

Meeting 6/2026

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 4:00 - 6:06 pm on Monday, 27 July 2026 in the MGA Meeting Room, Clayton 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: Akshita Sinha (Chair), Ananya Verma, Jay Rohit Sharma, Milanshu, Shuqian Liu, Parv Haria, Tanya Maithani (left at 4.40), Yannee Liu, Xinyu Chen, Naser Aldin Lashgari and Viktoriia Ignateva, Troy Lau and Kalani Perera.

Apologies: No apologies were received.

In attendance: **MGA Staff** - Janice Boey - Executive Officer, Charlie Li - HR & Finance Manager, Ryan Edwards - Research Manager, Shinyi Carnibella, Marketing & Communications Manager, Leilani Hatfield, Events Manager.

Observers - Rebekah McEwan, graduate research student, Faculty of MNHS and Madhumitha Challa, graduate coursework student, Faculty of I.T.

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 June 2026 meeting for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of the June MGAEC 2026 be confirmed.

Moved: Parv Haria

Seconded: Viktoriia Ignateva

(In favour: 11, Abstain: 1, Against: 0)

The motion is carried.

2.2 Action list register

The action list was noted. The Executive Officer to seek expert advice regarding the MGA's current IT infrastructure, including the use of Monash servers and hardware, to assess any confidentiality and

governance implications, and report back to the MGAEC with any recommendations should further action be required.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

The President reported on recent advocacy activities, including:

- Attendance at the Respect at Monash Advisory Committee meeting, where it was noted that the University's Prevention and Response Action Plan has been assessed as compliant by the GBV Regulator.
- A meeting with Professor Sarah McDonald, where concerns were raised about the increase in Subclass 485 visa application fees and the impact on international graduate students.

3.2 Members' reports

Parv reported that work was underway to identify opportunities to increase support for the MGA's PTV concession campaign. Yannee reported on the PhD Hub by MGA launch at Parkville campus and on her work with the PTV. She also attended the SSAF meeting with the University on behalf of the President and hosted the MGA orientation session for Master of Pharmaceutical Science students.

3.3 Staff Activity report

The Staff Activity Report was noted. The Executive Officer advised the Committee of Ying Xu's resignation as the Advocacy Manager and that the recruitment process to fill the vacancy has commenced.

3.4 June 2026 Profit and Loss report

The June 2026 Profit and Loss Report was noted. At the President's invitation, the HR & Finance Manager provided the Committee with a brief overview of the report, explaining its format and how to interpret the key financial information.

3.5 June 2026 MGA Newsletters & Social Media Report

The MGA Newsletter and Social Media Report was noted.

3.6 June 2026 Advocacy Report

The Advocacy Report was noted.

3.7 MGAEC meeting attendance records

The MGAEC meeting attendance records were noted.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 Election Report 2026

The Committee considered the 2026 Election Report prepared by Stephen Luntz from Above Quota Elections and discussed the recommendations contained in the report.

A subcommittee comprising Viktoriia Ignateva and Xinyu Chen was established to review the recommendations in detail and bring any proposed amendments back to the MGAEC for consideration. Other Committee members were invited to advise the Executive Officer by the end of the week if they wished to join the subcommittee.

4.1.2 Supplementary Funding Agreements

The Executive Officer presented the draft Supplementary Funding Agreements between the MGA and MONSU Caulfield, and between the MGA and MONSU Peninsula. The Committee was provided with an overview of the purpose of the agreements, including the relationship between the MGA and the other Monash student organisations, and the process for negotiating supplementary funding.

It was noted that the funding amounts will be negotiated once Semester 2 student enrolment numbers are received from Monash University and will be presented to the MGAEC for approval prior to the agreements being executed.

Jay sought clarification regarding the events and programs provided by MONSU that are available to graduate students. The Executive Officer responded to his questions.

It was moved:

That the MGAEC approve the draft Supplementary Funding Agreements between the MGA and MONSU Caulfield, and between the MGA and MONSU Peninsula, and authorise the Executive Officer to negotiate the funding amounts for each agreement. The negotiated funding amounts are to be brought back to the MGAEC for approval before the agreements are executed.

Moved: Jay Sharma

Seconded: Kalani Perera

(In favour: 9, Abstain: 3 , Against: 0)

The motion is carried.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 HELP Debt limits and payment options for grad students

This item was held over to a future meeting as James was unable to attend to speak to the item.

4.2.2 Vacancies of university committees

1. Food Plan Steering Committee

The Committee considered Monash University's invitation to nominate an MGA representative to the Food Plan Steering Committee.

Yannee Liu nominated for the position. As there were no other nominations, Yannee Liu was appointed as the MGA student representative on the Food Plan Steering Committee.

2. Academic Board

The Committee considered Monash University's invitation to nominate an MGA representative to the Academic Board for the remainder of the 2026 term.

Viktoriia Ignateva and Xinyu Chen nominated for the position. Each nominee addressed the Committee in support of their nomination.

A secret ballot was conducted, and Viktoriia Ignateva was elected as the MGA student representative on the Academic Board by majority vote.

4.2.3 MGA Mid-Year Events Report 2026

The Events Manager presented the Semester 1 Events Report, highlighting the volume of events held across the four major campuses—Clayton, Caulfield, Parkville and Peninsula—as well as at Law Chambers, Monash Medical Centre (MMC), The Alfred Hospital, online, and at off-campus locations across Melbourne and student engagement outcomes.

Jay sought clarification on the success of the portfolio to date. The Events Manager advised that she was pleased with the overall level of engagement, particularly the strong participation from HDR students.

4.2.4 Change of signatories to MGA bank account

The Committee considered the proposed changes to the authorised signatories for the MGA's Westpac bank accounts following the election of the 2026/27 MGA Executive Committee and the upcoming maternity leave of the Events Manager.

It was moved:

That the MGAEC approved the following changes to the authorised signatories for the MGA's Westpac bank accounts as listed below.

Bank account	Account number	Current signatory to remove	New signatory to add
Debit card	033-181 345569	1. Outgoing President - Yiwen Yuan (student) 2. Outgoing Vice President - Vidhi Agarwal (student) 3. Events Manager - Leilani Hatfield (staff)	Incoming President - Akshita Sinha (student), Incoming Vice President - Jiawen (Yannee) Liu (student), Marketing and Communications Manager - Shinyi Carnibella (staff)
Cheque account	033-289 285369	Outgoing President - Yiwen Yuan (student), Outgoing Vice President - Vidhi Agarwal (student), Events Manager - Leilani Hatfield (staff)	Incoming President - Akshita Sinha (student), Incoming Vice President - Jiawen (Yannee) Liu (student), Marketing and Communications Manager - Shinyi Carnibella (staff)
Graduate Group	033-090 617127	Outgoing President - Yiwen Yuan (student), Outgoing Vice President - Vidhi Agarwal (student), Events Manager - Leilani Hatfield (staff)	Incoming President - Akshita Sinha (student), Incoming Vice President - Jiawen (Yannee) Liu (student), Marketing and Communications Manager - Shinyi Carnibella (staff)

Cash Reserve	033-289 275435	Outgoing President - Yiwen Yuan (student), Outgoing Vice President - Vidhi Agarwal (student), Events Manager - Leilani Hatfield (staff)	Incoming President - Akshita Sinha (student), Incoming Vice President - Jiawen (Yannee) Liu (student), Marketing and Communications Manager - Shinyi Carnibella (staff)
Migration Support Hub (MSH) Account	033-090 684231	Outgoing President - Yiwen Yuan (student), Outgoing Vice President - Vidhi Agarwal (student), Events Manager - Leilani Hatfield (staff)	Incoming President - Akshita Sinha (student), Incoming Vice President - Jiawen (Yannee) Liu (student), Marketing and Communications Manager - Shinyi Carnibella (staff)

Moved: Parv Haria

Seconded: Jay Sharma

(In favour: 12, Abstain: 0, Against: 0)

The motion is carried.

4.2.5 MGA debit card authorisation

The Committee considered the proposed changes to the MGA's debit card authorisations following recent staffing changes.

It was moved:

That MGAEC approve:

- 1. the suspension of Leilani Hatfield's debit card in her capacity as Events Manager for the duration of her maternity leave;*
- 2. the cancellation of Ying Xu's debit card following her resignation as Advocacy Manager; and*
- 3. the issue of a new MGA debit card to Jes Wawrzynski - Events Manager, for the duration of the maternity leave replacement appointment, subject to the MGA's Financial procedures.*

Moved : Ananya Verma

Seconded: Jay Sharma

(In favour: 11, Abstain: 1, Against: 0)

The motion is carried.

5. Membership

5.1(a) Co-Option of the Indigenous Students' Officer

The MGA received one eligible application from Rebekah McEwan for co-option to the vacant Indigenous Students' Officer position. Rebekah addressed the Committee in support of her application and responded to questions from members.

A secret ballot was conducted. Rebekah received the required absolute majority of votes and was declared elected as the Indigenous Students' Officer for the remainder of the 2026–2027 term. The Committee congratulated her on her appointment.

5.1(b) Co-Option of the Queer Officer

The MGA received one eligible application from Madhumita Challa for co-option to the vacant Queer Officer position. Madhumitha addressed the Committee in support of her application and responded to questions from members.

A secret ballot was conducted. As the applicant did not receive the required absolute majority of votes, the co-option was not successful, and the position remains vacant.

The Committee has requested that the vacant position be advertised again for co-option.

5.2 International Students Officer Election

The Committee resumed the election for the vacant International Students' Officer position, which had been deferred from the previous meeting.

Jay Sharma nominated Milanshu for the position. Milanshu accepted the nomination. As there were no further nominations, Milanshu was declared elected as International Students Officer for the remainder of the 2026–2027 term.

6. Next meeting

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

The meeting closed at 6:05pm