DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

9th Meeting

27 August 2026

10:30AM

Burwood Bldg A Meeting Room (Lvl. 2)
and Via Zoom

DUSA Student Council

Thursday 27 August 2026
Commencing at 10:30am
Burwood Bldg A Meeting Room (Lvl. 2) and Via Zoom

Procedural Matters

1.0 Welcome

1.1 The Chair, Noah Smith welcomed all in attendance and declared the meeting formally open at 10:37am.

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

Noah Smith	President & Chair
Vi Vo	Vice President - Education
Melda Ceylanbas	Vice President - Welfare
Supraja Srinivasan	General Secretary
Kaitlyn Handreck	Assistant General Secretary
Alex Gilders	Student Council Member
Abhinav Bhuyan	Student Council Member
Vishrut Goswami	Student Council Member

Present for Debate

None

By Invitation

Zeina Mahfouz	Chief Executive Officer
Robyn Barnden	Operations Manager
Fionna Cooper	Finance Manager
Gerard Turner	Student Engagement Manager
Gavin Hodgkinson	Advocacy Manager
Mikayla Sotiriadis	Geelong Campus Coordinator
Aditi Mishra	Burwood Campus Coordinator

Observers

None

Minute Taker

Annette Allen	Executive Officer

1.2 Apologies

Emily Mao	Student Council Member *(on leave)*
Charlotte Cooper	Student Council Member

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 23 July 2026.
- 4.2 Actions arising from the Minutes
- 5.0 Motions moved by circular resolution
- 6.0 Leave of Absence requests
- 6.1 Leave Request from Emily Mao
- 7.0 Board Grant Applications
- 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
- 11.3 Banking Motions
- 12.0 Minutes of DUSA's Committees Received
- 12.2 Burwood Campus Committee Meeting minutes
- 12.4 Geelong Campus Committee Meeting minutes
- 12.5 Executive Committee Meeting minutes
- 13.0 Reports Received
- 13.15 Campus Coordinators verbal updates
- 14.0 General / Other Business
- 14.1 Clothing Rack Project Proposal
- 14.2 DUSA endorsed candidate for University Council
- 14.3 Tet Trung Thu – Mid Autumn Festival Project Proposal
- 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.

SC01/27082026:

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

Moved:	**Noah Smith**			**Seconded:**	**Supraja Srinivasan**
For:	**8**	**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.

SC02/27082026:

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:	**Noah Smith**			**Seconded:**	**Supraja Srinivasan**
For:	**8**	**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.

SC03/27082026:

That the Student Council approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 July 2026 as a true and accurate records of proceedings

Moved:	**Noah Smith**			**Seconded:**	**Supraja Srinivasan**
For:	**8**	**Against:**	**0**	**Abstain:**	**0**
Carried					

4.2 Actions Arising from Minutes

The Chair advised there were no outstanding action items.

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 that one request for leave had been received and he would move a motion to approve this.

SC04/27082026:					
That the Student Council approves a one day leave of absence for Thursday 27th August for Emily Mao to enable her to attend a placement					
Moved:	**Noah Smith**			**Seconded:**	**Supraja Srinivasan**
For:	**8**	**Against:**	**0**	**Abstain:**	**0**
Carried					

7.0 Board Grant Applications

The Chair advised that no board grant applications have been received for discussion today.

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.

The Chair advised he has been working with DUSA Managers on the Head agreement and SLA to submit to the University, together with the SSAF consultation document and these will be submitted before this Friday.

The Chair asked whether anyone had any further items to discuss under Strategic Matters.

No further items were raised.

9.0 Regulations and Constitution

The Chair advised there were no items 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 the PAYG has been completed and lodged. She has not received any information, yet regarding what the University require for the upcoming FBAC meeting. However, she can reach out to Deakin to determine what they require from us.
The Chair advised he has not received anything via the GM emails on this either.

11.0 Reports and Operational Matters

11.1 ***Human Resources***

The Chair asked whether any Managers present had anything to report on HR.

No items to report.

11.2 ***Finance Report & Profit and Loss***

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

The Finance Manager advised the results available are for the year to end of July.
We have a surplus for July which is better than budgeted. A number of items came through in July, including income from maturing term deposits, and investment income from Perpetual as distributions from investments usually come through in July .

The approved EA for the 4% increase in pay for staff also went through, plus the General Manager redundancy payment.

The Workcover premium was paid for the year, and we also paid the first instalment for the 2026 elections with the final instalment being due in September/October. The annual charge for the website also came through in July.

Some of the accommodation costs for the Uni Nationals sports have been paid in July as we are paying these in instalments.

Food expenses for the events held in July were paid.

The Legal Service costs came through for our legal service which is provided to all students.

Overall, our revenue is roughly in line with the budget. We were successful in obtaining a grant from the Suburban Rail Loop, with funding for this still to come through.

Salaries down compared to budget due to unfilled positions.

Grants are slightly less than budgeted and performance fees are less than budgeted.

We are currently on track to see a smaller deficit than originally budgeted, and she is now commencing work on the budget for next year.

The Chair advised that he has just completed applying for the fee waiver for our NUS affiliation fee and has requested a reduced cost from last year based on student enrolment numbers being less and he will be able to confirm the amount soon.

The Chair advised that the banking motion item that was in the agenda will be deferred to a later time.

12.0 ***Minutes of DUSA Committees***

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

SC05/27082026:

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

Moved:	**Noah Smith**		**Seconded:**	**Supraja Srinivasan**	
For:	**8**	**Against:**	**0**	**Abstain:**	**0**

Carried

13.0 DUSA Reports

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

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

SC06/27082026:					
That the Student Council receives all reports as submitted					
Moved:	**Noah Smith**			**Seconded:**	**Supraja Srinivasan**
For:	**8**	**Against:**	**0**	**Abstain:**	**0**
Carried					

13.15 Campus Coordinator Reports

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

<u>Aditi Mishra, Burwood Campus Coordinator</u>
Aditi advised they have held the O'Fest wrap-up conversations, and the decreased intensity of lighting was discussed.
U-Belong week wrapped up in August, and students loved the sunflower activation and the doctors without borders activation. The online events saw slightly less engagement.
They also wrapped up the multi-cultural festival last week where 14 cultural clubs joined in this event. There was a lot of engagement and students loved the diversity on the food stalls.
Self-care week is now coming up, and they have been brainstorming and locking in events for this as well. They will also be doing a separate activation during Self-care week for the 'Are You Ok' day as well.

<u>Mikayla Sotiriadis, Geelong Campus Coordinator</u>
Mikayla advised they also had U-belong week in Geelong which was very well received.
The Chill-out trolleys have been ongoing, but she would have liked some more representation from the campus Reps but is also aware that it is a busy time of year.
The multi-cultural festival was held last week where they saw around 300 students come through which was double the number they had expected, which was great.
They are looking forward to self-care week.

<u>Andy Neal, Warrnambool Campus Coordinator</u>
Andy was not present.
The Chair advised that currently the University are looking to do renovations at Warrnambool campus in the old DUSA offices area, and he has been working with Andy on submitting a proposal for a student lounge to be incorporated into this area and have just submitted this to the University.

The Student Engagement Manager advised that U-belong week had gone very well and Joe from Welfare had been there to lead some event activations as well. He noted that we need to match-up the timing a bit better on this in future as a lot of students were away on placements.

Self-care week is coming up, including the Warrnambool trivia night and 1 ticket has been sold for this so far which is normal for Warrnambool as they often purchase event tickets at the last minute.

Items for Discussion / Decision

14.0 General / Other Business

The Chair advised there was a project proposal on the agenda submitted by the Burwood Campus Committee, for the Clothing Rack and he referred to the Burwood Campus Coordinator to speak to this.

14.1 Clothing Rack Project Proposal

Aditi advised that the Burwood Women's Representative, Isabelle had proposed that we have a clothing rack in the women's room where women can take clothing when required and also leave clothes too. Obviously, this would need to be organised and managed and they are proposing to involve clubs and the Women's Collective to maintain this and ensure it is tidy at all times.

The General Secretary advised this is a great initiative, but she was unsure whether the Women's Collective were in a position to provide assistance with this and she felt that a more sustainable way to proceed with this would be for the elected Campus Representatives to organise and maintain this. As it has come from the campus committee, she feels campus representatives should take responsibility for this.

Discussion ensued on when this would commence and would it tie in with the Deakin Volunteer Op shop event, where an 'interview initiative' is run by the University to provide interview clothing to students.

The Chair advised we can approve this proposal but provide recommendations that the Burwood Women's Representative takes ownership of this each year.

Discussion ensued regarding who would be responsible for funding laundering/dry cleaning for clothes.

The Chair advised we will investigate the ongoing running of this project as well.

Accountability for this project should not affect staff workload and should be totally in the hands of the Women's Representative and other campus representatives.

The Advocacy Manager advised that we are in partnership with 'Thread Together' to obtain suitable interview style clothing for students when they attend interviews.

The Chair advised that for this proposal, we are happy to approve it today pending advice to the Campus Committee that it is run and maintained by the Women's Representative.

SC07/27082026:

That the Student Council approves the Clothing Rack Project Proposal as submitted pending this is maintained by Women's Representative and other campus representatives

Moved:	**Noah Smith**		**Seconded:**	**Vi Vo**	
For:	**8**	**Against:**	**0**	**Abstain:**	**0**
Carried					

14.2 DUSA Endorsed candidate for University Council

The Chair advised that we need to move a motion today to endorse a candidate for University Council for next year and we are proposing to endorse Paul Ting. The rationale is that Paul has previously been a part of DUSA and is also the current University Council student member this year and played a part in stopping the proposed University re-structure.

Discussion ensued on whether they were going ahead with having two students on University Council this year. The Chair confirmed that next year the University will look at introducing a post-grad student.

The General Secretary confirmed that it was very appropriate to put Paul Ting forward as our endorsed candidate.

The Chair advised that if everyone was happy with this, he would now move the motion.

SC08/27082026:

That the Student Council approves for Paul Ting to be the DUSA endorsed candidate for University Council

Moved:	**Noah Smith**		**Seconded:**	**Kaitlyn Handreck**	
For:	**8**	**Against:**	**0**	**Abstain:**	**0**

Carried

14.3 Tet Trung Thu – Mid Autumn Festival Project Proposal

The Chair advised this project proposal was submitted by Burwood Representative Ha. His recommendation is that we do not approve this proposal today, and we have spoken with Ha about this. It was not submitted on time plus due to the timing it is very close to when the event is being proposed to be held and unfortunately it is not possible to approve at such a late date as it also has not been budgeted for.

We need to re-iterate to the campus representatives that there are timelines in place for a reason, and the student representatives need to adhere to these timelines and not submit them at the last minute.

The General Secretary advised she would like Ha to work with Student Engagement Manager to possibly come up with a more feasible option if that is possible.

The Student Engagement Manager confirmed he would speak to Ha today about this to see what they can do.

The Chair advised it has also not been through their own committee or approved at that level as yet, so we will defer this motion for now.

The Chair advised that Zeina is with us today and we welcome her to DUSA and will notify the University today of Zeina's commencement.

Zeina thanked the Chair and everyone for her warm welcome, noting that she only started on Monday and is still working her way around meeting up with everyone and getting to know them.

The Chair asked whether anyone had any other items they wanted to discuss under general business.

The Chair raised the roll-out of the $5 meals and the feedback being received from students that as it is only on Mondays and Thursdays and the range of options is not very broad. In response to this the University is proposing to shift to a voucher option instead, where students can use a $7 voucher and just pay $5 for this.

The Chair feels that these meals should be available more than two days per week, and preferably available every day. There could be added benefits to moving to a voucher system if it is done right and this will move it existing Deakin retail as well.

Discussion ensued around student cards and whether having the vouchers available on students' cards should be investigated.

The Burwood Campus Coordinator noted that some students had arrived one hour after the start of the $5 meal distribution, and no meals were available for them as they had all gone.

The Chai advised we will continue monitoring this to ensure it is being done right.

The Chair further noted that Deakin have received a liquor licence now for the Burwood Pantry located in BCC. Discussion ensued regarding use of the tram located in front of Building H, as this is currently locked.

The Operations Manager advised we are doing the retro dark blue hoodie for next year. We are conscious of wastage of textiles plus stock remaining from previous years, and re using the ink hoodie will save us some money. It was a very popular hoodie and will be good for next year.

The General Secretary discussed the Deakin Resi survey advising that Resi have not been responding to her about this. She will reach out to James at Resi as she also wants to ensure that we work in conjunction with campus life.

Items for Noting

15.0 Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next Student Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 29th September commencing at 10:30am, however may need to be re-scheduled due to a conflicting conference being held on the same date.

16.0 Close of Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:22am.