

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 Yutong Cheng Deli Zhou Mevuni Wanigasooriya
Staff Members in attendance	Sajal Goundar (CEO) Kavisha Garg (Governance & Executive Officer, Minute Taker)
Observers	Hanan Sahmoud (FC)
Apologies:	None
<div> <div> 1 – FORMAL MATTERS </div> <div> 1a. Welcome & Acknowledgment The President opened the meeting at 5:06 PM with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed Mevuni Wanigasooriya to her first Board Meeting. </div> <div> 1b. Attendance All members, except the Vice President and General Secretary, were in attendance and the quorum was achieved. </div> <div> 1c. Declarations of Interest No new declarations were made. </div> <div> 1d. Minutes from Previous Board Meeting Motion: The minutes of the GSA Board meeting held on 29th January 2025 be accepted with no amendments. Moved: Ethan Chou (President) Seconded: Yingchen Zhao (Treasurer) All in favour, with Mevuni Wanigasooriya abstaining, and the Vice President and General Secretary absent, and no one against. The motion is carried. </div> <div> 1e. Follow-up log actions The President went through the action log to receive progress reports from the members. </div> <div> 1f. Other Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circular resolutions for ratification: None The General Secretary joined the meeting at 5:12 PM. </div> <div> 1g. Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera. </div> </div> <div> President 15 min </div>	

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Observer joined the meeting	
<p>2 – BOARD REPORTING</p> <p>2a. President's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus remains on ensuring GSA is well represented at misconduct hearings and that messaging at faculty orientations is consistent and strong, making new students aware of GSA. - The Academic Board representatives have been finalized: Mevuni Wanigasooriya and Yutong Cheng for APC and TALQAC; Amin Abedini and the President for SPC; and the General Secretary and Research Officer for HDRC. - The Melbourne Forum is underway, and GSA has an opportunity to present and participate in the Forum. Training sessions are scheduled for March 18, March 19, and August 5. Board members interested in participating should express their interest to the President. <p>2b. General Secretary's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met with the University Vice Chancellor, where GSA presented the proposal to create graduate sustainability modules to help educate graduate students on how they can become more environmentally conscious and aware, and how they can contribute to the university's sustainability plan. - The focus will be on the review of the Grad Group Policies. - Will be involved in reviewing the Academic Board model. <p>2c. Vice-President's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Vice-President thanked the General Secretary for chairing the FC meeting and working on the Grad Group policies. - The focus is on concluding the term of the current FC members and transitioning to the new model based on the constitution. - Will connect with the new Accommodation Officer to explore how they can support the FCs. - Attended an event and met new graduate employers, which could help build relationships for career initiatives this year, including smaller-scale mentoring programs. - The Vice-President extended an invitation to everyone to visit the new Canteen on campus. Students can get meals for \$5, while staff meals cost \$12. A student ID must be scanned to verify eligibility for the student discount. <p>2d. Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focusing on the new financing model with the CEO and MBOF to explore investment opportunities. Plans to reach out to private services, banks, or financial planners for advice before concluding the term. - Developing and refining a standardized skillset criteria to ensure an objective assessment of Board and evaluate board members' skills to identify any gaps. - Aiming to finalize both documents before next April. <p>2e. Amin Abedini's Report</p>	<p>Board Members 30 min</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Received an email from NATSIPA confirming upcoming audits and that they will be sharing details on how their funds are utilized. - Attended the first Selection Procedures Committee meeting of the year, where discussions focused on quality assurance for admissions and revisions to English language requirements. <p>2f. Deli Zhou's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participated in the International Students Working Group, discussing programs and activities to support international students in their campus life, with a particular focus on orientation. - Attended the RAP meeting to enhance understanding of First Nations people's culture. - Accepted the meeting request for the Scam Working Group happening in March and attended one in January. The focus of the meeting was on raising awareness of scams, particularly for new students coming to the university. In the next meeting, members will draft how these activities or ideas will help increase awareness among students. The President requested Deli Zhou to contact the P&A Team to prepare a draft and meeting notes. <p>2g. Yutong Cheng's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noted as read. <p>2h. Mevuni Wanigasooriya's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently getting familiar with GSA, its structure, and how it operates. Had a meeting with the President to discuss the responsibilities in detail. - Looking forward to participating in the Summer Soiree and attending committee meetings with Yutong Cheng. - The President has requested to participate in O-week events specially at regional campuses and to reach out to the MSE. <p>The CEO noted that the templates for Board Reporting need to be updated and will be worked on in collaboration with the President and the General Secretary. These updates will be introduced before the new board comes in. It will also need to include the link on reporting back on committees from P&A.</p>	
<p>3 – MATTERS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE & FACULTY COUNCILS</p> <p>3a. Minutes of Representative Council Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held on 19th February 2025. <p>3b. Recommendations from the Representative Council for Board consideration.</p> <p>Outcome: Discussed the recommendations from the RC Meeting.</p> <p>The following events and activities were approved by the Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome Booth for Parkville Welcome Day – Organized by the Health and Welfare Officer, this booth will provide students with resources around the University through a quiz, along with giveaways. 	<p>To Be Noted 5 mins</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Queer Lunch – Hosted by the Queer Officer, this regular event aims to bring together queer graduate students, fostering connections and providing a space to raise concerns. - Market Day – Organized by the Women’s Officer, featuring external women-focused organizations. - First Nations Event – The First Nations Officer is working on an event to increase engagement, building on the momentum gained this semester. - Buddy Program Launch (February 28) – Led by the International Officer. - Placement Safety Panel (February 27) – Hosted by the Coursework Officer, focusing on safety during placements. - Southbank Meet and Greet (March 11) – Approved event to welcome students at the Southbank campus. <p>3c. Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held on 12th February 2025 <p>3d. Recommendations from the Faculty Council for Board consideration.</p> <p>Outcome: Discussed the recommendations from FC Meeting</p> <p>Climate Bites Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A proposal for a 12-episode series is under consideration, with budget approval being sought for only the pilot episode at this stage. The proposal can be endorsed and funded through the faculty budget. - The CEO recommended ensuring continuity of the program by connecting the FC with a GSA staff member, allowing the initiative to remain linked to GSA to organise other episodes in the future. <p>The President will meet with the Faculty Councillor to get more details on the proposal and bring it for board’s approval as required via circular.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meeting held in February. <p>Appoint a member for Grad Group Working Group</p> <p>Outcome: Appointed a new member to the Grad Group Working Group until the 2025 AGM.</p> <p>Motion: That the GSA Board appoints the newly appointed E&S Officer to the Grad Group Working Group until the 2025 AGM.</p> <p>Moved: Ethan Chou (President)</p> <p>Seconded: Junyi (Johnny) Zheng (Vice-President)</p> <p>All in favour, with no one abstaining, no one against. Motion carried.</p> <p>4b. Minutes & Recommendations from International Graduate Students Working Group</p>	<p>To Be Noted 5 min</p> <p>Vice-President</p> <p>President</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting held on 11th February 2025. <p>Mascot Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deli Zhou provided a brief on the Mascot Proposal, outlining its purpose of creating a unique and recognizable mascot for GSA to foster a sense of community, inclusivity, and engagement among graduate students while strengthening GSA's visibility and identity across campus and in communications. The budget was discussed, including marketing costs, mascot materials, and launch expenses. The timeline was also considered, with the design, development, and launch planned for Semester 1 Orientation Week. The CEO mentioned that the cost of this project will be funded from GSA's operational marketing and comms budget. <p>Motion: That the GSA Board endorses the Mascot proposal as presented by Deli Zhou.</p> <p>Moved: Ethan Chou (President)</p> <p>Seconded: Junyi (Johnny) Zheng (Vice-President)</p> <p>All in favour, with no one abstaining, no one against. Motion carried.</p> <p>Once the final design of the mascot is completed, the board will give its final approval.</p> <p>- Appoint a member for International Graduate Students Working Group</p> <p>Outcome: Appointed a new member to the International Graduate Students Working Group until the 2025 AGM.</p> <p>Motion: That the GSA Board appoints the newly appointed Families Officer and one FC member (to be appointed by the Chair) to the International Graduate Students Working Group until the 2025 AGM.</p> <p>Moved: Ethan Chou (President)</p> <p>Seconded: Yingchen Zhao (Treasurer)</p> <p>All in favour, with no one abstaining, no one against. Motion carried.</p>	
<p>5 – OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>5a. Questions and other business.</p> <p>No other matters were discussed.</p> <p>5b. Meeting to move in camera.</p> <p>Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera.</p> <p>All in favour, no one abstaining, no one against. Motion carried</p>	<p>President 10 min</p>
<p>Close of Meeting 8:31 PM</p>	
<p>Next Board Meeting – 26th March 2025</p>	