

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**



**Thursday 9th December, 6:00pm**

**University of Adelaide North Terrace Campus, Hughes 338**

**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

#### 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 26 October 2021 as a true and accurate record (Appendix 1).

**Moved:** Billy Zimmermann      **Seconded:**

### 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

#### 4. Correspondence

#### 5. New Members

Ana Obradovic, Billy Zimmermann, James Wood, Ulian Cox, Georgia Thomas, Mat Monti, Nix Herriot, Jack Crawford, Eddie Satchell, Dhuruva Padmanabhan, Tom Wood, Marilee Hou, Liam Johns, AJ Francotirador, Wendy Yu, Ramon O'Donnell, Chanel Trezise, Frankie Ciampa, Steph Madigan, Alicia Turner, Henry Southcott, James Dimas

### 6. Motions on Notice

### 7. Office Bearer Reports

#### 7.1. President

**Motion:** The SRC amends clause 6.a so it reads: "The agenda shall be the responsibility of the General Secretary in consultation with voting members of the Council, and all items duly submitted to the General Secretary must be included."

#### 7.2. General Secretary

**Recommendation:** That William Zimmermann (SRC General Secretary) be duly authorised as a signatory to the SRC bank account and remove Evelyn Cacas (former General Secretary). [Account Name: Student Representative Council (Adelaide), Inc. Account Number: 188 648 140]

**Recommendation:** That Ana Obradovic (SRC President) be duly authorised as a signatory to the SRC bank account and remove Oscar Ong (former President). [Account Name: Student Representative Council (Adelaide), Inc. Account Number: 188 648 140]

**Recommendation:** That the SRC rescind the standing order amendment made on the 9th of March 2021 regarding casual vacancy advertising.

**Recommendation:** That the SRC appoint William Zimmermann (SRC General Secretary) as Public Officer and authorise him to notify Consumer and Business Services accordingly.

### 7.3. Education Officer

**Motion:**

The SRC demands that the University:

- a) Cancel its proposed faculty mergers, staff sackings and course cuts
- b) Immediately halt all lay-offs and redundancies
- c) Provide security for all casual workers by transitioning them onto permanent contracts
- d) Significantly reduce the overall remuneration for the Vice Chancellor and senior management and commit to reinvesting the savings made into funding staff contracts.
- e) Commit to fully-funding essential student service including, but not limited to the Maths Learning Centre, Writing Centre, Counselling and Disability Services and the Library

**Motion:**

As per section 16 of the SRC constitution, the **SRC will call a Student General Meeting for 24 March 2022** (Wednesday of week 4), with a goal of reaching quorum (150 students), to express opposition to the cuts and formally condemn the Vice Chancellor.

**Additionally, the SRC commits to:**

- a) Issuing a public statement on behalf of the SRC opposing the faculty mergers and cuts to staff and courses
- b) Endorsing and practically supporting the No Adelaide University Cuts campaign through ...
  - i. Providing campaigning material (posters, leaflets, stickers, t-shirts etc.)
  - ii. Promotion on SRC social media accounts and the SRC building (such as banners)
  - iii. Hosting stalls, forums, information sessions etc.
- c) Building a large on-campus protest early in Semester 1

#### 7.4. Queer Officer

**Motion:**

The SRC,

- a) recognises Sex work as real work
- b) commits to ensuring that members of our university community who identify as sex workers feel safe on campus, and
- c) authorises the Queer Officer to engage with groups like SIN to work towards the safety of student who identify as Sex Workers at the University.

#### 7.5. Postgraduate Officer (Research)

#### 7.6. Postgraduate Officer (Coursework)

**Motion:** The SRC supports the Final Report of the Select Committee on Wage Theft in South Australia Recommendation 33 which reads:

33. Universities have an obligation to teach students about Australia's industrial relation system and employee rights and responsibilities and should use University funded organisations such as Study Adelaide to fulfil this requirement.

**Motion:** The SRC President will write to the relevant officer of the University of Adelaide noting the SRC's endorsement of this Recommendation and requesting University endorse Recommendation 33 and provide an outline of the steps it is taking and will take to implement this Recommendation.

**Motion:** The SRC endorses the making of a joint statement with the Student Associations of Flinders University and the University of South Australia expressing the intervarsity support of Recommendation 33 and provide this statement to Study Adelaide requesting Study Adelaide endorse Recommendation 33 and provide an outline of the steps it is taking and will take to implement this Recommendation.

#### 7.7. Social Justice Officer

#### 7.8. International Officer

### 8. General Business

#### 8.1. Roseworthy Mental Health Support

**Motion:**

The SRC hence pledges to:

- a) Hold fundraisers on both the Roseworthy and North Terrace campuses to raise money for the Roseworthy and Alumni Mental Health Fund;
- b) Endorse the Veterinary Students for Mental Health group and empower the Rural Officer to work with the organisation on the SRC's behalf;
- c) Call for an independent and official investigation into the mental health crisis at Roseworthy; and

d) Call for the university to hire a full-time mental health team at Roseworthy.

**Moved:** Liam Johns

**Seconded:**

## **8.2. Executive Election**

**Motion:** That Mark Pace be appointed as SRC Returning Officer for the election of the SRC Executive

**Motion:** To accept the Returning Officer's Report

## **8.3. The AUU/SRC funding agreement is an attack on free speech and student democracy and must be opposed**

**Motion:**

That the SRC:

1. Recognises the agreement is one of many dictatorial attempts by the right-wing Progress/Liberal coalition to stifle speech and actions they dislike.
2. Condemns the AUU board and 2021 SRC executive for creating and passing this censorious agreement.
3. Acknowledges the importance of genuinely independent and democratic student unions for defending student rights.
4. Vows to uphold the politics and carry out the policies they were elected to implement.
5. Rejects the terms of funding established by the outgoing SRC on its last day

**Moved:** Ana Obradovic

**Seconded:** Jack Crawford

## **8.4. Proposal for O'Week counter guide funding**

**Motion:**

1. That the SRC passes funds of up to \$2000 to spend on producing the O'Week counter guide.
2. That the counter guide for 2022 focuses on education attacks at Adelaide Uni and informs students of ways to get involved in opposing them.

**Moved:** Ana Obradovic

**Seconded:** Nix Herriot

## **8.5. The Climate Emergency Demands an Activist Response**

**Motion:**

That the SRC:

1. Recognises the urgency of the climate emergency and the need for an activist response
2. Stand for land rights over mining rights and opposes the continued desecration of Indigenous land at the hands of governments and fossil fuel companies

3. Calls on Adelaide University to immediately and fully divest from fossil fuels and cut ties environmentally destructive companies like weapons manufacturers
4. Opposes attempts at corporate greenwashing by Adelaide University such as Ecoversity
5. Commits to campaign in solidarity with climate strikers and protests by other climate action groups

**Moved:** Nix Herriot

**Seconded:** Ramon O'Donnell

### **8.6. The SRC stands for health and solidarity against the anti-vax far-right**

**Motion:**

That the SRC:

1. Condemns anti-vaxxers and recognises them as far right protests aimed at undermining social solidarity and endangering other people
2. Supports existing health measures including mask and vaccine mandates, density restrictions and lockdowns and border closures where necessary and stands in solidarity with the overworked and under-resourced health workers
3. Commits to campaigning in solidarity with anti-fascist groups and endorses anti-fascist rallies against far-right protests

**Moved:** Ramon O'Donnell

**Seconded:**

### **8.7. Delegation of Authority**

**Motion:** that the SRC delegates its authority to the Executive from the close of the meeting at which this resolution is passed until Monday 14 February 2021, in the week prior to Orientation Week.

## **9. Emergent Business**

## Item 7.1: President's Report

### 1. Welcome to the 2022 SRC!

I'd like to welcome and congratulate our new SRC council.

For years, our student unions have been understood not as political, activist bodies, but as service providers. I hope that this year we can go some way towards challenging the orthodoxy that the SRC is a toothless body used mostly to build the profile of ambitious students and re-publish management's media statements.

We need unions that will give a political lead and cohere progressive sentiment to win concrete gains. As a union, we should recognise that our strongest and most powerful tool is student involvement.

Our council was elected to act according to the highest principles of student unionism: equality, democracy, and solidarity.

I look forward to demonstrating our council's commitment to these principles in the year ahead as we fight against education cuts, the climate crisis, the growth of the far right, anti-LGBTI legislation, attacks on welfare and other kinds of oppression.

### 2. Education cuts and the campaign to save the MLC

Adelaide Uni is undergoing major changes with the merger of five faculties into three. Courses, student resources, and staff are facing major cuts. We've been elected in a context where education cuts are animating students at Adelaide University and outrage is growing at the corporatisation of our university.

With student pushback against management's attacks, we've already managed to make meaningful wins. The Maths Learning Centre has been saved, with all cuts reversed. Students should be proud of their participation in building the solidarity photo, pro-MLC petition, leaflet blitz at management's staff consultation, and mass email campaign of the DVCA. The number of professional staff being fired was also reduced, from 130 to 94. While these were wins, we extend our solidarity to every staff member still being fired. We need more staff in our overburdened university system, not less.

VC Peter Hoj suggested in August [that 70 academic jobs could be next](#). We should therefore understand this new "plan" as the beginning, not the end, and gear up to mobilise students in a serious, proactive campaign to rebuild student power on campus.

I've worked closely with the No Adelaide University Cuts campaign group since the cuts were announced, organising protests, a sit-down in the Hub, petitions, interviews with media, activist organising meetings, interviews with staff, and coordinating with the SA NTEU branch.

The 2021 SRC was a block on fightback and refused to dedicate its resources to challenge cuts.

I hope that this year all members of the SRC will involve themselves in the battle to save staff, courses and faculties as these mergers roll on. Our Education Officer has worked hard to coordinate a list of proposals for how we can support and lead the campaign against cuts.

### 3. Commitment to democracy and accountability

I'm committed to running a transparent and democratic SRC. I've worked with the General Secretary to find and propose the removal of recent anti-democratic changes to the rules governing the SRC.

In particular, I recommend the removal of the addition in clause 6.a., which gives the SRC President the power to reject the addition of motions to meeting agendas on vague grounds.

All members of SRC council were elected to democratically represent students, and all should have the right to propose motions to be heard and duly debated by council.

**Motion:** The SRC removes from clause 6.a. of the standing orders the following:

**“, unless rejected by the SRC President under clause 9. c or if they are reasonably satisfied that the motion is inconsistent with the SRC's purpose or objective.**

**A notice of rejection must be sent to the executive 12 hours before the agenda is sent out and can be overturned by TWO (2) executive members expressing their disagreements over the rejection. The rejection must be noted in the Executive report.”**

So that clause 6.a. instead reads: **“The agenda shall be the responsibility of the General Secretary in consultation with voting members of the Council, and all items duly submitted to the General Secretary must be included.”**

### 4. Speakout opposing the anti-vax, far-right rallies



On Dec 4th, I was proud to chair a speakout against the far-right, anti-health rallies.

The rally was called by Adelaide Campaign Against Racism and Fascism. It opposed the so-called "Freedom" movement in Australia for standing against social solidarity, public health and social democracy. These far-right protests are led by self-identified Nazis, have smashed up the CFMEU office in Victoria and carried gallows threatening Victorian Premier Dan Andrews for his COVID policies. At the rally, hecklers yelled "Heil Hitler" and relativised the Holocaust by wearing Jewish stars of David to symbolise the "oppression" of being expected to follow health measures that keep everyone safe.

The rally was supported by NOLS SRC Queer officer Mat Monti and the Adelaide Uni Grassroots. It concluded with an organising meeting for the upcoming poster blitz at 12pm, Tuesday Dec 7th.

I strongly encourage all SRC council members to stand in solidarity against the far right and join the campaign. Only a protest movement in the streets can scare these bigots and far-right conspiracists off our streets.

#### 5. Meeting with Dave Lamb

On 23 Nov, I met with Executive Director of Student Operations, Dave Lamb and Manager of Student Affairs Michael Physick. I firmly put a list of demands, attached below, to Dave and explained our intention to challenge the university administration through student fightback and a student general meeting if management refused them. He said management will not back down from their now-finalised plan for mergers and firings. He agreed with the idea of a special tuition exemption and accommodation service for Afghan refugees.

#### 6. Meeting with Jennie Shaw

On 29 Nov, I met with Jennie Shaw and firmly put our demands to her. She was hostile to most of them, particularly those that argued for management's salaries to be cut and the mergers reversed. She was willing to discuss the idea of a special tuition exemption and accommodation service for Afghan refugees, as well as divesting from destructive industries. This indicates that management is feeling some pressure on the issues of war and climate change.

She is also open to public debates between students and management. I plan to put a formal proposal to both the DVCA and VC.

#### 7. SRC office

The General Secretary and I, alongside SRC Administrator Mark Pace are still in discussions about the temporary relocation of the SRC office space. We have been promised a space around mid-to-late January and are fighting to get one for everyone to use as soon as possible. Options discussed are the old Sports office in the Cloisters, or the old SRC space on Level 2 of the Fix Lounge, until the permanent relocation space is found.

#### 8. NUS NatCon

The National Union of Students is the highest national representative body for university students in Australia. It exists on a national level, has vast resources and institutional weight which make it a very powerful tool for defending student interests. It organised the famous combative 2014 campaign that defeated Tony Abbott's 100k degrees reforms and was involved with the 2015 Equal Love campaign.

Though a right-wing majority on the AUU disaffiliated our campus from NUS, participation in our peak representative union remains an important responsibility for student unionists. The NUS National Conference will take place online from the 13th to the 15th of December. All students are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We've collaborated with other student factions from SA's three campuses to organise a "state hub" in Napier G04 for all three days. Unionists from SA will be able to Zoom into the conference together and debate the direction and politics of our national student union.

All SRC members are strongly encouraged to attend.

#### 9. Greens Future of Higher Education forum

On Nov 24, I was part of a panel of four speakers at a forum organised by Greens state MLC Rob Simms on "The Future of Higher Education". I spoke alongside Greens candidate Barbara Pocock, NTEU, SA Division Secretary Andrew Miller, and Rob Simms.

It was a pleasure to be involved and debate publicly what kind of future we want for our education and how to win it. I argued for a serious socialist approach to student organising in order to build our power as students and win us the ability to democratically intervene into the functioning of university.

#### 10. Meeting with DIDA representative

On Nov 17, I met with Disability, Illness and Divergence Association UoA (DIDA) representative Shona Edwards to discuss how the SRC can support students with disabilities win their demands on and off campus, particularly in the face of a administration that is hostile to giving space to their association on campus. We discussed ways similar demands were fought for in the past, such the campaign lead by the Assessment Action Group in the 70s which challenged mandatory exams as useless and discriminatory procedures.

#### 11. SRC training day planning

The General Secretary, SRC Administrator and I have met regularly to plan the SRC training days and dinner. I hope all members will find the two days informative and be open to politically debating the goals of the SRC going forward.

Yours sincerely,

Ana Obradovic

SRC President and President of the Socialist Alternative Adelaide University club

Appendix (a): List of demands relayed to Dave Lamb and Jennie Shaw.

[1] Stop the mergers. Reinstatement of fired staff and commitment to maintaining, not degrading, staff conditions. No cuts to MLC, disability and counselling, or other student resources. No cuts to library and return of ILL. Reinstatement of face-to-face lectures and tutorials with consent of staff when safe to do so. End discussion board tutorials.

[2] Drastic reductions in VC and executive's salaries to average workers' salary. Drastic cuts to marketing budget. End external consultations, instead: facilitate democratic intervention of students and staff into the functioning of the university, with transparent, public announcement of results. All money saved from these actions to be democratically re-allocated by students and staff.

[3] Commit to regular public debates, chaired by students, between management and students and staff in the name of democratic transparency and accountability.

[4] Cut all university ties with climate and war criminals. No research partnerships. No defence and fossil fuel bosses on our uni council or at careers night. Cut ties with Santos and rename the Santos building. End funding for military research.

[5] Cut all ties with the apartheid Israeli state, and companies like Raytheon and BAE Systems which collaborate with the Israeli state.

[6] UoA should open its doors to house and educate Afghan refugees here. Precedent for this action exists with refugees of the Christchurch earthquake.

## Item 7.2: General Secretary's Report

Welcome to the first meeting. It is a great honour to be able to serve as General Secretary of the SRC in 2022. This SRC is the fourteenth elected since the modern formation of the SRC in 2008. Beginning this role has been very rewarding as we jump into what should be a great year. I would like to thank the students who have put their trust in me to be their 2022 SRC General Secretary. I have had regular meetings with Mark and Ana as we begin to plan the 2022 term of the SRC.

For those who don't know, my name is Billy, I'm going into fourth year of my double Arts / International Relations degree majoring in History. I'm always free to catch up so if any members are wanting to talk SRC or anything else, please feel free to reach out.

### Handover

I have not had the chance to catch up with the previous General Secretary Evi, but she has been very good in providing documents so that I can create meeting papers and assist in organising this first meeting.

### Constitution and Standing Orders Update project

One thing which came up this year as an issue was the fact that there had been numerous updates to the Standing Orders and Constitution which were not reflected in the copies on the SRC website. Since being formalised in the role, I have gone through all minutes since the last update (2013) and finalised definitive editions of the core SRC documents. This will assist the SRC going forward. Members will have found copies in the email with these papers. Please save to refer to in the future.

I understand that previous General Secretaries have been busy, but this is something which really should have done before. I will send both updated forms to Mark Pace (SRC Administrator) to facilitate the AUU Website being up to date.

During this project however, I found the following discrepancy in the passing of an amendment to the standing orders. On the March 9 meeting of 2020, the following motion moved by former General Secretary Evi Cacas was passed:

#### **“10.5 Amendment of Standing Orders regarding casual vacancy advertising**

**MOTION:** That the SRC amend s 4.c. of its standing orders to:

4. c. The position must be advertised for a minimum of one week. In the event of no candidates, the position shall remain open until an eligible student nominates, or the Council term ends.

Advertisement shall be maintained in the AUU Reception, AUU emails, SRC Newsletter, SRC social media accounts and elsewhere, where possible.

**Moved:** Evi Cacas **Seconded:** Hamish Probert

This was the incorrect way to pass this motion. Section 4 of the Standing Orders has to do with Notice of Special Meetings, and does not contain a clause c.

What I believe happened was that this was supposed to be an amendment to Section 9 of the Constitution but that is not how it was passed. As there exists a larger threshold for passing constitutional amendments and the numbering is wrong, for good governance we should strike out this amendment.

**Recommendation:** That the SRC rescind the standing order amendment made on the 9th of March 2021 regarding casual vacancy advertising.

### **Bank account and Public Officer**

One of the things that we must do as part of the handover process is give myself and Ana access to the SRC Bank Account as well as making myself the public officer of the SRC as it is an incorporated association. To facilitate this a motion must be moved on Council so I propose the following motions:

**Recommendation:** That William Zimmermann (SRC General Secretary) be duly authorised as a signatory to the SRC bank account, and remove Evelyn Cacas (former General Secretary). [Account Name: Student Representative Council (Adelaide), Inc. Account Number: 188 648 140]

**Recommendation:** That Ana Obradovic (SRC President) be duly authorised as a signatory to the SRC bank account, and remove Oscar Ong (former President). [Account Name: Student Representative Council (Adelaide), Inc. Account Number: 188 648 140]

**Recommendation:** That the SRC appoint William Zimmermann (SRC General Secretary) as Public Officer and authorise him to notify Consumer and Business Services accordingly.

### **Training**

One of the first things that had to be done was organise the training and induction of new SRC members. Though I am writing this before the training, the SRC will be receiving two broad days of training with external guests, brainstorming and a responding to disclosure of sexual assault and harassment training. I hope all members will be adequately prepared for their role.

### **SRC Office**

If anybody has spoken to me here, you will know how much of headache the SRC office issue has caused Ana, Mark and myself. The SRC has been told our present office (Level 3 Fix Lounge) was no longer available so the SRC would have to find a new home. After several looks through potential office spaces with Infrastructure and almost a whole day of cleaning the old office, I think we are close to finding a new home. Unfortunately for members, any move of office won't be until late January/February.

### **SRC Bios**

Thank you to everyone who submitted their bios to me. They are now (mostly) [uploaded to the AUU Website](#). My slight mistake here was not asking for your degree and simply your year of study, if you would like to correct this, please email me.

### **Casual Vacancies**

Former Disability Officer Olivia Papagni resigned as Disability Officer to me, thus causing a vacancy on the SRC. After enquiring with Mark and consulting the SRC Casual Vacancy policy, the process to fill this vacancy will begin once the SRC Executive has been elected. For sake of transparency, I encourage members to familiarise themselves with the [Casual Vacancy Regulations](#).

We will also be inviting application for ATSI Officer which had no applications at the most recent elections. Very unfortunately we were unable to fill this in 2021. If anybody knows someone who would be suitable for this role, please consider reaching out to them so that we may have a full SRC in 2022.

## Item 7.3: Education Officer's Report

### **The Cuts Situation:**

In July, Vice Chancellor Peter Høj announced drastic plans to reduce the current five faculties into just three through merging ECMS and Sciences and Arts and Professions. These faculty mergers would involve staff sackings, cuts to courses deemed to be 'unprofitable' and mechanisms to raise staff workloads. As of November, the 'Final Change Proposal' for the cuts plans for 318 forced redundancies and a net loss of at least 96 professional staff positions. Management has also repeatedly flagged its intention to sack academic staff through axing and merging schools. Even for many staff who retain their positions or are rehired, they will work under diminished hours, pay and working conditions. These cuts will negatively impact effectively every face of the university (except of course million-dollar executive salaries). Some of the worst cuts include axing five library staff, at least six counselling staff and many faculty support workers. Staff cuts pose a severe threat to our already dismal quality of education. When staff numbers drop for an ever-growing student body, already overworked staff have less time and ability to teach classes, record new lectures and answer emails. On top of this, we can expect gaps in staffing to either be filled by hiring more precariously employed casuals or by axing services altogether.

The premise used by management to justify these cuts is a set of financial figures that are completely misleading at best and outright deceitful at worst. In particular, the projection of a \$47 million dollar funding shortfall is based on projected, not actual revenue. Management has set wildly optimistic and inflated revenue projections to compare against actual revenue to create the false sense of a funding crisis. Claims of a lack of money are laughable considering that the university has forecast a Net Operating Result for 2021 of \$194 million, \$83 million of which is discretionary revenue that could be used to save jobs. Moreover, Professor James Guthrie from Macquarie University, writing in Campus Morning Mail has criticised university management's financial justifications for the cuts. He has outlined how the university has basically manufactured projections of a funding shortfall through misleading account tricks. UofA at the end of 2020 had \$438 million in other financial assets, mostly stashed away in 'internally generated funds' such as equity shares. Uni management have deliberately withheld these funds from their own projections to artificially create a sense of a funding crisis forcing staff to accept these cuts.

### **The Bigger Picture:**



These cuts are not isolated to our university but rather are part of a nationwide offensive on our education by money hungry VCs and the federal government. According to the Centre for Future Work, during the 12 months to May 2021, Australian universities fired 40,000 staff, close to in five in the entire sector. The federal Liberal/National government has undermined university funding by excluding universities from JobKeeper and refusing to provide any additional support. In October 2020, the then Education Minister Dan Tehan's 'Jobs-Ready Graduate Package' bill more than doubled the costs of many degrees, particularly arts and humanities and cut overall funding by \$1 billion. VCs and uni managements, however, cannot be left off the hook. They have been some of the most passionate supporters of corporatisation and have jumped on the excuse of a pandemic crisis to push through this latest wave of attacks across the campuses. Here a few particularly heinous examples of attacks. At the University of Western Australia, a massive 400 jobs will be cut, including the axing of the entire Anthropology and Sociology departments. At Deakin University, 220 staff are being sacked on top of about 400 in 2020. At La Trobe University, the VC John Dewar plans to sack over 200 staff, including entire science departments. This is even despite his promises of no more firings after sacking 335 staff in 2020.

All these cuts are being pushed through despite Australian universities attaining a cumulative \$451 million surplus even after a fall in revenue due to the pandemic and decreasing public funding. The underlying problem then is the long-term trend of corporatisation of our universities that now look more like soulless degree factories than public institutions for learning. At Adelaide University, the corporatisation of our universities couldn't be any less clear. The University Council that in August pushed through the cuts and faculty mergers is a completely undemocratic body that is stacked out with members of the Adelaide corporate establishment. Students and staff together only elect four out of sixteen councillors, with the rest handpicked from high society. Who would not have predicted that the former Liberal Party Education Minister Amanda Vanstone, an enemy of students for smashing the power of student unions would vote for yet more cuts? Who could be surprised at all that hand-picked fossil fuel executives, arms dealers and tourism lobbyists would have backed the next stage of corporatizing Adelaide Uni?

Over years and decades, there has been a systematic, and, frankly, a bipartisan defunding and corporatisation of universities. These degree factories are reliant on a business model of expecting ever-rising enrolments, particularly of exploited international students paying exorbitant fees and also squeezing out work of an increasingly casualised workforce. Management will jump on any opportunity to minimise costs and maximise profits, even if that means recycling four-year-old lecture recordings and turning classes into glorified blogs and YouTube videos.

It's no surprise then that money hungry Vice Chancellors have gone looking for funding from external sources, even from the most sinister, destructive industries like weapons companies and fossil fuel giants. Our universities are now up for sale to the highest bidder. At Adelaide Uni, the oil and gas producer Santos, Australia's 11<sup>th</sup> biggest greenhouse gas emitter literally has a giant petroleum engineering building named after them on the Maths Lawns. The Australian School of Petroleum and Energy Resources was established in 1999 with a \$25 million dollar donation from Santos. At the University of Queensland, the racist, chauvinistic Ramsay Centre for Western Civilization has set up shop. The Ramsay Centre co-founded by John Howard and Tony Abbott fights right-wing culture wars such as denying the genocide against Indigenous people and spreading conspiracy theories of a 'Cultural Marxist' takeover. At Melbourne Uni, the VC has invited the Menzies Institute, an extremely right-wing, Liberal Party aligned think tank onto campus, severely undermining academic freedom.

The only lasting solution to this unfolding nightmare of death by a thousand cuts of our universities is a funded and tuition-free higher ed system. Staffing numbers for courses and services should simply be based on what is necessary to deliver the best quality of education and keep student-staff ratios at a minimum. Research funding should aim to serve human needs like solving the climate crisis and developing the most effective COVID-19 vaccines rather than destructive industries where more dollars can be made. This out to be our fight, against the corporate university model and for a system that puts people before profit.

### **The Campaign:**

In July, student activists launched the No Adelaide University Cuts campaign to provide a determined left-wing opposition to Høj's restructures. They did so with the conviction that the only proven means of defeating cuts in the past has been through mass campaigns willing to fight management head on and insist that students are entitled to the maximum quality of education. Inspiration can be taken from the defeat in 2016 of similar proposals for faculty mergers and job cuts by a mass student-staff campaign. The university was forced to back down under pressure from overwhelming opposition, bad publicity and even threats of industrial action. If we are going to defeat this new wave of attacks, then we need to build a similar mass campaign that makes putting these cuts through untenable for management.

The campaign has so far held four large protests, four organising meetings, a student-staff forum and campaigning such as leafleting, postering, chalking and banner painting. The biggest win for the campaign so far has been the dropping of all proposed cuts to the Maths Learning Centre (MLC). This hard-won victory was the culmination of many weeks of campaigning. Many students in forums like Overheard and via email expressed their frustration at management for trying to attack the MLC's two amazing permanent staff, Nick Crouch and David Butler. The no cuts campaign posted regularly on social media and organised both a petition to save the MLC that received almost 1000 signatures and a

solidarity photo in support of the MLC staff. Even if this is one small win, it should give us all much more confidence to try and defeat Høj's cuts in their entirety. If anything, it should dispel any sense that these cuts are somehow inevitable. We should also be emboldened by management's reduction of the total number of sackings from 130 to 96. This reduction indicates that management is diminishing confidence to ram through cuts in the face of mass opposition and should embolden us to keep fighting.

Management has a clear timetable for pushing through their cuts and mergers, so we need our own stronger timetable for the student fightback. Management aims to have redundancies and the new university structure in effect by the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. This gives us a narrow window of time to kick off another round of opposition. The SRC needs to commit to serious and sustained building work. Over the summer break we can start organising our next steps forward. O-Week in mid-February should be a PR disaster for Høj where no one leaves campus without a leaflet in hand knowing why these cuts suck and how they can be part of the fightback. The SRC can use its resources to hold information stalls, print posters and banners and promote the campaign on social media. The planned protest and SGM in early Semester 1 should both be key opportunities for us to draw in broad student support. Even afterwards, we need to oppose implementation in every course, programme and service and damage management's confidence to go ahead with the academic jobs cuts it has previously flagged.

### **Motions:**

I will be moving two key motions in coming SRC meetings.

#### 1. Education Cuts

The SRC would demand that the university scrap all its proposed faculty mergers, staff sackings and course cuts. It would also demand major reductions in the pay of the Vice Chancellor and senior management and commitments, job for security casuals and ongoing funding for essential student services. The SRC would commit to endorsing and supporting the No Adelaide University Cuts campaign. Such an endorsement would involve tangible commitments to pay for campaigning material, promote the campaign on SRC social media and host stalls, forums, information sessions etc. Finally, council would endorse both an on-campus protest in early Semester 1 and a Student General Meeting in Term 1 of 2022 to express opposition to the cuts and formally condemn the Vice Chancellor.

#### 2. Student General Meeting

Student General Meetings (SGM) are democratic forums where students vote on, discuss and debate important issues of concern. SGMs are a higher form of student unionism and democracy, part of a longstanding activist tradition. Probably the most inspiring SGM in history was the 1971 meeting by University of Sydney (USyd) students to protest the Australian tour of the Springboks, the national rugby team of the then racist apartheid state of South Africa. This meeting kicked off a nationwide

student anti-apartheid movement such as the 3000 student SGM at the University of Queensland (UQ) that was followed by an even bigger protest. The campaign led by many thousands of students sabotaged the Springboks tour and chased them out of the country.

SGMs were commonplace in the of the radical era of student unionism in the 60s and 70s but there are plenty of contemporary examples that we can take inspiration from. In 2006 at USyd, students voted to oppose the Howard Government's Voluntary Student Unionism policy, a severe attack on the political independence of student unions. In 2019 at UQ, out of almost 500 students, a majority voted to oppose the university hosting the racist Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation. This year alone, there have been several great SGMS. In April, almost 300 USyd students voted to support the May Climate Strike, condemn Scott Morrison and demand the urgent shutdown of the fossil fuel industry. In October, over 290 students attended an SGM called by the Sydney Education Action Group to oppose cuts and mergers in the Arts and Social Sciences, School of Dentistry and the Business School. Just last month, an SGM at La Trobe University voted overwhelmingly (71.9%) to dissolve the La Trobe Student Association (LTSA) scab union controlled by university management.

At Adelaide Uni, there is already a mandate for the SRC to support an SGM from students who endorsed a motion calling for an SGM in Term 1 of 2022 at the student-staff forum in September. This motion committed to the SGM expressing both opposition to the cuts in their entirety and to formally condemn the Vice Chancellor for going ahead with cuts in the first place. At an SGM, other relevant motions could be moved from the floor, discussed and voted on. A large, motivated group of students voting definitively to oppose management's agenda would send a strong signal to back off. We all need to commit to building a strong attendance for the meeting, aiming to reach the quorum of 150 students needed to pass motions that are binding on the SRC.

James Wood  
Education Officer

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### **No mergers, no staff cuts! Don't trash our education!**

On 22 November, the Vice Chancellor Peter Høj announced his 'Final Change Proposal' revealing the full extent of university management's plans for faculty mergers, staff sackings and course cuts. Under this proposal, there will be at least 159 forced redundancies and a net loss of 96 positions. The university is also flagging academic job cuts next year. Many other staff will retain their positions or be rehired on significantly diminished hours, pay and working conditions. These cuts will affect every facet of the university, from the Maths Learning Centre to the Library to Counselling Services. Attacks on the working conditions of staff directly

undermine student learning conditions. To fill any gaps caused by mass sackings, we can expect yet another wave of casualisation on top of years of that have pushed UofA's casualisation rate to over 52% as of 2019, one of the highest in Australia. Employing less staff on more insecure contracts with higher workloads will inevitably lead to diminished teaching quality. Teaching staff will simply have less time to help and services will be put under more strain, if not cut back altogether.

These cuts have been imposed without any genuine consultation with students, staff and the NTEU. The entire premise behind them is also based on deceiving and manipulated financial figures. Høj has announced an eye-watering 2021 Forecast Net Operating Result of \$194 million, \$83 million of which is discretionary revenue that could be used to save jobs. Moreover, Professor James Guthrie from Macquarie University, writing in Campus Morning Mail has explained that UofA's projections of a \$47 million dollar shortfall are based on dodgy accounting tricks that don't account for all the university's funds. Guthrie highlights that at the end of 2020, UofA had \$438 million of other financial assets, mostly stashed away in 'internally generated funds' such as equity shares. Uni management have deliberately withheld these funds from their own projections to artificially create a sense of a funding crisis forcing staff to accept these cuts.

These cuts are part of a nationwide offensive on our education by Uni bosses and the Federal Government. As of May 2021, almost 40,000 university jobs have been cut during the pandemic, about a fifth of the entire sector. Clearly, the VC and top management are not on our side and have to be fought against. They have a bigger, long-term goal of making our university run even more like a soulless, neoliberal degree factory that pumps out degree at the cheapest financial cost, regardless of the human cost for education quality and staff conditions. If Høj and top management were actually concerned for the welfare of students and staff, then they would take a big cut to their own bloated salaries and privileges. They also open up their secret 'internally generated funds' and millions in land and assets to save jobs and fund services.

The only proven way to stop cuts is through staunch and defiant mass action. In 2016, a similar proposal for faculty mergers and job cuts was defeated by a mass student-staff campaign. The university was forced to back down in the face of overwhelming opposition, bad publicity and

even the threat of industrial action. If we are going to defeat this new wave of attacks, then we need to build a similar mass campaign that makes putting these cuts through untenable for management. The campaign has so far held several large protests, a student-staff forum and mass online and in-person campaigning against the cuts. We need to escalate the campaign in 2022 with the full support and resources of the SRC. That's why the SRC must commit to building mass protests against the cuts and a Student General Meeting in 2022. Student General Meetings (SGM) are democratic forums where students vote on, discuss and debate important issues of concern. SGMs are a higher form of student unionism and democracy, part of a longstanding activist tradition. Probably the most inspiring SGM in history was the 1971 meeting by University of Sydney (USyd) students to protest the Australian tour of the Springboks, the national rugby team of the then racist apartheid state of South Africa. This meeting kicked off a nationwide student anti-apartheid movement such as the 3000 student SGM at the University of Queensland (UQ) that was followed by an even bigger protest. The campaign led by many thousands of students sabotaged the Springboks tour and chased them out of the country. SGMs were a common feature of the radical era of student unionism in the 60s and 70s but there are plenty of contemporary examples to take inspiration from.

In 2006 at USyd, students voted to oppose the Howard Government's Voluntary Student Unionism policy, a severe attack aiming to defund student unions and undermine their political independence. In 2019 at UQ, out of a gathered almost 500 students, a majority voted to oppose the university hosting the racist Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation.

Just this year alone, there have been several SGMs. In April, almost 300 USyd students voted to support the May Climate Strike, condemn Scott Morrison and demand the urgent shutdown of the fossil fuel industry. In October, over 290 students attended an SGM called by the Sydney Education Action Group to oppose cuts and mergers in the Arts and Social Sciences, School of Dentistry and the Business School. Just last month, an SGM at La Trobe voted overwhelmingly (71.9%) to dissolve the La Trobe Student Association (LTSA), scab union controlled by university management. At Adelaide Uni, there is already a mandate for the SRC to support an SGM from the many students who endorsed a motion calling for an SGM at the No Adelaide University Cuts student-staff forum in September.

**Motion:**

The SRC demands that the University:

- d) Cancel its proposed faculty mergers, staff sackings and course cuts
- e) Immediately halt all lay-offs and redundancies
- f) Provide security for all casual workers by transitioning them onto permanent contracts
- g) Significantly reduce the overall remuneration for the Vice Chancellor and senior management and commit to reinvesting the savings made into funding staff contracts.
- h) Commit to fully-funding essential student service including, but not limited to the Maths Learning Centre, Writing Centre, Counselling and Disability Services and the Library

As per section 16 of the SRC constitution, the **SRC will call a Student General Meeting for 24 March 2022** (Wednesday of week 4), with a goal of reaching quorum (150 students), to express opposition to the cuts and formally condemn the Vice Chancellor.

Additionally, the SRC commits to:

- d) Issuing a public statement on behalf of the SRC opposing the faculty mergers and cuts to staff and courses
- e) Endorsing and practically supporting the No Adelaide University Cuts campaign through ...
  - iv. Providing campaigning material (posters, leaflets, stickers, t-shirts etc.)
  - v. Promotion on SRC social media accounts and the SRC building (such as banners)
  - vi. Hosting stalls, forums, information sessions etc.
- f) Building a large on-campus protest early in Semester 1

## Item 7.4: Queer Officer's Report

### **SIN contact:**

I have been contacted by Sol from SIN, which is a peer-based organization funded to promote the health, rights, and well-being of sex workers. They work with many sex workers who are also tertiary education students, given that the work load “perfectly fits” with study in their eyes. They have asked if I would be interested in working with them to combat the stigma around sex work, and sex workers within the university community and creating safer spaces for students who identify as sex workers.

I have sent a response email to Sol confirming I would be interested in having a further conversation and working with SIN to ensure students who are also sex workers feel more comfortable on campus.

### **Motion:**

That the SRC,

- a) recognises Sex work as real work
- b) commits to ensuring that members of our university community who identify as sex workers feel safe on campus, and
- c) authorises the Queer Officer to engage with groups like SIN to work towards the safety of student who identify as Sex Workers at the University.

### **Pinnacle Foundation:**

In my personal capacity as a Queer student, I have engaged with the Pinnacle Foundation, who offer support and scholarships to Queer students across Australia in order to support them through their studies. I was lucky enough to be given The Reg Holloway scholarship, which is given to a student pursuing a career in music. As part of my responsibilities as a Pinnacle Scholar I will be at events for the organization and promote their work. As part of my role as Queer Officer I hope to integrate some of my Pinnacle Foundation work into my SRC work, promoting the availability of these scholarship opportunities for Queer students.

### **Rundle Mall Street Preaching:**

Some of you may have seen that I have been engaged with the Adelaide City Council, up to this point as a concerned citizen and not an official SRC capacity. Over the past few months we've seen a large amount of homophobic, sexist, misogynistic and offensive street preaching in and around Rundle Mall, making many people, including UoA students just heading in for a quick shop, feel extremely uncomfortable. Thanks to some encouragement from my colleagues in Grassroots on the first occasion we were able to drive one of these preachers out, and the Police were called in to move the preacher away from Rundle Mall. However, in my most recent attempt to deal with one of these disgusting preachers a Police Officer took his side and threatened to arrest me for breaching the peace. I've been in contact with Councilor Kieran Snape from City of Adelaide and have been informed that the preacher in question has a permit and has been reminded of the conditions of his permit by





council staff. Should his actions continue then I will take further action, and given the impact this preaching has on students, despite being off campus, I'd appreciate any support the SRC could give.

**Final comments:**

I'm very excited to begin this term of the SRC, and I truly look forward to working with each and every one of you to deliver for the students that put us here in the first place. During my term I plan to work towards and deliver on my pledge to push the university for pronouns and preferred names on class roles and in all applicable situations, rather than legal names. I also hope, as part of the University's Union House shake-up to advocate for a better location of the Rainbow Room, and a true George Duncan memorial on the campus. I also hope that we as an SRC can stand up to those who would try to subvert our independence and stop us from speaking up for the students we represent.

In Solidarity,

Mat Monti (They/Them) | Queer Officer

## Item 7.5: Postgraduate Officer (Research) Report

Hi everyone.

This report will just introduce some of the plans and ideas I'm taking into this year. Eddie and I have met up and discussed these plans and will be jointly coordinating a lot of this.

### Organising postgrads

Postgrads have no lack of grievances with the University. HDRs are placed at the bottom of an academic pecking order, occupying a sort of hybrid status between student and worker. This can open HDRs to mistreatment, under-resourcing, and even exploitation – as well as denial of any meaningful decision-making power over our faculties.

Problem is, postgrads are terribly disorganised. Many feel individualised and powerless to change things. I won't pretend this is a problem one person can easily reverse, but I hope to take some steps in the right direction. Eddie and I have discussed organising a forum at the start of the year (probably February), to gather interested postgrads. There we will introduce ourselves as office bearers, present our own plans, as well as seek grievances and ideas for action from the fellow postgrads. To that end, in December we'll be compiling a list of existing postgrad groups/associations/networks, and contacting them to get the word out. In January we'll walk through Uni buildings knocking on the doors of postgrad offices and telling them about the forum. We hope through this process the establish connections, and compile some list of issues we want to work on.

A more ongoing form of engagement might be a regular newsletter that Eddie and I send out to an email list of postgrads.

### Casual workers' rights

A large proportion of HDRs spend time in casual employment (tutoring, marking, lecturing, etc.), and are exploited in these roles. Universities across the country have been forcing casuals to perform frequent unpaid hours, and Adelaide is no exception. In fact I estimate that, based on the experience of myself and others, casuals are paid for only half the actual hours of work required of us. This underpayment is achieved through a range of tricks, including the notoriously unrealistic marking rate (generally 5,000 works marked = 1 hour's pay), and the complete non-recognition of some of the forms of work performed (time spent watching lectures, reading course material, replying to students' emails, attending meetings with other tutors, etc.).

Other Unis are now getting busted for wage theft and are being forced to pay back casuals for unpaid hours. I believe Adelaide Uni is due for a reckoning and will do what I can to bring that about. This will mean compiling evidence of wage theft and hopefully taking it to Fair Work.

Read more on this issue:

A report on the national situation: <https://www.afr.com/work-and-careers/education/wage-theft-is-australian-universities-dirty-little-secret-20211015-p590eq>

A brief summary of the UofA wage theft situation:

<https://www.facebook.com/noadelaideunicuts/photos/a.1393777817363395/6285821681492293/>

Anwen Crawford's eloquent description of casuals' experience (from last year):

<https://overland.org.au/2020/09/the-attack-on-the-university-is-political/>

### **Fighting the mergers and cuts**

I've already been heavily involved in the fight against Peter Hoj's staff cuts and faculty mergers, which will further degrade the quality of education at Adelaide Uni. Postgrads are hurt by this as much as anyone else, facing further pressures and the strain of less resources, less library services, less staff in our disciplines to support our research, less admin staff in our faculties to register and solve our problems.

In my role I'll be trying to involve postgrads in further protests and campaigning against these cuts. For example, the postgrad forum we're planning for the start of the year will be the perfect place to promote upcoming protests and Student General Meeting being proposed by the anti-cuts campaign.

## Item 7.6: Postgraduate Officer (Coursework) Report

### Election

I would first like to express my thanks to the student, and particularly postgraduate student, community for electing me to the position of Postgraduate (Coursework) Officer on the SRC.

The results of the election this year clearly demonstrated the desire for the elected student body to firmly oppose the University's proposed cuts and mergers. The student body voted for the ticket coalition which provided clear opposition to these cuts and did not support the opposing ticket coalition which either through apathy or naivete accepted arguments of the University establishment that the proposed cuts will not impact students.

The proposed cuts and mergers, should they proceed, *will* lead to poorer educational services to students. The results of the election are a clear reflection of the student body's opposition to these proposed cuts and mergers.

### Actions Since Election

Since my election to the role, I initiated a handover with the previous office-bearer.

I also met with the elected Postgraduate (Research) Officer to discuss proposals for the 2022 year with given our overlapping portfolios.

I have committed to speak at the Postgraduate Welcome event in O'Week 2022 and associated online zoom sessions for overseas or interstate postgraduate students.

### Agenda for 2022

#### *Opposition to the Proposed University Cuts and Mergers*

The mandate from the students at this election was to firmly oppose the University's proposed cuts and mergers program.

I would like to congratulate the student campaign groups which have opposed the cuts to date in succeeding to ensure the originally proposed cuts to the Maths Learning Centre will not proceed.

Unfortunately, despite active student opposition to the proposed cuts, the Vice-Chancellor in his most recent email to the student body, dated 22 November 2021, confirmed the Final Change Plan continues to include the reduction of faculties from five to three.

This directly impacts my faculty, the Faculty of Professions which the University has proposed to merge with the Faculty of Arts. In my undergraduate degree I studied degrees under both faculties and both faculties provided very different services and supports. As a postgraduate I elected to return to the University of Adelaide because over other universities, making a serious financial and professional commitment in selecting this university. The decision to

merge faculties directly impacts postgraduate students and undermines the expectations they had for and the agreement they made with the University in actively selecting to study here.

The University states their proposed cuts will not impact student services or the quality of education provided. This is fanciful. The merging of faculties will result in support staff losses which will mean academics and teaching staff take on more administrative tasks and responsibilities. This means academics and teaching staff will have less opportunity to engage in their primary roles: research and teaching. This means students will receive an inferior quality of education to what the university previously provided.

### *Postgraduate Student Consultation*

In order to better engage with the postgraduate student body, I proposed to the Postgraduate (Research) Officer a consultation process with this section of the student body. This was agreed at a general level set out below.

This will involve a survey being sent to the postgraduate community requesting feedback on issues and concerns. We will look to engage directly in meetings with postgraduate representative bodies and groups to discuss proposals. These will cover both narrow service issues as well as broader issues such as how the proposed cuts will impact these students.

### *Workers' Rights*

An issue of particular interest to post-graduate students and the Australian community more broadly is workers' rights. Many post-graduate students work while studying, particularly at the university, and study programs designed to provide employment specific skills.

Students and recent graduates face significant pressures in the employment market and are particularly vulnerable to exploitation due to a lack of industrial experience and weakness in the employment market. Of major concern is the prevalence of unpaid internships. International students, who constitute a significant portion of the postgraduate community, face particular vulnerability to wage exploitation and theft.

Further, workers at Australian universities have seen significant wage theft issues, casualisation and insecurity in work, and unpaid hours of work.

The South Australian Select Committee into Wage Theft have on 17 November 2021 released their final report finding wage theft 'to be pervasive across South Australia among vulnerable cohorts of workers.'

Noting this, I will be looking to work with other members of the SRC to promote better awareness of these issues and to develop action plans to address these issues.

In my previous time on the SRC, I initiated a workers rights' day which promoted awareness to students of their industrial rights, trade unions, and enforcement mechanisms. I hope to reintroduce this educational day given the clear need for greater worker empowerment.

I also encourage the SRC to work with the NTEU in ensuring staff at the University of Adelaide receive strong support from the elected student body. This is of particular interest to the Postgraduate Officer roles given many postgraduate students work at the University. This is of interest to the broader student body because it is the university staff who ensure quality education is provided.

### *National Matters*

The Vice-Chancellor in his email to the student body dated 22 November 2021 correctly referred to changes to Commonwealth funding as a stressor on the University.

Under the Federal Liberal Coalition Government, support for universities and students has been abysmal. Despite widespread community requests for support to for university workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Coalition Government refused to extend the JobKeeper program to support university staff. There was essentially no federal support for the international student body, who form a large part of the postgraduate student community.

The Federal Liberal Coalition Government has failed to provide adequate funding to universities leading to a reduction of services, erosion of university culture, and ultimately poorer educational outcomes. Instead, the Government has passed policies meaning studying at university costs significantly more and those who graduate are essentially left with decades worth of debt.

This is of primary concern to students. While student representatives from the Progress ticket argue the elected student body should not engage in making demands for a change of national policies regarding universities and university students, this reveals a fundamental ignorance of the issues which directly impact students.

This SRC should continue to push for real support for universities and students at the national level and engage with national student bodies seeking to do the same.

Edward Satchell  
SRC Postgraduate (Coursework) Officer

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Further to my report, I also want to submit this motion:

Noting the comments in the Postgraduate (Coursework) Officer's report regarding wage theft:

**Recommendation:** The SRC supports [the Final Report of the Select Committee on Wage Theft in South Australia](#) Recommendation 33 which reads:

*33. Universities have an obligation to teach students about Australia's industrial relation system and employee rights and responsibilities and should use University funded organisations such as Study Adelaide to fulfil this requirement.*

**Action:** The SRC President will write to the relevant officer of the University of Adelaide noting the SRC's endorsement of this Recommendation and requesting University endorse Recommendation 33 and provide an outline of the steps it is taking and will take to implement this Recommendation.

**Recommendation:** The SRC endorses the making of a joint statement with the Student Associations of Flinders University and the University of South Australia expressing the intervarsity support of Recommendation 33 and provide this statement to Study Adelaide requesting Study Adelaide endorse Recommendation 33 and provide an outline of the steps it is taking and will take to implement this Recommendation.

## Item 7.7: Social Justice Officer's Report

Hello everyone.

My name is Tom Wood and I am your new Social Justice Officer for 2022.

Before I go into my plans for next year, I will first tell you a little about me. I have recently completed my Arts degree and I will begin my Honours degree in Sociology next year.

I chose to put my hand up to run for Social Justice Officer earlier this year because I am passionate about making our society fairer for everyone. I am actively involved in welfare rights and environmental activism at university and elsewhere.

My experience in activism has been that only bottom-up collective action can achieve meaningful social change. In the university context, this means that we cannot rely on management to be persuaded or enlightened to come to our side. It is going to take a fight if we want to stop the looming cuts and mergers.

I cannot overstate how much of a privilege it is to have been elected to this role. I would like to thank everyone from the broad left coalition that ran in this year's election and all of the campaigners that helped us get elected. On our side we saw the best of what student politics can look like. We saw passion, dedication, and unity in a common fight against the cuts and mergers. In particular I would like to thank my Grassroots comrades for their amazing support this year. I am excited to see the Greens grow on campus and champion social justice causes and real climate action.

Now that I have been given the opportunity to represent my peers, I promise to leave the right-wing politics of the outgoing Progress and Connect SRC in the dustbin of history. This year the student body soundly rejected a culture of secrecy, tokenisation, and collusion with university management. I will not let you down. That means that the remaining members of Progress and Connect on the SRC are on notice. This will be an SRC that is unashamedly activist. We will be protesting. We will be petitioning. We will be mobilising the student body to actively fight for their education. If you don't want to be part of that fight, get out of the way and lets us do our jobs.

Thank you everyone. I look forward to working with you all this year!



## Item 7.8: International Officer's Report

No report submitted



## Item 8.1 Roseworthy Mental Health Support

**Content warning: motion contains discussion of suicide.**

Preamble:

As stated in a [recent On Dit article](#) by Lakeisha Watkins, the UoA Roseworthy campus currently lacks a dedicated counselling team despite its distance from the city making mental health services often inaccessible.

In response to this, students have formed the 'Australian Veterinary Students for Mental Health', which aims to "improve mental health outcomes for veterinary students across Australia". Examples of their efforts include research on the prevalence of suicidal ideation amongst Roseworthy respondents compared to veterinary students Australia-wide (which they found to be 8% vs 0.3%, respectively) and campaigning for increased mental health resources on the campus.

Staff have collaborated with this group to create the Roseworthy Alumni and Students Mental Health Fund, which accepts donations so as to "support mental health talks and seminars from those in the industry, and sponsor students who wish to undertake mental health first aid courses".

**The SRC hence pledges to:**

- a) Hold fundraisers on both the Roseworthy and North Terrace campuses to raise money for the Roseworthy and Alumni Mental Health Fund;
- b) Endorse the Veterinary Students for Mental Health group and empower the Rural Officer to work with the organisation on the SRC's behalf;
- c) Call for an independent and official investigation into the mental health crisis at Roseworthy; and
- d) Call for the university to hire a full-time mental health team at Roseworthy.

**Moved:** Liam Johns

Cheers,

Liam

## Item 8.2 Executive Elections

As detailed in the Constitution of the Student Representative Council, “There shall be an Executive that shall manage the day to day affairs of the SRC between Council meetings.”

The Executive consists of the President, General Secretary, and three elected members from the SRC. The constitution outlines that at the first meeting of the Council’s term, these members must be elected by Hare Clarke Optional Preferential Proportional voting.

**Motion:** That Mark Pace be appointed as SRC Returning Officer for the election of the SRC Executive

**Motion:** To accept the Returning Officer’s Report

## Item 8.3 The AUU/SRC funding agreement is an attack on free speech and student democracy and must be opposed

### *Preamble*

On Nov 30th, the final day of the 2021 SRC’s term, the former SRC executive met and hastily passed a restrictive funding “agreement”. No such agreement existed before, and it was passed by people who would be unaffected by its terms as their role finished on the same day it was passed. Breach of the terms of the agreement gives the AUU pretext to terminate funding for the SRC.

The terms of the agreement are an attack on free speech and democracy in the SRC. The agreement prohibits the SRC from contradicting the AUU Board’s resolutions or university policies. This curtails the political independence of the SRC from the AUU Board. It commits members to the policies of a university management that many representatives were elected to oppose. It also gives the AUU Board oversight over the way funds are used, undermining the fundamental right of the SRC council to make democratic decisions according to its own constitution and rules about how its funding and resources be used.

Student democracy is important. In the context of attacks by management and a world of inequality, it is vital to preserve the independence and democracy of our student unions so that they may genuinely defend student interests.

The funding agreement is an under-handed political attack on the SRC passed by representatives connected to the right-wing Progress/Liberal coalition who control the hostile AUU Board. The agreement reflects AUU President Oscar Ong and his faction’s frenetic hostility to student democracy.

The “agreement” is an unacceptable, dictatorial attack that stifles the ability of student unionists to organise around issues the right disagree with. It shackles the ability of SRC

representatives to carry out policy they were elected to implement. It entrenches the power of people the student body voted overwhelmingly to remove from this year's SRC and forces the SRC to become a political puppet of the AUU board. It must be opposed.

*Motion*

That the SRC:

1. Recognises the agreement is one of many dictatorial attempts by the right-wing Progress/Liberal coalition to stifle speech and actions they dislike.
2. Condemns the AUU board and 2021 SRC executive for creating and passing this censorious agreement.
3. Acknowledges the importance of genuinely independent and democratic student unions for defending student rights.
4. Vows to uphold the politics and carry out the policies they were elected to implement.
5. Rejects the terms of funding established by the outgoing SRC on its last day

Moved: Ana Obradovic

Seconded: Jack Crawford

## Item 8.4 Proposal for O'Week counter guide funding

### *Preamble*

The final budget for the 2022 SRC is approximately \$10,000. This is approximately \$2,000 less than the previous year. In light of this tight budget, the SRC should commit no more than \$2,000 to the counter guide budget. AUU media liaisons will work with the SRC President and other interested representatives to coordinate cheaper printing paper and style. Editors, designers and contributors should all be voluntary. SRC council members are encouraged to contribute to the guide.

In light of the education attacks at UoA, I also suggest the counter guide orient towards informing new students of the neoliberal plans gutting their right to quality education at UoA and the campaigns planned to defeat them. This is a way to make the counter guide relevant for new students, as well as making the SRC's purpose visible and clear.

### *Motion*

1. That the SRC passes funds of up to \$2000 to spend on producing the O'Week counter guide.
2. That the counter guide for 2022 focuses on education attacks at Adelaide Uni and informs students of ways to get involved in opposing them.

Moved: Ana Obradovic

Seconded: Nix Herriot

## Item 8.5 Environment Officer's Item "The Climate Emergency Demands an Activist Response"

### *Preamble*

Society faces a series of severe climate and ecological crises. This year, heatwaves in North America have caused over a thousand deaths. Extreme wildfires and floods have devastated parts of Europe and Asia. Scientists recognise the need for immediate reductions in carbon emissions in order to prevent more than 1.5 degrees of warming.

Despite the need for rapid and decisive action, the rich and powerful are committed to entrenching and expanding fossil fuels. As Matt Canavan has gloated, Australia's COP26 pledge is a "green light" for new coal mines. Both the Labor and Liberal parties support a 'gas-led recovery'. Politicians offer promises of 'net zero by 2050' as solutions to the climate emergency. We should be clear: net zero is merely a license to keep polluting based on accounting tricks and woefully inadequate carbon capture and storage technologies.

We acknowledge the undeniable links between corporate power and climate change on our campuses. Adelaide University should sever its ties to climate criminals such as fossil fuel

giant Santos and war profiteers such as BAE Systems, Raytheon and Lockheed Martin. The partnerships that exist between the University and these companies funnel graduates into industries that destroy the planet rather than utilising student ingenuity and resources to prevent climate catastrophe. This view is consistent with a vision for a truly public and democratic university. We demand genuine environmental commitments from the University rather than corporate greenwashing.

Recent years have seen students play a key role in climate activism worldwide. Our student unions have long played an important role in enabling students to fight for a better future. We believe that the SRC should support student involvement in climate strikes and other acts of protest, including providing practical support such as promotional materials and resources in support of environmental activism.

### *Motion*

That the SRC:

1. Recognises the urgency of the climate emergency and the need for an activist response
2. Stand for land rights over mining rights and opposes the continued desecration of Indigenous land at the hands of governments and fossil fuel companies
3. Calls on Adelaide University to immediately and fully divest from fossil fuels and cut ties environmentally destructive companies like weapons manufacturers
4. Opposes attempts at corporate greenwashing by Adelaide University such as Ecovercity
5. Commits to campaign in solidarity with climate strikers and protests by other climate action groups

Moved: Nix Herriot

Seconded: Ramon O'Donnell

## **Item 8.6 The SRC stands for health and solidarity against the anti-vax far-right**

### *Preamble*

Since the start of the pandemic, the anti-vax movement has gone from strength to strength.

Across Australia, anti vaxxers have managed to call rallies numbering in the tens of thousands, with marches in Adelaide drawing over 4000 attendees

These anti-vaxxers represent a threat to public health and collective solidarity, and undermine the hard work that frontline health workers have done to keep us safe over the pandemic.

More worryingly, the anti-vax movement has become a fertile breeding ground for the far right. They are also recruiting to their organisations within this movement. The protests are not made up of concerned Mums and Dads, and there is nothing progressive or genuinely anti-authoritarian about them. Rather, they cohere conspiracy theorists,

islamophobes, racists, outright neo-nazis, radicalised small business owners, the UAP and other right-wing layers of society including Liberal party politicians.

The fact that this movement has gone unchallenged has given far-right ideologues confidence and pushed their ideas in the mainstream. It has led to an increase in attacks on retail, transport and health workers, hospitalising some, for attempting to enforce simple health measures such as wearing a mask or checking in with a QR code. Further, bigots like Pauline Hanson have used the street movement as evidence of popular support for bills in parliament opposing all vaccine mandates and “passports”, despite the unvaccinated making up less than 10% of people in some states.

These rallies attack the very idea that people should in any way have to act in the interests of other people. Anti vaxxers want to make it clear that they are willing to allow the elderly, immunocompromised, indigenous people and other marginalised groups to die en masse so that they can get a haircut without the minor inconvenience of having to wear a mask and get a vaccine.

Student unions have a history of opposing the far right and acting in the interest of social solidarity .In 2015 student unions around Australia endorsed antifascist campaigns against Fraser Anning and his Reclaim Australia movement, campaigns that were successful in sending the far-right scurrying back to their dens.

#### *Motion*

That the SRC:

1. Condemns anti-vaxxers and recognises them as far right protests aimed at undermining social solidarity and endangering other people
2. Supports existing health measures including mask and vaccine mandates, density restrictions and lockdowns and border closures where necessary and stands in solidarity with the overworked and under-resourced health workers
3. Commits to campaigning in solidarity with anti-fascist groups and endorses anti-fascist rallies against far-right protests

### **Item 8.7 Delegation of Authority**

**Motion:** that the SRC delegates its authority to the Executive from the close of the meeting at which this resolution is passed until Monday 14 February 2021, in the week prior to Orientation Week.

## Appendix 1: Minutes of the Previous Meeting (26 October 2021)

*President Oscar Zi Shao Ong opens meeting at 6:08 pm.*

### 1. Procedural Matters

#### 1.1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Owners

The SRC President acknowledges that the SRC was meeting on the land of the Kaurna people, and acknowledged their ongoing relationship with the Adelaide region.

#### 1.2. Attendance

**Members in attendance:** Oscar Zi Shao Ong, Evi Cacas, Baie Perryman, Jack Brady, Hamish Probert, Jack Brady, Anjali Malhotra, Thomas Marrett, Kanishka Chaudhary, Jun Ming Loke, Angel Wadhawan, Jia En, Emma Troughton, Ron Tan, Will Broderick, Bisma Changez, Felix Eldridge, Bryan Lau, Caitlin Batty, Yonatan Halawa

**Non members in attendance:** Billy Zimmermann, Mat Monti, Habibah Jaghoori,

#### 1.3. Apologies

**Apologies:** Oliver Douglas, Susie Greenwood, Georgia Honan

#### 1.4. Adoption of Agenda

#### 1.5. Welcome

### 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

**2.1. Recommendation:** That the SRC accept the minutes of the Council Meeting on 14/10/2021 as a true and accurate record.

**Moved:** Evi Cacas **Seconded:** Hamish Probert

*Motion passes*

### 3. Matters arriving from previous minutes

None

### 4. Correspondence

None

### 5. New Members

None

### 6. Motions on Notice

None

### 7. Office Bearer Reports

*President Oscar Zi Shao Ong passes chair to General Secretary Cacas at 6:09 pm.*

### 7.1. President

President Ong delivers report. The Council resolves to discuss the Education Officer's motion pertaining to University Cuts in the President's report as a matter of procedure. Council also resolves to move the motions individually and not on block.

**MOTION:** That the SRC acknowledges the difficult and positive work that staff at the University of Adelaide perform, especially during a global pandemic.

**Moved:** Felix Eldridge **Seconded:** Will Broderick

*Motion passes*

**MOTION:** That the SRC notes the significant damage to quality of education and services that will likely fall upon students both directly and indirectly if the draft change proposal is approved as outlined, especially for student facing services such as the Maths Learning Centre, school based student advisors and the Barr Smith Library.

*General Secretary Cacas proposes an amendment to the motion. Mover is not amenable.*

**AMENDED MOTION:** That the SRC notes the damage to quality of education and services that will likely fall upon students both directly and indirectly if the draft change proposal is approved as outlined.

**Moved:** Evi Cacas **Seconded:** Bryan Lau

*Motion passes*

**MOTION:** That the SRC notes the damage to quality of education and services that will likely fall upon students both directly and indirectly if the draft change proposal is approved as outlined.

**Moved:** Felix Eldridge **Seconded:** Evi Cacas

*Motion passes*

**MOTION:** That the SRC calls on the University of Adelaide to build student consultation into its currently staff-only consultation timeline for the draft proposal.



*General Secretary Cacas proposes an amendment to the motion. Mover is amenable.*

**MOTION:** That the SRC Calls on the University of Adelaide to continuously consult students throughout the current development of the draft proposal.

**Moved:** Felix Eldridge **Seconded:** Evi Cacas

*Motion passes*

**MOTION:** That the SRC urges the University of Adelaide to holistically reassess its savings goals in favour of protecting staff employment.

*Habibah Jaghoori is named.*

**Moved:** Felix Eldridge **Seconded:** Anjali Malhotra

*Motion fails*

## **7.2. General Secretary**

General Secretary's report is taken as read.

## **7.3. Education Officer**

Felix Eldridge delivers Education Officer's report.

## **7.4. Queer Officer**

Queer Officer's report is taken as read.

## **7.5. Postgraduate Officer (Coursework)**

Postgraduate Officer's report is taken as read.

## **7.6. Social Justice Officer**

Social Justice Officer's report is taken as read.

## **7.7. Disability Officer**

Disability Officer largely takes report as read.

*Mat Monti is named.*

#### 7.8. International Student Officer

International Student Officer's report is taken as read.

*Caitlin Battye is named.*

#### 8. General Business

None

#### 9. Emergent Business

**MOTION:** That the SRC delegates its power to the executive for the remainder of the SRC term,

**Moved:** Evi Cacas **Seconded:** Hamish Probert

*Motion passes*

Meeting closes at 6:45 pm