

Meeting 11/2025

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 4:04 - 5.34pm , Monday, 15 Dec 2025 in the MGA Meeting Room, Clayton Campus and by Zoom.

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 4:04pm.

1. Formal matters

1.1 Acknowledgement of country

Yiwen 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, Anusha Shrivastava (attended at 4.10pm), Jingrong Wang, Hard Gorakhia, Rebekah McEwan, Mohammed Zeehan Salehan (attended at 4.10pm and left at 5.00), Akshita Sinha, Jonathan Paul, Vidhi Agarwal, Jason Yeung, Troy Lau, and Ruyu Zheng.

Apologies: Yidi Luan

In attendance: Janice Boey, Executive Officer
Ryan Edwards, Research Manager
Shinyi Carnibella, Marketing and Communications Manager

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of meeting November 2025 for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of MGAEC meeting November 2025 be confirmed.

Moved: Vidhi Agarwal

Seconded: Akshita Sinha

(In favour: 12, Abstain: 1, Against: 0)

The motion is carried.

2.2 Action list register

The action list register was noted.

Jan noted that due to the short turnaround between the November and December meetings, she was unable to explore internal Monash expertise to support development of the MGA Vision Statement. She also advised that she has not yet been able to

identify the appropriate person to provide guidance on the proposed election regulation changes regarding the release of election results, as previously requested by the Committee.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

The President's report was noted.

Yiwen reported that the Supervisor of the Year Awards were recently held and thanked the committee members who served on the assessment panel. She also acknowledged and thanked the Events Team for organising a successful event.

3.2 Members' reports

The MGAEC member reports were noted.

Jonathan reported that the recent queer event he hosted was successful and noted that several students have expressed interest in forming the Queer Advisory Group. He also enquired about MGA's reporting processes. Jan advised that the MGA will be releasing its first annual report next year that will be presented at the AGM meeting.

3.3 Staff report

The staff report was noted.

3.4 November 2025 profit and loss report

The November P&L report was noted.

Jan noted that the P&L presented is provisional, as the short turnaround between meetings has prevented finalisation. The final November P&L will be tabled at the February meeting next year. The MGA has yet to receive the final SSAF payment. Jan will follow up with the University shortly.

3.5 November 2025 MGA Newsletters & Social Media Report

The November MGA Newsletter and Social Media Report was noted.

3.6 November 2025 Advocacy Report

The November Advocacy report was noted.

3.7 MGAEC meeting attendance records

Zeehan and Akshita advised that they have now uploaded their outstanding OB reports and requested that the meeting attendance record be updated accordingly

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 Updated MGA Budget

The updated budget reflecting the additional cost for the Campaigns Officer role was presented. The Committee approved the budget adjustment.

It was moved:

That the updated MGA budget for 2026 be accepted.

Moved: Akshita Sinha

Seconded: Kalani Perera

(In favour: 13, Abstain: 0, Against: 0)

The motion is carried.

4.1.2. CAPA Update

Email correspondence between MGA and CAPA dated 24 Nov – 2 Dec 2025 was tabled. The MGA affirmed its decision not to renew CAPA affiliation for 2026, noting current strategic budget priorities and resource allocation, MGA's demonstrated capacity to advocate directly with Monash and secure outcomes independently. Continuing concerns regarding CAPA's governance, budget sustainability and organisational structure.

The Committee agreed that MGA will continue sector engagement through research and data sharing where appropriate, without formal affiliation fees.

4.1.3 2025-26 Community Food Relief Program

The Committee noted that the Minister for Carers and Volunteers has approved the MGA's 2025–26 Community Food Relief Program – Local Grants application. Funding will support delivery at Caulfield and Clayton campuses only, rather than the four campuses originally proposed.

4.1.4 MGA Election Regulations

Updated MGA Election Regulations incorporating recommendations from the 2024/25 Returning Officer's Election Report were tabled for approval, along with recommendation notes and the revised nomination form. The changes had been endorsed by the Election Regulation Subcommittee.

Jan presented the edits to the Committee. The Committee approved the revised Election Regulations.

It was moved:

That the updated MGA Election Regulations be accepted..

Moved: Vidhi Agarwal

Seconded: Jonathan Paul

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

The motion is carried.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 MGA Volunteer Program 2025 Report

The MGA Volunteer Program Report was noted.

4.2.2 MGA Feedback Form 2025 Report

The MGA Feedback Form 2025 Report was noted.

4.2.3 Marketing and Comms 2025 Report

The Marketing and Communications 2025 report was noted by the Committee.

4.2.4 MGA End of Year operating hours

The MGA end of year operating hours was noted by the Committee.

4.2.5 SERVE Proposal – Student Engagement & Retention Value Evaluation

The Committee considered a proposal from Campus Consultancy (Josh Farr) for a two-year SERVE engagement and retention evaluation project delivered Monash-wide across the MSOs. The program would quantify the student engagement value equation and provide twice-yearly reporting, an annual engagement strategy, capability training, and access to online development modules for student leaders.

The total cost for all MSOs is \$27,400 + GST (discounted), with costs shared by student load (EFTSL). MGA's cost requires correction in the proposal. A discount applies if confirmed before 31 December 2025.

The Committee approved the proposal in principle, pending confirmation of the correct MGA cost.

It was moved:

That the MGAEC supports in principle the MGA's participation in the SERVE package, with the understanding that the estimated MGA contribution is subject to confirmation. The MGAEC authorises the Executive Officer to make a final decision regarding MGA's participation once the cost allocation for MGA is confirmed.

Moved: Akshita Sinha

Seconded: Vidhi Agarwal

(In favour: 10, Abstain: 2, Against: 0)

The motion is carried.

5. Membership

5.1 Resignations

The Committee noted that Anusha and Yidi will resign from the MGAEC following completion of their degrees. Yiwen acknowledged that both have been active committee members and delivered valuable events to the graduate student community. The Committee and MGA staff expressed thanks for their contributions and wished them well.

The two vacant positions will be advertised in late January, with the aim of confirming co-options at the February MGAEC meeting.

5.1 Honorarium Q2 payments

Members were reminded to submit their honorarium engagement checklists to the Vice-President by Wednesday 17 December 2025.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting would be held in December 2025 at a time and place to be confirmed by members' availability.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm