

## Meeting 4/2026

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 4:00 - 6:00 pm on Wednesday 20 May 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: Yiwen Yuan (Chair), Kalani Perera, Jingrong Wang, , Troy Lau (attended at 4.45pm) Jonathan Paul , Janhanvi Moze, Rebekah McEwan, Akshita Sinha, Vidhi Agarwal, Hard Gorakhia, Rajdeep Jammu, Mohammed Zeehan (left at 4.45pm)

Apologies: Chatarina Hanny Teja, Jason Yeung

In attendance: 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 April 2026 meeting for confirmation

###### It was moved:

*That the minutes of the April MGAEC 2026 be confirmed.*

Moved: Vidhi Agarwal

Seconded: Akshita Sinha

(In favour: 10, Abstain: 0, Against: 0 )

The motion is carried.

##### 2.2 Action list register

The action list was noted. Jan advised that the current Returning Officer would provide a response to the first action item regarding the release of election vote counts in the Returning Officer's report. Additionally, as the Committee is continuing work on the development of the MGA vision statement, Jan advised that she will defer enquiries regarding internal Monash expertise to assist with this matter.

### **3. Reports**

#### **3.1 President's report**

The President's report was noted.

#### **3.2 Members' reports**

The MGAEC member reports were noted.

Jonathan advised that he recently attended the Academic Board meeting and noted that there were approximately 90 attendees in that meeting, which made it challenging for the student voice to be heard. Ryan explained that this was consistent with Monash's governance structure. Jonathan advised that he intends to raise this matter further at a future Academic Board meeting.

#### **3.3 Staff Activity report**

The Staff report was noted. The Committee held an in camera discussion regarding a confidential matter. No further details are recorded in the minutes.

#### **3.4 April 2026 Profit and Loss report**

The April 2026 Profit and Loss report was noted.

Charlie advised that Account 72130 – Office Equipment was slightly over budget due to team expansion and equipment upgrades. Similarly, he noted that Account 72300 – Legal Fees – General was also marginally over budget due to unanticipated HR consulting costs. It was advised that approval would be sought to exceed the current allocation for the budget lines and reviewed in Semester 2 2026, following updated enrolment/SSAF figures.

#### **3.5 April 2026 MGA Newsletters & Social Media Report**

The MGA Newsletter and Social Media Report was noted.

#### **3.6 April 2026 Advocacy Report**

The Advocacy Report was noted. Ying advised that there had been strong demand for the MGA Welfare Assistance Program. Jan also noted strong attendance at MGA welfare events, including participation by students attending events across different campuses.

#### **3.7 MGAEC meeting attendance records**

The MGAEC meeting attendance records were noted.

### **4. Business**

#### **4.1 Business arising**

##### **4.1.1 PTV Campaign Update**

Jack advised that the current priority for the PTV campaign was to increase petition signatures, with the petition currently at approximately 20% of its target. He noted that his team would work with the marketing team to strengthen the campaign strategy, while also undertaking additional on-ground advocacy with stakeholders and engaging directly with students at MGA events. It was further noted that the graduate student association at the University of Melbourne would also promote the petition through its FairFares campaign.

Jonathan queried why addresses were required as part of the petition process. Jack advised that the petition is a Legislative Council petition and thus addresses are required to verify signatories are residents of Victoria, but he would investigate the matter and determine where the information was being stored.

Jack also provided an update on MGA's recent meeting with Josh Burns MP regarding the 485 visa fee increase. He advised that the Minister was sympathetic to the issue and would follow up with the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Education regarding the reasons for the increase, and whether the Government could commit to not increasing visa fees arbitrarily in the future.

#### **4.1.2 State Government Funding Interim Report**

The report was noted.

#### **4.1.3 MGA Climate Active recertification for 2025**

The Committee noted that MGA has maintained Climate Active certification since 2020. Charlie advised that it would be prudent for the incoming Committee to review MGA's future approach to Climate Active certification and broader sustainability initiatives, including developing a more meaningful and strategic direction in this area.

#### **4.1.4 MGA Vision Statement**

Yiwen presented the work undertaken to date by the subcommittee on the development of an MGA vision statement and invited the broader Committee to contribute to the ongoing development of the statement. Yiwen advised that this work would be included in her handover to the incoming Committee to support its continued development. .

### **4.2 General Business**

#### **4.2.1 Letter from NTEU (National Tertiary Education Union)**

The Committee discussed the open letter circulated by the National Tertiary Education Union. Concerns were raised regarding the accuracy of some claims within the letter, the focus on staff-related matters, and aspects of the tone and messaging.

Bek acknowledged that the underlying financial pressures referenced in the discussion were a significant concern affecting many students. It was also noted that the MSOs had been working separately on advocacy relating to the shuttle bus matter.

Following discussion, the Committee voted on whether to support the open letter. A majority of the Committee voted not to support the letter.

#### **4.2.2 MSO Modal Constitution**

The Committee discussed the MSO Model Constitution Working Group. It was noted that, under section 4.8 of the Funding Agreement, the MSOs had agreed to participate in discussions with the University regarding constitutional governance and ensuring that MSO constitutions reflect contemporary governance best practice. The Committee noted the Terms of Reference and meeting summary documents tabled for the agenda item. Yiwen advised that future meetings of the working group would be attended by the incoming President.

#### **4.2.3 MGA debit card for new events staff**

Yiwen explained that the following new staff member Jaye Syson requires a MGA debit card to effectively carry out the day-to-day responsibilities of their positions, including making operational purchases and payments.

It is moved:

*That the following MGA staff Jaye Syson be a holder of an MGA Debit card linked to MGA bank account:*

Moved: Vidhi Agarwal

Seconded: Janhavi Moze

(In favour: 10, Abstain: 1, Against:0 )

The motion is carried.

**5. Next meeting**

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

The meeting closed at 6:04pm