

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.

Board Members in attendance	Jeremy Waite – President and Chair Emily De Wind, Lilian Day, Phoebe Fitzpatrick, Matthew Harper-Gomm, William Kabira, Xiangyu Su (in observer capacity)	
Other Attendees	Rachna Muddagouni - CEO Sajal Goundar – Manager Business Operations Natasha Abrahams – Manager Policy, Advocacy/Campaigns Liana Moore– Executive Assistant (Minute Taker)	
Representative Council Observers	Monica Sestito, Afsaneh Seifinaji	
Absent	Apology: Lisa Hadaway – Manager Student Engagement	
Leave of Absence	N/A	
Meeting opened at 4:02pm		Responsible person, time Allocated
<p>1 – FORMAL MATTERS</p> <p>1a. Welcome & Acknowledgment</p> <p>The President delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.</p> <p>President welcomed Board members, other attendees, and Representative Council observers to the second meeting of the GSA Board and noted the updated Agenda structure. President reminded attendees that all relevant GSA policies apply, including the GSA board policies in relation to Privacy and Confidentiality Policy, Code of Conduct, and Respectful Workplace policy. Should any attendee breach these policies they will be asked to leave the meeting.</p> <p>1b. Attendance</p> <p>President noted the resignation of Maitreyee Phadke.</p> <p>1c. Declarations of Interest</p> <p><i>Refer to Board Policies</i></p> <p>President noted the General Secretary has advised that there are no conflicts arising from register in relation to the current agenda and reminded attendees that should any arise during the meeting they should make this known.</p> <p>1d. Minutes & Follow-up log actions (Attachment 2a & 2b)</p> <p>Motion: The minutes of the GSA Board meeting held on 1 July 2021 be accepted with no amendments. Moved: Lilian Day Seconded: William Kabira All in favour, no one against, no one abstaining – motion passed.</p> <p>1e. Matters for Approval (Attachments 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e)</p> <p><i>List all the matters of approval with clear documentation as received.</i></p> <p><i>Circulars for formal approval:</i> N/A</p> <p><i>Circulars for noting:</i> Circular Resolution 5 July – Report Template for Representative Council Circular Resolution 16 July – Report Template for Board Circular Resolution 20 July – Board Member Resignation and Next Steps</p>		<p>President</p> <p>5 minutes</p>

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<p><i>Circular Resolution 21 July – Menzies Institute</i> <i>Circular Resolution 21 July – Social Media</i> <i>Circular Resolution 27 July – Casual Vacancies 2021-2022 term</i></p>	
<p>2 – BOARD REPORTING</p> <p>2a President Update on GSA Board, RC, external stakeholder issues and other meetings (Attachment 4)</p> <p>President tabled report and noted the highlight of month was Representative Council meeting, culmination of a long project to create a body that has sole focus on representation and operates on the ground alongside staff to help represent voices of constituents.</p> <p>President noted that beyond the great work happening across Representative Council it has been exciting to see the creation of Office Bearer Facebook pages and GSA official involvement in campaign against Menzies, and thanked Monica for her involvement in these and Board members for helping expedite them.</p> <p>President expressed optimism regarding current progress in relation to policies related to sexual misconduct and harm. The university is looking to provide external institution-wide training which will cascade down across entire institution, which is vital given GSA emphasis on whole of institution approach to addressing this type of misconduct and the harms it causes.</p> <p>President encouraged all Board members to look at emails sent as part of Bystander Awareness program which students began receiving yesterday, of interest is that these emails adapt based on answers if student chose to respond.</p> <p>President reported that at Academic Board it was highlighted that PhD completion rates and progress is currently slow, unsurprising due to lack of support offered to graduate researchers. President queried if Academic Progress Review policy was proposed due to this, response was that this is not the case and it is proposed to centralise a lot of types of support already available in the one place. President anticipates being able to scrutinise this further. President reported that the university is unwilling to change some policies allowing offshore commencements to happen in a robust way and it was argued that the requirement for students to be on campus for at least one year will not be waived, which is very disappointing.</p> <p>President noted good stakeholder relationships have been maintained throughout month, including with UMSU, UMSU International and good conversations with CISA with Afsaneh.</p> <p>2b General Secretary Update and any changes to operations discussed (Attachment 5a, 5b)</p> <p>General Secretary tabled report and thanked Board members for responding to circular motions so promptly. Most of the focus has been on ensuring processes in place are working as well as possible and all is progressing smoothly, despite difficulty with lockdown and border issues for international students. General Secretary expressed it has been great to catch up with many RC members to ensure they understand compliance, what is expected, and the importance of that.</p> <p>General Secretary noted that no Leave of Absence requests have been noted and none have been received.</p> <p>General Secretary noted that Working Group action items are progressing smoothly and more will be included following first meeting of International Student Subcommittee.</p> <p>2c Vice President Report (Attachment 6)</p> <p>Vice president tabled report and highlighted she has taken more significant role with Grad Group engagement and become more involved with advocacy. Vice President shared she</p>	<p>Board Members</p> <p>45 min</p>

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<p>was on selection committee for University 2021 Excellence awards and one winner was a GSA LEAD participant in 2019.</p> <p>Vice President thanked Board members for all to coming to Grad Group Forum, next one on Tuesday 24th August. Vice President reminded members that their role as student representatives is to be there and take in feedback rather than attempt to provide solutions, it is important to just listen and provide an opportunity for Grad Groups to be heard.</p> <p>2d Treasurer Report (Attachment 7)</p> <p>Treasurer tabled report and noted ongoing meetings with MBOF to discuss finance reports and compliance.</p> <p>Treasurer confirmed he is confident that GSA finances are being prudently managed. Treasurer outlined that an investment strategy review is in early stages with a need to discuss with UMSU get member views on what policy statement should look like and investigate having an external party write the investment policy. Treasurer noted that projections are that enrolment will be down which will impact funding in 2022, so GSA may not progress investing at this time.</p> <p>2e Phoebe Fitzpatrick Report (Attachment 8)</p> <p>PF tabled report and noted that she has been reviewing the GSA constitution and policies to establish how organization as a whole works and how board meetings work. PF highlighted attending trainings, meetings with Rachna, and the Grad Group forum which was valuable to see tangibly how Grad Groups run and how we can help them.</p> <p>2f Matthew Harper-Gomm Report (Attachment 9)</p> <p>MHG tabled report and noted he is happy to take any questions.</p>	
<p>3 – MATTERS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL</p> <p>3a Meeting Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the GSA Representative Council meeting held on 15 July 2021 tabled for noting (Attachment 10)</p> <p>GSA Board members noted the minutes tabled</p> <p>3b Recommendations from the Representative Council for Board consideration</p> <p>President noted that there are no recommendations to be addressed as the Board was able to approve 2 recommendations from the Representative Council by circular before meeting (<i>Circular Resolution 21 July – Menzies Institute</i> and <i>Circular Resolution 21 July – Social Media</i>). President invited the Education (Research) Officer to speak to these.</p> <p>Education (Research) Officer reported that the Facebook page for the two Education Officers has been set up and so far has 100 likes, so far activities mainly focused on Menzies campaign but posts starting on other issues relating to education portfolio eg. Latrobe cuts</p> <p>Education (Research) Officer reported that the Menzies Campaign had first campaign meeting today and they are currently working well with education officers from UMSU and hope to put out a joint press release shortly. It has been great to have support of GSA on campaign and looking forward to having future use of GSA resources including sending campaign information out to the mailing list.</p> <p>3c Questions and other business from observers</p> <p>President invited questions and other business from observers.</p> <p>Query: With drop in enrolment and impact on funding, will GSA be able to operate at full capacity?</p>	<p>President and other members</p> <p>15 min</p>

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<p>President: Process began last year to develop a plan for the next few years to account for drop in funding and hopeful improvement as enrolments recover. GSA is being cautious to not make decisions that will lock into expenditure or investments that will cause funding issues, receiving regular updates from university regarding student numbers and possible impact on funding which can then be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Query: Reduction in enrolments seems high – where is this from? President: projections are received from the university, however it is often not as bad as the projection. Need to monitor this to ensure that university doesn't drop services and resources based on projections these projections if enrolments then turn out to be higher. When updated information is received this can be shared with Board and Representative Council.</p> <p>Query: What kind of investments might jeopardise GSA financial standing given projected fall in revenue? President: Investment policies discussion was very preliminary Treasurer: Looking into investing due to surplus created by higher than expected revenue and reduced expenditure, however need to look at projections based on expected reduced funding and decide if it is wise to lock funds in investments. This year will just be creating an investment policy statement as a roadmap/guidelines for potential future investment based on SSAF guidelines and figuring out what members think GSA investments should look like. Investment discussions are very preliminary and FRAC will come back to board with further information. CEO: Issue is that it is difficult to get accurate data from the university. Accurate enrolment figures have been requested from university and will be shared with RC and Board when available</p> <p>Query: Can President follow up with email to Education (Coursework) Officer regarding Academic Board and submission on progress reviews and graduate researchers President: Will email</p> <p>Query: Regarding Board functioning, what is the need to limit numbers of Representative Council attending as observers and are observers able to access papers? President: Aim of board is to operate as transparently as possible while maintaining confidentiality. Board has taken on board feedback on limit on attendees, with this meeting being a trial. Following meeting Board will review and look to see what can be put in place as a more permanent arrangement that will work in the long term. Access to documents will be looked into and comments taken on board, Board will look into potentially making reports public.</p>	
<p>Break – 15 mins Representative Council Observers in attendance left the meeting at 4.44pm</p>	
<p>4 – STAFF REPORTING</p> <p>4a Meeting to move in camera</p> <p>Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera Procedural Motion: Council moves in camera with CEO, Manager Business Operations/Finance, Manager Policy, Advocacy/Campaigns, and Minute Taker to remain. Moved: Jeremy Waite All in favour, no one against, no one abstaining – motion passed. In-camera session commenced at 5.01pm.</p>	<p>President and other members</p> <p>15 min</p>
<p>GSA Board Chair and members thank all observers for their time and interest.</p>	
<p>Next Board Meeting 27 August 2021</p>	