

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

# **STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

4th Meeting

26 March 2026

10:30AM

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



**Student Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday 26 March 2026**

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# Student Council Meeting Minutes

## Thursday 26 March 2026

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### DUSA Student Council

Thursday 26 March 2026

Commencing at 10:30am

Burwood Campus 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
Melda Ceylanbas	Vice President - Welfare
Supraja Srinivasan	General Secretary
Alex Gilders	Student Council Member
Emily Mao	Student Council Member
Abhinav Bhuyan	Student Council Member
Vishrut Goswami	Student Council Member ( <i>joined meeting at 10:42am</i> )
Charlotte Cooper	Student Council Member

#### Present for Debate

None

#### By Invitation

Sue Rolland	General Manager
Gavin Hodgkinson	Advocacy Manager
Robyn Barnden	Operations Manager
Fionna Cooper	Finance Manager
Gerard Turner	Student Engagement Manager
Mikayla Sotiriadis	Geelong Campus Coordinator
Aditi Mishra	Burwood Campus Coordinator
Beau Hesse	Burwood Postgraduate Representative

#### Observers

None

#### Minute Taker

Annette Allen	Executive Officer
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#### 1.2 Apologies

Kaitlyn Handreck	Assistant General Secretary
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#### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March 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 BW DAPS
    - 7.2 Board grant application from HOLI
  - 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
    - 12.2 Burwood 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 (Burwood) Project Proposal
    - 14.2 Fifa Watch Party Project Proposal
    - 14.3 DUSA Events Suggestions 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.

**SC01/26032026:**

**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>Alex Gilders</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Abstain:</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.

**SC02/26032026:**

**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>Charlotte Cooper</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Abstain:</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.

**SC03/26032026:**

**That the Student Council approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 March 2026 as a true and accurate records of proceedings**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Alex Gilders</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Abstain:</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 there were no requests for leave received.

## 7.0 Board Grant Applications

The Chair advised that two board grant applications had been received and referred to the first application from BW DAPS.

### 7.1 BW DAPS

The Chair asked if anyone had any comments or questions regarding this application.

Aditi advised this application is for a ball they are planning on holding and they are requesting a loan from DUSA for this. The funds will be returned post-event to DUSA from ticket sales.

#### SC04/26032026:

**That the Student Council approves the BW DAPS board grant loan application as submitted**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Vi Vo</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Carried</b>			

The Chair referred to the second application received from the Indian Club relating to the HOLI festival celebration.

### 7.2 HOLI Celebration

The Chair asked if anyone had any comments or questions regarding this application.

The Student Engagement Manager advised the Indian Club missed the cut-off for the February meeting. The total expenses for the event were over \$5,000 and income of just over \$2,000 so they are requesting a board grant application to help them meet the remaining costs of this event.

Questions and discussion ensued on approving board grant applications retrospectively.

#### SC05/26032026:

**That the Student Council approves the HOLI board grant application as submitted**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Alex Gilders</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Carried</b>			

## 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 – March***

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



The Finance Manager advised there was just one item for the month which was the PAYG and this has been lodged and 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 the two marketing roles have now been filled. We have received a resignation from our HR Officer, Lucia who finishes on April 10<sup>th</sup>. We have commenced recruitment for this position and have received some applications, but no suitable candidates yet.

The General Manager advised she will be on leave for a month during April and Gerard will be filling in for her during this time.

#### 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 have finalized the 2025 financial results now and the auditors are coming in next week to finish off their work. We will finish with a deficit for the year but ahead of budget. The financial statements will be submitted for approval at the April Student Council meeting before going to the AGM in May.

Figures for February are finished, showing us slightly ahead of budget but we don't read a lot into the figures for February as timings are often out in February which can affect the bottom line.

The Perpetual investment is down by around \$60,000 for the year due to the volatile market at present. It is best for us to hold the investment for now until the market bounces back again. Interest rate rises won't have much effect on our investments.

#### 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 Burwood Campus Committee and if there were no questions regarding these, he would move a motion to accept them.

#### SC06/23032026:

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

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Charlotte Cooper</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.

**SC07/26032026:**

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

**Moved: Noah Smith**

**Seconded: Emily Mao**

**For: 9**

**Against: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Carried**

**13.15 Campus Coordinator Reports**

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

Aditi Mishra, Burwood Campus Coordinator

Aditi advised Burwood has just wrapped up O’Fest by holding a review meeting yesterday. Most feedback received for the Market Days and how we can work on this.

The Chill-out trolleys run out within 20 mins of opening. The food pantry is going well and helping many students.

Project proposals are being worked on by the Burwood representatives and submitted.

They have started having meetings to plan for Self Care Week.

Mikayla Sotiriadis, Geelong Campus Coordinator

Mikayla advised Geelong also held their review session after O’Fest which was good.

The Holi event was really big in Geelong. The Chill-out trolleys are getting good engagement, and the food pantry is also going very well. U-Belong week is happening next week.

The Geelong representatives are engaging in their projects as well.

Andy Neal, Warrnambool Campus Coordinator

Andy was not present.

The Chair advised since the last council meeting a couple of events held have been held in Warrnambool, the lawn bowls night and market day and both events were very good with a good turnout. We may need to get extra seating next time these are held.

**Items for Discussion / Decision**

**14.0 General / Other Business**

The Chair advised there were three items submitted under general business and referred to the Burwood Campus Coordinator to speak to these items.

**14.1 Club Executives Networking Evening (Burwood)**

Aditi advised this is held every year and is a networking opportunity for club executives to get together and discuss what they are working on. This event will be held in April at Burwood.

The Student Engagement Manager advised that they have received a proposal, but don’t know any of the details at this stage as no email has been received regarding catering etc. Any requirements from the Student Engagement team to organize catering needs to be advised ASAP.

The Chair advised he would follow up on this, but it appears from the proposal that they are organizing the catering.

**SC08/26032026:**

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

**Moved: Noah Smith**

**Seconded: Charlotte Cooper**

**For: 9**

**Against: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Carried**



14.2 Fifa Watch Party Project Proposal

The Burwood Campus Coordinator, Aditi advised this project proposal is quite self-explanatory. It is to be held around the Student Central area. The Fifa watch party is an opportunity to connect students who are interested in Fifa, and they hope to include online students in this as well.

The Student Engagement Manager advised that it is a bit more complex than this to run such an event. Fifa hold the public viewing licence for screening and there are some steps we need to undertake before this can be held. There are different classifications of licences that can be applied for, for instance if a commercial licence is required this would come at a cost. A non-commercial licence would be easier to obtain if we move away from the sponsorship side of things. Deakin may also pass on charges for the AV set up and the project may also need set up by DUSA staff which also needs to be factored into the proposal. Also, we need to be mindful of whether there are any other orientation events happening at the same time.

The Chair advised that in the committee meeting they agreed to pass the proposal and then work out the issues afterwards. However, it appears it would be better to hold off on approving the proposal for now until these issues are worked out and then possibly pass it later.

The General Manager advised that they may need to look at getting in some other seating options as well as the seating in the Student Central area is not comfortable for long periods of time.

Aditi advised she is happy to work on these issues with Gerard and table the proposal for approval at the next meeting.

The Student Engagement Manager noted that the earlier we can get started on these issues the better.

The Vice President - Education raised some concerns about screening and copyrights.

The Student Engagement Manager advised that Fifa owns the rights to public viewing, so we need to look into this.

The Chair advised would ask Fazhan to reach out to discuss these issues.

14.3 DUSA Events Suggestions Project Proposal

Aditi advised this proposal is about how people can submit suggestions for events via a page, and she thinks this is a great idea.

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

**SC09/26032026:**

**The Student Council approves the DUSA Events Suggestions Project Proposal for Burwood as submitted**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Noah Smith</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Emily Mao</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Carried</b>			

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

No items were received.



## Items for Noting

### 15.0 Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next Student Council Meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 23rd April at Burwood Building A meeting room and via zoom commencing at 10:30am.

### 16.0 Close of Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:01am.

The Chair re-opened the meeting at 11:06am to discuss an application which had been submitted under the GAS Trust Deed, however, was better suited for a board grant application. The Chair advised that after discussion at the GAS Trust meeting he would move a motion to approve this application as a board grant.

#### SC10/26032026:

**The Student Council approves a Board Grant for the Deakin Teddy Bear Hospital for an amount of \$250**

**Moved: Noah Smith**

**Seconded: Alex Gilders**

**For: 9**

**Against: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Carried**

### 16.0b Close of Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:07am.