

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

8th Meeting

23 July 2026

10:30AM

Geelong Waurn Ponds Campus, Room JB3.302

Burwood Bldg A Meeting Room (Lvl. 2)

and Via Zoom



Student Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday 23 July 2026

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DUSA Student Council

Thursday 23 July 2026
Commencing at 10:30am
Geelong Waurin Ponds Room JB3.302;
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 10:32am.

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
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

Robyn Barnden	Operations Manager
Fionna Cooper	Finance Manager
Gerard Turner	Student Engagement Manager
Gavin Hodgkinson	Advocacy Manager
Mikayla Sotiriadis	Geelong Campus Coordinator

Observers

Seb Dimech	Deakin Student <i>(joined mtg at 11:07am)</i>
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Minute Taker

Annette Allen	Executive Officer
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1.2 Apologies

Melda Ceylanbas	Vice President – Welfare <i>(on leave)</i>
Charlotte Cooper	Student Council Member
Aditi Mishra	Burwood Campus Coordinator

1.3 Absent

Emily Mao	Student Council Member
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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 25 June 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 – Vice President Welfare
 - 7.0 Board Grant Applications
 - 7.1 Deakin Pride board grant application
 - 7.2 Health Ball 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
 - 12.4 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 Approve Electoral Tribunal
 - 14.2 Confirm Election Services Provider
 - 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.

SC01/23072026:

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

Moved:	Noah Smith	Seconded:	Kaitlyn Handreck
For:	7	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.

SC02/23072026:

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:	Vi Vo
For:	7	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.

SC03/23072026:

That the Student Council approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 June 2026 as a true and accurate records of proceedings

Moved:	Noah Smith	Seconded:	Kaitlyn Handreck
For:	7	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 of absence had been received from Melda.

SC04/23072026:

That the Student Council approves leave of absence for Melda Ceylanbas commencing 6 July until 31 July 2026

Moved: Noah Smith

Seconded:

Kaitlyn Handreck

For: 7

Against:

0

Abstain:

0

Carried

7.0 Board Grant Applications

The Chair advised that we have received two board grant applications and referred to the first application from Deakin Pride.

7.1 Deakin Pride Board Grant Application

The Chair advised this application is requesting \$4,000 to cover costs for the Deakin Pride Prom, specifically for venue costs and drinks and the Prom is being held on 11th August.

Vi noted this same application was approved last year.

The Chair asked whether anyone had any thoughts or comments on this application.

SC05/23072026:

That the Student Council approves the board grant application for Deakin Pride for an amount of \$4,000

Moved: Noah Smith

Seconded:

Kaitlyn Handreck

For: 7

Against:

0

Abstain:

0

Carried

7.2 Health Ball Board Grant Application

The Chair advised this application is a multi-club application from DUBS, DUSS, FANS, DAPS and DNMS and they are requesting an amount of \$1,500 to cover costs for the Health Ball being held on 31 July. The clubs have raised the majority of funds required to hold this event and just require a \$1500 amount to ensure they can cover all costs.

The Chair advised that Sophie, the Burwood Clubs Officer is also in support of this application. The Chair asked whether anyone had any thoughts or comments on this application.

The Student Engagement Manager advised they have already covered costs and are anticipating making a profit on this event. The Finance Manager agreed advising all of the clubs involved have a minimum of \$5,000 in their clubs' accounts so they are all financially viable.

The Vice President - Education noted that perhaps this amount should be a loan rather than a grant if they are anticipating making a profit on the event and that perhaps we should consult them and find out why they requested a grant.

The Chair advised we can approve this as a loan and will consult the club regarding why they requested a board grant rather than a loan.

SC06/23072026:

That the Student Council approves the joint clubs board grant application for the Health Ball for an amount of \$1,500 as a loan pending discussions with the clubs

Moved: Noah Smith

Seconded:

Abhinav Bhuyan

For: 7

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.

The Chair advised he has a motion which was circulated to Council which the NUS have only adopted recently regarding a National Day of Action against Pauline Hanson.

The Chair advised he would read out the preamble for this motion.

“That DUSA endorses the upcoming National Day of Action against Pauline Hanson and the far-right. University students and high schoolers across the country are walking out of their classes on Thursday August 13 in opposition to the growing entrenchment of far-right politics in this country. The National Union of Students Education Officer is organising this day.

Pauline Hanson delivered her first press club speech last month which was defined by a myriad of derogatory and reactionary statements. She openly attacked workers rights, pledging to wind back protection to make it easier to fire ‘lazy’ workers, described so-called muslim ‘hate preachers’ as a ‘social cancer’, and stated that a ‘transgender insurgency’ was ‘infecting’ schools and workplaces. Her call for a ‘monoculture’ is a dogwhistle for a White Australia - one without Muslims, Indigenous people and other minorities. Hanson and One Nation’s far-right politics is an attack on workers, students, and all of the oppressed.

Hanson is dragging politics in Australia even further right, with the most recent Newspoll showing One Nation at 30% of the primary vote. The entrenchment of One Nation in Australian politics mirrors the rise of the far-right around the world. They are here to stay regardless of if they win in the upcoming State Election in November. Without even being in government One Nation is already shaping the terrain of politics and dragging it to the right on every major question. Criticism of Hanson has largely been limited to her impropriety and unprofessionalism, while genuflecting to the right-wing racist grievances she expresses as ‘genuine concerns’.

An effective fight back against Hanson and her party will require confidently and loudly confronting her racist, reactionary program, defending the rights of the oppressed and combating bigotry. Student unions across the country have a responsibility to organise their members against the far-right threat. DUSA should use its resources and platform to argue to students to attend the rally on August 13 as a starting point for building an ongoing movement against the far-right.

Platform:

1. DUSA endorses the National Day of Action against Pauline Hanson on August 13
2. DUSA will print posters and leaflets to promote the demonstration
3. DUSA will advertise the demonstration through their social media and email channels”

The Finance Manager advised that as a registered charity we are not allowed to make political endorsements so we would need to be very careful about how this is worded as we could risk losing our charity status and further suggested the wording be 'raise awareness' rather than endorsing.

Discussion ensued regarding wording of the motion.

Further discussion ensued on the visa hike recently implemented for international students and the adverse effect this is having with many international students now having to leave Australia.

The General Secretary referred to the visa hike statement we put out which was condemning the government decision on the visa hike and was not endorsing a specific political party or condemning a specific political party but criticizing a government decision. We will also be writing to MPs regarding this issue as well.

The Chair advised he would now move a motion regarding the NDA.

SC07/23072026:

That DUSA and the Student Council supports the rights of marginalized students and communities and raises awareness of the NUS National Day of Action being held on August 13, 2026 and will provide information to students via our media channels on this event

Moved: Noah Smith

Seconded: Alex Gilders

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Carried

Seb Dimech joined the meeting at 11:07am

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

The Finance Manager advised that the University Council are now going to have two student council members instead of one. A postgraduate student and an undergraduate student and she wanted to raise this as DUSA usually endorses a candidate for University Council.

The Chair thanked her for making them aware of this.

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 – July*

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

The Finance Manager advised they have completed the single touch payroll for the end of June, and you should be able to see 'tax ready' when you do your tax return. We have now rolled over the year end on the payroll system and applied the new tax scale. Super payments for the April to June quarter have been paid under the old quarterly system and we have now moved to pay day super which will be paid fortnightly when the salary payments are made. The BAS for the June quarter is not quite finalized but it is also not due yet. The Club reports for the end of June were uploaded on the Teams site which show number of members per club and club balances.

11.0 Reports and Operational Matters

11.1 *Human Resources*

Not discussed.

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 had a deficit in June which was favourable to budget. Grants to clubs of \$15,000 went through. The Volunteering Club loan of \$3,000 was repaid. Accommodation costs were paid for the Indigenous games and another instalment paid for the Uni Nationals. We are currently sitting on a deficit which is favourable to budget. Sponsorships are slightly down and salaries at the end of June were favourable to budget. Expenses were also favourable to budget. We had an overspend on systems costs, food expenses and travel assistance.

The Perpetual Investment continues to be volatile; it was showing a bounce back last month but is now down again due to the hostilities in the middle east.

It is unlikely that we will hit the \$1M budgeted deficit. We recently received \$2.3M SSAF funding from the University. We are still in a good financial position and she will start working on next year's budget shortly with a view to reducing the deficit.

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.

SC08/23072026:

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:	7	Against:	0
Carried		Abstain:	0

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.

SC09/23072026:

That the Student Council receives all reports as submitted

Moved:	Noah Smith	Seconded:	Kaitlyn Handreck
For:	7	Against:	0
Carried		Abstain:	0

13.15 *Campus Coordinator Reports*

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

Aditi Mishra, Burwood Campus Coordinator

Aditi was not present

The Chair advised that T2 was well received even though there were some lighting issues in the sports hall. 437 students attended the Burwood food pantry, and the Chill-out trolleys continue to empty out each week. The \$5 meals were rolled out and were very well received by students so far.

Mikayla Sotiriadis, Geelong Campus Coordinator

Mikayla advised O'Fest went reasonably well with 2 welcome lunches which were well received. The Market Days went well but a bit slower than in T1. Feedback was that it was very noisy in the hall. We re-started the Chill-out trolleys and are getting good attendance.

There has been a lot of interest in DUSA crew volunteering which is good.

Currently gearing up for U-Belong Week.

There are no project proposals at this stage from the Geelong Reps.

Andy Neal, Warrnambool Campus Coordinator

Andy was not present.

The Chair advised the Winter Ball went very well with around 170 tickets sold.

We have been told by Deakin that we have to make a register of all items that are located in the DUSA space at Warrnambool as they are going to be renovating this area. Andy has been talking to the Deakin team to expand the renovations to the small DUSA lounge there as well as this could do with some refurbishment.

The Student Engagement Manager advised that the welcome lunch which Andy led had gone very well. The upcoming U-belong week will be supported by Joe and other Student Engagement staff and this will be a larger event than what was held in T1.

Items for Discussion / Decision

14.0 General / Other Business

The Chair advised there were a couple of items submitted under general business and would refer to the Executive Officer to speak to these.

14.1 Electoral Tribunal for 2026 Elections

The Executive Officer advised that Council needs to move a motion today to approve engagement of an electoral tribunal for the 2026 elections. We have used Clive Madder for around 5 years and he has always been very good to us and does not charge us a retainer fee if no hearings are called and she would recommend we engage him again this year.

SC10/23072026:

That the Student Council approves to engage Clive Madder to act as Electoral Tribunal for the 2026 Student Elections

Moved: Noah Smith

Seconded:

Vishrut Goswami

For: 7

Against:

0

Abstain:

0

Carried

14.2 Confirm Election Service Provider and Returning Officer

The Executive Officer advised that an administrative motion is required to confirm the election service provider and returning officer for this year's elections. We have a three year contract with Omega Consulting Group and this will be the second year of that contract, however our regulations state that Council must approve the provider and returning officer each year.

The Chair confirmed he would move a motion to confirm this.

SC11/23072026:

That the Student Council confirms that Omega Consulting Group will act as Election Service Provider and Josh Gilligan as Returning Officer for the 2026 Student Elections as per DUSA's three-year contract with Omega Consulting Group dated 26 June 2025

Moved:	Noah Smith	Seconded:	Kaitlyn Handreck
For:	7	Against:	0
		Abstain:	0
Carried			

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

The Vice President - Education advised that we have done an amazing job to support our disability community to date and during U-Belong week she would like to run an activation to give out sunflower information sheets on how to join their organization plus give out some sunflower lanyards. She has had discussions with the Student Engagement Manager to ensure this can be included during the U-Belong week activities and needs approval for \$500 to purchase the items from the Sunflower organization.

The Chair advised this was a great initiative and would be happy to move a motion to approve this amount.

SC12/23072026:

That the Student Council approves an amount of \$500 to purchase items for the Sunflower Activation to be held during U-Belong Week

Moved:	Noah Smith	Seconded:	Kaitlyn Handreck
For:	7	Against:	0
		Abstain:	0
Carried			

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

Student Councillor, Abhinav raised the issue of graduation fees and cost of tickets to attend graduations. He is hearing from a lot of students that they pay a huge amount of money during their terms at university and then have to pay another \$200 just to graduate, plus the cost of tickets on top of this. They are also only allowed two tickets, and this is often not sufficient as students families want to come and see them graduate and students would like more tickets to be available. Avhinav asked how we could advocate on behalf of students to reduce or eliminate the cost of graduation fees and have more tickets available at a lower cost.

The Chair advised that the best way to advocate on this issue is via his regular meetings with the Vice Chancellor and the DVCA. He will talk with Abhinav further outside of this meeting with a view to raising this at the next VC/DVCA meeting.

The General Secretary advised that a panel called 'Beyond the Bodies' has been organized for the Tuesday of U-Belong week at 11am. There will be a bake sale as well and she is hoping that we can all support the panel as she believes we have a responsibility to support students going through these difficult times.

The Chair thanked the General Secretary for raising this and encouraged everyone to support this panel.

Items for Noting

15.0 Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next Student Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 27th August commencing at 10:30am.

16.0 Close of Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:28am.