

Meeting 5/2026

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 4:00 - 6:00 pm on Thursday 18 June 2026 in the MGA Meeting Room, Caulfield Campus and by Zoom.

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 4.05pm

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, Troy Lau, Jonathan Paul, Janhanvi Moze, Rebekah McEwan, Akshita Sinha, Vidhi Agarwal, Rajdeep Jammu, Jason Yeung, Mohammed Zeehan and Chatarina Hanny Teja.

Apologies: No apologies were received.

In attendance: **Incoming MGAEC members:** Ananya Verma, Jay Rohit Sharma, Milanshu, Shuqian Liu, James Damches, Parv Haria, Sneha Sivakumar, Tanya Maithani, Yannee Liu

MGA Staff - Janice Boey, Executive Officer, Charlie Li, HR & Finance Manager, Ryan Edwards, Research Manager, Ying Xu, Advocacy Manager, Jack Kennedy, Campaigns Officer, Shinyi Carnibella, Marketing & Communications Manager, Leilani Hatfield, Events 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 May 2026 meeting for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of the May MGAEC 2026 be confirmed.

Moved: Janhavi Moze

Seconded: Kalani Perera

(In favour: 11, Abstain: 0, 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. Yiwen reflected on her 18 months in the role as President, highlighting the importance of advocating for issues affecting graduate students. She noted the value of working closely with MGA staff to address matters that are important to students.

3.2 Members' reports

The MGAEC member reports were noted.

Jonathan encouraged the incoming committee to participate in University committees, noting that these provide valuable opportunities to advocate for graduate students and influence decision-making behind the scenes.

3.3 Staff Activity report

The Staff report was noted.

3.4 May 2026 Profit and Loss report

The April 2026 Profit and Loss report was noted.

3.5 May 2026 MGA Newsletters & Social Media Report

The MGA Newsletter and Social Media Report was noted.

3.6 May 2026 Advocacy Report

The Advocacy Report was noted. The Advocacy Manager noted a continued high demand for welfare applications, reflecting ongoing financial pressures experienced by graduate students.

3.7 MGAEC meeting attendance records

The MGAEC meeting attendance records were noted.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 AGM 2026 Draft Minutes.

The MGA Annual General Meeting was held via Zoom at 1:00 pm on Thursday, 28 May 2026. The audited financial statements, Annual Report and minutes of the previous AGM were adopted. The minutes of the AGM were noted by the Committee.

4.1.2 Election Report 2026

The Committee noted the election report which was prepared by the Returning Officer. Yiwen acknowledged the slight increase in voter participation compared with the previous election, describing it as a positive outcome. She also noted that the Returning Officer's report included a number of recommendations to strengthen future elections and encouraged the incoming Committee to review and consider the report.

4.1.3 PTV Campaign update

The Campaigns Officer provided the Committee with an update on MGA's current campaigns and advocacy work. He advised that, together with several Executive Committee members, meetings had been held with key federal and state representatives to advocate on issues affecting graduate students.

- Met with Sarah Witty MP, Member for Melbourne, to discuss the price increase to the Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) visa application fee. Sarah expressed support for the campaign and

committed to raising the issue within Government, including with the Minister for International Education.

- Corresponded with Senators Mehreen Faruqi and David Shoebridge, who submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Education regarding the visa fee increase.
- Met with the office of Eden Foster MP, Member for Mulgrave, to discuss the public transport concession campaign. Eden's office indicated she was likely to support the proposed policy change and advocate for it within the Victorian Labor Party.
- Confirmed a meeting with Mikaela Stafrace, Labor candidate for Caulfield, to discuss the public transport concession campaign.
- Corresponded with Aiv Puglielli MLC, who submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister for Public Transport regarding the continued distinction between undergraduate and graduate students in relation to public transport concessions.
- An update was provided on the HDR stipend campaign, with the advocacy brief to Monash University currently being finalised.
- It was noted that a call for expressions of interest would be circulated to the incoming Executive Committee to join the HDR Stipend Working Group and the Public Transport Concession Campaign.
- Yiwen thanked Jack and his team for leading the campaigns and acknowledged the Executive Committee members who had met with Members of Parliament and actively advocated on behalf of graduate students.

The Committee noted the update.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 Submission- Inquiry into Australian University Graduates.

Ryan presented the MGA submission to the Senate Inquiry into Australian University graduates. He noted that MGA was the only student association to make a submission to the inquiry. The submission advocates for greater government consideration of the employment outcomes and career transitions of graduate students. Ryan advised that the submission draws on evidence collected from graduate students between 2024 and 2026, demonstrating that the current infrastructure supporting graduate employment transitions is inadequate to meet the needs of this diverse cohort.

The Chair thanked Ryan and Nina for their work in preparing the submission and acknowledged the significant effort involved in developing an evidence-based submission on behalf of graduate students. The Committee noted the update.

4.2.2 Cap on international student fees increase campaign

The Committee considered a request from MONSU Caulfield to participate in a campaign advocating for a cap on international student fee increases, including the distribution of a student survey across participating MSOs.

Yiwen noted that MGA already collects similar data through its annual student surveys and had only recently surveyed the graduate student community. She advised to be cautious about asking graduate students to complete another survey so soon after the recent consultation.

Jingrong acknowledged the importance of demonstrating solidarity with the other Monash student organisations participating in the campaign.

Ryan advised that MGA's existing survey data already captures graduate students' experiences of financial stress and mental health, providing a strong evidence base relevant to the

campaign. He suggested that, rather than distributing a new survey, MGA could work collaboratively with the other MSOs by sharing the relevant graduate student data already collected. Jonathan expressed support for this approach.

The Committee agreed that MGA would not distribute the proposed survey to graduate students. Instead, MGA will offer support for the campaign by working collaboratively with the other Monash student organisations and sharing relevant data from its existing graduate student surveys.

4.2.3 MGA Enterprise Agreement

Jan provided the Committee with an overview of the MGA Enterprise Agreement (EA) and advised that the formal bargaining process had now commenced. She explained that the EA sets out the employment conditions for MGA staff and that two Executive Committee representatives are required to sit on the Consultative Committee throughout the bargaining process. Expressions of interest were invited from incoming Executive Committee members, with members encouraged to contact Jan directly with any questions or to submit an expression of interest by 10 July 2026.

4.2.4 Orientation Semester 2

Leilani provided the Committee with an overview of the Semester 2 Orientation program and encouraged both outgoing and incoming Executive Committee members to volunteer and participate in orientation activities. Tanya advised that she is working closely with Carla, the MGA Events Officer, to deliver orientation activities at Law Chambers. While the program is smaller in scale than those at Clayton and Caulfield, she noted that it is an important opportunity to engage graduate students based at the Law Chambers campus.

4.2.5 MGA Ball 2026

Leilani advised the Committee that the 2026 Graduate Student Ball will be held on Friday, 4 September 2026 at the Plaza Ballroom. Complimentary tickets will be provided to outgoing and incoming MGAEC members in recognition of their role as committee members and ambassadors. The Committee expressed excitement about the event and noted the update.

4.2.6 MGAEC Email handover

Yiwen reminded outgoing Executive Committee members that MGAEC email accounts would be transferred to the incoming committee after Friday 26 June. Members were asked to remove any mailbox forwarding rules and upload any relevant handover documents to the shared MGAEC Google Drive to support a smooth transition. The Committee noted the update.

4.2.7 Recognition of Outgoing Committee Members

Yiwen thanked the outgoing Executive Committee for their dedication and contributions over the past year, noting that they should be proud of the positive impact they had made on the graduate student community. She wished all outgoing members every success in their future endeavours. Yiwen also thanked the MGA staff for their ongoing support, acknowledging them as the backbone of the organisation.

It was agreed to formally close the meeting and allow the incoming committee to conduct their own meeting to elect office-bearer positions. The outgoing committee members congratulated the new committee and wished them every success for their upcoming term.

The meeting closed at 4.57pm

Meeting 5/2026

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 5:00 - 6:00 pm on Thursday 18 June 2026 in the MGA Meeting Room, Caulfield Campus and by Zoom.

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 5.05pm

1. Formal matters

1.1. Attendance & Apologies

Present: Akshita Sinha, Troy Lau, Kalani Perera, Ananya Verma, Jay Rohit Sharma, Milanshu, Shuqian Liu, James Damches, Parv Haria, Sneha Sivakumar, Tanya Maithani, Yannee Liu

Apologies: Xinyu Chen, Naser Aldin Lashgari and Viktoriia Ignateva

2. Membership Matters

2.1 Elections of office-bearer positions for MGAEC 2025/26

It was announced that the elections for the office-bearers (OB) on the MGAEC 2026/27 term of office would commence. The Executive Officer served as the Returning Officer for the Office-Bearer elections, assisted by staff member Charlie Li. It was explained that voting would be conducted anonymously, in accordance with Clause 31 of the MGA Constitution. The election process would follow a preferential system, where in each voting round the candidate with the fewest votes would be eliminated, and rounds would continue until one candidate achieved an absolute majority.

President

The RO called for nominations for the position of President.

- Akshita Sinha nominated herself and was seconded by Jay Sharma.
- Milanshu nominated himself and was seconded by Parv Haria.

Each candidate was given two minutes to speak to the committee and answer questions. An anonymous vote was conducted on Zoom and Akshita Sinha was declared elected by an absolute majority to the President's position.

Vice-President

The RO called for nominations for the position of Vice-President.

- Yannee Liu nominated herself and was seconded by Kalani Perera.
- Milanshu nominated himself and was seconded by Parv Haria.

Each candidate was given two minutes to address the committee and respond to questions. An anonymous vote was conducted on Zoom and Yannee Liu was declared elected by an absolute majority to the Vice-President's position.

Research Education Officer

The RO called for nominations for the position of Research Education Officer.

- Kalani Perera nominated herself and was seconded by Yannee Liu.
- Naser Aldin Lashgari had submitted his nomination to the Returning Officer via email prior to the meeting, as he was unable to attend. His nomination was accepted by the Committee and was seconded by Parv Haria.

Kalani Perera addressed the Committee in support of her nomination. As Naser Aldin Lashgari was unable to attend, the Returning Officer read his written nomination to the Committee. An anonymous vote was conducted via Zoom, and Kalani Perera was elected as Research Education Officer by an absolute majority.

Coursework Education Officer

The RO called for nominations for the position of Coursework Education Officer.

- Parv Haria nominated himself and was seconded by Milanshu.

There were no further nominations. Parv Haria was declared elected to the Coursework Education Officer position.

Women's Officer

The RO called for nominations for the position of Women's Officer.

- Xinyu Chen had submitted her nomination to the Returning Officer via email prior to the meeting, as she was unable to attend. Her nomination was accepted by the Committee and was seconded by Jay Sharma.
- Viktoriia Ignateve had submitted her nomination to Akshita Sinha via email prior to the meeting as she was unable to attend. Her nomination was accepted by the Committee and was seconded by Milanshu.

As Xinyu Chen was not present at the meeting, Yannee Liu read her written nomination statement to the Committee. Viktoriia Ignateve did not submit a written statement. An anonymous vote was conducted via Zoom and Xinyu Chen was elected as Women's Officer by an absolute majority.

Queer Officer

The RO called for nominations for the position of Queer Officer. There were no eligible nominees.

International Students' Officer

The RO called for nominations for the position of International Students' Officer.

- Jay Sharma nominated herself and was seconded by Milanshu
- Tanya Maithani nominated herself and was seconded by Akshita Sinha.

Each candidate was given two minutes to address the committee and respond to questions. An anonymous vote was conducted via Zoom. As no candidate received an absolute majority, the Committee agreed to invite both candidates back to answer further questions. Following the additional discussion, a second anonymous vote was conducted. As neither candidate received an absolute majority in the second ballot, the Committee resolved to defer the election for the International Students Officer position to the next MGAEC meeting.

Indigenous Students' Officer

The RO called for nominations for the position of Indigenous Students' Officer. There were no eligible nominees.

The Returning Officer declared the MGAEC elections closed and congratulated the successful candidates. As the positions of Queer Officer and Indigenous Students' Officer remained vacant, the Committee resolved to advertise the vacancies and fill the positions through the co-option process.

3. Next meeting

The next meeting would be held in July 2026 at a time and place to be confirmed by the new incoming members of the MGAEC 2026/27.

The meeting closed at 6:05pm