

Meeting 1/2026

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 4:08 - 5.49pm , Thursday, 26 February 2026 in the MGA Meeting Room, Caulfield Campus and by Zoom.

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 4:08pm.

1. Formal matters

Meeting Proceedings

As the President was absent at the commencement of the meeting, the Vice President, Vidhi Argawal, assumed the role of Chair in accordance with Section 20.5 of the MGA Constitution.

1.1 Acknowledgement of country

Vidhi 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: Vidhi Agarwal (Chair), Kalani Perera, Jingrong Wang, Hard Gorakhia, Jason Yeung, Troy Lau, Rebekah McEwan, Akshita Sinha, Yiwen Yuan (5:05pm), Rajdeep Singh Jammu (5.10pm), Jonathan Paul (5:20pm)

Apologies: Mohammed Zeehan Salehan and Ruyu Zheng

In attendance: Janice Boey, Executive Officer
Ryan Edwards, Research Manager
Ying Xu, Advocacy Manager
Dr. Imran Hasan (Co-Optee)
Janhavi Rajendra Moze (Co-Optee)
Sai Varshith Neeli (Co-Optee)
Sanjana Bhavin Lakhpatwala (Co-Optee)
Mahek Thard (Co-Optee)
Chatarina Hanny Angelita Teja (Co-Optee)

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 December 2025 meeting for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of MGAEC meeting November 2025 be confirmed.

Moved: Kalani Perera

Seconded: Jingrong Wang

(In favour: 8, Abstain: 0, Against: 0)

The motion is carried.

2.2 Action list register

The action list register was noted. Jan noted that she is continuing to work through the outstanding items on the Action Register, which remain in progress.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

The President's report was noted.

3.2 Members' reports

The MGAEC member reports were noted. The Vice President thanked members for their reports and noted the quieter period over the holiday break as reflected in their reports.

3.3 Staff report

The staff report was noted. The Executive Officer (Jan) spoke to the Staff Report and highlighted that there have been two recent staff departures: Spencer (Clayton Events Officer) and Britney (Graduate Groups Officer). Recruitment is currently underway to backfill these positions.

In addition, recruitment is in progress for new roles approved in the 2026 budget, primarily the Operations and HR Officer, Campaigns Officer, and two additional Events Officer positions.

3.4 December 2025 profit and loss report

The Vice President invited the HR & Finance Manager, Charlie, to speak to the December 2025 Profit and Loss Report. Charlie noted that the report presented was an unaudited version.

He advised that the organisation recorded a higher-than-expected surplus, primarily due to a greater-than-anticipated SSAF funding received in the second half of 2025. The surplus will be allocated to the organisation's operating reserves, which have been limited since 2024. He acknowledged that the surplus strengthens the MGA's financial resilience against potential funding fluctuations in 2026 and beyond, while also creating opportunities to consider new initiatives to support graduate students.

3.5 December 2025 MGA Newsletters & Social Media Report

The December MGA Newsletter and Social Media Report was noted.

3.6 January 2026 Advocacy Report

The January 2026 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 Appointment of Returning Officer

The Committee noted that a proposal had been received from Above Quota Elections Pty Ltd. It was further noted that the MGA has previously engaged Above Quota, whose delivery of the election process last year was professional, independent, and effective.

It was moved:

That the MGAEC appoints Above Quota Elections Pty Ltd as the Returning Officer for the upcoming MGA Elections 2026/27

Moved: Akshita Sinha

Seconded: Rebekah McEwan

(In favour: 8, Abstain: 0, Against: 0)

The motion is carried.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 MGA Graduate Research and Graduate Coursework Reports

The Research Manager, Ryan briefly spoke to the Graduate Research and Graduate Coursework Reports, highlighting the key themes emerging from each. He noted that the data has been valuable in informing the MGA's advocacy and lobbying efforts. Members were encouraged to read the reports in full and to direct any questions to Ryan.

4.2.2 AGM Planning and Attendance

The Chair discussed the purpose of the AGM and reminded all Committee members that their attendance is strongly encouraged at the AGM. The Committee noted that motions for the upcoming AGM will need to be put through for consideration. Jan advised that the AGM is likely to fall on Wednesday 27 May.

4.2.3 Advocacy Report 2025 Overview

Ying spoke to the report, noting an 8% increase in student advocacy cases in 2025 compared to the previous year. Academic integrity/misconduct remains to be the main issue for coursework students while supervision and welfare are the top two main concerns of research students. Additionally, in 2025, the MGA reinstated its full Wellbeing Assistance Program in response to increasing student need, supporting 85 students with \$38,000 in food, emergency, medical, and hardship assistance — averaging approximately \$450 per student.

Ying also highlighted the launch of the Migration Support Hub (MSH) in 2025, aimed at improving access to migration advice for university students. The MSH supported over 230 students in the first year of service.

4.2.4 Meet your Reps Event

The Chair reminded the Committee that engagement with constituents is a key responsibility of MGAEC members. The Meet Your Reps sessions provide an opportunity to connect with graduate students, gather feedback, and promote the work of the MGA. MGAEC members

were encouraged to sign up to a session via the roster, with thanks noted to those who have already volunteered.

4.2.5 Submission to University Governance Inquiry

The Research Manager, Ryan, was invited to speak to the proposed submission to the University Governance Inquiry, which reflects key graduate student perspectives and governance considerations.

He noted that the submission advocates for the meaningful inclusion of graduate research and graduate coursework students in university decision-making structures, including representation on University Council. The submission emphasises the unique perspectives graduate students bring as advanced learners and contributors to research and teaching, and the importance of ensuring governance decisions reflect their needs and experiences.

The Committee expressed satisfaction with the report and raised no further questions.

4.2.6 Updated MGA Acknowledgement of Country

The updated MGA Acknowledgement of Country was noted by the Committee. The Chair thanked the Indigenous Officer, Rebekah, for her work on this.

5. Membership

5.1 Co-Options

The Executive Officer advised that 12 eligible applications had been received following the advertisement of the co-option opportunities. The applications for consideration were as follows:

Caulfield Campus Representative

- A. Peiyi Xue, BUSECO
- B. Janhavi Rajendra Moze, BUSECO
- C. Mahek Thard, BUSECO

General Representative (International Students' Officer)

- A. Peiyi Xue, BUSECO
- B. Yifei Jiang, BUSECO
- C. Shamita Shyam Sail, MNHS
- D. Sarah Zamin Ali, Education
- E. Sanjana Bhavin Lakhpatwala, BUSECO
- F. Nirupam Kaur, Law
- G. Madhumitha Suresh, I.T
- H. Imran Hasan, MNHS
- I. Janhavi Rajendra Moze, BUSECO
- J. Sai Varshith Neeli, I.T
- K. Menen Tsegaw Biadiglggn, BUSECO
- L. Mahek Thard, BUSECO
- M. Chatarina Hanny Angelita Teja, Arts

It was noted that Sarah Zamin Ali withdrew her application prior to the commencement of the MGAEC meeting. Peiyi Xue, Yifei Jiang, Shamita Shyam Sail, Nirupam Kaur,

Madhumitha Suresh, and Menen Tsegaw Biadiglgn did not attend the meeting and were therefore no longer eligible for consideration.

Caulfield Campus Representative

Janhavi Rajendra Moze and Mahek Thard were each given one and half minutes to speak to the Committee and about their application and a further one and a half minutes to answer any questions.

After the presentations, an election was conducted and the Committee undertook a secret vote. A secret ballot was utilised as a procedural tool to assist MGAEC in determining majority support among applicants. The co-option was confirmed by formal MGAEC resolution in accordance with the Constitution.

It was moved:

That Janhavi Rajendra Moze be co-opted as the Caulfield Campus Representative of the Monash Graduate Association Executive Committee.

In favour: 8, Abstain: 0, Against: 0
The motion is carried.

General Representative (International Students' Officer)

Each candidate for the position of General Representative present at the meeting was each given one and half minutes to speak to the Committee about their application and a further one and a half minutes to answer any questions.

After the presentation, an election was conducted and the Committee undertook a secret vote. The preferential ballot was conducted as a procedural tool to assist MGAEC in determining majority support among applicants. The co-option was confirmed by formal MGAEC resolution in accordance with the Constitution.

It was moved:

That Chatarina Hanny Angelita Teja be co-opted as a General Representative (International Students' Officer) of the Monash Graduate Association Executive Committee.

In favour: 11, Abstain: 1, Against: 0
The motion is carried.

6. Next meeting

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

The meeting closed at 5.49pm