

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

3rd Meeting

3 March 2026

10:00AM

Burwood Corporate Centre (Lvl. 2)
and Via Zoom



Student Council Meeting Minutes
Monday 2 March 2026

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DUSA Student Council

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Commencing at 10:00am

Burwood Corporate Centre (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 10:03am.

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
Melda Ceylanbas	Vice President - Welfare
Supraja Srinivasan	General Secretary
Kaitlyn Handreck	Assistant General Secretary
Alex Gilders	Student Council Member
Emily Mao	Student Council Member
Abhinav Bhuyan	Student Council Member
Vishrut Goswami	Student Council Member
Charlotte Cooper	Student Council Member

Present for Debate

None

By Invitation

Sue Rolland	General Manager
Gavin Hodgkinson	Advocacy Manager
Robyn Barnden	Operations Manager
Aditi Mishra	Burwood Campus Coordinator
Mikayla Sotiriadis	Geelong Campus Coordinator
Dr Penny Pitt	Snr Advocate
Beau Hesse	Burwood Postgraduate Representative
Maya Bornstein	Geelong Clubs & Societies Representative

Observers

None

Minute Taker

Annette Allen	Executive Officer
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1.2 Apologies

Vi Vo	Vice President – Education
Gerard Turner	Student Engagement Manager
Fionna Cooper	Finance Manager

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. No conflicts were declared.

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 29 January 2026.

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 Board grant application from ISDU

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

12.4 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 Club Executives Networking Evening

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.

SC01/02032026:

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

Moved:	Noah Smith	Seconded:	Kaitlyn Handreck
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.

SC02/02032026:

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:	Alex Gilders
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.

SC03/02032026:

That the Student Council approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 January 2026 as a true and accurate records of proceedings

Moved:	Noah Smith	Seconded:	Alex Gilders
For:	9	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 there were no requests for leave received.



Annual Student Survey

The Chair advised that Penny had joined us today to talk to Council about the annual student survey and welcomed Penny to the meeting.

Penny advised she would share a presentation on screen and thanked everyone for allowing her to join the meeting today to speak about the annual student survey.

Penny further advised the questions are designed in consultation with Management, Student Council and student working groups and she would like to go over the plans for the 2026 survey, what was included in the 2025 survey and ways that the Council and Representatives could be involved in shaping this year's survey.

Penny talked through the presentation slides discussing timing, platform, respondents, and promotion of the survey with a prize draw incentive and noted the survey would be promoted through multiple channels with possible prizes of 10 x gift cards of \$100 each as an incentive.

Penny provided an overview of the topics covered in the survey plus information that the survey questions provided to us. Some questions included in the survey are constant each year and some are new questions which are introduced each year.

Penny requested that if Council had any specific questions, they would like to see included in the survey this year to email their suggestions to her by 31 March.

The General Secretary raised some questions that could potentially be included in the survey, advising that Council will have further discussions and will get back to her if there is a possibility for these to be included.

The Chair thanked Penny for presenting to Council today.

7.0 Board Grant Applications

The Chair advised that one board grant application had been received from ISDU and asked if anyone had any questions or comments about this application.

The General Secretary advised ISDU hold an annual event which is relevant to Ramadan, and it is their biggest event of the year, and it would be good if we could support them with a \$2,500 grant towards this event happening on 7th March.

The General Manager advised the club currently has \$11,451 in their bank account.

The General Secretary confirmed the event costs are sitting around \$14,000 which is why they are asking us to supplement the costs.

The Chair advised he would move a motion to approve this board grant.

SC03/03032026:

That the Student Council approves the ISDU board grant application as submitted

Moved: Noah Smith

Seconded: Alex Gilders

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Carried

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 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 – February*

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

The General Manager advised everything was up to date with compliance requirements, with the BAS and PAYG for the period having been paid.

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 we are inducting all new staff at present. Gavin has just appointed a new advocate for Geelong as Mary is leaving. Everything went well last week and there were no issues with staff.

11.2 *Finance Report & Profit and Loss*

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

The General Manager advised the December 2025 draft results were provided in Teams, and these are currently unaudited. The results are quite favourable to budget and there had been some paper gains on our investment.

January figures are looking good and are close to budget. The SSAF was paid recently and is being paid to us within 7 days now which is good.

Memberships are slightly ahead of last year, with the colour of hoodie being very popular. Corporate partnerships are going well. Various expenses have come through such as legal service and software licences etc. At this stage we are anticipating a similar deficit as 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 Geelong Campus Committee and if there were no questions regarding these, he would move a motion to accept them.

SC04/02032026:

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

Moved:	Noah Smith	Seconded:	Kaitlyn Handreck
For:	9	Against:	0
Carried		Abstain:	0

Items for Discussion / Decision

14.0 General / Other Business

The Chair advised there was one item submitted under general business and referred to the General Secretary to speak to this item.

14.1 Club Executives Networking Evening

The General Secretary advised this is a great cross-collaboration event and we have so many clubs on campuses it is a very good opportunity for them to get together and network with each other. She supports approval of this project proposal.

Questions ensued regarding the number of events.

The General Secretary advised there will be one event for Burwood clubs and another event for Geelong clubs.

Mikayla noted this is a great opportunity for clubs to connect and form collaborations.

SC06/02032026:

The Student Council approves the Club Executives Networking Evening Project Proposal as submitted

Moved: Noah Smith

Seconded: Abhinav Bhuyan

For: 9

Against:

0

Abstain: 0

Carried

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

The General Manager noted that there was a requirement for staff involvement included in this project proposal and wanted to ensure that the staff involved are aware of this.

The General Secretary assured that they are aware of this and meetings are taking place with the relevant staff.

Student Councillor Vish advised that he had been talking to the clubs during Market Days and some had expressed concerns around the ticketing and the fact that Rubix take a percentage of the ticket sales.

The General Manager requested Vish to send her an email with the details so that she can pass this on to the team.

The General Secretary advised that she will be looking for people interested in participating as student partners in the proposal for the HIV test kits as she would like to get their perceptions around designing of the kits etc.

Student Councillor Abhinav queried whether there were any further updates on having more food options available on campuses.

The General Manager advised that she thinks the university under-estimated how long it would take to get food outlets up and running on the campuses, however there will be more opening up soon. Waurin Ponds seems to be more affected by this than the other campus, but there are definitely more outlets to open up soon.



Items for Noting

15.0 Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next Student Council Meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 26th March at Burwood Building A meeting room and via zoom at 10:30am.

16.0 Close of Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10:47am.