### **GSA Board Meeting Minutes**

Thursday 23 February, 2023 4.00pm - 6.00pm

**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, Junyi (Johnny) Zheng, Matthew Harper-Gomm (part), Rosalie Ritter- Jones, Bolor Jamiyandagva, Yujia (Lucy) Zhang
Apologies	Nidhi Sikka (leave of absence)
Other Attendees	Sophie Valkan – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Christina Murambi – Manager Policy & Advocacy (as to part) Maddy Sawant – HR & OHS Officer (as to part) Eren Muller – Minute Taker
Representative Council Observers	None
Faculty Council Observers	None
Absent (other attendees)	Kerry Tucker – Manger Engagement & Comms

#### 1 - FORMAL MATTERS

#### 1a. Welcome & Acknowledgment

President opened meeting at 4:07pm with welcome and acknowledgment. President noted that Vice President will join meeting at approx. 5pm, due to work commitments. Vice president joined meeting at 5:10pm.

#### 1b. Attendance

#### 1c. Declarations of Interest

No new declarations. Refer to Board Policies

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

**Motion:** The minutes of the GSA Board meeting held on 25 January 2023 be accepted without amendment.

**Moved:** President, Jesse Gardner-Russell **Seconded:** Board member, Rosalie Ritter-Jones

Motion is Passed with 6 in favour, 2 absent (Nidhi Sikka, Matthew Harper-Gomm).

#### Circulars for ratification:

Motion: That Nidhi Sikka be granted a leave of absence under s 9.14 of the GSA

Constitution for the day 23/2/2023.

Moved: General Secretary, Yingchen Zhao
Seconded: President, Gardner-Russell

Motion is Passed with 6 in favour, 1 abstention (Nidhi Sikka), 1 absent (Matthew Harper-

Gomm). RATIFIED

**Motion:** The board endorse the proposed actions as per listed below:

- 1. "GSA endorses the National Day of Action (NDA) earmarked for Friday 17 March 2023, including its Melbourne-based component a protest meeting outside the State Library of Victoria, at 2pm
- 2. GSA endorses the University of Melbourne student contingent to the National Day of Action to be organised by the UMSU Enviro department in collaboration with other UMSU departments supportive of climate activism.

# Responsible person, time Allocated

President 5 minutes

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- 3. GSA commits to promoting the National Day of Action, including the climate rally in Melbourne and the specific University of Melbourne student contingent, in its newsletter and social media platforms.
- 4. GSA commits to printing 500 posters promoting the rally as a contribution towards building the NDA."

Board Members discussed motion proposal including, the NDA rally and amendments to motion, including:

- Capture and tracking of graduate student engagement/involvement and attendance numbers.
- Aim of the organisation, values and benefits.
- Printing posters is contradictory to environmental protection rational of proposal.
- Acceptable level of risk, i.e., peaceful rally.
- Value and benefits of promoting NDA, for purposes of climate awareness.

The amended motion will be considered by board members in section (3b) "Matters from the Representative & Faculty Council".

Circular resolutions for ratification:

**Motion:** that the board approve the proposed amendments of the GSA Delegation Manual as per attached.

Moved: General Secretary, Yingchen Zhao (awaiting all board votes)

Seconded: Treasurer, Junyi (Johnny) Zheng

Motion is Passed with all in favour, no one against.

**RATIFIED** 

**Motion:** That the board approve payment of the \$395.50 conference fee for Jesse Gardner-Russell to attend the National Union of Students Presidents' Summit 2023.

Moved: General Secretary, Yingchen Zhao.

**Seconded:** Rosalie Ritter-Jones, Jesse will abstain from this motion.

Motion is Passed with 7 in favour, no one against, 1 abstained (Jesse Gardner-Russell).

**RATIFIED** 

Motion: That Lakvin Fernando to be granted a leave of absence under s 9.14 of the GSA

Constitution for the day 16/02/2023.

**Moved:** General Secretary, Yingchen Zhao.

**Seconded:** Vice President, Matthew Harper-Gomm Motion is Passed with all in favour, no one against.

RATIFIED

#### 1f. Meeting to move in camera

Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera

Motion is Passed with 6 Board Members voting in favour to move in camera, 2 absent (Matthew Harper-Gomm, Nidhi Sikka).

#### 2 - BOARD REPORTING - (Attachment 5a-g)

# 2a. President Update on GSA Board, RC, external stakeholder issues and other meetings (Attachment 5a)

The President's report is noted as read.

Board 10 min

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gsa

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#### The President highlighted:

- Student Voice Project, organizing to meet with elected reps ahead of our workshop to formulate a strategy to minimise the collective risk to all organisations.
- ChatGPT, providing feedback.
- Wellbeing Graduate Research students
- UMSU International providing hot breakfasts, lunches daily.

#### 2a i. Committee Representative Motion (Attachment 5a i)

President reported to the Board on the rational of proposed review and changes to the model of the University Committee Representative system.

**CEO:** sought clarification and asked the board if it will be a preference to a relevant Council member, or if we cannot get one, we appoint a student or is it an indifference between the two. What is the board's view about the Faculty Council appointment and the Representative Council appointed? Do you see them as true substitutes or is there a preference for a Committee or Council member?

**President:** advised CEO that the vision is that it is a preference and provided further information of the process.

**CEO:** confirmed that the request is to draw up a document of how it will work, and the process that we would need to use for approval by the board at its next meeting.

CEO: asked if the concept has been socialised with each of the Councils?

**Vice President:** confirmed that it was briefly mentioned at the last Faculty Council meeting, providing members with information and advising members that it was at the early stages, and they appeared to be on board.

**CEO:** believes the concept is excellent, however advised the board the pragmatic issue that we have at the moment is that we have a lot of committees contacting us and asking for people. Seeking board's thoughts of best way forward, filling the voids, in the interim.

It was agreed that the best response, in the interim, is to forward people who contact GSA to the Board (President) to approach members of each of the councils that is relevant to that particular body, and deal with each one by one until we arrive at a policy position — **Noted.** 

**Motion:** For the GSA Board to endorse the review into the University Committee Representative system and provide the proposed model to the CEO and Policy & Advocacy team for documenting.

Moved: President, Jesse Gardner-Russell

Seconded: Yunyi (Johnny) Zheng

Motion is Passed with 7 in favour, no one against, 1 absent (Nidhi Sikka).

#### 5a ii. Committee Representatives Source and Structure (Attachment 5a ii)

President reported on the Committee Representative source and structure, including contents of spreadsheet document.

**CEO:** sought clarification if staff have enough information to categorise in the second column which we should select from, or is something the President will undertake?

**President:** advised staff will be able to undertake that task.

#### 2b. General Secretary Report (Attachment 5b)

The General Secretary's report is noted as read.

The General Secretary highlighted:

 Organisational planning for beginning of 2023, election timelines, onboarding and other operational changes.

# gsa

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• Updates of dual delivery – dual delivery modes will be applied case by case. STOP1 is resource-intensive on matter and is expected to be resolved soon.

#### 2c. Vice President Report

The Vice President's report is noted as read, no items to note.

#### 2d. Treasurer Report

Verbal report, no items to note.

#### 2e. Nidhi Sikka

The Board Member's report is noted as read, no items to note.

#### 2f. Rosalie Ritter-Jones

The Board Member's report is noted as read, no items to note.

#### 2g. Bolor Jamiyandagva

The Board Member's report is noted as read, no items to note.

#### 2h. Yujia (Lucy) Zhang

The Board Member's report is noted as read, no items to note.

#### 3 - MATTERS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

#### 3a. Minutes of Representative Council Meeting (Attachment 6a)

The minutes of the GSA Representative Council meeting held on 16 February 2023, to be noted.

RC Minutes, noted.

# 3b. Recommendations from the Representative Council for Board consideration National Day of Action (NDA) earmarked for Friday 17 March 2023

**Motion:** The GSA commits to promoting and supporting increased climate action awareness and action at both the university and Federal government level. The GSA supports University of Melbourne Graduate Students to participate in the National Day of Action, as the part of the University of Melbourne Graduate Student contingent.

The GSA will promote climate awareness on the Newsletter and include the National Day of Action link alongside other climate action resources. With a reminder that it is a peaceful protest.

The relevant Representative Councillors (Environment and Sustainability and Education Research), will provide a detailed engagement report outlining the number of University of Melbourne Graduate Students which engaged and attended the event.

Posters will not be printed, as this is contradict to the environmental protection rationale of the proposal.

**Motioned:** President, Jesse Gardner-Russell **Seconded:** Treasurer, Junyi (Johnny) Zheng

Motion is Passed with 7 in favour, no one against, 1 absent (Nidhi Sikka).

President 5 min

# gsa

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4 – MATTERS FROM THE FACULTY COUNCIL	Presiden 5 min
4a. Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting (Attachment 7a)	
The minutes of the Faculty Council meeting held on 8 February 2023, to be noted.  • FC Minutes, noted.	
4b. Recommendations from the Faculty Council for Board consideration	
No recommendations for February	
5 – OTHER BUSINESS	
5a. Questions and other business from observers	
No observers.	
5b. Meeting to move in camera	
Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera	
Meeting concluded 6:23pm	
Next Board Meeting – 30 March 2023	