DEAKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

10th Meeting

24 September 2026

10:30AM

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

Student Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday 24 September 2026

DUSA Student Council

Thursday 24 September 2026
Commencing at 10:30am
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
Melda Ceylanbas	Vice President - Welfare
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

Zeina Mahfouz	Chief Executive Officer
Robyn Barnden	Operations Manager
Gerard Turner	Student Engagement Manager
Gavin Hodgkinson	Advocacy Manager
Mikayla Sotiriadis	Geelong Campus Coordinator
Aditi Mishra	Burwood Campus Coordinator
Beau Hesse	Burwood Postgraduate Representative

Observers

None

Minute Taker

Annette Allen	Executive Officer

1.2 Apologies

None

1.3 Absent

Supraja Srinivasan	General Secretary

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 27 August 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 from Vi Vo

7.0 Board Grant Applications

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 NUS Affiliation invoice

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.

SC01/24092026:

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.

SC02/24092026:

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:**	**Kaitlyn Handreck**	
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.

SC03/24092026:

That the Student Council approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 August 2026 as a true and accurate records of proceedings

Moved:	**Noah Smith**		**Seconded:**	**Kaitlyn Handreck**	
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 that one request for leave had been received and he would move a motion to approve this.

SC04/24092026:

That the Student Council approves a leave of absence for Vi Vo commencing 17 September until 30 September 2026

Moved:	**Noah Smith**		**Seconded:**	**Kaitlyn Handreck**	
For:	**8**	**Against:**	**0**	**Abstain:**	**1 *Vi**
Carried					

7.0 Board Grant Applications

The Chair advised that no board grant applications have been received for discussion today.

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 that he and the CEO have been working through the SSAF consultation, Head Agreement and SLA and have done some good work on this and it should be a good submission to the University.

The CEO advised we are providing them with a lot of relevant statistics on why they should be providing additional funding.

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

No further 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 – September***

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

The CEO advised the IAS for August and September has been lodged and paid. The September BAS is not due until November and will be worked on shortly. Regarding Insurance disclosure forms to Deakin, she has been liaising with Deakin's Director of Insurance who is assisting to obtain log in details for her in the absence of the Finance Manager.

If the Finance Manager has not returned from leave by the time the franking credits refund application is due, she will engage auditors to come in and apply for the franking credits.

11.0 Reports and Operational Matters

11.1 ***Human Resources***

The Chair referred to the CEO to provide an update on HR.

The CEO advised our Finance Manager is currently on personal leave and may not be back at work for another 5 weeks or so. Annette our Executive Officer has resigned and finishes on 30 October, and one of our interns Paige has finished this week. Also, Felicia our Corporate Sponsorships Assistant has resigned due to health reasons.

11.2 ***Finance Report & Profit and Loss***

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

The CEO advised that overall results for August showed a deficit, but this was favourable to budget. YTD without clubs is also a deficit but also favourable to budget. The report shows August is typically a quieter month than July. Corporate partnerships have continued through the month, and salaries are also favourable to budget due to some unfilled positions.

Total revenue was also favourable to budget, and cost of sales has decreased by 4% from this time last year.

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

SC05/24092026:

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

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

Carried

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.

SC06/24092026:

That the Student Council receives all reports as submitted

Moved:	**Noah Smith**		**Seconded:**	**Kaitlyn Handreck**	
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 that in the past month self-care week happened which included several events. 357 students accessed the food pantry. There have been some concerns raised regarding an elderly female who has been coming on campus and accessing the food pantry a couple of times and she is not a student.
The Chill out trolley saw 200+ students turning up to get snacks.

Mikayla Sotiriadis, Geelong Campus Coordinator

Mikayla advised Geelong also had their self-care week, and she attended the Waurn Ponds beats and eats. The Deakin teddy bear hospital was also there which was good. The Geelong representatives did not attend or put their hands up to assist in any way, and this is something

she will be talking to the incoming campus coordinator about for next year. They have also bee working on keeping costs down and not over-ordering.

Andy Neal, Warrnambool Campus Coordinator
Andy was not present.
The Chair advised he and the Student Engagement Manager had met with the refurbishment project team in Warrnambool where they are relocating a lot of stuff out of the old DUSA office. There have been some issues raised by Warrnambool students and Reps around Res, as there has been multiple break-ins which are not being taken seriously by Resi staff.

The Student Engagement Manager advised that the self-care week trivia night led by Nathan in Warrnambool had been very good, with around 45 attendees and Nathan had done a great job on this and the event had been very well received.

Items for Discussion / Decision

14.0 General / Other Business

The Chair advised there was one item for discussion under general business, which was the NUS Affiliation invoice.

14.1 NUS Invoice

The Chair advised that he had successfully obtained a fee reduction again for this year and the total amount payable will be $33,000. Based on NUS calculations and without the fee waiver the amount would have been around $100,000.

The Chair advised he would now move a motion to approve payment of this invoice.

SC07/24092026:					
That the Student Council approves payment of the NUS invoice for the amount of $33,000					
Moved:	**Noah Smith**		**Seconded:**	**Kaitlyn Handreck**	
For:	**9**	**Against:**	**0**	**Abstain:**	**0**
Carried					

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

The CEO raised the relocation project advising she and the Operations Manager have been catching up with the relocation team and the designers and engineers, with around 4-6 meetings held with them so far. They have walked through the space and are ensuring that branding of DUSA is a priority so that student know where we are.

A meeting was held yesterday regarding Deakin compliance and training, and we may need to roll out some Deakin compliance models for Student Council next year.

The Operations Manager advised we are trying to get the digital screen downstairs again as Deakin had taken it away, but this is required as we have the eSports room and we need it for them, plus for events and clubs, so we have put it back onto Deakin to reinstate the screen. We may also get some portable screens in place later.

The Chair advised it is exciting to see that they have started work on the new space now at Burwood.

Items for Noting

15.0 Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next Student Council Meeting which is the handover meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 22nd October commencing at 10:30am at the Burwood Corporate Centre.

16.0 Close of Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10:55am.