

Adelaide University Council Meeting – Summary of the meeting held on Tuesday, 4 August 2026

Vice Chancellor's Report

In addition to providing an update on the University's priorities, operational progress and the external environment, the Vice Chancellor reported on activities and the University's achievements including:

- The Vice Chancellor's inaugural Adelaide University Address, held in Elder Hall and live streamed, in which she shared her reflections on the University's first six months of operation and how it will evolve into the future;
- The Annual Presidents' Meeting of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities, held from 21 to 23 June 2026 in Hong Kong, of which Adelaide University has been made a member. During the visit, the Vice Chancellor met with Adelaide University's Hong Kong Alumni Chapter, along with other partner institutions;
- The recent launch of the Jacaranda Circle which brought together important members of the University's community who have either confirmed or advised that they are considering bequeathing a gift to the University in their wills;
- The launch and official signing of the *South Australian Aboriginal Health Research Accord 2026-2028*. The Accord's Principles are: *Aboriginal Priorities, Aboriginal Leadership and Involvement, Equitable Partnerships, Communication, Reciprocal Benefit, Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property, Knowledge Transition, and Invest in Aboriginal Researchers*;
- From 27 May to 3 June 2026, the University marked its first National Reconciliation Week as a unified institution through a series of events and activities aligned to the national theme, *All In*;
- Recent ranking results – Council noted that Adelaide University has moved up three places, reaching 79th position, in the 2026 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings;
- Adelaide University's Draft *2027 Mission Based Compact*, which was submitted to the Commonwealth Government on 12 June 2026;
- Adelaide University's inaugural Enterprise Agreement – the Voting Period took place from 21 July to 27 July 2026,
- The National Health and Medical Research Council's Partnership Projects Scheme outcomes with Professor Carol Maher, School of Allied Health and Human Performance, being awarded \$1.5M in funding;
- The launch of the new Library Study Hub and Yarning Circle as part of the \$10M transformation of Level 2 of the Sir Eric Neale Library at the Mawson Lakes Campus;

- Adelaide University's Library has been awarded the *2026 Outstanding Library Team Award* from the Council of Australasian University Librarians for its work in establishing the new combined library while simultaneously maintaining full business-as-usual services to students, staff, alumni and members of the community; and
- The Vice Chancellor's community outreach and communication initiatives including the new *AU in Conversation* podcasts and the video update series for all staff.

Strategic and Operational Items

Council received reports and /or presentations covering:

- Developments in the higher education sector and the work being undertaken by the University in relation to the Higher Education Standards Framework Amendment (Threshold Standards);
- The College of Education, Behavioural and Social Sciences, as part of Council's regular cycle of reporting;
- First Nations Student Profile 2021-2026, to provide historical context and identify trends in participation, access and profile;
- The status of the Semester 2 Enrolment Program and an update which explained how enrolment has been made simpler, clearer and faster for students;
- The development of the University's definition of Anti-Semitism; and
- The work undertaken to date to integrate the commercialisation activities of the foundation universities and the development of a proposed future operating model for AU Ventures.

Reports from Council Committees

Council received reports from the:

- People, Culture and University Community Safety Committee, which included the People and Culture Portfolio report, an Enterprise Bargaining update, Quality and Compliance Internal Audit Report, Gender Based Violence Quarterly Report, and the Wellbeing and Safety Quarterly Report;
- Special Degrees and Honorary Awards Committee;
- Transitional Academic Board; and the
- Returning Officer on the election of staff members to the Academic Board.

Legal, Compliance, Regulation and Governance

Council resolved to *approve* the:

- Re-payment of duplicate 2026 grant funding received by Adelaide University from the Australian Research Council for research projects that were transferred from the foundation universities to Adelaide University;
- Matters and materials for the forthcoming staff and student elections and the appointment of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander member of staff to Council;
- Conferral and Graduation Ceremony Policy;
- Recission of Award; and
- Conferral of Awards.

Other matters

- Council expressed its condolences on the passing of former foundation university staff member the esteemed Professor Peter Buckskin AM PSM, a proud Narungga man from Guuranda and one of Australia's most influential education leaders. Professor Buckskin's work shaped communities, policies, and institutions, and advanced the rights and educational outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- Council expressed its appreciation to Professor Steve Larkin, outgoing Deputy Vice Chancellor – First Nations, for his leadership and unwavering commitment to First Nations advancement, the pivotal role he played in shaping the new Adelaide University and in developing a progressive and ambitious vision for how the University engages with and supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities.
- Council welcomed the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor – First Nations, Professor Tina Brodie.

Matters considered by Council at a confidential session are excluded from the above report.