

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**



**Monday, 19th Aug 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, Saahib Panesar, Jayden Squire, Jixuan (Jarrod) Xia, Bao Tien (Jennifer) Tran, Alec Tedesco.

**Late:**

#### 1.3. Apologies

Oscar Harding

#### 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 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 as a true and accurate record (Appendix 1).

**Moved:** Edward Archer

**Seconded:**

**Motion Passed**

### 3. Correspondence

#### 4. New Members

#### Education Officer

### 5. Office Bearer Reports

5.1. President

5.2. General Secretary

5.3. Education Officer

5.4. Welfare Officer

- 5.5. Women's Officer
- 5.6. **Queer Officer**
- 5.7. ATSI Officer
- 5.8. **Disability Officer**
- 5.9. Environment Officer
- 5.10. **Postgraduate Officer – HDR**
- 5.11. **Postgraduate Officer – Coursework**
- 5.12. **International Student Officer**
- 5.13. **Social Justice Officer**
- 5.14. Ethno-Cultural Officer
- 5.15. Rural Officer
- 5.16. Mature Age Officer
- 5.17. Roseworthy Campus Officer
- 5.18. Waite Officer
- 6. **Motions on Notice**
- 7. **General Business**
- 8. **Executive Report**  
N/A
- 9. **Emergent Business**  
N/A
- 10. **Date of the Next Meeting**
- 11. **Appendix**
  - 11.1. Appendix 1: Minutes of the Council Meeting (19<sup>th</sup> August 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,

It is with deep gratitude and excitement that I deliver this report to all of you after the mid-semester break and in particular, post-election. Your overwhelming support in re-electing me as your SRC President-Elect for 2025, with 2.5 times more votes than the other candidate is a clear endorsement of our shared vision.

Your overwhelming support throughout my presidency so far reaffirms the trust we’ve built together and the shared vision for a more inclusive, diverse, and enriching university experience. This moment isn’t just about the SRC or myself—it’s about *us*, the students, and our determination to create a better future for you in the new Adelaide University as we approach the merger.

As we enter the third-last semester before the merger, my focus remains sharp on key priorities—diversity, inclusion, student success, and employability. These are not just buzzwords but essential pillars of what we aim to improve. I am also dedicated with my team of representatives to ensuring that the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) continues to be spent directly for your benefit, enhancing your overall university experience.

I’m pleased to highlight one of our recent achievements: the SRC Food Pantry, which has been operational for two months and has already seen over 1,400 students walked through the door. This initiative is a clear example of how small actions can make a big impact on our community. For those who are hearing about it for the first time, the Food Pantry operates every Wednesday from 12-2 PM on Level 4 of the Union House, excluding public and school holidays. Your continued support and involvement are greatly appreciated, and I look forward to seeing you there along with my committee members.

We also recognize that many of our students are facing tough challenges—whether from global events or personal struggles. The SRC stands with all students affected by conflicts like those between Israel and Palestine and many more, advocating for peace and human rights and offering our full support in all aspects of your university life. At the same time, we are committed to maintaining a respectful campus environment where free speech thrives without causing disruptions to the learning of others or violating the student code of conduct in various ways such as but not limited to activism that crosses into vandalism or civil/criminal behaviours that violates the law.

Locally, I'm aware that many of you are feeling the impact of rising living costs—whether it's skyrocketing rents, grocery bills, or other inflation-driven pressures. These are real issues, and the SRC is working on ways to address them and provide the necessary support to help you navigate these difficult times.

Looking forward, our primary responsibility is to make sure your voice is heard and that your student fees are put to good use, with a focus on improving your university experience. The coming semesters will be pivotal as we transition into 2025, a year full of opportunities, change, and growth. I will continue to collaborate with the university to ensure this transition works in your favour and that we manage it smoothly across all aspects of student life.

Finally, with exams around the corner and mid-semester assignments approaching, I want to wish you all the best of luck. As always, I'm here to listen and to act on your concerns—so don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can ensure that the SRC remains a strong, supportive presence in your university journey.

### **Casual Vacancies**

Preamble:

The SRC Executive presents the Casual Vacancies to the Council for approval. Interviews were chaired by Aiden Zeyang Wang and conducted alongside other executive members. The Chair presents the following recommendations to the Council:

### **The Report**

Mature Aged Officer Candidates:

Alana Massalsky

Alana demonstrated a strong passion for advocacy, bringing a diverse background in hospitality, education, and science to her application. She currently works in the Future Students Team at the University of Adelaide, giving her insight into the concerns of both prospective and current students. Alana is particularly focused on ensuring mature-aged students are well-supported. Her administrative and communication skills, coupled with her professional experience at the university and industry, make her a strong candidate for this position. However, while Alana is passionate at the university and the executive give credit to her passion, her connection to the broader student body and governance structures may still be developing compared to other the other candidate.

Zhe (Nick) Li

Nick brings extensive experience and deep-rooted connections within the university's governance and student community, particularly through his involvement with clubs and societies. This, combined with his knowledge of the university's inner workings, makes him uniquely positioned to advocate for mature-aged students effectively. Nick's ongoing

engagement with student governance reflects a clear understanding of both the challenges and opportunities faced by students. His close relationship with students and active participation in university life makes him particularly well-suited to represent their interests during this critical period of transition as the merger approaches. Nick's awareness of governance procedures, combined with his established rapport with students, provides him with a strong foundation to continue advocating for mature-aged students and ensuring they are supported throughout the upcoming changes.

**The SRC Executive recommends Zhe (Nick) Li for the position of Mature Aged Officer.**

**Motion that The SRC:** Accepts the recommendations from the executive to appoint the casual Vacancy aforementioned.

**Moved:** Aiden Zeyang Wang

**Seconded:**

**Motion Passed/Failed**

## **Item 6.2: General Secretary's Report – Edward Archer**

Over the past few weeks, I have been meeting with students to discuss the changes that are coming to the University of Adelaide in the merger process to Adelaide University.

I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to represent students of the University in an ABC Radio Interview with Dr Andrew Miller from the NTEU with a representative of University to discuss the removal of face-to-face lectures. The reasons given by the university are unacceptable and are not in the interest of students. The university claims that by taking away face-to-face lectures they will be increasing flexibility for the student experience, which is verifiably false. The fact that students still go to their lectures in person means that there is a demand for that service.

I believe this is an issue that many students that go to their lectures will be passionate about and it sets a precedent for the university to just willing remove resources from students unless we stand up to the university.

### **Motion:**

That the SRC delegates power to the executive to form a committee with the purpose of gathering support for the maintaining of face-to-face lectures by:

1. Creating a petition
2. Organizing around this issue by going to lectures and physically getting signatures

## **Item 6.3: Education Officer's Report – Brianna Symonds-Manne**

Not submitted

## **Item 6.6: Queer Officer's Report – Sage Jupe**

Not submitted

## **Item 6.8: Disability Officer's Report – Jayden Squire**

Will be delivered verbally

## **Item 6.10: Postgraduate Officer - HDR's Report – Nix Heriot**

### **Postgraduate Officer (HDR) Report**

#### **Solidarity with Palestine**

I attended a national meeting on 3 September initiated by NTEU for Palestine, a rank-and-file network of university workers. Over 211 union members, including a number of postgraduate students, voted overwhelmingly in favour of an institutional academic boycott, a campaign for universities to cut their ties with weapons manufacturers, a national day of action for Gaza and a public statement condemning the Israeli annihilation of all Gazan universities. These motions will be brought to the NTEU's National Council later this year. I strongly believe that unions have a responsibility to play their part in opposing war and genocide.

On 10 September, I was invited to speak to Educational Researchers for Palestine to discuss student experiences with universities during and after the Gaza Solidarity Encampment. The group researches and writes on connections between education and Palestine. It was wonderful to exchange messages of support and solidarity, hear from Students for Palestine activists elsewhere in the country and discuss possible collaborations with staff to oppose university repression towards pro-Palestine activists.

#### **Opposing the corporate university merger**

I want to finish my report with two motions raising concern about two features of the Adelaide University merger: the push to scrap face-to-face lectures and the decision to implement a trimester teaching model. Both are profit-motivated decisions that will negatively impact student learning and staff teaching conditions.

#### **Motion: Save face-to-face lectures**

##### *Preamble*

University management recently announced their unilateral decision to scrap face-to-face lectures at the merged university. As per recent [media reports](#), Adelaide University will be the first GO8 institution in Australia to ditch in-person lectures. The staff portal confirms that students “will no longer be expected to attend face-to-face lectures - they will be replaced by rich asynchronous Digital Activities with an equivalent learning volume”. From 2026, in-person lectures “will gradually be replaced by rich digital learning activities”. This move fits with Adelaide University's previously stated ambition to “deliver online education to more students than any other Australian university” and UniSA's post-pandemic emphasis on online lecture delivery.

This move has rightly been condemned as accelerating the [“death of campus life”](#) by the National Tertiary Education Union. Making a mockery of ‘consultation’, staff will be given a say about how, but not if, lectures are phased out. For students, online-only lectures will dampen the vibrancy of campus life and reduce our quality of education.

The shift has been justified by cynical and misleading claims that in-person lectures are inflexible and “passive learning activities”. Online-only lectures are neither engaging or interactive, nor do they allow valuable face-to-face interaction with teachers and peers or access to university facilities. High quality teaching involves face-to-face lectures. As a wide-ranging [report](#) from the tertiary education regulator found, up to 50% of students were dissatisfied with online learning “and did not wish to ever experience it again” as it resulted in a lack of engagement, isolation from peers, IT issues and challenges with examinations and assessment. Blended and flexible learning is nothing new. However, this move eliminates student and staff choice.

In reality, the decision to scrap in-person lectures is a profit-driven move to cut corners without cutting student fees. It is about minimising costs by providing ‘Youtube degrees’ and, as fees steadily increase, charging students more for less. Any increase in online learning and reduced contact hours would disproportionately threaten the positions of casual staff. Moreover, pre-recording online lectures also increases the pressure to simply recycle old course content and therefore the potential to cut jobs.

The SRC must condemn the university’s decision to scrap in-person lectures and follow the example of the [Curtin Student Guild](#), which successfully campaigned against similar attempts in Western Australia.

#### *Action points*

That the SRC:

1. Condemns reports that Adelaide University will scrap face-to-face lectures. It believes that the merged institution should retain in-person lectures.
2. Issues a public statement to this effect, publicises this statement on its social media and communicates this statement to co-Vice Chancellors Peter Høj and David Lloyd.

#### **Motion: stop trimesters!**

##### *Preamble*

University management is actively pursuing a trimester system as its “[preferred option](#)” for the future Adelaide University. Splitting the academic year into three 10-week terms, rather than two semesters, is bad for students, bad for staff, but good for business. This is a profit-maximising proposal motivated squarely by a desire to churn students through low-quality degrees as quickly as possible and squeeze an increasingly casualised workforce.

Where implemented, trimesters have placed enormous stress on students and staff. UNSW is the only other G08 university to shift to a 10-week trimester model in recent years. There, the transition was [met with widespread resistance](#) and it continues to be a source of dissatisfaction. Trimesters were used as a trojan horse for 400 job losses, course cuts, dramatically increased workloads (e.g. marking of assessments) and entrenched decisions between teaching and research roles. In some schools at UniSA, trimesters have reduced face-to-face learning, increased assessment pressure on students. Other concerns include attempting to race through the same amount of course content in a shorter time, reducing



breaks for students to study and recuperate and the further misalignment of teaching breaks and school holidays (disadvantaging students and workers with school-age children, particularly women).

Staff and students have already indicated dissatisfaction with the proposed trimester calendar. Feedback on the university's own IdeaPlace platform last year was almost unanimous in its condemnation of trimesters. Unsurprisingly, this sentiment seems to have been buried and ignored. 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. We cannot trust management's paper-thin commitment to 'consultation' and 'co-creation'. The SRC must actively campaign to defeat trimesters while they are still management's "preferred option" and not yet reality.

#### *Motion*

That the SRC:

1. Demands that university management drops trimesters from its transition plan for Adelaide University.
2. Issues a public statement opposing trimesters and publicises this statement on social media.
3. Commits to campaigning against trimesters and other attacks that negatively impact student learning and staff teaching conditions, including course cuts and restructures.

And

4. That the results of the student survey on trimesters be released to the council and publicly posted on the SRC's social media pages.

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

Verabl

#### **Item 6.12: International Student Officer's Report - Akshay Agarwal**

Verbal

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

Not submitted

#### **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.

- **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)

### 12.1 Appendix 1: Minutes of the Council Meeting (13<sup>th</sup> May 2024)

#### Meeting in Ligertwood 113 6:00pm 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Aiden opens meeting at 6:24pm

Aiden reminds everyone that all discussions that are held must be civil and allows for those speaking to not feel intimidated or be interrupted.

Nix point of order, on motion not included in agenda

Aiden rejects point of order, motion unconstitutional

El interrupts Aiden, Aiden names EL

Nix moves dissent in the chair

The chair is passed to Ed

El gives speech in favour of dissent

Nix gives reasoning for dissent.

Ed defends Aiden

Raph interrupts Ed, Ed names Raph

Ed moves to vote on dissent

El speaks during vote, yelling and speaking beyond 2 minute limits Ed names El.  
El is asked to leave, doesn't

Dissent is defeated

The chair is passed back to Aiden

Aiden moves onto procedural motion to accept the minutes as circulate

Bri interrupts to dissent in the chair

Aiden names bri,

All members of left action and aligned members of the public begin interrupting Aiden,  
Aiden names all of them.

The chair is passed to Ed

El has been named again

Dissent is defeated, the chair is passed back to Aiden

Due to major disruptions, all members that are being disruptive are named and removed from the meeting.

Aiden moves onto the motion of the minutes being adopted

The motion is passed

Aiden moves the motion of the previous minutes to be confirmed.

The motion is passed

Due to delay, Aiden assumes reports have been read and skims over them giving the option for the respective officer bearer to delivered.

Ed moves motion in regard to SRC calling for cease fire.

The motion is passed unanimously

Ed moves motion in regard to SRC endorsing student protest

Jayde Thyer moves amendment to add a line that the protest can't be threatening to students.

Lani Bushnell moves amendment to clarify that the protest can't be physically threatening specifically.

Amendment Passes

Motion passes

Jayden postpones motion to following meeting

Aiden covers admin and reminds everyone of the requirement to submit reports and when the next meeting is.

Aiden closes the meeting at 7:57pm