

GSA Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday 25 August 2022 4.00pm – 7.00pm

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	Jesse Gardner-Russell – President and Chair Yingchen Zhao, Emily De Wind, Matthew Harper-Gomm, Junyi (Johnny) Zheng, Nidhi Sikka, Phoebe Fitzpatrick, Bianca Jewell
Other Attendees	Jeremy Waite – Interim Chief Executive Officer Sajal Goundar – Chief Financial & Operating Officer Dr Zachary Greig – Program Director Student Services Eren Muller – Minute Taker
Representative Council Observers	N/A
Faculty Council Observers	N/A
Absent	
Leave of Absence	

1 - FORMAL MATTERS

Responsible person, time Allocated

1a. Welcome & Acknowledgment

President opened meeting with welcome and acknowledgment noting that Board Members Nidhi Sikka, Emily De Wind and Matthew Harper-Gomm have class commitments and therefore will join the meeting when available.

President 5 minutes

1b. Attendance

1c. Declarations of Interest

Refer to Board Policies

Bianca Jewell raised potential declaration of interest – Bianca is currently working in a part-time capacity at Swinburne and a member at the NTEU at Swinburne – *Noted*.

1d. Minutes & Follow-up log actions (Attachment 1d)

Motion: The minutes of the GSA Board meeting held on 28 July 2022 be accepted with amendment: Bianca Jewell removed from "Board Members in Attendance" as did not attend the 28 July Board Meeting – *Noted*.

Moved: Jesse Gardner-Russell Seconded: Yingchen Zhao

3 in favour, 2 abstention (Phoebe Fitzpatrick, Bianca Jewell), 3 absent (Nidhi Sikka, Emily De Wind and Matthew Harper-Gomm).

1e. Other Items

Circulars for formal approval:

N/A

Circulars for noting:

N/A

1d. Matters for Approval

List all the matters of approval with clear documentation as received.

Circulars for formal approval: N/A

Circulars for noting: N/A



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Meeting to move in camera:

Moved: All Board Members vote in favour to move in camera with exception of Bianca Jewell - abstention, 3 absent (Nidhi Sikka, Emily De Wind and Matthew Harper-Gomm). – motion carries

Observers invited to attend for out of camera session, 6:00pm - Noted.

3 - BOARD REPORTING - (Attachment 6a-h)

3a President Update on GSA Board, RC, external stakeholder issues and other meetings (Attachment 6a)

President noted that it is good to have so many Representative Council members in attendance.

President tabled report, highlighting:

- SSAF Funding the President provided Board members with an overview of the SSAF committee purpose, funding negotiations and the percentage of funds SSAF allocate to GSA.
 - As a part of the process, the university also wanted a broad strategy document for the next few years. The purpose is to provide the University with a general idea of what our strategy will be. The President will be tabling the document to the Board at the September meeting.
- Advocacy FaresFair Campaign Fair concession is a priority for the President, viewing previous years documents identified it was formerly across University Steering Committee. The President advised that creating a pressure group that co-ordinates the different teams, resources from different universities would be effective strategy and way to increase, outreach, improve the network and mobilize a bigger activist campaign board. The President has successfully engaged with Monash University Graduate Association, Federation University Association, CAPA and the LTSU. The President has also reached out to RUSU and Swinburne and Victoria University. Hoping we can build up the steering committee, which will assist in coordinating a working group of Board Members and Representative Council Members. Xiangyu (Brian) Su is very passionate in supporting and participating in this campaign.
- Indexation Rate inflation is a focused issue for students, in particular for Research Students who would have their stipend reduced considerably. The President advocated for the University to increase the stipend to offset the inflation rate. The President met with several Pro Vice Chancellors, resulting in a 6.1% stipend increase, equating to \$2,000.
- Student Voice Initiative The President has begun work on GSA's response and asked to be a key stakeholder in the consultation program.

General Secretary: Asked of Melbourne University's interest in the FaresFairs Campaign. **President:** Melbourne University is also met with Transport Department, as it is within the University's interests to advocate for the FaresFair Campaign as it will enable and encourage more students to attend on campus.

3b General Secretary Report (Attachment 6b)

General Secretary tabled report, highlighting:

- Attendance of internal meetings.
- Chancellery meeting.
- Training General Secretary advised Board Members of low attendance to recent training, including associated costs to GSA regardless of attendance numbers. If you are available during training hours, please come along. If you are unable to attend due to work or study commitments, please advise Eren Muller in advance, to assist in providing accurate attendance numbers to the Training Facilitators.

Board Members 15 min

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- Elected Faculty Council Members will be onboarded in the next few weeks, including training.
- New Board Members will have access to Policy Training which is recorded on Zoom, which includes PowerPoint and other documents, etc.

Please contact the General Secretary directly should you have questions regarding the training and or other matters.

3c Vice President Report (Attachment 6c)

Vice President tabled report, highlighting:

- Attendance of training.
- Attendance of meetings.

3d Treasurer Report (Attachment 6d)

Treasurer tabled report, highlighting:

- Attendance of meetings, CFOO, FRAC.
- Attendance of Misconduct Committee Meetings, as student member to provide input on upholding of allegations and penalty.
- MDHS Teaching and Learning Committee, while not a committee role directly
 associates with Board role, attended as GSA representative. Discussed Graduate
 Outcome Survey and highlighting the importance of structured mechanisms for
 student feedback regarding courses.

The Treasurer acknowledged and thanked the CFOO for his support. The Treasurer also and welcomed and congratulated Junyi (Johnny) Zheng as the new Treasurer.

3e Bianca Jewell (Verbal Report)

Board Member reported getting on top of onboarding process, met with the CEO and met with the Education Officer – Monica Sestito.

3f Juyni (Johnny) Zheng Report (Attachment 6f)

Board Member tabled report, highlighting:

- Attendance of meetings including, FRAC, MPIG and Rep Council meeting as observer.
- Melbourne Plus Implementation Officially launched a program a couple of weeks ago. Now officially a university-wide program for every student to participate in, noting that GSA and Grad Group will provide some activities.
- Teaching Quality is still of some concern, especially with use of technology, including delivery of some classes both in person and online. Potential discussion with Education Officer.
- Food Options on Campus There are more vendors coming in however timetable of opening hours is not clear. Seeking clarification to advise students.

3g Phoebe Fitzpatrick (Attachment 6g)

Board Member tabled report, highlighting:

- Attendance of meetings including, Rep Council meeting as observer.
- Attendance of Together Training.
- Attendance of Orientation Working Group meeting.
- Meeting with CEO.

3h Nidhi Sikka (Attachment 6h)

President: Reported on behalf of Board Member Nidhi Sikka, due to technical difficulties.

- Thanked the Board for the smooth onboarding process and resources for her first month as Board Member.
- Attendance of training with the Board General Secretary and Together Training.
- Meeting with General Secretary for overview of policies and working structure.

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Attendance of meetings including, Rep Council.		
Attendance of meetings including, rep council. Attended GSA Orientation, engaged with students.		
4 – MATTERS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL		
4a. Minutes of Representative Council Meeting (Attachment 6a) Minutes of the GSA Representative Council meeting held on 18 August 2022.		
4b. GSA Endorsement for Climate Emergency & Environment Crisis Declaration (Attachment 7b)		
Motion: To endorse the attached GSA Endorsement for Climate Emergency & Environmental Crisis Declaration with no amendments. Moved: Junyi (Johnny) Zheng Seconded: Matthew Harper-Gomm 6 approved, 1 absent, 1 abstention.		
7c. Questions and other business from observers		
7d. Meeting to move in camera Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera		
Meeting concluded 7:03pm		
Next Board Meeting – Thursday, 29 September 2022		