

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, Yingchen Zhao	
Other Attendees	Rachna Muddagouni - CEO Sajal Goundar – Manager Business Operations Liana Moore– Executive Assistant (Minute Taker)	
Representative Council Observers	Monica Sestito (Education (Research) Officer), Ruby Gardner-Russell (Activities Officer), Brendan Laws (Education (Coursework) Officer)	
Absent	None	
Leave of Absence	None	
Meeting commenced at 5.17pm		
1 – FORMAL MATTERS		Responsible person, time Allocated
<p>1a. Welcome & Acknowledgment</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>1b. Attendance</p> <p>President noted attendance, welcoming Yingchen Zhao to her first Board meeting and Representative Council Observers Monica Sestito, Brendan Laws, and Ruby Gardner-Russell</p> <p>1c. Declarations of Interest</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>1d. Minutes & Follow-up log actions (Attachment 2a)</p> <p>Motion: The minutes of the GSA Board meeting held on 26 August 2021 be accepted with no amendments. Moved: Phoebe Fitzpatrick Seconded: Emily De Wind Six in favour, no one against, one abstaining (Yingchen Zhao) – motion carries.</p> <p>1e. Matters for Approval</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

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<p>2 – BOARD REPORTING</p> <p>2a President Update on GSA Board, RC, external stakeholder issues and other meetings (Attachment 3a)</p> <p>President presented a verbal report due to Leave of Absence, noting that relevant items will be included with his written report for next Board meeting.</p> <p>President outlined recent activities, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No upcoming Academic Board meetings, at most recent meeting discussions around current matters included Sexual Misconduct Policy consultation but nothing GSA particularly waiting on. • Continuing to liaise with CISA and other bodies, UMSU quieter due to elections. • Priorities continue to be UoM COVID response regarding quality of online learning and frustrations felt around that. The extension of WAM adjustment policy into Semester 2 is appreciated, but much more needs to be done. Rachna, Natasha, and other staff have been working particularly with International Officer and it will be taken to the International Students Subcommittee to discuss the range of supports GSA should be asking UoM for in relation particularly to International student who are bearing the brunt. <p>President thanked everyone for support during LoA, particularly Vice President, General Secretary, and CEO.</p> <p>2b General Secretary Update and any changes to operations discussed (Attachment 4a, 4b)</p> <p>GenSec presented report, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent focus on onboarding of new Representative and Faculty Council members and new board member Yingchen, with another soon to be announced, ensuring induction is all going smoothly. Most training will happen in early October. • Exciting to have more Faculty Council members come on board, currently arranging date for initial Faculty Council meeting and beginning to establish these relationships. Reminder that Faculty Council are not required to put in same amount of time as Board and Rep Council and communications are to be via GenSec. • Attending Elected Representatives meetings has very good and great things happening through those at the moment • Leave of Absence requests – President applied for LoA directly to GenSec. This was approved as it was under 2 weeks and documentation was provided. Please contact GenSec with any related questions. • EBA negotiations have not started yet but progressing towards this. Very positive how much good will is going in to this process, which is about ensuring staff are well protected and GSA creates the kind of working conditions that attracts high calibre people to work for and continue to work for GSA. • Rewarding to be part of Policy Platform Townhall, especially being able to hear such diverse and interesting perspectives from graduate students and hear information that can be used to understand where we need to take GSA and what is important to graduate students. <p>GenSec tabled Working Group Action Items, reporting that all is going smoothly. GenSec noted the International Student Subcommittee has not met since the last update so there are no new items for that group.</p> <p>2c Vice President Report (Attachment 5)</p> <p>Vice President reminded members that there are many opportunities to engage with Grad Groups, highlighting recent engagement by Activities Officer and Education (Research) Officer, and invited all to reach out if wanting to engage with Grad Groups as part of stakeholder engagement as the opportunity is there and welcomed.</p>	<p>Board Members</p> <p>45 min</p>
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VP presented report, highlighting:

- Elected Representatives meetings – developing good relationship with chair, which is important for effective advocacy. At most recent meeting 3 main issues raised:
 - Graduate Researcher leave – response was those who need to exceed the allowed paid leave can apply for extended leave via usual special consideration processes and financial aid team can support those who need to take unpaid leave and are facing financial hardship, GSA will continue to advocate in this space.
 - Expanded scholarship program – merit base and not needs based which GSA identified as an issue. Taken on board at this meeting but GSA hopes to follow up at a future meeting that Deputy Vice Chancellor for International can attend and hear concerns.
 - need for UoM to support social connection and online learning – UoM shared that announcements are imminent, and they will be doing work to support this and particularly for graduate students.
- QILT (Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching) survey results – poor result for UoM provides strong ammunition to use in advocacy to improve things, with this already seeming to influence improvements. Hopefully students will have better experience not only next year but for many years to come based on these results.

2d Treasurer Report (Attachment 6)

Treasurer presented reports noting regular ongoing meetings and highlighting:

- Review of fixed asset register as recommended by auditors.
- Consultation with Monash student union finance manager, updated MBOF and FRAC Committee regarding this and will bring a memo to next Board meeting
- Contacted International Officer to offer support to International Students subcommittee, particularly with International Student Support Package proposal and advocacy moving forward.

Treasurer thanked Board Member Phoebe Fitzpatrick for sending questions regarding finances and encouraged all members to do so if they have any.

2e Phoebe Fitzpatrick Report (Attachment 7)

PF presented report noting that in addition to regular activities a highlight was assisting Manager Student Engagement with student drop in sessions. Low attendance at first session but anticipating higher turnout for future sessions as they will have been advertised for longer. PF also noted attending supporting student connections dual delivery seminar and encouraged members to contact her for more details.

2f Matthew Harper-Gomm Report (Attachment 8)

MHG presented report noting regular activities and highlighted assisting Manager Policy & Advocacy with Graduate Committee Representative interviews as a good experience to see the amount of interest there is in GSA and graduate student advocacy around that. MHG noted attendance at Grad Rep Forum, a valuable event that will be good to see continue, and at one of the Stop Menzies Institute public forums that Education (Research) and Education (Coursework) Officers are helping run, a good campaign for GSA to support.

MGH suggested it would be good for events to be shown on GSA Facebook page and also raised potentially varying training times as recent options have all been 2pm-5pm weekdays which is difficult for those with regular afternoon classes.

President thanked MHG for suggestions and CEO noted them for consideration.

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<p>3 – MATTERS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL</p> <p>3a Meeting Minutes (Attachment 9)</p> <p>The minutes of the GSA Representative Council meeting held on 14 September 2021 tabled for noting.</p> <p>3b Recommendations from the Representative Council for Board consideration</p> <p>President invited Education (Coursework) Officer, Brendan Laws, to speak to recommendation that GSA endorse the Health Before Profits Campaign outlined in papers presented to Representative Council meeting on 14 September 2021.</p> <p>ECO provided an overview of the Health Before Profits Campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign is about taking a proactive position regarding what the future of UoM will look like as COVID situation evolves. This is a mix of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fighting for UoM to be as safe as possible, pushing for short term concrete things – eg. improved ventilation and air filtration, carbon dioxide testing to reduce transmission, better communication around outbreak sites at university with university exposure sites to not be kept separate from state lists ○ Being critical of government drive to reopen – eg. Pushing for greater suppression measures to be taken, such as shutting down places of greatest transmission like childcare/schools and non-essential construction • Long term should be advocating for elimination of virus in community – increased vaccination, used along with other suppression measures, the window for elimination will reopen and this is the best way to support vulnerable people in the community and everybody to have a life as close to normal as possible. • Idea is to take a proactive stance for health measures to be the priority rather than only the economy, and be firm that UoM should do more than just focus on vaccination and State Government should do more than just insist on vaccinations and immediate the suppression measures. <p>Discussion of concerns centred on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detrimental impact of suppression measures on health and wellbeing of students, including those struggling to access services and those waiting to return to Australia • Existing UoM contract tracing measures higher than required and good communication regarding exposure sites. • Concern regarding supporting an external campaign that lacks clarity and it is difficult to get knowledge of, particularly from a risk perspective • Possibility of more targeted advocacy (eg. looking into what UoM is currently doing and how they can better support safe return to campus) in preference to supporting an external campaign. • While there may be lack of transparency, there are already some measures in place including stringent COVID safety plan and some air filtration already upgraded • Possibility that supporting campaign will hamper efforts to advocate for return of international students and will limit return to campus, which many graduates support. • Utility of campaign given some elements are already being addressed – advocating for supporting students economically (particularly international students) is already being undertaken including by International Officer and International Student Subcommittee, filtration and safe return to campus are very much priorities already. • The principal purpose of GSA as per constitution and importance of sticking to this, with some statements and policies included in proposal being well out of the scope of GSA and potential that it is not truly representative of graduate students within the community. • Lack of consultation with key groups who are most impacted by current suppression measures, like parents on campus and fine arts students. • Some statements in proposal are quite divisive and potentially a risk to share with community and university, including risk that supporting campaign goes against GSA purpose of fostering a sense of community. 	<p>President and other members</p> <p>15 min</p>
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<p>Responses highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of broader demands is increasing financial support from university (eliminating fees) and government (higher payments to unemployed). • Fee reduction needs to be addressed at a structural level to adequately reduce impact on International students • Uneven communication to students regarding exposure sites that seems to be school based, very concerning that different experiences are shared • Key part is to send positive and proactive message that GSA supports protecting the health and safety of staff and students and this shouldn't be seen to contradict the concerns that people have. • Importance of taking long view. Most people are impacted by lockdown but this won't be resolved from opening up, should be thinking about proactive ways to respond to mental health. More supports are needed and campaign is about demanding UoM spend some of their resources to put more supports in place and fund safe returns. • Should be insisting that decisions need to be about putting safety of students above economic decisions. • Campaign is about taking proactive stance both at the level of university infrastructure and in broader terms to make safety the priority for everybody in community. • GSA exists to promote graduate students voice not only on university campuses but also beyond, and GSA has always operated in that sense. An overly restrictive view of what is in remit of GSA will impact this and could curtail capacity for GSA to fulfill its role. This campaign can be seen in a continuum with other campaigns not directly impacting academic life, but impact the life of graduates as individuals and community members (eg. Campaigns around public transport, wage theft, etc). • Many concerns around international students, mental health issues, etc are not in counter to this response – campaign is about a broader public health response and there are various ways that all of these valid concerns could be reframed and included. • Regarding potential risk – this has already been endorsed by UMSU and it sends a strong message of unity if both peak student bodies support this. There are many individuals on campus and beyond supporting this, including members of UoM staff. <p>Board agreed that, while there are a lot of important ideas and concepts in the proposal, they would not adopt the campaign and recommendation put forward in its current format but would be willing to reconsider if a revised version is tabled. President indicated he is happy to have follow up conversations regarding concerns raised. CEO advised that MBOF and MPA can review the proposal from a risk management perspective and support Education (Coursework) Officer to rework proposal if desired.</p> <p>3c Questions and other business from observers</p> <p>None to note</p>	
<p>Break – 5 mins Representative Council Observers in attendance left the meeting at 6.05pm</p>	
<p>4 – STAFF REPORTING</p> <p>4a Meeting to move in camera</p> <p>Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera All in favour, no one against, no one abstaining – motion passed.</p> <p>Meeting moved in camera at 6.10pm</p>	
<p>GSA Board Chair and members thank all observers for their time and interest.</p>	
<p>Next Board Meeting: 28 October 2021</p>	