

## SSAF AND VSU STATEMENT OF YOUX

### AUTHORITY

A Policy of YouX (historically the Adelaide University Union) enacted  
Pursuant to Clause 21 of the AUU's Constitution

### POLICY

#### 1. Objectives

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

#### 2. Definitions

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

2.2 The following definitions apply to all YouX documents:

“Universal Student Services Fee” here will mean any kind of fee payed for student services, whether that be SSAF as it stands, or any kind of fee collected directly by Student Organisations.

“Voluntary Student Unionism” here will also include Voluntary Student Representation (VSR), and any other proposed change to Universal Student Unionism that falls under a similar concept as VSU.

#### 3. Interpretation

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

#### 4. YouX Stance on SSAF and VSU

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

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

4.2.1 YouX recognises that the purpose of its existence, as outlined in the AUU Constitution, is to provide amenities and services to its members; and to further the welfare of its members. YouX believes that without levying a universal student services fee, that it would not be able to fulfil these aims satisfactorily.

- 4.2.2 YouX believes that VSU was a destructive policy implemented by the Federal Government, which impacted greatly on YouX's ability to deliver services to students. VSU also greatly impacted the standard of important services which enable students to study, as well as greatly diminished the level and quality of campus life and culture.
  - 4.2.3 YouX believes SSAF has improved the ability for YouX to deliver services and campus culture and life to students; however it has not restored it to the levels prior to the implementation of VSU.
  - 4.2.4 YouX believes that monies collected through the SSAF remains student money, and therefore the spending of SSAF money should be done with meaningful consultation with student elected representatives.
  - 4.2.5 YouX believes that democratically elected student organisations have unique insight into the student body, and can better meet the services needs of students, than organisations which do not have that insight into the student body.
  - 4.2.6 YouX believes that it has effectively spent SSAF money, and has demonstrated that it can expand services to students and improve campus life, using SSAF funds.
  - 4.2.7 Ultimately the goal of YouX is a return to Universal Student Unionism.
- 4.3 These points may be elaborated on as and when required, but must apply to the basic principles outlined herein.

## 5 Media

- 5.1 If an interview or any form of expression on SSAF or VSU has been granted in the media, pursuant to the definitions and terms of the YouX Interaction with the Media Policy, from the YouX President themselves, or granted by the YouX President, the parameters of the unified stance of YouX outlined in this policy must be used as the basic principles of what is said on behalf of YouX.
  - 5.1.1 This stance on SSAF or VSU is that of YouX as an organisation, and must only be used when the spokesperson is expressing themselves in their capacity as a representative of YouX.
  - 5.1.2 If the representative of YouX expresses their personal opinion in the media, it must be done in their capacity as an individual or student of the University of Adelaide, and not as a representative of YouX.
  - 5.1.3 If the representative of YouX, having been given permission from the YouX President to communicate with the media, does not believe in the official unified stance of YouX as an organisation on a personal basis, may state and discuss SSAF or VSU solely in the terms of it being the stance of YouX as an organisation in order to depersonalise and not compromise their own beliefs. Likewise, the individual circumstance in which this situation occurs can be discussed when it happens with the YouX President if there are any problems. In this case, the person may choose to express their personal views solely in their capacity as an individual or student of the University of Adelaide and not as a representative of YouX.

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## Version Control Table

| Version | Author            | Date       | Changes                                     |
|---------|-------------------|------------|---|
| V1.0    | Executive Officer | 31/1/2005  | First enacted as VSU Statement of the AUU   |
| V2.0    | Executive Officer | 16/04/2014 | Amended                                     |
| V3.0    | Executive Officer | 10/4/2017  | Sub-clause 5.3 corrected (typo)             |
| V4.0    | YouX Board        | 29/11/2023 | Grammatical and formatting errors corrected |