



VSU STATEMENT OF THE AUU

AUTHORITY

A Policy of the Adelaide University Union (AUU) enacted pursuant to the Rules Concerning AUU Rules and Policy

POLICY

1. Objectives

This Policy outlines the official and unified stance of the AUU as an organisation and body corporate and its affiliates on the issue of Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU).

2. Definitions

2.1 The definitions in Clause 3 of the AUU Constitution apply to this policy.

2.2 The following definitions apply to all AUU documents:
“Voluntary Student Unionism” here will also include Voluntary Student Representation (VSR), and any other proposed change to Universal Student Unionism that falls under a similar concept as VSU.

3. Interpretation

Interpretation of this policy is within the jurisdiction of the President, pursuant to the authority of Board.

4. AUU Stance on VSU

4.1 The AUU recognises the right of individuals who are elected into positions and work with the AUU to have freedom of expression and opinion in their capacity as an individual. However, the AUU as an organisation and body corporate, as stated in the AUU Constitution, must have an official and unified stance on the issue of VSU. This is especially important for the purposes of the AUU Strategic Plan as well.

4.2 The principles of the unified and official stance of the AUU is outlined as follows:

4.2(i) The AUU recognises that the purpose of its existence, as outlined in the AUU Constitution, is to: provide amenities and services to its members; and to



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further the welfare of its members. The AUU believes that without levying a universal student services fee, that it would not be able to fulfil these aims satisfactorily.

[Cross Reference: AUU
Constitution Clauses 1.2.1
and 1.2.2]

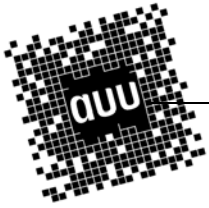
- 4.2(ii) The AUU believes in the importance and relevance of its affiliates as a part of fulfilling the goals referred to in the AUU Constitution, and believes that without levying a universal student services fee, the services of these affiliates may not be able to be offered to students at all, or at least not as effectively.
- 4.2(iii) The AUU believes that it would be to the detriment of students to experience such loss of services or the reduction of their capability since many of the services are essential to students' wellbeing or are integral to the campus culture at the University.
- 4.2(iv) As well as the affiliates of the AUU, the AUU recognises that other areas and services offered by the AUU may no longer be available to students, or at a lower capability, on the implementation of VSU.
- 4.2(v) The AUU believes in quality, constant self-evaluation and the continuation of monitoring the range, relevance and quality of what we offer to students. The AUU thus believes that VSU is an unnecessary method of addressing the quality and relevance of student services, as the AUU would address poor or irrelevant services itself.
- 4.2(vi) The AUU will continue to better communicate to students at the University about everything that the AUU provides for them on their campus, and realises that one of the main threats posed by VSU is the fact that many students are unaware of the extent of services that are provided by the AUU.
- 4.3 These points may be elaborated on as and when required, but must apply to the basic principles outlined herein.

5. Media

- 5.1 If an interview or any form of expression on VSU has been granted in the media, pursuant to the definitions and terms of the AUU Media Policy, from the AUU President themselves, or granted by the AUU President, the parameters of the unified stance of the AUU outlined in this policy must be used as the basic principles of what is said on behalf of the AUU.

This stance on VSU is that of the AUU as an organisation, and must only be used when the spokesperson is expressing themselves in their capacity as a representative of the AUU.

[Cross Reference: Media Clause
2.2]



- 5.2 If the representative of the AUU expresses their personal opinion in the media, it must be done in their capacity as an individual or student of the University of Adelaide, and not as a representative of the AUU.
[Cross Reference: Media Clause 6.1, 6.2]
- 5.3 If the representative of the AUU, having been given permission from the AUU President to communicate with the media, does not believe the official unified stance of the AUU as an organisation on a personal basis, may state and discuss VSU solely in terms of it being the stance of the AUU as an organisation in order to depersonalise it and not to compromise the integrity of their own beliefs. Likewise, the individual circumstance in which this situation occurs can be discussed as and when it happens with the AUU President if there are any problems. In this case, the person may choose to express their personal views solely in their capacity as an individual or student of the University of Adelaide and not as a representative of the AUU.

HISTORY

First enacted 31 January 2005

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