

Meeting 11/2024

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 3:00 pm – 5:21pm, Thursday, 12 December 2024, in the MGA Meeting Room, Clayton Campus and by Zoom

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 3:00pm.

1. Formal matters

1.1 Acknowledgement of country

The MGAEC President 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: Jonathan Robberts (Chair to 3:33), Saham Hettiarachchi, Neharika Shah (arrived at 3:25, left 4:20), Troy Lau (left at 3:50), Mahima Choudhary (left to 3:50), Jacob (Jaime) Heal, Vu Hiep Dang (Oliver), Mohammed Salehan (Zeehan) (arrived 3:15), Calvin Chow (Chair from 3:33), Dhanya Menoth Mohan, Ummatul Siddique, Yiwen Yuan, Aakash Saraf, Kritika Arora (arrived 3:38, left 5:33).

Apologies: Beauty Nalwendo

In attendance: Janice Boey, Executive Officer
Charlie Li, HR & Finance Manager
Ying Xu, Advocacy Manager
Shinyi Chin, Marketing & Communications Manager
Leilani Hatfield, Events Manager
Ryan Edwards, Research Manager
Yidi Luan, Co-optee
Jeremy Salcedo, Co-optee
Karan Raman, Co-optee
Eunice Mataka, Co-optee
Devashree Kulkarni, Co-optee
Tuhar Yeasmin, Co-optee
Nihit Agarwal, Co-optee
Fairaj Khan, Co-optee
Veda Kokate, Co-optee

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of meeting 10/2024 November for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of MGAEC meeting November 10/2024 be confirmed.

Moved: Calvin Chow
Seconded: Saham Hettiarachchi

Carried with no objections.

2.2 Action sheet

The action sheet was noted.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

The President's report was noted. Jonathan discussed his recent meeting with PVC Sarah McDonald, which included discussion of the prospect of introducing an associateship program to graduate students. Jonathan offered to assist the committee on a volunteer basis in coming months where needed regarding pending projects such as the MGA mission and values statement.

3.2 Members' reports

Members' reports were noted.

Saham spoke to his report, referencing the possible University consultation regarding a travel grant increase next year. Satellite campus spaces are also being reviewed for graduate specific spaces, in particular, the MMC is having a feasibility study completed for available space, Monash BPD is working with the Faculty of Pharmacy at Parkville to enlarge current graduate space. No changes are expected at Law Chambers.

3.3 Staff report

The staff report was noted.

3.4 November profit and loss report

The November P&L was noted.

Jonathan noted that the MGA has now signed a funding agreement for 2025, and that the MGA is hoping that certain variations might be negotiated in future years when renegotiation opens.

3.5 November MGA Newsletters & Social Media Report

The Newsletters and Social Media Report was noted.

3.6 November Advocacy Report

The November Advocacy Report was noted.

3.7 MGAEC meeting attendance records

The MGAEC meeting attendance records were noted as true and accurate.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 2024 Off-campus events

The report was noted. Jonathan noted that the University is moving away from the terminology of major and minor campuses, and the MGA will need to recognise this moving forward.

4.1.2 2025 SSAF 20% Projects submitted

The report was noted.

4.1.3 Semester 1 2025 Orientation Plan

Leilani spoke to the plan and encouraged MGAEC members to participate in MGA O-Week activities in Semester 1 2025.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 Graduate Research Committee vacancy

Jonathan spoke to the vacancy on the GRC, which oversees graduate research across the University. As Jonathan will be ceasing his membership due to the completion of his degree, Jonathan recommends for the position to be advertised across the University.

It is moved:

That the student representative position on GRC be widely advertised to the graduate student community.

Moved: Calvin Chow

Seconded: Saham Hettiarachchi

4.2.2 MGA Volunteer Program 2024 Overview

The report was noted.

4.2.3 MGA Events Report for 2024

The report was noted. Jonathan thanked the events team for their work across the year.

5. Membership matters

5.1 Resignation of MGAEC Members

The MGAEC accepted the resignations of members Jonathan Robberts, Jaime (Jacob) Heal, Troy Lau, and Mahima Choudhary. The departing members spoke to their time on the MGAEC, and were thanked for their contributions and work during their time on the Committee.

Following the resignation and departure of President Jonathan Robberts, Vice President Calvin Chow became the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

5.2 Co-option

The Executive Officer explained that there were fourteen eligible applicants for co-option following the advertisement of the opportunity. The applications for consideration were:

Parkville Representative

- a. Jeremy Salcedo, Master of Pharmaceutical Science (Pharmacy)
- b. Nicholas Hetrelezis, Master of Pharmaceutical Science (Pharmacy)

General Representative

- c. Abdullah Bin Zaman (Ryan), Master of Professional Accounting (BUSECO)
- d. Parth Gajera Maheshbai, Master of Food Science & Agribusiness (Science)
- e. Fairaj Kahan, Master of Business (BUSECO)
- f. Eunice Mataka, Master of International Relations and Journalism (Arts)
- g. Minh Dinh, Master of Data Science (I.T)
- h. Yidi Luan, Master of Global Business and Advanced Finance (BUSECO)
- i. Nihit Agarwal, Master of Banking and Finance, (BUSECO)
- j. Tuhar Yeasmin, Master of Public Health (MNHS)
- k. Karan Raman, Master of Data Science (I.T)
- l. Veda Kokate, Master of Business (BUSECO)
- m. Priya Mutreja, Master of Design (Art, Design and Architecture)
- n. Devashree Kulkarni, Master of Banking and Finance (BUSECO)

Abdullah Bin Zaman (Ryan), Parth Gajera Maheshbai, Priya Mutreja, Minh Dinh, and Nicholas Hetrelezis failed to appear at the MGAEC meeting, and thus were no longer eligible for the position and would not be considered.

Considering the number of applicants for co-option, the MGAEC discussed the best way to ensure a fair election process. Research Manager Ryan Edwards recommended the use of preferential voting to conduct the co-option election process.

It is moved:

That a preferential voting system be adopted for the co-option voting conducted on 12 December 2024.

Mover: Ummatul Siddique

Secunder: Aakash Saraf

Carried with no objections.

Parkville Representative

Jeremy Salcedo, a candidate for Parkville Representative present at the meeting, was given two minutes to speak to the committee and answer questions.

An election was conducted and the committee undertook a vote. Jeremy Salcedo was declared elected to the MGAEC as the Parkville Representative.

General Representative

Each candidate for the position of General Representative present at the meeting was given two minutes to speak to the committee and answer questions.

An election was conducted and the committee undertook a vote. Tuhar Yeasmin, Yidi Luan, and Karan Raman were declared elected to the MGAEC.

5.3 Elections for OB roles

Due to time constraints, the committee members made a decision to hold a special meeting in January 2025 to elect a new President and fill the remaining OB roles on the MGAEC.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in late January 2025 at a time and place to be confirmed by members' availability.

The meeting closed at 5:21 pm.