

STUDENT VOICE COUNCIL

INAUGURAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING · MINUTES

Date	Wednesday 15 July 2026
Time	12:01 pm – 1:01 pm AEST
Format	Online — Microsoft Teams
Returning Officer	Kylie Whitney, Head of Campus Operations
Minutes prepared by	Kylie Whitney, Head of Campus Operations
Next meeting	To be scheduled by the elected Council

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	ROLE	CAMPUS
Kylie Whitney	Head of Campus Operations / Returning Officer	Sydney
Kirst Fitzgerald	National Student Experience, Engagement & Wellbeing Lead	Brisbane
Hollie Beard	Student Engagement & Experience Coordinator	Sydney
Caitlyn Glasson	Student Engagement & Experience Coordinator	All campuses
Rianna Hollsten-Provenzano	Student Engagement & Experience Coordinator	Melbourne

1.2 NOMINEES PRESENT

NAME	COURSE / CAMPUS	TRIMESTER	ROLE NOMINATED
Takee Alif	Music, Melbourne	Tri 6	President
Zac De Graaff	Film & Television, Brisbane	Tri 4	President
Kyle Kash	Entertainment Business Management, Brisbane	Tri 3/4	President
John Schmetzer	Film & Television, Sydney	Tri 6	President
Kyra Teichtahl	Music / EBM Double Degree, Melbourne	Tri 8	President
Dariya Zemlyanaya	Music Production, Sydney	Tri 6	President
Hayden Hudak	Musical Theatre, Brisbane	—	Gov. & Comms Officer
Kaitie Stuart	Music, Brisbane	—	Gov. & Comms Officer
Gabriella Young	Audio, Sydney	—	Gov. & Comms Officer
Katelyn Bayer	Game Design, Melbourne	—	Finance & Resources Officer
Mona Cotsios	Animation, Sydney	Tri 2	Sydney Campus Representative
Rae Sebastian	EBM, Sydney	Tri 1	Sydney Campus Representative
Francesca Benigno	Game Design, Melbourne	Tri 3	Melbourne Campus Representative
Em Meades	EBM, Melbourne	Tri 5	Melbourne Campus Representative
Ashleigh Scrivens	Musical Theatre, Melbourne	Tri 2	Melbourne Campus Representative

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Jennifer Tran	Music, Melbourne	Tri 2	Melbourne Campus Representative
Jasmine Bird	Music, Brisbane	Tri 4	Brisbane Campus Representative
Catherine [surname]	Film & Television, Brisbane	Tri 1	Brisbane Campus Representative
Riley [surname]	Audio, Brisbane	Tri 2	Brisbane Campus Representative
Finley Pierce	Music, Brisbane	Tri 3	Brisbane Campus Representative

Note: Rae Sebastian attended the meeting but did not deliver a live statement — her written statement was read by the Returning Officer. Ashleigh Scrivens and Jennifer Tran submitted pre-recorded video statements played at the meeting. Catherine [surname], Riley [surname], and John Schmetzer did not appear on the attendee list and their statements were read or presented in absentia.

1.3 ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

67 attendees were recorded in the Microsoft Teams meeting, comprising:

5 staff (non-voting): Kylie Whitney, Kirst Fitzgerald, Hollie Beard, Caitlyn Glasson, Rianna Hollsten-Provenzano

16 nominees present (eligible to vote in roles other than their own)

46 additional enrolled students (eligible voting body)

Full attendee list (as recorded in Microsoft Teams):

Lara Krzelj, Libby Higgs, Linda Trieu, KD Bullus, Ray Morris, Hannah Kuhlewein, Rhilea James, Emma Sanchez-Perez, Bri Haverfield, Bailey Pattermore, Nicholas (Phang), Brax Golder, Shellby Hewson, Christine Keeshan, Cate Harbert, Yuting Khoo, Tia Cassinelli, Phoenix Brunskill, Maddie Wade, Sam Reardon, Kaelin Goworek-Loane, Christiana Stassi, Valentine Westberg, Isaac Wibowo, Nora Byrne, Lottie Dennis, Jack Thepsourinthone, Helaina Beltrame, Host Williams, Nelda Zakour, Sunday Bragg, Georgia Smith, Iyefe Lowlilo, Loklan Barber, Mackenzie Knyvett, Rori Smith, Scarlett Purser-Bailey, Ryan Gilmore, Brock Maguire, Sofia Peter, and additional attendees recorded by email address only.

2. PROCEDURAL MATTERS**2.1 Opening and Welcome**

The Returning Officer, Kylie Whitney (Head of Campus Operations), formally opened the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the JMC Student Voice Council at 12:03 pm AEST on Wednesday 15 July 2026, conducted via Microsoft Teams.

The Returning Officer welcomed all attendees — nominees, eligible voting students, and staff advisors — and acknowledged the significance of the occasion as JMC Academy's first Student Voice Council election.

2.2 Quorum

The Returning Officer confirmed that quorum had been established. All enrolled JMC students with a valid JMC Academy email address were eligible to attend and vote. Voting was conducted via an online form distributed through the Microsoft Teams meeting chat.

2.3 Order of Proceedings

The Returning Officer presented the order of proceedings for the AGM:

- Introduction to the Student Voice Council
- Nominations and statements — President
- Nominations and statements — Governance and Communications Officer
- Nomination (uncontested) — Finance and Resources Officer
- Nominations and statements — Sydney Campus Representative
- Nominations and statements — Melbourne Campus Representative
- Nominations and statements — Brisbane Campus Representative
- Voting and declaration of results

2.4 Voting Process Explained

The Returning Officer explained the voting process to all attendees:

- One vote per eligible student per contested role
- Voting was conducted via an online form shared in the Microsoft Teams meeting chat
- Eligible voters: all enrolled JMC Academy students with a JMC email address
- For Campus Representative positions, students could only vote for the representative of their own campus (campus selection was built into the voting form)
- Simple majority — the candidate with the most votes would be declared elected
- In the event of a tie, the Returning Officer reserved the right to determine the resolution process
- Votes were final once submitted. Voting was anonymous unless a student chose to identify themselves.
- Students were asked to complete all voting selections before submitting the form at the conclusion of all nomination statements

2.5 Vice President Position

The Returning Officer advised that the Vice President would not be a separately nominated position at this meeting. The Vice President would be determined as the candidate receiving the second-highest number of votes in the Presidential election, subject to that person's acceptance of the role.

2.6 Introduction to the Student Voice Council

For the benefit of attendees who had not attended the prior information session, the Returning Officer provided a brief overview of the Student Voice Council:

- The SVC is JMC Academy's official student association — student-led, elected, and independent in its decisions and operations
- The SVC provides a direct pathway for student feedback to reach JMC's governance and leadership
- The seven elected positions constitute the minimum viable Council structure
- The Council may choose to create additional roles within its structure in the future
- All enrolled students are members of the Student Voice Council regardless of whether they hold an elected position
- Staff advisors include Community Engagement Coordinators on each campus, the National Head of Student Experience, Engagement and Wellbeing / Head of Campus Operations, and the Chief Operating Officer (Executive Sponsor)
- The elected Council has direct connections to Academic Board, Learning and Teaching Committee, campus student forums, and the broader student body

3. NOMINATIONS AND STATEMENTS

Nomination statements were delivered verbally by nominees who attended the meeting. Where a nominee was absent, a pre-recorded video statement was played, or a written statement was read by the Returning Officer. A summary of each statement is recorded below.

3.1 President

NOMINEE	STATEMENT SUMMARY
Takee Alif Music, Melbourne, Tri 6 (video played)	Takee Alif submitted a pre-recorded video statement, which was played to all attendees. The nominee confirmed he was in Trimester 6, correcting a typographical error in the meeting materials.
Zac De Graaff Film & Television, Brisbane, Tri 4 (live statement)	Zac De Graaff delivered a live statement emphasising his genuine passion for JMC Academy and commitment to student advocacy. He noted practical leadership experience gained from managing his family business, including team management, logistics, event organisation, and budget management within constraints. He outlined his intention to improve student–JMC communication, organise meaningful initiatives, and ensure the SVC is visible, accessible, and effective.
Kyle Kash Entertainment Business Management, Brisbane, Tri 3/4 (live statement)	Kyle Kash delivered a live statement describing extensive experience in event management and committee leadership, including inaugural presidency of New England Pride Australia (where he authored the constitution and policies), Tamworth Country Music Festival, Sydney World Pride 2023, and Woodford Folk Festival. He highlighted skills in managing priorities, expectations, and problem-solving in a way that balances student advocacy with constructive institutional engagement. He stated his aim to unify diverse ideas and deliver action over performance.
John Schmetzer Film & Television, Sydney, Tri 6 (live statement)	John Schmetzer delivered a live statement. The nominee, who identified as a person with disability, spoke to his motivation for nominating and his background in problem-solving. The statement was noted by the Returning Officer with appreciation for the nominee's willingness to put himself forward.
Kyra Teichtahl Music / EBM Double Degree, Melbourne, Tri 8 (live statement)	Kyra Teichtahl delivered a live statement. The nominee described extensive leadership experience including the planning and execution of an album launch event, and founding Blueprint Music Group (an artist development and events business). She emphasised collaboration, open communication, and empowerment as leadership values. She outlined goals to ensure cross-campus and cross-discipline representation, improve visibility and accountability of the SVC, and lead with empathy.
Dariya Zemlyanaya Music Production, Sydney, Tri 6 (live statement)	Dariya Zemlyanaya delivered a live statement outlining nearly a decade of corporate leadership experience, including leading development teams of up to 30 people. She referenced recent experience with Squarespace and noted skills in running productive meetings, accountability, and translating ideas into action. She stated goals to improve cross-discipline collaboration, create practical experience opportunities for students, and advocate for neurodivergent and struggling students.

3.2 Governance and Communications Officer

NOMINEE	STATEMENT SUMMARY
Hayden Hudak Musical Theatre, Brisbane (live statement)	Hayden Hudak delivered a live statement expressing a desire to foster stronger connections between all three campuses and create consistent opportunities and outcomes across JMC. He referenced the rapidly changing industry landscape, including AI, and highlighted his passion for collaboration and representing the full JMC community.
Kaitie Stuart Music, Brisbane (live statement)	Kaitie Stuart delivered a live statement emphasising her belief that communication is key to the role. She described experience communicating with large groups and running events in a high school context, noting her commitment to keeping all council members informed and ensuring everyone is on the same page.
Gabriella Young Audio, Sydney (live statement)	Gabriella Young delivered a live statement highlighting her organisational skills and passion for the issues the Council would address. She referenced her nomination as WHS Officer in her school entertainment department as evidence of her communications background, and described herself as a collaborative team member ready to communicate Council decisions throughout the year.

3.3 Finance and Resources Officer — UNCONTESTED

One nomination was received for the Finance and Resources Officer position. In accordance with the AGM election rules, the position was declared uncontested and Katelyn Bayer was declared elected without a vote.

Katelyn Bayer (Game Design, Melbourne) delivered a statement welcoming the uncontested outcome. She highlighted her professional background as an accountant at another university, noting the relevance of her financial skills to the role. She expressed her commitment to using those skills to enact meaningful change and to supporting the JMC community she has found more welcoming than previous university experiences.

3.4 Sydney Campus Representative

NOMINEE	STATEMENT SUMMARY
Mona Cotsios Animation, Sydney, Tri 2 (live statement)	Mona Cotsios delivered a live statement expressing her commitment to advocating for students and ensuring all students feel heard, welcomed, and safe. She highlighted her bookkeeping and time management skills, her perspective as a second-trimester student bringing a fresh view, and her desire to help solve problems, queries, and improvements raised by the community across all three campuses.
Rae Sebastian EBM, Sydney, Tri 1 (absent — statement read by Returning Officer)	Rae was absent from the meeting. No pre-recorded video was available. The Returning Officer read the nominee's written statement, which described previous experience as a team leader and student ambassador at Macquarie University, with a professional background in HR and childcare.

3.5 Melbourne Campus Representative

NOMINEE	STATEMENT SUMMARY
Francesca Benigno Game Design, Melbourne, Tri 3 (live statement)	Francesca Benigno delivered a live statement describing how she regularly engages with students across courses and disciplines, with a recurring theme in those conversations being campus issues and course structure concerns. She expressed her motivation to be a voice for Melbourne students and referenced her experience as a drama ambassador in high school — liaising between student participants and school leadership on issues and feedback from shows and talent events.
Em Meades EBM, Melbourne, Tri 5 (live statement)	Em Meades delivered a live statement noting prior study in theatre, education, and anthropology, as well as experience visiting classrooms in the lead-up to the AGM to introduce herself to Melbourne students. Em described strong interdepartmental connections already built at the Melbourne campus and outlined goals including office hours to hear student concerns, positive community building, and advocating for all Melbourne departments to feel heard and valued. Em referenced a background in events management, committee roles, and theatre direction.
Ashleigh Scrivens Musical Theatre, Melbourne, Tri 2 (absent — video played)	Ashleigh was absent from the meeting. A pre-recorded video statement was played to attendees.
Jennifer Tran Music, Melbourne, Tri 2 (absent — video played)	Jennifer Tran was absent from the meeting. A pre-recorded video statement was played to attendees.

3.6 Brisbane Campus Representative

NOMINEE	STATEMENT SUMMARY
Jasmine Bird Music, Brisbane, Tri 4 (live statement)	Jasmine Bird delivered a live statement focussed on equality, community, and celebrating student achievements. She emphasised equitable access across departments and campuses while acknowledging budget and resource realities, and described her approach as both emotion-driven and logical. She expressed a desire to encourage networking across campuses, trimesters, and departments, and to create more celebration of student work — including end-of-trimester showcases.
Catherine [surname] Film & Television, Brisbane, Tri 1 (absent — statement read by Returning Officer)	Catherine was unable to remain on the call for the Brisbane nominations. The Returning Officer read the written statement, which described the nominee's desire to see expanded leadership roles on campus (such as Head of Department and Accessibility Manager) and her commitment to improving the Brisbane campus experience.
Riley [surname] Audio, Brisbane, Tri 2 (absent — statement read by Returning Officer)	Riley was not present on the call. The Returning Officer read the written statement, in which the nominee described their position in the underground music community, ownership of a record label (for artists, by artists), and a commitment to community and networking as reasons for seeking the role.
Finley Pierce Music, Brisbane, Tri 3 (live statement)	Finley Pierce delivered a live statement noting awareness of student concerns and complaints within the Brisbane campus community, and expressing enthusiasm for bringing new ideas to Brisbane students and amplifying the student voice at that campus.

4. VOTING

Following all nomination statements, the Returning Officer invited all eligible attendees to complete and submit their votes via the online voting form. Students were asked to wait until all statements had been delivered before submitting. A short counting period followed.

The voting form was structured so that students could only vote for the Campus Representative of their own campus. Voting was anonymous and open to all enrolled JMC Academy students attending the meeting via their JMC email address.

While votes were being counted, the Returning Officer invited discussion on the first order of business for the newly elected Council. Suggestions raised by attendees included:

- Reviewing and adopting or amending the draft Constitution (noted as the first priority — Kyle Kash)
- Scheduling the first Council meeting (Hayden Hudak)
- Getting to know each other and understanding each campus's context (Jasmine Bird)
- Establishing a virtual campus tour so Council members across campuses can understand each location
- A social/community gathering for the newly formed Council

The Returning Officer advised that a staff member from JMC's compliance and regulatory team, who has significant experience with student voice councils at other institutions, would be invited to the Council's first meeting to assist with the constitution review.

5. DECLARATION OF RESULTS

The Returning Officer declared the results of the election at approximately 12:48 pm AEST. The following members were declared elected to the inaugural JMC Student Voice Council:

ROLE	ELECTED MEMBER	BASIS
President	Kyle Kash	Elected by vote — highest vote count
Vice President	Kyra Teichtahl	Second-highest vote count in Presidential election; accepted the position
Governance & Communications Officer	Kaitie Stuart	Elected by vote
Finance & Resources Officer	Katelyn Bayer	Elected unopposed — uncontested
Sydney Campus Representative	Mona Cotsios	Elected by vote — Sydney students
Melbourne Campus Representative	Em Meades	Elected by vote — Melbourne students
Brisbane Campus Representative	Jasmine Bird	Elected by vote — Brisbane students

The Returning Officer confirmed with Kyra Teichtahl that she accepted the Vice Presidency. Kyra Teichtahl confirmed acceptance.

6. CLOSING REMARKS AND NEXT STEPS

6.1 Remarks by the Returning Officer

The Returning Officer congratulated all elected members and acknowledged the quality of all nomination statements delivered. She noted that the voting was very close across all positions and commended all nominees for their participation.

The Returning Officer confirmed that all enrolled students remain members of the Student Voice Council regardless of whether they hold an elected position.

6.2 Remarks by Staff Advisor

Hollie Beard (Community Engagement Coordinator, Sydney) offered congratulations to all elected members and acknowledged the courage of all who nominated. She noted that every nominee has valuable contributions to make to the SVC and encouraged all nominees who were not elected to remain actively involved.

6.3 Remarks by President-Elect

Kyle Kash (President-Elect) thanked all participants for their trust and stated: “Let’s be a voice for everybody.”

6.4 Next Steps

- Election results to be communicated to the JMC community by the Head of Campus Operations, with assistance from the newly elected Council
- Results to be communicated to JMC staff and Academic Board
- First SVC Council meeting to be scheduled — Constitution review to be the first order of business, with the assistance of a JMC compliance and regulatory staff member
- Coordinator to confirm induction details, including first meeting date, member playbooks, and welcome materials
- AGM recording to be shared with all eligible attendees

6.5 Close of Meeting

The Returning Officer formally closed the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the JMC Student Voice Council at approximately 1:01 pm AEST.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

These minutes are a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the JMC Student Voice Council held on 15 July 2026.

Signed (Returning Officer):

Signed (President-Elect):

Kylie Whitney · Head of Campus Operations

Date: _____

Kyle Kash · President, JMC Student Voice Council

Date: _____