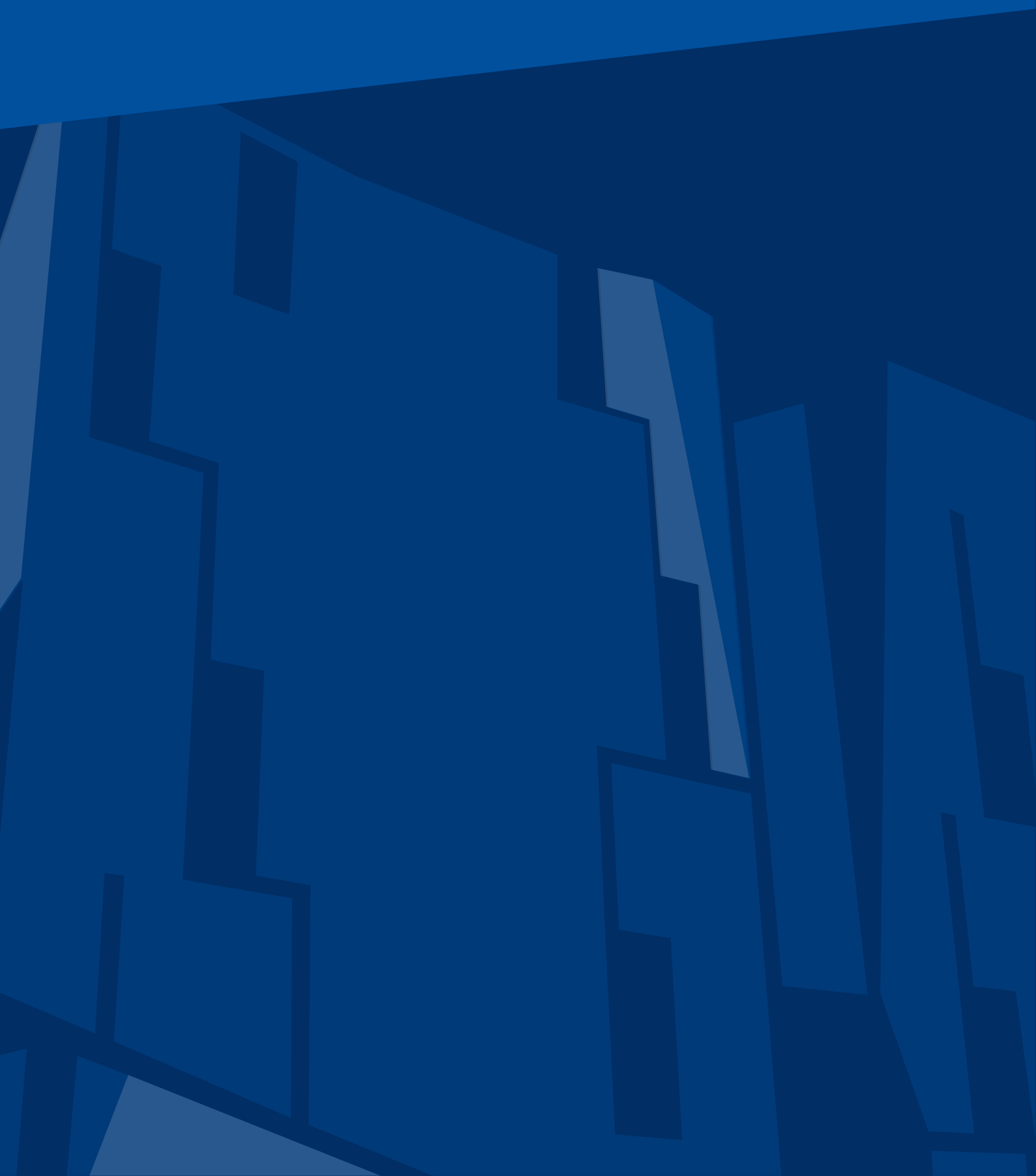
University of South Australia

Governance and Operations Structures



Corporate Governance

University Council	The University Council is the principal governing body of the University with powers including: • overseeing the management of and development of the University • approving strategic plans and major policies, devising or approving statutes and by-laws for the University • monitoring and reviewing the operation of the University • appointing, and overseeing the performance of the Vice Chancellor • responsibility for good governance • bestowing honorary awards. Council has delegated authority to the Committees of Council to provide advice and assist in good governance of the Institution, and has also delegated decision making in certain circumstances. **The Committees of Council are:** **• Audit, Finance & Risk Committee** **• Governance & Nominations Committee** **• Urgent Business Committee** **• Senior Remuneration Committee** **• Student Appeals Committee** **• Academic Board**	*University-Council*
Audit, Finance & Risk Committee	Assists Council fulfil its governance and oversight responsibilities by providing advice and recommendations relating to the integrity of financial accounting practices and reporting, internal control framework and internal audit, and the University's financial performance.	*audit-finance-and-risk-committee*
Governance and Nominations Committee	Provides advice to Council on its governance structures and processes, including recommendations on the recruitment and selection of Council and Committee members, and Honorary Awards.	*governance-and-nominations-committee*
Urgent Business Committee	Has delegated responsibility to carry out the powers and functions of Council when there is a delay in matters to be considered by Council or when it is not sitting.	*urgent-business-committee*
Senior Remuneration Committee	Has delegated authority from Council to determine the employment terms and conditions for the Vice Chancellor, remuneration ranges for senior staff and the corporate component of performance pay for senior managers.	*senior-remuneration-committee*
Student Appeals Committee	Considers and determines appeals from students lodged in accordance with the University's academic and research higher degrees policies and procedures, in addition to appeals relating to decisions of a Student Misconduct Committee. The Student Appeals Committee is the final avenue of appeal within the University.	*student-appeals-committee*

Academic Governance

Academic Board	Academic Board is responsible for advising Council in relation to the development, implementation and review of University strategies in teaching, learning, research and research training. Academic Board may delegate certain of its functions to its sub-committees or working parties. **The Standing sub-committees under Academic Board are:** • **Academic Unit Boards** • **Academic Strategy, Standards & Quality Committee** • **Research Leadership Committee**	*academic-board*
Academic Unit Boards	Sub-committees of Academic Board with responsibility for assisting the Executive Dean and Academic Unit Executive to develop, implement and review strategic initiatives in teaching, learning, research and research training of the Academic Units that align with and contribute to the achievement of the University's strategic plan.	*academic-unit-boards*
Academic Strategy, Standards & Quality Committee	Recommends to Academic Board approval of new coursework programs and amendments to existing coursework programs at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, establishes expert review panels to assist with the conduct of business, carries out the development and review of quality assurance and improvement policies in relation to undergraduate and postgraduate coursework programs and fosters course and program development within the strategic directions of the University.	*academic-strategy-standards-and-quality-committee*
Research Leadership Committee	Provides research leadership to the University community and advice to the Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research & Enterprise and Enterprise Leadership Team on major issues relevant to research.	*research-leadership-committee*
Research Degrees Committee	A sub-committee of Research Leadership Committee with delegated authority in matters relating to the research education and training strategy, and management and administration of research degrees. Includes responsibility for making decisions on each candidate's completion of all requirements for the award of a research degree, and for recommending to University Council that the degree be awarded.	*research-degrees-committee*

Operational Management

Enterprise Leadership Team	Standing advisory group to the Vice Chancellor supporting the effective operation, management and strategic direction of the University. ELT considers both strategy and operations and retains overall oversight of university performance. ELT's key considerations are revenue generation; profitability; budget allocation; student load & load planning; policy; staff, staff profile & staff planning; wellbeing & OHS; major projects; computer intelligence; risk & quality assurance; performance; partnerships and engagement; internationalisation; measures of success; and cascading KPIs. Strategy sessions focus on curriculum; teaching and learning; research; philanthropy; micro credentials; rankings; facilities; student experience; academic services; enterprise partnerships; alumni; and retention.	*Governance-and-management-structure*
Executive Deans Forum	An informal forum for Executive Deans to discuss University strategic initiatives, share Academic Unit updates, and discuss issues and priorities related to curriculum innovation and quality, academic delivery, policy and governance.	Chair: Provost & Chief Academic Officer Executive Officer: Project Officer to the Provost
Deans of Programs Forum	An informal forum for the Deans of Programs to discuss matters pertaining to teaching and learning strategic initiatives, responses to national higher education policy and funding, academic policies, program and course offerings, quality assurance, assessment and more.	Chair: Provost & Chief Academic Officer Executive Officer: Executive Assistant to the Provost
Deans of Research Roundtable	An informal meeting to set and oversee the research and enterprise agenda for the University, including information exchange on research trends, consideration of strategic and operational issues and opportunities, national and domestic policy updates and development, and professional development.	Chair: Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research & Enterprise Executive Officer: Portfolio Manager: Research & Enterprise
University Safety and Wellbeing Committee	A committee to facilitate effective consultation on the development, implementation and review of strategic initiatives, systems and processes to eliminate or mitigate risk and promote continuous improvement in the management of safety and wellbeing. The committee is committed to supporting *Enterprise25's* vision to provide a culturally and physically safe environment for the University community and to the wellbeing and growth of the University's people, individually and collectively.	*University Safety and Wellbeing Committee* Chair: Executive Director: People, Talent & Culture Executive Officer: Associate Director: Wellbeing & Employee Benefits
Yaitya Warra-itya	A senior governance, leadership and evaluation group that brings a strategic and whole-of-university approach to matters of Aboriginal business across the University. Yaitya Warra-itya means 'Aboriginal voices' in the language of the Kaurna People.	Chair: Pro Vice Chancellor: Aboriginal Leadership & Strategy Executive Officer: Executive Officer to the PVC: ALS
Aboriginal Employment Working Group	A working group that advises UniSA on strategies and approaches to increasing recruitment and participation of Aboriginal peoples in the University's workforce, it provides specific advice and feedback to the People, Talent & Culture unit on the effectiveness and further development strategies to improve the recruitment, development and career progression of Aboriginal peoples into and within the University's workforce. The AEWG reports to Yaitya Warra-itya on the effectiveness of implementation and continuing development of UniSA's Aboriginal Employment Action Plan.	*Aboriginal Employment Working Group* * Currently under review
Indigenous Student Success Program Governance Group	A senior governance and evaluation group that brings a strategic approach to supporting and enabling the success of Aboriginal students across the University.	Chair: Pro Vice Chancellor: Aboriginal Leadership & Strategy Executive Officer: Executive Officer to the PVC: ALS

International Strategy Group	A high-level reference group to prioritise, coordinate, evaluate, approve and review any significant activity pertaining to the University's international presence. The group takes a holistic approach to ensure all future and current international activity is aligned from a whole-of-institution viewpoint. It is responsible for assisting the Enterprise Leadership Team in performing its functions with respect to the University's international agenda.	Chair: Pro Vice Chancellor: International Executive Officer: Manager: International Relations
Academic Services Working Group	A working group that enables the development and improvement of integrated services across the University, develops and evaluates innovative solutions to strategic issues, and fosters collaboration between Academic Units and Central Units to improve the student experience from 'future student' through to alumni status.	Chair: Chief Academic Services Officer Executive Officer: Executive Officer, Student Engagement & Equity
Advancement Strategy Group	The Advancement Strategy Group (ASG) is a high-level reference group established to consult widely, review, and evaluate any significant activity relating to University Advancement operations and governance. The group facilitates a whole of institution approach to ensure all future and current alumni relations and philanthropic activity aligns with UniSA's mission, values, and goals. The ASG is responsible for assisting the University to deliver an ethical, efficient, and effective alumni and philanthropic program.	Chair: Chief Advancement Officer Executive Officer: Project Manager (Advancement -Major Gifts)
Preclusion Appeals Committee	Considers student appeals against preclusion from a program in accordance with the University's Assessment Policies and Procedures Manual. A student cannot submit an appeal directly to the Student Appeals Committee without their case first being heard by the central Preclusion Appeals Committee.	*assessment-policies*
Sexual Assault & Sexual Harassment Steering Group	A senior leadership group established to oversee the implementation of recommendations made in the 'Change the Course', the Australian Human Rights Commission's National Report on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment at Australian Universities (2017).	Co-Chairs: Pro Vice Chancellor: Student Engagement & Equity, and Executive Director: People, Talent & Culture

Academic Unit Groups

Academic Unit Groups	Each of the seven Academic Units has a number of groups in place to support the governance, operations and management of the Academic Unit to meet the University's strategic plan. **These include (but are not limited to) the following groups*.** • **Executive Group** • **Teaching & Learning Strategy Group** • **Research Group – Strategy, Leadership, Management, Education** • **Safety & Wellbeing Group – Strategy, Operations, Management** • **Advisory Groups** * Nomenclature may differ for each Academic Unit.	Executive Officer: Academic Unit *about-unisa/academic-units*
Executive Groups	Provides advice and support to the Executive Dean in the management and development of the Academic Unit.	
Teaching & Learning Strategy Groups	Leads the Academic Unit's teaching and learning strategic initiatives, evaluates and enhances the quality and standards of academic programs, and supports the development of new, and modification of, programs and courses. The Teaching & Learning Strategy Group reports to the Academic Unit Board.	
Research Groups	Responsible for providing research leadership and strategic advice on research matters to the Academic Unit's leadership team; fosters an enterprising research culture; promotes and supports research and research training to staff; and oversees the research education, training strategy, governance and administration of higher degrees by research within the Academic Unit.	
Safety & Wellbeing Groups	Responsible for overseeing the implementation of key components of the University's Safety Management System (SMS) as they apply to the Academic Unit, ensuring that they are implemented, reviewed and monitored effectively.	
Advisory Groups	Committees of senior external representatives from relevant industry, professional bodies, program and research partners, and senior UniSA staff with expertise relevant to areas of specialisations who provide high level advice and guidance.	

University of
South Australia

January 2024