

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



Wednesday, 30th 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 Kurna 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, 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, Yeganeh 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 2nd Aug 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
Letter to the University regarding Qiqi Haer	Wella Huang & Tom Zhai	Ongoing

4. Correspondence

5. New Members

Education Officer – Salma Mansurwala

6. Office Bearer Reports

6.1. President

6.2. General Secretary

6.3. Education Officer

6.4. Welfare Officer

6.4.1. Motion included within the report:

1. The SRC endorses the reforms put forward in the open letter.
2. The SRC will co-sign the open letter and add our logo onto the letter.
3. The SRC will share the letter on our Facebook page.

Moved: Rafael Aquino

Seconded:

Motion Passed / Failed

6.5. Women's Officer

6.5.1. Motion included within the report

1. The SRC will post information about the Liptember Initiative for Women's Mental Health and encourage students to participate in the campaign even if they just opt to engage in more open mental health conversations as their contribution.
2. The SRC will donate a monetary amount decided in this SRC meeting towards the SRC Women's Officer's Liptember Fundraiser for Women's Mental Health.
3. The SRC will share the NUS The STOP Campaign post on their Facebook page and encourage university students to contribute to the campaign whilst also providing relevant informative details about the campaign in the post.

Moved: Anjali Malhotra

Seconded:

Motion Passed / Failed

6.6. Queer Officer

6.7. ATSI Officer

6.8. Disability Officer

6.9. Environment Officer

6.10. Postgraduate Officer – HDR

6.11. Postgraduate Officer – Coursework

6.12. International Student Officer

6.13. Social Justice Officer

6.14. Ethno-Cultural Officer

6.15. Rural Officer

6.16. Mature Age Officer

6.17. Roseworthy Campus Officer

6.18. Waite Officer

7. Motions on Notice

7.1. Kick Climate Criminals Off Campus – Support the Protest Against Santos

Moved: Leila Clendon

Seconded:

Motion Passed / Failed

7.2. Oppose University Merger as Neoliberal Attack: Endorse the Anti-Merger Speakout

Moved: Leila Clendon

Seconded:

Motion Passed / Failed

8. General Business

9. Executive Report

N/A

10. Emergent Business

N/A

11. Date of the Next Meeting

12. Appendix

12.1. Appendix 1: Minutes of the Council Meeting (17th May 2023)

12.2. Appendix 2: A Call For Fair Rental Laws

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

SA Parliamentary Joint Committee into the Establishment of Adelaide University

I appeared before the JCEAU Parliamentary Committee last week after being formally called as a witness. I have also formally provided a submission on behalf of the SRC that has been accepted by the committee - this is available with the committee information online.

Safer Campus Community - New Training Module

I was involved in the piloting of a new module centred around respectful relationships and consent that is now available for students to take. Alongside three other students, including the Rural Officer, we provided feedback on our experiences with the module and advice on engaging students in undertaking the module. I’d highly recommend the training, which is now leading the way in respectful relationship training across the nation.

SRC Budget 2024

I have preliminarily met with the YouX EO to discuss the SRC budget for next year. I have recommended a significant increase in the SRC’s printing budget to allow for increased costs of printing the annual Counter Guide and printing to promote SRC initiatives and events. Our budget will likely be approved at the upcoming YouX Board meeting towards the end of the month.

NUS Affiliation

As was approved in the previous Council meeting I am currently liaising with the NUS General Secretary to process our reaffiliation fees.

Apologies for not being able to attend this meeting in person due to interstate travel.

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

Housekeeping Update

I trust you're all well. I'd like to kindly remind everyone about our regular housekeeping matters. I want to reiterate that all reports should be submitted to me by each Sunday before our scheduled meeting and in terms of the meeting times, I have now included at the bottom of the minutes of each report in case of any confusion moving forward.

Lately, there's been a tendency for last-minute amendments, which, unfortunately, has led to delays in distributing the agenda papers. While I always strive to be accommodating with last-minute submissions and changes, it's important for us to strike a balance. Given our busy schedules, it's crucial for all of us to be considerate of each other's time. While I enjoy granting discretion for reports and motions, there comes a point where I might have to defer them to the next meeting to ensure fairness to all members and to maintain timely minutes distribution.

Meeting Cancellation:

Due to a significant number of apologies, I've made the decision to cancel the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 16th. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused to those who had already made arrangements for the meeting. I'd also like to take this opportunity to emphasize that if you know you won't be able to attend a meeting, please inform me as soon as possible. This allows us to determine if we have the required quorum well in advance.

Wear It Purple Day:

I had the privilege of attending the Wear It Purple Day event organized by the law school in collaboration with the AULSS. I applaud their dedicated efforts to promote inclusivity for LGBTQ communities. This day holds significance for many Australians as it sheds light on the challenges faced by LGBTQ youth while encouraging them to take pride in who they are and their journey of self-discovery. A special thank you to the Dean of the Law School for her support in creating a more inclusive learning environment and broader legal profession. Her speech on the day highlighted the importance of inclusivity.

Although I couldn't make it to the University of Adelaide's Wear It Purple Day celebration at the hub due to time constraints, I stand in solidarity with them in consistently supporting diversity within our university community.

Elections

As the ongoing elections near their conclusion, I'd like to pause and express my appreciation for the efforts of all candidates and factions involved on behalf of the Council. Your dedication to upholding the principles of a democratic election is vital to a better University in the future. It's not a small feat to step up and advocate for the concerns that resonate with our diverse community.

Your step matters to representing the broader collective on issues that hold immense significance to our students from different portfolios. Your involvement serves as a testament to the strength of our values.

As we approach the end of this election journey, I extend my best wishes to each and every one of you. May your endeavours be met with success, and the outcomes truly reflect the collective aspirations of our community. **Good Luck!** (champagne emoji) (lit emoji) (100% emoji).....

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 6.4: Welfare Officer's Report – Rafael Aquino

APN Open Letter

I recently received correspondence from the NUS National Welfare Officer Grace Franco with respect to an open letter as a part of a joint campaign being run by the Anti-Poverty Network, Better Renting, South Australian Council of Social Services (SACOSS), Shelter SA and Uniting Communities. The open letter (forwarded from the APN) calls for several reforms to be implemented in the South Australian Government's pending review of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1995*.

The reforms the letter calls for are the abolition of no cause evictions and the non-renewal of leases without cause; limiting rent increases to CPI; the introduction of minimum energy efficiency standards; and ensuring landlords cannot unreasonably refuse a pet.

Many of our students here at the university currently rent from the private market, and the current laws as well as the cost-of-living crisis only serve to make life more difficult while juggling studies. These suggested reforms will ensure that at the very least when looking for or upon securing a house on the private market, renters are protected from predatory landlords, unpredictable price increase, and are able to live in safe and secure housing with comfort.

Motion

- The SRC endorses the reforms put forward in the open letter.
- The SRC will co-sign the open letter and add our logo onto the letter.
- The SRC will share the letter on our Facebook page.

NUS Change the Age Campaign

On the 10th of August, I met with the NUS's new campaign's officer Frankie with respect to an upcoming campaign the union plans to run on the age of independence for Youth Allowance.

Currently, the age of independence is defined as being 22 by default so applicants below that age can only receive the payment if they can prove that they are permanently independent; have reviewable independence; or their parents do not meet the income threshold.

During this current cost-of-living crisis, students are feeling the most crunch and the unreasonable criteria set by the government leaves as many as 450,000 students in desperate need of income support.

The meeting covered several topics, such as an upcoming barnstorm with student unions and student activists to build momentum for the campaign, identifying potential ways to activate the student base here at the University, as well as the timeline for the national campaign and what the media may look like.

Currently, everything is still in the works, but I will have further details hopefully by the upcoming meeting.

In unity,
Rafael Aquino

Item 6.5: Women’s Officer – Anjali Malhotra

Ongoing Student Support:

I have been supporting female students on campus as a part of my ongoing “Empowering women, Supporting women” initiative. I have been able to discuss their issues with them and help them seek appropriate mediums of emotional and well-being support on campus and at off-campus counselling and aid facilities.

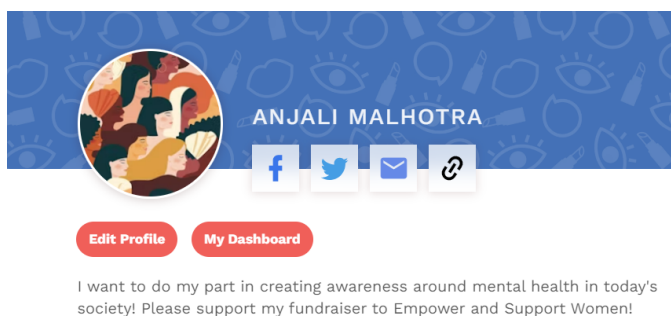
Women’s Officer Liptember Initiative:

As part of my passion for supporting mental health initiatives and my role as SRC Women’s Officer, I have signed up to be a part of the Liptember Women’s Mental Health Fundraising Initiative in September. I would greatly appreciate the support of my fellow SRC members in joining/creating my team for the initiative and would also like their support in publishing a post regarding the initiative on the SRC Facebook page (along with information about any other relevant ones regarding women coming up in September) and encouraging them to participate in such initiatives.

I have included an excerpt from the Liptember Fundraiser Website below, which discusses their cause.



Although the initiative officially begins in September, I would greatly appreciate SRC support in joining my team if they wish to, and donating a small amount decided in the upcoming meeting towards Women’s Mental Health through my fundraiser (profile and QR

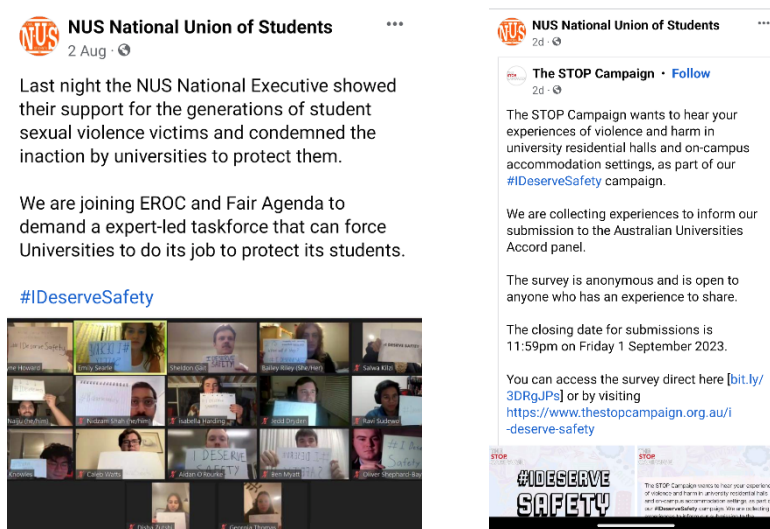


below)!

Support for NUS Initiatives:

I am in the process of participating in the NUS I Deserve Safety Initiative which demands a task-force to ask for action towards protection of students from Universities, and would also like the SRC to post on their social media about The STOP Campaign as a part of this initiative. They are collecting student responses regarding their experiences of violence and harm in university accommodations and submissions close on 1 September 2023.

The NUS posts are shown below:



**Kind Regards,
Anjali Malhotra
SRC Women’s Officer**

Actions Points:

1. Any SRC members who wish to join the Liptember initiative themselves as a part of the SRC, will be encouraged to reach out to the SRC Women’s Officer to create an Adelaide Uni SRC fundraising team.
2. The SRC members are encouraged take a photo to be posted alongside the Facebook post to show support for Women’s Mental Health and Liptember Campaign and related campaigns (at the end of this SRC meeting).

Motions:

4. The SRC will post information about the Liptember Initiative for Women’s Mental Health and encourage students to participate in the campaign even if they just opt to engage in more open mental health conversations as their contribution.
5. The SRC will donate a monetary amount decided in this SRC meeting towards the SRC Women’s Officer’s Liptember Fundraiser for Women’s Mental Health.

6. The SRC will share the NUS The STOP Campaign post on their Facebook page and encourage university students to contribute to the campaign whilst also providing relevant informative details about the campaign in the post.

Item 6.7: ATSI Officer – VACANT

N/A

Item 6.9: Environmental Officer - Adeline Tang

As the new environmental officer, I would ensure the protection, preservation and conservation of the environment. In this role, restoring campus culture and maintaining natural resources including green spaces, waste management, etc. We will work together to practice good hygiene and create a sustainable campus at University of Adelaide.

I have received several reports from students about the issue of thickness of tissue roll on campus. From the responses, the thinness quality of toilet rolls leads to a large amount of thin absorbent paper being used which constitutes a threat to the environment on the usage of paper.

Recommendations to improve:
1. Increasing layers of toilet paper for greater strength and absorbance (e.g. 2ply - 3ply)

Benefits on the approach:

1. Save Cost
2. Save Trees
3. Reduce waste

I will continue to look into future environmental issues at the university. Additionally, I will keep track and update towards the SRC regarding issues of the environment to be involved within the community.

That's all from me, thanks for reading as always, as your Environmental officer, I am here to support you and the students anytime. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at a1845176@adelaide.edu.au

Warm Regards,

Adeline Chi May Tang

SRC Environmental Officer

Item 6.14: Ethno-Cultural Officer – VACANT

N/A

Item 6.15: Rural Officer – Hamish McNamara

Hamish has indicated he that he will deliver his report verbally and will cover the following points:



Collaborating with Georgia Thomas, the individual actively contributed to the development of the new Respectful Relationships Module. They engaged with the module's content, offering vital student welfare insights. Their involvement extended to speaking on a panel during the module's launch event, which drew significant faculty attendance, highlighting their capacity to address student welfare concerns effectively.

Additionally, the individual played a pivotal role in the Student Loan Policy Working Group. Their contributions led to a comprehensive policy revision that prioritized student welfare over financial considerations. This approach involved reshaping the policy to better serve students' holistic needs.

Currently, they are partnering with Georgia Thomas to advance Regional University Hubs within the ongoing Merger initiative. This collaboration reflects their commitment to enhancing regional education accessibility and quality.

Item 6.16: Mature Aged Officer – Tony Tu

Since we have last met - in my case virtually, I have been on campus three times, continued dialogue with the Access and Equity Coordinator, accepted an invitation to attend the AGM for the MSA, have met virtually with my SRC colleagues and saw some potential students and familiar faces at our open day.

Perhaps the biggest change in dynamic compared to previous open days has been that cost of living and ability to study rather than study itself more than any other during my time here,

The main themes of my conversations that I had were:

- Cost of living for mature age students and part time learning around work is a large consideration
- Support services available and flexible learning options
- Curiosity around the proposed merger
- Study load and ability to work around study

As promised in my last report, I have canvassed students during my time on campus how the university could assist students with the cost of living. Accommodation and the cost-of-living predominated conversation. The cost of private providers, college accommodation and lack of subsidised university housing was seen as a large barrier. The cost of textbooks and helping with ancillary costs, placements and supporting students with paid options was seen as potential assistance. There is a lack of awareness of YouX support services, free breakfasts and subsidised education for short vocation courses.

The MSA AGM will precede this meeting, I will be in attendance (and if late for this meeting would have come directly from the AGM) I will ensure any feedback received here is disclosed to the wider SRC. It will have been my first in person meeting with the MSA since Georgia joined me on my first occasion meeting them.

Finally, on a matter of indulgence, I wish to acknowledge the Matildas have made the semi-final at the FIFA women's world cup this evening and that we should endeavour to keep our meeting to well under an hour to ensure that we can all watch this sporting event.

Thank you,
Tony

Item 6.17: Roseworthy Campus Officer

Arnav indicated she will present a verbal report

Item 7.1: Motions On Notice: Kick Climate Criminals Off Campus – Support the Protest Against Santos

We're entering an era of 'global boiling', where once in a generation heatwaves, fires, and floods are an increasingly common occurrence. In the past few months wild fires have killed 89 people in Hawaii, 30 people in Algeria, seven people in Greece and four people in Italy. India's heatwave has reached a death toll of over 170. The need for immediate reductions in carbon emissions in order to prevent more than 1.5 degrees of warming is recognised by climate scientists.

We acknowledge the undeniable links between corporate power and climate change on our campuses. This Thursday, Adelaide University will be welcoming climate criminals Santos onto campus for a networking forum that aims to funnel students into becoming the next generation of polluters. We oppose the notion that Santos is helping to fix the climate crisis, as their greenwashing would suggest. Gas energy is no solution as it is largely composed of methane, the second most important greenhouse gas, making it a key force in driving the climate crisis.

From 2018-2022, Santos's total emissions have risen by 94%, pumping all the more polluting gases into the atmosphere.

Adelaide University should sever its ties to climate criminals such as fossil fuel giant Santos and war profiteers such as BAE Systems, Raytheon and Lockheed Martin. The partnerships that exist between the University and these companies funnel graduates into industries that destroy the planet rather than utilising student ingenuity and resources to prevent climate catastrophe. This view is consistent with a vision for a truly public and democratic university. We demand genuine environmental commitments from the University rather than corporate greenwashing.

Despite the need for rapid and decisive action, the rich and powerful are committed to entrenching and expanding fossil fuels. Adelaide University doesn't only have partnerships with Santos for networking with the fossil fuel industry, but has a \$7.5 million building on campus. Santos, and other companies driving us closer to ecological collapse, have no place on university campus.

For further details, see the facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/3kgadFkF2>

The SRC:

1. Calls for Adelaide University to break all ties with fossil fuel and weapons companies driving us closer to climate destruction.
2. Endorses the protest against Santos on campus on social media and make a statement condemning the universities ties with the company to be posted after the meeting.
3. Will put \$50 towards social media promotion for building the protest after the meeting.

Item 7.2: Motions On Notice: Oppose University Merger as Neo Liberal Attack: Endorse the Anti-Merger Forum

Preamble:

The Malinauskas government has pushed through with the merger of the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia. The state government and Vice Chancellors share the economic objective of creating a more competitive and profitable institution. They seek to attract more private investment to fund research and gain contracts suited to state and national priorities, specifically in defence and fossil fuels.

'Merger' is the codeword for cuts to maximise profits. Using the height of the pandemic as a cover, university management rammed through faculty mergers which resulted in over 100 job losses and slashing of courses and services. Merging two whole universities will undeniably see management finding ways to cut services, remove 'duplicate' courses, and sack staff. We are already seeing how management's assurance of 'no net job losses' has changed to 'no job losses in the first 18 months'.

This neoliberal attack on education by Labor and university management seeks to create a super-uni with the sole goal of maximising profits. Government and management emphasise the importance of university rankings. Rankings are based primarily on the metric of research output, which has no bearing on quality of education for students or staff satisfaction. The for-profit model of education means rankings become a way for universities to overwork staff and view decreased quality of education as a necessary side-effect.

Staff and students have had virtually no say in the merger. A recent NTEU survey revealed that only 25% of staff support the merger. Two-thirds of Adelaide University staff did not think they were properly consulted, and **95%** did not think they were properly consulted by the state government. This reveals the undemocratic, top-down nature of the merger, stitched up by the VCs and the Labor government. Labor is so determined to ensure a merger that Malinauskas asserted the government 'reserves the right' to force through a commission to 'make it happen'.

The only 'successful' model Labor can point to is the botched University of Manchester merger. The university was driven into debt that was paid for by sacking 400 staff. It's clear that the corporate interests of universities run counter to the interests of students and staff.

The approach of the SRC towards the merger so far has been completely wrong. Putting forward a submission to the government with a list of demands from the merger simply legitimises this neoliberal attack. In its submission, the SRC states it has "many goals and aspirations that can be achieved through the University amalgamation." This is an appalling capitulation to our bosses. We can't have any illusions about the intentions of the government or university management. They have made it abundantly clear that all they want is for the degree factory to be made more efficient and profitable. Students have no interest in this.

The job of a student union is to fight for students, not to collaborate with the university bosses in squeezing maximum profits out of us. Anything other than a hard opposition to this merger is a betrayal of the interests of students and staff. On 6th September, an anti-merger speakout outside Parliament, organised by the No Cuts campaign, will be held to help cohere opposition to this attack from our bosses and to offer an

opportunity to those who want to stand up for our education. We can't legitimise the top-down merger process. Instead, we need to be clear in our uncompromising opposition to the merger, so that we can take the first step in organising against it. The SRC should endorse this speakout and commit to future actions in opposition to the merger.

The SRC:

1. Definitively opposes the university merger as a neoliberal attack on students and staff.

Action Points:

1. The SRC will put out a statement opposing the merging of the University of Adelaide and University of South Australia.
2. The SRC endorses the [anti-merger speakout](#) to be held on 6th September 2023 and will promote the speakout on social media encouraging students and student representatives to attend (<https://fb.me/e/1pe9VHCSj>).
3. The SRC will put \$25 towards a promoted Facebook post advertising the speakout.
4. The SRC will publicly withdraw its merger submission to the government.
5. The SRC will commit to future actions opposing this merger.

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 13th September 2023 6:30pm at University of Adelaide North Terrace Campus, Hughes 322. In case of controversies, please refer to the below agreed timetable:



2023 SRC + YouX Meetings

January							February							March							April						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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30	31																										

May							June							July							August						
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29	30	31												31							28	29	30	31			

September							October							November							December							
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
25	26	27	28	29	30		30	31																				

SRC Meeting

 Uni Break

Public Holiday

 YouX Board Meeting

O'Week

 Exams

SWOTVAC

12.1 Appendix 1: Minutes of the Council Meeting (2nd August 2023)

Meeting in Hughes 322 Thursday 2nd August 2023

1. Procedural Matters

Georgia Thomas opened the meeting at 6:37pm.

1.1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

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

1.2. 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, Grace Franco, Tony Tu, Sana Vohra, Ruby Stewart, Yeganeh Soltanpour, , Lani Bushnell, Yaganneh Solt.

Late: Anjali – 6:39pm

1.3. Apologies

Hamish McNamara, Ruby Stewart

1.4. Absences

N/A

1.5. Adoption of Agenda

Procedural Motion: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

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

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).

Amendments:

1. Wella Huang is presenting her report verbally instead of non-submission.
2. Name correction form Adeline Thang to Tang in Agenda
3. International Student Officer Template Correction
4. Change Shuhui (Tom) Zha to Shuhui (Tom) Zhai in Appendix one
5. The motion 7.1 has been withdrew by Leila.

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

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. Motions on Notice

6.1. Melbourne University Strike (Withdrawn)

6.2. National Union of Students calls for ‘welfare not warfare’ day of action.

7. Office Bearer Reports

7.1. President

Georgia Thomas passed the Chair to Aiden Zeyang Wang at 6:38pm

Georgia delivered her report.

Motion included within report:

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

Moved: Georgia Thomas **Seconded:** Rafael Aquino **Motion Passed**

Motion included within report:

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

There were conversations about NUS fee payment, Breakfast club initiatives and University Mergers before voting on the motion:

Merlin: Raised NUS affiliation and questioned the need for the affiliation fee and its original amount.

Georgia: Highlighted benefits of NUS connection: invitations to conferences, food pantry, money invested comes back to us, better lobbying due to their larger budget.

Rafael: Explained that we pay fees to the union, similar to how NUS pays fees as a union member.

Lani: Inquired about the status of Roseworthy campus and the breakfast club. Suggested sending an email to Luke.

Georgia: Shared that a subcommittee meeting was held for Roseworthy campus; deemed it resolved. Drafting an email.

Merlin: Discussed ongoing discussions with catering about two other campuses, outcomes dependent on student opinions. Mentioned need for early commuter services.

Georgia: Noted plans for Roseworthy; updates to be sent via email to her.

Ramon: Emphasized the importance of mergers, expressed concerns about job cuts and mistrust in VC and management. Advocated for student consultation.

Georgia: Responded to Ramon, defending the potential benefits of mergers for marginalized students and legislative review.

James: Criticized mergers as a smokescreen for cuts to staff and students, called for deeper examination and opposition.

Leila: Argued against mergers, viewed them as attacks on staff and students. Doubted optimistic perspectives.

Georgia: Responded to Leila, defended the potential advantages of mergers and advocated for constructive input.

Dani: Addressed the need to consider disadvantaged students, criticized lack of focus on defending student rights, expressed skepticism about mergers.

Aiden Zeyang Wang Passed the Chair to Georgia Thomas at 7:16pm

Aiden: Stressed the importance of being realistic with goals, cautioning against overly idealistic objectives that might negatively affect student rights advocacy during mergers. Highlighted the need to focus on future student advocacy within the new system.

Georgia Thomas passed the chair back to Aiden at 7:17 pm.

James: Emphasized the need to maintain momentum despite challenges posed by the merger. Condemned the ineffectiveness of recent faculty mergers and the same is happening to the Uni Mergers.

Georgia: Criticized perceived inaction and silence by Tom, highlighting the importance of defining actions.

Leila: Addressed the problem of passivity in student mobilization, cautioned against conveying an overly positive image of the merger, urged for a more realistic portrayal to mobilize students effectively.

Aiden Zeyang Wang Passed the Chair to Georgia Thomas at 6:43pm

1.1. General Secretary

Aiden delivered his report and reported relevant information discussed in the UEC meeting that morning which he attended.

1.2. Education Officer

1.3. Welfare Officer

1.4. Women's Officer

1.5. Queer Officer

1.6. ATSI Officer

1.7. Disability Officer

Yuka suggested to take her report as read.

Daniel: applauded her data and thinks it's very useful.

1.8. Environment Officer

N/A

1.9. Postgraduate Officer – HDR

N/A

1.10. Postgraduate Officer – Coursework

Daniel delivered his report:

Daniel: Suggested that students who demonstrate sufficient English proficiency through test results could bypass compulsory English courses and directly enrol in university.

Wella: Showed support to Daniel's point.

1.11. International Student Officer

N/A

1.12. Social Justice Officer

Wella delivered her report verbally.

Wella distributed a handout to all members of the council the text on the handout as below:

Dear SRC student officers,

During this meeting, I would like to report on the recent incident that occurred at the No. 34 Middle School Gymnasium in Qiqihar, China, where the collapse of the building resulted in a tragic loss of lives. I propose two actions: firstly, on behalf of SRC, we should send a letter of condolence to the parents of the deceased students at Qiqihar No. 34 Middle School to express our heartfelt sympathy; secondly, I suggest that all members of SRC observe a minute of silence in honor of the students who lost their lives.

On July 23rd, Sunday, 15 junior high school female volleyball players and 2 volleyball coaches were diligently practicing at the No. 34 Middle School Gymnasium in Qiqihar, striving to create a brighter future for themselves. However, unforeseen events unfolded, and with a loud crashing sound, 17 individuals were trapped under the ruins. Through the unwavering efforts of the Chinese government, 4 individuals were rescued, but unfortunately, the remaining 13 individuals showed no signs of life despite all rescue attempts. Later investigations revealed that the collapse was caused by unscrupulous construction businesses unlawfully storing perlite on the gymnasium's roof. We must take this as a warning and be vigilant about campus construction safety and eliminating potential hazards.

This incident holds significant meaning for General Councilor Tom Zhai, from Qi Qiha Er, who was deeply saddened upon learning about it. In China, with the long-standing one-child policy, these 11 young girls were the only children in their respective families. The loss of these 11 girls has brought unbearable grief to 11 families.

In the news reports, the parents of these 11 girls have been left voiceless in their immense sorrow. As a Social Justice Officer, I feel deeply saddened by this. During this incident, the parents of the victims lacked care and consolation. They were unable to obtain timely information about their daughters and had to rely solely on notifications from law enforcement. One father of a victim cried out in the hospital corridor, "Why can't I know the current situation of my daughter?" This heartfelt plea resonated with me. The media's focus may have been on the rescue scenes and the government's response, but it overlooked the genuine needs of these parents. I do not wish for these parents to only receive cold government reports and media updates; rather, I hope they receive sincere comfort and solace for their wounded hearts.

As students of the University of Adelaide, a university with a strong sense of humanity, I sincerely appeal to all the student officers present to set aside biases and conflicts. Regardless of political affiliations or differing opinions, let us offer our most sincere condolences to these 11 departed girls and their parents. I would be genuinely grateful to each and every one of you for doing so.

Thank you.

Tom: Shared personal connection to the incident in Qiqi Haer, expressed sadness and empathy for affected friends, wished he could offer support.

Motion:

1. SRC (Student Representative Council) representing University of Adelaide students proposed writing a letter to university administration. The letter aims to convey condolences for the lives lost in the incident and to deliver it to relevant stakeholders defined by the university.
2. Observed a minute of silence to pay respects for the lives lost in the Qiqi Haer incident as mentioned in the report.

Motion: Wellla Huang **Seconded** Tom Zhai **Motion passed.**

- 1.13. Ethno-Cultural Officer
- 1.14. Rural Officer
- 1.15. Mature Age Officer
- 1.16. Roseworthy Campus Officer
- 1.17. Waite Officer –

2. Motions on Notice

- 2.1. Melbourne University Strike (Withdrawn)

Moved: Leila Clendon **Seconded:** N/A **Motion Passed / Failed (N/A)**

- 2.2. National Union of Students calls for ‘welfare not warfare’ day of action.

Leila: Highlighted the importance of the campaign, cautioning against the university and country becoming militarized. Cited the country's history of damaging nuclear activities and closed uranium mines, noting the disproportionate impact on Indigenous communities' cancer rates. Urged that opposing the campaign could be interpreted as being against Indigenous interests.

Rafael: Voiced support for Leila's perspective. Used examples like these to illustrate why funding the union is crucial, enabling the organization of campaigns even for causes that individuals might not personally support but are vital for advocating broader justice.

Moved: Leila Clendon **Seconded:** Tom Wood **Motion Failed**

3. General Business

N/A

4. Executive Report

N/A

5. Emergent Business

6. Date of the Next Meeting

The next SRC Meeting will be held on the 16th Aug.

Georgia Thomas closed the meeting at 8:08pm

Appendix 2: A Call For Fair Rental Laws



Joint statement

A call for fair rental laws

Renters have a right to housing that is affordable, safe, and secure. It's time South Australia's rental laws were updated to reflect this.

More South Australians are renting than ever before, and renter households are feeling the squeeze with a rental affordability and availability crisis alongside a cost-of-living crisis. The demographic of renters is changing with more families renting, people retiring as renters and many people facing the possibility of renting for the rest of their lives.

Now, as the state government reviews the *Residential Tenancies Act 1995* for the first time in nearly ten years, there is a critical opportunity to improve South Australia's renting laws to make renting fair in our state by enacting lasting, positive change to the legislation.

Together, our organisations are calling for significant and meaningful reforms – as listed below -to our residential tenancy laws to ensure all South Australians can access secure and affordable housing.

Abolish no cause evictions (periodic lease and non-renewal of fixed term lease)

Ending no cause evictions and the non-renewal of leases without cause is essential to improving security of tenure in the private rental sector and to ensuring tenants can stand up for their rights without fear of retaliatory evictions.

Currently, under sections 83 and 83A of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1995* a landlord may evict a tenant both during a periodic tenancy and at the end of a fixed term agreement for no reason. This provides no security of tenure for the tenant, impacts on their ability to settle in a house and community, and limits their ability to exercise their rights as tenants.

There have long been reports from tenants who have received retaliatory evictions following a request for a repair to the property, or when they have raised other concerns. As a result, many tenants live in expensive, unhealthy and unsafe housing as they fear their tenancy agreement will be terminated if they report an issue with the property.

Due to the very low vacancy rate in the private rental market, this situation brings with it the very real risk of homelessness. Evictions should only be allowed for legitimate reasons. There are numerous ways to evict tenants that are legitimate legally such as selling the property, family requiring the property and major repairs that should be sufficient for landlords to retain power over their investments without breaching legal contracts.

Without the removal of no cause evictions and the non-renewal of leases without cause, renters cannot exercise the full rights afforded to them by law.



Limiting rent increases (to CPI)

Rents have increased significantly and some landlords, knowing their tenants have few (if any) other options have taken advantage of an increase in demand. Currently the Residential Tenancies Act restricts the frequency of rent increases (once every 12 months), but there are no limits on how much rent can increase.

During a rental affordability crisis, countless tenants are facing excessive rent hikes. Section 56 of the Act puts all the onus (and expense) on the tenant to make an application to the Tribunal if they believe the rent charged to be excessive. It is reasonable to assume that the tenant is unlikely to attempt this action due to the fear of retaliatory eviction.

Rent increases should be limited to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), to ensure that landlords are not increasing the rent excessively, and the limit must be enforceable without relying on tenants to put themselves and their housing situation at risk. Current laws create uncertainty where tenants have no way to plan for future rent increases or know if they'll be able to afford them. Limiting rent increases to CPI provides fair, transparent ground rules for both landlords and tenants.

We also note that limiting rent increases must be introduced simultaneously with the removal of no cause evictions. This will prevent landlords from using a rent increase to evict a tenant, by introducing a rent increase the tenant cannot afford, and tenants cannot be evicted to increase rents beyond any rent increase limit.

Introduce minimum energy efficiency standards

Minimum energy efficiency standards are essential to providing safe and healthy housing for renters. There is overwhelming evidence that South Australian renters face unsafe internal temperatures in their homes. Many rental homes in South Australia have poor energy performance and lack energy efficiency features such as insulation, energy-efficient heating and cooling and effective draught sealing. This situation leads to many rental homes being too cold in winter and too warm in summer and significantly affects the health and well-being of tenants by contributing to illnesses such as [cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and poor mental health](#).

Energy inefficient homes are considerably more challenging to heat and cool. As a result, tenants are spending more money and using more energy to try and heat and cool their homes with little effect. Many are choosing to not use heating and cooling appliances because their bills are too high, or they are forced to make the hard decision to not buy groceries or medication to afford their use.

Implementing minimum energy efficiency standards will significantly reduce bills. Healthy Homes for Renters developed a [Community Sector Blueprint](#) that provides a comprehensive overview for implementing minimum energy efficiency standards. We support this blueprint along with over 90 other community organisations. Mandating that the replacement of appliances must be energy efficient does not go far enough to remedy the problem presented here.

Ensure landlords cannot unreasonably refuse a pet

Presently, landlords can refuse to allow pets in a rental property in South Australia.

South Australia is one of the last remaining states that does not have provisions to allow pets in rentals. For many South Australians, pets are a part of their family playing a crucial role in a person's physical and mental wellbeing.

In the midst of a housing crisis, some tenants are having to choose between giving up their pet or slipping into homelessness as landlords have powers to discriminate against pet owners. Animal shelters are seeing increased surrenders of dogs and cats from families that would love to keep them but can't as they can't find a rental that will accept both them and their pet.

This situation also creates a significant barrier for women experiencing domestic violence, with research suggesting that many will remain in an abusive relationship if they cannot take their pet with them when they leave.

The Act must be amended to ensure landlords cannot unreasonably refuse a pet, with any reasonable grounds for refusal clearly defined. The onus must sit with the landlord to apply to the Tribunal if they wish to refuse permission for a pet to ensure accountability and oversight.

Conclusion

There has never been a more crucial or timely opportunity to improve housing outcomes in South Australia. It is time to recognise the undue pressures and unfair rules faced by renters and introduce reforms that will have a profound impact on housing affordability, security and safety for many South Australians, today and into the future.

We encourage the state government to expedite their proposed improvements to the Act and to ensure they are strong enough to have a positive impact on rental tenure.