

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, Bolor Jamiyandagva, Amin Abedini	
Apologies		
Other Attendees	Sajal Goundar – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kelvin Hoang – Manager Business Operations & Finance (MBOF) Liana Moore – Interim Manger Student Engagement Carole Griffin – HR & OHS Officer Eren Muller – Minute Taker	
Guest Attendees	Guest Speaker – Skye Griffiths, Voice to Parliament, presentation	
Observers: Representative and Faculty Council members	Aileen Mae San Jose – FC, Carmela Barcelona – FC, Dimple Malhotra – FC, Reymond – FC, Nonica Gurralla – FC Sakshi Chawla – Enviro & Sustain Officer	
Absent	Rosalie Ritter-Jones, Nidhi Sikka, Yujia (Lucy) Zhang Christina Murambi – Manager Policy & Advocacy	
	<p>1 – FORMAL MATTERS</p> <p>1a. Welcome & Acknowledgment</p> <p>The President opened meeting at 4:13pm with welcome and acknowledgment.</p> <p>The President reminded board members to forward identified Conflict of Interest/s to the General Secretary – <i>Noted</i></p> <p>1b. Attendance</p> <p>1c. Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No new declarations. <i>Refer to Board Policies</i></p> <p>1d. Minutes & Follow-up log actions (Attachment 1d)</p> <p>Motion: The minutes of the GSA Board meeting held on 30th August 2023 be accepted without amendment.</p> <p>Moved: President, Jesse Gardner-Russell</p> <p>Seconded: Board Member, Bolor Jamiyandagva</p> <p>Motion is Passed with all in favour, 3 absent (Rosalie Ritter-Jones, Nidhi Sikka, Yujia (Lucy) Zhang), no one against.</p> <p><i>Circular resolutions for ratification:</i></p> <p>Motion: That Nidhi Sikka to be granted a leave of absence under s 9.14 of the GSA Constitution for the day 27/09/2023.</p> <p>Moved: General Secretary</p> <p>Seconded: Treasurer</p> <p>Motion is passed with all in favour, one abstained (Board Member, Nidhi Sikka), no one against.</p> <p>RATIFIED</p> <p>Motion: That Rosalie Ritter-Jones to be granted a leave of absence under s 9.14 of the GSA Constitution for the day 27/09/2023.</p> <p>Moved: General Secretary</p>	<p>Responsible person, time Allocated</p> <p>President 5 minutes</p>

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<p>Seconded: Treasurer Motion is passed with all in favour, one abstained (Vice President, Rosalie Ritter-Jones), no one against. RATIFIED</p> <p>Motion: That Yujia (Lucy) Zhang to be granted a leave of absence under s 9.14 of the GSA Constitution for the period from 20/09/2023 to 01/10/2023.</p> <p>Moved: General Secretary</p> <p>Seconded: Treasurer Motion is passed with all in favour, one abstained (Board Member, Yujia ‘Lucy’ Zhang) , no one against. RATIFIED</p> <p>1f. Meeting to move in camera</p> <p>Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera All Board Members voting in favour to move in camera, Motion is Passed.</p>	
<p>2. Voice to Parliament presentation, Guest speakers: Skye Griffiths – Media Adviser Parliament of Australia Senator Jana Stewart – Parliament Member, Victoria</p> <p>The President welcomed and thanked Skye Griffiths and Senator Jana Stewart for making time to join the GSA Board meeting, and reiterated that the Voice to Parliament is very important to the board, our members, and at the university setting.</p> <p>The President made a special mention and expressed appreciation to Senator Jana Stewart for being available to meet with the board, representative members, especially during such a busy period and heavy schedule, noting that the board and representative members are excited to hear from Senator Stewart about the Voice to Parliament.</p> <p>Senator Jana Stewart thanked the board and representative members, and expressed appreciation for the invitation and for the enthusiasm to learn more about the Voice to Parliament.</p> <p>Senator Stewart - Acknowledged Country, paying respect to elders, past and present and explained the importance of Acknowledgment of Country, in particular, now as we are having a significant conversation nationally about First Nations Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples place in our history, in our country’s founding document, in our constitution.</p> <p>The conversation that we are having nationally is the invitation from First Nations Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples. It is an invitation from First Nations Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples directly to each and every Australian. The ask from First Nations Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples is to see us, to hear us. First Nations Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples want to be recognised in the 120-year-old Constitution, and to have the 65,000 years of history in connection to this place, seen and enshrined into our Constitution, and who we are as a Nation. The Constitution change is also about better outcomes, better future and empowering First Nations Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples voice.</p> <p>Senator Stewart provided the board with an overview of the challenges First Nations Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples face and spoke of the solutions that First Nations Peoples</p>	<p>Board</p>

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<p>and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples have in addressing those challenges, and how we can actively be involved, in having conversations with family, friends, etc.</p> <p>Senator Stewart invited the board and representative members to ask questions.</p> <p>President: as an organisation which represents approx. 40,000 graduate students at the university, how can we show our support and maintain a culturally safe environment.</p> <p>Senator Jana Stewart: advised the board and representative members that there are a number of ways to show support including, a public statement supporting the Voice to Parliament and engaging in conversation on social media, having conversations with parents and grandparents, other family members are all great ways to show support to First Nations Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples and the Voice to Parliament.</p> <p>Senator Jana Stewart: The following weeks will be very difficult for First Nations Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, carrying the weight of the Referendum will be very difficult. If board, representative members, graduate students have further questions that are not thought of today, the best approach would be to undertake the research as individuals, as everything that we can do to lighten the load of our allies is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>The President expressed thanks to Senator Jana Stewart on behalf of the board, representative members and graduate students.</p> <p>Senator Jana Stewart, left the meeting.</p> <p>Skye Griffiths provided a brief to the board, representative members how we can best support First Nations Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples, noting that a Voice in Parliament enshrined (is step in the right direction). Skye reiterating the importance of engaging with friends and family and invited the board and representative members to ask any questions not raised with Senator Stewart. The board and representative members discussed the Voice to Parliament items with Skye Griffiths.</p> <p>The President thanked Skye Griffiths on behalf of the board and representative members, graduate students for her time and arranging the surprise visit from Senator Jana Stewart.</p> <p>Skye Griffiths, left the meeting.</p>	
<p>3 – BOARD REPORTING – (Attachment 3a-g)</p> <p>3a. President Update on GSA Board, RC, external stakeholder issues and other meetings (Attachment 3a)</p> <p>The President’s report is noted as read.</p> <p>The President stated the importance of supporting students across all campuses, noting that students not located at Parkville, are often significantly affected and often have a reduction in services and support, events and student life and therefore we will be holding several different events and will also be supporting our doctor, veterinary and medicine students.</p> <p>The President also highlighted regional visits, which will include Shepparton, Southbank and Werribee also coincides with our Graduate Student Survey.</p> <p>The President summarised a busy and fruitful month, noting major highlights including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Werribee events are locked in and will coincide with our graduate student survey. This is a return to GSA’s pre-pandemic engagement model and will also include trips to Shepparton and Southbank. Our Graduate Art Prize was a massive success and saw 	<p>Board 20 min</p>

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a record number of 130+ entries. The night was an elevated experience and this year we saw several members of chancellery join the night.

- Plans for the Ball are progressing, and we should be ready to release tickets by October 6th. There will need to be some additional work on AV and the projections, but overall the price will come to \$50 per student. The aim is to have a grad group pre-release of tickets whereby they can book full/half tables (14 allocated), with 15 tables allocated to half/full group booking and 15 to mixed (smaller groups) bookings. We also aim to do the Grad Groups awards during the night and can hopefully get some great engagement.
- The President and CEO are following up on a Graduate Lounge at Southbank and plan to visit Southbank to investigate the spaces. Likewise, The President is also supporting several students with their advocacy issues, seeing positive outcomes.
- University Accords Table - The President was invited to attend a round table to discuss the student voice and paid placements. The President and Vice President have followed up with the Disability and Equity Officer on the SEDS items and look forward to continued efforts to improve exam delivery. The President reiterated the major challenges that financial disadvantage and socio-economic disadvantage have on students throughout university study that local, regional, and international graduate students endure, including, cost of living affordability, housing affordability, etc., which heavily impacts on students sustaining high level academically. The President acknowledged the impact on graduate students in recent years has escalated due to increased cost of living pressures.
- The Representative Council is working exceptionally well, and we should celebrate their incredible work. The President organised a team building day which will be held on the 6th of October to promote teamwork and physical activity in collaboration with MU Sport.
- President has been working on the Scholarship Indexation.

Board Member, Bolor Jamiyandagva: reported to the board that students have 10 working days to apply for Special Consideration however recent conversations with graduate students have highlighted delays of up to 9 working days, before receiving a reply.

President: advised that the student survey has a question relating to SEDS, however it speaks to the broad issue that delays are due to being understaffed.

President: potentially the board could show support for secure employment and some principles of what those groups are asking for (such as the NTEU). We could also ask elected reps to keep the pressure on and our SEDS submission.

Board Member, Bolor Jamiyandagva: enquired if the board is supporting the Union Strike in the upcoming week.

President: advised that a circular motion will be circulated via email with letter of support for the strike.

President: noted that he also worked on the scholarship indexation and a submission to the university, analysing different scholarships available to coursework for graduate coursework students, with the recommendation to index all the financial needs scholarships available to graduate coursework students by 20% from a median of \$1500 to \$2,480, to an average of \$3,000. The submission was very positively received.

Action Item: President needs to reach out to Gregor Kennedy – *Noted*.

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3a i. Supporting First Nations Voices

The President provided the Board and Representative member observers a brief of GSA’s support of First Nations Voices.

Motion: That the GSA Board endorses providing a direct operating grant of \$13,000 to NATSIPA to support advocacy and representation of First Nations post-graduate students for the year 2023, subject to a funding agreement and acquittal procedure with NATSIP

Moved: President, Jesse Gardner-Russell

Seconded: Board Member, Bolor Jamiyandagva

Motion is Passed with 5 in favour, 3 absent (Rosalie Ritter-Jones, Nidhi Sikka, Yujia (Lucy) Zhang), no one against.

3b. General Secretary Report (Attachment 3b)

The General Secretary Report is noted as read.

The General Secretary highlighted items focused on including:

- Election Process Summary and review
- Constitution, Electoral Regulations and Governance Charter Working Group. Agenda confirmed, expect the meeting to proceed within three weeks.
- RC and Compliance participation, some members participation is still outstanding, Conflict of Interest form and Enrolment proof. The General Secretary will work with the Governance Officer to chase up the outstanding Members - *Noted*.
- Newly appointed casual reps will require training.

Action Item: General Secretary to arrange training with newly appointed casual reps – *Noted*.

3c. Vice President Report (Attachment 3c)

The Vice President’s report is noted as read.

The Vice President highlighted items focused on including:

- Faculty Council – Budget approved, will be making sure FC members are aware of their budget allocation, and encouraging them to use it.
- Spread SEDS review survey link to FC members for them to also spread through their faculties/circles.
- GSA Galaxy Gala Planning, compiled mood-board.

3d. Treasurer Report (Attachment 3d)

The Vice President’s report is noted as read.

The Treasurer highlighted items focused on:

- Elected Student Rep Conference and Travel Expenditure Policy review.
- Budget 2024, reviewing with the MBOF.
- Victorian Pride Centre visit.
- Treasurer and International Officer attended the Future of education symposium.

Treasurer departed meeting 7:01pm.

3e. Nidhi Sikka (Attachment 3e)

Board Member Nidhi Sikka’s report is noted as read.

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<p>Board Member, Nidhi highlighted items focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability – supporting the Environmental & Sustainability Officer, with policy amendment and planning for the sustainability fair. • SPC Committee – next meeting will be held on 9th October. If Representatives have suggestions, please forward to Nidhi prior to date of meeting. • Attendance of Future Forte Conference, October. <p>3f. Bolor Jamiyandagva (Attachment 3f) Board Member Bolor Jamiyandagva’s report is noted as read. Board Member, Bolor highlighted items focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the August Open Forum on Environment and Sustainability and Health and Welfare and attended the September Open Forum on Education. Both Open Forums were interesting and well organised. Many graduate students attended and had lively conversations. The Open Forum allows students to come together to share and discuss ideas. • Membership strategy – currently looking at possibility to tie memberships and GSA events through its various social media platforms. <p>3g. Yujia (Lucy) Zhang (Attachment 3g) Board Member Yujia (Lucy) Zhang report is noted as read. Board Member, Yujia (Lucy) Zhang highlighted items focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GradCon Attendance: Attended the GradCon at UQ. This experience expanded understanding of how postgraduate student associations have collaborated in the past, and potential opportunities for cooperation in the future. • Liaising with GradChat Podcast Team: had the opportunity to connect with the team leader of the GradChat podcast and even held an on-site meeting to discuss how GSA can assist with their plan. <p>3h. Amin Abedini (Attachment 3h) Note: Board Member Amin Abedini had an urgent matter arise at 6:45pm and therefore attended remainder of meeting on mobile - <i>Noted</i>. Board Member Amin Abedini’s report is noted as read. Focus for the upcoming month includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencement of graduate working group working groups. • Committee representative training - The video presentation on committee representative training was reviewed. Interested in the upcoming university committees. 	
<p>4 – MATTERS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL</p> <p>4a. Minutes of Representative Council Meeting – September (Attachment 4a) The minutes of the GSA Representative Council meeting held on 20 September 2023, to be noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC Minutes, noted. <p>4b. Recommendations from the Representative Council for Board consideration <i>No Representative Council items for Board consideration in September.</i></p>	<p>President 5min</p>

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<p>Representative Council Member Sakshi Chawla: enquired about the deadline for submitting Representative Council (RC) Reports.</p> <p>President: confirmed that RC reports should be submitted (7) days prior to meeting. The Honorarium states the RC report must be submitted before the commencement of the RC meeting/s – <i>Noted</i>.</p>	
<p>5 – MATTERS FROM THE FACULTY COUNCIL</p> <p>5a. Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting – No meeting held in September</p> <p>5b. Recommendations from the Faculty Council for Board consideration</p> <p>No recommendations for Board consideration in September.</p>	<p>Vice President 5 min</p>
<p>6 – MATTERS FROM WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>Purpose: The established Working Groups including Board members, RC, FC, and staff members to support and provide strategic advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grad Groups • Advocacy • Constitution, Electoral Regulations and Governance Charter Review • Strategic Plan • International Graduate Students <p>No items for the Working groups for September.</p>	<p>General Secretary 10 min</p>
<p>7 – OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>7a. Questions and other business from observers</p> <p>No additional questions from observers</p> <p>7b. Meeting to move in camera.</p> <p>Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera.</p> <p>Moved: All Board Members vote in favour to move out of camera – motion carries</p>	<p>President 5 min</p>
<p>Meeting concluded 8:08pm</p>	
<p>Next Board Meeting – Wednesday 25 October 2023</p>	