

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



Monday, 22 July 2024, 6:00 PM

University of Adelaide North Terrace Campus, Ligertwood 113

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:

Aiden Zeyang Wang, Briana Symonds-Manne, Xenon Lane, Valeria Caceres Galvez, Sage Jupe, Domin Joseph, Alex Bastiras, Ashraf Bin Abdul Halim, Nix Herriot, Lashhanth Dhevaraju, Jake Ford, Olivia Aston, Akshay Kumar Agarwal, Jocelyn (Yiyan) Zhang, Lani Bushnell, Louis Jiang, Yang Zhang, Afser Hussain, Binu Arundi Rajasuriya, Soraya Rezaee, Robin Wood, Jayden Thyer, Edward Archer, Oscar Harding, Saahib Panesar, Jayden Squire, Jixuan (Jarrod) Xia, Bao Tien (Jennifer) Tran, Alec Todesco.

Late:

1.3. Apologies

1.4. Absences

1.5. Adoption of Agenda

Procedural Motion: that the agenda as circulated be adopted.

Moved: Edward Archer **Seconded:** **Motion Passed/Failed**

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion: That the SRC accept the minutes of the meeting 13 May 2024 as a true and accurate record (Appendix 1).

Moved: Edward Archer **Seconded:** **Motion Passed**

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Action	Responsible	Status
Posting of Casual Vacancies	Aiden Zeyang Wang	Completed
Interviews for Casual Vacancies	Aiden Zeyang Wang	Completed
Confirmation of executive recommendation for casual vacancies.	SRC	Completed
Trimester debate	Aiden Zeyang Wang	Continuing

4. Correspondence

5. New Members

Edward Archer – General Secretary

Jixuan (Jarrod) Xia - Ethno-Cultural Officer

Bao Tien (Jennifer) Tran – General Councillor

The Council in the SCM on 15/07/2024 decided to pass a motion to accept all new recommendations by the executive.

6. Office Bearer Report

- 6.1. **General Secretary**
- 6.2. **Education Officer**
- 6.3. Welfare Officer
- 6.4. Women's Officer
- 6.5. **Queer Officer**
- 6.6. ATSI Officer
- 6.7. **Disability Officer**
- 6.8. Environment Officer
- 6.9. **Postgraduate Officer – HDR**
- 6.10. **Postgraduate Officer – Coursework**
- 6.11. **International Student Officer**
- 6.12. **Social Justice Officer**
- 6.13. Ethno-Cultural Officer
- 6.14. Rural Officer
- 6.15. Mature Age Officer
- 6.16. Roseworthy Campus Officer
- 6.17. 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

- 12.1. Appendix 1: Minutes of the Council Meeting (18 March 2024)
- 12.2. Appendix 2: Minutes of the Special Council Meeting (28 March 2024)

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

Dear Council Members,

Adelaide University



On Monday, 15 July 2024, I had the honour of witnessing a historic moment as the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia officially launched Adelaide University. This merger represents a significant step forward in enhancing our educational and research capabilities, aimed at benefiting all students and the broader community.

I understand many of you may have questions, especially those graduating after Semester 1 of 2026. Here are some key points:

1. **Continuity of Programs:** All existing programs will continue, including key disciplines like Aboriginal Languages, Agriculture, Allied Health, Creative Arts, Law, Midwifery, Music, and Oral Health. There will be no major changes to what is currently offered ([InDaily](#)) ([Premier of South Australia](#)).
2. **Elective Courses:** If you're unsure about selecting electives, rest assured that guidance will be provided. You can choose from a variety of courses, and more detailed information is available through Ask Adelaide.
3. **Internship Opportunities:** The new university aims to expand partnerships, providing more internship opportunities with top organizations, including Deloitte. This is part of our effort to enhance your learning experience and career readiness.

For any questions, feel free to reach out to Ask Adelaide. To learn more about Adelaide University, please visit the [official website](#).

As we edge closer to the end of the year, I will continue providing updates to all of you regarding the merger and how we can better assist the students through doing this transitional phase.

Welcome New Members

Thank you for attending the SCM last Monday. Following the council's decisions, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to Jennifer and Jarrod as new council members. Additionally, I am

excited to welcome Ed as our new General Secretary, joining both the council and our executive team.

Transition Period

Having served as General Secretary and Acting General Secretary since the beginning of the year, I recognize that there will be a transition period for our members to get use to interacting with the council via two people rather than the original one. I also acknowledge that Ed may need some time to settle into his new role. I am dedicated to facilitating this transition for Ed and for all of you in the coming weeks.

Guidance and Handover

I am currently in the process of providing gradual guidance and a handover to Ed in the coming weeks to ensure his success in the role and leading to our first meeting with him as GS. I will subsequently share the necessary information that he needs to succeed.

Upcoming Meetings Preparations

From the next meeting onwards, please address your agenda items and motions to Ed only, no longer needed to CC me in your emails unless for specific things specified in the Standard Orders. Submission deadlines and times should remain the same unless announced by Ed or myself otherwise.

I thank you all for your patience and understanding and for the next two to three weeks, if you have any questions, confusion or concerns about how to engage with myself and Ed, please email me anytime.

Trimester / Semester Offerings

Last semester at the You X Board meeting, board members engaged in an extensive debate on the proposed trimester offerings at the university and whether this change would benefit students. Various perspectives were presented both for and against the proposal. Along with the board, we have decided to formally request submissions from students or representatives on their opinions regarding trimesters. These submissions will significantly influence the SRC's stance on the matter and will also inform the You X Board as they consider whether to take a stance on trimester offerings for students moving into the new university.

After the last SRC Meeting I have promised to bring the semester and trimester preference into debate and endeavour for the council to form an opinion.

I will be presenting the final submissions to you all at the SRC meeting to all members.

Motion: that the SRC

1. Engages in a discussion and form a stance on the matter of trimester and semester preference.
2. The President to inform You X board at it's next board meeting regarding SRCs stance on the matter.

Moved: Aiden Zeyang Wang

Seconded:

Motion Passed/Failed

SRC Food Pantry Initiative

The SRC Food Pantry Committee has been established by YouX, and I have been given the responsibility as Chair to assemble the initial team. The primary focus of this Committee is to ensure effective functioning and governance of the Food Pantry initiative.

To give more background, this initiative originated from the SRC's concerns regarding student welfare amidst current challenges such as inadequate housing, job insecurity, financial impacts, and the broader difficulties student faces post COVID. These factors contribute greatly to food insecurity among our students. Now after few months working on it, I'm excited to witness the early stages of our committee with all of you the university

The goal of the Food Pantry is to create a structured and sustainable solution to address food insecurity at the University of Adelaide. This initiative aims to support students who struggle to meet their nutritional needs due to various financial and social issues.

Over the semester break, I have had the pleasure to chair the first meeting of the SRCFP. The meeting was crucial as we explored various ideas on how to effectively implement the food pantry initiative and streamline our efforts moving forward.

I will present more updates verbally to the council in due course around this space and I look forward to formally begin our operations and open the doors to students.

That's all from me now, thanks for reading this far and as always, as your Acting 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.

Kind Regards,
Aiden Zeyang Wang
SRC President

Item 6.2: General Secretary's Report – Edward Archer

Before I detail my report, I'd just like to take the time to thank everyone for the patience and understanding in my transition into this role. I'd like to think that I am flexible and understanding so I hope that can be given in return. I'd also like to thank Aiden for his handover and his assistance in my transition into the role.

NUS Funding

The NUS currently represents over one million students in Australia and provides a national direction for the student union movement. Both the SRC and the YouX Board must maintain affiliation with the NUS so that students at the University of Adelaide can voice their concerns to the nation student union movement.

Israel-Palestine Cease Fire and Protesting

Over the past year we have seen several protest surrounding the destructive conflict occurring in Israel and Palestine. The conflict the region and has left many civilians dead or severely injured and many believe, myself included, that it should come to end. This is the overwhelming consensus internationally and nationally with Anthony Albanese and the Labor party calling for a comprehensive ceasefire late last year. The need for a cease fire is a humanitarian issue, not a political one, and I believe that the SRC should put aside any factionalism and stand for peace.

Furthermore I believe that every student should have the right to peacefully protest about causes that feel passionate about and that the SRC should encourage. The SRC is supposed to be a voice for students and should allow to the use their own voices if they so wish. However, it is also important that protest to do not come at the expense of other students and is not disruptive to services provided by the university.

Motion:

To maintain affiliation with the NUS, the SRC must:

1. Authorise the payment of a maximum of \$2000 for the annual affiliation to the National Union of Students.
2. The SRC delegates power to the General Secretary for negotiation with the National Union of Students.

Moved: Edward Archer **Seconded:** **Motion Passed/Failed**

Motion:

The SRC recognises the need for a cease fire between Israel and Palestine and will carry out the following:

1. Will post letter on the SRC's Facebook page that it officially recognises the need for a cease fire.

Moved: Edward Archer **Seconded:** **Motion Passed/Failed**

Motion:

The SRC recognises that students should have the right to protest about causes that they are passionate about as long as:

2. The protesting is peaceful and not disrupting students access to services and ability to study.
3. That the cause and protestors is not discriminatory to any particular group.
4. The protest is aligned with university policy.

Moved: Edward Archer **Seconded:** **Motion Passed/Failed**

Motion:

The responsibility of drafting, finalizing and posting the letter on the SRC's Facebook page shall be the responsibility of the General Secretary with approval from the executive before posting. The letter shall cover the following points:

- That the SRC believes that calling for a cease-fire is not a political issue but a humanitarian one.

- That the SRC believes that all people deserve a life of peace and not conflict.

Moved: Edward Archer

Seconded:

Motion Passed/Failed

Item 6.3: Education Officer's Report – Briana Symonds-Manne

Education Officer Report:

Leading the divestment campaign at Adelaide Uni

Since the establishment of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment, the university has unveiled a new defence school funded with 60 million dollars from the state government. While the University is currently downsizing and digitising the library and looking at cutting arts honours degrees; there will be multiple defence hubs on the North terrace campus representing hundreds of millions of dollars of state and federal funding. This is not about students choosing to work in the defence industry, this is becoming the main focus of education at Adelaide Uni and many students oppose this. The Trailblazer program talks about incorporating all kinds of degrees, not just engineering into the defence industry, so this includes arts degrees being more tailored around national security and defence. Students have a right to have a say over what the future of their education looks like and I have spent weeks talking to hundreds of students who are outraged to learn just how much uni resources are going to weapons companies. We have been organising weekly protests as part of this campaign to pressure the university to divest from weapons companies.

Calling a General Meeting of Students

Hundreds of students signed a petition to call a general meeting of students to decide a position on divestment from weapons companies and companies linked with Israel. This meeting should be called and endorsed by the SRC to uphold values of student democracy. It's important that students have a voice in what their education is used for.

On May 1 2024, students at the University of Adelaide established a Gaza Solidarity Encampment to demand that the University divest from weapons companies supplying the genocide in Gaza. Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Thales, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon are among the war profiteers that this University boasts relationships with. Rather than distancing themselves from these companies and the war industry, the University is currently deepening these partnerships through projects like the Defence Trailblazer program.

The Encampment lasted four weeks. Within that time, the University announced a new \$60 million defence school on the North Terrace Campus. It refused to meet with student activists about their demands. In contrast, the response from students to the Encampment was overwhelmingly positive. A General Meeting of Students to endorse the demands of the Encampment was called. As per section 16 (b) and 16 (c) of the SRC Constitution, a general meeting of students may be called by 1% or 300 of students and has the power to create SRC policy. The 300 signatures by students needed to call the meeting was reached on May 28. Since then, the petition has received over 500 signatures from students.

The purpose of this motion is to provide a framework on how the General Meeting of Students will run, including the proposed chair, location and meeting agenda. It also commits the SRC to providing appropriate notice and promotion of the General Meeting of Students.

Motion:

The SRC agrees that the General Meeting of Students is to be governed in line with the regulations seen below:

1. Purpose

- a. A regulation to govern the conduct of a General Meeting of Students when required to do so under section 16 (a) of the SRC Constitution.

2. Definitions

- a. The definitions in Clause 4 of the SRC Constitution apply to this policy unless specified otherwise below.

3. Interpretation

- a. Interpretation of this policy is within the jurisdiction of the Council.

4. Location of a General Meeting of Students

- a. A General Meeting of Students will be held at a location decided on through a vote of the Council. If weather conditions do not permit an outdoor meeting, the meeting will be held at a location on the North Terrace Campus of the Council's choosing.

5. Notice Requirements

The following notice shall be given of any General Meeting of Students:

- a. Written notice, including the time, location and motion(s) to be put to the meeting shall be made public no longer than seven days prior to the meeting. Wherever possible, notice must also be displayed at several clearly visible locations on the North Terrace campus.
- b. Notice shall be placed in any edition of *On Dit* that is printed before the General Meeting of Students. The notice shall include in full the time, location and motion(s) to be put to the meeting.

- c. Where possible an electronic message of the notice shall be sent out to as many members of the student body as possible. An electronic message includes but is not limited to SRC and university email, websites and social media communication channels.

6. The Chair

- a. The Chair of the General Meeting of Students will be provisionally decided by a vote of the Council. The Council will vote on a provisional Deputy Chair to take relevant control in the event the Chair (for any reason) can no longer chair.
- b. The provisional Chair and Deputy Chair will be affirmed by majority vote at the beginning of the General Meeting of Students.
- c. In the event the provisional Chair and/or Deputy Chair are unavailable they must notify the Council at their earliest convenience. The President may fill in as provisional chair. If the president is unavailable, the General Secretary may fill the role. Should neither be available, the general meeting of students may elect the chair as the first agenda item.

7. Business of the Meeting

- a. At any General Meeting of the Student Body, the business discussed must be items stipulated in the official Notice of Meeting. Amendments to any items shall be proposed in accordance with section 10 of the Rules Concerning the Standing Orders of Council.
- b. Each agenda item shall be limited to 1 hour of discussion. This limit may be extended by a simple majority vote of attendees.
- c. The Chair may decide to enforce a five minute speaking limit per person at their discretion so that any time limit on discussion may be met.
- d. Once items stipulated in the official Notice of Meeting have been discussed and voted on, the meeting shall close.

8. Meeting Conduct

8.1. Quorum

- a. Quorum will be counted by the secretary of the meeting.
- b. At the starting time of the meeting agreed to by Council, the provisional Chair shall invite members present to raise their hands in order to see whether

quorum has been reached. If it is not, the Chair must repeat this procedure every five minutes.

- c. If quorum is not reached by half an hour after the meeting start time then the meeting lapses.
- d. The quorum count must be maintained throughout the meeting by the secretary of the meeting.
- e. If a meeting has commenced but loses quorum, the meeting may continue to consider business, although decisions made during this period must be ratified by a quorate meeting of Council.
- f. A register of student attendees shall be taken at the meeting and ratified after the fact.

8.2. Resolutions

- a. Voting on all matters at any General Meeting of Students shall be done by show of hands.
- b. The Deputy Chair must count the votes. They may appoint at least two current enrolled students to count the vote.
- c. The Chair must declare to the meeting whether a motion has been carried.

8.3 Overflow

- a. Should the number of attendees exceed the capacity of the location, the meeting should move to the barr smith lawns weather permitting.
- b. In the event of bad weather, overflow rooms should be booked in advance and a zoom link set up. Attendees in overflow rooms wishing to vote and speak will be communicated to the chair.

9. Standing Orders

- a. The Rules Concerning the Standing Orders of Council apply to General Meetings of Students to the extent that they are consistent with these Rules. If there is an inconsistency with the standing orders, these Rules concerning a General Meeting of Students shall prevail unless unconstitutional.

10. Reports to Council

- a. The SRC President must prepare a report to be presented to Council, which shall include any resolutions and the minutes of the meeting.

11. Availability of Rules

- a. A copy of these Rules must be available from the Chair of the General Meeting of Students.

12. Minutes

- a. The minute taker shall be appointed during the meeting by a simple majority vote.
- b. Minutes shall be taken for all General Meetings of Students and shall be signed by the Chair of the relevant General Meeting of Students and witnessed.

Moved: Briana Symonds-Manne

Seconded:

Motion Passed/Failed

Motion:

For the General Meeting of Students, the SRC agrees:

1. For the meeting to be held on Monday, 12 August at 6pm.
2. For the meeting to be held in the Scott Theatre.
3. For the Provisional Chair to be Briana Symonds-Manne.
4. For the Provisional Deputy Chair to be Nix Herriot.
5. For the Provisional Secretary of the meeting to be Anna Nyguen.
6. For the Provisional Minute-taker to be Liam Horwood.
7. To the following agenda:
 - a. Acknowledgement of Country
 - b. Election of Chair, Secretary and Minute Taker
 - c. Adoption of the agenda
 - d. Discussion and voting upon the following orders of business:
 - i. That this general meeting of students calls upon the University of Adelaide to:
 1. Stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine by calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and signing onto the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.
 2. Financially divest from companies and weapons companies linked to Israel, including shares held in its endowment fund and withdrawing from the Defence Trailblazer Program.
 3. Drop all disciplinary cases and bans from campus against pro-palestine activists who participated in the Gaza Solidarity Encampment.
 - e. Closing the meeting

That the SRC:

1. Endorses the General Meeting of Students
2. Will share notice of the General Meeting of Students on its social media
3. Will enquire about Youx membership e-mail lists to email notice for the General Meeting of Students
4. Will print notice of the SGM in any editions of *On Dit* that go to print between this meeting and the General Meeting of Students.
5. Commit its printing budget to posters promoting the General Meeting of Students to display on the North Terrace campus.

Moved: Briana Symonds-Manne

Seconded:

Motion Passed/Failed

Item 6.4: Women's Officer's Report – Valeria Caceres Galvez

Period Poverty Letter

Over the mid-semester break, I've been working with the Student Life Team, and we think it's a good idea to do a survey of students to gather some insight to guide our advocacy about period poverty. Once we have the data, then I will be better equipped to write the letter we supported in the last meeting.

With the SRC's endorsement, the survey will carry more weight. Student Life have offered to give away some menstrual management goody bags as an incentive for completing the survey.

Motion:

That the SRC:

1. endorse the [Menstrual Management Audit Survey](#) that the Women's Officer and the Student Life Team have created
2. encourage students to fill it out by posting the link on social media

Item 6.6: Queer Officer's Report – Sage Jupe

Not Submitted

Item 6.8: Disability Officer's Report – Jayden Squire

Will give next meeting.

Item 6.10: Postgraduate Officer - HDR's Report – Nix Herriot

Gaza Solidarity Encampment and Student General Meeting for Palestine

Since my last report, I was proud to participate in the Gaza Solidarity Encampment. Throughout May, this historic protest camp called on the University of Adelaide to disclose and divest from its partnerships with weapons companies complicit in Israel's war on Gaza. During the camp, I was involved in regular divestment protests, organising meetings, teach-ins with visiting scholars and activists and initiated a working bee to research the university's ties to weapons companies. It was heartening to receive widespread support from staff, postgrads and other students and I appreciated the opportunity to speak with so many people about the issue of Palestine. Since then, I have taken part in the campaign for a Student General Meeting in which students at our university will be able to make their voices heard and call out our institution's complicity in war.

I would also like to draw attention to an [open letter](#) by staff at the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia and Flinders University calling for immediate university action on Gaza. I have been in regular contact with colleagues at the University of Adelaide and UniSA who are members of the recently formed NTEU For Palestine national network and Scholars Against the War on Palestine. It was positive that many union branches across the country provided statements of support for the Gaza Solidarity Encampments. Recently, Sydney University workers endorsed an institutional academic boycott of Israel, called to cut ties with the arms trade and pledged solidarity with the student encampment with 93% in favour at the largest union meeting in months.

George Duncan Memorial

On Friday 10 May, I attended the annual George Duncan Memorial. This event commemorated 52 years since university law academic George Duncan was drowned in the River Torrens by police because of his homosexuality. His murder catalysed a campaign for gay rights that resulted in the historic discrimination of homosexuality in South Australia. It was disappointing to see little to no attendance by members of factions other than Left Action at this important event. I particularly appreciated hearing from Will Sergeant, former member of the Gay Activists Alliance and participant in the 1970s gay liberation movement, including Adelaide's first gay pride march in 1973, at a time when you could be arrested for being openly gay. It was fantastic that Will was also able to give a teach-in at the Gaza Solidarity Encampment on his experience fighting for social justice.



Raise the HDR stipend

The minimum RTP stipend for HDR students is a criminal \$11,771 below the national minimum wage. This is simply unviable for many students and entrenches the kind of poverty and exploitation that makes universities run. I support and encourage others to [sign this petition](#) calling upon the government to increase and tie the RTPS to the minimum wage and freeze HECS-HELP indexation for HDRs. More information can be found [here](#).



Merger update and opposition to trimesters

With the launching of branding for the future Adelaide University, it is important we don't lose sight of the important issues involved in the merger. As universities threaten [job losses](#) in response to proposed caps on international students, we now know that the merged university will have a [top-heavy galaxy of highly paid senior management](#), including *eight* Deputy Vice Chancellors!

Moreover, while most universities in Australia have a semester teaching model, management is still pursuing the deeply unpopular and profit-maximising trimester model. Recent [polling](#) by the National Tertiary Education Union of over 1,100 academic and professional staff across the two universities clearly shows overwhelming opposition to trimesters. Of respondents:

- 83% do not support Adelaide University moving to a trimester teaching model.
- 95% feel that they were not actively consulted about trimesters.
- 85% feel that trimesters will not improve student learning outcomes.
- 87% feel that trimesters will not improve research outcomes.

- 81% feel that trimesters will increase staff workload.

Members of the SRC who care about student learning conditions and staff teaching conditions must stand with staff and oppose trimesters.

Library cuts and the merger

I have been in contact with Siân Woolcock, the University Librarian, regarding her concerns about the University Library's status in the future merged Adelaide University. Despite overwhelming opposition on the university's IdeaPlace consultation platform, management intends on demoting the Library within the proposed academic structure for Adelaide University.

Instead of the Library existing independently, it will be folded into Education Technologies. As Siân explained, this move is out of line with all other Go8 universities and will diminish the Library's important role in supporting research. UniSA and Central Queensland University are the only other two universities where there is no University Librarian and the Library reports to a CIO or Chief Digital Officer. This appears to be a move towards the 'UniSA model' of cost-cutting through library staff redundancies and a digital-first approach to books and resources. Already, the cancellation of academic subscriptions and removal of physical books is having a bad impact. One Classics academic recently highlighted the Library's decision to cancel an online subscription to an essential resource without any consultation or notice, citing rising costs and budget constraints. This essential resource is now being paid out of the pocket of an emeritus professor, rather than the university. Removing multiple copies of books is currently creating a "nightmare" for students attempting to write essays, with a course of several hundred students required to share one book in the High Use section!

The Library is already understaffed, under-resourced and overly casualised. Far from being a "merger of ambitions" to be celebrated, such reductions in the quality of our education will be a defining feature of the Adelaide University merger. This must be opposed by the SRC.

Item 6.11: Postgraduate Officer – Coursework's Report – Lashhanth Dhevaraju

At the end of the last semester, postgraduate students faced significant challenges due to the restructuring of the Temporary Graduate Visa (485 Visa) streams. The first change involved reducing the maximum stay period for 485 visas to two years for Masters by Coursework students and to three years for Masters by Research and PhD students. The second change involved lowering the maximum age limit for applicants. Masters by Coursework students could previously apply for the visa if they were under 50 years old, but the new limit is 35 years.

As a result, approximately 70 Masters by Coursework students were on the verge of being affected last semester because they would not be able to apply for the 485 visa by the application deadline of July 1, 2024 given that the university was scheduled to release final grades during the first week of July and the students potentially exceeding the new maximum age limit of 35 years if they applied during the next round. Merlin and I approached the

Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) to address these issues. Although the age limit and visa period reduction could not be altered as the decision was controlled by the Department of Home Affairs, the positive outcome was that the university administration agreed to process the confirmation letters for the affected students before the application deadline, ensuring they could successfully apply for the 485 visa.

In the past weeks many postgraduate students approached me over a pressing concern regarding the scheduling of assignment deadlines this semester. Many students have reported that the deadlines for various assignments are clashing, creating significant challenges, particularly for those whose assessments primarily consist of assignment submissions and short quizzes.

This issue was also prevalent last year. At that time, the course coordinators were accommodating and granted deadline extensions, which reduced the pressure of overlapping deadlines. We were assured that measures would be taken to prevent such conflicts in the future.

Unfortunately, the situation has not improved, and students are once again facing the same difficulties. This semester, the lack of flexibility in deadline extensions has aggravated the problem, leading to considerable mental stress as students struggle to meet all their obligations on time.

Motion:

The SRC will draft a letter addressed to the Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) to communicate the concerns expressed by postgraduate students regarding assignment scheduling conflicts and the subsequent impact on their mental well-being.

Item 6.12: International Student Officer's Report – Akshay Kumar Agarwal

Not submitted.

Item 6.13: Social Justice Officer's Report – Alex Bastiras

In the past couple of months I have continued to campaign in solidarity with Palestine. Appallingly, Israel's atrocities continue to escalate, causing utter devastation throughout Gaza. The fact that pro-Palestine protests have been continuing for nine months shows how outraged many people are by the horrors of Israel's invasion.

I have also helped build the upcoming Student General Meeting (SGM) on campus. Some of the key demands of the SGM involve requesting that the University show solidarity with Palestine and cut ties with weapons companies linked to Israel. Students are also calling on the University to withdraw its disciplinary cases against activists who participated in the Gaza Solidarity Encampment. It is disgusting that the University has cynically stated they support the right to protest while at the same time repressing pro-Palestine demonstrators. This SGM is an important opportunity to build student democracy and fight against our pro-Israel university bosses. The University relies on students keeping their heads down and not focusing on 'politics,' which allows our bosses to get away with partnerships with weapons

companies guilty of war crimes. The SGM will help politically activate students on campus to fight for justice in Palestine and for democracy on campus.

Item 6.14: Rural Officer's Report – Oscar Harding

I want to first thank, and express gratitude to the YouX board for accepting me onto the SRC in the role of Rural Officer, through the proper processes of a casual vacancy, as expressed by the Elections Tribunal. I also want to congratulate the election of the President Aiden in the March byelection.

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.

It is regrettable, however, that the reception to my entrance to this council has been mixed. In the SRC meeting, on the 29th of April, there were hostile motions moved by left action members in an embarrassing attempt to rid representation of rural, disabled, and indigenous students from the SRC amongst others. Ironically enough, this attempt at politicking amounted to oppression on these students. I am willing to work with all members on this council that are willing to listen to and heed the perspectives of rural students.

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.

I have distributed Aiden's trimester survey throughout St. Ann's and look forward to their valuable contributions informing the stance of the SRC. 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, immersing in 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.

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 council voted with Majority that the meetings will be held every second Monday. A schedule of the meetings are as follows.

Below, I have listed all the meeting dates for the year, taking into consideration SWOT week, exams, university holidays and public holidays (the **bold dates are meeting dates**; the others are not):

- **18th March**
 - 1 April (Easter Monday)
 - 15 April (Mid- Semester Break)
 - **29 April**
 - **13 May**
 - **27 May**
 - 10th June (SWOT Week)
 - 24 June (Exam)
 - 8th July (Mid-Year Break)
 - **22 July**
 - **5 August**
 - **19 August**
 - **2 September**
 - 16 September (Mid-Semester Break)
 - **30th September**
 - **14 October**
 - 28 October (SWOT Week)
 - 11 November (Exam)
 - 25 November (End of year break)

All Meetings are going to be scheduled **at 6pm**, venue will be announced.

12.1 Appendix 1: Minutes of the Council Meeting (13 May 2024)

Meeting in Hughes 322 Monday 183 May 2024

Aiden Zeyang Wang opens the meeting at 6:13pm.

13. Procedural Matters

13.1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

The SRC acknowledges that we meet on the traditional country of the Kaurna people. We acknowledge that the land upon which Australia has been built was and always will be an integral part of the spiritual and cultural history of Indigenous people and that this land was never ceded.

Delivered by Jayde ATSI officer.

Aiden appointed Binu as minute secretary.

13.2. Attendance

Aiden Zeyang Wang, Briana Symonds-Manne, Xenon Lane, Valeria Caceres Galvez, Sage Jupe, Domin Joseph, Alex Bastiras, Ashraf Bin Abdul Halim, Nix Herriot, Lashhanth Dhevaraju, Jake Ford, Olivia Aston, Akshay Kumar Agarwal, Jocelyn (Yiyan) Zhang, Lani Bushnell, Louis Jiang, Yang Zhang, Afser Hussain, Binu Arundi Rajasuriya, Soraya Rezaee, Robin Wood, Jayden Thyer, Edward Archer, Oscar Harding, Saahib Panesar, Jayden Squire.

Online – Jocelyn (Yiyan) Zhang, Akshay Kumar Agarwal, Robin Wood, Louis Jiang, Alec Tedesco, Soraya Rezaee, Saahib Panesar, Valeria Caceres Galvez, Oscar Harding

Aiden made an Amendment - Alex attended the previous meeting.

Late:

13.3. Apologies

N/A

13.4. Absences

Jake Ford, Olivia Aston, Lani Bushnell, Yang Zhang

13.5. Adoption of Agenda

Procedural Motion: that the agenda as circulated be adopted.

Moved: Aiden Zeyang Wang

Seconded: Lashanth

Motion Passed

14. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion: That the SRC accept the minutes of the meeting 30th November 2023 as a true and accurate record (Appendix 1).

Moved: Aiden Zeyang Wang

Seconded: Lashanth

Motion Passed

15. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Action	Responsible	Status
Re-open the trimester / semester survey for students	Aiden	Completed.
Write 2 letters regarding the ATSI motion on cultural awareness training for staff and students.	Jayde	Continuing
Saahib reports back to the council on some updates regarding this sustainability initiatives.	Saahib	Continuing

Aiden asked to send reports as Words.

16. Correspondence

17. New Members

18. Office Bearer Reports

18.1. President

Motion: that the SRC

3. Engages in a discussion and form a stance on the matter of trimester and semester preference.
4. The President to inform You X board at it’s next board meeting regarding SRCs stance on the matter.

Nix - Question regarding whether the form was posted.

Jayden - Was not posted on the SRC FB.

As the form was not posted, Aiden withdrew his motion and will move the motion to the next meeting.

Aiden addressed to the council regarding the Food Pantry and its surrounding initiatives.

18.2. General Secretary

18.3. Education Officer

18.4. Welfare Officer

Xenon: Discussed the purpose and support for the University for Gaza encampment.

Alex: Highlighted that international students' should also make contributions.

Public member: Felt condescended by a Socialist Alternative member during conversation.

Bri: Stated she isn’t responsible for other members' actions.

Public member: Clarified they weren't blaming Bri but questioned if supporters would be condescended.

Bri: Asked for support; mentioned relevance issues.

Tom (public): Assured no condescension and mentioned civil discussions at the encampment; noted lack of SRC support.

Sage: Requested other SRC members' views on Gaza.

The council went into a discussion

Aiden moved the council along due to time constraints.

18.5. Women's Officer

18.6.

Valeria: Mentioned insufficient funds for period products; discussed university's plan for vending machines; informed about the PPEP program; invited members to the program; submitted a report to parliament on pelvic pain and endometriosis.

Jayden: Asked about usage figures for period products.

Valeria: Replied she is seeking those figures; emphasized funding will prioritize emergencies and constraints; aims for universal access.

Jayden: Inquired about the number of bathrooms and vending machines.

Valeria: Stated 8-10 bathrooms and 4 vending machines.

Bri: Argued university should fund period products; raised broader issues like cost of living and homelessness, especially for middle-aged women; highlighted the situation in Gaza and invited the women's officer to support the encampment.

Valeria: Agreed with Bri on larger issues; reiterated her motion is actionable by the SRC and university administration.

Aiden: Requested data to reinforce the point to university admin.

Aiden: Clarified if one or two letters to the vice chancellor and YouX are needed.

Valeria: Said it is up for debate.

Aiden: Proposed a private discussion on letter drafting; asked to circulate the social media post for council voting.

Valeria: Agreed to the private discussion; noted the next meeting is after the program.

Aiden: Confirmed he will send a circular motion to approve this.

18.7. Queer Officer

18.8. ATSI Officer

Jayde: Shared insights from a symposium and proposed cultural training for the SRC.

Bri: Questioned Jayde, stating indigenous rights are both human and political issues; referenced Palestine as a similar case.

Jayde: Asked if there was a specific question.

Ash: Emphasized the political nature of depriving indigenous rights and the need for political movements to alleviate suffering.

Aiden: Noted amendments that cultural training cannot bind all students and staff but could be a required module.

Jayden: Asserted that implementing such training shouldn't be difficult.

Aiden: Clarified it is a constitutional issue.

Xenon: Suggested separate votes on the first three amendments to avoid stifling members' voices.

Edward Archer: Agreed on removing disrespectful individuals from meetings.

Aiden: Proposed a possible solution if insists is changing the standing order to allow removal by vote for cultural disrespect.

Jayden: Agreed with the proposal.

Tom: Asked for clarification on the motion; Aiden sought Jayde's input on amendments.

Jayde: Agreed to the amendments and to refine them for the next meeting.

Alex: Discussed the limitations of cultural training and the source of racism, using The Voice as an example.

Zoom members: Experienced audio issues at 6:40 PM.

Aiden: Checked for Zoom member questions; none were raised.

Jayde: Replied to Alex, advocating for education and cultural awareness training.

Tom: Agreed on education but pointed out that training alone doesn't eliminate discrimination; cited police violence as an example.

Jayde: Suggested regulations and collaboration for training, focusing on indigenous perspectives.

Vote Conducted on the first three amendments; motion regarding students and staff binding will be addressed by a letter.

Tom (public member): Mentioned SALts abstaining from the vote for previously stated reasons.

Jayde: it's a shame Saltmembrs abstained the motion.

Moved: Jayde Thyer **Seconded:** Jayden **Motion Passed** Passed

- 18.9.** Disability Officer
- 18.10.** **Environment Officer**

Saahib: Delivered through Zoom. Reported inability to find proof of sustainable acts mentioned in the university paper. Has emailed the sustainability department for follow-up on the sustainability report and is awaiting a reply. Will send another follow-up email and may meet them if no response is received.

Jade: questions Saahib's environmental initiatives

Saahib will report back to the council in due course and put it down as an action item.

- 18.11.** Postgraduate Officer – HDR
- 18.12.** Postgraduate Officer – Coursework
- 18.13.** International Student Officer
- 18.14.** Social Justice Officer
- 18.15.** **Ethno-Cultural Officer**

Ash: Mentioned his PDF submission was successful but had a formatting error. Asked to deliver a verbal report.

Tom and Nix: Supported Ash's request.

Aiden: Stated they are unable to allow a verbal report due to previous incorrect submissions. This is a matter of principle.

18.16. Rural Officer

Will present next meeting

6.15- Women's officer

18.17. Mature Age Officer

18.18. Roseworthy Campus Officer

18.19. Waite Officer

19. Motions on Notice

Motion:

1. The SRC writes a letter to the Vice-Chancellor and YouX Board calling on them to provide long-term, protected and sufficient funding so the period poverty program can meet the needs of students.

a. The Women's Officer will write the letter on behalf of the council and bring back a draft for next meeting.

Will write a draft letter regarding the future of the period product movement and offering.

Moved: Valeria Caceres

Seconded: Jayden

Motion Passed

Motion:

1. The SRC will promote on its social media information about the Menstrual Hygiene Day Event being hosted by Student Life and the Women's Officer.

a. Social media square and copy to be provided by the Women's Officer

Moved: Valeria Caceres

Seconded: Lashanth

Motion Passed

No general business, next meeting will likely be in the same room

20. General Business

21. Executive Report

N/A

22. Emergent Business

N/A

23. Date of the Next Meeting

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- 25 November (End of year break)

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24. Appendix

24.1. Appendix 1: Minutes of the Council Meeting (1 March 2024)

Aiden Zeyang Wang closed the meeting at 7:18pm