

**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.

<b>Chair</b>	Ethan Chou (President)	
<b>Board Members in attendance</b>	Jesse Gardner-Russell (General Secretary) Yingchen Zhao (Treasurer) Junyi (Johnny) Zheng (Vice President) Amin Abedini Yutong Cheng	
<b>Staff Members in attendance</b>	Sajal Goundar (CEO) Kavisha Garg (Governance & Executive Officer, Minute Taker)	
<b>Other Attendees</b>	None	
<b>Apologies:</b>	Deli Zhou (Board Member)	
	<p>The Board Meeting commenced at 5.18PM.</p> <p><b>1 – FORMAL MATTERS</b></p> <p><b>1a. Welcome &amp; Acknowledgment</b></p> <p>The President opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.</p> <p><b>1b. Attendance</b></p> <p>All members, except for Yutong Cheng, were in attendance and the quorum was achieved.</p> <p><b>1c. Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>No new declarations were made.</p> <p><b>1d. Minutes &amp; Follow-up log actions</b></p> <p>The President went through the action log to receive progress reports from the members.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> The minutes of the GSA Board meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be accepted with no amendments.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Ethan Chou (President)</p> <p><b>Seconded:</b> Jesse Gardner-Russell (General Secretary)</p> <p>All in favour, no one abstaining, no one against. Motion carries.</p> <p><b>1e. Other Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circular resolutions for ratification: No items.</li> </ul> <p><b>1f. Procedural Motion:</b> That the meeting move in camera. All in favour, no one abstaining, no one against. Motion carried.</p>	<p>President 15 min</p>

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<p><b>2 – BOARD REPORTING</b></p> <p><b>2a. President’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One of the current focuses is the FEIT Flexi Space campaign. Unfortunately, the recommendations were not accepted in the last meeting with the faculty, so the research officer has decided to continue with the campaign.</li> <li>- Another key advocacy item this year will be student placement advocacy, which remains an ongoing issue.</li> <li>- For community engagement, the President will be filming a video to welcome both new and returning GSA members for the New Year.</li> </ul> <p><b>2b. General Secretary’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The focus recently was on the interviews for the Accommodation Support Officer position.</li> <li>- The Grad Group Policy Review initiative is gaining momentum. The General Secretary met with the Grad Group Officer to gain the staff perspective on their needs. Additionally, there are plans to meet with the Finance Officer soon to discuss the financial aspects. There is now a clearer understanding of what the engagement team is looking for and which areas they are willing to change.</li> <li>- The plan is to organize a Grad Group speaker series, starting with a Grad Group speaker on a key topic like membership growth, followed by a panel discussion, discussing how they leveraged their Grad Group experience.</li> </ul> <p><b>2c. Vice-President’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The update on the canteen project is that it should be opening soon, as the university has selected a preferred vendor.</li> <li>- The Grad Group working group and the Faculty Council meeting are both scheduled for February. The February Faculty Council meeting is set to take place before the university's Orientation Week with the aim to extend invitations to as many faculties as possible for their orientation events.</li> <li>- Another commitment is the Special Consideration Technology Redesign Working Group, focusing on the transition to the new Salesforce platform. Many graduate students have already experienced this transformation, particularly on the my.unimelb platform. The Disability and Equity Officer and the Vice-President will be attending meeting in early February, and we will share the progress with the board afterward.</li> <li>- Due to the hectic schedule the VP apologised for not providing a written report. It was agreed that the VP does the Jan board report retrospectively.</li> </ul> <p><b>2d. Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As mentioned in the November Board meeting, the task was to draft a casual vacancy election position evaluation form. The form is being used in the current casual election, and it will continue to be refined with additional details for easier use in future elections.</li> <li>- Additionally, a matrix summarizing the skills and experience of each board member was to be created. This will provide an overview of the current board's strengths and weaknesses, helping in the consideration of incoming and outgoing board members.</li> </ul>	<p>Board Members 30 min</p>
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<p><b>2e. Amin Abedini’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Informed the Board about the CAPA progress.</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion:</b> That the GSA Board appoints Amin Abedini as the official GSA representative for NATSIPA.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Ethan Chou (President)</p> <p><b>Seconded:</b> Junyi (Johnny) Zheng (Vice President)</p> <p>All in favour, with Amin Abedini abstaining, no one against. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>2f. Deli Zhou’s Report (Tabled)</b></p> <p><b>2g. Yutong Cheng’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plans are in place to attend the upcoming TALQAC and APC meeting scheduled for March. An APC meeting is scheduled for the 7th of February, but attendance will not be possible. Apologies have been sent, as no other board members are available.</li> <li>- Regarding the sustainability report for the annual GSA report, a meeting will be planned with both the newly appointed and the former Environment and Sustainability Officer.</li> <li>- It was proposed to appoint another representative to the committee meetings. The General Secretary has shown interest in being on TALQAC. The President noted this and will update Yutong Cheng on the representative for APC.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3 – MATTERS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE &amp; FACULTY COUNCILS</b></p> <p><b>3a. Minutes of Representative Council Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.</li> </ul> <p><b>3b. Recommendations from the Representative Council for Board consideration.</b></p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Discussed the recommendations from the RC Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The General Secretary was delegated as the Chair by the President and shared that the casual elections went well.</li> <li>- Regarding proposals, the International Officer’s Buddy Program has been approved, and a proposal from the Disability and Equity Officer for a disability forum is currently under review.</li> </ul> <p><b>3c. Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No meeting held in January.</li> </ul> <p><b>3d. Recommendations from the Faculty Council for Board consideration.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No recommendations.</li> </ul>	<p>To Be Noted 5 mins</p>

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<p><b>4 – MATTERS FROM WORKING GROUPS</b></p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Board informed about the work and recommendations from the working groups.</p> <p><b>4a. Minutes &amp; Recommendations from Grad Group Working Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No meeting held in January.</li> </ul> <p><b>4b. Minutes &amp; Recommendations from International Graduate Students Working Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No meeting held in January.</li> </ul> <p>- The CEO proposed that both working group chairs recommend replacement members for the vacant positions in their respective working groups to the board at the upcoming meeting in February for approval &amp; appointment.</p>	<p>To Be Noted 5 min</p> <p>Vice-President</p> <p>President</p>
<p><b>5 – OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>5a. Questions and other business.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AGM related discussion.</li> <li>Due to the non-availability of board members for the remaining board meetings, the CEO proposed to move the upcoming board meetings to start at 5pm instead of 4pm. This was agreed by the board.</li> </ul> <p><b>5b. Meeting to move in camera.</b></p> <p><b>Procedural Motion:</b> That the meeting move in camera. All in favour, no one abstaining, no one against. Motion carried</p>	<p>President 10 min</p>
<p><b>Close of Meeting 6:45 PM</b></p>	
<p><b>Next Board Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b></p>	