

Meeting 7/2025

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 3:00 - 4.42pm , Monday, 28 July 2025 in the MGA Meeting Room, Caulfield Campus and by Zoom.

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 3:02pm.

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: Yiwen Yuan (Chair) Yidi Luan, Troy Lau, Rajdeep Singh Jammu, Vidhi Agarwal, Jonathan Paul, Kalani Perera, Jason Yeung, Anusha Shrivastava, Akshita Sinha, Jingrong Wang .

Apologies: Hard Gorakhia, Ruyu Zheng and Mohammed Salehan.

In attendance: Janice Boey, Executive Officer
Charlie Li, HR & Finance Manager
Shinyi Chin, Marketing & Communications Manager
Ying Xu, Advocacy Manager
Leilani Hatfield, Event Manager (attended at 4.00pm)

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:
4.2.7 MGA Orientation Semester 2 Report - tabled for noting by the Executive Officer.

Jonathan raised a query regarding the process for filling the vacant Indigenous Students' Officer position. Due to time constraints, this item will be deferred to the next MGAEC meeting for discussion.

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of meeting June 2025 for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of MGAEC meeting June 2025 be confirmed.

Moved: Yidi Luan

Seconded: Akshita Sinha

Carried with no objections.

2.2 Action list register

The Action list register was noted. Yiwen noted that she will coordinate with Jessie, the current President of CAPA to present at the August MGAEC meeting.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

The President's report was noted.

Yiwen outlined the significance of the VC SPAF meeting, scheduled for August 5th, where Troy will present key issues on behalf of MGA. The meeting is an important opportunity for all MSOs to communicate directly with the Vice-Chancellor, as it is the only forum for student organisations to engage with her.

Professional Development Hours Update - Yiwen highlighted upcoming changes to the professional development hours (PD hours) requirement for PhD students. Ryan provided further context, noting that the university plans to cease enforcing the PD hours requirement and ensuring that no student progress will be delayed due to this change. Kalani Perera and Jason Yeung confirmed that PD hours are still currently required for them but acknowledged the anticipated changes.

3.2 Members' reports

Twelve member reports were received and noted. Several members spoke to their reports. Notably, Kalani shared her positive experience of engaging with graduate students through her attendance at various MGA events and is keen to speak with the other faculty HDR reps. Ryan offered to put her in contact with the other HDR reps.

Similarly, Akshita reported on her involvement in several O-week events aimed at advocating for the MGA and connecting with female graduates. She highlighted issues related to the expense and availability of sanitary products, noting that many dispensaries on campus are often empty. Akshita intends to meet with Leilani to discuss potential solutions and also mentioned the importance of gathering demographic data to better serve female graduates.

Jason outlined his discussion with Carla who is the Events Officer at Peninsula Campus and his intention to conduct a survey for student feedback.

Jonathan emphasised the value of engaging with former Office-Bearers for support and to explore ideas that may be useful for current Office-Bearers to consider.

3.3 Staff report

The staff report was noted.

3.4 June 2025 profit and loss report

The June P&L report was noted. The HR and Finance Manager reminded the Committee to use their OB budget before the end of year.

3.5 June 2025 MGA Newsletters & Social Media Report

The report was noted.

3.6 June 2025 Advocacy Report

The June 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 2025 MGA Election Report

The Executive Officer proposed forming a subcommittee to review the Election Report and consider potential changes to the election regulations, noting that any amendments would require MGAEC endorsement. Following a show of hands, five members—Anusha, Jonathan, Jingrong, Yidi, and Vidhi—volunteered to join the subcommittee. The Executive Officer will contact the subcommittee to initiate discussions on the proposed changes.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 SSAF Funding negotiation

Yiwen reported that the University has commenced discussions on the new SSAF funding agreement and noted that the draft includes clauses which may compromise the independence of MSOs. A joint meeting with other MSOs was held to address these concerns, resulting in the drafting of an initial letter to communicate our position to the University. A subcommittee was also proposed to review the extensive agreement, with several members expressing interest in participating.

Following a show of hands, six committee members - Akshita, Troy, Yiwen, Kalani, Anusha and Jingrong volunteered to join the subcommittee. The Executive Officer will contact the subcommittee to initiate discussions on the new SSAF funding agreement.

4.2.2 Change of signatories for MGA bank accounts

Yiwen outlined the need to update the signatories on the MGA bank accounts following the appointment of the new Vice President, Vidhi Agarwal. The current signatories include Yiwen, the Executive Officer (Janice Boey), and the Events Manager (Leilani Hatfield). As per the approval process, all payments require signatures from one staff member and one committee member.

It was moved:

That the committee approve the removal of the outgoing Vice President, Yuen Leong Chow (Calvin) from the bank accounts listed above and add the current Vice President, Vidhi Agarwal to the bank account listed above.

Moved: Vidhi Agarwal
Seconded: Kalani Perera
Carried with no objections.

4.2.3 Vacancy on various university committees

Yiwen addressed the need for a graduate student representatives on the University Education Committee (UEC) and the Graduate Research Committee (GRC). Akshita Sinha showed interest in the UEC position, which is crucial for coursework-related matters. As there were no other nominations, Akshita was appointed to the UEC as the graduate student representative. Ryan Edwards will contact Askshita to brief her about the role on the UEC.

Yiwen Yuan emphasised the importance of having a STEM PhD student representative on the Graduate Research Committee (GRC) and invited expressions of interest. Kalani Perera expressed interest but was deemed ineligible, as MSDI falls under the HASS classification. Jason Yeung confirmed his interest and was subsequently appointed as the new STEM representative on the GRC.

4.2.4 Advisory group for Office-Bearers and Campus reps

This item was noted. The Executive Officer will contact relevant Office-Bearers after the closing date for the expression of interest inviting graduate students to join an advisory group.

4.2.5 Concern about online/pre-recorded lectures

Yiwen invited Jonathan to speak on this item. Jonathan reported that several graduate students have expressed concerns about the delivery of online and pre-recorded lectures, with some questioning the value of studying in Australia if lectures are pre-recorded. He asked if other committee members had received similar feedback from their constituents.

Anusha inquired whether there is a University policy governing the proportion of online content. Both Ying and Ryan responded that it is unlikely that such policy exists, as it is likely to be determined by each faculty.

Ying noted that the advocacy team occasionally receives complaints about outdated online materials, raising concerns about the quality of education. However, many students appreciate the flexibility offered by online lectures. Ryan added that MGA surveys indicate overall satisfaction among graduate coursework students, but a significant gap between expectations and satisfaction was observed specifically in the Master of Social Work program, suggesting the issue may be program-specific.

It was suggested that Rajdeep investigate this matter further with his Advisory Group

4.2.6 MGAEC retreat

This item was noted. The Executive Officer will follow up with an email reminder to complete the University's [*Off-Campus Extracurricular Activities and Travel Essentials module*](#)

4.2.7 MGA Orientation Semester 2 Report

The Committee noted the MGA Orientation Semester 2 Report. The Executive Officer thanked all Committee members for their contributions during O-Week and congratulated the MGA staff on delivering a successful orientation program for graduate students.

5. Next meeting

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

The meeting closed at 4.42pm