

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

# **STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

2nd Meeting

29 January 2026

10:30AM

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



**Student Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday 29 January 2026**

---

# Student Council Meeting Minutes

## Thursday 29 January 2026

---

### DUSA Student Council

Thursday 29 January 2026

Commencing at 10:30am

Burwood Campus Bldg. A Meeting Room 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 10:32am.

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
Emily Mao	Student Council Member
Abhinav Bhuyan	Student Council Member
Vishrut Goswami	Student Council Member

#### Present for Debate

None

#### By Invitation

Sue Rolland	General Manager
Gavin Hodgkinson	Advocacy Manager
Fionna Cooper	Finance Manager
Aditi Mishra	Burwood Campus Coordinator
Mikayla Sotiriadis	Geelong Campus Coordinator
Claire Elder	Geelong Queer Representative
Beth Arnup	Geelong Women's Representative
Da Dat Ly	Geelong Postgraduate Representative

#### Observers

Beau Hesse	Burwood Postgraduate Representative
Pranathi Mehra	Deakin student

#### Minute Taker

Annette Allen	Executive Officer
---------------	-------------------

## 1.2 Apologies

Charlotte Cooper	Student Council Member (on leave)
Robyn Barnden	Operations Manager
Gerard Turner	Student Engagement 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 20 November 2025.
  - 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 Charlotte Cooper
  - 7.0 Board Grant Applications
  - 8.0 Strategic Matters of Importance to Members
  - 9.0 Regulations and Constitution
  - 9.1 Amendments to General Regulations
  - 9.2 Amendments to Election Regulations
  - 9.3 Amendments to Electoral College Regulations
  - 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 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 Joint Survival Cabinet Project Proposal

- 14.2 Geelong Queer Room Refresh Project Proposal
- 14.3 IWD Panel Project Proposal
- 14.4 Deakin Chess Club Tournament Project Proposal
- 14.5 International Start Point Project Proposal
- 14.6 Easter Event Project Proposal
- 14.7 Postgraduate students public transport survey Project Proposal
- 14.8 HIV Testing Project Proposal
- 14.9 Postgraduate Inbox 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.

**SC01/29012026:**

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

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Kaitlyn Handreck</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>

**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.

**SC02/29012026:**

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

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Melda Ceylanbas</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>

**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.

**SC03/29012026:**

**That the Student Council approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 November 2025 as a true and accurate records of proceedings**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Kaitlyn Handreck</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>

**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.

#### SC04/29012026:

**That the Student Council approves a leave of absence for Charlotte Cooper commencing 4 January 2026 to 16 February 2026**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Melda Ceylanbas</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Carried</b>			

#### 7.0 Board Grant Applications

The Chair advised that no board grant applications had been received.

#### 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 they had their first meeting with the Vice Chancellor on Tuesday and had discussed sanitary products across campuses, food options on campus – Deakin will be trialling \$5 options at Burwood first and they may also use the new DUSA space to trial \$5 meals. They had also discussed the current opening hours of prayer spaces and the possibility of extending the hours. Deadnaming on campus was discussed, and Deakin now believe most of the system errors have been ironed but some inaccuracies may still be coming through from the individual lecturers. They touched on the Fusion Festival and we reiterated to them that these events should be student run, as well as some current Deakin events which could also be run by DUSA.

We had thought the relocation was finalized now, however coming into the new year there are some new issues that have come up and we are hoping this won't lead to an extension of the finish date.

#### 9.0 Regulations and Constitution

The Chair advised there were three items submitted under regulations and constitution and referred to the Executive Officer to speak to these.

The Executive Officer advised that most of the changes to the election regulations and the electoral college regulations came from recommendations from the Returning Officer after last year's elections. There is one change to the general regulations clause 29.19 to amend the period allowed for Council and Representatives to obtain a WWCC to 4 weeks from the start of their term of office instead of 4 weeks from being elected. This will be more in line with legislative requirements and the timeframe for staff.



11.2 **Finance Report & Profit and Loss**

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

The Finance Manager advised she hasn't provided the December reports as yet. The clubs' reports are finalized and available in Teams. As December is the end of financial year for DUSA we need to keep this open for a while yet to try to ensure everything is captured for items that have come through late. We are looking at a deficit still at this point, which was expected.

The Finance Manager provided an overview of expenses and income for December and noted that under the current enterprise agreement superannuation contributions for staff has increased by 2% from January so this is being incorporated into the payroll system.

The Auditors have started their work and have requested 62 documents so far and we are working through these. Most of their work will be done in March and the financial statements will be audited and submitted to either the March or April Student Council meeting for approval before going to the AGM in May.

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.

**SC08/29012026:**

**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**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Melda Ceylanbas</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Carried</b>		<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>

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.

No questions or further verbal reports were received.

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

**SC09/29012026:**

**That the Student Council receives all reports as submitted**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Kaitlyn Handreck</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Carried</b>		<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>

### 13.15 Campus Coordinator Reports

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

Aditi Mishra, Burwood Campus Coordinator

Aditi advised that December and January had been a quiet period on campus and they had mainly rolled out the food pantry and the chill-out trolley, with some reps working on project proposals.

Mikayla Sotiriadis, Geelong Campus Coordinator

Mikayla advised her reps had also done the chill-out trolleys which didn't have huge engagement due to the lack of students on campus. She also held a team dinner with the Campus Committee and the reps have been putting through project proposals.

Andy Neal, Warrnambool Campus Coordinator

Andy was not present.

The Chair advised they are gearing up for O'Fest and making sure the team are on the same page with the events to be run there.

## Items for Discussion / Decision

### 14.0 General / Other Business

The Chair advised there were a number of items submitted under general business and referred to Claire to speak to the first two items.

#### 14.1 Joint Survival Cabinet Project Proposal

Claire, the Geelong Queer representative advised this proposal started out as something for the Queer room but quickly expanded to the Women's room and other spaces. Safe space rooms are used a lot often by marginalised students who may not be comfortable accessing items publicly and would prefer to access them in safe space rooms where items such as condoms, tampons, fidget toys, heat packs, and blankets could be provided.

The items have been tailored specifically to both Queer rooms and Women's rooms, and the principal is to support our communities who face poverty or marginalisation and provide them with items that they need.

Claire further noted that if a separate HIV proposal has been submitted, then they can take these costs out of the budget for this proposal. They will be able to obtain a lot of the items required through sponsorships via DUSA, and this will take the emphasis off clubs to try and provide these items and have DUSA provide them instead.

The Advocacy Manager advised the welfare team already provides some of these products across Burwood and Geelong and he would be happy for any conversations around these items to come to him as the costs will come out of his budget.

**SC10/29012026:**

**The Student Council approves the Joint Survival Cabinet Project Proposal as submitted**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Kaitlyn Handreck</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Carried</b>			





14.7 Postgraduate Students Public Transport Survey Project Proposal

Beau Hesse, the Burwood Postgraduate representative advised that they propose putting out a survey regarding postgraduate students not being able to get cheaper public transport due to being postgrad students. Within the proposal there is a \$100 budget to enable them to push the survey out to students.

The Chair advised to bring Penny into this as she is experienced with getting surveys out to students. The \$100 may not be required as we can advertise it on our socials.

The General Manager confirmed we can put this on our socials, send an eDM to students, and advertise through Cloud Deakin etc.

The Chair noted that this proposal was a great idea and he would move a motion to approve it.

**SC13/29012026:**

**The Student Council approves the Postgraduate Students Public Transport Survey Project Proposal as submitted**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Kaitlyn Handreck</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>

**Carried**

14.8 HIV Testing Project Proposal

The General Secretary advised that Ember, the Burwood Queer representative has been passionate about getting this into Deakin. Other universities have these available in discreet locations for students to access. Ember would like to have these available in areas on campus and get government funded HIV testing kits. This proposal is the first steps to getting this going.

The General Manager queried whether this could be included in the cabinets proposal and the kits be accessed via the cabinets.

The General Secretary advised that Monash have started a HIV testing area on campus and we would like to do this as well.

The Advocacy Manager queried who would be responsible for stocking the machines if they were made available and advised they would need to locate them in appropriate spaces.

11:29am The Finance Manager left the meeting.

**SC14/29012026:**

**The Student Council approves the HIV Testing Project Proposal as submitted**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Melda Ceylanbas</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>

**Carried**

14.9 Postgraduate Research Inbox Project Proposal

Zenio, the Geelong Postgraduate student representative advised the in box proposal is about creating an online information channel to enable students to engage more and have any important information relevant to postgraduate students put through this channel as well. This is also an opportunity for collaboration and more engagement with DUSA from postgraduate students.

The General Manager advised that she did not know how we would obtain the mailing list as we don't get this level of information from Deakin and we don't have the capacity within current staff to take on more projects.

The Advocacy Manager advised advocating to Deakin to create this.

Zenio advised that the postgraduate representatives would update and manage the information.

The General Manager suggested setting up a Teams channel and have an opt-in system instead.

Beau asked if they could circle back to Student Council later after having discussions about the best way forward with this.

The Vice President – Education agreed that postgraduate students need better support from the university as they have different needs from other students and queried whether DUSA are able to obtain this information when students sign up to DUSA.

The General Manager advised that we don't have that level of information when students sign up to DUSA.

Further discussion ensued.

The Chair noted that further conversations are needed around this as while it is a good idea in theory, it is broad and would be complicated to get the information required. We would need to talk to Deakin about how best to go about this.

The General Secretary advised there is a gap in communication from the University to postgraduate students which does need to be addressed.

The Chair advised we would table this proposal at present until some of the details are clarified.

## Items for Noting

### 15.0 Next Meeting

The Chair referred to the Executive Officer to discuss scheduling of the February Student Council Meeting. The Executive Officer advised that due to O'Fest and some other events in calendars she is proposing to hold the February Council meeting during the first week of March. Council agreed that Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March would be the preferred date.

### 16.0 Close of Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:42am.