

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



Monday, 13th Oct 2025, 6:30 PM

University of Adelaide North Terrace Campus, Ligertwood 111

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:

Sheet provided for signing-in, and online attendance recorded.

- *President: Aiden Wang*
- General Secretary: Sam Andonas
- Education Officer: Harish Thilagan
- Welfare Officer: Danush Lokesh
- Women's Officer: Lin Huang
- Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Island officer: Vacant
- Ethno-Cultural Officer: Keith Chou
- Postgraduate (Coursework): Janini Babukrishnan
- Postgraduate HDR Officer: Allen Yucheng Xie
- International Student Officer: Jennifer Tran
- Mature Age Officer: Nick Li
- Disability Officer: Jayden Squire
- Rural Officer: Vacant
- Environment Officer: Cheuk Nam Parco Chan
- Social Justice Officer: Jarrod Xia
- Roseworthy Officer – Jamie Lan Cheng U
- Waite Office: Weija Zhu
- General Councillors:
 - Sudharsanan Venkatraman
 - Prasanth Ramesh
 - Adrian Niculescu
 - Liam Phann
 - Aashiq Asan Raja Mohideen Batcha

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/Failed

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion: That the SRC accept the minutes of the meeting on the 15th of September 2025 as a true and accurate record (Attached).

Moved: Aiden Zeyang Wang

Seconded:

Motion Passed/Failed

Motion: That the SRC accept the minutes of the special meeting on the 15th of September 2025 as a true and accurate record (Attached).

Moved: Aiden Zeyang Wang

Seconded:

Motion Passed/Failed

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Action	Responsible	Status
Multicultural Ball Update	Keith	Ongoing
NAPSA Letter	Aiden	Ongoing
Hub Central ATM	Keith	Ongoing

4. Correspondence

5. New Members

N/A

6. Office Bearer Reports

6.1. President

6.2. General Secretary

6.3. Education Officer

6.4. Welfare Officer

6.5. Women's Officer

6.6. Queer Officer

6.7. ATSI Officer

6.8. Disability Officer

6.9. Environment Officer (Optionally delivered)

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
- 8. General Business
- 9. Executive Report
N/A
- 10. Emergent Business
N/A
- 11. Date of the Next Meeting
- 12. Appendix

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 – Aiden Zeyang Wang

Meeting with the DVCA

The new DVCA, Professor Geoffrey Crisp, kindly invited me to meet with him last week. We had a constructive discussion. I specifically raised:

- (i) the importance of student experience during the merger,
- (ii) the study-plan roll-out for students transitioning into the new university, and
- (iii) AI equity.

I will brief Council verbally on the details.

SRC and University Merger

As agreed by Council in camera, Council has formally resolved to seek advice on winding down the organisation given the upcoming university merger, consistent with the SRC Constitution and prudent transition planning.

This is a significant milestone. In keeping with the principle of transparency, I wish to formally in this report, inform students that Council has expressed its intention to proceed with winding down SRC operations, subject to appropriate legal and governance advice.

Council considers this approach appropriate given that the new merged student association—AUSA—has passed its final version of the constitution, which:

- guarantees a new Student Representative Council within its governance framework; and
- assigns to the new Board the task of registering the new SRC and drafting its founding constitution.

I have spoken with the YouX Board and directors of the Transition Board regarding the importance of continuity of an SRC-type organisation representing student interests and advocacy. Across multiple meetings there has been consensus, within both associations, that student representation must remain a paramount consideration.

Council welcomes feedback and comments from the student body on this matter.

SRC — Final StressLess Event Sponsorship

As resolved at the previous meeting, the SRC will contribute funds to StressLess, an annual event historically sponsored by the SRC. The event will be held on the date below. I encourage all members to attend.

Further details are provided here:

Stress Less 2025 is here!

It's time to Stress Less as we bring furry friends, free food and creative activities to campus! Once again, proudly brought to you by YouX sponsored and endorsed by your SRC! After many years of supporting this beloved annual event, this marks the current SRC's final year of sponsorship due to the upcoming merger. We're incredibly proud to have helped bring this to life for so many students over the years and once again, we would love to see you at the Lawns!

This event is free for all UoA students, so come down and enjoy some de-stressing fun! YouX Members, make sure you bring your membership cards for a bonus treat.

What's on offer:

- Cuddly animals
- Music
- Free lunch catered by Gang Gang and Sookii Lala
- Free drinks
- Craft activities
- Collaborative mural
- Fairy floss

- Henna
- Photobooth
- Chill out zones
- Haircuts
- Jonny's Popcorn for your Members Perk

Exams can be a stressful time, so YouX and SRC want to bring some fun to campus to help you put your best (most Zen) foot forward, ready for the end of year period.

Barr Smith Lawns

Wednesday 15 October

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM



Department of Education — Reform Priorities and Partnerships — TEQSA Amendment

On 3 September 2025, the Government released a consultation paper on potential amendments to the TEQSA Act to modernise and strengthen TEQSA's powers.

Registration is now open for higher education students to participate in a **Wednesday 15 October forum, from 11:00am – 12:00pm AEST**, available at this link: [Modernising and strengthening TEQSA's powers - Department of Education, Australian Government](#).

This discussion will be on the issues about the future regulation of Australian higher education and on potential changes to the TEQSA Act to align with Government and community expectations.

Students are encouraged to provide feedback on how the issues in the questions relate to their experiences of higher education, and to respond in a way that is relevant to their context.

For reference, the TEQSA Act consultation paper is available here: [TEQSA Act consultation paper - Department of Education, Australian Government](#).

National Student Ombudsman — New Tips Sheet for Students Raising Complaints with Providers

The National Student Ombudsman (NSO) has produced a [Tips sheet](#) to help students wanting to raise a complaint with their higher education provider.

As an escalated complaints function, the NSO is keen to help students to engage with their providers complaints processes before coming to the NSO.

Since opening doors in February, the NSO have found that students who come to the NSO often don't know if they have raised a formal complaint with their provider.

These tips were developed to highlight the steps in this process, aiming to empower students to approach their providers about their complaint.

The tipsheet:

- explains the general differences between a formal and informal process,
- provides some helpful tips when making a complaint,
- recommends the information students should record to support their complaint.

The NSO hope that the tipsheet is a useful tool when you are speaking with a student who is thinking of making a complaint. It can also be printed and placed in student-facing support areas.



When making a complaint, it is helpful to:

- Document what happened or what the issue is, and why it is a problem.
- Put the details in the order they happened, including when you first became aware of the issue and how you tried to resolve it. Include who you spoke to, when you spoke with them, and what was discussed.
- Explain how you have been impacted, academically, financially and/or personally.
- Think about the outcome you want to resolve the situation. For example, if you have received an incorrect transcript, the outcome could be an acknowledgement of the errors made and an amendment to the transcript.

Evidence: Information and documents to support your complaint

Check the complaint policy or procedure for what information and evidence to include. Evidence may be emails, letters, forms, receipts, photos, screenshots, or verbal evidence. Only include information that is relevant to your complaint. If you are attaching files, it helps to give them meaningful names.

What happens next?

The complexity of your complaint may impact the time it takes for it to be resolved. You can ask your provider how your complaint is progressing, remembering to:

- Keep your complaint reference number somewhere you can easily access it.
- Make notes of conversations you have with your provider about the complaint, including the time and date, details of what you discussed, as well as the name and role of the person you spoke with.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the formal complaint process, you can:

- Ask to appeal the decision. Your provider may have different policies and processes for appealing decisions. These can include, new evidence, concerns about how the original complaint was handled, or an unreasonable decision.
- Escalate the matter externally to the NSO. In most instances, we will expect students to have formally raised the matter with their provider first, but sometimes students have good reasons to come straight to the NSO. For more information visit nso.gov.au.



Tips for making a complaint to your provider

Page 2 of 2

SRC Governance and Merger – In-Camera Placeholder

Motion:

That this meeting resolves to proceed in camera for the purpose of discussing Governance and Merger.

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

That's all from me now, thanks for reading this far and as always, as the SRC President, I'm here to support you and the students anytime. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at: srcpresident@adelaide.edu.au

Yours sincerely,

Aiden Zeyang Wang
President
Student Representative Council

Item 6.2: General Secretary's Report – Sam Andonas

Hi all,

I am pleased to confirm that Consumer and Business Affairs have properly been updated in the change of public officer for the SRC Association, a matter that had remained outstanding for a long period of time. The application was submitted and swiftly approved. A quote from the CBS Application Notification:

‘I confirm that the Public Officer of the STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (ADELAIDE) INCORPERATED has been updated [...]

In-line with this I have once again read through the public officer responsibilities as provided by CBS to ensure the councils continued success at following the relevant legal and constitutional requirements.

I continue to prepare the meeting agendas and papers, record the minuets of meetings, and ensure transparency in SRC decisions. I have overseen aspects of record management to maintain accountability and institutional continuity.

In conversations with students across campus, the exam period continues to be of upmost importance, and I am keen to work on decreasing stress and improving time management and study over the preparatory timeframe. It is crucial that we continue to assess reoccurring themes in student feedback to inform the SRC's advocacy priorities.

Looking ahead, I intend to develop clearer documentation processes and establish a streamlined way for students to engage more easily and comprehensively with the SRC.

Warm Regards,
Sam Andonas
a1926892@adelaide.edu.au

Item 6.3: Education Officer's Report – Harish Thilagan

SRC Education Officer Report

Prepared by: Harish Thilagan

Prepared on: 10/10/2025

My Observations:

Through several surveys and interactions with students from diverse backgrounds, I have identified a number of challenges they commonly face — including difficulties in securing internships, gaining practical exposure, understanding subject complexity, and preparing effectively for exams. In many instances, I was able to offer immediate guidance and resolutions. However, for most cases, my consistent advice to students was to connect with their seniors who had already completed the course. Using my network and personal contacts, I have shared details of my friends and peers from the same discipline who could provide valuable insights. In certain cases, I have personally facilitated introductions between students and alumni to help them engage directly.

On a broader scale, students in the early years of their programs tend to face course-specific academic issues, while the majority of pre-final and final-year students frequently seek guidance from alumni, particularly regarding career choices, internships, and professional skill development. While these efforts have proven effective in addressing academic and exam-related issues specific to each course, broader challenges such as career planning and employability require deeper engagement with graduates who are now working professionals, both within and beyond the university.

My Recommendations:

After discussions with my peers and students holding various leadership positions across the university, a key recommendation that emerged is to strengthen and streamline interaction with alumni. While first-year students' course-specific challenges can be effectively addressed through existing university resources, the broader and more impactful initiative of alumni engagement requires immediate attention. Improving this connection would not only address career-related concerns but also indirectly benefit academic development. Several students have approached me with suggestions to expand or enhance the efficiency of the alumni network and to organize more structured events dedicated to alumni interaction.

I would therefore recommend that the council actively develop strategies to strengthen alumni engagement—either by improving existing frameworks or initiating new programs where necessary. Although I have personally participated in a few alumni-related activities, I believe there is still significant scope for growth in this area. Establishing a dedicated

platform and hosting regular events for alumni interaction would be highly beneficial. I will continue to advocate for this initiative and assist both the council and the university in implementing these improvements.

Item 6.8: Disability Officer's Report – Jayden Squire

Officer has indicated that the report will be delivered verbally.

Item 6.8: Environment Officer's Report (Optionally Delivered) – Cheuk Nam Parco Chan

As an Environmental Officer, I have noticed the merger between the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia, forming Adelaide University in January 2026, marks a major transformation in South Australia's higher education landscape. Intended to improve research capacity, global ranking, and long-term sustainability, the merger will also reshape the university environment, from physical infrastructure to learning culture. For these reasons, student awareness of the merger's scope and impacts is essential to ensure that academic quality, wellbeing, and environmental integrity are protected throughout the transition.

Raising student awareness is vital for maintaining a transparent and inclusive academic community. When students are informed, they can better understand how institutional reforms influence their study environment — such as class sizes, course offerings, access to learning resources, and campus sustainability practices. Awareness also encourages participation in consultation processes that determine how the new university will manage teaching spaces, student services, and environmental responsibilities. Informed students are more likely to engage in decision-making about the design of greener, more efficient campuses, and the development of collaborative, equitable study spaces that support both learning and wellbeing.

The merger's impact on students will extend across academic, social, and physical dimensions of university life. Academically, some programs may be restructured or merged, requiring careful communication about course continuity and degree recognition. The consolidation of libraries, laboratories, and study areas may temporarily disrupt access but could ultimately enhance learning through shared, upgraded facilities. Environmentally, merging campuses presents opportunities to improve energy efficiency, reduce duplication, and adopt unified sustainability initiatives — but only if students remain involved and aware of how these decisions shape their daily experience. Socially, the integration of student unions and clubs will influence belonging and campus identity, making awareness and participation crucial to preserving inclusive and supportive learning environments.

In summary, the merger offers an opportunity to create a more sustainable, innovative, and globally competitive university, but its success relies on student awareness and engagement. By staying informed and involved, students can help shape an academic and environmental

culture that prioritises transparency, sustainability, and excellence within the new Adelaide University.

Item 6.9: Ethno-Cultural Officer's Report – Hok Him (Keith) Chou

Ethno-Cultural Officer Report 5

Dear Council Members,

1. Follow-Up on Multicultural Ball

The Multicultural Ball was successfully held on 2 October, with over 250 attendees. The event featured cultural performances, a pageant, and a lucky draw. Distinguished guests included the Honourable Jing Lee MLC, the President of the South Australia Malaysia Club, Ms Poh Yee Suyapto, and our SRC President, who attended as VIPs.

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, and the President of AUMSA, Edward, also expressed appreciation for the SRC's support for this event.

At this stage, the SRC is awaiting the organising clubs to compile and submit the relevant invoices for grant processing. Detailed financial information will be presented to the Council once all documentation is received.

2. Follow-Up on YouX Club Development During the Merger

Although YouX has not responded directly to my previous email enquiry, clubs' representatives have recently received emails from YouX regarding arrangements for next year's club development amid the merger. This communication has largely addressed the concerns I raised earlier.

I plan to speak with club representatives to confirm whether there are any additional questions or unresolved matters. If necessary, I will follow up with YouX to ensure that cultural clubs receive adequate support during the transition period.

Yours sincerely,
Hok Him (Keith) Chou
Ethno-Cultural Officer, Student Representative Council

Item 6.10: Postgraduate Officer - HDR's Report – Allen Yucheng Xie

Over the past few weeks, I have attended several meetings regarding HDR student matters. As the HDR student representative, I have listened to information concerning student academic

and welfare issues, raised relevant questions, and prepared to answer queries from HDR students who seeking support.

1. Academic Board Meetings

I attended the Academic Board meetings on 11 September and 1 October concerning the university merger transition, which included reports and discussions on matters relating to HDR students. At the meetings, I enquired about the questions and concerns raised by HDR students that had been gathered thus far. The key information collected is as follows:

- Remote HDR candidates may be approved on academic grounds, but must complete portions of their on-campus period and annual reviews in Adelaide.
- The new Graduate Research Innovation & Training (GRIT) programme has replaced the former Career and Research Skills Training (CaRST). Completing the required duration remains a graduation requirement for HDR students.
- Research or internship in collaboration with industry will be encouraged.
- The new Mid-Candidature Review is similar to the current Annual Review. A new requirement for Pre-submission Review of the thesis will be introduced.
- Minor Reviews required for remote students must be completed as a milestone.

2. Research Education and Development Committee (REDC) Meeting

The information I enquired about and received at the REDC meeting on 15 September is as follows:

- From 15 November 2025, due to the merger of the new university (AU), the foundation universities (UoA and UniSA) will suspend enrolment of new HDR students, except for special cases requiring manual processing.
- Almost all existing international programmes and joint PhD agreements will continue at the new university (renewal agreements for the remaining joint PhD programmes are also being progressed). Members of the new university's (AU) committee continue to strengthen cooperation with overseas institutions.
- A list of all newly established HDR programmes corresponding to the original ones is provided. Minor administrative adjustments have been made to certain programmes (such as names or affiliated colleges), whilst ensuring these changes have minimal impact on the research of current HDR students.

I will continue to gather HDR students' queries and suggestions, attend meetings relevant to HDR students and bring back useful updates and information for HDR students.

Item 6.11: Postgraduate Officer – Coursework's Report – Janini Babukrishnan

Postgraduate Coursework Report – SRC Update

Prepared by: Janani Babukrishnan Geetha
Date: 13.10.2025

Expansion of Counselling and Mental Health Support

Many postgraduate students have concerns about the long wait times for counselling appointments. While the University's Counselling Service offers valuable support, the current capacity is not meeting growing demand, especially during exam periods.

Key Issues

- Delayed access to appointments during peak stress periods.
- Lack of culturally diverse counsellors to support international students.
- Limited awareness of available mental health resources.

Recommendations

1. **Increase Counselling Staff:** Hire additional counsellors, prioritising diversity to better support international and culturally varied student groups.
2. **Introduce Drop-In Mental Health Clinics:** Offer short, no-appointment sessions during mid-semester and final exams to provide immediate support.

Extended Restaurant and Café Hours During Exams

Students studying late during exams struggle to find food on campus after 4 PM. Extending the hours of Hub Central cafés and outlets to **at least 9 PM** during exam weeks would:

- Ensure access to meals for those studying late.
- Reduce stress and fatigue during assessments.
- Promote a more supportive campus environment.

Enhancing mental health access and extending food service hours will directly improve student wellbeing and academic performance. These small but meaningful steps show the University's continued commitment to supporting its postgraduate community.

Item 6.12: International Student Officer's Report – Jennifer Tran

International Student Officer Report
Prepared by: Jennifer

During the semester break, I volunteered at the ISS Mid-Autumn Festival event which was held on campus to support international students who stayed in Adelaide during the holidays. The event created a warm and welcoming environment for students who may feel homesick during

this time, especially as the Mid-Autumn Festival is an important cultural celebration in many Asian countries.

There were a variety of cultural stalls run by students from different countries, offering food tastings, traditional activities and information about cultural customs. Students enjoyed mooncakes, snacks, cultural pins, and DIY craft tables including lantern painting and calligraphy. The event promoted cultural diversity and gave students the chance to share their traditions while learning about others.

Throughout the event, I assisted with crowd support, engaging students at the stall, and helping with activity coordination. I also spoke with several international students who said they appreciated having cultural events during the break because it made them feel more connected to the university community. Many students also shared that events like this help them meet new people and feel more included.

Overall, this was a very meaningful event that supported student wellbeing and cultural connection. I am in favour of encourage similar inclusive activities that build community among international students.

Item 6.13: Social Justice Officer's Report – Jarrod Xia

Officer has indicated that the report will be delivered verbally.

Item 7: Motions on Notice

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 Monday 27th October 2025 6:30pm at University of Adelaide North Terrace Campus, Ligertwood 111.