

Meeting 6/2025

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 3:00 - 4:00, Tuesday, 24 June 2025 in the MGA Meeting Room, Clayton 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), Saham Hettiarachchi (left at 3:20pm), Mohammed Salehan (arrived at 3.15), Dhanya Menoth Mohan (left at 3:26), Yidi Luan, Beauty Nalwendo (arrived at 3.22), Ummatul Siddique (left at 3:40), Aaskah Saraf, Vi Hiep Dang, Karan Raman, Neharika Shah, Calvin Chow, Kritika Arora and Jeremy Salcedo.

Apologies: Tuhar Yeasmin

Observers: **Incoming MGAEC members** - Troy Lau, Rajdeep Singh Jammu, Samarth Patel, Vidhi Agarwal, Jonathan Paul, Hard Gorakhia, Kalani Perera, Jason Yeung, Anusha Shrivastava, Akshita Sinha, Jingrong Wang, Ruyu Zheng

In attendance: Janice Boey, Executive Officer
Charlie Li, HR & Finance Manager
Shinyi Chin, Marketing & Communications Manager (left at 3.20)
Ying Xu, Advocacy Manager
Leilani Hatfield, Event Manager

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

No new items were added to the agenda

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of meeting May 2025 for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of MGAEC meeting May 2025 be confirmed.

Moved: Calvin Chow

Seconded: Saham Hettiarachchi
Carried with no objections.

2.2 Action list register

Yiwen provided updates on two of her action items: organising a meeting with CAPA and progressing the HDR stipend campaign. As the current committee's term is nearing its end, she recommended passing these responsibilities on to the incoming executive committee. Similarly, Saham proposed closing the action group item and encouraged new MGAEC members to get in touch with him if they are interested in receiving an update or continuing the work. More information about the action groups can be found in the handover reports.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

The President's report was noted.

3.2 Members' reports

Member's reports were noted.

Additionally, Saham expressed appreciation for the new Executive Committee and encouraged them to seek support from staff as they assume their roles. Aakash shared his positive experiences on being on University Committees, urging new members to engage in activities beyond standard meetings for enhanced learning and networking. Oliver echoed this sentiment, highlighting the potential for growth through collaboration with MGA staff. Calvin urged the new committee to actively engage with their constituents to find out their needs and wants. The overall tone was one of encouragement and support for active participation for the new committee members.

3.3 Staff report

The staff report was noted.

The committee debated the effectiveness of the new staff report format versus the old one, ultimately leaning towards retaining the old format for its clarity in presenting event details and student engagement metrics. Yiwen suggested integrating key takeaways into the old format to enhance its utility.

3.4 May 2025 profit and loss report

The May P&L report was noted.

The HR and Finance Manager reported that 75% of the 2025 set funding has been received, with the final 25% expected in August after the Census date for Semester 2.

3.5 May 2025 MGA Newsletters & Social Media Report

The Newsletters and Social Media Report was noted.

3.6 May 2025 Advocacy Report

The May Advocacy report was noted.

Ying noted that there was an increase in student academic misconduct cases in May, which is expected given the exam period. She also reported a rise in welfare grant applications, partly due to the introduction of the new hardship grant.

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 International student representation

Tuhar's report on the meeting about the establishment of a national association for international students across Australia was noted. MGA will remain involved in this initiative. No further action required at this time.

4.1.2 Student Experience plan

Yiwen outlined the collaborative effort among MSOs to address concerns about the new student experience plan proposed by the University through a joint letter initiated by MSA. The letter was submitted to Professor Sarah McDonald, DVC and Senior Vice President, who responded positively, affirming the role of MSOs in the consultation process.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 2025 Election report

Yiwen opened the floor for discussion on the 2025 election report, which includes seven recommendations. A key point of debate was the proposal to remove the requirement for voters to rank a minimum of 11 candidates. Ummatul raised concerns about the fairness of this rule and emphasised the need for a balanced approach if the recommendation is implemented. Anusha supported the idea of easing campaign rules, suggesting it could help improve voter engagement. The Executive Officer proposed that this item be tabled again at the next meeting for the incoming committee to review in more detail.

4.2.2 MGA Sem 2 Orientation Program

Leilani gave a brief overview of the MGA's Semester 2 Orientation program and encouraged the incoming committee to get involved and assist, particularly at the International Student Welcome Day on Monday, 21 July, and the main orientation session on Tuesday, 22 July. She will follow up with an email to both outgoing and incoming committee members to seek expressions of interest to assist with O-Week.

4.2.3 MGA Honoraria Regulations Review

The review of the MGA Honorary Regulations was discussed, with Charlie highlighting key changes, including the introduction of timelines for submission and review to help streamline and improve the efficiency of the process.

It was moved:

That the updated MGA Honoraria Regulations be confirmed.

Moved: Yidi Luan

Seconded: Aaskash Saraf

Carried with no objections.

4.2.4 MGAEC email account handover

Ywen highlighted that after end-of-day on Thursday 26 June 2025, outgoing committee members will lose access to their role email accounts. These accounts will be handed over to incoming committee members and new office-bearers.

4.2.5 Recognition of Outgoing Committee Members

Yiwen thanked each member of the Executive Committee for their valuable contributions, acknowledging the unique roles and impacts of each individual. On behalf of all MGA staff, the Executive Officer also expressed appreciation to the outgoing committee members for their dedicated service to the graduate student community.

4.2.6 Iran-Israel Conflict

The Advocacy Manager reported that the University has reached out directly to students affected by the conflict, acknowledging their circumstances and offering support such as special consideration for coursework students and milestone extensions for research students. Additionally, the Student Finance team is prepared to provide fee payment extensions for those impacted. The committee discussed further support options, with Jonathan suggesting a public statement outlining the resources available through the MGA for affected students. Aakash proposed the provision of food vouchers as immediate assistance.

It was decided that the MGA will release a social media post to inform students about the available support services for those impacted by this conflict or facing other challenging circumstances.

It was agreed to formally close the meeting and allow the incoming committee to conduct their own meeting to elect office-bearer positions. The outgoing committee members congratulated the new committee and wished them every success for their upcoming term.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm

Meeting 6/2025

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 4:00 - 5:00, Tuesday, 24 June 2025 in the MGA Meeting Room, Clayton Campus and by Zoom.

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 4:05pm.

1. Formal matters

1.1 Attendance & Apologies

Present: Yiwen Yuan, Troy Lau, Rajdeep Singh Jammu, Samarth Patel, Vidhi Agarwal, Jonathan Paul, Hard Gorakhia, Kalani Perera, Jason Yeung, Anusha Shrivastava, Akshita Sinha, Jingrong Wang, Ruyu Zheng, Mohammed Salehan and Yidi Luan.

In attendance: Janice Boey, Executive Officer
Charlie Li, HR & Finance Manager
Leilani Hatfield, Event Manager

2. Membership Matters

2.1 Elections of office-bearer positions for MGAEC 2025/26

It was announced that the elections for the office-bearers (OB) on the MGAEC 2025/26 term of office would commence

The Executive Officer served as the Returning Officer for the Office-Bearer elections, assisted by staff members Leilani Hatfield and Charlie Li. It was explained that voting would be conducted anonymously, in accordance with Clause 31 of the MGA Constitution. The election process would follow a preferential system, where in each voting round the candidate with the fewest votes would be eliminated, and rounds would continue until one candidate achieved an absolute majority.

President

The Chair called for nominations for the position of President.

- Anusha Shrivastava nominated herself and was seconded by Jingrong Wang
- Yiwen Yuan nominated herself and was seconded by Mohammed Salehan

Each candidate was given three minutes to speak to the committee and answer questions. An anonymous vote was conducted on Zoom and Yiwen Yuan was declared elected to the President's position

Vice-President

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-President.

- Yidi Yuan nominated herself and was seconded by Kalani Perera
- Hard Gorakhia nominated himself and was seconded by Jingrong Wang

- Vidhi Agarwal nominated herself and was seconded by Mohammed Salehan

Each candidate was given three minutes to address the committee and respond to questions. Two rounds of anonymous voting were conducted via Zoom, and Vidhi Agarwal was declared elected to the position of Vice-President.

Research Education Officer

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Research Education Officer.

- Anusha Shrivastava nominated Kalani Perera and was seconded by Akshita Sinha. Kalani Perera accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations. Kalani Perera was declared elected to the Research Education Officer's position.

Coursework Education Officer

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Coursework Education Officer.

- Rajdeep Singh Jammu nominated himself and was seconded by Jonathan Paul
- Jingrong Wang nominated himself and seconded by Anusha Shrivastava

In the interest of time, the Committee decided to proceed directly to the vote without allocating time for candidates to speak. An anonymous vote was conducted on Zoom and Rajdeep Singh Jammu was declared elected to the Coursework Education Officer position.

Women's Officer

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Women's Officer.

- Akshita Sinha nominated herself and was seconded by Anusha Shrivastava.

There were no further nominations. Akshita Sinha was declared elected to the Women's Officer position.

Queer Officer

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Queer Officer.

- Jonatahn Paul nominated himself and was seconded by Rajdeep Singh Jammu
- Ruyu Zheng nominated herself and was seconded by Anusha Shrivastava.

In the interest of time, the Committee decided to proceed directly to the vote. An anonymous vote was conducted on Zoom and Jonathan Paul was declared elected to the Queer Officer position.

International Students' Officer

The Chair called for nominations for the position of International Students' Officer.

- Anusha Shrivastava nominated herself and was seconded by Rajdeep Singh Jammu
- Hard Gorakhia nominated himself and was seconded by Kalani Perera.

In the interest of time, the Committee decided to proceed directly to the vote. An anonymous vote was conducted on Zoom and Anusha Shrivastava was declared elected to the International Students' Officer position.

Indigenous Students' Officer

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Indigenous Students' Officer. There were no eligible nominees. It was decided that the committee would discuss how to fill this position in the next MGAEC meeting.

The MGAEC elections were declared closed and elected members congratulated

3. Next meeting

The next meeting would be held in July 2025 at a time and place to be confirmed by incoming member's availability. The meeting closed at 5.10pm.