

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

9th Meeting

26 August 2025

10:30AM

Burwood Campus Bldg. A Meeting Room
and Via Zoom



Student Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 26 August 2025

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DUSA Student Council

Tuesday 26 August 2025

Commencing at 10:30am

Waurin Ponds Meeting Room JB3.302 and Via Zoom

Procedural Matters

1.0 Welcome

- 1.1 The Chair, Paul Ting welcomed all in attendance and declared the meeting formally open at 10:35AM.

As we gather for this meeting physically dispersed and virtually constructed, let us 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.

Present

Paul Ting	President & Chair
Noah Smith	Vice President - Education
Sharon Jeikishore	Vice President - Welfare
Vivian Liu	General Secretary
April Wright	Assistant General Secretary
Alec Ferguson	Student Council Member <i>(left mtg at 11:27am)</i>
Vi Vo	Student Council Member
Mae Bell	Student Council Member
Melda Ceylanbas	Student Council Member
Esther Fan	Student Council Member <i>(joined mtg at 11:19am)</i>

Present for Debate

None

By Invitation

Sue Rolland	General Manager
Gerard Turner	Student Engagement Manager
Robyn Barnden	Operations Manager
Gavin Hodgkinson	Advocacy Manager
Fionna Cooper	Finance Manager

Observers

Renee Nayef	Deakin student <i>(left mtg at 11:27am)</i>
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Minute Taker

Annette Allen	Executive Officer
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1.2 Apologies

Yiwei Cheng	Geelong Campus Coordinator
Muskan Goyal	Burwood Campus Coordinator

1.3 Absent

None

2.0 Question Time

- 2.1 The Chair advised no questions had been received prior to the meeting.
- 2.2 The Chair asked if anyone had any questions. No questions were received.
- 2.3 The Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest to declare. None were received.

3.0 Starring

- 3.1 The following items were starred for further discussion *(including automatic starring as per agenda)*:
 - 3.2 To consider a recommendation from the Chair that all remaining unstarred reports be received without further discussion.
 - 3.3 To consider a recommendation from the Chair that all remaining unstarred items on the agenda be received and that all recommendations therein be approved without further discussion.
 - 4.1 Accept the minutes of the previous Student Council meetings held on 19 June 2025.
 - 4.2 Actions arising from the Minutes
 - 5.0 Motions moved by circular resolution
 - 6.0 Leave of Absence requests
 - 7.0 Board Grant Applications
 - 7.1 MISA board grant application
 - 8.0 Strategic Matters of Importance to Members
 - 9.0 Regulations and Constitution
 - 10.0 Policy, Procedures and Systems
 - 10.1 Monthly compliance reporting
 - 11.0 Reports and Operational Matters
 - 11.1 Human Resources
 - 11.2 Finance Report and Profit & Loss
 - 12.0 Minutes of DUSA's Committees Received
 - 12.2 Minutes of Burwood Campus Committee Meeting
 - 12.5 Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
 - 13.0 Reports Received
 - 13.15 Campus Coordinators verbal updates
 - 14.0 General / Other Business
 - 14.1 Deakin Harmony Project Proposal
 - 14.2 Palestine Referendum Endorsement
 - 14.3 Palestine Referendum Motions
 - 14.4 MCWH Self Care Week Workshop
 - 14.5 DUSA endorsed candidate for University Council
 - 14.6 Queer Room costings
 - 15.0 Next Meeting
 - 16.0 Meeting Closed

Items Requiring Resolution

- 3.2 To consider a recommendation from the Chair that all remaining unstarred reports be received without further discussion.

SC01/26082025:

The Student Council agrees that all remaining unstarred reports be received without further discussion

Moved: Paul Ting

Seconded: April Wright

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Carried

- 3.3 To consider a recommendation from the Chair that all remaining unstarred items on the agenda be received and that all recommendations therein be approved without further discussion.

SC02/26082025:

The Student Council agrees that all remaining unstarred items on the agenda be received and that all recommendations therein be approved without further discussion

Moved: Paul Ting

Seconded: April Wright

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Carried

4.1 Minutes of the Student Council Meeting

The Chair advised that if there were no questions regarding the minutes from the previous meeting, he would move a motion to accept these.

SC03/26082025:

That the Student Council approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 July 2025 as a true and accurate records of proceedings

Moved: Paul Ting

Seconded: Melda Ceylanbas

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Carried

4.2 Actions Arising from Minutes

The Chair noted there were two outstanding action items and advised he would provide an update on these.

The DUSA executive will make a representation to university management about the Deakin University posters policy.

The Chair confirmed that he had met with the Vice Chancellor and his team last month and raised this item with them, notifying them that there needs to be more places where posters can be put up on campuses.

The Vice Chancellor has asked us to come back to him with some options as to where we would like poster points to be.

Alec Ferguson suggested some points such as the light poles along the main walkway.

The Chair advised we can discuss this further offline.

The DUSA President will update the Council on the progress of the University poster policy at the next Student Council meeting

As above. The Chair confirmed both actions can now be removed from the list.

5.0 Endorse all Motions Approved by Circular Resolution

The Chair advised there were no motions moved by circular resolution since the last meeting.

6.0 Leave of Absence

The Chair advised no requests for leave had been received.

7.0 Board Grant Applications

The Chair advised that a board grant application had been received from MISA and asked if there were any questions about this.

7.1 MISA Board Grant Application

The Student Engagement Manager advised the club had originally submitted this as a GAS Trust application and the Student Engagement team provided feedback to the club that it did not meet the criteria for a GAS Trust application. This event is a very targeted event relevant to students in this field. The club's preference was for a GAS Trust application.

Discussion ensued regarding increasing ticket prices, and negotiating a better package with the venue etc.

The Student Engagement Manager advised they are expecting around 70 students to attend with an outlay of \$5,000. They are intending to use their club grants funds for other events that are coming up, such as the graduation ball.

The Finance Manager outlined the current funds available for this club at present.

Further discussion ensued, with Student Council noting that they are not comfortable spending SSAF funding on alcohol for events and we could possibly look at providing them with up to \$2,000 towards food/venue costs.

The Chair advised once the club responds to the suggested increase of ticket prices and negotiating a better package, we can approve up to \$2,000 via a circular resolution or at Executive Committee.

8.0 Strategic Matters of Importance to Members

The Chair advised no items had been received and asked if anyone had anything to raise under strategic matters.

No items were received.

9.0 Regulations and Constitution

The Chair advised there were no items submitted under regulations and constitution.

10.0 Policy, Procedure & Systems

10.1 *Monthly Compliance Reporting – August*

The Chair advised the status of financial and insurance compliance reporting due for August had been provided in the agenda and asked the Finance Manager if she would like to speak further to this.

The Finance Manager advised we need to provide a financial report to Deakin's FBAC soon and this should be finalized by the end of the week. All other items due this month have been lodged.

11.0 Reports and Operational Matters

The Chair referred to the General Manager to provide an update on HR.

11.1 *Human Resources*

The General Manager advised our Enterprise Agreement was voted on last week by staff and was 100% approved. All forms have now been lodged with Fair Work and we are now waiting on their response.

11.2 *Finance Report & Profit and Loss*

The Chair referred to the Finance Manager to speak to the Finance Report.

The Finance Manager advised we are in a good position financially. July saw a deficit which was expected as July is one of our busiest months. We had some term deposit income and investment income; and bonuses were paid for eligible staff under the previous EA. Workcover premiums were also paid, and the first instalment payment for the student elections was made, together with the payment to Honest Fox our website provider.

An accommodation payment has been made for the University Nationals, plus we also had some food expenses and legal service payments. At the end of the year, we will still be in a deficit but not as much as was originally budgeted.

12.0 *Minutes of DUSA Committees*

The Chair advised the Minutes of DUSA's Committees received this month were from the Executive Committee and the Burwood Campus Committee and if there were no questions regarding these, he would move a motion to accept them.

SC04/26082025:

That the Student Council receives the Minutes of the Executive Committee, and the Burwood Campus Committee as submitted, and resolutions therein be endorsed as decisions of DUSA

Moved:	Paul Ting	Seconded:	Melda Ceylanbas
For:	9	Against:	0
Abstain:	0		
Carried			

13.0 DUSA Reports

The Chair referred to the reports received and asked if there were any questions regarding these or if anyone would like to speak further to their reports.

No questions or further reports were submitted.

The Chair advised he would move a motion to accept all reports received.

SC05/26082025:

That the Student Council receives all reports as submitted

Moved:	Paul Ting	Seconded:	Sharon Jeikishore
For:	9	Against:	0
Abstain:	0		
Carried			

13.15 Campus Coordinator Reports

The Chair referred to the Campus Coordinators to provide brief verbal reports.

Muskan Goyal, Burwood Campus Coordinator

Muskan was not present. Melda advised that Burwood are preparing for the Clubs Celebration evening, which seems to be going well.

Yiwei Cheng, Geelong Campus Coordinator

Yiwei was not present. April advised there was a few things being worked on such as the Clubs Celebration evening, plus an initiative to label our events for accessibility and noise level etc.

Claire has proceeded to work on some projects going forward as she has now been re-elected to her position for the next term of office.

Caleb Smith, Warrnambool Campus Coordinator

Caleb was not present.

The Student Engagement Manager advised that the U-belong event was held in Warrnambool, and this had been very successful. A trivia and karaoke night is coming up soon and they are aiming for ticketing to go live by the end of this week.

The Chair advised the nest boxes have arrived and are being painted ready for installation.

Items for Discussion / Decision

14.0 General / Other Business

The Chair advised there were several items on the agenda under General Business and referred to the first item which was the Deakin Harmony Project proposal.

14.1 Deakin Harmony Project Proposal

The Student Engagement Manager advised that this has quite a bit of overlap with the SENPRO clubs' management program that is currently being rolled out. They also have some concerns around the management of this platform, as they have seen with other clubs' forums that there is an expectation that DUSA will moderate these, which is not feasible. There is an overall inability for oversight of this platform, and their previous track record for managing events and submitting items in a timely fashion is not good.

The Chair confirmed that it is not feasible for DUSA to have to manage these types of platforms.

The Chair requested that a response be provided advising them that we have a new clubs' platform coming out shortly and they should look at this first before starting anything similar.

14.2 Palestine Referendum Endorsement

The Chair advised this item was submitted by Alec Ferguson and referred to Alec to speak to this.

Alec advised that what is currently happening in Gaza requires an immediate response. NUS and Students for Palestine have initiated this referendum around the Country. Students will be gathering nationwide to move these motions to place sanctions on Israel and Universities to end their partnerships with Israel. Protests have been held over the last month that have seen hundreds of thousands of people nationwide marching in protest. This is our opportunity to contribute and DUSA has a platform to speak out and take a stance on this as student activism has been part of overall activism for many years.

At Burwood Campus tomorrow at 1pm there will be a student referendum held. At today's meeting we need to primarily endorse the referendum that is happening tomorrow and pass the motions being considered.

The Chair asked if anyone has any comments on this item.

The General Manager advised that DUSA is obliged to operate under its purpose and read out the clauses from our Constitution which cover this. She further advised that we don't want to lose our charity status which would mean we would then be taxable and could possibly lose our not-for-profit status as well.

Discussion ensued.

The Vice President - Education advised that we could do a post on Instagram advertising the rally but did not think that DUSA as an entity should be put in a position where we jeopardise our charity and NFP status. Regardless of our personal feelings around this, DUSA as an entity should not be posting endorsements.

Further discussion ensued.

11:19am Esther Fan joined the meeting.

The Chair advised there were concerns from the Geelong campus around the referendum and referred to the Assistant General Secretary to speak to these.

The Assistant General Secretary noted that we should not be looking to NUS for advice on whether we would be sued or not for taking a stance. She further noted that a Referendum should have been organised with Waurin Ponds as a secondary campus where students could attend, not just provide them with on-line attendance.

She re-iterated that DUSA could advertise that the referendum is being held, without taking a stance on any specific position.

The Chair advised that despite our personal views which may be in line with the proposed motions, as a Board of Directors we must ensure we are acting in the best interests of DUSA and cannot jeopardise the other services that DUSA provides to students by taking political stances. DUSA as an entity needs to use our resources appropriately to benefit students and we should not be influencing students to vote in a certain way.

The Chair advised he would move a motion that the Student Council approves for DUSA to share the details of the referendum on our social media.

SC06/26082025:

That the Student Council approves for DUSA to share the details of the Palestine Referendum on our social media channels

Moved: Paul Ting

Seconded:

Sharon Jeikishore

For: 10

Against:

0

Abstain:

0

Carried

14.3 Palestine Referendum Motions

As above.

11:27am Alec Ferguson and Renee Nayef left the meeting.

14.4 MCWH Self Care Week Workshop

The Chair referred to Melda Ceylanbas to speak to this item.

Melda advised this would be a free catered workshop for women and non-binary students, particularly focussing on international students. It will be a safe space where students can ask questions regarding sexual education which may be culturally difficult for them to do in other spaces. Women from other cultures would really benefit from this workshop as many of these topics are taboo for them to speak about in their own homes.

The Advocacy Manager queried what the goodie bags would contain and advised that the Advocacy team obtains a lot of items at a very good price and currently have a surplus of items which could be used for the bags.

Questions ensued as to whether this was something that could be held at Geelong as well. Melda advised they will look into the possibility of streaming this to the Geelong campuses and confirmed that Multicultural Health are providing the educational aspect of this workshop.

SC07/26082025:

That the Student Council approves the MCWH Self Care Week Workshop proposal as submitted.

Moved: Paul Ting

Seconded: Mae Bell

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Carried

14.5 DUSA Endorsed Candidate for University Council

The Chair spoke to this item advising that we normally endorse a candidate for University Council and he is proposing that he be that candidate.

The Chair further noted that as he had a conflict of interest with this item he would refer to the Vice President – Education to move the motion.

The Vice President – Education advised that Paul would be a very good candidate for University Council and encouraged everyone to support this motion.

SC08/26082025:

That the Student Council approves Paul Ting to be the DUSA endorsed candidate for University Council, with promotion of this to commence after the DUSA student elections

Moved: Noah Smith

Seconded: Melda Ceylanbas

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 1 *Paul Ting

Carried

The Chair referred to the General Manager to speak to the last item.

14.6 Burwood Queer Room – estimate of costs

The General Manager advised that this had been discussed for a while now, and we have received estimates on the costs to make the changes that Clarity requested. The total would be \$2,365. Deakin advised they can provide some couches that they already have to replace the old couches but there would be a cost to do this and DUSA will have to pay for all changes to the Queer Room.

The Chair advised he would like to defer this decision to the next Executive Committee meeting if possible.

Items for Noting

15.0 Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next Student Council meeting was scheduled to be held at Waurn Ponds Campus on Tuesday 30th September commencing at 10:30am and requested the Executive Officer look into whether the meeting could commence at 1pm instead depending on room availability.

16.0 Close of Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:43AM.



STUDENT COUNCIL MEETINGS ACTION SHEET

Number	Action	Responsibility	Status