the 10,000 contingency, leaving only 4,100 available. The proposal therefore sought to transfer 25,000 from unused senator honorarium funds arising from vacant positions into the club-grants budget.

Questions focused on whether the figure reflected the full underspend and whether future honorarium issues could still be met if circumstances changed. The response was that the 25,000 represented current underspend, while continuing vacancies would also generate further unspent honorarium. Motion SM260602 was then moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Decision: Motion SM2606/02 [Proposed]
That the Senate approves the transfer of $25,000 from the unused Senate honorarium (resulting from vacant positions) to the Club Grants budget, in order to support the funding needs of the clubs, noting that $37,000 has already been expended and only $6,000 remains available in the current allocation, including the contingency. Mover: Masoumeh Alikhani Seconder: Yashkamaljot Singh Cheema Result: Passed
Decision: Transfer of 25,000 from unused senator honorarium funds to the club grants budget was approved.

8.3 - Term Deposits

Michael presented a proposal to establish two term deposits of 500,000 each, totaling 1,000,000, for 6 months at 5.05 percent per annum with Bendigo Bank. He explained that recently received Q1 SSAF funds of about 600,000 were now available and that the balance was already sitting in the Guild's high-interest account. Splitting the amount into two deposits rather than one was intended to preserve flexibility, since one 500,000 deposit could be broken if needed without sacrificing interest on the full million.

Further context was provided on cash flow. Two existing term deposits totaling 700,000 were due to mature in about 2.5 weeks, and another Q2 SSAF installment of around 600,000 was expected after quarter-two reporting. Michael emphasized that term-deposit levels would continue to be reassessed as reserve-funded projects such as the food pantry progressed. Motion SM260603 was moved, seconded, and passed without dissent.

Decision: Motion SM2606/03 [Proposed]
Senate to approve the establishment of two $500K term deposits ($1M total) for 6 months at 5.05% p.a. with Bendigo Bank. Mover: Masoumeh Alikhani Seconder: Hamed Kariman Result: Passed
Decision: Two 500,000 term deposits, totaling 1,000,000 for 6 months at 5.05 percent per annum with Bendigo Bank, were approved.

8.4 - SSAF Fee Determination Allocation

The chair summarized the University proposal to move part-time students from a fixed 50 percent SSAF charge to an EFTSL-based model. The rationale presented was greater equity by aligning fees more closely to actual study load. Financial modeling prepared in 2025 estimated an annual SSAF revenue increase of approximately 48,933, while updated 2026 modeling indicated an increase of about 43,000 per annum. It was also noted that the SSAF Advisory Forum had asked for further financial forecasting and that implementation would still depend on systems capability, formal University approval processes, and any necessary ECU Council approval.

Questions focused on the Guild's role in endorsing the proposal and on how the EFTSL model would operate in practice. The explanation given was that the Guild has a say because it receives 50 percent of SSAF funding, and that the proposed model would scale the fee according to study load, such as about 25 percent for a student enrolled in one unit and about 75 percent for a student taking three units. Motion SM260604 was then moved, seconded, and passed, endorsing continued exploration of the model rather than final implementation.

Decision: Motion SM2606/04 [Proposed]
That the ECU Student Guild Senate endorses the continued exploration of an EFTSL-based SSAF charging model for part-time students, including assessment of systems capability, implementation costs, and development of a formal proposal for consideration through the University's governance processes. Mover: Masoumeh Alikhani Seconder: Bhautik Khetia Result: Passed
Decision: Continued exploration of an EFTSL-based SSAF charging model for part-time students, including system capability assessment, implementation-cost review, and development of a formal proposal through University governance processes, was endorsed.

____: Communicate the two approved SSAF-related items through the appropriate follow-up channels. [redacted]

9 - Items for Discussion

The discussion section focused on two strategic matters rather than immediate resolutions: election delivery for 2026 and review of the draft Strategic Plan 2026-2030. In both cases, the Senate spent more time clarifying constraints and identifying what further work was needed than attempting to force a final outcome.

The discussion was therefore substantive but intentionally non-final. The Senate preferred to gather more information on elections and to undertake a fuller Senate-wide review of the strategic plan before asking for further consultant revision.

9.1 - Guild Elections

The discussion revisited the earlier Senate decision to run the 2026 Guild elections on an in-person voting basis. Lisa outlined the practical difficulty of applying the same voting method in Sri Lanka. The Western Australian Electoral Commission had indicated that it had no staff available to send, current returning officers were independent contractors rather than WAEC employees, and ECU had identified a retired staff member in Sri Lanka, Edna, who was interested in acting as a presiding officer. The remaining obstacle was payment: ECU would not pay her because doing so would make her an ECU employee, and WAEC was struggling to directly engage and pay an international individual under its normal arrangements.

The procedural rule causing the pressure was also clarified. Lisa said ECU Governance had confirmed that if the Senate chose in-person voting, then in-person and postal voting had to be offered identically across all campuses, including Sri Lanka. She noted that last year's process had not met that standard. The election timetable was now tightening because postal voting required a 20-day mailing allowance between Sri Lanka and Australia, pushing the likely opening of nominations into early August rather than mid-September.

Several senators questioned whether this was really a Senate problem or whether WAEC and the University should resolve it. Others asked whether a hybrid model or direct payment workaround might help. Lisa maintained that the governing procedures constrained the voting method and that neither the Guild nor ECU could simply employ the local officer without creating a conflict. The emerging consensus was to wait for further information from WAEC before reconsidering the position, with the matter to continue through email once an update was available.

9.2 - Strategic Plan

The draft Strategic Plan 2026-2030 had been circulated in advance, and the chair invited feedback during the meeting. He explained that the draft came from a CPR Group workshop held in December after the new Senate was onboarded, where strengths, weaknesses, issues, and opportunities were brainstormed. He also acknowledged the limitations of that process: attendance had been low, the Senate was new at the time, several current senators had not been involved, and a later follow-up workshop had not proceeded.

Discussion therefore focused less on the wording of the current draft and more on whether the present Senate had been sufficiently represented in it. Masoumeh and Kerrianne both emphasized that important current priorities were either missing or not adequately developed, including First Nations-specific measures and newer portfolio ideas that had not existed when the December workshop took place. The plan was

repeatedly described as too important to approve casually because it would shape the Guild's direction for the next 5 years.

The senate supported holding a dedicated Senate-wide session to review priorities properly and then provide structured feedback back through the consultant process rather than discarding the current draft outright. Lisa clarified that consultant fees had already covered the workshop, draft, and feedback loop, but not a fully new consultation exercise. The item ended with agreement in principle that the Senate should undertake a fuller review before the document progressed further.

10 - Items for Noting

Items for noting covered ongoing project status, semester-two reminders, and recognition of a senator for June. This section was largely informational, with the chair using it to consolidate earlier reporting and direct attention toward upcoming operational deadlines.

The emphasis was on readiness for semester two, particularly event planning, orientation staffing, scheduling, and project rollout.

10.1 - Updates on ongoing Projects

The chair noted that the food pantry project was progressing well, echoing the earlier operational update. The main concern remained volunteer numbers and whether there would be enough coverage for every working day once the pantry opened. A further working-group meeting was already scheduled for the following week.

He also confirmed that rebranding work was now complete and in soft-launch mode, with the full public launch planned for Club Carnival of Colours. As part of that rollout, a student giveaway item had been selected, and the order for umbrellas had already been placed.

10.2 - Reminders

Reminder discussion centered on the need to avoid further underspend in semester two. The chair referred back to Michael's warning about the expected Q2 underspend and urged senators to begin completing event proposals for the coming semester as soon as possible. He noted that some work had already been done, particularly by Sadiq and Wasif, but stressed that now exams had finished, all departments needed to move into active planning. Nicole, Elle, and the chair were identified as available points of support for event development and troubleshooting.

Orientation staffing was also raised. Senators were reminded that the Guild would have a stall at ECU's orientation social lunches and that a spreadsheet had been circulated to confirm availability. The chair said at least 2 senators were needed each day, with City campus still showing some gaps, and that the stall would distribute older merchandise while providing information about the Guild to new students. A further spreadsheet would also be issued shortly to collect semester-two availability so Senate free-food times and secretary meetings could be rescheduled around new timetables.

10.3 - Senator of the Month

The chair closed the scheduled agenda by recognizing several senators for their help during exam-week support activities, while noting that one senator had stood out for repeated availability at Joondalup campus, regular office attendance during the exam period, and willingness to assist with additional tasks.

Deshithan, the Equity Officer, was named Senator of the Month for June.