

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



Wednesday, 2nd Aug 2023, 6:30 PM

University of Adelaide North Terrace Campus, Hughes 322

<https://adelaide.zoom.us/j/86415686909?pwd=SEc4OXBtMDdLam1peWFZQjZJYTdKUT09>

AGENDA AND MEETING PAPERS

AGENDA

1. Procedural Matters

1.1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

The SRC acknowledges that we meet on the traditional country of the Kaurna people. We acknowledge that the land upon which Australia has been built was and always will be an integral part of the spiritual and cultural history of Indigenous people and that this land was never ceded.

1.2. Attendance

Provisional for reference only:

Georgia Thomas, Aiden Zeyang Wang, Veronica Yang, Daniel Garcia Zapata, Merlin Wang, Yuka Maruyama, Grace Franco, Arnav Gupta, Rafael Aquino, Leila Clendon, James Wood. Shuhui (Tom) Zhai, Arnav Gupta, Hamish McNamara, Grace Franco, Tony Tu, Sana Vohra, Ruby Stewart, Yeganeh Soltanpour, Ruby Stewart, Lani Bushnell, Yeganneh Solt.

Late:

1.3. Apologies

1.4. Absences:

1.5. Adoption of Agenda

Procedural Motion: that the agenda as circulated be adopted.

Moved: Aiden Zeyang Wang **Seconded:** **Motion Passed**

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion: That the SRC accept the minutes of the meeting on the 31st May 2023 as a true and accurate record (Appendix 1).

Moved: Aiden Zeyang Wang **Seconded:** **Motion Passed / Failed**

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

| Action | Responsible | Status |
|--|------------------------|---|
| Planning & Budgeting for Roseworthy Consultation | Georgia | Rescheduled and ongoing(Georgia will distribute 200-250 though executive) |
| Bank Handover | Georgia, Aiden and Kim | Ongoing |

4. Correspondence

5. New Members

- Environmental Officer - Adeline Tang
- Queer Officer - Dani Collier

6. Office Bearer Reports



Item 6: Office Bearer Reports

There shall be reports at every meeting from the SRC President and all persons who have attended formal meetings on behalf of the organisation. Additional reports submissions are encouraged outside of the compulsory meetings.

Reports are required from the General Secretary, Education Officer, Queer Officer, Postgraduate Officer – HDR, Postgraduate Officer – Coursework, Social Justice Officer, Disability Officer, International Officer **on every odd meeting.**

Reports are required from the Welfare Officer, Women’s Officer, Environment Officer, ATSI Officer, Ethno-Cultural Officer, Rural Officer, Mature Age Officer **on every even meeting.**

Item 6.1: President’s Report – Georgia Thomas

Food Pantry

I have submitted an application for SSAF funding via the Student Engagement Committee to establish a food pantry on campus for students. This project has been well supported by the Student Life team during the planning and drafting stages and I am very thankful for their assistance. The food pantry will assist in providing food necessities to students and supporting those who need it. I’m also very grateful to Liam McLaren, President of the Tasmanian University Students Association, for his help in discussing how TUSA has successfully created their own pantry. At the most recent SEC meeting this was determined to be a priority for the remainder of this year and I look forward to providing updates as this progresses!

Breakfast Club Subcommittee

Whilst I welcome the recommendation of the subcommittee to bridge the Breakfast Club gap via food available at the YouX Hub on Mondays, I feel increasingly frustrated with the way in which the subcommittee was managed. The committee met a total of two times (Wednesday 17th May and Tuesday 18th July). At the first meeting the full agenda was not completed and there was no opportunity to continue any of the conversations started given the next meeting would be the final one and consist only of looking at the recommendation provided by YouX Engagement.

Again, whilst I welcome and am broadly in support of this recommendation, I feel the subcommittee missed opportunities to discuss other elements of food security at our university, including, but not limited to, access in trimesters, operations at Waite and Roseworthy campuses, and how we can assist with supporting Student Care. When the subcommittee was proposed by the YouX Board I expressed concerns that this would be a bureaucratic measure that would not productively lead to outcomes and I feel that the recommendation provided by YouX Engagement was created without input from the subcommittee and could have been reached without its existence. In future I strongly believe the YouX Board needs to consider how it can productively operate dedicated subcommittees based on this feedback. I stated in my most recent report to the YouX Board that I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my experience with Board members, and I attended last week’s Board meeting to answer any

questions, however none were fielded to me at the meeting and I have not been approached by any Directors thus far.

YouX Executive Officer

I authored an article about the salary of the YouX executive officer that was sent to On Dit for publication. The main argument of this article centred around lowering the salary of the Executive Officer. Legal advice provided to YouX found that the article could possibly be considered defamatory. The article will not be published in its current form.

At last week's YouX Board meeting it was revealed that Kathryn Howes will be continuing in the position of YouX EO until the end of 2025. She will be retaining her Finance and Commercial Officer responsibilities in the EO position - thus saving money by combining the two roles.

Student Elections

Over the holiday period I wrote to the YouX Executive Officer requesting SRC and NUS Delegate elections be held. Notice for student elections is officially given as per the most recent edition of On Dit.

Casual Vacancies

There are currently open casual vacancies for the positions of Education Officer, Ethnocultural Officer, and General Councillor (1 position). Over the break the ~~Social Justice~~ (Environment) and Queer Officer positions have been filled.

University Merger

I have been invited to appear at a public hearing of the SA Parliament Joint Committee on the Establishment of Adelaide University. This will be at 12:15pm on Thursday August 10 and is open to members of the public to attend.

Separately to this verbal submission, the SRC will also provide a written submission to the committee. I have attached this as an appendix. This submission outlines the key demands that have been identified to ensure a new university centres the student voice and experience.

The priorities outlined in the submission prepared are:

- Increased student representation on University Council
- Legislated minimum SSAF for the student union
- Legislation outlining the creation of a student union recognised by the University Council

In addition to the attached written submission, I will submit feedback on the draft Adelaide University Act. This is available via an online form and I would encourage other Council members to similarly provide feedback. Many areas of concern in the draft legislation are elaborated on in our written submission.

Primary areas of concern are:

- Removal of graduate representation on University Council

- No specific clause guaranteeing existence of the Adelaide University Union

Motion:

The Council authorises the SRC President to provide a written submission on behalf of the SRC to the Joint Committee into the Creation of Adelaide University

University Accords

The Australian Universities Accord Interim Report was released on 19 July.

The Interim Report outlines a variety of issues that are faced by students across our country and possible improvements we can have moving forward. I welcome in particular the immediate action to end the 50 per cent pass rule introduced by the Morrison Government as part of the Job-ready Graduates Package is a huge win for students. This rule has disadvantaged vulnerable students and sought to penalise them rather than support them through their studies. Many of the considerations raised in the report compliment the improvements we will be pushing for in merger negotiations.

The National Union of Students held a briefing on the Interim Report for campus presidents and discussed the considerations that are a priority for student unions to respond to. It is my intention for the SRC to provide a submission on the Interim Report alongside the NUS and our counterparts at other universities.

NUS Office Bearer Visits

Over the coming month our campus will be visited by two office bearers from the National Union of Students. On the 1st of August we will host the First Nations Officer, Patrick Taylor, and later in the month the Small and Regional Officer, Cheyne Howard. If any SRC members would like to meet with these officers during their visits I would strongly encourage them to reach out. We have a lot to learn from national engagement and discussions with students from other universities and this will be an excellent opportunity to do this.

NUS Affiliation

I have been in discussions with the NUS General Secretary about our affiliation fees for the year. After submitting a fee waiver to reduce our payable membership fee, I'm now seeking to finalise our payment.

Motion:

The SRC will provide \$1000 in affiliation fees to the National Union of Students

Per usual, please get in touch with any questions or ideas. My best contact is via email - srcpresident@adelaide.edu.au.

In Unity,

Georgia Thomas

Item 6.2: General Secretary's Report – Aiden Zeyang Wang

Really excited to submit the third report of my term. I want to express gratitude for all your continuous support throughout; it is genuinely appreciated.

Welcome new members

Firstly, a warm welcome to our two new members, Adeline and Dani, joining the SRC. I am excited to work with you both and keen to see you on board with your respective portfolios. It would be awesome if you can kindly provide me with your phone numbers, email addresses, and student IDs via email as soon as possible, so I can update the directory.

Profile Updates

As of now, I have not received any profile update requests from council members. Assuming you are all happy with your current profiles, I will no longer pursue this matter. However, if anyone has a pressing need to change a photo or update your bio, please inform me via email, along with the desired changes.

Reports of Office Bearers and Agenda

Just a gentle reminder, meeting notices will be sent at least a week in advance, and reports for agenda papers should be submitted to me at least four days before the meeting. I will always provide specific times in my email for your reference. While I understand unexpected circumstances may arise, timely submission would greatly facilitate the agenda preparation process, as I allocate specific time each weekend for this purpose. Being on time helps both you and me!

For emergent business matters, please provide them in writing to me within a reasonable timeframe following the agenda reports deadline. Ideally, all emergent business items should be submitted at least two days before the scheduled meeting. Submissions beyond this timeframe will be considered at the discretion of myself and President, or they will be included in the agenda papers for the subsequent meeting.

Reports Required by Constitution

During our last meeting, I mentioned the upcoming bi-annual report and requested members holding a seat on a UofA committee to submit their reports. Unfortunately, only two members have done so, and it may not be enough to create a comprehensive portfolio for representative purposes. If you have attended any University Committee meetings as a Student Rep, kindly submit feedback to me, including the date of your attendance, your position, and your comments/findings below.

Attendance and Report Tracking

I have just completed the attendance and report tracking excel and will be providing comments on these aspects shortly in the upcoming meetings. In the meantime, please inform me via email if you are unable to attend SRC meetings or will be late for any reasons, so I can have a copy in case of disputes. Also, please submit reports in Word format (12 point font Times New Roman) and motions separately, if applicable.

Lastly, an early email is always appreciated! Let's avoid leaving things until the last minute, despite the temptation of procrastination..... which I probably love it more than you do..... maybe not..... or do I? Ha! Anyways.

That’s all from me now, thanks for reading this far and as always, as your General Secretary, I’m here to support you and the students anytime. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at: a1837337@adelaide.edu.au or aidenzeyang.wang01@adelaide.edu.au

Kind Regards,

Aiden Zeyang Wang
SRC General Secretary

Item 6.3: Education Officer’s Report – VACANT

N/A

Item 6.6: Queer Officer’s Report – VACANT

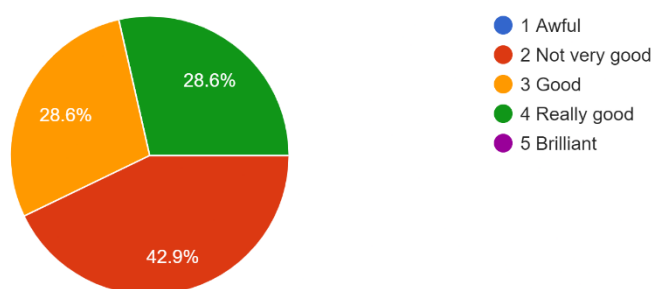
N/A

Item 6.8: Disability Officer’s Report

1. Disability Support Feedback

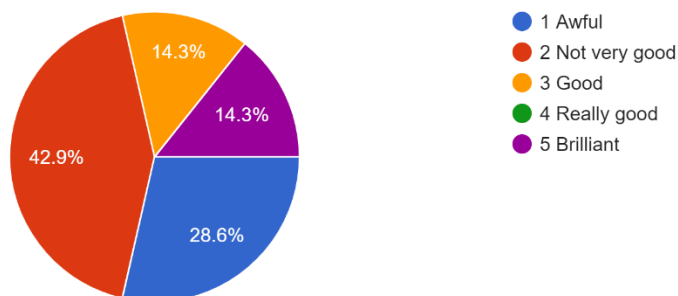
I would like to say thank you for supporting my motion to share the link for this disability support feedback. This post was shared by some people included in Disability, Illness and Divergence Association UoA group. From the result, most people are not happy with the current disability support that they have been taking. And there are so many useful votes, regarding that, I would like to discuss with the disability support team to improve the system.

Are you happy with support from disability team or university in your uni life?
7 responses



Are you happy with school facilities and equipment?

7 responses



What do you want uni to change? Please write down any advice if you are not happy with your current support or school facilities and equipment.

7 responses

- Course staff don't seem have the time/capacity to respond to our emails about accomodations, so even though this is the recommended communication pathway, it's difficult to arrange supports this way. It would be great if there was a dedicated admin staff member who could coordinate AP requirements for each faculty.
- A complete lack of understanding around any needs for neurodivergent peoples. The fact it takes so much god damned effort to just get -accurate subtitles on video lectures is not acceptable for those of us with auditory processing problems and are unable to hear what is being said no matter how many times it is played we need those subtitles to confirm what is in fact said and to get full context of the lecture. Also they have to stop making it our job to divulge our disability information to lecturers to ensure that are access plans are taken seriously and actioned. frankly having to request extensions everytime we need them one by one instead of giving some extra needed time to each assignment makes it inaccessible and requires so many hoops to jump through when most of the time we are making these extension requests different area of the school is for autistic people like myself and how badly the on site GP and psychiatrists have treated me each time I've been in for either a psychiatric assessment or to discuss medication and suicidal ideation.
- Supports for PhD in terms of additional time due to disability would be good
- Accessible campus maps, more accessible lift access (all lifts accessible 24 hours. Looking at you, big lift outside of Barr Smith), quiet/sensory spaces around campus to re equilibrate during the day. Qualified disability support staff, I'm doubtful the current ones are. Easier access to accommodations such as coursework extensions for students with access plans - should have to constantly be getting doctor certificates, its a waste if doctors, students, and university admin time.
- I would add a full time neurodiversity specialist disability support person to the university's Disability Support Services. This action has worked well in the UK universities, and neurodiverse students there who have access to one attribute their successes to this type of support. I believe Oxford University is a good degree as on campus attendance is risky for someone who is immune compromised.
- Offering Part Time placement would be a game changer! I have really struggled with full time placements however they are a requirement of my degree.

2. The official letter to Disability Support Team to change the name from Disability Support to Accessibility Support

This is in progress right now, I finished writing this letter, and it is on the final check before I submit that to the disability support team. I will send that to the disability support team by next month.

3. Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) Implementation Working Group

I was invited to join Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) Implementation Working Group, and I accepted that. I am looking forward to working with them and improving the disability support system at UoA soon.

Yuka Maruyama
SRC Disability Officer

Item 6.10: Postgraduate Officer – HDR’s Report – VACANT

N/A

Item 6.11: Postgraduate Officer – Coursework’s Report – Daniel Zapata

Dear fellow SRC members,

In the last Admissions Committee Meeting, held on 31 May 2023, the English requirements for postgraduate international students were discussed. I reminded the necessity of abolishing mandatory language courses for international students only, and accordingly, making sure that the new international students have the communication skills needed to succeed in their studies and professional career. My purpose is not to raise the test scores needed to enroll in a course but to be careful with the tests that might not reflect the actual English proficiency of a student.

On the 26th of July, I was part ‘Postgraduate Networking Session’, where I could share with postgraduate students how we at the SRC represent them and could help them to make their journey the best one possible. I could engage with some of them and answer questions about university life, share my experiences, and connect.

I look forward to working together with other fellow SRC members to make the university experience for postgraduate students and all students the best one possible.

Daniel Garcia Zapata

Item 6.12: International Officer’s Report – Yeganneh Solt Not Submitted

Item 6.13 : Social Justice Officer’s Report

Not Submitted

Item 7.1: Motions On Notice: Melbourne University Strike

Pre-amble

The University of Melbourne is one of the richest universities in Australia, and yet it's workforce is casualised, overworked and underpaid. Over the last three years they have sacked over 600 workers. Over 50% of the 12,000-person workforce is casual despite many people having worked regular hours for years. Last year the university was found to have stolen \$31.5 Million in wages from employees, mainly through not paying casuals to mark student work and prepare lessons. The National Tertiary Education Union has initiated strike action is demanding an above inflation pay rise, an 80% permanent workforce, a ban on further redundancies, paid sick leave for casuals and paid gender affirmation leave, among other demands. So far staff have walked off the job for two 24 hour stop works, and plan to continue unless management concede their demands.

The NTEU is asking for donations to their strike fund to support workers who are on strike. Those of us who attended Edcon would also have heard a request for student unions to support the strike fund from student activists from Melbourne University. Solidarity is one of the most basic principles of unionism. Staff conditions are student conditions. When staff are less casualised, paid appropriately for their work, and have a decent workload, students have a better education. If strike action is successful at Melbourne University this sets a better precedent for Adelaide University as well. Staff at Adelaide university face many of the same challenges as Melbourne University staff including wage theft, casualization and staff cuts. If management see successful strike action across the country will think twice about attacking staff here. If staff at Adelaide University see successful strike action at Melbourne University they will see that standing up to, and winning demands from management is possible. Standing in solidarity with staff fighting back against management is one of the most important things student unions can do.

Motion:

- The SRC condemns the University of Melbourne for underpaying staff and refusing to submit to workers' demands.
- The SRC stands in solidarity with workers going on strike at Melbourne University.
- The SRC calls on Adelaide University to end casualization, wage theft and staff cuts.

Actions:

- The SRC will donate \$200 to the NTEU Melbourne University Strike fund here: https://www.nteu.au/Donation/Donation/Donate_Now.aspx?ItemId=MELSTRIKE
- The SRC will take a solidarity photo and post it to the SRC Facebook page with the following message:
 - “Adelaide University SRC supports strike action at Melbourne University! Melbourne University staff are on strike demanding an above inflation pay rise, an end to casualization, and paid sick leave. Here at the SRC we know that staff conditions are student conditions, and the best way to improve those conditions is to fight. To show support for the striking workers, we're donating \$200 towards the strike fund. We hope they win all their demands, and inspire workers at universities across Australia to fight back against management's attacks.”

Item 7.2: Motions On Notice: National Union of Students calls for ‘welfare not warfare’ day of action

Pre-amble

Hundreds of students from all over the country gathered in Brisbane for the National Union of Students Education Conference. Students debated this year’s theme, Welfare not Warfare, in response to the Labor government investing billions into the development of nuclear-powered submarines while the welfare and wages have declined and rental prices have soared. Wars led by the US to ‘defend democracy’ have left a legacy of horror and destruction for ordinary people. Workers and students share no interest in waging war with China. Instead of continuing that legacy, money should be invested into public housing, implementing rent freezes, raising welfare payments, and funding free education. As such, the conference passed a motion condemning the US alliance, and called for a university boycott of the military.

The union has called for a National Day of Action (NDA) in response to the resolutions from the Education Conference. As the peak body of university students in Australia, the national union, and member organisations, have a responsibility to give a lead to students in the fight for a better world. Rallies for the NDA have been called by student unions and activists in Brisbane, Canberra, Sydney, Wollongong, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth for August 9th.

In South Australia, AUKUS presents us with a concerning set of developments. The state government has begun to develop the chain of supply and manufacturing to build the SSN-AUKUS submarines in the Osborne shipyard. As such, our universities are set to change dramatically. University management from Flinders, The University of Adelaide, and The University of South Australia are re-shaping courses and research programs to train students in advanced manufacturing of war machines and deepening existing ties with weapons companies, while funding for the humanities, and social sciences continues to dry up. Student unions should be demanding that STEM courses should be geared towards repairing damage done to the climate, rather than destruction.

In particular Adelaide University is involved in the Defence Trailblazer Program in which \$50m of federal government money will be invested to get students to produce research and technology directly for the Australian Defence Force and weapons companies. Adelaide University has also set up the Defence and Security Institute on lot 14, designed to guide the university’s defence research and course structure in close collaboration with weapons companies and war criminals. Adelaide University is currently host to more than \$65m in defence-funded research at the Lot Fourteen business park, and is reshaping Masters in Marine Engineering and Radiation Management courses explicitly to meet the requirements of nuclear submarine development.

Initial planning for the Adelaide ‘No Schools of War’ event as part of the NDA has commenced, and the event will reflect these local circumstances. The main event has been called for the national date in the CBD, with plans for speeches, and a march to Lot Fourteen on North Terrace where major weapons companies are based.

In addition, the NUS Education Department has created an open letter opposing AUKUS for student representatives to sign onto. Student representatives are encouraged to sign the open

letter to show their opposition.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3XdNhgMzhLfowxR4jSjRhs33okWz8HI-71KPCGaa-O5RXKA/viewform>

Motion

The SRC:

- 1) Endorses the decision of the National Union of Students to oppose AUKUS and the militarisation of higher education
- 2) Endorses the National Union of Students National Day of Action ‘Welfare not Warfare’ campaign, and the Adelaide ‘No Schools of War’ event
- 3) Supports the demands of the Welfare Not Warfare campaign:
 - No to the AUKUS military alliance
 - Money for welfare and housing, not nuclear submarines
 - No to universities collaborating with AUKUS and the military
 - No nuclear waste dumps on Aboriginal Land

Action Points

The SRC:

- 1) Will advertise the August 9 NDA on the SRC Facebook page.
- 2) Will pay \$50 to boost the Facebook post to reach a wider audience.
- 3) Expects attendance from all council members reasonably capable of doing so.

Item 8. General Business

N/A

Item 10. Emergent Business

All emergent business matters as detailed here must be provided in writing to the General Secretary within a reasonable timeframe following the agenda reports deadline. It is anticipated that all emergent business items be submitted to the General Secretary at least two days prior to the scheduled meeting. Any submissions beyond this timeframe will be considered at the discretion of the General Secretary and President, or alternatively, they will be included in the agenda papers for the subsequent meeting.

N/A

Item 11. Date of Next Meeting

The date and time of the next meeting will be on Wednesday 16th August 2023 6:30pm at University of Adelaide North Terrace Campus, Hughes 322

12.1 Appendix 1: Minutes of the Council Meeting (31st May 2023)

Meeting in Hughes 322 Thursday 31st May 2023

1. Procedural Matters

Georgia Thomas opened the meeting at 7pm.

1.1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

Georgia acknowledged the owners of the land we were on as that of the Kurna people.

1.2. Attendance

Georgia Thomas, Aiden Zeyang Wang, Veronica Yang, Daniel Garcia Zapata, Merlin Wang, Yuka Maruyama, Arnav Gupta, Rafael Aquino, Leila Clendon, James Wood, Jiaming Lai

Late: Shuhui (Tom) Zhai

1.3. Apologies

Arnav Gupta, Hamish McNamara, Grace Franco, Tony Tu, Sana Vohra, Ruby Stewart, Yeganeh Soltanpour, Ruby Stewart, Lani Bushnel

1.4. Absences

Wella Huang, Simranjeet Singh Dahia, Jack Butcher, Anjali Malhotra

1.5. Adoption of Agenda

Procedural Motion: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

Moved: Aiden Zeyang Wang **Seconded:** Rafael Aquino **Motion carried**

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Recommendation: That the SRC accept the minutes of the meeting of 3rd of May 2023 as a true and accurate record (Appendix 1).

Moved: Georgia **Seconded:** Rafael Aquino **Motion carried**

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

| Action | Responsible | Status |
|--|------------------------|---|
| Planning & Budgeting for Roseworthy Consultation | Georgia | Rescheduled and ongoing(Georgia will distribute 200-250 though executive) |
| Bank Handover | Georgia, Aiden and Kim | Ongoing |

4. Correspondence

5. New Members

6. Motions on Notice

7. Office Bearer Reports

7.1. President

Georgia Thomas passed the Chair to Aiden Zeyang Wang at 7:04pm

Georgia delivered her report.

Aiden Zeyang Wang Passed the Chair to Georgia Thomas at 7:10pm

12.3. General Secretary

Aiden delivered his report and posed the following motions:

12.3.1. Motion: UofA Committee Record of Appointment

Moved: Aiden Zeyang Wang **Seconded:** Merlin Wang **Motion carried**

12.3.2. Motion: SRC Social Media Presence Performance Report – Facebook

Leila: Questioned the rationale behind the report being presented to the "You X" marketing for discussion. She highlighted that the page posts political content and allows for controversial discussions. Emphasizing that the Student Representative Council (SRC) should avoid treating students as customers but representatives. The importance of their role as representatives is speaking on behalf of the students.

Leila: Political content aligns well with students' interests, particularly in light of issues like education cuts and protests for abortion rights. She disagreed with the notion of reducing engagement in political matters and advocated for accepting the social media report. Leila also stressed the significance of being proud of the successful management of the biggest protest, acknowledging the fact that political content tends to be more engaging.

Georgia: believes there's merits to Leila's comments.

Leila: Recommend including additional perspectives that some part of the analysis is really biased.

Leila and James dissent to the report and motion.

Moved: Aiden Zeyang Wang **Seconded:** Merlin Wang **Motion carried**

12.3.3. Motion: Delegation of the SRC Bank Account to GS

Moved: Aiden Zeyang Wang **Seconded:** Shuhui (Tom) Zhai **Motion carried**

12.3.4. Motion: Delegation of the role of Public Officer of the SRC to GS

Moved: Aiden Zeyang Wang **Seconded:** Merlin Wang **Motion carried**

12.4. Education Officer

N/A

12.5. Welfare Officer

Rafael Delivered his Report.

12.6. Women's Officer

Anjali delivered her report. The following was mentioned in addition:

Anjali: had a meeting with indigenous student support officer and she will provide further updates soon to the SRC.

- 12.7. **Queer Officer**
N/A
- 12.8. **ATSI Officer**
N/A
- 12.9. **Disability Officer**
N/A
- 12.10. **Environment Officer**
N/A
- 12.11. **Postgraduate Officer – HDR**
N/A
- 12.12. **Postgraduate Officer – Coursework**
N/A
- 12.13. **International Student Officer**
N/A
- 12.14. **Social Justice Officer**
N/A
- 12.15. **Ethno-Cultural Officer**
Report Not Submitted
- 12.16. **Rural Officer**

Hamish Delivered his report verbally.

Hamish: is actively engaged in working with student equity, striving to support disadvantaged groups from graduate to enrolments. He is currently involved in two projects focusing on equity and accommodation matters. During discussions, Hamish mentioned that the Adelaide Law School has notably adopted their support for the voice to parliament, making it the only school to take such a position.

Hamish: drew the council's attention to Roseworthy, where a peer mentorship program exists. He emphasized the potential need for further support in that particular area.

12.17. **Mature Age Officer**

Tony delivered his report.

Tony: intend to consult with MSA again in Second Semester, work with my colleagues on SRC to see how we can assist Cost of Living assistance at university.

12.18. **Roseworthy Campus Officer**

N/A

12.19. **Waite Officer –**

Merlin: is excited about being appointed as the chair of the Breakfast Club Sub-Committee and is dedicated to working closely with students. However, he recognizes that simply sending

food is not an adequate solution to address accessibility issues. One key concern is the limited number of students who are aware of the program due to the voucher system. Merlin is determined to ensure that no students are left behind, as there are various reasons why some may not be able to afford the expensive breakfast options available in Hub Central. He then referred to his three stage plan as per his report.

Leila: expressed her concern about certain council members supporting staff cuts, stating that advocating for people losing their jobs is not something the council should endorse. She firmly believes that every time staff cuts are proposed, the council should fight back to protect employees.

Merlin: responded, emphasizing the need to balance priorities between services and staff support.

Leila: remained dissatisfied with Merlin's response and maintained her position against staff cuts.

James: expressing his opposition to any form of cuts and supporting Leila's stance, considering it an anti-union practice.

Merlin: noted that while the Student Representative Council can save funding for student services, it may not be sufficient to fully support all services, as funding is limited.

Leila: expressed her frustration with trying to engage with the university, stating that they are unresponsive to their concerns.

Merlin: agreed, highlighting the importance of taking matters into their own hands to achieve results, as they have been fighting for these causes.

Leila: pointed out that Merlin should be advocating for fewer staff cuts, as she believes he hasn't done so effectively.

13. Motions on Notice

13.1. Defend Right to Protest: Oppose Labor's Anti-Protest Legislation

During the debate on the Right to Protest, concerns were raised regarding Labor's Anti-Protest Legislation. It was argued that both Labor and Liberals' actions were shocking and unprecedented. The legislation criminalized any form of protest and imposed fines that increased by a staggering 7000%. Many viewed this as an oppressive attack on democratic rights, with criticism directed at Labor for undermining climate action and other forms of protest. There was a perception that the media, particularly Murdoch media, was suppressing the right to protest and favoring the interests of the rich and powerful at the expense of the environment.

One notable event involved over 500 people blocking roads during the rain, demonstrating what true democracy looked like and garnering support from the public.

Hamish: voiced support for standing by the values of protest freedom, expressing concern that the rushed implementation of the law lacked proper legal consultation.

Alexander: lamented that Labor had deviated from their promises, especially concerning climate action. He saw the legislation as an attack on civil liberties and an opportunity to challenge the interests of the powerful.

Leila: argued that disruptive advocacy could be more effective in getting the government's attention, emphasizing the importance of impactful protests to bring about change.

Georgia Thomas passed the chair to Aiden Zeyang Wang at 7:48pm

Georgia: proposed amending to decline option 1, expressing her view that endorsing it would not be appropriate.

Leila: also requested an amendment, stating that the endorsement of the protest on Friday had changed today, and it should be added in at the last minute:

“The SRC endorses the 2nd June speak out against the anti-protest laws and will share the event on its Facebook page”

Aiden Zeyang Wang Passed the Chair to Georgia Thomas on 7:52pm

James: emphasized the importance of individual members endorsing the letters and having their names associated with them, as it helps build support within their party.

Daniel: mentioned that there is a need to limit protests and their impact.

James: stated that the concept of ‘minority should not have the right to disrupt’ is wrong.

Hamish: said that the organized minority is passionate about their cause but can sometimes disrupt the lives of the majority. He stressed that this is a crucial aspect of democracy.

Leila: criticized the undemocratic nature of the majority, particularly citing Santos.

Daniel: challenged the idea of justifying any means to achieve goals and observed a disruption in Australian families day-to-day business.

Hamish: sought clarification on what Daniel meant by disrupting Australian families. Daniel explained that actions like closing roads can affect people's access to food and other essential services.

Hamish: pointed out that there was a previous discussion on how to protest effectively.

Motions:

The SRC:

1. Condemns the SA Labor and Liberal parties for their bipartisan support for extreme new anti-protest laws and calls upon the parliament to immediately revoke the legislation.
2. Supports the right to disruptive protest as an essential means to defend and win our rights and social gains.
3. Commends the hundreds of people who attended the Friday, May 26th protest against the passing of the anti-protest bill, and endorses this action as the correct, defiant response needed to push back draconian laws.

Action Points:

1. The SRC endorses future actions against the passing of this anti-protest bill.
2. The SRC will post a public statement on social media accounts opposing the anti-protest bill i.e., the proposed amendments to the Summary Offences Act that further represses the right to protest and calls on the SA government to immediately scrap the bill.
3. The SRC will put out an open letter condemning Labor's anti-protest laws with the SRC office bearers and councillors in agreement putting their name to the letter.

Moved: James Wood

Seconded: Leila Clendon

Specific votes on the motions were requested to be displayed by members of the Council:

For (5) and Against (7) - **The Motion Failed**

14. General Business

N/A

15. Executive Report

N/A

16. Emergent Business

16.1. Motion: Feed Back on Disability Support

Moved: Yuka Maruyama

Seconded: Merlin Wang

Motion Passed

16.2. Motion: Disability Support Name Change

17. Moved: Yuka Maruyama

Seconded: Merlin Wang

Motion Passed

18. Date of the Next Meeting

Date of the next meeting is set on 2nd of August.

Georgia Thomas closed the meeting at 8:08pm

Appendix 2: SRC Submission Regarding the Adelaide University Act



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SRC Submission regarding the Adelaide University Act

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Background:

The SRC is elected annually from all students at the University of Adelaide. We have put together this submission to articulate what we would like to see in the Proposed Adelaide University Act 2023.

The Student Representative Council is the primary voice for students on campus in terms of advocacy and student voice. We are recognised as such by the University, stakeholders, and the Adelaide University Union as such.

We are the body in the best position to assist the Joint Committee in understanding the expected impact of the new university on current and future students.

This submission outlines what elements the SRC considers integral to the new University Act.

This submission builds on our prior contributions internally to the University of Adelaide and will complement other submissions addressing student representation and student experience at the new University.

Executive Summary

The SRC has many goals and aspirations that can be achieved through the University amalgamation. Many of these can be achieved through negotiations with the University and other stakeholders at a later date.

With the Malinauskas Government's goal to pass the Adelaide University Act by the end 2023, we need to articulate our key demands which can only be achieved through the act.

These are:

- The Introduction of a clause in the Bill to provide for a student union,
- The Introduction of a minimum provision of SSAF to the Student Union; and
- Increased student representation on the University Council.

Without these outcomes, it will be difficult for the SRC to defend an amalgamation to our members.



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The Adelaide University Union

Establishment

Section 21 of the [University of Adelaide Act 1971](#), establishes the Adelaide University Union.

We believe that a student union, named the Adelaide University Union, should be established in the proposed Adelaide University Act.

Name

The name 'Adelaide University Union' should continue. The AUU has a history of over 100 years of being the centre of social and political life for thousands of students.

The retention of the name makes additional sense considering the agreed upon name of the University is 'Adelaide University'.

The retention of the term 'Union' is also important, recognising the history of student unionism.

Proposed Bill

We believe that the proposed Adelaide University Bill is flawed in that it does not make clear the future of student unions.

Division 11 of Schedule 1 does provide for the transfer of assets from the present AUU to a successor organisation as a result of negotiation with USASA or otherwise. We welcome this provision. It is clear that negotiation between student unions must be done without the need for this to be established via the act.

However, the bill does not provide an avenue for an association of students to formally exist with the concurrence of Council like the present University of Adelaide and University of South Australia acts provide.

Section 9, of the University of South Australia Act reads:
"The Council may approve the formation of any association of students, or students and staff, of the University that is to be formed for the purposes of promoting the interests of students, or of students and staff."

Similarly, Section 21 of the University of Adelaide Act provides for the continuation of the Adelaide University Union with guidelines on its obligations to Council.

Though the provisions for the transition of the AUU are welcome, **the SRC believes a provision for a student union within the act is critical.**



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Council recognition of the Student Union is critical for us to successfully advocate for students. Just as the Student Union has obligations to the University, the University should have obligations to recognise an independent, elected, student union.

We additionally desire the existence of a student union, as we enter the next stage of negotiations. We do not seek to simultaneously have to justify our own existence to the University Councils while additionally seeking outcomes for our members.

As noted in the interim University Accords report, there is a significant power imbalance between students and influential stakeholders such as universities, peak bodies, government and industry.¹ Our union's legislated and legitimised existence is a step towards bridging this imbalance and allowing all groups to walk towards the new university with more equal footing.

A clause guaranteeing a Student Union is vital in ensuring the empowerment of students in the creation of the new university. There is precedence for this in both existing university Acts and it must be retained.

Structure

In our expansive submission to the University of Adelaide, we laid out our vision for the structure of the combined student union.

We do not desire the retention of the present structure of the Adelaide University Union.

The new organisation's structure should be determined at a later date through discussion with the SRC, USASA, University, and the present AUU. We do not seek in this submission to repeat our ideal structure as this can be finalised at a later date, outside of the Act.

The priority at the moment is ensuring that a student union is established within the new Act called the Adelaide University Union.

¹ Australian Universities Accord, Interim Report. 2023. Page 123

Minimum Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Provision to the AUU

What we want

The SRC would like to see a minimum provision of SSAF to the Adelaide University Union, enshrined within the new Adelaide University Act.

Student Union's run critical services for students like food programs, counselling, legal advice, and career advice. Additionally they are, at their best, the centre of social life for students overseeing clubs and associations, student media, and hosting large events for students.

Minimum SSAF will guarantee that these critical services to enhance the student experience are guaranteed for the future.

It will additionally make Adelaide University a more attractive destination for international and domestic students to have a thriving student union.

What is SSAF?

The Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) was established by the Federal Gillard Government in 2011 to ensure the continued operation of student services at universities.² It effectively ended the war between conservative and progressive forces over the funding of student unionism. In effect, it replaced Voluntary Student Unionism, implemented by the Howard Government in 2006.

For full time students at the University of Adelaide in 2023, [the SSAF fee is \\$326](#) for the year.³ This fee can be charged to a student's HECS-HELP Debt.

This money is pooled together by the University to be spent on student services. Organisations like the AUU and Adelaide University Sports (AU Sports) then have to sit down and negotiate the provision of SSAF to their organisations to fund their services in line with the act.

Flaws in the system

Though at the moment, SSAF provides a vital lifeline for student services and the functioning of student life, it is not without its flaws. The situation has an unbalanced power structure with the University holding most of the power. If a student union displeases the University, for

² University of Adelaide - www.adelaide.edu.au/student/finance/student-services-and-amenities-fee

³ Ibid

example, by opposing certain policy, then the University has the power to strip their funding in the next round of negotiations.

In no other Union, does the Union have to negotiate with the bosses for membership fees to fund its most basic services.

Importance of SSAF - Universities Accord Interim Report

The Australian Government has committed to an Australian Universities Accord to drive lasting and transformative reform in Australia's higher education system.

The objective of the Accord is to reach recommendations that will improve the quality, accessibility, affordability and sustainability of higher education, in order to achieve long term security and prosperity for the sector and the nation.

Within [Section 3.2.3 of the Interim Report](#) the panel determines that student bodies make valuable contributions to a vibrant campus life. The report highlights what we have outlined in this submission that the present situation "limits student organisations' autonomy in holding universities accountable"⁴.

The Review is presently examining what "more could be done to support how the SSAF is directed, including to students"⁵ and considering "providing a greater percentage of the Student Services and Amenities Fee to student unions to ensure the support and representation of students"⁶.

The campaign for 50% of SSAF to student organisations is a nationwide campaign by student organisations. The SRC believes that the Accord Interim Report shows positive signs that the Federal Government is moving toward a new model of SSAF distribution to help student organisations.

South Australia has a unique opportunity to be at the forefront and implement minimum SSAF requirements in the new Adelaide University Act.

Western Australian Provisions

Across Western Australian Universities, there are already minimum SSAF requirements for Student Unions (referred to as Guilds in WA) through their University Acts. This shows that our proposal has precedent.

[The University of Western Australia](#), [Curtin](#), [Edith Cowan](#), and [Murdoch](#) Universities all contain provisions for 50% of the SSAF to go to their guilds within their University Acts.

⁴ Australian Universities Accord, Interim Report. 2023. Page 121

⁵ Australian Universities Accord, Interim Report. 2023. Page 118

⁶ Australian Universities Accord, Interim Report. 2023. Page 123





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The wording of this guarantee is:

“The Council must pay to the Student Guild an amount that is not less than 50% of the total amount of the annual amenities and services fees collected.”

We suggest similar wording in the new act.

Amount

In Western Australia, 50% of SSAF fees go to their guilds.

In the case of the University of Adelaide, things are made difficult by the present existence of AU Sports and the AUU. Prior to the Howard Government’s imposition of Voluntary Student Unionism, these organisations were part of each other. However, out of economic necessity they demerged.

Presently their combined provision of SSAF fees is almost 70%.

In the SRC’s prior submission to the University, we suggested that the two bodies merge, and be guaranteed 75% of SSAF collected. This remains our ideal situation.

If the bodies remain separate however and in the present moment, we believe that 50% of SSAF being provided to the AUU is a fair amount.



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Increased representation on the University Council

The current situation

The SRC attaches a very high value to student voice through strong student unions, and direct student voice on University Council's.

Seeing additional student voices on the new University's Council is one of our highest priorities.

Presently, both the University of Adelaide Act and The University of South Australia Act provides that there will be one undergraduate student and one postgraduate student on the Council, either by appointment or election.

The University of Adelaide provides a term of two years for their representatives, directly electing them through an online method.

Recent amendments

In 2017, the Weatherill Government amended the University of Adelaide Act to the detriment of elected representation on the University Council.

The changes to representation for certain groups are set out below:

| Group | Jun 2007 - Oct 2017 | Current Version |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Undergraduate Students | 2 | 1 |
| Postgraduate Students | 1 | 1 |
| Academic Staff | 2 | 1 |
| General Staff | 2 | 1 |
| Graduates | 3 | 1 |

These amendments decreased elected voices on the Council, meaning that members elected by their respective cohorts, are now in the minority.

Please see [annexure 1](#) for the history of representation on the University Council since 1991.



Students as Partners

The University of Adelaide presently has a strong focus on Students as Partners, launching the [SaP program](#) in 2020.

University Accord Interim Report

The Interim Report of the University Accords emphasises the importance of students as partners in Universities. One of the principles of the Accord itself is that a dynamic partnership between governments, institutions, **students**, industry, unions and communities must be formed.

The report stresses that “students require a stronger voice in governance and decision-making”⁷.

An immediate action from the interim report is National Cabinet working with states and territories to improve university governance with a focus on the membership of governing bodies, including ensuring additional involvement of people with expertise in the business of universities. South Australia has the opportunity to lead the way in this area in how our new university council will be structured.

The Transition Council

In line with the commitment of many parties to have students as partners, the SRC was dismayed to see that no students will sit on the Transition Council and that seemingly no elected staff member of either council will sit on it.⁸

We do not believe this is good enough. We need student voices to be heard in the transition process to the new University. The elected student members of the respective Council’s should sit on the transition Council.

Our Proposal

We strongly believe that the decisions that impact students cannot be best made solely by retired politicians, and business executives. **It is of utmost importance that there are no barriers to student voices being heard on Council.**

In our prior submission to the University, we outlined our ideal scenario of having **5 students on the new Universities council:**

- 2 Undergraduates elected yearly in alternate years for a term of 2 years.
- 1 Higher degree by Research student elected for a term of 2 years.
- 1 Higher degree by Coursework student elected for a term of 2 years
- The Student Union President as an *ex officio* member.

⁷ Australian Universities Accord, Interim Report. 2023. Page 121

⁸ Creation of a University for the Future, Transition Plan. 2023. Page 13





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We would also like to see elected staff numbers on Council increase so that elected voices on Council hold a majority in meetings.

Until 1999, four undergraduate students were elected to the University of Adelaide’s Council, demonstrating that our proposal is not a radical one and in line with historical trends.

The National Union of Students recommends a minimum of 3 elected student representatives on a university council.⁹

The Draft Bill

Representation of stakeholders

The draft Adelaide University Bill follows the University of South Australia Act in prescribing representation on Council.

It provides for the following representation of stakeholders:

| Group | Proposed Bill |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Undergraduate Students | 1 |
| Postgraduate Students | 1 |
| Academic Staff | 1 |
| General Staff | 1 |
| Graduates | 0 |

This model provides inadequate representation.

The proposed bill cuts the representation of Graduates¹⁰, meaning their voices will no longer be heard on Council. It additionally maintains what we see as an underrepresentation of student voices.

Cutting graduate representation whilst maintaining general appointed membership on the council is antithetical to what is recommended within the interim Accords report - “business expertise must be balanced by council members who deeply understand the functions of universities, including learning and teaching, research and management.”¹¹

⁹ [National Union of Students Submission to The University Accords](#). Page 8.

¹⁰ In relation to the current University of Adelaide Act.

¹¹ Australian Universities Accord, Interim Report. 2023. Page 2



Terms of Office

Additionally, we note that the draft bill provides a minimum of 2 year terms for appointed members, and elected staff but only a minimum of 1 year for student representatives.¹²

We believe there should be the same standard for all members of Council and believe that the minimum term should be the same for all representatives.

Positive Reflections

The SRC strongly supports the commitment within the draft bill to ensure:

- The Council is broadly balanced by gender; and
- Members should have a commitment to education and, in particular, higher education; and
- That members have an understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of equal opportunity and social justice and, in particular, access and equity in education.¹³

These are welcome additions and will ensure a Council which upholds the values of the students.

¹² Adelaide University Act, Draft Bill. 2023. Page 11-12

¹³ Adelaide University Act, Draft Bill. 2023. Page 11





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The SRC's Ongoing support

The SRC is pleased that we have been involved in discussions related to the merger and to author this submission.

We are keen to engage in good faith in all negotiations going forward related to the merger and have our voices heard. **We would welcome the opportunity to appear before the joint committee to discuss our concerns and priorities.**

Students at the University of Adelaide have a wide range of opinions on the merger. There are many students and student groups who are vehemently opposed to any amalgamation of institutions.

When the amalgamation was formally announced, many students and community members at the University of Adelaide were dismayed at the decision. The University eventually turned off comments on its announcement post, signalling that backlash was immediate.

The SRC shares many concerns with these students and are yet to formally endorse the amalgamation. We have, however, not chosen to oppose or fight back against the merger, deciding that engaging productively is better in order to achieve better outcomes for students.

With the University Accords process underway, as well as the University Amalgamation, there is an exciting opportunity for South Australia to lead the nation. We can take the initiative and implement the recommendations of the interim report and make Adelaide University both the newest, and most forward-thinking University in the nation.

What we have outlined in this submission, are our top priorities from the Government for inclusion within the new University Act.

Without our priorities being addressed by the Government, we are prepared to mobilise students against the merger.

We will continue to engage with Government and University figures to advocate for our view to the merger.

Yours sincerely,

Georgia Thomas
SRC President
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Annexure 1 - History of Representation on the University of Adelaide Council.

| Group | Jan 91 - Feb 97 | Feb 97 - Mar 97 | Mar 97 - Dec 99 | Dec 99 - Dec 03 | Dec 03 - Mar 04 | Mar 04 - May 04 | May 04 - Jul 05 | Jul 05 - May 07 | Jun 07 - Oct 17 | Oct 17 - Jun 21 | Jun 21 - Present |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Undergraduate Students | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Postgraduate Students | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Academic Staff | 8 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| General Staff | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Graduates | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 ¹⁴ | 0 ¹⁵ | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 |

¹⁴ Though no graduates were elected/appointed in this iteration of the act, the presiding member of the Graduate Council sat as an *ex officio* member and could appoint 3 members of their choosing to Council

¹⁵ Ibid