



GSA Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 31 January 2024

4:00pm – 7:00pm

Room 198-L1-102 | Zoom

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.

Chair	Jesse Gardner-Russell (President)	
Board Members in attendance	Yingchen Zhao (General Secretary) Junyi (Johnny) Zheng (Treasurer) Rosalie Ritter-Jones (Vice President) Yujia (Lucy) Zhang Amin Abedini Bolor Jamiyandagva	
Staff Attendees	Sajal Goundar (CEO) Kavisha Garg (Governance & Executive Officer, Minute Taker)	
Observers	Jordan Di Natale (Activities Officer) Ifrah Saeed (Education (Research) Officer)	
Absent	None	
	<p>1 – FORMAL MATTERS</p> <p>1a. Welcome & Acknowledgment</p> <p>President opened meeting at 4:09pm with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcome to all members.</p> <p>1b. Attendance</p> <p>1c. Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No new declarations. Refer to Board Policies.</p> <p>1d. Minutes & Follow-up log actions</p> <p>Motion: The minutes of the GSA Board meeting held on 29th November 2023 be accepted with no amendments. Moved: President, Jesse Gardner-Russell Seconded: Vice President, Rosalie Ritter-Jones All in favour, no one abstaining, no one against. Motion carries.</p> <p>1e. Other Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulars for formal approval: No circulars for formal approval • Circular resolutions for ratification: <p>Motion: The GSA Board accepts the draft changes to the electoral regulations as proposed by the Constitution Electoral Regulations & Governance Charter Review Working Group and endorses it for electoral tribunal review and approval. Moved: General Secretary, Yingchen Zhao Seconded: Treasurer, Junyi (Johhny) Zhang All in favour, no one abstaining, no one against. Motion carries. RATIFIED</p>	<p>President 15 mins</p>

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<p>Motion: That the GSA Board supports the continuation of COVID-19 Stipend Extensions for Graduate Researchers and endorses the attached letter to be sent to Justin Zobel on behalf of the undersigned students.</p> <p>Moved: President, Jesse Gardner-Russell</p> <p>Seconded: General Secretary, Yingchen Zhao</p> <p>All in favour, no one abstaining, no one against. Motion carries.</p> <p>RATIFIED</p> <p>1f. Meeting to move in camera.</p> <p>Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera.</p> <p>All in favour, no one abstaining, no one against. Motion carries.</p>	
<p>2 – BOARD REPORTING</p> <p>2a. President’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder Engagement: Recently met with the Head of the Veterinary School and the Director of Finance alongside the CEO. Represented GSA at the Victorian University round table on the federal government’s sexual misconduct action plan, gaining insights into other executives involved in this area. Had the opportunity to meet the new Provost Chancellor for People and Equity three times within her initial 14 days, establishing a valuable ally for advocacy on behalf of graduate researchers. Covid-19 Stipend Extension: Actively involved in supporting a grassroots group of graduate researchers advocating for the extension of the Covid-19 stipend. Grateful to the board for swiftly pushing through the motion. Engaged in discussions with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate and International Research) on the matter, highlighting the positive working relationship with Prof Justin Zobel. Everyone, including Justin, is demonstrating support for this initiative. CAPA: Successfully garnered the votes needed to reinstate voting rights for disenfranchised members, marking a positive turn of events. Congratulations to Lucy and Jordan for their election to CAPA; Jordan now serves as the National Media Officer, and Lucy is the National Vice President. Honoured to be elected as a board member, and the overall progress has been promising. The decision to appoint another GSA board member to serve as a liaison between CAPA and the board was discussed. Jesse inquired if anyone was interested, and Amin nominated himself for the representative role. <p>Motion: That Amin Abedini be appointed as a representative to the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA).</p> <p>Moved: President, Jesse Gardner-Russell</p> <p>Seconded: Vice President, Rosalie Ritter-Jones</p> <p>All in favour, with Amin Abedini abstaining, no one against. Motion carries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan inquired about the extent of the stipend extension increase. Jesse clarified that the intention is to maintain the current scheme for the graduate researchers. <p>2b. General Secretary’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant time was dedicated to compliance-related tasks, focusing on the review of the constitution with the working group. The electoral regulations were successfully approved by the electoral tribunal. 	<p>Board Members 30 min</p>

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- Presently, the working group is actively gathering feedback from the membership regarding the constitution. Forwarded the received feedback to the working group, and the next step involves collaborating with legal experts to determine necessary amendments. The upcoming round of consultation is scheduled for March.
- Addressing the low participation of student representatives, intending to conduct regular check-ins and follow-ups to ensure they fulfill their responsibilities and take appropriate actions if needed.
- Student Casual Recruitment: The assessment centre had a fantastic turnout and hoping to welcome new faces to work for GSA.
- Jordan appreciated the progress made with regards to the work on student representatives.

2c. Vice-President’s Report

- Actively participating in the Constitution and Electoral Regulations Review Working Group to seek input from the membership on proposed amendments to the constitution.
- Collaborated with the SE manager to plan faculty council meetings for the semester, with the first meeting scheduled for 07/02/24. Currently working on the agenda.
- No meeting held for Grad Groups Working Group, next meeting planned for the upcoming month.
- Participate at the Law Masters Orientation Day on 02/02/24 and JD Orientation Day on 21/02/24. Plan to attend at Parkville and Southbank orientation days.
- No recent updates on Dean’s outreach, looking forward to Kavisha’s executive dean list.

2d. Treasurer’s Report

- The budget for 2024 has been approved and is currently in effect.
- Commending the successful progress of casual recruitment, with special acknowledgment to Yingchen and Carole. Excited about delivering more campaigns and services.
- Scheduled to meet with SE Manager to follow up on the Reconciliation Action Plan and explore opportunities for reactivation.
- Initiating a new funding scheme for Graduate Groups and planning to coordinate with MBOF and the Finance officer to implement it effectively.
- Main priorities include chairing the working groups for International Student Engagement and Strategic Advocacy. Further progress updates will be shared in the next meeting.

2e. Lucy Zhang’s Report

- Dedicated significant time to identify and engage potential candidates for the GSA Board, considering that half of the current board members are set to graduate in the coming year.
- Engaged in several detailed discussions with the CEO. Also, met with MBOF to discuss the audit, and it is progressing smoothly.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Casual Recruitment: The MBOF suggested expanding skillset offerings, will be having more discussions regarding this. • Filling the position in the working group for Nidhi, expecting more progress in this regard. <p>2f. Bolor Jamiyandagva’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stayed consistently engaged in communication through email and social media. • Actively encouraging friends and other students to apply for casual job vacancies at GSA. • Scheduled a meeting with the CEO next week to discuss progress. • Met with the Manager P&A to discuss committee meetings and their proceedings, currently involved in two committees and encouraging participation from others. Received an email from Lily requesting a report to document discussed topics and progress of committee meetings from now on. • Looking forward to the upcoming FRAC meeting. • The President recommended checking with Lily regarding active groups and to involve more people in academic committees. <p>2g. Amin Abedini’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged in the Constitution and Electoral Regulations Review Working Group, actively participating in discussions. • Met with the CEO to address outreach initiatives for international students, focusing on providing resources such as assistance with housing, connections with peers, and targeted activities to enhance awareness. • Coordinating efforts to collaborate with departmental faculties during orientation to promote awareness of GSA events and activities. 	
<p>3 – MATTERS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE & FACULTY COUNCILS</p> <p>3a. Minutes of Representative Council Meetings Meeting held on 24th January 2024. The minutes of the RC meeting to be noted.</p> <p>3b. Recommendations from the Representative Council for Board consideration. Recommendations from RC Meeting: Motion from the RC meeting was discussed and has been tabled for consideration in an in-camera session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President read preamble and invited Ifrah and Jordan to speak on the motion. • Ifrah reported that the motion was successfully passed at the RC meeting without any amendments. However, Jordan and another RC member raised some concerns, prompting to create an amended version that addresses these issues. • RC Member, Bridie, has shared an email with the General Secretary to address some of the concerns in the implemented motion. • Jordan responded to the motion, emphasizing the gravity of the issue and its impact on those affected. • The President thanked Ifrah and Jordan for their input. 	<p>To Be Noted 5 mins</p>

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<p>3c. Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting No Faculty Council meeting held in January 2024.</p> <p>3d. Recommendations from the Faculty Council for Board consideration No Recommendations for January 2024. Ifrah left the meeting at 7.59pm.</p>	
<p>4 – MATTERS FROM WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>Purpose: To inform the GSA Board about the work and recommendations from the working groups.</p> <p>4a. Minutes & Recommendations from Grad Group Working Group No Meeting held in January 2024.</p> <p>4b. Minutes & Recommendations from Strategic Advocacy Working Group No Meeting held in January 2024.</p> <p>4c. Minutes & Recommendations from Constitution, Electoral Regulations & Governance Charter Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting held on 24th January 2024 No questions or concerns raised regarding the minutes of the meeting. Another Consultation session to be held soon. <p>4d. Minutes & Recommendations from Strategic Plan Working Group No Meeting held in January 2024.</p> <p>4e. Minutes & Recommendations from International Graduate Students Working Group No Meeting held January 2024.</p>	<p>25 mins</p> <p>Rosalie Ritter-Jones</p> <p>Junyi (Johnny) Zheng</p> <p>Rosalie Ritter-Jones</p> <p>Jesse Gardner-Russell</p> <p>Junyi (Johnny) Zheng</p>
<p>5 – OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>5a. Questions and other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To appoint Yujia (Lucy) Zhang as the new chair for the International Graduate Students Working Group. <p>Motion: That Yujia (Lucy) Zhang be appointed as the chair for the International Graduate Students Working Group. Moved: Vice President, Rosalie Ritter-Jones Seconded: Amin Abedini</p> <p>All in favour, with Yujia (Lucy) Zhang abstaining, no one against. Motion carries.</p> <p>5b. Meeting to move in camera.</p> <p>Procedural Motion: That the meeting move in camera. All in favour, no one abstaining, no one against. Motion carries.</p>	<p>President 10 min</p>
<p>Meeting concluded 8:04 PM</p>	
<p>Next Board Meeting – 28th February 2024</p>	