

**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>Board Members in attendance</b>	Jeremy Waite – President and Chair Emily De Wind, Lilian Day, Phoebe Fitzpatrick, Matthew Harper-Gomm, William Kabira (arrived 4.11pm)	
<b>Other Attendees</b>	Rachna Muddagouni - CEO Sajal Goundar – Manager Business Operations Natasha Abrahams – Manager Policy, Advocacy/Campaigns Kerry Tucker – Manager Student Engagement Liana Moore– Executive Assistant (Minute Taker)	
<b>Representative Council Observers</b>	None	
<b>Absent</b>	None	
<b>Leave of Absence</b>	None	
Meeting commenced at 4.07pm		
<b>1 – FORMAL MATTERS</b>		Responsible person, time Allocated
<p><b>1a. Welcome &amp; Acknowledgment</b></p> <p>The President delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.</p> <p>President reminded that all relevant GSA policies apply, including but not limited to Privacy, Code of Ethics and Conduct, and Respectful Workplace.</p> <p><b>1b. Attendance</b></p> <p><b>1c. Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p><i>Refer to Board Policies</i></p> <p>President noted that the GenSec has advised there are no conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda but reminded members to declare if one arises as required by the policy.</p> <p><b>1d. Minutes &amp; Follow-up log actions (Attachment 2a)</b></p> <p><b>Motion:</b> The minutes of the GSA Board meeting held on 29 July 2021 be accepted with no amendments. Moved: Lily Seconded: Phoebe Four in favour, no one against, one abstaining (Emily De Wind) – motion carries.</p> <p><b>1e. Matters for Approval</b></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> N/A</p>		President 5 minutes

**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.

<p><b>2 – BOARD REPORTING</b></p> <p><b>2a President Update on GSA Board, RC, external stakeholder issues and other meetings (Attachment 3a)</b></p> <p>President noted that it was announced by University of Melbourne that WAM adjustments will be applied to Semester 2 2021 subjects, which is a fantastic outcome.</p> <p>President presented a brief outline of report, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Hall – thanked those who attended, noted it was good to hear some of the priorities and what students are hoping to see in GSA advocacy work, and looking to provide further opportunities to hear from graduate students.</li> <li>• President and Vice President met with the President of the Academic Board to follow up on proposed review of graduate research project policy, no updates yet.</li> <li>• Bystander awareness campaign – another email set this morning from UniMelb to all students. Small but good campaign to encourage people to come forward and improve reporting.</li> <li>• National Student Safety Survey – it will be important to put out message to students at time of survey to encourage them to take part and link to resources, a great opportunity to include perspective of women’s officers from both UMSU and GSA.</li> <li>• Stakeholders – working closely with UMSU beyond official meetings, informally in touch throughout each week. Worked closely with CISA on reduction of fee campaign, just beginning of more work GSA can do in this area. Touched base with ACGR (Australian Council of Graduate Research) and will continue to develop this relationship.</li> </ul> <p>CEO noted that UMSU has stated that last 12-18 months the relationship between the two student bodies has been effective and commended the President on bringing the relationship to this level.</p> <p>Query: In relation to meeting with CISA and UMSU regarding fee relief, is a care package for international student something that is still being discussed?</p> <p>President: Some supports are being looked at, although they seem more targeted at offshore students. It is important to keep pushing, particularly in regard to onshore international students who are also in particular need.</p> <p><b>2b General Secretary Update and any changes to operations discussed (Attachment 4a, 4b)</b></p> <p>GenSec noted it has been a busy month, but with more involvement in advocacy which has been very rewarding.</p> <p>GenSec presented report, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance – Considering a few issues have been faced, all is going well overall with thanks to everyone at GSA.</li> <li>• Meeting with 2 new Faculty Council members – GenSec to be main contact and members are to send anything to GenSec who will pass on. GenSec clarified that Families officer has requested to keep communications to a minimum at present and will contact GenSec with questions.</li> <li>• WAM adjustment – great to have this but not the end goal, exciting to continue working on things that are going to really affect and improve things for students.</li> </ul> <p>CEO noted that even for staff all Faculty Council communications are to go via GenSec – they will be involved in everything, but communications are to go via this one point.</p> <p>GenSec tabled Working Group Action Items, noting that all is going to plan, with everything either in progress or completed.</p> <p>Query: What is the timeline for the subcommittee on constitutional changes?</p> <p>GenSec: looking to set up the working group subcommittee around January, but much work needed before then. GenSec to contact Matthew Harper-Gomm to work out details ahead of establishing working group.</p>	<p>Board Members</p> <p>45 min</p>
---	------------------------------------

**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.

## 2c Vice President Report (Attachment 5)

Vice President presented report, highlighting:

- Grad Group forum – held on Tuesday, thanks to all who attended and particularly Matthew Harper-Gomm and Phoebe Fitzpatrick for scribing, noted that in this format 53 leaders and 35 groups have been reached, many of them returning to multiple forums.
- Safety on Placement - chaired first meeting at end of July, Safety on Placement survey closed with 1800 responses received – significantly more than aim of 200. Five casual support officers were hired to assist, which made a huge difference in being able to reach so many participants. Biggest result was that students felt they would know reporting pathways, however this was just yes/no so examination of written responses is needed. Noted that this was largely the work of Natasha Abrahams (MPA) and team.
- Elected Representatives meeting – chaired by Pro Vice Chancellor of Student Life, Sarah Wilson, attended by Vice Pres, GenSec and President of GSA along with representatives from UMSU and UMSU International, held monthly or sometimes more. Issues of discussion include:
  - Ongoing impact of COVID on students, have been emphasising this disadvantage and campaigning for other ways beyond WAM adjustment that UniMelb can support students.
  - Inaccessibility of CAPS for International students - timing and legislative issues.
  - International student arrival to Australia – Deputy Vice Chancellor International, Michael Wesley, reported UniMelb is pushing the government toward plan to get student back to Australia.
  - Offshore hubs – being set up by Study Melbourne, a Victorian Government project to provide social and academic support to students who are offshore. One has one opened in Shanghai with others to open soon along with some virtual hubs.

## 2d Treasurer Report (Attachment 6)

Treasurer presented report, noting fortnightly catch ups with Rachna and Sajal, receiving projections of SSAF income that will allow them to start drafting a budget for 2022 to present to board in next couple of months, reviewed some audit and compliance checks with Sajal and found everything to be compliant. Noted Orientation events attended and highlighted Welcome to Representative Council event as well hosted and very beneficial. Also noted attendance at International Students Subcommittee meeting and included in report some of the issues discussed.

## 2e Phoebe Fitzpatrick Report (Attachment 7)

PF presented report, noting attendance at GSA orientation events as a highlight with interesting questions out of speed friending. Noted attendance at Graduate Representative Forum which was very interesting, along with lots of GSA policy reading.

## 2f Matthew Harper-Gomm Report (Attachment 8)

MHG Thanked VP for including Elected Representatives Meeting report.

MHG presented report, noting attendance at regular meetings – Board, FRAC, CEO meetings. Highlighted attendance at Graduate Representatives Forum – very productive session with a lot of good issues raised and lots of good advocacy ideas generated, looking forward to seeing those continue. Noted attendance at GSA Orientation Speed Friending event with fellow Board member.



# GSA Board Meeting Unconfirmed Minutes

Thursday 26 August 2021

4.00pm – 7.00pm

Via 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.

<p><b>3 – MATTERS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL</b></p> <p><b>3a Meeting Minutes (Attachment 9)</b></p> <p>The minutes of the GSA Representative Council meeting held on 19 August 2021 were tabled for noting.</p> <p><b>3b Recommendations from the Representative Council for Board consideration</b></p> <p>President noted there were no recommendations requiring Board approval. President noted that support was provided for attending climate change rally, which fell within policy so didn't require Board approval.</p> <p>CEO requested to note the action items from the International Students Subcommittee GenSec outlined 3 items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Legal information sessions to be organised in October with support of UMSU.</li><li>- Package support plan for international students to be developed by GSA.</li></ul> <p>International Officer to organise focus groups to get student input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Continue the advocacy with UniMelb on issues related to quality of education, financial support, and return to campus.</li></ul> <p>President added further context from meetings with CISA regarding potential campaign for fee remission, noting the consensus was this should be aimed for however didn't want to focus on just this and miss addressing immediate challenges international students are facing. Package support approach comes from this and to be able to present healthy set of demands. This will be an inclusive policy that seeks support for all students, and under umbrella of this seek strong support for international students.</p> <p><b>3c Questions and other business from observers</b></p> <p>No observers in attendance.</p>	<p>President and other members</p> <p>15 min</p>
<b>Break – 10 mins</b>	
<p><b>4 – STAFF REPORTING</b></p> <p><b>4a Meeting to move in camera</b></p> <p><b>Procedural Motion:</b> That the meeting move in camera All in favour, no one against, no one abstaining – motion passed.</p> <p><b>Meeting moved in camera at 5.01pm</b></p>	
<b>Next Board Meeting 30 September 2021</b>	