

Meeting opened at 11:10am

Minutes

**A. Attendance**

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proxy</u>
President	Marni O’Connell	
Treasurer:	Bailey Webb	
Secretary:	Joshua Pelach	
Education (Public Affairs):	Minh Hang Vu	
Education (Academic Affairs):	Renee Meaney	
Activities:	Fergus Smith	
CLA:	Georgia Barrass	Nick Broussard
Welfare:	Charlotte Barber	Thanura Ediri
Indigenous:	Olivia Snell	
Environment & Social Justice:	Katrina Young	
Women’s:	Isabella Burton	
Queer:	Kieran Couchman	Amber Hodgson
Disabilities & Carers:	Tiana Sixsmith	
People of Colour:	Dimpy Kamani	
Res Community Department:	Alan Zhao	
MUISS:	Sejuti Saha	
MAPS:	Jan Morgiewicz	
Clubs & Societies:	Francesco Barrese	
Radio Monash:	Giorgia Cahoon	
General Representative:	Eva Scopelliti	
General Representative:	Ishka de Silva	
General Representative:	Dzemaal Efendic	Muhaimin Habib
General Representative:	Grace Ang	Josh Strauss
General Representative:	Lucy Bandiera	
Observers:	Dominic Lee	
	<b>Head of Clubs &amp; Societies</b>	
	<b>MUSA Malaysia</b>	

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## **B. Acknowledgment of traditional owners of land**

This MSC acknowledges and pays respect to the people of the Kulin nations as the original and ongoing owners and custodians of this land. The MSA commits itself to actively fight alongside Indigenous peoples for reconciliation and justice for all Indigenous Australians.

## **C. Confirmation of Agenda Order**

Confirmed

## **D. MSA Executive**

### **Motion #1:**

This MSC resolves to permit the MSA Executive to authorise expenditure of up to \$10,000 per item in its role as day-to-day Manager of the MSA. Further, this MSC resolves that a summary of executive financial motions shall be tabled at every MSC meeting.

**Moved:** Fergus Smith                      **Seconded:** Nick Broussard

**For:**    24

**Against:**                                        0

**Abstentions:**                                0

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Motion #2:**

This MSC seeks nominations for the position of General Representative to the MSA Executive. Only General Representatives can be elected to and vote for this position.

**Moved:** Bailey Webb                      **Seconded:** Joshua Pelach

**For:**    19

**Against:**                                        0

**Abstentions:**                                5

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Motion #3:**

This MSC approves the election of Eva Scopelliti to the MSA Executive for 2021, pursuant to s.24.1(e) of the MSA Constitution.

**Moved:** Bailey Webb                      **Seconded:** Joshua Pelach

**For:**    23

**Against:**                                        0

**Abstentions:**                                1

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion #4:**

This MSC seeks nominations for the position of Divisional Representative to the MSA Executive. Only Divisional Representatives can be elected to and vote for this position.

**Moved:** Bailey Webb                      **Seconded:** Joshua Pelach

**For:**                      20

**Against:**              0

**Abstentions:**        4

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion #5:**

This MSC approves the election of Francesco Barrese to the MSA Executive for 2021, pursuant to s24.1(d) of the MSA Constitution.

**Moved:** Bailey Webb                      **Seconded:** Joshua Pelach

**For:**                      23

**Against:**              0

**Abstentions:**        1

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion #6:**

That this MSC accepts and adopts the proposed budget for Sir Johns for 2021, as [attached](#).

**Moved:** Bailey Webb                      **Seconded:** Joshua Pelach

**For:**                      24

**Against:**              0

**Abstentions:**        0

**MOTION CARRIED**

- Bailey: the budget for Sir John's was not approved in 2020, as the space was not previously intended to open in 2021 due to concerns as to its financial viability. However, in light of recent suggestions that the bar be used for select events and functions, it has become feasible to open the bar with only marginal losses. Hence, a budget has been prepared for the operation of Sir John's in 2021.
- Jan: Sir John's is a staple of the MSA and should be kept operational
- Giorgia: Considering that the MSA is facing tough financial circumstances, are measures being taken to ensure that Sir John's does not become a financial burden?
- Bailey: the budgeted loss is a conservative estimate accounting for the worst-case-scenario. A number of strategies are being explored to boost profitability through advertising, new functions and the further introduction of short courses.

## E. Office-Bearer Honoraria

### Motion #7:

This MSC resolves to amend the office-bearer pay fractions as follows:

- Environmental and Social Justice: from 1.2 to 1
- Education Academic Affairs: from 1.5 to 1.3

**Moved:** Bailey Webb                      **Seconded:** Joshua Pelach

**For:**                      21

**Against:**              1

**Abstentions:**        2

**MOTION CARRIES**

- Bailey: this motion is not intended to undermine the important work that these departments perform, nor to understate their time commitment. Rather, the current fractions are relics of obsolete historical practices. This motion is simply seeking to equalise pay fractions across office-bearer departments. In fact, the money that has been taken out of the honoraria for each department has been injected back into their budgets to ensure as much money as possible is being spent on students.
- Josh: Ideally, this motion would have been matched by a collective rise in the honorarium coefficient, considering that office-bearers are generally under-compensated for the important work they do. However, the current financial circumstances of the MSA are unfortunately not conducive to such a rise.
- Giorgia: I am unfamiliar with the meaning of office-bearer pay fractions.
- Bailey: the honorarium that each department receives is equal to the honorarium coefficient (\$22,851) multiplied by their assigned pay fraction.

## F. Motion to demand flexible learning arrangements

Preamble: Covid-19 continues to take an immense toll on the educational experience of Monash students. Although at least a partial return to face-to-face delivery is anticipated in 2021, this does little to mediate the concerns of international and immuno-compromised students, as well as students with considerable extra-curricular commitments, remote living arrangements or disabilities. It is imperative that the flexibility afforded to students in 2020 be extended and expanded to ensure that education is as accessible as possible.

### Motion #8:

This MSC moves to direct the MSA Education team to demand:

- A commitment that Monash will ensure all lecture, workshop and lab content is made available online for unrestricted and remote access as far as possible.
- A continuation of the Academic Safety Net Scheme in 2021 to support students who continue to face disadvantage as a result of Covid-19.

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- The development of a more compassionate, Covid-specific special consideration policy, tailored to the unique difficulties which students continue to experience, particularly considering mental health, economics circumstances and geographical living situations.

**Moved:** Minh Hang Vu      **Seconded:** Renee Meaney  
**For:** 24  
**Against:** 0  
**Abstentions:** 0

**MOTION CARRIES**

- Renee: it is imperative that the MSA fights to ensure that the university supports students in every manner possible. There is no doubt that students continue to be adversely affected by COVID-19, not only with respect to their academic experience, but also their social and mental health. Monash university must amend their academic policies to reflect this reality, and we will fight to ensure that they do.

#### **G. Motion to support important reform in the Medicine faculty**

Preamble: in recent weeks, the MSA has been collaborating with MUMUS to develop an extensive program for much-needed reform across the Medicine faculty to ensure consistency with other faculties and a more equitable approach to education delivery.

#### **Motion #9:**

This MSC moves to support the work of the General Representatives and Education Academic Affairs Department, in conjunction with MUMUS, in campaigning for more equitable timetabling, placement arrangements, and grading.

**Moved:** Ishka De Silva      **Seconded:** Renee Meaney  
**For:**  
**Against:**  
**Abstentions:**

**MOTION**

- Ishka: despite strong advocacy from the MSA and MUMUS over the last few years, very little has changed in terms of academic reform within the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Medicine students continue to receive timetables once they've already commenced their studies and find out the locations of their placements at the last minute, causing stress and affecting employment.
- Marni: I defer the chair to Bailey and commend this motion to the floor.

## H. Motion to support changing the date of Australia Day

Preamble: January 26 observes the day that Captain Aurthur Phillip ‘founded’ the penal colony of New South Wales in 1788 by raising the British flag for the first time on already occupied Aboriginal lands. The date of Australia Day, 26th of January marks the beginning of illegal occupation, dispossession of land, violence and genocide toward Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and therefore has historically been a day of mourning for Indigenous Australians. The Change the Date movement recognises January 26 as a date not to celebrate and calls for the Australian Government to change the date of ‘Australia Day’ to one when all Australians can celebrate. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students should feel welcome and supported by the MSA.

### **Motion #10:**

This MSC moves to strongly support changing the date of Australia Day, and stands in solidarity with, and as allies to, Indigenous Australians.

**Moved:** Olivia Snell                      **Seconded:** Katrina Young

**For:**                      23

**Against:**              1

**Abstentions:**        0

**MOTION CARRIED**

- Olivia: it is vital that the MSA demonstrates its support for and solidarity with the Indigenous community. The celebration of Invasion Day continues to bring considerable pain to Aboriginal people and undermines the struggle for reconciliation and efforts to close the gap with non-Indigenous Australians.
- Katrina: so long as Australia Day continues to fall on the day that white settlers arrived on Australian shores, Indigenous people will continue to be reminded of the pain and suffering which followed. It is the responsibility of all non-Indigenous Australians to emphasise our support for this fundamental cause.
- Marni: I defer the chair to Bailey and commend this motion to the floor.

## I. Motion to condemn racial, cultural and religious vilification on campus

Preamble: last year, a report by the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) revealed a systemic culture of anti-semitism within the British Labour Party, including unlawful acts of harassment and discrimination. Efforts by some Australian student unions to dismiss these findings, perpetuating rhetoric that Jews are playing victim and fabricating their own mistreatment, have evoked a sense of ostracism and demonisation among the Australian community of Jewish students. While a free and frank discussion on geo-political matters should always be encouraged, it must never provide a guise for hate speech against people of any culture or faith, whether Jewish, Islamic or any other.

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**Motion #11:**

This MSC moves to reaffirm its stance against anti-semitism of any kind, and that harassment and discrimination on the basis of race, culture and religion have no place in the Monash community.

**Moved:** Joshua Pelach

**Seconded:** Jan Morgiewicz

**For:** 24

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

- Josh: there is no doubt that anti-semitism, alongside Islamophobia and other forms of discrimination, remain prevalent and often systemic in the world's political and representative institutions. Whether at a student or parliamentary level, it is the responsibility of our elected leaders to proclaim their opposition to this corrosive culture of vilification, and unreservedly commit to its eradication.
- Jan: I echo Josh's sentiment and reiterate the importance of student unions taking a firm stand on such issues, which have an undeniable effect on the well-being, social inclusion and sense of belonging of our student population.

**J. General Business**

None

*Meeting closed at 11:49am*