



# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED  
(DUSA)  
Reg No. A0040625Y**

## **2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

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**Tuesday 25 May 2021  
9:00am  
Via Zoom**

**DUSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Tuesday 25 May 2021, commencing at 9.00am  
Via Zoom**

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# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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## 1. WELCOME

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The Chair, Emily Sagolj formally welcomed all in attendance and declared the meeting open at 9:07am.

### ***DUSA President's Address:***

Good morning everyone

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that as we gather for this meeting physically dispersed and virtually constructed, we should take a moment to reflect on the meaning of place and in doing so recognise the various traditional lands on which we do our business today.

We acknowledge the Elders past, present and emerging of all the lands we work and live on, and their Ancestral Spirits, with gratitude and respect.

Thank you everyone for taking the time to be here at today's AGM.

Last year it became obvious to a lot more students that the most important work that DUSA does is not glamorous and highly visible, but instead very behind the scenes.

In 2020, we managed to get through all our O'Week events in T1 prior to the first lockdown, however once lockdown was introduced, we had a major shift in our focus. Instead of on campus events, we were confined to online events and our major focus shifted to key services that were essential for students during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our advocacy and our legal services assisted lots of students. Further, the welfare cases that came forward to our advocacy service increased dramatically.

The wellbeing of all students was a concern last year and international students in particular were seen as vulnerable. In turn, there was a big emphasis on ensuring students were fully aware of the support and services available to them. Thus, Financial Counselling services also had an increase in the number of students utilising the service and expanded their number of workshops and webinars. We made good use of the GAS Trust, by contributing \$18,000 towards grocery gift cards in addition to the International Student Grocery Gift Cards program.

Due to our inability to engage students about issues and events on campus, a major focus of Student Council and DUSA in general was to increase the visibility of DUSA online. Student Council kept students aware of any major updates via social media and EDMs. The DUSA website was redeveloped to improve navigation, 'Get to Know DUSA' online information sessions were created and we've also recently started up a podcast to help spread awareness about DUSA and the benefits for students.

Prior to COVID-19 and Victoria's first lockdown, student engagement activities were popular with students, with over 34,000 taking part in T1 O'Week. Unfortunately, not all events were sold out and there was a clear reduction in confidence displayed through the decrease in event attendance as COVID-19 cases increased. Clubs and Societies and sport activities also started off well in T1, however many club executives struggled



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to maintain the motivation to engage students with online events and sports clubs in particular struggled, thus a few clubs unfortunately folded by the end of the year. Clubs were supported with providing online events, and this ensured that students did not feel as isolated, however the issue of zoom fatigue made the entertainment of online events difficult to maintain.

Although 2020 was a tough year, we strived to ensure the best outcomes for students academically, financially and personally. Student Council had some great successes, such as census date grace periods, extended withdraw late period, \$25 million financial assistance scheme from Deakin, securing special consideration without supporting documentation and securing consistent assessment submissions times, just to name a few. We could not have done this without the strength of the entire DUSA team and our amazing membership base.

We are very proud that at the end of 2019, our membership reached a record high of 11,880 students. By the end of 2020, we took a big hit to our memberships, although we took some positives from it. Renewing members were equal to our 2019 records and Cloud Campus members increased by 47%. It's encouraging to see that our renewing members are still strong and that more cloud students see DUSA as a voice for them too. This is reflective of the changes we made to our strategic plan last year, which had a big emphasis on improving our accessibility and increasing the number of students that see DUSA as a supportive community.

Regardless of what we are advocating for, our wins would not have been possible without the strong working relationship we have with the university. This relationship, along with the dedicated DUSA team, ensure students get the most out of their university experience, even during a really tough year. I am incredibly proud of everything DUSA has achieved during this past year, and I have full confidence that our student association will take on board the lessons we have learnt last year, and continue to advocate for changes to accommodate any future hurdles!

**Emily Sagolj**  
**DUSA 2021 President**

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## 1.2 Present (via zoom)

### **Burwood**

Members: 10  
Observers: 6

### **Geelong**

Members: 3  
Observers: 1

### **Warrnambool**

Members: 0  
Observers: 0

### **Cloud**

Members: 2 (\*1 joined at 9:17am)  
Observers: 0

## 1.3 Apologies:

Spencer Perry	Geelong Representative
Cassandra Prigg	Warrnambool Campus Coordinator

## 1.4 Minute Taker:

Annette Allen	Executive Officer
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## 2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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The Chair asked if any members present had any questions or comments on the previous year's AGM Minutes. No questions were received.

The Chair advised she would now move a motion to accept the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 14 May 2020.

### **AGM01/25052021:**

That the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on the 14th May 2020 be accepted.

**Moved:** Emily Sagolj                      **Seconded:** Liam Cowan

**For:** 14      **Against:** 0                      **Abstain:** 0

**Motion Carried**



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## 3. ANNUAL REPORT

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The Chair noted that the Annual Report had been provided with the Agenda which is also available on the DUSA Website, and if there were no questions or comments regarding this she would move a motion to accept the report. No questions were received.

**AGM02/25052021:**

That the members confirm they have received the Annual Report on the activities of DUSA during its last financial year.

**Moved:** Emily Sagolj                      **Seconded:** Guleid Abdullahi

**For:** 14      **Against:** 0                      **Abstain:** 0

**Motion Carried**

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## 4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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The Chair advised that she would take it that everyone had read the financial statements for 2020 which were provided with the Agenda to Student Council and Representatives and were also available on the website, and if there were no questions she would move a motion to accept the financial statements. No questions were received.

**AGM03/25052021:**

That the members confirm they have received the financial statements and accompanying audited accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 for the incorporated association, and that the registered contact will submit the statement to the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) within one month of the date of this meeting

**Moved:** Emily Sagolj                      **Seconded:** Katrina Sullivan

**For:** 14      **Against:** 0                      **Abstain:** 0

**Motion Carried**

9:17am Cloud Campus Coordinator, Regena McBeath joined the meeting.



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## 5. SPECIAL RESOLUTION

The Chair advised that the General Secretary, Guleid Abdullahi would now speak for the Special Resolution to amend the DUSA Constitution.

The General Secretary spoke to the proposed special resolution to change the DUSA Constitution, advising that there were some minor changes to the Constitution to be considered today, and none of these changes would cause a major shift in interpretation of the document, however were primarily to tidy up the document.

The Chair asked whether there were any questions regarding these amendments. No questions were received.

The Chair advised that if everyone was happy to proceed with the amendments as outlined, she would move a motion to approve these changes and there would be a vote of all members present to change the Constitution.

### **AGM04/25052021:**

That the Constitution of the Deakin University Student Association Incorporated comprising its rules be amended as outlined in the Agenda:

1. Remove question mark in clause 12.1 to read:  
12.1           whichever is later.
2. Amend clause 17.2 to:  
17.2           Members may inspect the register in accordance with clause 68.
3. Amend clause 27.2 to:  
27.2           A position affected by a change in the regulations prescribed in 27.1 will only take effect, and can only be filled through the next annual student elections.
4. Add a new clause 27.3:  
27.3           Students in affected roles hold their positions until the end of their term. Changes must be accompanied by a transitional clause.
5. Current clauses 27.3 to 27.7 are renumbered.
6. Amend clause 36.6 to:  
36.6           Voting may also be held online or by postal vote for other students\*.
7. Amend clause 36.8 to read:  
36.8           Notice must also be given on the DUSA website.



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**Moved:** Emily Sagolj      **Seconded:** Guleid Abdullahi

**For:** 15    **Against:** 0      **Abstain:** 0

**Carried Unanimously**

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## 6. OTHER BUSINESS

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The Chair advised that no other business had been received for discussion and asked if any of the members present had any questions they would like to raise. No questions were received.

The Chair advised she would now close the meeting.

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## 7. MEETING CLOSED

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:21am.

## DUSA 2021 Annual General Meeting Attendance List

<i>Name</i>	<i>Campus</i>	<i>Member / Observer</i>
Emily Sagolj	Burwood	M
Brendan Low	Burwood	M
Georgie Brimer	Burwood	M
Guleid Abdullahi	Burwood	M
Jasmine Qi Xing	Burwood	M
Katrina Sullivan	Burwood	M
Liam Cowan	Burwood	M
Madhab Kharel	Burwood	M
Naren Shetty	Burwood	M
Reshween Jagjid Singh	Burwood	M
Annette Allen	Burwood	O
Fionna Cooper	Burwood	O
Gavin Hodgkinson	Burwood	O
Robyn Barnden	Burwood	O
Shona Haddon	Burwood	O
Sue Rolland	Burwood	O
Jemima Tilley	Cloud	M
Regena McBeath	Cloud	M
Ivanka Dishan Su	Geelong	M
Jonathan De La Pena	Geelong	M
Kat Foster	Geelong	M
Tania Evans	Geelong	O
	<b>Total Voting Members</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Observers (non voting)</b>	<b>7</b>