

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



Wednesday, 8th February 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

1.3. Apologies

1.4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: that the agenda as circulated be adopted.

1.5. Welcome

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Recommendation: That the SRC accept the minutes of the meeting on the 6th December 2022 as a true and accurate record (Appendix 1).

Recommendation: That the SRC accept the minutes of the executive meeting on 11th January 2023 as a true and accurate record (Appendix 2).

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

4. Correspondence

5. New Members

6. Motions on Notice

7. Office Bearer Reports

7.1. President

7.2. Welfare Officer

7.3. Women's Officer

7.4. Environment Officer

7.5. Mature Age Officer

7.6. Ethno-Cultural Officer

7.7. Rural Officer

7.8. Waite Officer

8. General Business

8.1. Environment NDA - Leila Clendon

Action:

1. The SRC supports the March 17 National Day of Action and its demands.
2. The SRC commits up to \$500 towards printing posters and leaflets to promote the event (appendix A).
3. The SRC will promote the NDA at its O'Week stall.
4. The SRC will co-host the Facebook event for the Adelaide action and promote the event on Facebook.
5. SRC representatives who support this motion will attend the event and help with its online promotion.

8.2. Keep up the fight for LGBTI Rights – Leila Clendon

The SRC:

- Stands in solidarity with the Community Action for Rainbow Rights and the abuse survivors' protests against George Pell.
- Condemns Don Farrell for openly showing support for Pell by attending his funeral instead of the protests happening at the same time.
- Opposes concessions to the far-right in the Religious Discrimination Bill allowing schools to teach that being LGBTI is a sin and fire teachers for being open about their gender and sexuality.
- Opposes the British Parliament's attempt to undemocratically shut down the Gender Recognition Bill in Scotland.
- Opposes the Australian and New Zealand speaking tour of far right and transphobic British commentator Kellie-Jay Keen.
- Supports the protest on the 16th of March against Kellie-Jay Keen's event in Adelaide.

Actions:

1. The SRC will write a letter to Minister for Trade and Tourism Don Farrell, expressing disappointment in his decision attend George Pell's funeral.
2. The SRC will share the event for the protest against Kellie-Jay Keen on the SRC Facebook page with a short message about the importance of attending.
3. The SRC commits up to \$250 for printing leaflets and posters for the protest (appendix B)
4. Commits to supporting any further action against the homophobic and transphobic concessions in the Religious Discrimination Bill.
5. SRC members who support the motion will attend the protest.

8.3. Condemn Israeli Massacre of Palestinians – Leila Clendon

The SRC:

1. Condemns the Israeli massacre of Palestinians in Jenin.
2. Condemns the federal Labor government's implicit support for Israel in the wake of the recent murders of Palestinians.

3. Expresses support for the Palestinian resistance movement in Jenin.

Action Points:

1. The SRC will take a photo of solidarity at the end of the meeting and will post it to the SRC facebook page along with a solidarity statement condemning the recent Israeli murders of Palestinians in Jenin.
2. The SRC will commit to supporting potential campaigns and actions that show solidarity with the Palestinian resistance movement in Jenin and struggles for Palestinian liberation more broadly.

8.4. Invasion Day – James Wood

The SRC:

1. Condemns the celebration of Australia Day on January 26 and recognises January 26 only as Invasion Day/Survival Day
2. Opposes the commemoration of Australia Day in principle as a wrongful celebration of Australian nationalism and calls for the day to be abolished
3. Condemns the state and federal Labor governments for their hypocrisy and severe inaction on Indigenous rights
4. Commits its solidarity to struggles for Indigenous justice, including, but not limited to, full land rights, raising the age of criminal responsibility, shutting down youth detention centres, and abolishing compulsory income management schemes

Action Points:

1. The SRC will release a statement on its Facebook page expressing opposition to Australia Day
2. The SRC commits to supporting campaigns and actions for Indigenous rights, including annual Invasion Day protests, protests against deaths in custody and for land rights

8.5. Oppose Labor's Uni Merger - James Wood

The SRC:

1. Calls upon the SA Labor government to halt any funds and resources to establish a University Merger Commission or aid any merger process
2. Demands that the University of Adelaide management cancel its exploratory talks with UniSA for a university merger
3. Calls for the state and Federal Labor governments to commit to a free and fully funded university system
4. Unequivocally opposes university mergers in principle and acknowledges that they are measures intended to entrench the corporatisation of universities by giving management more scope to implement cuts and generate bigger profits

Action points:

- The SRC will post a statement on the SRC Facebook page reaffirming the Council's opposition to Labor's university merger plan
- The SRC commits to supporting potential actions and campaigns against the merger and is prepared to commit funds and resources for protests, posters, leaflets, information stalls etc.
- The SRC will consider hosting a formal debate on the merger, likely during Semester 1

9. Emergent Business

Item 7.1: President's Report – Georgia Thomas

1. Hello!

It's a privilege to have been elected as the SRC President for 2023. I'm looking forward to us working productively to ensure the best possible outcomes for students are being achieved.

2. Committees

In line with the SRC KPI's I have been liaising with the university to appoint delegates to **committees** and *working groups*. The current recommendations have been made:

Student Grievance Resolution policy working group - Hamish McNamara

Reasonable Adjustments to Learning, Teaching and Assessment for Students with a Disability policy working group - Rafael Aquino

Academic Program Entry and Approval Committee - Hamish McNamara (undergrad), Edward Satchell (postgrad)

University Education Committee - Zeyang Wang (undergrad)

Admissions Committee - Hamish McNamara (undergrad), Daniel Garcia Zapata (postgrad)

I am participating in the university's *end-user device management strategy workshops*, which covers user experiences and access to applications on devices used at uni.

The university is also currently conducting co-design sessions for their *Education for a Digital World strategy project*. This strategy intends to provide direction and distinction in the university's work in the coming years, with a strong focus on enriching the student experience. I've been invited to participate in this and will be able to advise of progress in our upcoming meeting.

The **Student Engagement Committee** will also commence work in week 1 of the semester. The SRC representatives on this committee include myself, the Education Officer, the International Student Officer, the Postgraduate (Research) Officer, the Roseworthy Officer and the Waite Officer.

3. O'Week activities

The SRC has actively engaged with the YouX events team to ensure we have a strong presence at O'Week and over the beginning of semester:

- As Tuesday February 21st is now the main day of O'Week the SRC will have a stall on the Barr Smith Lawns from 10am until 3pm. We will aim to have 3 volunteers at the stall at all times - please advise your availability during the upcoming meeting.
- The SRC is co-hosting an event with YouX on Thursday March 2nd (week 1) at Unibar from 4pm until 6:30pm. This event is called 'Karaoke and Queens' and was previously held in 2021 and had around 450 students attend. We're looking

forward to using this as a good opportunity to raise awareness of the SRC and support the events team.

- The SRC will have a stall at the Waite campus O'Day on Friday February 24th between 12:30pm and 2:30pm.
- We are well into the creation of the SRC's annual Counter Guide publication. This year's edition contains submissions from a wide variety of students across a spectrum of topics and is gearing up to be a really fantastic edition. Big thank you to the SRC members who submitted content! The SRC will distribute this during O'Week, with copies being sent to both Waite and Roseworthy campuses for distribution.

4. President's Summit

From February 1st to 3rd I attended the National Union of Student's annual President's Summit. This summit was attended by student union presidents from across Australia and was a great opportunity for us to collaborate and set the agenda for the national union for the year ahead. An aspect of the conference I found very valuable was discussing initiatives that have worked well on other campuses that could be of benefit to us. Our welfare officer Raf has expressed interest in developing a food bank system on our campus - RMIT and Deakin University have successful food bank models that we can look at to assist us in creating our own. The connections these conferences allow us to form with other universities is extremely valuable and I will extend opportunities to engage in NUS campaigns to council members.

5. University meetings

Over December and January, I have met with Jennie Shaw, Jessica Gallagher and Peter Høj to discuss the SRC's operations for 2023. A key point within these meetings was the SRC and student's involvement in discussions around the proposed university amalgamation. I've made it clear that the SRC must be heavily involved in considering the prospect of a merger and that the quality of our education must not be compromised, in addition to no course cuts or staff layoffs. We are welcoming the opportunity to be a key voice in a decision that will impact students above all else.

I have also recently met with Martin McCarron, Executive Director of Student Experience, to discuss the upcoming strategy workshops and how the student experience team can work with the SRC this year. There is lots of potential for collaboration in this area, so if anyone has ideas for events or initiatives, please let me know and I can connect you with Martin to see what support is available.

6. Merger forum

I have reached out to Deputy Premier Susan Close's office to arrange an SRC hosted forum about the proposed university amalgamation. I am awaiting final confirmation but have sought for us to host this in week two so we can advertise the event over O'Week to maximise attendance. I believe this will be a great opportunity for students to voice their key concerns directly to the overseeing Minister and university leadership for consideration in the feasibility study. A forum is important in demonstrating that students are engaged with the proposed changes and stress that feasibility is truly determined by educational outcomes and not by financial gain.

7. Better Medical changes

On Monday an announcement was made regarding the reintroduction of gap payments at the University Health Clinic. A \$10 fee is now payable for all student appointments at the clinic. Positively, this has resulted in a reduction of appointment fees for international students who do not have a medicare card. I have met with the university and Better Medical to discuss how this will impact students - the clinic has confirmed discretionary bulk billing will remain available. I will be writing a letter to the Federal Health Minister expressing our concerns at the circumstances that have led to this change occurring, along with alongside our medical students to determine campaigns and actions we can take.

8. Senate Inquiry Submission

The SRC has been invited to make a submission into the Education and Other Legislation Amendment (Abolishing Indexation and Raising the Minimum Repayment Income for Education and Training Loans) Bill 2022. This Bill seeks to amend a variety of Acts to improve the fairness of various tertiary and vocational education loan schemes by raising the minimum repayment threshold for these loans and tying it to the median wage, as well as removing the indexation of these loans.

This submission is due by the 24th of February. If any SRC members would like to contribute to this submission, please let me know and I will arrange a way for us to work on it together and distribute

9. Chinese student study changes

The Chinese Government recently announced that all students must return to face-to-face study as soon as possible to have their degree recognised. This direction undoubtedly causes stress and anxiety for students who are immunocompromised, financially vulnerable, or may just have been anticipating more time to ensure their circumstances are suitable to return to study. I reached out to the Deputy Vice Chancellor Jennie Shaw to confirm dedicated resources had been created for impacted students and have posted these to the SRC Facebook page. If students approach you with concerns, please ensure you advise them of the resources available, including the dedicated email for returning and commencing international students - isa@adelaide.edu.au

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If you have any questions or ideas please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. I am always happy to meet for coffee and have a chat. My best contact is via email - srcpresident@adelaide.edu.au.

In Unity,

Georgia Thomas

Item 7.2: Welfare Officer's Report – Rafael Aquino

Counter Guide Article

My first major task for the year was producing an article for this year's Counter Guide publication for O'Week. In the article, I cover the different mental health services on offer on campus but also touch on the SRC's role in advocating and fighting for changes in these services that can improve students' experiences. I also touch on the ability for students to consult with their GP and get a recommendation for an extension on their assessments if appropriate and also on the campus clinic and the bulk-billing arrangements available to both domestic and international students.

Wellbeing Taskforce

I am in the process of calling the first meeting of the Welfare Taskforce for 2023, which is a body established by my predecessor Ulian Cox. This taskforce is made up of various university staff who are in the Student Wellbeing, Student Life or Student Engagement Divisions and includes the current SRC President and SRC Welfare Officer. It is an opportunity to discuss initiatives, issues or any other matters relating to student welfare.

- The meeting will be held sometime around mid to late February, early March at the latest.
- Anyone from the SRC is welcome to attend or provide any ideas to either the Welfare Officer or the President.

Foodbank

With the closing down of The General store in the Hub, this is a good opportunity to explore the concept of another outlet that provides food and drink run by YouX or the University itself

Having been to other campuses around the country, I have seen many student unions such as Swinburne or UNSW move away from a retail model and adopt a foodbank model where the costs of the items are subsidized by the University, or just completely free. I think this is a good opportunity for the SRC and the Welfare Department to support students through the current cost of living crisis. Furthermore, it is also a model that regardless of the economic climate can be of support to students, who in many cases have to juggle many costs financially.

I will look further into how this has been implemented at other universities and how it could happen at the University of Adelaide, potentially through the Welfare Task Force and independently of that.

Rafael Aquino

Item 7.3: Women's Officer's Report – Anjali Malhotra

Hi All,

I would like to start my first report as Women's Officer by thanking all past SRC members, the university student body, and my fellow currently elected SRC members for 2023 for their support. During my term as Women's Officer, I would like to bring about positive changes within the university community for female students and the general student population as well.

I had the opportunity to discuss the possibility of future events and initiatives with the SRC President and a few of the SRC members at separate occasions, as well as gaining further insight and ideas from past SRC members. I am currently in the process of planning out future ideas that could be implemented and will be able to discuss them at future meetings once the some details have been determined.

I have also been in the process of creating an anonymous form for individual members of the university community, especially female students, to access if they feel the need to reach out and gain my support throughout the year. This will allow the students to let me know of any concerns they have regarding the university/their studies that they wish for me to help guide them towards the appropriate mediums on or help them directly, and/or organise a time with me to arrange a meeting/discussion if they wish to share any thoughts/need guidance/require help. The survey can also be filled out anonymously if the student wishes to do so, and I will be continuing to go through responses and trying my best to aid the students myself where possible or guiding them to the appropriate people who can help them if I feel the issue/concern is out of my scope. I will be making this form available for the university student body in the upcoming weeks.

I would like to finish off my report by acknowledging the hard work all elected members placed to sit on the current SRC and look forward to working with you all throughout the year.

Regards,

Anjali Malhotra



Item 7.4: Environment Officer's Report – Sebastian Thomas

Will deliver verbally

Item 7.5: Ethno-Cultural Officer's Report – Sana Vohra

Not submitted – apologies has been sent

Item 7.6: Mature Age Officer's Report – Tony Tu

Dear fellow SRC members,

My name is Tony Tu and I would like to start by saying thank you to UNITE and the students of the University of Adelaide for the opportunity to be here to represent my fellow students and improve their university life.

Throughout my life, I have been an active member in my professional body, student body and the wider community. I am passionate about advocating for social issues, such as equality and diversity.

Outside of university, I am a pharmacist by trade and I saw during my first degree how an organised student body could represent those who needed it the most as well as how equality measures can improve access for important matters where everyone should be treated equally. I am now in a position to advocate for students and have capacity do so, I hope we can do more of this in 2023.

I am very sorry to not be here in person for the first meeting of our term, I have had many conversations with mature aged students particularly law ones, I was previously AULSS mature age rep and will be the Director of Education for 2023. In the Law School, I ensured that there was adequate mentors for mature age students, alcohol and daytime friendly events as well as ensured that mature aged students were welcomed into career focussed events. These are initiatives I hope with time can be addressed with the wider body.

I also have organised meetings to address the organisations as well as the YouX organised meeting in the next month. Working online, accessibility and a student lounge for Mature Age students will be my priorities initially. I am privileged enough to have found enough high school leavers who have helped me form networks that navigate which is essentially a school leavers world, hopefully everyone can enjoy the same experience as me.

I am realising that being a mature aged student at university can sometimes mean facing different challenges for the ones I faced as an eighteen year old undergraduate but I do not let this dissuade me and look forward to being the best advocate I can be for everyone.

Thank you and I look forward to a year where we can be the best advocates for students.

Item 7.7: Rural Officer's Report – Hamish McNamara

On the 16th of January 2022, I took part in a Triversity Workshop focussed on promoting employment opportunities for law graduates in regional areas and how to get more students interested in practising in Aboriginal Law. The Workshops participants comprised of lecturers and representative from across the three universities, interested students and concerned stakeholders in the broader community.

I was invited to attend this meeting due to my capacity as Rural Officer on the SRC and my demonstrated interest in promoting accessibility for regional students to university opportunities.

This workshop consisted of an initial discussion of what are the issues being faced in regional areas and communities comprising predominately of Aboriginal residents. The second half of this session focussed on what resources are currently being allocated in these areas and what would make students more interested to work in these areas.

Although the focus of this session was targeted at those entering the legal profession, throughout the workshop the conversation shifted to how to get other classes of in-demand graduate i.e., nurses and teachers to relocate as graduates to regional areas. Many of the conclusions reached in this workshop related lack of extra-curricular opportunities, limited earning potential but predominately not enough exposure to regional employment opportunities whilst still in university.

The Working Group will meet again later in the year to discuss some of the issues raised by students and how the University and industry can act in response. I will provide further updates on the Working Group throughout the year.

Item 7.8: Waite Officer's Report – Merlin Wang

Will deliver verbally

Item 8.1 – Environment NDA

Motion: The SRC endorses the National Union of Students' Fight for the Climate National Day of Action on March 17

Preamble:

The rapidly accelerating climate emergency demands an urgent activist response.

The climate crisis is not something of the future. It is confronting us right now. 'Once in a century' fires and floods are regular occurrences and it is workers and the poor who are suffering the most. Despite the need for rapid and decisive action, carbon emissions from fossil fuels reached a record 37.5 million tonnes in 2022. Fossil fuel investment hasn't died out. In fact, it soured to an estimated \$4 trillion last year.

Politicians won't save us. The Albanese Labor government has claimed to end the so-called 'climate wars' by championing a woefully inadequate 43% emissions reduction target. Even if this target was enough to limit climate change, it is not binding and the government is already acting in ways that will make achieving the target harder. The government continues to pour fuel on the fire by keeping 114 new coal and gas proposals on the table and opening up 47,000 square km of water to oil and gas exploration. Australia numbers among the top 20 emitters per capita in the world, if only domestic use is accounted for. However, if exports are counted as well, our culpability is far higher. Labor refuses to take responsibility for the emissions of fossil fuels mined in Australia and exported overseas, saying that if we don't export them, someone else will. With this backward logic, oil and gas will continue to be mined across the world until we are all under water. It's useful for Australia to disregard fossil fuel exports as it is the biggest metallurgical coal exporter in the world and the second biggest thermal coal exporter, meaning that most of our contribution to climate change is simply not counted.

State governments across the country, both Labor and Liberal, are criminalising climate protesters. In 2022, activist Violet Coco was arrested and sentenced to over a year in prison for blocking a single lane of traffic for under 30 minutes. We must defend our democratic right to fight for the planet.

Over the last five years, students have played a leading role in climate activism across the world. School strikes swept the globe in 2019, changing the way climate change is thought about from being a personal issue of recycling and turning off the lights to an urgent social question demanding immediate large-scale political action. Uni Students for Climate Justice organised mass rallies across the country during the 2020 bushfire crisis. It was important that students were there to capture the mood of a large section of the population that did not want to see the bushfires as a neutral national tragedy but as the direct result of government inaction on climate change and support for fossil fuels. Students have always played an important role in climate activism. The SRC, as a body to represent students' interests, needs to take a leading role in organising students to fight for our planet. We must also call out Labor's greenwashing and relate to the anger of young people about climate action.

A Mission Australia report found that in 2022, 51% young people considered climate change to be one their most important issues. This was up significantly from 38% in 2021. A recent Griffith University survey also found that between 25% and 45% of young people would engage in climate activism if a trusted friend asked them too. This number was also higher for university students. This means that we have a good chance of mobilising a significant proportion of the student population if we can maximise promotion. This means every member of the council needs to be encouraging friends to join the protest and handing out leaflets on campus. We may not be trusted friends of every student on campus, but there is significant potential for greater climate activism.

As part of the National Union of Students Climate National Day of Action (NDA), a [protest](#) will be held at 6pm at Parliament House on Friday 17 March. The NDA is demanding:

1. Shut down the fossil fuel industry - no new fossil fuel projects.
2. Tax the rich to fund a just transition to renewables and reparations for victims of climate disasters.
3. Stop the expansion of oil and gas drilling - stop Scarborough and Beetaloo basin projects.
4. Land rights now - stand with Gomeroi people, stop Santos project in Narrabri.
5. Stop the repression of climate protesters.

Action:

2. The SRC supports the March 17 National Day of Action and its demands.
3. The SRC commits up to \$500 towards printing posters and leaflets to promote the event (appendix A).
4. The SRC will promote the NDA at its O'Week stall.
5. The SRC will co-host the Facebook event for the Adelaide action and promote the event on Facebook.
6. SRC representatives who support this motion will attend the event and help with its online promotion.

Item 8.2 – Keep up the fight for LGBT Rights

Preamble:

Ever since the victory of marriage equality in 2017, the conservative right has been trying to push back LGBTI rights.

The recent funeral of arch bigot George Pell sparked protests by survivors of childhood sexual abuse by members of the Catholic Church and activist group Community Action for Rainbow Rights (CARR). The CARR protest was threatened with a ban by police and the ribbons placed on the church fence in solidarity with abuse victims and survivors were removed by the church. Pell's funeral was a public carnival of right-wing reaction. The event was attended by the likes of Tony Abbott and Peter Dutton, as a way to support the homophobic hard-right of the clergy and to say that victims of abuse should not get in the way of the power and privilege of senior church officials. Abbott even claimed that Pell was a victim of "modern-day crucifixion." Pell's funeral was a clear battle ground between progressive supporters of abuse survivors and LGBTI people and people who were part of a reactionary backlash against them. It was particularly shocking to see Labor Minister for Trade and Tourism, Don Farrell, filing into the funeral of an abuser and homophobe instead of standing in solidarity with Pell's victims.

However, the battle against bigotry extends far beyond the Church pews. Labor is currently resurrecting the dead body of the Religious Discrimination Bill. Although there are some protections for gay and trans students, this Bill still grants concessions to the religious right. The proposal by the Australian Law Reform Commission gives religious schools the right to fire teachers for contradicting religious doctrine, meaning that teachers could be fired for being openly gay, transgender or pregnant without being married. It also says that curriculum could not be the subject of a discrimination complaint, enabling schools to continue teaching that being LGBTI is a sin without any fear of repercussions. Religious freedom does not mean the right to discriminate against others.

In Britain, there is a right-wing culture war against transgender people. Transphobia has long been a staple of the far-right in England. We've seen an escalation of this recently with Rishi Sunak obstructing Scotland's bill to enable transgender people to change their legal gender more easily.

The far-right are attempting to export the culture wars to Australia with a speaking tour of far-right transphobe Kellie-Jay Keen (aka “Posie Parker”). Pell’s funeral and the Religious Discrimination Bill makes clear that transphobia and homophobia are already rampant in Australia. Keen is attempting to further organise the far-right around transphobic politics. Keen has connections with far-right groups such as the Proud Boys; the far-right Hungarian politician, Holocaust denier, and Islamophobe Hans Lysglimt Johansen; Canadian white-supremacist Jean-François Gariép; and American right-wing talk show host Tucker Carlson. She actively campaigns against transgender people having their gender recognised by the state, against drag performances and against trans people using public bathrooms aligning with their gender. She’s called transgender people and their allies a cult and compared schools letting trans kids use the correct bathroom to social engineering.

To fight against Keen spreading her far right, transphobic ideology a protest has been called outside her event in Adelaide. The protest aims to draw the links between Keen and the far right, to challenge the narrative that she is just a concerned feminist and to show supporters of her views that LGBTI people won’t just back down without a fight. As an organisation that is here to stand up for students’ rights, we need to support the fight against transphobia to support the rights of trans students on and off campus.

The protest is called for Thursday the 16th of March, with the time and location dependant on when and where Keen is speaking. The Facebook event for the protest can be found here:

<https://fb.me/e/2vjgRKg8k>

The SRC:

- Stands in solidarity with the Community Action for Rainbow Rights and the abuse survivors’ protests against George Pell.
- Condemns Don Farrell for openly showing support for Pell by attending his funeral instead of the protests happening at the same time.
- Opposes concessions to the far-right in the Religious Discrimination Bill allowing schools to teach that being LGBTI is a sin and fire teachers for being open about their gender and sexuality.
- Opposes the British Parliament’s attempt to undemocratically shut down the Gender Recognition Bill in Scotland.
- Opposes the Australian and New Zealand speaking tour of far right and transphobic British commentator Kellie-Jay Keen.
- Supports the protest on the 16th of March against Kellie-Jay Keen’s event in Adelaide.

Actions:

- The SRC will write a letter to Minister for Trade and Tourism Don Farrell, expressing disappointment in his decision attend George Pell’s funeral.
- 7. The SRC will share the event for the protest against Kellie-Jay Keen on the SRC Facebook page with a short message about the importance of attending.
- 8. The SRC commits up to \$250 for printing leaflets and posters for the protest (appendix B)
- 9. Commits to supporting any further action against the homophobic and transphobic concessions in the Religious Discrimination Bill.
- 10. SRC members who support the motion will attend the protest.

8.3. Leila Clare – Condemn Israeli Massacre of Palestinians

Motion: Condemn Israeli Massacre of Palestinians

Preamble:

Last month the Israeli Military conducted the largest raid on the Jenin Refugee camp since 2002. Nine Palestinians, including two children were killed during the raid, and one other has died from their injuries since, with three others in critical condition. The Israeli Military also shot live ammunition at ambulances stopping them from helping those that were injured. The Military used anti-tank missiles and explosives to destroy the home of Palestinian resistance fighters. Locals told Al-Jazeera that the explosions smashed their windows, and that soldiers shot bullets through their walls, and directly at civilians through their windows. Most people in Jenin can still remember the raids in 2002, which killed fifty-two people over thirteen days, and became the focus of Palestinian resistance across the country during the Second Intifada.

This is just the latest and most deadly attack in what has been a rising wave of violence for over a year. According to a UN report, 204 Palestinians, including 53 children were murdered by the Israeli state in 2022. 55 Palestinians were killed in Jenin alone. As of 27th January, 28 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank in 2023, making the average more than one per day.

The increasingly deadly Israeli attacks is due to a combination of backlash against the popular Palestinian movement against the expulsion of Palestinian residents from the suburb of Sheikh Jarrah in 2021, and the election of an extremely far right and openly anti-Arab Israeli government. The new government is a coalition of right wing, and far right parties. The new Minister for National Security, Itama Ben-Gvir, has said that he wants to make Palestinian resistance punishable by death, and a blanket immunity for all Israeli soldiers accused of committing crimes against Palestinians. He even congratulated a soldier for shooting and killing, at point blank range unarmed 22 year old Ammar Mefleh.

Palestinians in Jenin and Nablus have responded to the rising violence by forming new, cross functional resistance organizations, aimed at deterring the Israeli military. The recent killings in Jenin have also sparked mass protests of thousands across the West Bank and Gaza, calling for Palestinian liberation.

It is disgraceful that the federal Labor government has remained silent on the recent murders of Palestinians, yet at the same time has condemned an attack on Israelis in occupied East Jerusalem. The message that this sends is clear. Labor is showing that it supports Israel. Despite the continuous attacks, murders, and apartheid conditions maintained by the Israeli Military, Australia continues to side with Israel, sending \$18.3 million worth of weapons exports there in 2021. Maximum pressure must be exerted on the Labor government to demand that they condemn Israeli massacres of Palestinians, and cease supplying them with weapons.

Furthermore, we should emphasise the importance of global solidarity. Such solidarity was key in putting pressure on the South African apartheid state. Similarly, pro-Palestinian international solidarity puts pressure on the Israeli government, while at the same time giving more confidence to Palestinians in their struggle for liberation.

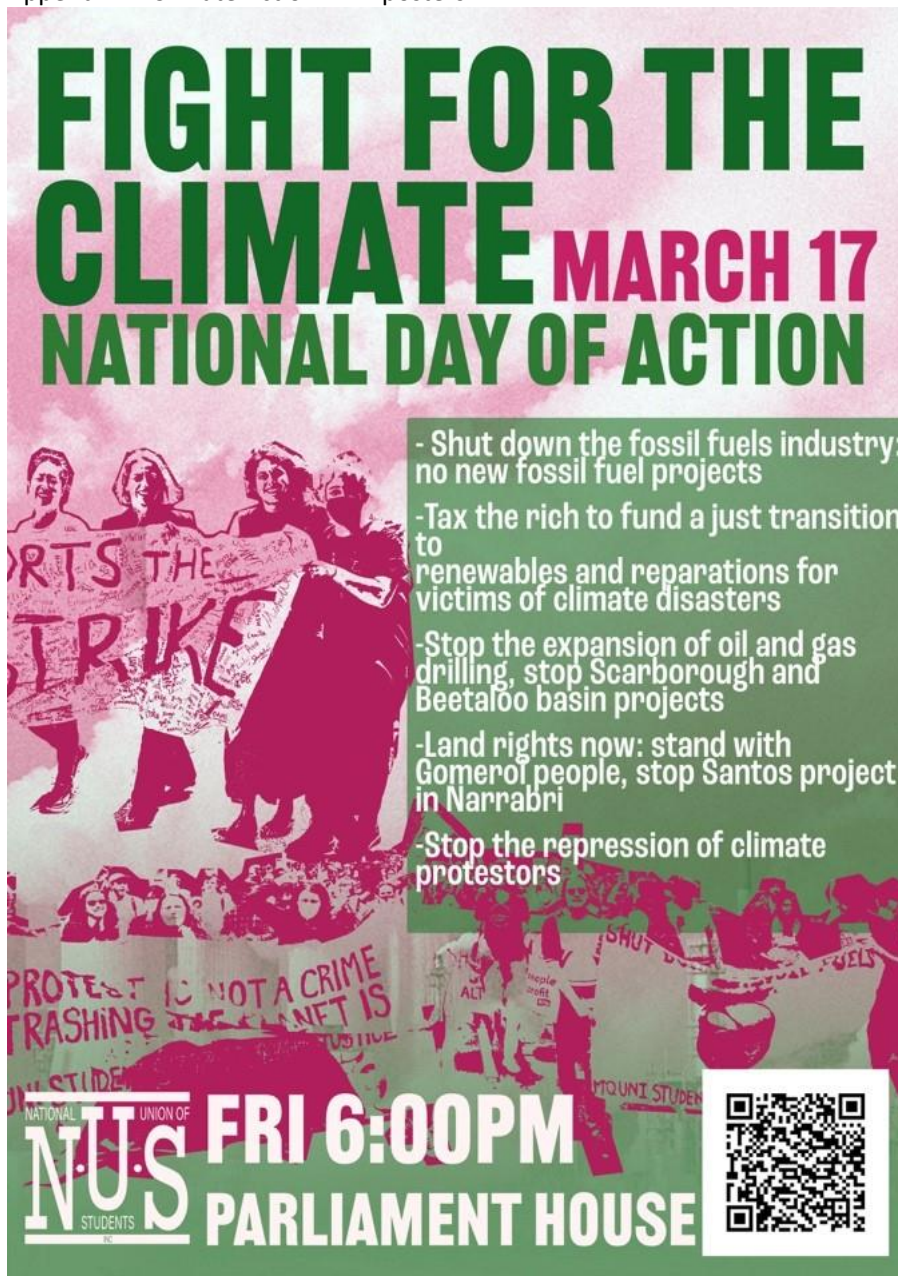
The SRC:

2. Condemns the Israeli massacre of Palestinians in Jenin.
3. Condemns the federal Labor government's implicit support for Israel in the wake of the recent murders of Palestinians.
4. Expresses support for the Palestinian resistance movement in Jenin.

Action Points:

2. The SRC will take a photo of solidarity at the end of the meeting and will post it to the SRC facebook page along with a solidarity statement condemning the recent Israeli murders of Palestinians in Jenin.
3. The SRC will commit to supporting potential campaigns and actions that show solidarity with the Palestinian resistance movement in Jenin and struggles for Palestinian liberation more broadly.

Appendix A. Climate Action NDA posters.



Appendix B. Protest against far-right transphobe posters.



8.4. Invasion Day – James Wood Preamble

On January 26, tens of thousands of people joined Invasion Day protests across Australia. These protests celebrated Indigenous resistance and called for ongoing action against the racist Australian state. In Adelaide, at least 5000 people hit the streets, easily outnumbering the official Australia Day festival.

January 26 marks the beginning of British colonisation in Australia and the start of 235 years of Indigenous genocide, systematic oppression, and institutional discrimination. For this reason, Indigenous people and their supporters have rejected Australia Day as a racist smack in the face. Many are ditching the BBQs and choosing instead to march on the streets. As the Invasion Day protests made clear, there's no day worth celebrating genocide and oppression. Simply changing the date of Australia Day won't erase state violence and racism. As deaths in custody activist Paul Silva puts it, "We need to abolish Australia Day all together, it should never be celebrated ... If someone invaded your home, murdered your family, and stole your land, I can 100 percent guarantee that family would not be celebrating that day".

In recent decades, Australian governments have tried to re-shape Australian nationalism away from its racist history and to a supposed embrace of multiculturalism. Through this myth-making, Australia is imagined as a place that despite some historical blots has been welcoming to migrants from all over the world. This is simply a fantasy. In reality, Australia

Day promotes the myth of a common ‘national interest’ and papers over both the ongoing realities of Indigenous oppression, of high incarceration rates, low life expectancy and endemic poverty, and also rampant anti-migrant racism. The Australian government tortures refugees in offshore prison camps, exploits migrant workers as cheap labour and demonises Sudanese youth as criminal ‘gangs’. Australia Day, whatever the date, fosters the notion that ordinary students and workers have more in common with ruling class scum like George Pell, Peter Dutton or Gina Rinehart than we do with the oppressed beyond our borders.

The Albanese Labor government has doused itself in the faux-progressive language of cultural diversity, righting past injustices and the symbolic gesture of a Voice to Parliament. In reality, the situation facing Indigenous people remains appalling. Despite comprising less than 3 percent of the population, Indigenous people make up more than a quarter of the prison population. Despite over 400 Indigenous deaths in custody since 1991, no police officer has ever been convicted. Labor governments across Australia are deeply committed to racist and paternalist policies, including law-and-order hysteria in Alice Springs, maintaining the imprisonment of Indigenous children at the Don Dale detention centre and increasing the power and resources of police.

Since 1788, Indigenous people have led campaigns, strikes, riots and protests for land rights, voting rights, desegregation and justice for those murdered by racist police. Student unions have played an important role in these struggles. Today, greater defiance of the powers that be remains the only road to system change. The SRC should stand in solidarity with the ongoing struggle for Indigenous rights and support the demands of the Invasion Day protests by rejecting the nationalist fanfare of 26 January.

The SRC:

1. Condemns the celebration of Australia Day on January 26 and recognises January 26 only as Invasion Day/Survival Day
2. Opposes the commemoration of Australia Day in principle as a wrongful celebration of Australian nationalism and calls for the day to be abolished
3. Condemns the state and federal Labor governments for their hypocrisy and severe inaction on Indigenous rights
4. Commits its solidarity to struggles for Indigenous justice, including, but not limited to, full land rights, raising the age of criminal responsibility, shutting down youth detention centres, and abolishing compulsory income management schemes

Action Points:

1. The SRC will release a statement on its Facebook page expressing opposition to Australia Day
2. The SRC commits to supporting campaigns and actions for Indigenous rights, including annual Invasion Day protests, protests against deaths in custody and for land rights

8.5. Oppose Labor’s Uni Merger - James Wood

Preamble:

In 2022, the Malinauskas Labor government announced that UniSA and UofA would be actively considering merging in 2026 to form a ‘University of the Future’ with rankings high

enough to be a 'world top 100 university'. Labor had already announced in 2020 their plans for a University Merger Commission, headed by university Vice Chancellors, to explore a potential merger of UniSA, Adelaide Uni, and Flinders Uni. With Labor in power, the Vice Chancellors of Adelaide and UniSA had resumed serious talks late last year, and have now committed to going ahead with a merger process to be complete by 2026.

Labor and the VC's common objective here is to aid the university in attracting more private investors to fund research, and compete with the bigger eastern state and overseas universities.

Labor's solution to the decreasing quality of higher education has been to create a higher ranking super-uni that operates solely for profit. The for-profit model of education means rankings become a way to allow universities to overwork staff and view decreased quality of education as a necessary side-effect.

Rankings are based primarily on the metric of research output, which has no bearing on quality of education for students or staff satisfaction. The push for higher rankings is shaped by a demand for more research grants to be awarded to the university. So long as academic staff pump out more research dollars, management can push increasing workloads onto them in the name of rankings. Furthermore, this research money is overwhelmingly used to gain contracts with defence and fossil fuel companies, including research for the \$100 billion AUKUS nuclear submarines and collaborating with companies such as Raytheon that produce weapons for Israel. Students overwhelmingly avoid

Ultimately, mergers will result in a more 'two tiered' university model where a select number of lucrative research streams on the world market like mining technology get prioritised at the expense of a broader range of course choices, research areas, student services etc. which usually make less dollars. We can already see this trend now with more planned course cuts this year and cuts to frontline admin staff.

Mergers are used to maximise profits for the university as efficiently as possible, combining departments to cut courses and staff. We have seen, in the past, how a merger is always codeword for 'cuts'. During the height of the pandemic, Høj and uni management slashed 100 jobs, merged 5 whole faculties into 3, and made severe cuts to student services like the library and faculty offices. Last-year's cuts left casual staff even more overworked, underpaid and job-insecure. By merging two whole universities, management will find any way possible to slash services, remove 'duplicate' courses, and sack staff. Former Labor Senator Chris Schacht is transparent about the fact that "some of the duplication of administration (will be eliminated) and some (job losses) will be in faculties".

Labor completely accepts the broader for-profit university model reliant upon private investment, exploitation of international students as cash cows and the casualisation of an ever-shrinking workforce. Federal Education Minister, Jason Clare, strongly backs the merger and makes clear the profit-making role of education, calling it a 'national asset' and 'Australia's biggest export that we don't dig out of the ground'.

Labor only cares about education if it can stimulate the economy and make big bucks— not about the students or workers who suffer as a result of their profit-making endeavors. They will continue to charge our international students ridiculous fees for a lower-quality education and to fund their own cuts to the sector. Examples of botched mergers around the world show that those in charge enriched themselves while conditions for staff and students worsened. Even the University of Manchester merger that Labor references as the ideal standard in its glossy policy brochure resulted in 400 staff layoffs— a similar outcome likely to occur at the proposed university.

The experience of last year's campaign against faculty mergers showed the true motivations of uni management; using the cover of the COVID pandemic to push through long-wanted cuts, slash unwanted costs and bump up the profit margin. It was great that the SRC, together with the No Adelaide University Cuts campaign group led the fightback against faculty mergers, securing important wins like saving the Maths Learning Centre and over 30 staff positions. It is imperative that the 2023 SRC continue this tried and tested activist approach, committed to calling out management's spin and lies on the mergers and involving students in disruptive activities to force our adversaries to listen to our demands. We ought to reaffirm our commitment last year to fight the mergers by making practical commitments to do campaign work and consider the potential for the SRC to host a formal debate on the mergers, aware that this is an important but polarising issue at our university.

The SRC:

5. Calls upon the SA Labor government to halt any funds and resources to establish a University Merger Commission or aid any merger process
6. Demands that the University of Adelaide management cancel its exploratory talks with UniSA for a university merger
7. Calls for the state and Federal Labor governments to commit to a free and fully funded university system
8. Unequivocally opposes university mergers in principle and acknowledges that they are measures intended to entrench the corporatisation of universities by giving management more scope to implement cuts and generate bigger profits

Action points:

- The SRC will post a statement on the SRC Facebook page reaffirming the Council's opposition to Labor's university merger plan
- The SRC commits to supporting potential actions and campaigns against the merger and is prepared to commit funds and resources for protests, posters, leaflets, information stalls etc.
- The SRC will consider hosting a formal debate on the merger, likely during Semester 1

Appendix 1: Minutes of the Special Council Meeting (6 December 2022)

1. Procedural Matters

Georgia Thomas opened the meeting at 6:30pm

1.1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

Georgia acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

1.2. Attendance

Hamish McNamara, Grace Franco, Yuka Maruyama, Ruby Stewart, Jack Butcher, Billy Zimmermann, Veronica Yang, Sebastian Thompson, Tom Zhai, Georgia Thomas, Merlin Wang, Lani Bushnell, Jia Ming Lai, Daniel Garcia, Simrangeet Singh Dahia, Mutaher Ishaque, Tony Tu, Sana Vohra, Agastya Mudgal, Yegenah Soltanpour

1.3. Apologies

James Wood, Leila Clendon

1.4. Absences

Clare Bensted

Adoption of Agenda

Procedural Motion:

Moved: Rafael Aquino **Seconded:** Billy Zimmermann **Motion carried**

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

NONE

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

4. Correspondence

5. New Members

5.1. Georgia Thomas, Agastya Mudgal, Grace Franco, Rafael Aquino, Anjali Malhotra, Billy Zimmermann, Yuka Maruyama, Sebastian Thompson, Jack Butcher, Daniel Garcia, Yegenah Soltanpour, Mutaher Ishaque, Sana Vohra, Hamish McNamara, Tony Tu, Claire Bensted, Merlin Wang, Leila Clendon, James Wood, Jia Ming Lai, Shuhui (Tom) Zhai, Lani Bushnell, Simranjeet Singh Dahia, Veronica Yang, Ruby Stewart

6. Motions on Notice

7. General Business

7.1. Election of Executive

Motion: That Ali Amin be appointed as SRC Returning Officer for the election of the SRC Executive

Moved: Rafael Aqino **Seconded:** Hamish McNamara **Motion Carried**

Procedural Motion moved by Merlin Wang :

To conduct the election for the SRC Executive through an online medium.

Moved: Merlin Wang **Seconded:** Daniel Garcia **Motion Failed**

As there was an equality of votes, the motion failed.

Ali Amin continued running the election and opened nominations

Nominations received from: Rafael Aquino, Ruby Stewart, Anjali Malhotra, Veronica Wang, Daniel Garcia

Ruby withdrew her nomination

Veronica withdrew her nomination

There being 3 remaining nominees for 3 vacancies on the executive, the Returning Officer declared Rafael Aquino, Anjali Malhotra, and Daniel Garcia as elected to the SRC Executive without the need for a ballot.

Motion: To accept the Returning Officer's Report

Moved: Rafael Aqino **Seconded:** Anjali Malhotra **Motion Carried**

7.2. Counter Guide

Motion: The SRC Authorises up to \$2500 for the production and remuneration of editors for Counter Guide.

Moved: Rafael Aquino **Seconded:** Hamish McNamara **Motion Carried**

7.3. National Union of Students

Motion: That the SRC give's it supports to affiliating to the National Union of Students (Inc)

Moved: Rafael Aquinio **Seconded:** Anjali Malhotra **Motion Carried**

One noted abstention from Grace Franco due to a perceived Conflict of Interest

Motion: The SRC Authorises the SRC President or a delegate from the Executive to liaise with the NUS General Secretary on the process for affiliation

Moved: Jack Butcher **Seconded:** Rafael Aquino **Motion Carried**

One noted abstention from Grace Franco due to a perceived Conflict of Interest

7.4. Bank Account

Motion: That Georgia Thomas (SRC President) and Agastya Mudgal (SRC General Secretary) be duly authorised as signatories to the SRC bank account, and remove Ana Obradovic (former SRC President) and William Zimmermann (former SRC General Secretary).

Amendment proposed by Billy Zimmermann:

Add Kim Fereday (SRC Administrator) to the new signatories and add Mark Pace (Former SRC Administrator) to the signatories being removed;

Amendment was amenable to the mover

Amended motion moved:

Motion: That Georgia Thomas (SRC President), Agastya Mudgal (SRC General Secretary), and Kim Fereday (SRC Administrator) be duly authorised as signatories to the SRC bank account, and remove Ana Obradovic (former SRC President), William Zimmermann (former SRC General Secretary), and Mark Pace (Former SRC Administrator).

Moved: Billy Zimmermann **Seconded:** Hamish McNamara **Motion carried**

7.5. Delegation of Authority

Motion: that the SRC delegates its authority to the Executive from the close of the meeting at which this resolution is passed until the week prior to Orientation Week.

Moved: Billy Zimmermann **Seconded:** Ruby Stewart **Motion carried**

Georgia closed the meeting at 7:16pm

Appendix 2: Minutes of the Previous Executive Meeting (11 January 2023)

Meeting via Zoom Wednesday 11 January 2023

1. Procedural Matters

Georgia Thomas opened the meeting at 7:11pm

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, Agastya Mudgal, Rafael Aquino, Daniel Garcia Zapata

1.3. Apologies

1.4. Absences

Anjali Malhotra

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

No previous minutes to approve

3. Items for Discussion

3.1. O'Week Events

The SRC will host a stall on Tuesday 21st February between 10am and 3pm, availability from Council members will be gathered at the next meeting.

3.2. Counter Guide

Counter Guide is being edited by Georgia Thomas and Steph Madigan.

Both Executive and Council members are encouraged to write articles for the annual SRC publication, a call-out will be done in the SRC Facebook group.

Motion: The SRC authorises \$500 of approved Counter Guide funds as the honorarium for editor Steph Madigan

Moved: Georgia Thomas

Seconded: Rafael Aquino

Motion carried

4. General Business

4.1. Casual Vacancy

Motion: The SRC opens a casual vacancy for the position of Roseworthy Officer

Moved: Georgia Thomas

Seconded: Daniel Garcia Zapata

Motion carried

5. Emergent Business

Georgia Thomas closed the meeting at 7:41pm