

Meeting 3/2026

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 4:06-5:47pm on Thursday 30 April 2026 in the MGA Meeting Room, Caulfield Campus and by Zoom.

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 4:06pm

1. Formal matters

1.1 Acknowledgement of country

The Chair acknowledged and paid respect to the people of the Kulin nations as the original and ongoing owners and custodians of this unceded land.

1.2 Attendance & Apologies

Present: Yiwen Yuan (Chair), Kalani Perera, Jingrong Wang, Jason Yeung (joined 4.17pm), Troy Lau, Jonathan Paul (joined at 4.19), Janhanvi Moze (joined at 5:00pm), Chatarina Hanny Teja (left at 5:08), Rebekah McEwan, Akshita Sinha, Vidhi Agarwal.

Apologies: Hard Gorakhia

In attendance: Jing Hu - Arts Student Forum rep, Faculty of Arts
Megha Mohandas - Education Committee rep, Faculty of BUSECO
Mohammad Pizuar Hossain (Pizuar)- Faculty Graduate Research Committee rep - Faculty of Law
Shane Henry - Arts Student Forum rep, Faculty of Arts
Solomon Ansah - Faculty Graduate Research Committee rep, Faculty of Engineering
Thisara Bandara Senaratha (Thisara) - Civil Engineering Postgraduate Committee rep, Faculty of Engineering
Agustinus Saputra - International Committee rep, Faculty of BUSECO
Thomas Pirotta - Pharmacy Postgraduate Association rep - Faculty of Pharmacy
Zi Xing Mun (Xing) - Pharmacy Postgraduate Association rep, Faculty of Pharmacy
Yanxi Shen - Arts Student Forum rep, Faculty of Arts

Janice Boey, Executive Officer
Ryan Edwards, Research Manager
Ying Xu, Advocacy Manager
Jack Kennedy, Campaigns Officer
Shinyi Carnibella, Marketing & Communications Manager

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

The Chair called for any additional items to be added to the agenda. No further items were raised.

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of the March 2026 meeting for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of the March MGAEC 2026 be confirmed.

Moved: Vidhi Agarwal

Seconded: Jingrong Wang

(In favour: 9 Abstain: 1, Against: 0)

The motion is carried.

2.2 Action list register

The action list was noted.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

The President's report was noted.

3.2 Members' reports

The MGAEC member reports were noted.

3.3 Staff Activity report

The Staff report was noted.

3.4 March 2026 Profit and Loss report

The March 2026 Profit and Loss report was noted.

3.5 March 2026 MGA Newsletters & Social Media Report

The MGA Newsletter and Social Media Report was noted.

3.6 March 2026 Advocacy Report

The Advocacy Report was noted.

3.7 MGAEC meeting attendance records

The MGAEC meeting attendance records were noted.

4. University committee graduate representatives discussion (MGA Student Council)

Jinghu raised concerns regarding limited support for HDR students with disability, including a lack of accessible accommodation options, limited visa-related options for students with disability, and the financial burden associated with conference attendance.

Ryan noted that MGA has been working with MGRO and Disability Student Support (DSS) to develop a Reasonable Adjustments Guide to support the University in better assisting students with disabilities. This work is ongoing and is currently being finalised and will be released shortly.

Ying advised that MGA now provides a Migration Support Service to assist students with visa-related queries. However, MGA's capacity to advocate for additional visa options at the government level is limited.

Megha raised concerns about limited guidance for coursework students choosing between an industry project and a minor thesis, as well as uncertainty around how to pursue cross-faculty collaboration. Ying advised that students should seek guidance from their respective faculties. If not, students can also reach out to the advocacy team for support. Rebecca noted that this is a common issue and that there is an opportunity for faculties to provide more structured support in this area.

Solomon raised concerns that international conference funding for HDR students is limited, with little or no additional support available from faculties, and queried what role MGA could play in addressing this. Yiwen noted that, at the recent VCSPAF meeting, the Vice-Chancellor indicated a potential increase in travel grants, although no further details were provided. This will be followed up.

Shane raised concerns regarding the low RTP stipend scholarship for HDR students at Monash, noting that it is the second lowest among Group of Eight (G08) universities. He also noted that his faculty has recently announced an increase in travel grant from \$2.2k to \$2.9k. Ryan advised that MGA have been exploring advocacy options to increase the RTP stipend scholarships, as this has been identified as a priority by the MGAEC.

Xing and Thomas raised two queries. The first related to changes in SSAF allocation, specifically the removal of the 20% allocation for capital projects, and whether MGA would be in a position to fund capital projects. The second query was whether MGA could provide staff support to PPA on a regular basis (e.g. one day per week).

Jan responded that MGA has introduced a new grant for student groups to apply for small asset purchases. Larger capital projects or refurbishments would require a discussion with the University to seek opportunities for joint collaborations. She also noted that PPA can access existing MGA assets to avoid duplication.

Jan further explained that the previous 20% SSAF allocation for capital projects no longer reflects current student priorities, with student welfare being a more pressing concern. MGA has therefore advocated for the funding to be directed towards programs and services that better support students' current needs. As part of this, PPA has received an increase in funding from MGA for 2026.

In response to the second query, Yiwen acknowledged the request for dedicated staff support and advised that MGA is open to considering this and will explore the feasibility.

Before wrapping up the Student Council section of the meeting, Yiwen invited Jack to provide an update on MGA's PTV campaign for graduate student concession to ensure student representatives were informed of current advocacy work.

Jack thanked Yiwen for the opportunity and outlined that the campaign is driven by ongoing financial pressures faced by graduate students. He noted that this is a long-standing issue and that MGA intends to progress the campaign through engagement with the University and externally, including the Minister for Transport and local federal MPs.

Jack also advised that he recently met with the Mayor of Glen Eira Council, who was supportive of the campaign and indicated she would raise the issue with other council mayors

and within the Glen Eira Council. He further noted that he and a few members of the MGAEC recently attended a meeting chaired by Melbourne University's Graduate Student Association (GSA) and the Council of Australian Postgraduate Association (CAPA), which is looking to revive the FareFairs campaign. While MGA will support and collaborate with this broader initiative, Jack noted that the MGAEC subcommittee for the PTV campaign had agreed to continue to lead its own campaign for graduate student PTV concessions .

Yiwen thanked the student representatives for their time and invited them to stay for the remainder of the MGAEC meeting.

5. Business

5.1 Business arising

5.1.1 Correction to RO appointment for MGAEC Elections

It was moved:

That the MGAEC:

1. Notes the error regarding Returning Officer eligibility; and
2. Endorses the appointment of Stephen Luntz as Returning Officer and Ciara as Deputy Returning Officer for the current election period.

Moved: Vidhi Agarwal

Seconded: Akshita Sinha

(In favour: 9 , Abstain: 1, Against: 0)

The motion is carried.

5.1.2 MGA Audit Report 2025

Charlie presented a comprehensive overview of MGA's financial statements including profit and loss statement, balance sheet, and statement of cash flow.

It was moved:

That the MGA Audit Report for 2025 is confirmed.

Moved: Vidhi Agarwal

Seconded: Kalani Perera

(In favour: 9, Abstain: 1, Against:)

The motion is carried.

5.1.3 PTV Campaign

This matter was considered during the MGA Student Council section of the meeting.

5.1.4 485 Visa update

The response from the Assistant Minister for International Education, Julian Hill, was noted. Jack observed that while the response was largely general in nature, it was notable that the Minister acknowledged the timing of the changes to the 485 visa and indicated that feedback would be shared with relevant areas of the Department of

Home Affairs for consideration in future Temporary Graduate Visa (TGV) policy settings.

5.1.5 MGA Vision statement subcommittee update

Yiwen provided an update on the first subcommittee meeting for the development of the MGA vision statement. She noted that the committee discussed MGA key values including advocacy, independence, representation and student belonging, as well as the distinction between a vision statement and a mission statement. The intention is to present the draft to the MGAEC at the May meeting for further discussion, and Yiwen invited committee members to provide additional feedback.

5.1.6 CAPA update

The correspondence from CAPA was noted.

5.2.1 MGA Annual Report 2025

The draft MGA Annual Report 2025 (pending design) was noted. Yiwen expressed enthusiasm at seeing MGA's first annual report come together and noted she looked forward to presenting it at the upcoming AGM. Jan advised that the final version will be circulated to the Committee once design is completed by the Marketing team.

It was moved:

That the MGA Executive Committee:

1. Endorses the draft MGA Annual Report 2025, subject to any minor editorial amendments; and
2. Approves the report for tabling at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Moved: Vidhi Agarwal

Seconded: Rebekah McEwan

(In favour: 9, Abstain: 1, Against:)

The motion is carried.

5.2.2 MGAEC Reports for AGM

Yiwen reminded all MGAEC members to submit their reports for the upcoming AGM using the provided template to ensure consistent formatting.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting would be held in May 2026 at a time and place to be confirmed by members' availability.

The meeting closed at 5.47pm