

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES – 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025

Minutes of the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Student Advisory Council to be held at 11:30AM on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025 in building 36 Council Room and via Webex.

**PRESENT:**

Alex Tegg	Acting Chair, UOW Pulse Student Director
Alana Khattar	Deputy Chair and Academic Senate – Undergraduate Representative
Shoyeb Ahmed	Academic Senate – International Onshore Representative
Muhammad Sarwar	Academic Senate – Postgraduate and BAL – International Representative
Connor Da Lapa-Soares	Academic Senate – Undergraduate Representative
Nakia Edgecock	Academic Senate – Undergraduate Representative
Nicholas Chiaverini	Academic Senate – Undergraduate Representative
Kyle Hewitt	Academic Senate and University Council – Postgraduate Representative
Hoang Anh Nguyen	ASSH – International Representative
Clare O’Toole	ASSH – Postgraduate Representative
Amity Lees	ASSH – Undergraduate Representative
Linh Pham	BAL – Undergraduate Representative
Tibee Leung	Clubs and Societies Representative
Liam Felli	Clubs and Societies <sup>4</sup> Representative
Fabian Ibro	EIS – Undergraduate Representative
Angeal Tobias	Innovation Campus Representative
Adrian Pittman	LGBTQI+ Representative
Jin Zhao	Mature Age Representative
Katherine Minns	Person with a Disability Representative
Roxanne Kelly	Shoalhaven Campus Representative
Shakeela Malik	SMAH – Postgraduate Representative
Aurora Ibro	SMAH – Undergraduate Representative
Ryan Lim	Southwestern Sydney (Liverpool) Campus Representative
Jessica Hewett	Student Residences Representative
Karan Golani	Sydney Business School Campus Representative
Blaine Caton	WIC Representative
Yang Di	WUPA President

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Prof. Mark Hoffman	Interim Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Student Life)
Joanne Braithwaite	Senior Manager, Complaints
Kellie Ridges	Director SASD and Acting Director DSL
Melissa Zaccagnini	Senior Manager, Student Experience and Projects
Lucinda Crossley Meates	Student Experience Project Manager
Courtney Grube	Student Representation Administration Assistant

**APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Ella Young	Chair and Women’s Representative
Emma Courtney Moses	SMAH – Undergraduate Representative
Matthew Brown	University Council – Undergraduate Representative
Bianca Dumbrell	Southern Sydney (Loftus) Campus
Hanzel-Jude Padro	WUSA President
Tess Botham Barnes	BAL – Postgraduate Representative
Madeline Staples	Southern Highlands Campus Representative
Mackenzie Dodd	Bega Campus Representative

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**PART 1: OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**\*1.1 Opening of Meeting**

**1.1 Introduction and Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting at 11:30AM 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 Academic Senate/University Council – Postgraduate 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**

Item 2.1.1 is confidential.

**1.3.3 Starring of Items**

The following items are starred for discussion:

- All Items in Parts 1, 2 and 4.
- Items 3.3 and 3.4 are unstarred.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> June 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	Connecting BAL Undergraduate Representative with Peer Learning Coaches	<b>SAC Executive</b>	<b>Complete</b>
17th April 2025	The SAC Executive will explore the feasibility of organising a student consultation session or town hall to increasing broader student engagement in the transformation process	<b>SAC Executive</b>	<b>In progress</b>

17th April 2025	SAC Executive to forward student concerns about the new Saudi Arabia campus to UOW Executive	<b>SAC Executive</b>	<b>Complete</b>
17th April 2025	SAC Executive to follow up with relevant university staff regarding changes to student representation on the Student Conduct Committee (SCC), including clarification of current arrangements and communication of any updates	<b>SAC Executive</b>	<b>Complete</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	The Chair to follow up with the Executive on the status of responses to submitted questions and explore options for publishing answers on the Transformation Q&A website to ensure transparent communication with the broader student body.	<b>SAC Executive</b>	<b>Complete</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	The Chair to facilitate a connection between the Clubs and Societies Representatives and the Liverpool Campus Representative via email, to support collaboration and communication regarding the development of clubs at the Liverpool campus.	<b>SAC Executive</b>	<b>Complete</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	The Regional and Metropolitan Campus Subcommittee to discuss the development of clubs at their respective campuses and provide feedback to Pulse to help inform future planning.	<b>SAC Executive team</b>	<b>Complete</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	The SAC Executive Team to explore reinstating workshops with IPD to address parking issues, including the Mount Ousley interchange, future parking options, feasibility of reintroducing carpool parking and SBS Parking	<b>SAC Executive Team</b>	<b>Complete</b>

**\*1.6 Chair’s Report**

The Acting Chair updated council on the following:

- Key contributions from the Transformation Workshop were shared with the UOW Executive.
- The SAC’s role as the primary student consultation channel has been formally acknowledged.
- Further discussions have taken place with the Director SASD/Acting Director DSL and the Interim DVC(A&SL) regarding the transformation process.
- The transformation of the complaints and SARC processes is ongoing, with SAC members contributing via a dedicated workshop.

### UOW Open Days & Campus Engagement

- SAC representatives attended the UOW Open Day at the Wollongong campus on 28 June.
  - Thank you to the Deputy Chair and Academic Senate - Undergraduate Representative, BAL - Postgraduate Representative, previous Academic Senate - Onshore International Representative, and Chair of SAC and Women's Representative for representing SAC.
- SAC was represented at the Liverpool Campus event.
- SAC also participated in the O-Week booth

### Graduations & Personal Milestones

- Congratulations to all SAC representatives, past and present, who graduated in July.

### SAC Representation at Events

- SAC members attended the “Depths of Excellence” lunch as UOW VIPs, celebrating the naming of the pool in honour of UOW’s most decorated Olympic medallist.
- Photos from the event are available on the SAC SharePoint.
- Recognition to the Person with a Disability Representative for attending the meeting with Debra Keenaham.

### Subcommittees & Surveys

- The SAF SAC Subcommittee has convened to discuss the second round of funding (to be addressed later in the meeting).
- Actions are underway from the SAC Regional and Metro Subcommittees.
- The SAC Activation Subcommittee is scheduling its first meeting for 2025.

### Student Surveys

- The Student Experience Survey is running from 29 July to 31 August.
  - All members are encouraged to participate and promote the survey.
- The National “Racism at University” Survey, led by the Race Discrimination Commissioner and supported by the Australian Human Rights Commission, commenced on 11 August.
  - Participation is highly encouraged.

### Student Voice Australasia & Elections

- UOW holds an institutional membership with Student Voice Australasia through the end of 2025.
  - A range of events will be promoted to students and staff
- Student elections and expressions of interest for representative roles are approaching.
  - Members are encouraged to consider nominating or supporting others to get involved.

**\*3.1 Revised Change Proposal – UOW Transformation Briefing**

The Chair moved this item forward in the agenda and invite the Interim DVC(A&SL) to speak to this agenda item. The DVC(A&SL) provided an update on the university’s wide-ranging transformation initiative aimed at reshaping how the institution operates to better meet current and future challenges. This transformation is guided by the university’s 2030 strategy, which emphasises serving the community, addressing global issues through research, promoting sustainability, preparing graduates for evolving career paths, and delivering personalised, future-proof education.

To achieve these goals, the university is revising its operating model and improving financial resilience, with a focus on adapting to the diverse needs of students and external changes. Key structural changes include the creation of an Office of the Provost, the establishment of three faculties, and a redefined Education portfolio.

The DVC highlighted key student priorities gathered through consultation, such as simplified and flexible curricula, consistency in academic experiences, a strong focus on employability, financial wellbeing support, and clear communication.

He also addressed ongoing efforts to strengthen respectful and safe campus communities, including compliance with government regulations around gender-based violence, academic integrity, and health and safety, all involving significant student input.

Finally, he noted the importance of student engagement in the transformation process, including the recent addition of an open feedback link for all students alongside established consultation channels.

**Questions from the floor**

*The Academic Senate Undergraduate Representative asked for clarification regarding a point in the presentation about student feedback, which connected student voice to the reduction of faculties. They noted this had not been reflected in their own discussions with students and requested further information on the source of this feedback.*

The DVC(A&SL) responded by clarifying that students did not explicitly request fewer faculties. Rather, frustration was expressed about inconsistencies across different units, which often arise when there are many separate organisational structures without overarching oversight. To balance discipline autonomy with consistency, the university has proposed a three-faculty structure. This aims to ensure consistent quality and communication across courses, providing students with a reliable and cohesive experience. The structure also supports diverse study options such as combined degrees and electives outside a student’s home school.

*The Academic Senate/University Council Postgraduate Representative requested clarification on how the new faculty structure would improve consistency in the student experience. They noted that the proposed LABSS faculty includes distinct disciplines such as education, business, and law, which have different course requirements and practices. They asked how grouping these diverse schools within a single faculty would effectively enhance student consistency without imposing artificial uniformity.*

The DVC(A&SL) acknowledged the challenge of balancing the grouping of diverse disciplines while maintaining their independence. He agreed that business, law, and education are distinct and important fields. However, the new faculty structure aims to create consistency in areas such as timetabling, scheduling, assessment timing, and the nature and presentation of assessments, particularly for students undertaking cross-degree studies. He also emphasised the importance of standardised training for teaching staff and tutors across all schools, which is currently inconsistent. While grouping business, law, and education together presents challenges, the proposed structure aligns with models successfully implemented in similar universities nationally and internationally.

*The Residences Representative asked how the new, larger LABSS faculty will function, noting that some schools, such as the proposed merger of the HSI School with Creative Arts, will become significantly larger. They expressed concern about ongoing challenges with degree support, particularly following recent subject cuts that have led to difficulties accessing course advice and planning. They queried how the restructuring will maintain or improve the current level of degree support for students.*

The DVC(A&SL) acknowledged the concern about the capacity for degree support, particularly during peak times and following recent subject cuts. He explained that the university recognises these challenges and is taking steps to address them. One key approach is distinguishing between academic-specific queries and broader study plan questions, with many of the latter being managed within the Student Life portfolio to improve consistency and responsiveness. He also noted that despite the restructuring and school mergers, the number of Heads of School remains largely unchanged, and that ongoing discussions may lead to adjustments in the number and composition of schools based on feedback.

*The Residences Representative asked about the relocation of the Academic Skills team to the Library, noting previous changes in academic support services that have caused confusion around peer support programs. They referenced recent mergers of Peer Learning Coaching with Student Success Mentors and Student Disability Support peers, which have struggled to effectively reach students. They inquired how moving these services to the Library would help improve continuity and communication with students, reducing the need to repeatedly reintroduce and clarify the programs each year.*

The DVC(A&SL) acknowledged the concerns raised about peer support programs and recognised the confusion caused by services being managed across different areas. He explained that the current restructuring aims to centralise these services in one location, improving accessibility and coordination. The implementation details are still being developed, with student consultation playing a key role to ensure the services effectively meet student needs.

*The Innovation Campus Representative asked about the faculty structure for courses, noting that most postgraduate students at Innovation Campus are from ANCORS (Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security). They referenced the previous briefing which indicated that the faculty structure for Innovation Campus courses is still under review and sought confirmation on this.*

The DVC(A&SL) confirmed recent engagement with ANCORS and acknowledged that while the faculty structure for ANCORS courses is under review, significant changes are not expected. He emphasised the importance of maintaining the quality of the postgraduate experience provided by ANCORS and stated that any review aims to support, rather than disrupt, ANCORS' unique mission and operations. No final

decisions have been made as the review is ongoing.

*The Sydney Business School (SBS) Representative asked whether the implementation of the new LABSS faculty will affect how the SBS operates. Specifically, they inquired if the current master's level business courses in SBS will change or if new courses might be introduced as part of the restructure.*

The DVC(A&SL) responded that the current implementation focuses on operational structures rather than course offerings. He clarified that no changes to the Sydney Business School's Master's level business courses or new course introductions are being addressed as part of this work at this time.

*The Academic Senate – Onshore International Representative raised concerns about limited subject options available to international students, which they said is affecting their ability to complete studies on time. They noted increased visa fees and questioned whether the university could offer more subjects each semester to alleviate scheduling constraints.*

The DVC(A&SL) acknowledged the importance of flexibility in course progression, recognising that students may wish to progress at different paces. He noted efforts to create more consistent course structures to support this flexibility, particularly for combined degrees. While accelerated options through non-standard teaching periods are not yet specifically addressed, the current operational changes aim to establish mechanisms to explore and support such possibilities.

*The Academic Senate/University Council Postgraduate Representative asked for further clarification on the proposed “simpler core structures” mentioned in the consultation outcomes. They noted that many students value flexibility in their courses to align with diverse employment goals, especially in broad fields like Medical and Health Sciences, and sought to understand what “simpler core structures” means in this context.*

The DVC(A&SL) explained that “simpler core structures” refers to making course frameworks easier for students to navigate, not reducing flexibility. The aim is to simplify the underlying course structure so students can more easily move between different subjects or study paths. Currently, complex or rigid structures can limit student options. The university is developing a clearer framework, known as the “8+8+8” model, which defines core, selective, and elective components consistently across degrees. While transitions between some courses can be challenging, this approach is designed to increase, rather than restrict, student choice and flexibility.

**RESOLVED:**

*That the Student Advisory Council note the briefing provided by the Interim Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Student Life) on Revised Change Proposal Briefing as set out in the agenda.*

**\*1.7 Membership Business**

The Chair reported on recent changes to the Student Advisory Council (SAC) membership, noting the departure of several representatives and the appointment of new members to casual representative roles.

The Council expressed its appreciation to the following outgoing members for their valuable contributions and service:

- Bakhat Rawat – SMAH International Representative
- Duc Kiet Nguyen (Ken) – BAL Undergraduate Representative
- Zweli Khoza – Sydney Business School Campus Representative
- Arman Hobhaydar – EIS Postgraduate Representative

The Chair formally welcomed the following students appointed to casual representative positions until the end of 2025:

- Shoyeb Ahmed – Academic Senate Onshore International Representative
- Linh Pham – BAL Undergraduate Representative
- Aurora Ibro – SMAH International Representative
- Shakeela Malik – SMAH Postgraduate Representative
- Karan Golani – Sydney Business School Campus Representative

The Chair further noted that Adrian Pittman, LGBTQI+ Representative, had concluded their term of service. Adrian's significant advocacy efforts and achievements in progressing student priorities at high-level university forums were acknowledged, and the Council extended its best wishes for their ongoing PhD studies.

The Chair advised that these membership changes have resulted in several vacancies across SAC subcommittees. Council members will shortly receive information regarding the nomination and voting process to fill these positions, to be coordinated by the SAC Executive Team.

The Chair also advised that Connor had withdrawn their resignation and will continue as a Council member.

### **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 Committee held its first large meeting to discuss the second round of Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) funding.

- Two appointments were confirmed to the SAC SSAF Subcommittee via EOI:
  - Undergraduate Representative
  - Metropolitan and Regional Campus Representative
- An election for the Academic Senate position will be conducted via email, with 3 nominees. The election will open for one week, with voting commencing upon distribution of the email this afternoon.
- In the second round of allocations, 32 project applications were considered, with 30 projects approved for funding. All funding allocations are scheduled to be expended by the end of this year.
- The Committee’s recommendations were forwarded to the DVC(A&SL), and 100% of recommendations were adopted, demonstrating the strength of student input in this process.
- Funding allocations from Round One were also fully adopted.
- Work is underway to review and refine the process for project consideration, with further updates to be presented at the next SAF Subcommittee meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

*That the Student Advisory Council notes the update by the SAC SSAF Subcommittee on recommendations for round 2 SSAF allocations 2025*

### 2.1.2 Activation Working Party

The Chair invited the Chair of the Activation Working Party to speak to this item.

- The first meeting of the Activation Working Party will be held shortly.
- The Working Party will focus on enhancing student engagement in the upcoming election, addressing the current lack of engagement among certain groups.
- Priorities include raising the profile of the group so that students are aware of who to approach, particularly in the context of ongoing transformation initiatives.
- Further updates will be provided following the initial meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

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

## \*2.2 Members Reports

### 2.2.1 Person with a Disability Representative Update

The Chair invited the Person with a Disability Representative to speak to this item.

The Representative reflected on their year-and-a-half tenure, describing it as a role of pride and purpose. They highlighted their work with students, staff, and the Access and Inclusion team to identify participation barriers, improve accessibility, and consult on sensory-considerate environments. A key outcome has been the development of accessible “Quiet” spaces.

They noted that the Building Eleven project is nearing completion and expressed anticipation for its finalisation. They also indicated that their term and their master's degree will conclude at the end of the year.

In discussing future priorities, the Representative emphasised the importance of continuing to improve accessibility across campus and expanding dedicated inclusive spaces so that inclusion is considered throughout the university environment.

The Chair asked whether there were any areas of priority the Representative would like the university to focus on going forward. The Representative stated that they hope accessibility across campus continues to improve. Once the current project is complete, it will be one of two spaces specifically designed for students with disabilities. They expressed a desire for similar accessible spaces to be more frequently included across campus, akin to parent rooms, so that inclusion becomes a consistent consideration throughout the wider university environment.

### **RESOLVED:**

*That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by the Person with a Disability as set out in the agenda.*

*At this point in the meeting, the Chair moved to pass all motions as they were written in the agenda while the meeting was quorate.*

### **2.2.2 University Council Representative Update**

The Chair invited the University Council/Academic Senate – Postgraduate Representative to speak to this item.

The Representative noted that they did not have much to report and observed that the University Council – Undergraduate Representative had included more detail in their report. They advised that one of the key issues raised by students is the impact of the university transformation, which has been identified as the most pressing concern affecting studies. Feedback from postgraduate students in particular indicated fatigue with the ongoing transformation process.

The Representative acknowledged that the University Council – Undergraduate Representative had highlighted student concerns regarding cost of living and limited parking on campus, which aligns with some of the feedback they had also received. Apart from these points, the Representative reported that there was little further to raise at this stage.

### **RESOLVED:**

*That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by the University Council/Academic Senate – Postgraduate Representative as set out in the agenda.*

### 2.2.3 Shoalhaven Campus Representative Update

The Chair invited the Shoalhaven Representative to speak to this item; the Representative was experiencing technical difficulties and could not present directly.

The Chair reported that the key issues highlighted by the Shoalhaven Representative in their report relate to equality for students studying at regional campuses. A student enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts at the Shoalhaven campus reported being unable to complete a full-time study load due to a limited number of subjects available on campus. This situation has extended the time required to complete the degree and caused frustration, particularly for students pursuing the bachelor's as a pathway to a Master of Teaching.

Shoalhaven students attending classes via Zoom, which are primarily delivered to Wollongong students, reported that the teaching space was not optimised for online delivery. Students also indicated that the content delivery did not adequately consider the online cohort and raised questions regarding the allocation of amenities fees, noting a lack of transparency or evidence of how fees support the Shoalhaven campus.

The Chair noted that further discussion is needed regarding subject delivery via Zoom and asked whether the Shoalhaven Representative had been able to raise these campus-specific issues with campus management. It was confirmed that some conversations have taken place, but ongoing follow-up is required. The Chair also inquired whether similar issues are being observed at other regional or metro campuses where learning is primarily delivered at Wollongong.

The Sydney Business School Representative responded regarding online class delivery. They explained that, at the Sydney campus, international students are generally expected to attend in person rather than online. While exceptions are sometimes allowed, there are scheduling conflicts because physical classes on Sydney campus often occur at the same time as the corresponding online class delivered from Wollongong. As a result, students who are unable to attend in person may miss the class, since the online session coincides with the Sydney campus class.

**ACTION:** Collect feedback from regional & metro campus representatives regarding issues related to online class delivery and report back to appropriate university bodies.

**RESOLVED:**

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

### 2.2.4 Liverpool Campus Representative Update

The Chair invited the Liverpool Campus Representative to speak to this item.

The Representative began by noting the recent Open Day at the Liverpool campus, which was a great success and provided an opportunity to connect with students and staff. They also acknowledged the

Student Advisory Council and Executive team for their support, noting the positive impact of displaying SAC representatives' posters on campus.

The Representative then raised a significant concern regarding the impact of the university transformation on the Liverpool campus. They reported that, while the campus is moving into a new building and introducing new courses, many management roles and staff positions have been disestablished. They expressed concern that the loss of experienced staff will negatively affect social events, student clubs, academic workshops, and initiatives such as the “Tea and Toast” morning activity, all of which have been well received by students.

The Representative emphasised that the status of staffing at Liverpool remains ambiguous. They stressed that as the campus grows and student numbers, the lack of management and staff support poses a serious challenge.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) responded, noting that the management structure for Liverpool and other regional campuses is currently under review, and that what was originally proposed is being reconsidered. They reassured the Representative that no student services at Liverpool have been disestablished, although there have been changes in reporting lines. The DVC(A&SL) emphasised that services are not changing, and that the University is conscious of maintaining them. They also commended the Liverpool Open Day, describing it as an impressive operation and highlighting the importance of building community on the campus.

### **RESOLVED:**

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

### **2.2.5 LGBTQI+ Representative Update**

The Chair invited the LGBTQI+ Representative to speak to this item.

The Representative reported that students they represent have expressed significant concerns regarding the new Saudi Arabia campus, particularly the lack of representation in decision-making. Students feel they are only able to react to decisions after they have been made, rather than being involved in the planning process. There were specific concerns about potential risks to LGBTQI+ staff and students at the campus, and questions about what supports will be provided. The Representative emphasised the importance of involving students and staff in consultation and communicating decisions clearly.

In discussion of potential action items, the Chair asked what initiatives the Representative would like to see going forward, including the creation of a student information page and improved communication. The Representative highlighted the value of maintaining an up-to-date website to support LGBTQI+ students and staff, noting that previous efforts had stalled due to concerns raised around the Saudi Arabia campus. They suggested that the next person in the role should continue this work, as the lack of representation and consultation affects multiple aspects of their advocacy.

**ACTION:** LGBTQI+ Representative request the establishment of a website for LGBTQI+ representation and information as an ongoing action item, noting changing leadership of networks has not allowed for stability to move this matter forward.

**RESOLVED:**

*That the Student Advisory Council notes the update provided by the LGBTQI+ Representative as set out in the agenda.*

### 2.2.6 Residences Representative Update

The Chair invited the Residences Representative to speak to this item.

The Representative reported that their main priority before their term concludes at the end of the year is ensuring the Project Period initiative is implemented consistently across all residences. They noted that while the goal is to establish a quarterly system, there have been differing views on how it should be facilitated compared with the current approach at Campus East. The Representative expressed disagreement with proposed changes, explaining that concerns about potential overuse of period product dispensers are unfounded, as the machines are programmed to dispense only two products within a set timeframe.

The Representative also raised concerns regarding the updated guest policy. While the policy changes are primarily a shift in platform rather than structure, they flagged issues around privacy and transparency in the collection and maintenance of guest information. The Representative advised that they are continuing to investigate this matter independently within residences.

The Chair asked how the SAC could provide support for the Representative's objectives. The Representative suggested improving visibility of clubs within residences and creating stronger links between student life on campus and in residences. They indicated that support could include informal planning meetings, such as coffee catchups, to develop strategies for greater connectivity.

The Chair noted a potential action item to facilitate further conversation with Pulse and Clubs and Societies to progress these initiatives. The Chair also highlighted that period products at Innovation Campus could be addressed with the Women's Representative and relevant SAC members, with the Residences Representative expressing interest in being involved.

The Senior Manager of Student Experience and Projects advised that the Representative could liaise with the Associate Directors to discuss the Guest Policy. The Representative confirmed that they had previously spoken to a manager but missed the cutoff for earlier all-residences meetings and agreed that this could be included as an actionable SAC item to track and report progress.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**PART 3: GENERAL BUSINESS**

**\*3.2 Student Conduct Committee Update**

The Chair invited the Residences Representative to provide an overview of the item, which had been raised in a previous meeting.

The Residences Representative explained that earlier this year, a Student Conduct Committee (SCC) position for students had been advertised to SAC members. They applied and were appointed to the role, with the understanding that the position would focus primarily on matters of general student misconduct rather than academic misconduct. During their tenure, they attended a meeting on academic misconduct while fulfilling their SCC role and noted that a review was underway to assess whether the student member position was necessary. They expressed concern that the decision to discontinue the student member role had not been communicated through SAC as part of student consultation.

The Chair then invited the Interim Chief Integrity Officer, whose substantive position is Senior Manager of the Complaints Management Centre, to speak to the item.

The Officer acknowledged the concerns raised by the Residences Representative and recapped that there had been extensive discussion and informal feedback prior to the policy change to remove the student member position from the Student Conduct Committee (SCC). They clarified that the primary role of the SCC is to impartially investigate and assess breaches of policy, procedure, and conduct rules, rather than to act as an advocate or voice for students. The Officer emphasised that the committee's focus is on applying policy independently, not representing student interests.

They explained that a key factor in removing the student position was the varying levels of expertise required for different matters, particularly cases involving gender-based violence and other sensitive sexual harm matters. The Officer noted that placing students in these roles could risk their safety and wellbeing, as the content of SCC meetings is highly sensitive and traumatic. They also highlighted that the proposed national code for the prevention of gender-based violence in higher education reinforces the need for decision-makers and investigators to have appropriate training and expertise, which students may not have.

The Officer clarified that consultation on the policy change did occur, including posting the proposed change for feedback and directly contacting key stakeholders such as the Chair of Academic Senate. They stressed that the removal of the student position was not intended to exclude students from providing feedback but reflected the independent and technical nature of the SCC role. The Officer confirmed that responsibilities for representing student perspectives on misconduct matters are better placed with experienced and trained staff.

Finally, the Officer noted that further information regarding consultation with SAC or other student bodies could be provided and confirmed that the student member position had been discontinued as part of the policy change.

The Residences Representative acknowledged that they understood the SCC role was not intended to be an advocacy position but expressed concern that the policy change had not been consulted with the broader student community or student representatives beforehand. The Officer acknowledged this point and took it on notice for consideration in future policy and procedure reviews.

**RESOLVED:**

*That the Student Advisory Council note the verbal update provided by the Interim Chief Integrity Officer as set out in the agenda.*

**\*3.3 Commonwealth Prac Payment - Overview**

The Chair noted that this item on the Commonwealth Prac Payment was for noting only but invited questions and comments. The DVC(A&SL) requested that the SAC provide feedback on how the payment is working for the targeted students. The Person with a Disability Representative highlighted that, as a Psychology student, they do not receive this payment because it is only available to specific degrees and not all students undertaking placements. They suggested that this feedback be passed to the University, should there be interest in expanding eligibility.

**RESOLVED:**

*That the Student Advisory Council note the report provided by the Senior Manager, Operational Compliance.*

**\*3.4 Learning Analytics Policy Review**

The Chair noted that the item on the Learning Analytics Policy Review was for noting only but invited questions and comments. The Undergraduate Representative observed that the paper encouraged feedback and asked when and how this could be provided. The Chair confirmed that feedback is currently open and advised that the contact details for the Senior Data Culture & Engagement Specialist would be shared with SAC Members for direct submission of feedback.

**RESOLVED:**

*That the Student Advisory Council note the proposed rescission of the Learning Analytics Data Use Policy and Guidelines for Actioning Learning Analytics Insights, and the associated communication and implementation plan, which will be further developed once the university restructure has been finalised.*

## PART 4: FINAL BUSINESS

### 4.1 *Questions on Notice*

There were no questions on notice.

### \*4.2 *Other Business*

The Chair raised several matters:

- **Graduation:** The Chair asked for an update on graduation considering student feedback regarding the 2024 ceremonies, noting concerns about there being only one ceremony. The DVC(A&SL) advised that the matter would be taken on notice as the feedback had not yet been reviewed.
- **AskUOW Service Times:** The Chair noted student concerns about delays in AskUOW response times, particularly at the beginning of each session, and requested further information on student complaints and mitigation strategies. The DVC(A&SL) acknowledged that current response times during peak periods were not acceptable and advised that improvements were being considered as part of the University's transformation process. He noted that course complexity and feedback mechanisms contributed to the issue but confirmed that performance needed to improve. The Chair requested that a further briefing be provided.
- **Student Protests:** The Chair sought an update on the University's processes for handling student protests, noting WUSA's role in supporting and arranging protest actions and the high level of student interest in this area. The DVC(A&SL) advised that the matter would be taken on notice, given it is a live issue, and that a briefing would be provided at a future meeting, including input from the WUSA President.
- **Parking:** The Chair reported that the University is undertaking feasibility studies regarding parking. Due to ongoing construction, 120 parking spaces will be permanently lost. The University is exploring options to relocate or improve parking and is also reviewing the location and feasibility of disability parking spaces to ensure better positioning. Further meetings involving the Chair, University Council – Undergraduate Representative, and IPD are scheduled, with updates to be provided to the Council following those discussions. The Person with a Disability Representative raised concerns that during construction works, disability parking spaces are often used for storing materials or by construction vehicles, reducing their availability. The Chair agreed this was a valid concern and proposed that it be raised at the next IPD meeting regarding parking and construction impacts.

**ACTION:** Chair to raise at the next IPD meeting the issue of disability parking spaces being used for construction purposes.

The Sydney Business School Representative asked about the process for establishing clubs and societies on metro campuses. They noted that while they are trying to create a club for the Sydney campus, they have been advised that this is not permitted and that they cannot set up a bank account outside of the main

campus. The Chair proposed, as an action item, to arrange a meeting with the clubs and societies representatives to clarify the requirements for establishing clubs on regional and metro campuses and invited interest from other representatives to participate.

**ACTION:** UOW Pulse Student Director to arrange a meeting with Clubs & Societies representatives, and interested regional/metro campus representatives, to clarify the requirements and processes for establishing clubs and societies on regional and metro campuses.

The Clubs and Societies Representative responded to the Sydney Business School Representative, noting that there is flexibility and willingness to establish more clubs and societies across regional campuses. They advised that resources are available and encouraged interested representatives to join the ongoing discussions. The Representative offered to follow up after the meeting and invited others to contact them via email to assist in progressing these conversations. The Chair highlighted that the Student Engagement - Student Experience Manager from Pulse has been invited to the next Regional And Metro Subcommittee meeting to address this.

The Innovation Campus Representative highlighted concerns regarding the lack of dedicated study spaces for postgraduate students, noting that many live in shared accommodation without access to quiet study areas. They reported that the Infrastructure and Property Division advised that the ‘Smart Space’ is not freely available, and that students are expected to share tables and chairs located outside offices with other tenants. The Representative asked which University office students should contact to request access to suitable study space at the Innovation Campus. The Senior Manager, Student Experience and Projects acknowledged the concern and advised that the matter would be taken on notice. Given the unique arrangements at the Innovation Campus, the appropriate contact will be identified, and information regarding the requested student study space will be brought back to the Council.

**ACTION:** Student Experience team to work with iC representative to identify contacts to discuss student spaces at IC

### 4.3 *Next Meeting*

The Chair advised the next SAC meeting will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 at 11:30AM.


### 4.4 *Rolling Agenda Schedule*

- SMAH Faculty Representatives Update
- Southern Highlands Campus Representative Update
- Sutherland Representative Campus Update
- WIC Representative Update
- BAL Faculty Representatives Update
- WUPA President Update
- WUSA President Update

### 4.5 *Closure of Meeting*

The Chair thanked all members and closed the meeting at 1:30pm.

Signed as a true record:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ella Young', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

Ella Young

Chair, Student Advisory Council

17/09/2025