



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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

2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Monday 25 May 2026
10:00am
Burwood Corporate Centre (Lvl 2) and Via Zoom**

**DUSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 25 May 2026, commencing at 10.00am
Via Zoom or in person at Burwood Corporate Centre (Lvl 2)**



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1. WELCOME

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

DUSA President's Address:

Good morning everyone and thank you for joining us today.

First of all, I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians. As we gather for this meeting today physically dispersed and virtually constructed, let us take a moment to reflect on the meaning of place and in doing so, recognise the traditional lands on which we do our business today.

Deakin's campuses are located on unceded lands, skies and waterways. Our Burwood campus on Wurundjeri country, our Waterfront and Waurn Ponds campus on Wadawurrung country, and our Warrnambool campus on Eastern Maar Country.

I acknowledge the elder's past, present and emerging of all the lands we work and live on, and their ancestral spirits with gratitude and respect.

Here at DUSA, we remind ourselves each day that true student representation means creating a space where students feel heard, valued, and supported, and that includes a firm commitment to our First Nations communities, to walk alongside Indigenous students to achieve justice and equality.

Welcome to everyone in the room, and everyone joining us online. It is a genuine privilege to be here today, delivering the 2026 DUSA AGM President's Address.

I have been a DUSA member since my first year in 2023, and both our university and our organisation have changed significantly in that time. We have continued to grow student engagement, steadily closing in on our pre-COVID metrics. Through it all, DUSA has remained proactive and adaptive, listening to what students are asking for, delivering on the day, and planning carefully for the future. The expansion of our services reflects exactly that: a commitment to meeting the evolving needs of Deakin students, and to maintaining the high standard our community deserves.

Two years ago, the DUSA Student Council updated our Strategic Plan, the guiding strategy set by the Board every three years, designed to consolidate our efforts and sharpen our focus. In that plan, we outlined three fundamental goals, succinctly summarised as Advocacy, Communication, and Community. Together, these goals reflect our core mission: to create a university culture of belonging and empowerment.

Advocacy

Advocacy, at its heart, is about bolstering support for students in need, and we have worked hard to do exactly that.

We expanded our Food Pantry offerings by increasing their frequency and deepening our partnership with Foodbank, ensuring more students across more campuses can access essential food support. We expanded funding for our weekly Chillout Trolley, extending its reach across Burwood, Geelong and Warrnambool, and for the first time in



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its history, we were able to offer the Chillout Trolley throughout Trimester 3. We proudly offered our first ever DUSA International Scholarships and brought back the Survival Centre at Warrnambool. We have continued to deliver the Deakin Student Legal Service and increased the capacity of our advocacy team with additional staffing to meet growing demand, meaning students can access academic integrity support in a timely manner when they need it most.

Advocacy is also about working towards better, more systemic outcomes for students. This year, we paired that work with a new focus on underrepresented voices. We established seven student-led committees, the Disability Committee, Women's Committee, Residential Committee, International Committee and Queer Committee, alongside the continuing Education and Welfare committees. Led by members of our student representative team, these committees have strengthened our ability to amplify the voices that most need to be heard in conversations with the university.

24/7 Library Access

This year, we reached a milestone that Deakin students have been calling for for years: 24/7 library access, available all year round, across all Deakin campuses. This did not happen overnight. It took countless meetings, persistent advocacy, and an unwillingness to take no for an answer. But today, we can say with pride, DUSA delivered. The after-hours swipe card system means students can access the library on their terms, whether that is late at night or early in the morning, without compromising safety or the quality of the learning environment. Students who use the library achieve better academic outcomes. Removing the barriers to that access is not a small win. It is a meaningful investment in the academic success of every Deakin student.

Free Sanitary Products Expansion

Period poverty is a real and serious issue that continues to affect students on our campuses. That is why DUSA previously advocated for free sanitary products in Deakin libraries, and having seen that success, we have been working to expand it further. After significant research, advocacy and negotiation, and in collaboration with the Victorian State Government, our campuses are set to receive more than 30 additional free sanitary product locations. This is a crucial service reaching more students who need it.

Mini-Marts on Campus

2025 also saw the introduction of Deakin's first on-campus mini-marts, available at Burwood, Waurin Ponds and Waterfront. These provide students with food options that simply weren't available on our campuses before, a practical improvement to the everyday student experience.

Automatic Extensions

We have achieved a major win for students in the area of academic flexibility. In late 2025, following extensive lobbying by DUSA, the Academic Board passed a motion to enact automatic extensions. Students will now be able to access a three-day automatic extension on eligible assessment tasks. This will meaningfully ease the unexpected pressures students face, while also reducing the administrative burden on staff reviewing extension requests. It is a genuine win for everyone.



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Free HIV Testing

We have also been working with key stakeholders to bring free HIV testing to campus. Now in the preliminary approval stage, we have received our first confirmation of funding with further planning underway. This will provide a safe, dignified and accessible testing service for members of our community who need it.

These are just a few of the many ways DUSA's advocacy has made Deakin a better place. These are tangible, visible differences that everyday students can see, understand and access. I also want to acknowledge our targeted advocacy committees and thank them sincerely for their hard work and the invaluable insights they have brought to this work.

Community

Building and maintaining community is integral to everything DUSA does. That community now consists of 115 clubs, more than 400 executives, and over 10,000 club members, an increase on the year prior, and a testament to the vibrancy of student life at Deakin.

We have also delivered on something clubs have long needed: a better system. This year we rolled out SENPRO, a new platform designed to streamline event approvals, grants, room bookings and reimbursements. It is early days, but it is already showing strong potential to reduce the administrative burden on student leaders and free them up to focus on what matters, their communities.

Our sporting community had an outstanding year. Over 260 students represented Deakin through the Deakin Dragons program, including 131 at UniSport Nationals on the Gold Coast. Women's Basketball won Division 1 gold. Men's Basketball and Men's Tennis both claimed Division 2 gold. Our Cheer and Dance program returned after a six-year absence, with 42 student athletes bringing home silver in Cheer and bronze in Dance. And for the second consecutive year, Dexter the Dragon won the mascot race.

Our Extension and Special Consideration Awareness Campaign, led by the now well-known Patch the Bear, reached over 27,000 students online and was recognised as a finalist in the 2025 Student Experience Network Awards. That campaign came directly from what our advocates were seeing on the ground: students missing out on support simply because they did not know it existed.

For students facing financial hardship, demand for our Financial Wellbeing service grew by 44% in 2025. We responded by expanding the coordinator's hours to meet that need. Our Food Pantry reached 2,951 unique students across 7,089 visits. Our Survival Centre supported 414 cases. And we awarded 11 scholarships from 199 applications, with recipients telling us it genuinely changed their university experience.

We also piloted something new: Shop Smart, Cook Smart, a practical food literacy program delivered in partnership with the City of Whitehorse, helping students budget, shop and cook on a limited income. We are expanding it in 2026 in partnership with Deakin's School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences.

For our mature-aged students, our Mix and Mingle sessions have become one of our strongest-performing formats, with students telling us clearly that they want more. For our international students, we have strengthened referral pathways and expanded the migration legal service from two to three days per week.



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And across every campus, our orientation program delivered over 33,000 attendances across 52 events, a 15% increase on 2024, because we know that the first weeks of university shape the years that follow.

Looking to the future, it is important that we remain clear in our goals, which is to put the interests of students first. In an uncertain world and a clouded future, DUSA has committed to expanding support in all shapes and sizes because we understand students are doing it tough.

Conclusion

To conclude, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the 2025/2026 student representatives, club executive community and DUSA Crew volunteers, along with all of our DUSA staff. Your selfless and extraordinary contributions have made a tremendous impact on this community, and you should all be proud to know that you have made Deakin a better place.

Looking towards the future, I know that DUSA can continue to be a driving force for positive change at Deakin and beyond. I am certain that our team will continue to pursue excellence in serving this student community with passion and determination. I am excited to continue engaging with students in the coming trimester, and to uphold the strong culture of community we cherish here at Deakin.

Thank you.

Noah Smith
DUSA 2026 President



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1.2 Present

Voting Members present in the room:	19
Observers present in the room:	5
Voting Members present via zoom:	21
Observers present via zoom:	0

1.3 Apologies:

None

1.4 Minute Taker:

Annette Allen Executive Officer

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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 he would now move a motion to accept the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 26 May 2025.

AGM01/26052026:

That the minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting held on the 26th May 2025 be accepted.

Moved:	Noah Smith	Seconded:	Kaitlyn Handreck
For: 40	Against: 0	Abstain:	0

Motion Carried

3. ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair noted that the Annual Report had been provided with the agenda, and this had also been made available on the DUSA Website, and if there were no questions or comments regarding the annual report for 2025, he would move a motion to accept this. No questions were received.

AGM02/25052026:

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

Moved:	Noah Smith	Seconded:	Kaitlyn Handreck
For: 40	Against: 0	Abstain:	0

Motion Carried



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4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Chair advised that he would take it that everyone had seen the financial statements for 2025 which were provided with the Agenda to Student Council and Student Representatives and were also available on DUSAs website, and if there were no questions he would move a motion to accept the financial statements. No questions were received.

AGM03/25052026:

That the members confirm they have received the financial statements and accompanying audited accounts as at 31st December 2025 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: **Noah Smith** **Seconded:** **Kaitlyn Handreck**

For: **40** **Against:** **0** **Abstain:** **0**

Motion Carried

5. OTHER BUSINESS

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.

Deakin student Seb queried when DUSA had learnt about the \$53,000 in unauthorised payments within CAPA.

The Chair advised the first notification was from CAPA and they were advised it was an ongoing investigation.

Seb asked whether DUSA was taking any action regarding this.

The Chair advised that as this is an ongoing investigation they would not be taking any action at this stage.

No further questions were received.

The Chair advised he would now close the meeting.

6. MEETING CLOSED

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 10:24am.

DUSA 2026 Annual General Meeting Attendance List

<i>Name</i>	<i>Member / Observer</i>
<i>Burwood Campus - Burwood Corporate Centre</i>	
Rem Randall	M
Kaitlyn Handreck	M
Bayley Mackie	M
Banuka Kumarasinghe	M
Noah Smith	M
Maya Bornstein	M
Em Stephens	M
Alex Gilders	M
Supraja Sayee Srinivasan	M
Charlotte Cooper	M
Rhylee Zondlik	M
Katie Le	M
Aditi Mishra	M
Yasin Backer	M
Coco Manning	M
Callum Andrew	M
Vi Vo	M
Ha Nguyen	M
Abhinav Bhuyan	M
Robyn Barnden	O
Sue Rolland	O
Gerard Turner	O
Fionna Cooper	O
Annette Allen	O
<i>Attendees via zoom:</i>	
Bella Surtees	M
Beth Arnup	M
Luke Baker	M
Jared McDonald	M
Seb Dimech	M
Melda Ceylanbas	M
Ember Williamson	M
Alice Taylor	M
Sheya Mittal	M
Jet Rhind	M
Tien Nguyen	M
Mikayla Sotiriadis	M
Hansi Wimalaweera	M
Mathanki Nehra	M
Anureet Kaur	M
Avanish Soorea	M
Vishrut Goswami	M
Paul Ting	M
Emily Mao	M
Alastair Hood	M
Krishna Sastha	M
Total Voting Members	40
Total Observers	5

19 members at Burwood Campus

5 observers at Burwood

21 Members online