



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The heart of graduate student life.

**gsa**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY  
graduate student  
association



## GSA ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & GENERAL SECRETARY

We're not often caught quoting the Prime Minister, but as Malcolm Turnbull might say, 2016 was very much a year of both continuity and change for GSA.

On the one hand, we continued to work to improve our representational capacity, improving voter turnout at our Council elections and simplifying our Graduate Group procedures. We increased the number of affiliated Graduate Groups as demonstrated on page 15, which has allowed us to engage with more graduate students than ever before.

Beyond this, our representational capacity improved considerably. We helped suspend an early trial of CADMUS, an anti-plagiarism tool which we saw as detrimental to students, and worked with students on a number of other key issues close to their hearts.

We were also proud to launch our 'Mind the Gap' program (see page 10) and our now annual Art Prize (see page 11), both of which were overnight successes.

However, we also faced many ongoing challenges, including GSA remaining too dependent on SSAF as its primary source of revenue, and in attracting initial participation in our Fares Fair PTV campaign.

We're proud of what we've achieved during our time at GSA, with the creation of the Family Study Space (see page 8) and our new focus on students' rights at work and as interns standing out in particular. And, we can't deny a soft spot for our 'sick' social events – from cocktail



Sina Khatami  
President



Thomas Whiteside  
General Secretary

parties to karaoke, from our 2017 Graduate Welcome Fair to our annual ball; at GSA, we do know how to party.

Going forward, GSA will continue to address the same issues experienced by students year after year. Graduate students are over-worked, often feel lonely or socially isolated, struggle with limited academic support and face a flooded job market.

It is our hope that GSA will continue to tackle these issues in the future – and as we pass the baton, we implore our successors to give students a voice, a degree of control, and a sense of community on campus.

Sina Khatami, President

Thomas Whiteside, General Secretary

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Andrew Cameron  
Chief Executive Officer

GSA has grown strongly over the past 18 months. In 2016, we directly engaged over 10,000 students and implemented an organisational restructure to support our plans to extend GSA's impact.

We have signed a new Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Agreement with the

University. It is very pleasing to note that over the past five years, we have fully expended every dollar of the SSAF allocated to GSA for the benefit of graduate students.

My thanks to GSA Councillors, in particular President Sina Khatami and General Secretary Thomas Whiteside, for

their support and absolute focus on GSA achieving more each year. I also want to recognise GSA's partners, listed on page 19, who are critical to our successes to date.

GSA is well placed to continue to make a strong contribution to the University of Melbourne graduate student experience as the 'heart of graduate student life' in 2017 and beyond.

Andrew Cameron, Chief Executive Officer

2016 - THE YEAR IN NUMBERS...



**80**  
**COMPUTERS**

WERE LOGGED INTO  
**26,864 TIMES**  
ACROSS 43 TENURED STUDY SPACES AND 4 COMPUTER LABS.



WE HAD 93 AFFILIATED  
**GRADUATE GROUPS**  
BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

**THEY RECEIVED 50% MORE...**

SSAF

2015

2016

...SSAF FUNDING COMPARED TO 2015.

**AT 36 EVENTS**  
ATTENDED BY 5,925 GRADUATE STUDENTS  
WE GAVE OUT...



**1,150**  
CUPCAKES

+



**2,500**  
COFFEES

+




**1,500**  
SAUSAGES


+





**300**  
WRISTBANDS

WE REACHED...

 **4,665 STUDENTS**  
AT FACULTY ORIENTATIONS

 **26,425 STUDENTS VIA ELECTION MAIL- OUT**

 **23% MORE STUDENTS ON FACEBOOK**

 **30% MORE STUDENTS ON TWITTER**

**WE HOSTED 128 PROGRAMS**  
ATTENDED BY 2,122 GRADUATE STUDENTS

**REPRESENTING A 500% INCREASE...**




...IN PROGRAM ATTENDEES COMPARED TO 2015

WE PARTNERED WITH...




**15 DEPARTMENTS & 7 EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS.**

**1,085,168 WORDS**  
WERE WRITTEN AT THESIS BOOTCAMPS.



1 STUDENT WROTE  
**25,000 WORDS**  
IN A SINGLE WEEKEND AT BOOTCAMP.



AND WE HAD **52 ENTRIES** IN OUR **INAUGURAL ART PRIZE!**



**25 GSA-NOMINATED**  
COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES...



**SAT ON 29 COMMITTEES**  
ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE.



**WHERE TO NEXT?**

In 2017:

We reached over 5,500 graduate students at Semester One faculty orientation sessions.

Over 3,000 graduate students attended our Graduate Welcome Fair.

26,000 words were written by a single student at our first Thesis Bootcamp of the year.

By Easter we had run 12 programs and 4 social events.

We launched the Graduate Leaders Forum, convening leaders from Graduate Groups, GSA Council and GSA committee representatives for leadership development opportunities.



# BUILDING OUR REPRESENTATIONAL STRENGTH

In 2016, one of GSA’s key strategic priorities was to build our representational strength through student participation in elections and committees, as well as through broader campaign work across the university.

A vital part of GSA’s representational strength comes in the form of graduate students selected by GSA to sit on university committees at all levels.

In previous years, GSA had only appointed Councillors to university committees. This has placed a heavy burden on our Council, as well as limiting the number of graduate students able to engage with GSA’s representation

and work. As such, in 2016 GSA began appointing other graduate students with relevant experience and interests to university committees as well.

Of the 25 graduate students who sat on 29 university committees in 2016, 83 per cent were considered valuable or very valuable by their committee chairs.

We also achieved significant growth in engagement with GSA elections during 2016, and worked with the university to deliberate on a number of other key issues relevant to the experience of graduate students.

Council members and Law Students’ Society President Henry Dow



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT GSA COMMITTEE REPS MATTER

“One of the biggest challenges we had to face in 2016 was the university’s policy on timely completions of Research Higher Degrees,” said Lida Rashidi, GSA’s Education and Research Officer, who sits on the Research Higher Degrees Committee.

This issue came about because of changes to federal government funding for university research. With only 53 per cent of research students completing their degrees ‘on time’ at the University of Melbourne, the university faced potential funding pressures.

As a result, a new university policy was developed to stipulate a maximum time within which research students could complete their degrees. While GSA understands the need for timely completions, we were concerned that this policy could unfairly penalise students.

Along with History PhD student Bronwyn Reddan, who

sat on the Research Training and Advisory Committee, Lida worked with GSA’s representation team to organise a roundtable conversation, allowing research students to share their concerns with GSA.

“Our conversations focused on supporting student welfare and removing practical barriers to completion in order to support both the goals of the university and the students,” said Bronwyn.

After extensive consultations between GSA’s committee representatives and the university, GSA now supports the policy, although we would like to see further action to help reach the university’s target of 75 per cent timely completions by 2019.

“On the committee, I learnt that our voice can be heard and that it makes a difference when students speak up with constructive criticism,” Lida said.

## SUPPORTING GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH FAMILIES

GSA recognises that graduate student parents are a largely under-served cohort at the University of Melbourne. In 2016, we undertook a range of activities to support them, including laying the groundwork for our Family Study Space.

We are also actively working with the Student Precinct team to create more spaces and services for student parents within the precinct, and have partnered with Family Services at Carlton Baths to connect graduate student parents with services beyond the University.

“I love this initiative! The uni needs more kid-friendly spaces” – a graduate student on Facebook.

## FIGHTING FOR FAIR FARES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Victoria is the only state in Australia that does not offer concession fares on public transport to full-time postgraduate students. In 2016, GSA launched our Fares Fair PTV campaign, aiming to change this.

We began the process by raising awareness of this issue on campus at the University of Melbourne: we established a social media presence, undertook a leafletting campaign and began discussing this campaign at faculty orientation presentations.

We also started building a coalition of Victorian postgraduate student associations, and began outreach to politicians in order to strengthen our presence.

*Fares Fair PTV is not funded by SSAF.*

## INCREASING ENGAGEMENT WITH ELECTIONS

Voter turnout in GSA elections increased by 147 per cent in 2016, and there was also a significant increase in the number of students nominating for GSA Council.

This is in large part due to an awareness-raising campaign

run around the elections, which in 2016 included a hard-copy mail-out to 26,000+ registered graduate students at the University of Melbourne.

*GSA elections are not funded by SSAF.*





Graduate Leaders Forum

## WHERE TO NEXT?

In 2017:

We opened our **Family Study Space** in the 1888 Building. This space, which provides room for graduate student parents to study and network while their children play, has been received incredibly positively. Over 10,000 students saw the announcement on Facebook and we received more than 90 positive comments.

Our **Fares Fair PTV campaign** ramped up. We held our first Fares Fair PTV public rally on the steps of the State Library of Victoria and have had positive meetings about Fares Fair PTV with the Parliamentary Secretary for Public Transport and the Shadow Minister for Transport.

We launched the **Graduate Leaders Forum**. This series of events, which brings together leaders from across the graduate student community, provides networking and professional development opportunities as well as increasing engagement with GSA's representational work among key areas of the graduate student population.

Voting in the **GSA Council elections** closed on Friday 12 May. In 2017, we received more nominations and votes than ever before, at a fraction of previous costs.



INCREASING OUR ENGAGEMENT WITH STUDENTS

Finding new and innovative ways to engage with the graduate student population at the University of Melbourne, and improving the variety of our service offerings for these students, is critical to GSA’s success.

Whether students engage with us face-to-face when they visit the 1888 Building, at the social events or short courses we run, or if their engagement is purely via our digital communications channels, it is GSA’s responsibility to remain relevant to their lives and portray the experiences of graduate students realistically.

**In order to reach more graduate students at the beginning of their studies, we introduced our Faculty Orientation Sessions in 2016, in collaboration with faculties and graduate schools across the university.**

These sessions explain our service offering and the role we can play in supporting graduate students through their studies, and have ensured an increase in engagement with our services, particularly among research students.

Student attendance at GSA social events grew throughout 2016, particularly among newly arrived international and interstate students, and students with families. Graduate O-Week and Graduate Family Fun Day, which we held at the beginning of each semester, continued to draw crowds and provide opportunities for these students to develop lasting friendships.

**The most popular social event of the year remains the Spring Grad Ball.**

In 2016, over 400 people attended the ball, which was held at the Plaza Ballroom in collaboration with Monash Postgraduate Association.

**Participation in GSA programs and short courses increased by 500 per cent in 2016 compared to 2015, with the number of programs and short courses run increasing by 87 per cent.**

The programs team’s main aim in 2016 was to build a sustainable short course offering, which could be managed within staff capacity and which would be relevant and beneficial to graduate students, filling gaps in offerings elsewhere at the university. As such, the popularity of Thesis Bootcamps (see page 11) and the launch of Mind the Gap (see page 10) saw the team fulfil their goal.

**Tying all this together, our organisational website was overhauled in mid-2016.**

An extensive consultation process was undertaken before the new website was designed. Focusing on GSA’s key areas of impact on graduate student life (representation, study support and social events), the new design has garnered positive feedback from among the graduate student population and demonstrates greater engagement than its predecessor.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MIND THE GAP: EMPOWERING JOB-READY GRADS

In November 2015, GSA conducted a series of focus groups interrogating graduate students’ perceptions of the transition to work.


These sessions revealed that graduate students were very concerned about employability and workplace success. Their main causes for concern were a lack of soft skills (such as time management and networking), and how to demonstrate the relevance of their degrees to prospective employers.

The research also demonstrated that students believed their employability post-graduation was approximately 50 per cent the university’s responsibility.

Consequently, we developed our Mind the Gap program of short courses in the second half of 2016. These courses, which trialled in October and November 2016, are designed to help graduate students face the gap between study and work.

GSA was invited to present about graduate student employability to 25 staff from the library, research and academic skills; and several staff from various departments attended the Mind the Gap panel.

The program’s trial demonstrated significant value to graduate students, per their own reflections, and has been rolled out in full in 2017.



*“I am so looking forward to attending other seminars in this series. I’m very happy to have this opportunity at the University of Melbourne” – a graduate student attendee.*

Graduate Group presidents





## THESIS BOOTCAMP

Thesis Bootcamp is a three-day intensive writing program designed to help graduate researchers beat writer's block. GSA held three such Bootcamps in 2016, with 252 students applying for the 105 places available.

Philosophy PhD candidate Yana Canteloupe wrote over 20,000 words of her thesis during our December Bootcamp.

Yana had spent the majority of her candidature as a long-distance student and, although she was engaged with and enthusiastic about her research when she applied for Bootcamp, her life circumstances were becoming overwhelming:

"I was bloody miserable by the time Bootcamp kicked off. I arrived on the Friday night at the start of Bootcamp

having consulted my supervisor about quitting my PhD. Those first few hours on Friday night were harder than I could have ever imagined."

"Each time I got distracted, I reminded myself that these Bootcamps are proven to be effective," she said.

When she reached her 20,000-word goal, she felt "elated but utterly confused": "I never expected to feel so gratified by the process," she said.

"For me, the beauty of Bootcamp lies in the longevity of its effect. Learning to write without drama is unbelievably liberating."

## INAUGURAL ART PRIZE

In 2016, we hosted our inaugural Art Prize, inviting graduate students from all faculties to submit an artwork, with the opportunity to win up to \$1,000 in cash prizes.

First prize went to Eloise Thompson, a student in the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, whose artwork *Onward Bound* depicts her cat, Vivo, riding on the back of a large dog.

Eloise, who is a regular in the 1888 Building, recognises that it's important for graduate students to have a varied skillset, both for employability and enjoyment:

"I love the idea that the Art Prize is open to students whose primary discipline isn't visual art. It gives us a

chance to pursue interests outside our field of study."

For Eloise, the Art Prize was one of the few opportunities she's had to use her creative flair while at university.

As she was unable to attend the awards night because of overseas travel, Eloise found out that she'd won while sitting with her family at Auckland Airport:

"I was frantically checking my phone for updates and when I heard the news, I was ecstatic. I immediately called friends in Melbourne which nearly made me miss my flight."

"I don't think I stopped grinning for the rest of the week."



Eloise Thompson  
2016 Art Prize Winner



*Onward Bound*  
Eloise's winning artwork



Councillor Georgina at the Grad Welcome Fair

## WHERE TO NEXT?

In 2017:

The **Graduate Welcome Fair** started the year with a bang! It was our largest ever social event, with over 3,000 graduate students and university staff in attendance.

We've launched our '**Hump Day Specials**'. With a barbecue every Wednesday lunchtime, followed by grad student TSUBU Happy Hour, we're helping graduate students to relax and make it through their stressful weeks.

Our **IT Service Desk** opened for business, providing low-cost IT support to graduate students, including the university's only "bring your own device" support service.

Our first **Thesis Bootcamp** of the year saw the highest ever word count achieved by a single student over the course of a weekend. The student wrote over 26,000 words!



# BUILDING OUR INFLUENCE

GSA’s presence and influence among our key stakeholder groups and our strategic environment continues to grow. Year-on-year, we are invited to participate in more key projects and conversations with university departments and we engage with increasing numbers of equivalent peak bodies and student unions around Australia and the world.

*The full list of organisations we have worked with in 2016 is available on pages 19 and 20.*

## SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS & RIDE2UNI

As sustainability has always been important to GSA, we are proud of the partnership we have developed with Sustainable Campus.

Building on our contribution to the 2015 Sustainability Charter, 2016 saw GSA nominate a student representative to the Sustainability Executive Committee to assist with the development of the university’s 2017-2020 Sustainability Plan. We also participated in student and staff consultations throughout the year.

Additionally, GSA approached Sustainable Campus in early 2016 about partnering on the Ride2Uni program.

We came on board as an official co-host ahead of the first Ride2Uni event of 2016, which took place on the grounds of the 1888 Building.

In 2017, Sustainable Campus have remained incredible supporters of GSA’s work. In March 2017, we launched our inaugural Sustainability Prize, and Sustainable Campus were kind enough to donate two tickets to the ECOCITY World Summit (valued at over \$1,000 in total) to our prize pool. They also provided a huge amount of communications support, enabling us to promote the prize widely.

A Ride2Uni event in 2016



President Sina (second left) at Vrije Universiteit Brussel

## BUILDING INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

In 2016, the university’s Lorna Stirling Fund sponsored GSA’s President, Sina Khatami, to travel to Europe, where he visited a number of student unions as a student ambassador. During his trip, Sina toured student unions across France and Belgium, learning from their experiences and unique contexts to inform his work at and vision for GSA.

Sina also hosted visitors from overseas at GSA. These included a representative of the Iranian government, with whom he discussed the study-to-work transition

experienced by students in Australia as well as the governance model of GSA; and representatives from prominent Singaporean universities and student organisations, with whom he discussed student unionism in Australia.

Finally, Sina and Lida Rashidi, GSA’s International Officer, collaborated on the Council for International Students Australia’s #BreakingBarriers campaign, aiming to ensure that education for international students in Australia lives up to its reputation.

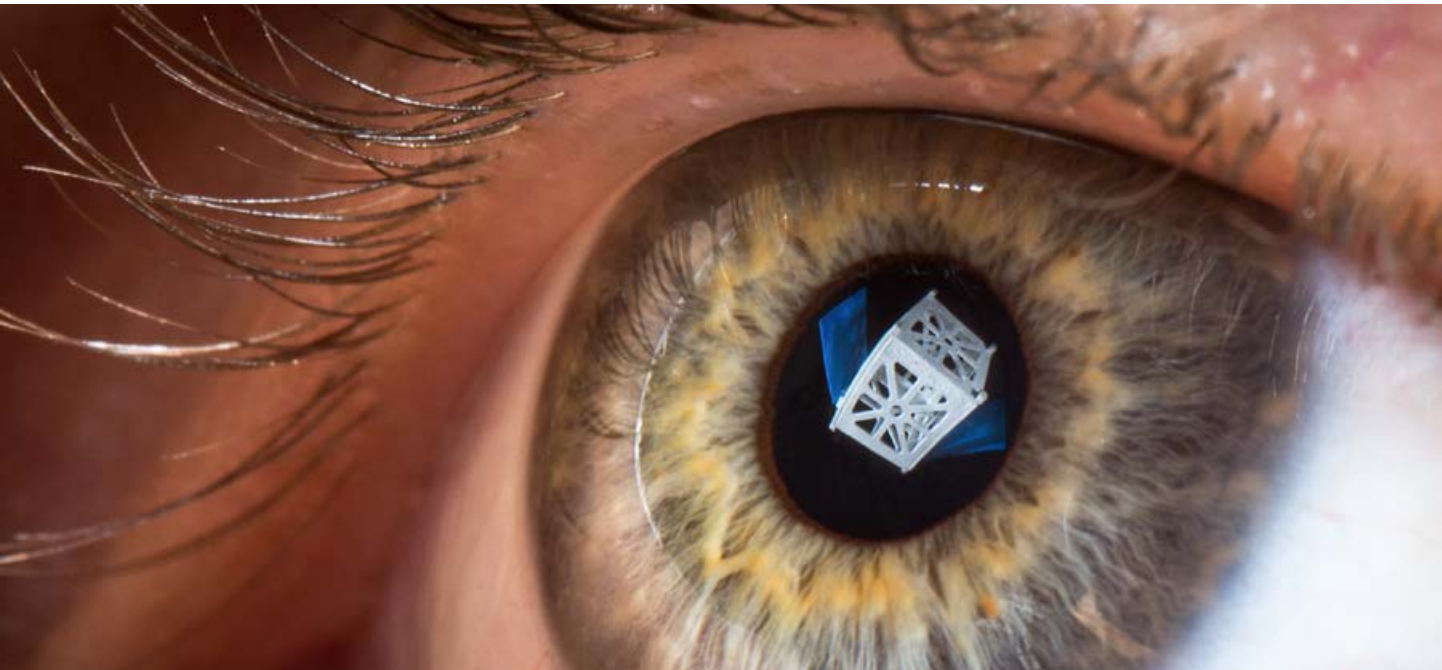


# SPOTLIGHT ON: GRADUATE GROUPS

TOTAL FUNDS DELIVERED TO GRADUATE GROUPS: **\$155,755.44**

## INCLUDING...

\$33,424.58 OF SPECIAL GRANTS	✓
\$2,892.10 OF PUBLISHING GRANTS	✓
\$1,692.06 OF PRINTING SERVICES CREDITS	✓
\$1,709.10 OF ROOM BOOKING CHARGES	✓



## YES, MELBOURNE HAS A SPACE PROGRAM!

The Melbourne Space Program is a new non-profit organisation and GSA-affiliated Graduate Group based in the Faculty of Engineering.

Composed entirely of student and alumni volunteers, the Space Program is currently building a cube satellite which they aim to launch into space in late 2018 or early 2019.

“Those who haven’t heard of us are usually not aware of the space activity that already exists in Australia – although with very limited capability to grow due to outdated space-related policies. In fact, most people might not realise that Australia is the only OECD nation without its own space agency,” said Megan Toomey, the Space Program’s Operations Manager.



## MEET NICK, 2017 PRESIDENT OF UMMSS

Nick Goulding first heard of GSA in his capacity as Vice President of the University of Melbourne Medical Students’ Society (UMMSS), an organisation which was in the process of affiliating with GSA.

“Affiliation with GSA has provided us with a great deal of assistance in enhancing our operations, particularly in the areas of advocacy and engaging with the wider university, beyond just the Medical School,” he said.

“For some of our bigger picture advocacy efforts, GSA’s representation team has been able to conduct the background research and provide us with detailed reports that have substantially informed our submissions.”

UMMSS has received funding through GSA’s Graduate Group grants program, and Nick has participated in a number of development opportunities aimed at leaders of Graduate Groups:

“The biggest benefit from attending these has been the opportunity to collaborate with other groups,” Nick said.

His exposure to GSA through UMMSS led Nick to volunteer as a GSA Committee Representative in 2016.

“I’m one of the representatives on the Academic Programs Committee,” he said. “It’s the central university committee which oversees academic policies, and I’ve found it a very useful experience. It’s helped me to understand the bigger picture when it comes to university operations and has informed the way I address issues in my role at UMMSS.”

“My experience of GSA as a Graduate Group president and vice president is that it is a well-oiled, consumer-oriented machine. Whenever we ask for help on an issue, high-quality support has been forthcoming very quickly.”



# GSA COUNCIL (MAY 2016 – DECEMBER 2016)



**SINA KHATAMI**  
President  
& Executive Committee member  
Academic Board (2016–2017)



**EVA BIRCH**  
LGBTIQ Officer  
Committees Officer  
Libraries and Academic  
Resources Committee (2016)  
FlexAP: University Timetabling  
Committee (2016)  
Fairtrade Steering Committee (2017)



**LIDA RASHIDI**  
International Officer  
Education & Research Officer  
Research Higher Degrees Committee  
(2016–2017)



**PATRICK CLEARWATER**  
Council member  
Faculty of Science Graduate  
Academic Programs Committee (2016)



**ELENI MCILROY**  
Vice President  
& Executive Committee member  
(to November 2016)



**BREN CARRUTHERS**  
Health and Welfare Officer  
Sustainability Executive Committee  
(2016–2017)  
Mental Health Promotion and Support  
Strategy Working Group (2016–2017)



**KEYVAN ALLAHYARI**  
Council member  
Research Higher Degrees Committee  
(2016)



**JIM SMITH**  
Council member  
Immediate past President  
(2014–2015)  
Executive Committee member  
(to September 2016)



**GEORGIA DALY**  
Vice President  
& Executive Committee member  
(from December 2016)  
Women's Officer  
Respect Working Group (2016–2017)



**SMRITI GHIMIRE**  
Family Officer  
Child Care Management Advisory  
Committee (2016–2017)



**CATHERINE CHENG**  
Council member  
FlexAP: Semester Structure  
Committee (2016–2017)



**GEORGINA TWEEDY**  
Council member



**THOMAS WHITESIDE**  
General Secretary  
& Executive Committee member  
Academic Board (2016)  
Student Precinct Steering Committee  
(2016–2017)  
SSAF Consultative Committee  
(2016–2017)  
Lorna Stirling Fund Committee  
(2016–2017)



**BRAD KNIGHT**  
Activities Officer  
& Executive Committee member

## WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO:

**MAXINE BERGH**  
Council member (2017)  
Fairtrade Steering Committee  
(2017)

**THOMAS MCDERMOTT**  
LGBTIQ Officer (2015–2016)  
Coursework Officer  
(2015–2016)

**CARLO DELLORA**  
Council member (2015–2016)

**ADELE HIRST**  
Council member (2015–2016)

**STEPHEN SMITH**  
Council member (2015–2016)

**BRIDIE WALSH**  
Women's Officer (2015–2016)

**CLAIRE WATSON**  
Council member (2015–2016)



# OUR PARTNERS

## UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

### CHANCELLERY

Prof. Glyn Davis AC, Vice Chancellor  
Prof. Margaret Sheil, Provost  
Prof. Dick Strugnell, Pro Vice Chancellor (Graduate & International Research)  
Prof. Susan Elliot, Deputy Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor (International)  
Elizabeth Capp, Director of Students & Equity  
Clare Walker, Principal Advisor, Sustainability  
Amanda Davis, Graduate Research Advisor  
Student Precinct Team

### FACULTIES AND ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

Faculty of Arts, notably Erin Scudder  
Faculty of Business and Economics, notably Clare Harper, Tracey Skordos and Sharon Soltys  
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science, notably Dimity Evans  
Faculty of Science, notably Monique Alexander  
Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences  
Graduate School of Education  
Melbourne Business School  
Melbourne School of Design  
Melbourne School of Engineering  
Victorian College of the Arts and Melbourne Conservatory of Music

### ACADEMIC AND UNIVERSITY SERVICES

Academic Skills, notably Guido Ernst  
Wellbeing, notably Daniel Persaud  
Student Success & Melbourne University Careers, notably Megan Dench and Esther Manning  
Sustainable Campus, notably Danielle Rostan-Herbert, Judith Alcorn, and Monique Edwards  
Scholarly Services, notably Andrea Phillips, Hero Macdonald and Jennifer Warburton  
Maintenance Team, notably Harry Whiteside  
University Security, notably Tony Leonard, Dave Fitches and Ben Purvis  
Venue Management, notably Martin Anderson

### THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Erin Watson-Lynn, Director, AsiaLink Diplomacy  
Carlton Connect, notably Michelle Mannering  
Chen Liu, Owner, Lot 6 and Tsubu  
Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education, notably Sylvia Schaffarczyk  
The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU)  
UMSU Advocacy and Legal, notably Phoebe Churches, Donna Markwell and Paul Hornsby  
UMSU International  
Melbourne University Sport

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

### ORGANISATIONS

Ardoch Youth Foundation, notably Kylee Bates  
Calm

Carlton Baths, Department of Family Services, notably Vanessa O'Toole and Janine McDonald  
The Co-op Bookshop  
The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations  
The Council of International Students Australia  
The Huddle  
Monash Postgraduate Association  
Our Community  
Smiling Mind

### INDIVIDUALS

Dr. Mladen Adamovic, Centre for the Study of Workplace Leadership  
Felicia Brennan  
Susan Butler, Senior Manager, Corporate Communication, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Victoria)  
Dr. Liam Connell  
Dr. Kathryn Firth, Trinity College  
Lucy Foster, Lulu Snap  
James Freemantle, REDGum  
Prof. Peter Gahan, CSWL  
Michael Gorton, Principal, Russel Kennedy Lawyers  
Fiona Koetsier  
Rebecca Houlden  
Dr. Helen Marshall, RMIT lecturer  
Michael McBain  
Dr. Inger Mewburn, 'The Thesis Whisperer', Australian National University  
Dr. Jessie Owens, Centre for the Study of Workplace Leadership  
Dina Pozzo, Insium  
Linn Stewart  
Sam Tzouramanis, Evoco Design  
Chris Van Diepen, Bodhi Creative

## GSA COMMUNITY

### GRAD GROUPS

Agrifoodies  
Amphora Issue Collective  
AntiTHESIS  
Asia Institute Postgraduate Group  
Asia Pacific Youth Organisation  
Australia Awards Scholars Group  
Bioinformatics Graduate Student Association  
Biosciences Postgraduate Society  
Built Industry Group  
Burnley Campus Postgraduate Group  
Cancer Society of Melbourne University  
Chemistry Postgraduate Society  
Chinese Studies Research Group  
CIS Postgraduate Group  
Classics and Archaeology Postgraduate Group  
Computational Biology Postgraduate Sports Group  
Criminology Postgraduate Students' Society  
Culture and Communication Graduate Committee  
De Minimis  
Earth Science Postgraduate Group  
Ecuadorian Research and Entrepreneurship Network  
Enactus  
Forest Ecosystem Student Society  
Geography Postgraduate Society

Global Law Students Association  
Graduate Agriculture and Food Society  
Graduate Education Society  
Graduate House Student Group  
Graduate Infrastructure Engineering Society  
Graduate Organisation of Development Studies  
Graduate Researchers in Psychological Sciences  
Graduate Society of Advanced Learning and Leadership  
History and Philosophy of Science Postgraduate Association  
History Postgraduate Association  
IIT ISc Graduates  
Indigenous Graduate Student Association  
Inside Out Circle  
Languages and Linguists Postgraduate Group  
Later Law Students' Network  
Law Students for Refugees  
MDQueer  
Mechanical Engineering Research Student Association  
Med Moves  
Melbourne Business School Student Association  
Melbourne Dental Students Society  
Melbourne Energy Students Society  
Melbourne Graduate Music Society  
Melbourne Hydrological Society  
Melbourne Population Health Student Association  
Melbourne University Civil and Structural Society  
Melbourne University Drone Society  
Melbourne University Genetics Postgraduate Society  
Melbourne University Law Students' Society  
Melbourne University Nepalese Students' Society  
Melbourne University Nursing Students' Society  
Melbourne University Physiotherapy Students Society  
Melbourne University Planning Student Society  
MSD Research Students Association  
Melbourne Children's Campus Research Students Association  
Neuropsychology Students Society  
One Health Research Society  
OVS Research Crew  
Pathology Undergraduate & Graduate Group  
Persian Art and Culture  
Philosophy Postgraduate Group  
Platform: Journal of Media And Communications  
Postgraduate Association of Chemical and Engineering Researchers  
Postgraduate Environment Network  
Postgraduate Physics Students' Society  
Postgraduate students of Anatomy Sciences  
Postgraduates at Werribee  
Postgraduates of Veterinary Science Student Society  
School of Health Sciences Graduate Group  
Social Work Association of Graduate Students  
Special Postgraduate Association For Students of Immunology and Microbiology  
Sri Lankan Graduates' Society  
St Vincent's Student Society  
Statistics and Mathematics Postgraduate Society  
Student Conservators @ Melbourne  
Student Conservators for Timor Leste  
Student Neuropsychiatry Research  
Students in Primary Care Research

Students of Pharmacology  
Students of Royal Melbourne  
Students of Florey Institute  
SYNAPSE  
Taiwan Research Reading Group  
The Chilean Research Group of University of Melbourne  
The Global Consulting Group  
University of Melbourne Medical Students' Society  
University of Melbourne Optometry Students Society  
University of Melbourne Space Program  
Wilderness Medicine Students' Society

### GSA-NOMINATED COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES (NON-COUNCIL)

Alaina Vaisey (Research Higher Degrees Committee, 2017)  
Bronwyn Reddan (Research Training Advisory Committee, 2016)  
Candace Tang (FlexAP: Curriculum Structure and Approach, 2016-2017)  
Chen Liu (Selection Procedures Committee, 2017)  
Chia Sharpe (Research Training Advisory Committee, 2017)  
Chukwuma Okonkwo (Academic Consultation and Coordination Committee, 2106-2017)  
Gabriel Ong (Melbourne Custom Programs Committee, 2017)  
Gavin Sittampalam (Research Ethics and Integrity Strategy Committee, 2016)  
Juliana Betts (Selection Procedures Committee, 2017)  
Maria Di Biase (Research Ethics and Integrity Strategy Committee, 2017)  
Martin Ditmann (Arts Faculty Board, 2017)  
Molly Fredle (Faculty of Science Graduate Academic Programs Committee, 2017)  
Nicholas Goulding (Academic Programs Committee, 2017)  
Rishabh Sharma (Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee, 2017)  
Rozita Vaskoska (Academic Programs Committee, 2016)  
Shardul Jain (OHS Committee, 2016)  
Sheena Chen (Libraries and Academic Resources Committee, 2017)  
Simin Rezaei (Central Human Research Ethics Committee, 2016-2017)  
Thibaut Clamart (Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee, 2016-2017)  
Travis Hughes (Faculty of Arts Graduate Studies Committee, 2017)  
Vibhas Arora (IT Committee, 2016)  
Vicky Chen (Academic Board, 2017)  
Winston Dzau (Academic Programs Committee, 2017)

### GSA VOLUNTEERS

Rishabh Sharma  
Sheena Chen  
Rahul Sharma  
WU Yan  
Bishal Sapkota  
Min Jae (Albert) Choi  
Nabreesa Shafeeu  
Nick Parry-Jones  
Sally Lin  
Candace Tang  
Chukwuma Okonkwo  
Ahmed Sadek





Graduate students outside the 1888 Building



## FINANCIAL REPORT

### UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

Reg No. A0028915Y

#### INCOME STATEMENT For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Student services and amenities fee funding		1,937,398	1,880,967
Rental income		165,433	166,356
Interest income		36,921	54,463
Publishing centre services		4,126	120,119
Other income		1,427	3,985
Communications programs		22,419	27,715
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>2,167,724</b>	<b>2,253,605</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Honoraria		130,372	126,791
Salaries and wages		1,453,330	1,297,129
Publications		6,381	19,895
Audit and accounting fees		15,500	11,660
Bank charges		3,771	3,561
Depreciation expense		69,132	93,808
Staff amenities and supplies		4,667	8,110
Administration expenses		226,863	332,148
Rent and building services		160	5,834
Support groups and activities		232,160	148,476
Doubtful debts		-	(9,503)
Computer maintenance		26,579	18,075
Government charges		838	2,331
Insurance		7,597	7,597
Events and promotions		127,329	159,930
Other expenses		133,805	60,214
Loss on disposal of assets		10,910	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>2,449,394</b>	<b>2,286,056</b>
<b>Loss before income tax</b>		<b>(281,670)</b>	<b>(32,451)</b>
Income tax expense	1(a)	-	-
<b>Loss after income tax</b>		<b>(281,670)</b>	<b>(32,451)</b>
<b>Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year</b>		<b>1,825,437</b>	<b>1,857,888</b>
<b>Retained profits at the end of the financial year</b>		<b>1,543,767</b>	<b>1,825,437</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

### UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

Reg No. A0028915Y

#### BALANCE SHEET As At 31 December 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	1,599,982	1,866,687
Trade and other receivables	3	41,746	53,525
Other assets	4	16,266	15,914
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,657,994</b>	<b>1,936,126</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Plant and equipment	5	107,769	181,409
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>107,769</b>	<b>181,409</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,765,763</b>	<b>2,117,535</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	87,611	88,871
Employee Provisions	7	113,268	189,829
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>200,879</b>	<b>278,700</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee provisions	7	21,117	13,398
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>21,117</b>	<b>13,398</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>221,996</b>	<b>292,098</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,543,767</b>	<b>1,825,437</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained profits		1,543,767	1,825,437
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<b>1,543,767</b>	<b>1,825,437</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



**UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC**  
Reg No. A0028915Y

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2015	1,857,888	1,857,888
Loss attributable to members	(32,451)	(32,451)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2015</b>	<b>1,825,437</b>	<b>1,825,437</b>
Loss attributable to members	(281,670)	(281,670)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2016</b>	<b>1,543,767</b>	<b>1,543,767</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC**  
Reg No. A0028915Y

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Receipts from customers	107,804	118,738
Proceeds from student services and amenities fee funding	1,937,398	1,880,967
Rent received	165,433	166,356
Interest received	36,920	54,463
Payments to suppliers and employees	(2,518,765)	(2,166,583)
Net cash provided by operating activities	8(b) (271,210)	53,941
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	19,529	-
Purchase of fixed assets	(15,024)	(21,334)
Net cash used by investing activities	4,505	(21,334)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Hire purchase repayments	-	(2,375)
Net cash used by financing activities	-	(2,375)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents held	(266,705)	30,232
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	1,866,687	1,836,455
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	8(a) 1,599,982	1,866,687

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

Reg No. A0028915Y

### STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

The Executive Committee has determined that the University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc. (the Association) is a Tier Three reporting entity under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the executive committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 8

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc as at 31 December 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement has been made in accordance with a resolution of the Executive Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Executive Committee by:



Sina Khatami  
President



Thomas Whiteside  
General Secretary

Date: 17 May 2017



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### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC.

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association Inc. (the "Association"), which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2016, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the period then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by the executive committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Entity is in accordance with *Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 31 December 2016 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012*.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants ("the Code") that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Entity's annual report for the year ended 31 December 2016, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

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If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

*Executive Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The executive committee of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The executive committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit.

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.

We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

We conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them, all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

*ShineWing Australia*

**ShineWing Australia**  
Chartered Accountants

*M. Schofield*

**Matthew Schofield**  
Partner

Melbourne, 19 May 2017





[gsa.unimelb.edu.au](http://gsa.unimelb.edu.au)

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 /GraduateStudentAssociation

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