

Adelaide University Council Meeting – Summary

Date: 12 May 2026

The Adelaide University Council met on 12 May 2026 to consider key issues relating to the University's operations, financial position, student recruitment and longer-term priorities.

Cyber incident and system resilience

Council was briefed on the recent global cyber incident affecting the Canvas learning management system. Although the incident did not originate within the University, Adelaide University data was affected as part of a broader event impacting thousands of institutions. Access to Canvas was safely restored on 11 May.

Council discussed the University's response, including communication with staff and students, system recovery, and engagement with insurers, with the response considered largely effective.

A detailed post-incident report will be provided to Council, along with further work on preparedness for future incidents.

Strategy and sector environment

Council received an update from the Vice Chancellor on the University's strategic priorities, operational progress and external environment. This included sector-wide policy developments and confirmation of the University's first Mission-Based Compact with the Commonwealth Government for 2026.

Council continues to monitor broader changes in the higher education sector and their implications for the University.

Students and enrolment performance

Council discussed student enrolment trends, with a particular focus on international students. It was noted that enrolment trends continue to reflect a range of external factors, including visa policy settings, cost-of-living pressures and changing global conditions

Underlying demand remains evident, with prospective students taking longer to make decisions in the current environment. The University is responding with targeted actions to support application processing, engagement with prospective students and program competitiveness. Council also considered a review of the Semester 1 enrolment period, noting work underway to strengthen systems, processes and the student experience ahead of future enrolment periods.

Governance, audit and compliance

Council considered a range of governance and compliance matters, including:

- approval of the 2025 Financial Statements and Modern Slavery Statement
- reports from Council committees, including Audit and Risk
- a review confirming that the transition from program-based structures to business-as-usual operations is progressing appropriately, with further improvements identified in coordination and performance monitoring

Council also approved:

- a new Election Policy and Procedure
- updates to the Freedom of Information Procedure

Other matters

Council also:

- noted new quarterly reporting on gender-based violence incidents
- endorsed the consultation approach for the 2027 Student Services and Amenities Fee
- received updates on media engagement, college structures and student engagement initiatives

This summary is published to support transparency and community understanding of Council's deliberations and decisions. Confidential matters considered by Council are excluded.