

For immediate release

13th of June 2019

## **Stop Roseworthy and Waite Library Cuts**

Dear Teresa Chitty,

We write to you as the President and Rural Officer of the University of Adelaide Student Representative Council (SRC) on behalf of the student body of Roseworthy and Waite and their organisations who represent and support them within their campuses. We write to you regarding the report 'Roseworthy and Waite Libraries: Service and Opening Hours Review' (herein "the Report") which recommends that the Roseworthy and Waite campus libraries move to an unstaffed "study hall" model, commencing in Semester 2, 2019. A copy of this letter will also be distributed to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic), the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Learning), and the Student Engagement Committee (SEC).

Under these proposed changes staffing levels would be cut and students would access the libraries by swipe access and use self-service to check out books.

The SRC and the students of Roseworthy and Waite oppose the recommendations of the Report and urge the University not to go ahead with this proposal. Staffing levels of the libraries should be maintained as they currently are and the University ought to commit to always having at least one staff member physically present during business hours Monday to Friday, assisting students using the library.

It is disappointing and unfair that students right to a staffed library is challenged, especially at such short notice with very little time for student consultation. Students at Roseworthy and Waite already feel left behind and isolated, and such a development has been incredibly demoralising to campus morale. All University of Adelaide students deserve the right to the same education and opportunities that are occurring in North Terrace.

We would also like to note that the new Strategic Plan, Future Making, outlines that "complex intellectual ecosystems embodied in partnerships and world-class infrastructure will be curated at Waite, Roseworthy and in the CBD; privileged environments for the creation, dissemination and application of knowledge" and that the Vice Chancellor has made it clear that he wants to "revive the satellite campuses through their libraries". It is my view that the recommendations of the Report

conflict with the University's strategic vision, hamper the creation, dissemination and application of knowledge, and are not in line with reinvigorating Roseworthy and Waite.

The undersigned **endorse the response written by the Roseworthy Library Advisory Committee** which is supported by the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. I reiterate the important considerations made in the response and would like to highlight the following recommendations:

- Needs should not be defined based on “usage” but instead based on minimum academic standards for quality education - including national and international program accreditations, research, and service to the campus community.
- That ‘evidence-based’ philosophy be at the centre of SAVS research and education. Students and scientists are expected to source, appraise and apply the best current evidence. Although online capacity facilitates access to any evidence (good and bad), the strength of the current and future leaders is to find the best evidence and this requires quality and sustained face to face support and training.
- Sourcing the best evidence requires thorough and systematic search of published information. Students and staff rarely master the best research tactics (Google Scholar and PubMed do not have all the answers, especially in animal science and veterinary sciences). Face-to-face support as well as integrated training in our curriculum is paramount to develop science leaders. In the absence of essential library services and support, we expect the capacity to produce high-quality science, in particular fundamental sciences associated with ARC/NHMRC funding and high impact journal publications, to decrease at Roseworthy.
- Lack of resource and support (e.g. Library Advisory Committee did not meet for two years) may explain the missed opportunity to repurpose the library service. Current staff are almost exclusively used as archivist and desk support when there is a growing need to involve them in education (personal support, training workshop and course delivery in program).
- Roseworthy library has existed since the creation of the campus in 1883 (>135 year old) and has an inestimable historical and iconic value. It has seen generations of agriculture students

from all over the Southern Hemisphere and is, no doubt, part of the National Heritage. We are concerned that a self-service model will jeopardise the security of this heritage.

- This review conflicts with the new vision of the VC to “revive the satellite campuses through their libraries”. We are concerned that the review does not take into considerations current strategic visions.
- We also find very concerning the lack of equity of services across campuses. The current rationalisation of library support is unevenly applied and Roseworthy seems to be more impacted than others.

I trust you will take this letter into consideration before making any decisions.

Regards,



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SRC President



Tobias Threadgold  
SRC Rural Officer



王梓劭

Oscar Ong  
Adelaide University Union President



Jordan Mumford  
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Alex Haysman

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