

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



Monday 14 October 2024, 6:00pm

University of Adelaide North Terrace Campus, Ligertwood 113

Zoom Link:

<https://adelaide.zoom.us/j/83356052788?pwd=CKiRsHG6B66a2fi6sqcw8PTgRx4gFG.1>

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

- SRC President: Aiden Zeyang Wang
- General Secretary: Edward Archer
- Education Officer: Briana Symonds-Manne
- Environmental Officer: Saahib Panesar
- Social Justice Officer: Alex Bastiras
- Disability Officer: Jayden Squire
- Ethno-Cultural Officer: Jixuan (Jarrod) Xia
- International Student Officer: Akshay Agarwal
- Mature Age Officer: Nick Li
- Postgraduate (Coursework): Lashhanth Dhevaraju
- Postgraduate (Research): Nix Herriot
- Rural Officer: Oscar Harding
- Welfare Officer: Xenon Lane
- Women's Officer: Valeria Caceres Galvez
- Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Officer: Jayden Thyer
- Queer Officer: Sage Jupe
- Roseworthy Campus Officer: Lainie Bushnell
- Waite Campus Officer: Jocelyn (Yiyan) Zhang
- General Councillor:
 - Alec Tedesco
 - Louis Jiang
 - Yang Zhang
 - Afser Hussain
 - Binu Arundi Rajasuriya
 - Soraya Rezaee
 - Robin Wood
 - Bao Tien (Jennifer) Tran

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 of 25 August 2022 as a true and accurate record (Appendix 1).

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

ACTION	PERSON	STATUS
Discussion on further action with face-to-face lecture surveys.	Edward Archer	Ongoing
Discussion of Trimester/Semester survey.	Aiden Zeyang Wang	Ongoing

4. Correspondence

5. New Members

5.1. Nick Li – Mature Aged Officer

6. Motions on Notice

7. Office Bearer Reports

7.1. President

7.2. Welfare Officer

7.3. Women’s Officer

7.4. ATSI Officer

7.5. Environment Officer

7.6. Mature Age Officer

7.7. Ethno-Cultural Officer

7.8. Rural Officer

7.9. Waite Officer

7.10. Roseworthy Officer

8. General Business

9. Emergent Business

Item 7.1: President's Report – Aiden Zeyang Wang

Final SRC President Report 2024

As the year draws to a close, it's a moment to reflect on the journey we've shared as the SRC together. This year has been marked by incredible progress in student advocacy, welfare initiatives, and representation. It has been a privilege to serve as your president, and I am proud of the collective impact we've made on student life at the University of Adelaide. I wish to use this opportunity to address some of the progress we have made collectively:

Health and Well-being Initiatives:

One of our key focuses this year was enhancing student health and well-being. We worked closely with the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing (SMHW) committee, putting forward several important initiatives aimed at promoting both mental and physical health across campus. These initiatives included physical activity campaigns and encouraging the collaboration with Medibank to offer grants that directly benefited students.

Another significant milestone was the successful launch of the SRC Food Pantry Initiative which has drawn over 2000 students through the doors since operations. This project has created a much-needed support system for students facing food insecurity, and I am especially proud of the work the SRCFP Committee has done to bring this vision to life. The pantry will continue to offer vital support to students in the years to come, ensuring their well-being remains a priority.

Academic Excellence and Employability:

Throughout the year, we made great strides in improving academic support and employability for students. Strengthening our partnerships with career services and industry partners helped us deliver events like the Employability Program Celebration. I have been invited to attend various employability programs and promote the SRC in all forums. Further partnerships are currently under development for 2025.

Another important issue we tackled was the ongoing debate around trimester and semester preferences. Our efforts to gather student feedback ensured that their voices were heard in decisions that will shape the academic future of our university. The SRC played an active role in these discussions and with YouX.

Inclusivity and Diversity:

The SRC continued the efforts to support underrepresented communities, including initiatives to support LGBTQIA+ students disability and ATSI students.

This year, we made great strides in ensuring that diverse voices were not only heard but actively engaged in decision-making processes that impact our entire student body.

Advocacy and Representation:

The SRC has been active in its advocacy for students throughout 2024. We stood firm on crucial issues such as opposing sole trimester based courses (**with the results attached as an appendix**) and made comments on various political matters such as the Israel and Palestine war, the federal government spending and many more. These actions were in direct response to the needs of the student body, and I'm proud of the steps we've taken in these areas.

We also worked to ensure continuity and effectiveness within the SRC itself, filling key roles through the Casual Vacancies initiative. This allowed us to maintain active representation across all student portfolios, ensuring that every student had a voice at the table.

The University Merger:

As we look ahead, the upcoming merger between the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia to form Adelaide University is the most significant event on the horizon. This merger brings both opportunities and challenges, particularly when it comes to student representation.

As the President, I have been actively contributing to the Student Representation Working Group, engaging with representatives from UniSA and USASA to ensure that student voices are prioritized during this transition. We've made significant progress in shaping the governance structures of the new student service institution, with a focus on preserving strong and effective student representation.

As we approach the official merger, it's vital that we continue to advocate for student welfare during this period of change. Preserving essential services like internship programs, elective course offerings, and student support structures will be critical in ensuring that students experience a smooth transition into the new university.

Recently, I have circulated the below email to everyone and I encourage you to continue updating your peers surrounding the merger:

Dear SRC Members,

As promised I'm circulating the below update as to the most recent info on lectures modes of the new Adelaide University, for your convenience, I have collated them below for your info:

AU Q&A: What are the different types of classes I'll attend at university? <https://adelaideuni.edu.au/about/faqs/answer/4289>

AU News: News: Is the traditional lecture a thing of the past? <https://adelaideuni.edu.au/about/news-and-events/news/2024/is-the-traditional-lecture-a-thing-of-the-past/>

AU Staff Newsletter: <https://adelaideuni.communic8.com/click/web?token=5df4e504-84ba-48e1-a18a-8b1183042c03>

I hope you find this update helpful, and should there be any positional changes from either UofA or AU, I will be promptly keeping an eye out in this sphere. Preferably, please also update me should you see any developments.

I note that as we edge closer to 01 January 2024, there will be more and more communications of AU coming through various channels. Please ensure you are reading and relaying accurate and official sources when making representations.

Should any of your peers or students approach you with an AU questions that you are unsure of, please direct them to the below website to make an enquiry(<https://adelaideuni.edu.au/study/enquire/>) or check if that question has already been answered in the FAQ(<https://adelaideuni.edu.au/about/faqs/>)

SRC Transition and Next Steps

Typically, I use this final report to congratulate the incoming cohort of representatives, regardless of the position I hold. However, this year is quite unique, as we are still awaiting the official election results declared by the tribunal. That said, whoever steps into the role of president and the members of the new council, I extend my best wishes to them as they take on the responsibilities of representing our students. I will also work with all of you to ensure a smooth transition.

As the current 2025 president-elect, I pledge to build on the experiences I've gained this year as president to further advance the exciting initiatives we have in place. I aim to strengthen the bonds and initiatives that support our students, especially as we move into this crucial year of the university merger. This transition is a pivotal moment for all of us, and I am committed to ensuring that the student body remains well-represented and supported throughout this process.

As this is the final SRC meeting for the year, the day-to-day affairs of the council will, as usual, be deferred to the executive for action. Should anything critical arise that requires the attention or involvement of the council, I will advise the members in due course.

Lastly, with exams just around the corner, I want to wish you all the very best of success. Good luck with your exams and in completing your degrees—your hard work and dedication will undoubtedly pay off!

It has been an honor to serve as your SRC President in 2024. This year has been one of growth, collaboration, and meaningful progress in the areas that matter most to our student community. As we look toward the future, particularly with the merger on the horizon, I am confident that the work we've done will leave a lasting legacy. The SRC remains committed to supporting, representing, and amplifying the voices of students in every decision that impacts our university life.

Thank you for your trust, support, and engagement throughout this incredible journey. Together, we have made a difference, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for our vibrant and resilient student community.

That's all from me now, thanks for reading this far and as always, as your 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 of the SRC



Item 7.2: Welfare Officer's Report – Xenon Lane

Not submitted

Item 7.3: Women's Officer's Report – Valeria Caceres Galvez

SEXTEMBER Q&A EVENT

As part of the university's SEXtember campaign to raise awareness of sexual and reproductive health matters, I was invited to facilitate a Q&A session between students across Australia and Georgia Grace, a Sex and Relationship Coach. The event took place via Zoom on the 24th of September

During this session, students asked questions about relationships, situationships, consent, sexual pleasure and intimacy. A core aim of this Q&A was to unpack subtle behaviours that lead to gender-based violence and highlight the importance of ongoing, voluntary and informed consent.

DEFENDING ABORTION RIGHTS

Liberal MP, Ben Hood MLC, recently introduced a bill that would ban abortions from 28 weeks by requiring forced birth. Doctors and health care teams would be prevented from providing normal abortion care and required instead to force the pregnant person to give birth. It would impose unethical and subpar care practices, with tragic potential consequences for patients.

I invite all of you to sign this petition

(<https://tammyfranksmc.good.do/abortionishealthcare/Abortion-is-healthcare/>) to send our MPs a message that abortion care is healthcare and should be guided by a pregnant person and their medical team – not Members of Parliament.

Abortion care is already inaccessible to many. We live in a country where abortion access depends on your post-code and where residents without a Medicare card are often denied affordable access. Rather than stigmatising and creating barriers to abortion care, we need action to improve accessibility and availability of abortion care.

I look forward to rallying with fellow community members for abortion rights on October 11th at 6PM at the steps of Parliament House.

If you are interested in this cause and want more information, I highly recommend checking out the South Australian Abortion Action Coalition (SAAAC) for more information - <https://saabortionactioncoalition.com/> .

Valeria Caceres Galvez
SRC WOMEN'S OFFICER

Item 7.4: ATSI Officer's Report – Jayde Thyer

SRC ATSI officer report

Since the last meeting I have been involved in the National Indigenous STEM congress that is in collaboration with the University and I was privileged to be a highlight speaker. I was able to talk to some of the students about university options and specifically health and medicine as well as answer any questions they had.

I was also able to attend and be involved in the new opening of the student kitchen and study space in Wirltu Yarlu that opens officially on the 11th of October. I know this has been an exciting time for both students and staff within Wirltu Yarlu and I can't wait to see students utilizing and enjoying the space.

I also continue my role as a Wirltu Yarlu ambassador for the University and have had some great opportunities to engage with First Nations youth around university and careers.

Kind regards,
Jayde Thyer
A1794701

Item 7.5: Environment Officer's Report – Saahib Panesar

Will be delivered verbally

Item 7.6: Ethno-Cultural Officer's Report – Jixuan (Jarrod) Xia

Hi all,

At the last SRC meeting, please let me summarize my work in SRC. I just joined SRC in the second half of the year and I am still exploring and learning about many rules and things. I organized a lot of activities related to student well-being in the second half of the year. Under the help and guidance of the chairman Aiden, I volunteered to organize and coordinate each SRCFP event, organize volunteers, count inventory.

I hope that through my efforts, students can receive help from SRC and enjoy their study in college. At the same time, as an ethno culture officer, I am also trying my best to promote each different ethnic culture. I hope that each ethnic culture in the school will be equally respected, students of different cultures can live in harmony, and those who try to divide and cause ethnic confrontation should be punished and dealt with accordingly!

Regards

Jixuan Jarrod Xia

Item 7.7: Mature Age Officer's Report – Nick Li

Will be delivered verbally

Item 7.8: Rural Officer's Report – Oscar Harding

I want to first thank, and express gratitude to the voters who accepted me onto the SRC in the role of Rural Officer and for also electing my fellow boons Oliver and Madhav, in the recent student elections.

After living in the Riverland town of Barmera for most of my life, I moved down to Adelaide to study chemical engineering in 2023. I currently board at St Ann's College in North Adelaide, where I have the privilege of living with 120 Rural and 63 Interstate students. I am honored to consider friends like these a core constituency, not just at Anns but also the other residential colleges, St Marks, Aquinas, and Lincoln, and boarders elsewhere. It is a unique cohort that lives at most 20 minutes away from North Terrace, and in my opinion, houses the greatest and most cohesive community of Tertiary Students in South Australia. Holding this office puts me in the best position to address their grievances to the SRC when they arise.

On the current Trimester discussion, I have asked around St. Ann's College to hear various opinions. One was that that 3 course Trimesters does sound appealing to some students, as they often feel with four course semesters that they are always neglecting one of their subjects, although the terms would be shorter. Another was a unanimous rejection of 4 course trimesters, which would cram 12 courses into the academic year. I also heard some students ask why Adelaide Uni should change from something that works well and uproot the whole system in the process.

It is important to note that a transition to Trimesters would completely disrupt how and when intercollege events (between Flinders Uni Hall, St Marks, Lincoln, Aquinas, and St Ann's) with the Douglas Irving High Table Cup get organised throughout the year. Trimesters would also add another exam period, and fragment breaks from Uni into more but at shorter lengths. It is imperative that the Universities take the residential colleges with them in the merging process and consult them often and at every turn.

Being in such close proximity to campus, collegians are also hit hard by the news regarding canning face to face lectures. Again, I am truly grateful to be able to do good with this position and continue to make the most of canvassing the opinions and concerns of the Rural community and the colleges to the SRC.

I would also like to take this opportunity to speak about EdCon. On the first week of July, I flew to Perth to attend the National Union of Students' Education Conference in my capacity as Rural Officer. The conference was held at Curtin University and was organised and hosted by the wonderful NUS Education officer Grace Franco and provided the opportunity to hold a range of plenaries and workshops over 4 days.

The plenaries often enticed fierce and rowdy debate and discussion, where panellists of differing factional affiliations would answer relevant questions from the host and the audience. Plenaries were held to discuss: The recent Universities Accord, Palestine Activism, Queer Matters and SSAF.

The workshops were intended to be a bit calmer, allowing student leaders from across the country to share their knowledge and wisdom on a range of topics concerning student unions, activism, and advocacy. These workshops were by far the most valuable and productive part of the conference.

Some of the topics covered were as follows: Accessibility and Disabilities in Politics, Paid Placements, Feminism and the Jenkin's report (applied beyond federal politics), lessons from the Palestine Encampments, Period Poverty, Environmentalism on Campus, Op Shops run by Student Unions, How

Domestic Students can support International Students, Relevance of AUKUS to Student Unionism, and Use of Media in Campaigns.

Outside of conference times I also got to be a Perth tourist, visiting the great King's Park, touring St George's Residential College, visiting Fremantle's Little Creatures Brewery, and enjoying their stellar public transport system.

Overall, it was an eye-opening and resourceful experience where I had the chance to meet and network with many likeminded individuals from student unions across Australian universities. I hope to implement what I've learnt to strengthen this union ahead of the merger and look forward to participating in future NUS endeavours as a 2025 delegate as well.

Item 7.9: Waite Officer's Report – Jocelyn (Yiyan) Zhang

Will be delivered verbally.

Item 7.10 Roseworthy Officer's Report – Lani Bushnell

Will be delivered verbally.

Item 7.11 General Secretary's Report – Edward Archer

Since the last meeting of the SRC I have distributed a petition on the topic of saving face-to-face lectures that I and hopefully others have used to gather signatures.

I would like to discuss how the petition is going and determine what further action should be taken.

Appendix 1: Minutes of the Previous Meeting (30th September 2024)

Meeting in Ligertwood 113 Monday 30th September

Aiden opens the meeting at 6:18pm

Aiden acknowledges the traditional owners,

Jayde acknowledges welcome to country,

1.3 Motion passes ed seconds

Xenon speaks to the motion 1.5, claiming that other factions moved to block the attendance to the SRC, asks for the presidents response.

Nix Herriot's point of order, dissent over the previous minutes.

Motion 1.5 is passed

Aiden assumes his report has been read

Speaks to the event of the media interpreting the announcement of the removal of face-to-face lectures. Notes the university requires better comms, noting the university is working on this. Aiden has raised student concerns about scrapping face-to-face lectures. Aiden has contacted one of the individuals responsible for the decision. Recommends that the SRC and relevant members should wait off on any SRC action.

Ed clarifies on which type of lectures are being scrapped.

Xenon speaks to the believed the irrelevance of the academic meeting.

Aiden says he opposed the cutting of face-to-face lectures if that's what the students wanted.

Nix speaks to the staff email and quotes the InDaily lectures. States that there has been public outrage on the topic and that's the university might be course correcting. States that left action opposes any changes to lectures.

Ramon referring to Staff news and states the university cannot be trusted.

Aiden refutes that the university can be trusted to do what the students want.

Leon comments on aidens comment on the university's attitude towards protests and free speech. Notes sydney university has changes laws to suppress protests. Why has aiden amitted any comments to free speech.

Aiden responds by referring to report.

Aiden moves on to the order of casual vacancies.

Motion on casual vacancies Ed seconds,

2 abstains

Motion passes.

Aiden wants to amend the motion that the SRC delegates the power to the executive rather than a committee.

Tom comments on not taking advice from uni and points to the importance of how the organising is done and that it should be.

Motion on petition passes

Nix speaks to report.

Motion 1 around university motion.

Ramon speaks to the motion, agrees with Nix that this is an attack on students. A precedent is set that the University will act in its own self-interest. Asks why students would want to go the Adelaide

Ed speaks to not aggravating relations the university

Xenon says the university will not care.

Nix says the two are mutually exclusive.

Moved by Nix seconded by xenon

Motion fails

Aiden states that privacy of students is paramount.

Aiden states his position says that it is important to have both options and that it should be semester based.

Xenon speaks to the motion says the SRC should defend semester and that trimesters are a trojan horse for staff cuts. Reiterates the need for SRC to defend semesters.

Leon states that it is an attack on staff and students as well as a cost cutting methods. ‘

Nix says the university states that trimesters will be the only option. Reiterates the need for the motion to pass.

Xenon seconds

Motion fails.

Lashanth speaks to report and will provide a more detail response.

No motions on notice.

Next meeting

Aiden concludes the meeting at 7:24pm.