



GSA Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 27th November 2024

4:00pm – 7:00pm

Room 198-L1-102 | Zoom

Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we meet and work on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to the Elders, past and present and recognize the strength, resilience and capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait people in this land.

Chair	Ethan Chou (President)	
Board Members in attendance	Jesse Gardner-Russell (General Secretary) Yingchen Zhao (Treasurer) Junyi (Johnny) Zheng (Vice President) Amin Abedini Bolor Jamiyandagva Deli Zhou Yutong Cheng	
Staff Members in attendance	Sajal Goundar (CEO) Kelvin Hoang (Manager, Business Operations & Finance) Kavisha Garg (Governance & Executive Officer, Minute Taker)	
Apologies	None	
	1 – FORMAL MATTERS 1a. Welcome & Acknowledgment The President opened meeting at 4:13pm with an Acknowledgement of Country and a welcome to all members. 1b. Attendance Attendance included all members, with the General Secretary joining at a later time. The quorum was achieved. 1c. Declarations of Interest No declarations were made. 1d. Minutes & Follow-up log actions Motion: The minutes of the GSA Board meeting held on 30 th October 2024 be accepted with no amendments. Moved: Ethan Chou (President) Seconded: Amin Abedini All in favour with no one abstaining and no one against. Motion carries. 1e. Other Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular resolutions for ratification: No circular motions. 1f. Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera. All in favour with no one abstaining and no one against. Motion carries.	Presenter, Time allocated President 10 min

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<p>2 – BOARD REPORTING</p> <p>2a. President’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposal regarding the graduate position at the University Council has been sent to the University Secretary. A follow-up will be made with Secretary to confirm acknowledgment of receipt. ▪ Met with Deborah Thomas & Jon Peacock to discuss the progress made on the East Wing Student Lounge. ▪ The Respect Action Plan 2025–2027 has been endorsed. Advocated on creating a safe space for regional campuses, as the plan currently focuses on Parkville campus. ▪ A presentation was made to the University Executive to provide updates on GSA’s achievements, address issues raised in the 2023 survey, and preview upcoming initiatives. The presentation was positively received. <p>2b. General Secretary’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Held a productive meeting with the Director of MU Sport to discuss potential collaborations for the upcoming year. ▪ Met with the UMSU Clubs Bearer to gain insight into the direction of their Clubs & Societies department, including recent regulatory changes. ▪ Collaborated with the GSA Research Officer on the Flexi Space initiative, assisting in drafting documents and gaining support from the MDHS faculty. ▪ Plans to reach out to grad groups and staff for consultations on the grad group policy improvement landscape. <p>2c. Vice-President’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The FC meetings are scheduled for the first week of February, and the final meeting before the nominations close next year. ▪ The Canteen Project is set to be finalized before Semester 1 2025 orientation. The initiative will offer meals and food items priced at \$5 or less to students, addressing cost-of-living concerns. ▪ Will attend the Special Consideration Review Technology Working with the Disability Officer to optimize the special consideration process. <p>2d. Treasurer’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shared the Governance Board Competency Framework and Skills Assessment to identify gaps and conduct a broader evaluation of how the Board can sustain and achieve its objectives. ▪ The Electoral Regulations Review Working Group has finalized amendments for the Electoral Regulations, which have been tabled for Board approval. <p>2e. Bolor Jamiyandagva’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attended the TEQSA Conference alongside Policy & Advocacy staff to gain insights into the use of AI at universities. ▪ Participated in the final FRAC meeting and the last Strategic Plan Working Group meeting. ▪ Met with Yutong Cheng and discussed the handover of TALQAC and APC. 	<p>Board Members 30 min</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparing Board handover documents before concluding the role next month. ▪ Expressed gratitude to the Board and staff, reflecting on the honour of representing graduate students at the University of Melbourne and contributing to their experiences over the past two years. ▪ The President thanked Bolor for her contributions, wishing her success in their future endeavours. <p>2f. Amin Abedini’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attended the CAPA ACM and provided updates to the Board on affiliation matters. <p>2g. Deli Zhou’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attended the RAP meeting. ▪ Participated in the International Students Working Group meeting, continuing updates on the GSA mascot proposal. ▪ Had the monthly meeting with the CEO. <p>2h. Yutong Cheng’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engaged with the President and Bolor to discuss handover items for the two APC and TALQAC committees. ▪ Participated in the Shut Up and Write session, providing feedback to enhance its engagement by initiating discussions with attendees about their goals and gathering their input. ▪ CEO suggested for Yutong to connect with SE Manager to discuss the feedback together with the sustainability ideas. 	
<p>3 – MATTERS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE & FACULTY COUNCILS</p> <p>3a. Minutes of Representative Council Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held on 20th November 2024. <p>3b. Recommendations from the Representative Council for Board consideration.</p> <p>Outcome: Discussed the recommendations from RC Meeting.</p> <p>3c. Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meeting held in November. <p>3d. Recommendations from the Faculty Council for Board consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No recommendations. 	<p>Noted 5 mins</p>
<p>4 – MATTERS FROM WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>Outcome: Board informed about the work and recommendations from the working groups.</p> <p>4a. Minutes & Recommendations from Grad Group Working Group</p> <p>No meeting held in November.</p>	<p>Noted 20 mins</p> <p>Vice-President</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice President proposed a motion to approve the Year-Off Grant for graduate groups. <p>Motion: GSA Board approves a one-off, end-of-year grant of \$360* to all active Grad Groups as funding support for their year-end activities and functions, as recommended by GGWG Chair.</p> <p>Moved: Junyi (Johnny) Zheng (Vice President)</p> <p>Seconded: Jesse Gardner-Russell (General Secretary)</p> <p>All in favour with no one abstaining and no one against. Motion carries.</p>	
<p>4b. Minutes & Recommendations from Strategic Plan Working Group</p> <p>Meeting held on 19th November 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SP consultant thanked everyone for their contributions. A key focus was refining the wording of the mission and vision to ensure alignment with the organization's history and constitutional purpose. The President will write the introduction, and the Communications team will design two formats of the document: a short flyer and a detailed booklet. These will be shared with the Board for feedback on the design, with the goal of launching them in February next year. The Board suggested a few edits to the final draft of the plan. The CEO thanked the SP consultant on behalf of GSA for his services and wished him the best of luck in his next phase of life. <p>Motion: That the GSA Board approves the proposed Strategic Plan 2025- 2030 with three amendments.</p> <p>Moved: Ethan Chou (President)</p> <p>Seconded: Amin Abedini</p> <p>All in favour with no one abstaining and no one against. Motion carries.</p>	<p>President and SP Consultant</p>
<p>4c. Minutes & Recommendations from International Graduate Students Working Group</p> <p>Meeting held on 19th November 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President announced plans to launch the GSA mascot by Semester 2 next year. It was highlighted that during the subject enrolment process for graduate coursework students, there is an option for students to opt in for union memberships, including GSA. GSA should take this opportunity to remind students to consider joining during re-enrolment. 	<p>President</p>
<p>4d. Minutes & Recommendations from Electoral Regulations Review Working Group</p> <p>Meeting held on 12th November 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Treasurer provided a summary of the amendments made to the Electoral Regulations. <p>Motion: That the GSA Board endorses the amended version of Electoral Regulations for approval by the Electoral Tribunal.</p>	<p>Treasurer</p>



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<p>Moved: Yingchen Zhao (Treasurer) Seconded: Jesse Gardner-Russell (General Secretary) All in favour with no one abstaining and no one against. Motion carries.</p>	
<p>5 – OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>5a. Questions and other business.</p> <p>5b. Meeting to move in camera.</p> <p>Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera. All in favour with no one abstaining and no one against. Motion carries.</p>	<p>President 5 min</p>
<p>Close of Meeting 9:04 PM</p>	
<p>Next Board Meeting – 29th January 2025</p>	