

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Minutes of the 60th meeting of the Student Advisory Council to be held at 11:30AM on 17th September 2025 in building 36 Council Room and via Webex.

PRESENT:

Alana Khattar	Deputy Chair and Academic Senate – Undergraduate Representative
Alexander Tegg	Deputy Chair and UOW Pulse Executive Representative
Angela Tobias	Innovation Campus Representative
Baline Caton	WIC Representative
Bianca Dumbrell	Southern Sydney Campus Representative
Connor Da-Lapa Soares	Academic Senate – Undergraduate Representative
David Plenty	EIS Faculty – Postgraduate Representative
Ella Young	Chair and Women’s Representative
Fabian Ibro	EIS Faculty – Undergraduate Representative
Hanzel-Jude Pador	WUSA President
Helena Ibro	EIS Faculty – International Representative
Hoang Ahn Nguyen	ASSH Faculty – International Representative
Jessica Hewett	Student Residences Representative
Katherine Minns	Person with a Disability Representative
Kyle Hewitt	Academic Senate/University Council – Postgraduate Representative
Liam Felli	Clubs and Societies Representative
Mackenzie Dodd	Bega Campus Representative
Madeline Staples	Southern Highlands Campus Representative
Matthew Brown	University Council – Undergraduate Representative
Muhammad Sarwar	Academic Senate – Postgraduate and BAL – International Representative
Nakia Edgecock	Academic Senate – Undergraduate Representative
Roxanne Kelly	Shoalhaven Campus Representative
Ryan Lim	South Western Sydney Campus Representative
Shakeela Malik	SMAH Faculty – Postgraduate Representative
Shoyeb Ahmed	Academic Senate – Onshore International Representative
Tibee Leung	Clubs and Societies Representative
Yang Di	WUPA President

IN ATTENDANCE:

Prof. G.Q. Max Lu AO	Vice-Chancellor
Prof. Mark Hoffman	Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Life)
Elenie Petrou	Chief Strategy Officer
Caitlin Pyle	Associate Director, Student Equity and Success
Ali Boydell	Senior Manager, Current Student Communications
Kylie McElhone	Senior Manager, Safe and Respectful Communities
Kaylyn Thyssen	Project Manager, National Code Gender Based Violence
Melissa Zaccagnini	Senior Manager, Student Experience and Projects
Lucinda Crossley Meates	Student Experience and Projects Manager
Courtney Grube	Student Representation Administration Assistant

APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Kellie Ridges	Director Student and Services Division and Acting Director Student Life
Clare O'Toole	ASSH Faculty – Postgraduate Representative
Karan Golani	Sydney Business School Campus Representative
Aurora Ibro	SMAH Faculty – International Representative
Amity Lees	ASSH Faculty – Undergraduate Representative
Emma Moses	SMAH Faculty – Undergraduate Representative
Jin Zhao	Mature Age Representative
Kat Schreiber	LGBTQI+ Representative
Linh Pham	BAL Faculty – Undergraduate Representative
Nicholas Chiaverini	Academic Senate – Undergraduate Representative
Tess Botham Barnes	BAL Faculty – Postgraduate

PART 1: OFFICIAL BUSINESS

****1.1 Opening of Meeting***

1.1 Introduction and Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 11:30 am and proceeded to welcome and introduce all Council members, and other attendees, special guests and observers present.

1.12 Acknowledgement of Country

The acknowledgement of country was provided by the WIC Representative and welcomed by the Council

****1.2 Apologies and Quorum***

Apologies were noted and received by the Council; the Chair noted the meeting was quorate.

****1.3 Arrangement of Agenda***

1.3.1 Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interests declared.

1.3.2 Confidential Items

No confidential items in agenda.

1.3.3 *Starring of Items*

The following items are starred for discussion:

- All Items in Parts 1 and 2. Items 3.1 and 3.2.
- Items 3.3 and 3.4 were unstarred by the Chair at this point in the meeting.
- Items 4.1 and 4.2 are starred as well

1.3.4 *Meeting Protocols*

The Chair reminded members on decisions being made by consensus and for all questions to go through the Chair.

*1.4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th August 2025 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

*1.5 *Business Arising from Previous Meetings and Minutes*

The Chair noted the action items arising from the previous meeting. These action items include:

MEETING DATE	ACTION(S) ARISING	RESPONSIBLE PARTY(S)	STATUS
17th April 2025	The SAC Executive will explore the feasibility of organising a student consultation or town hall to increase broader student engagement in the transformation process	SAC Executive	Complete
7th August 2025	Accommodation Representative to be connected to Staff to discuss guest policy concerns related to privacy and data maintenance in residences	Residences Rep and SAC Executive Team	Complete

7th August 2025	Collect feedback from regional & metro campus representatives regarding issues related to online class delivery and report back to appropriate university bodies	SAC R&M Subcommittee and SAC Exec Team	In Progress
7th August 2025	LGBTQI+ Representative feedback related to establishment of a website for LGBTQI+ representation and information shared with relevant University stakeholders	LGBTQI+ Rep and SAC Exec Team	In progress
7th August 2025	Commonwealth Prac Payment Roll-out Feedback – SAC members to gather feedback from networks on rollout, student preferences, and systems performance.	SAC Exec Team, R&M Campus Reps, SMAH/ASSH Faculty Reps	In Progress
7th August 2025	Learning Analytics Policy Review – forward contact details and timeline to SAC members to offer feedback	SAC Exec Team, All SAC Members	Complete
7th August 2025	Protest Action at UOW – request for briefing on recent protests I – From WUSA President on action II – From UOW on university approach to engagement with protesting students.	WUSA President	Complete
7th August 2025	Graduations 2026 – request for details on number and timing of graduations.	SAC Exec Team and UOW	In Progress
7th August 2025	Student Experience team to work with iC representative to identify contact to discuss student study space concerns	SAC Exec Team and iC representative	Complete
7th August 2025	Club and Society Reps to meet with Regional/Metro Campus Reps to discuss club viability and address barriers	SAC Exec Team & R&M Subcommittee, C&S reps, Pulse Executive Board rep	Complete
7th August 2025	IPD Parking Follow Up	SAC Executive Team & Student Pulse Director, University Council – Undergrad	In Progress

***1.6 Chair's Report**

The Chair updated council on the following:

- The SAC Executive, including the Chair and Deputy Chairs, have met regularly with the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & Student Life) [DVC(A&SL)], representing

the perspectives of the broader council and all students.

- An All-Student Forum on the transformation will be held on 16 October, allowing students to engage directly with UOW Executive.
- The UOW Strategic Plan 2030–2035 has been significantly shaped by SAC input through workshops and council-wide consultations over an 18 month period.
- Student Election season commenced on 11 September, with renewed efforts from the Activation Subcommittee to promote student representation through formal elections and informal engagement activities.
- SAC representatives have been active in student engagement, including presentations in CDL100 careers classes, and two reps will present at the October Student Voice Australasia (SVA) Student Summit: the ASSH Faculty - Undergraduate Representative (workshop) and the UOW Student Pulse Executive Director Representative (lightning talk). All SAC reps are invited to attend virtually.
- Congratulations were extended to the Academic Senate - Postgraduate/BAL - International Representative on the recent birth of their child.

PART 3: GENERAL BUSINESS

***3.1 Vision 2035 and Strategic Plan 2030**

The Chair moved this item forward in the agenda and invited the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Strategy Officer to speak to this item.

The Vice-Chancellor shared that UOW has been ranked number one in student satisfaction among all public universities in Australia, based on the latest national student survey of over 27,000 students. This result reflects the university's commitment to engaging with students and supporting their learning journey. The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged the role of the SAC, and congratulated members for their contributions.

Thanks were extended to the SAC Executive and others involved in engagement sessions related to strategy development and the university's transformation, noting that their candid feedback helped shape the final Transformation Plan and Strategic Plan, which was recently launched to staff.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted UOW's vision and mission for the next five to ten years: to educate future professionals and leaders, empower student success, deliver world-leading research, and create local and global impact. Key strategic pillars include:

- Student Experience and Success
- Local Impact
- Global Excellence and Connection
- Better Together (collaboration across the university and community)

The importance of providing a holistic student experience was emphasised, including employability, personal growth, critical thinking, and adapting to technological advances such as AI. The university's global partnerships and community engagement were also highlighted as central to achieving its mission and positioning UOW within the top 100 universities globally.

The Vice-Chancellor noted six underpinning strategic themes, the development of KPIs, and the importance of focused action on two to three priorities at a time to ensure measurable progress. The Vice-Chancellor concluded by acknowledging the long-term nature of this work and expressed enthusiasm for continued collaboration with SAC and the wider university community to support students and successfully implement the transformation.

The Chief Strategy Officer (CSO) reflected on the 18-month journey of developing UOW's new strategy in a rapidly changing environment. The CSO emphasised the importance of a clear vision, noting that the strategy is concise, aligns with the university's strengths and DNA, and reflects input from students, staff, alumni, and the community.

Student consultations were highlighted as integral to the strategy, with students requesting more flexibility, a global perspective, and a strong sense of belonging, alongside aspirations for UOW to be a top 100 global university. These priorities are incorporated into the student-focused strategic pillar.

The CSO outlined six strategic themes guiding UOW over the next five years:

1. World-ready education and student success – delivering a future-focused curriculum with teaching excellence, global perspectives, and a flexible experience.
2. Research and innovation excellence and impact – focusing on interdisciplinary initiatives addressing global challenges and creating local and global impact.
3. Community, government and industry engagement – deepening partnerships to generate social, economic, and environmental outcomes.
4. Global network and reputation – leveraging UOW's long-standing international footprint to connect students, staff, and research across borders.
5. Culture of belonging and excellence – developing a culture of trust, inclusion, respect, and excellence to support staff engagement and wellbeing.
6. Strategic growth and organisational resilience – strengthening institutional capabilities to enable strategic investment with confidence.

The CSO emphasised that the strategy's success relies on implementation, noting a three-phase approach: financial sustainability and rebuilding, strategic investment, and reassessment for future priorities. Key takeaways from the consultations included UOW's size as a superpower, enabling personalised student experiences; its global reach, supporting world-class outcomes; and the passion of the UOW community. The strategy is underpinned by the tagline: "Think global, act local, deliver impact through partnership."

Questions from the floor

The University Council – Undergraduate representative asked that given that the transformation processes are still ongoing, are these processes now being aligned with the new university strategy?

The Vice-Chancellor explained that the strategy development and transformation processes have been running in parallel. Feedback from strategy consultations and transformation engagement was considered to ensure alignment with the strategy's direction, even though the strategy is not yet formally approved.

The implementation of the strategy is structured across three horizons:

1. The first horizon (approximately 1.5–2 years) aligns transformation initiatives with the long-term vision and goals.
2. The subsequent phase focuses on consolidation and growth, including strategic investments in infrastructure and digital capabilities, with digital road mapping tied to the transformation.
3. KPI development is underway for each strategic area, with lead and lag indicators (e.g., research outputs, student satisfaction) to be finalised by January. These KPIs will be reviewed annually by Council to ensure adaptability in a rapidly changing environment.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasised that the strategy is adaptive, allowing staff to focus on two priority areas at a time to contribute effectively, with financial planning and resource allocation supporting successful implementation.

Please view the slides from this presentation here - [VC Strategy Launch SAC Presentation v1 17 September 2025_FINAL](#)

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council notes the Vision 2035 and Strategic Plan 2030 presented by Vice Chancellor, Professor Max Lu as set out in the agenda.

***1.7 Membership Business**

The Chair welcomed two new members onto council. The new EIS Faculty – Postgraduate Representative and the LGBTQI+ Representative.

PART 2: COMMITTEE BUSINESS

***2.1 Business and Updates from Student Advisory Council Committees**

2.1.1 Student Service and Amenities Fees (SSAF) Subcommittee

The Chair of the SSAF Subcommittee updated council on the following:

- SSAF submissions are currently open, with the subcommittee scheduled to review all submissions after the close early October.
- The subcommittee is actively working alongside UOW to achieve the requirement that 40% of SSAF funds are allocated directly by students, 100% of SSAF allocations for 2025 were

recommended by the subcommittee.

- It was noted that the subcommittee carries a substantial workload and responsibility, and planning for 2026 will include appropriate training and development for members.
- The subcommittee will explore ways to assist with broader student communication regarding SSAF allocations and access to services, which may require a dedicated budget to ensure effective delivery.
- An update on recommendations related to SSAF submissions will be shared at the October meeting, with the complete recommendations tabled in November.

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by the Chair of the SAC SSAF Subcommittee.

2.1.2 Activation Working Party

The Chair invited the Chair of the Activation Working Party to provide an update. Key points highlighted included:

- After a period of low profile, the Working Party is focusing on re-engaging and profiling SAC, connecting members to student representatives through initiatives such as open days, posters, and social media content (including a recently released Instagram reel for elections).
- Plans are underway to expand activities across regional and metropolitan campuses, with appreciation expressed for the commitment of both Working Party members and other contributors.
- Engagement with students is increasing, with members being recognised and approached for feedback, reinforcing the importance of representing the student voice.
- With upcoming elections, the Working Party has gained momentum and aims to build on this into 2026, taking advantage of its relatively new structure to approach goals with a fresh perspective.

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by the Chair of the Activation Working Party.

2.1.3 Regional and Metropolitan Subcommittee

The Chair noted that the Chair of the Regional and Metropolitan Subcommittee was an apology at this meeting and would be provided the update on their behalf. Following from the subcommittee's second meeting of 2025, held online on 28 August:

- Posters and newsletter content are being rolled out across campuses, aligned with the focus of the SAC Activation Subcommittee.
- Initial feedback has been gathered regarding the online/hybrid learning experience, which can inform broader student consultations related to the Transformation.
- Pulse and Clubs & Societies representatives engaged with the subcommittee to review club

- activities at each campus; feedback was positive, with initiatives planned for expansion in 2026.
- Students generally welcomed the Commonwealth Practical Payments, reporting a smooth application process and positive experiences compared with previous grants or other UOW application processes.

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by the Chair on behalf of the Chair of the Regional and Metropolitan Subcommittee.

***2.2 Members Reports**

2.2.1 SAC Executive Update

The Deputy Chairs highlighted that on 9 September, the Chair represented the student voice at the UOW Strategy Launch. Contributions received resounding applause from staff and community members, reflecting both the university's genuine commitment to student voice and the Chair's dedication.

They also noted that SAC business is transitioning to new platforms and systems, including a Microsoft Forms Actions List. This initiative provides all council members with quick and easy access to meeting actions, enables timely progress reporting, and improves transparency across council priorities. Members are encouraged to contact the SAC team for support in using these new systems.

Finally, the Deputy Chairs confirmed that the additional 7th meeting and celebration afternoon is scheduled for 27 November from 11:30 a.m. onwards.

The Chair added that a significant focus of the SAC Executive this year has been advocating for more thorough student consultation, particularly regarding change processes and ongoing transformations. The Chair emphasised the importance of consulting students before changes occur, rather than after.

As an example, the Chair noted that the Safe and Respectful Communities (SAC) transformation, which is on a separate timeline, now has a proposed plan for student consultation following recent advocacy by the Executive.

Following the Chair's comments, the Associate Director, Student Equity and Success and the Senior Manager of Current Student Communications were invited to share the proposed plans for student consultation for SAC.

The Senior Manager of Current Student Communications explained that, with the operational change plan (referred to as the transformation) now moving into the implementation phase, student consultation is critical to shape programs and services before changes are finalised. Proposed initiatives include:

- Webpage updates: Student FAQs related to the transformation will be moved to the Ask UOW knowledge base, providing a single point for students to access information and submit feedback.
- Student feedback webpage: A central hub linking all consultation opportunities, including the ongoing transformation feedback survey, consultation sessions, and updates on how student input has informed decisions ("This is what you said, and this is what we did").

- An open feedback form will remain available for students to provide input on any change plans.

The Associate Director, Student Equity and Success outlined additional planned consultation activities, including the all-student forum on 16 October, which will provide a broader student audience the opportunity to hear about the Strategic Plan 2035, the Vision, and aspects of transformation implementation. A series of online and face-to-face consultation sessions are also proposed to engage a diverse cross-section of students, allowing those with specific interests in programs or services to contribute to shaping and refining them for 2026.

Questions from the floor

The UOW Student Pulse Executive Director praised the closing of the feedback loop, noting the importance of informing students how their feedback has been heard, what has changed, and why some suggestions cannot be implemented. They sought clarification on whether student and staff collaborative workshops would include student-only opportunities to ensure students can provide dedicated input.

The Associate Director, Student Equity and Success acknowledged the point raised by the UOW Student Pulse Executive Director, noting that it is important to ensure student workshops provide a safe space for students to give honest feedback. They confirmed that this will be taken into consideration when planning the sessions, to ensure no single voice dominates the discussion.

The Senior Manager, Student Experience and Projects added that an email had been sent to all students from the DVCA, which included a link allowing students to express interest in participating in consultation sessions. The form enables students to indicate the areas they are most interested in discussing. The Senior Manager noted that this is already proactively collecting student interest, and over the coming weeks it is expected that a broad cross-section of the student population will be engaged.

The WUSA President asked about the scheduling of the proposed collaborative workshops for students and staff. They welcomed the initiative but expressed concern that the workshops were planned during weekday working hours and close to the exam period, which may limit student participation. They asked whether there could be additional sessions or alternative arrangements to allow students to attend outside of standard working hours.

The Associate Director, Student Equity and Success acknowledged the point raised and confirmed that the consultation form on the website will remain open. They noted that the workshops will form a series of ongoing opportunities throughout 2026, rather than being limited to this period, ensuring multiple avenues for students to engage in various ways.

ACTION: SAC to provide feedback regarding the timing of the staff-student collaborative workshops, including concerns about their proximity to exam periods and the balance between student and staff participation.

The Associate Director, Student Equity and Success provided an update on the Complaints and Safe and Respectful Communities change process. Stage one consultation is scheduled to open early next week and continue until the end of October, with stage two dates also planned, and the final change plan expected to be announced early next year.

Students will have multiple opportunities to provide feedback, including:

- An all-student email outlining the consultation process and how feedback is being incorporated.
- Updates on the website, including an open feedback link available at any time.
- Invitations to participate in specific focus groups and consultation workshops.

Two key focus group opportunities were highlighted:

1. Early-stage focus group: Review of the proposed model, discussion of how early feedback was adapted, and identification of potential risks, issues, or opportunities.
2. Late-stage focus group (end of week 11): Detailed review of the service model from a student perspective, including targeted questions on how the model aligns with student needs and experiences.

Further information on the consultation process will be provided to the SAC at the next meeting as the stages progress.

The UOW Student Pulse Executive Director highlighted the importance of providing an anonymous feedback mechanism for students, noting that given the sensitive nature of matters handled by SARC, students should have the opportunity to provide feedback confidentially. This ensures that the feedback received is genuine while maintaining the privacy of students using these services.

ACTION: Explore and implement multiple feedback channels for students, including options beyond in-person sessions, to increase accessibility and participation.

Question Taken on Notice:

The Student Residences Representative raised a question regarding the in-person feedback groups. They asked whether there will be targeted sessions for specific student populations, such as students living in residences or students who have experienced sexual violence, noting the National Code requirement that victims of assault must be consulted throughout the process. The Associate Director confirmed that this question would be taken on notice to provide a detailed response.

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by SAC Executive and the update provided by the Associate Director, Student Equity and Success and Senior Manager, Current Student Communications in regard to student consultation.

PART 4: FINAL BUSINESS

4.1 Questions on Notice

The Chair moved this item forward in the agenda for the DVC(A&SL) to answer the questions on notice from the 7th August meeting.

1. Ask UOW Service Times:

The first question related to Ask UOW service times, which had been reported as problematic. He outlined that service times operate in two blocks: peak periods, such as around census dates and exam result releases, and non-peak periods for the remainder of the year. During non-peak times, phone wait times average 6.5 minutes and counter wait times 4.5 minutes, with email responses taking approximately three days. During peak periods, phone wait times increase to 9.5 minutes, counter wait times to 12.5 minutes, and email response times extend to five to eight business days.

As part of the transformation, enhancements are being implemented including a dedicated digital function to manage frequently asked questions, AI tools to address repetitive queries, and escalation processes to prioritise unanswered emails. The DVC noted that while phone wait times are generally acceptable, improvements are primarily needed for email response times.

2. International Student Subject Availability:

The second question concerned risks to international students' subject availability following the transformation. The DVC confirmed that the university has implemented measures to ensure students complete their studies within the minimum timeframe. No cases were identified where students had to extend their enrolment or request visa extensions due to subject changes, although minor adjustments in subject order may occur.

3. Recent Protests on Campus:

The third question requested a briefing on recent campus protests. The DVC outlined that the university values freedom of expression and facilitates peaceful protests while balancing safety considerations. Security monitors the events, maintains a discrete presence, and has the ability to restrict access to buildings if necessary. Recent protests were allowed to proceed safely, demonstrating the university's commitment to both student expression and campus safety.

The UOW Student Pulse Executive Director clarified that the intention behind the question on protests was to understand how the university engages with feedback expressed through protest action, specifically how the university interprets and responds to the messages students are sending via large-scale demonstrations.

The DVC responded that the university considers feedback from protests similarly to other feedback mechanisms. While protests involve a substantial group of students, the university takes the messages seriously and considers that other students may share the same concerns. Each situation is assessed individually, and any resulting actions or changes are determined on a case-by-case basis.

The WUSA President welcomed the fact that the university facilitates and supports free speech, allowing students to raise concerns and protest actions without fear of suppression. They highlighted that, compared to responses at other universities, both in Australia and internationally, UOW provides a respectful platform for student expression, even if opinions and objectives differ.

PART 3: GENERAL BUSINESS

*3.2 *Update on the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence*

The Chair moved this item forward in the agenda and welcomed the Senior Manager, Safe and Respectful Communities to speak to this item.

Regarding SARC, they reported that disclosure rates remain high. Additional temporary staff, including two coordinators and a SARC triage officer, have been approved, which has assisted in managing workloads. However, approval to resume full service provision has not yet been granted, and certain standard services, such as accompanying students to police stations, court appearances, or medical appointments, remain restricted.

SARC is currently undergoing a complaints and SARC-specific change process, separate from the broader University transformation. Phase one of this process is scheduled to be released next week.

With respect to the National Code, it was passed by Parliament at the end of the previous month and will come into effect in the coming weeks, with compliance required by 1 January next year. The Project Lead, is supporting the development and implementation of the University's National Code plan for addressing gender-based violence. Consultation with students is a key requirement of the National Code, and opportunities for engagement will be provided both to this group and to the wider student body. Project teams have been established and meet weekly, and the consultation process has already commenced. The University welcomes feedback regarding gender-based violence and related service provision.

It was emphasised that while consultation undertaken this year will inform the initial plan and policy, the plan will remain a living document subject to ongoing review and continuous improvement. Consultation will continue into next year, with the intention of engaging a broad cross-section of students to ensure the plan reflects key topics of interest, current strengths, and areas for improvement

Questions from the floor

The UOW Pulse Student Director asked whether there has been any significant negative impact resulting from the restricted services that SARC is currently unable to provide.

The Senior Manager, Safe and Respectful Communities explained that supporting students is central to SARC's work. The restriction of certain services occurred during a period of limited staffing and high workloads, which affected staff capacity. The restricted services, such as assisting students to report to police, are considered core to students' healing and reporting processes. Without this support, students may choose not to report traumatic incidents. While these services are standard practice rather than best practice, they are essential for enabling students to access support and complete reporting processes. The team is exploring alternative ways to facilitate student reporting, such as arranging for police to attend campus when available, though this is limited by police availability.

The WUSA President asked for clarification regarding the restriction on taking students to the police station. He noted that, based on his understanding and feedback from undergraduate students, this

service is considered a mandatory component under the National Code. He expressed concern that any reduction in SARC services, particularly in the lead-up to the implementation of the National Code, could be problematic and requested a response on how this issue is being addressed.

The Senior Manager noted that the restriction on taking students to the police station was a temporary decision made by leadership to manage workloads at the time. With the addition of new staff, the team now has the capacity to resume this service. However, due to the ongoing review, they have been instructed to temporarily hold off on providing this support. In urgent cases, permission can be sought on a case-by-case basis. The Senior Manager emphasised that, at the conclusion of the transformation process, the intention is to reinstate these supports, as they are considered critical to students.

The EIS Postgraduate Representative noted that, particularly for students who belong to specific groups, such as those identifying with diverse genders or other minority groups, it may be more effective for consultations to involve facilitators who share that identity. This approach could make students feel more comfortable and encourage them to disclose information they might not otherwise share with someone outside their group.

The team confirmed that the consultations will take priority group segmentation into account. While time constraints over the next three months limit the extent of consultation, initial segmentation will be implemented with a strong focus on inclusion and diversity. This includes ensuring representation from LGBTQIA+ communities, culturally and linguistically diverse groups, and providing dedicated spaces for young men, young women, and other specific groups to share feedback. The team emphasised that creating safe and inclusive spaces for all students to provide input is a key priority.

The Student Residences Representative asked whether there might be scope, in relation to the National Code, to hold a dedicated consultation session specifically for students living in residences.

The Project Manager confirmed that accommodation is a significant consideration within the National Code. They explained that the Code's overarching purpose is to drive cultural change, not only within the university but across Australia more broadly. Universities, as institutions that educate future professionals such as doctors, nurses, and teachers, are seen as pivotal in promoting this national cultural change. The Project Manager emphasised that the university's goal is to implement the Code effectively and to a high standard.

It was at this point that the Chair passed all motions in the agenda while the meeting was still quorate.

ACTION: Explore the feasibility of an additional meeting to allow more in-depth discussion on consultation processes, including accommodations, ensure SAC feedback is considered in a timely manner, and invite SARC to speak at the next meeting.

The UOW Pulse Student Director suggested that the Council could formally express support for SARC by encouraging the university to review the restricted services during the transformation period, highlighting their importance to students, and ensuring student feedback is considered.

PART 2: COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2.2.2 SMAH Faculty Representatives Update

The Chair noted that in the interest of time, all reports were to be read only and all questions to be taken on notice.

The Pulse Student Director asked that the following question be taken on notice: *whether the postgraduate career issues identified in the SMAH Faculty report are unique to UOW, or whether they reflect broader trends within the SMAH area or postgraduate students more generally.*

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by the SMAH Faculty Representatives as set out in the agenda.

2.2.3 *Southern Highlands Campus Representative Update*

The Chair noted the report as read. The Southern Highlands campus representative provided brief updates on the transition to the Doctor of Medicine program, the launch event attendance, the merger of medical student societies, and use of the regional campus budget.

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by the Southern Highlands Campus Representative as set out in the agenda.

2.2.4 *Sutherland Campus Representative Update*

The Chair noted the report as read and invited the representative to provide additional information. The representative indicated that the report was sufficient and did not require further clarification.

The UOW Pulse Student Director provided a brief comment regarding the limited Pulse presence at some regional and metro campuses, noting that campus managers typically handle extracurricular activities. Pulse is willing to support and organise events but requires campus managers to engage with them.

The questions on notice were:

1. To be invited to events and activities on various campuses, as Pulse is keen to participate in all opportunities.
2. Suggestions for improving transparency around SSAF, beyond the information already available on the website.

ACTION: Add to the next Regional and Metropolitan Subcommittee agenda, discussion around improving SSAF transparency.

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by the Sutherland Campus Representative as set out in the agenda.

2.2.5 Woolyungah Indigenous Centre Representative Update

The Chair noted the report as read and invited the representative to provide additional information. The representative indicated that the report was sufficient and did not require further clarification.

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by the Woolyungah Indigenous Centre Representative as set out in the agenda.

2.2.6 BAL Faculty Representatives Update

The Chair invited the BAL Representatives to provide a verbal report in lieu of a written. With none of the BAL Representatives available to speak to this item. It was moved to the next meeting.

2.2.7 WUSA President Update

The Chair welcomed the Wollongong Undergraduate Student Association President to provide an update. The WUSA President provided a brief overview of their written report, highlighting the Association's recent activities both on and off campus. This included consultation with trade unions, engagement with the New South Wales and federal governments regarding the university's transformation, and the resulting NSW Senate inquiry into university governance. The President also noted the Association's ongoing advocacy on undergraduate students' concerns, including the university's ties to certain weapon companies. Representatives were invited to read the full report for further details.

The Student Director of UOW Pulse asked how the Student Advisory Council (SAC) can best support the Association's work, noting concerns raised by the Treasurer in a recent Tert Article and seeking guidance on the most effective ways for SAC to assist.

The WUSA President noted that the SAC can assist by advocating for greater transparency around SSAF, encouraging student-led organisations to apply for SSAF projects, and reinforcing the ongoing push for increased SSAF allocation, particularly in line with recent legislation aiming for 40 per cent of SSAF funding to support student-led organisations. This is acknowledged as a long-term effort rather than a quick fix.

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by the WUSA President as set out in the agenda.

2.2.7 *WUPA President Update*

The Chair invited the WUPA President to speak to this item. The WUPA President provided an update on the association's activities for the year. WUPA has focused on academic, professional, and community engagement, organising events that reached approximately 500 postgraduate students, including academic workshops, career development sessions, and social gatherings.

The association has expanded its impact by hosting events at the main and Innovation campuses and planning activities at the Sydney campus to strengthen cross-campus engagement. WUPA has also collaborated with the Postgraduate Association at the University of Sydney to build cross-university connections and promote wider engagement.

In the coming months, WUPA will continue initiatives to enhance student engagement and employability, including end-of-year gatherings, networking mixers, and ongoing services such as free printing. These efforts aim to foster a more inclusive, connected, and future-focused postgraduate community.

Question taken on notice – UOW Student Pulse Director:

Based on the recent SMAH Faculty Members' Report, is there an opportunity for WUPA to engage more with postgraduate students in that faculty, in light of the feedback provided in the report?

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by the WUPA President as set out in the agenda.

PART 3: GENERAL BUSINESS

3.3 *Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education Update*

This item was unstarred and taken on read. Please view the agenda item here - [Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education Update](#)

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council note the UOW's current approach to generative AI in education, aligned with TEQSA guidance and the AI Action Plan.

3.4 *Student Elections Briefing*

This item was unstarred and taken on read. Please review the agenda item here - [Student Elections Briefing](#)

RESOLVED:

That the Student Advisory Council note the update provided by the Student Experience Team on Student Elections as set out in the agenda.

PART 4: FINAL BUSINESS

*4.2 Other Business

The representative attended the recent EIS meeting and raised several issues. The Dean of Graduate Research, Simon Moss, responded positively, agreeing to allow students with mental health conditions to take leave as needed. The Dean also confirmed that scholarship notices would be reinstated in the newsletter, recurring mental health emails would resume, and consultations with postgraduate students would be re-established.

The Chair suggested **ACTION:** Connecting the EIS Faculty – Postgraduate to the Senior Manager, Current Student Communications to discuss recurring mental health emails.

4.3 Next Meeting

The Chair advised the next SAC meeting will be held on the 15th October 2025 at 11:30AM.

4.4 Rolling Agenda Schedule

- *Innovation Campus Representative Update*
- *Mature Age Representative Update*
- *Women's Representative Update*
- *Bega Campus Representative Update*
- *BAL Faculty Representatives Update*
- *SARC Change Update*
- *FED Handbook*
- *Endorsement of SSAF Submissions*

4.5 Closure of Meeting

The Chair thanked all members and closed the meeting at 3:30pm.

Signed as a true record:

Ella Young

Chair, Student Advisory Council

15/10/2025

