

Meeting opened at 11am on 6/05/21.

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	Alex Bourikas
Education (Academic Affairs):	Renee Meaney	
Activities:	Fergus Smith	
CLA:	Georgia Barrass	
Welfare:	Charlotte Barber	Thanura Ediri
Indigenous:	Olivia Snell	
Environment & Social Justice:	Katrina Young	
Women's:	Isabella Burton	
Queer:	Kieran Couchman	
Disabilities & Carers:	Tiana Sixsmith	Matilda Conlan
People of Colour:	Dimpy Kamani	
Res Community Department:	Alan Zhao	
MUISS:	Sejuti Saha	
MAPS:	Jan Morgiewicz	Charlee Hawkes
Clubs & Societies:	Francesco Barrese	
Radio Monash:	Giorgia Cahoon	
General Representative:	Eva Scopelliti	
General Representative:	Ishka de Silva	
General Representative:	Dzemaal Efendic	Josh Strauss
General Representative:	Grace Ang	Sean Hanna

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. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Sean entered the Zoom.

Motion #1:

This MSC confirms the [minutes of MSC 4/21](#) to be a true and accurate recording of proceedings.

Moved: Bailey Webb

Seconded: Eva Scopelliti

For: 21

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

MOTION CARRIED

E. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports

President
Treasurer
Secretary
Creative and Live Arts
Activities
Education Academic Affairs
Disabilities & Carers
C&S President

Motion #2:

This MSC accepts all submitted office-bearer and divisional reports en bloc.

Moved: Eva Scopelliti

Seconded: Ishka De Silva

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED

F. Policy

Motion to commend the success of Safe and Sexy Week:

Preamble: Safe and Sexy Week was a resounding success! The week included 6 events in total, with a seventh event occurring in week 9 in collaboration with MONSU Women's department. The large portion of the events occurred Tuesday - Thursday of week 8, and included: A body positivity art class with Frances Cannon, a Sexual Health and Healthy Relationships Panel, a live performance from KLP with a barbeque (in collaboration with CLA department), a Breaking the Stigma: Sex and Disability event (in collaboration with DNC), a Women's Embodiment class and a Cybersex and Online Relationships Seminar (in collaboration with MONSU Women's).

The events aimed and succeeded in empowering students to have discussions surrounding sexual health, pleasure, safety and self-confidence. The positive feedback was overwhelming the positive impact of these events on students, in their diverse capacities, was evident. Each event of the week focused on a different aspect of sex, relationships and body positivity and was successful in providing a holistic program supporting sexual health and sex positivity, with the ultimate aim of decreasing the stigma surrounding these issues. Attendance was a success, in particular with the online events which aimed to increase accessibility for students based on their location, as well as allowing students the ability to discreetly attend events and learn if they felt uncomfortable physically attending.

Additionally, it was fantastic to contribute to cross-departmental and cross-campus collaboration and cohesion by working alongside other departments within the MSA and with MONSU.

Motion #3:

This MSC moves to commend the MSA Women's Department for their fantastic work in organising and facilitating Safe and Sexy Week.

Moved: Ishka De Silva **Seconded:** Issy Burton

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Marni gave the call to Ishka. Ishka remarked that the event was a phenomenal success, and that it is excellent that MSA is providing events which are so inclusive of not only women on campus, but also gender diverse students. She extended congratulations to the Women's Office-Bearers and Committee.

Marni gave the call to Issy. Issy thanked everyone for their support and those who attended. She had really enjoyed planning the event and was really happy with how it went.

Marni gave the call to Eva. Eva commented that the event was very close to her heart, and she was very impressed with the outcome. She commended the Women's Department in particular for their balance of on and off campus events.

Marni deferred the chair to Bailey. She expressed her agreement with the other speakers and indicated her support for the Disabilities & Carers collaboration, which was a unique and successful event. It was fantastic to see so many new faces.

Motion to commend increased scrutiny of sexual misconduct policy:

Preamble: The recent decision by Match Group, the parent company of dating apps Tinder and Hinge, to begin referring reports of sexual assault to the Australian police is a welcomed step to increase the identification of sexual predators, find justice for victims, and prevent future violence. The MSA Womens' Department is working to establish an annual review committee for Monash University's Sexual Misconduct policy. This process will evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and identify points of improvement for further prevention of sexual violence on campus.

Motion #4:

This MSC moves to support the continued work towards gender equity and ending sexual violence. In particular, the work of the MSA Women's Department in beginning the process of establishing an annual review committee to evaluate Monash University's sexual misconduct policy.

Moved: Issy Burton **Seconded:** Ishka De Silva

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Marni deferred the chair to Issy. Issy emphasised that this is a key area of focus for the Women's department. There are often discrepancies between written policy and practice, so MSA is committed to ensuring sexual assault and harassment on campus are stamped out.

Marni gave the call to Ishka. Ishka echoed Issy's sentiment, and expressed that it is especially important that students see the real-life consequences of these policies.

Marni gave the call to Bailey. Bailey commended the motion and explained that further work was also being done in collaboration with the Notting Hill Hotel and Dooley's Irish Bar to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place to prevent sexual harassment and assault. He also mentioned that he is working in conjunction with the Disabilities & Carers Department and MONSU Caulfield to develop a framework for safer events.

Marni gave the call to Katrina. Katrina stressed that the motion is extremely important and that the policies be continually improved. She mentioned that a club of which she is a part has dealt with a number of serious incidents concerning sexual assault and harassment, and so she is very happy to see such consistent efforts to improve safety.

Marni deferred the chair. She emphasised that it is extremely important to keep pushing to ensure that sexual assault on and off campus is eradicated.

Motion to demand fairness for Advanced Taxation Law students:

Preamble: On April 13 in Wk 6, students sitting LAW4322 (Advanced Taxation Law) were informed that their exam would not be held during the examination period, as previously instructed. This is manifestly unfair and has resulted in considerable distress:

- Releasing the exam information in week 6 deprived LAW4322 students of the ability to withdraw from the unit, as the census date was 31 March 2021
- Students have been deprived of the ability to plan their workload, as in-semester assessments are generally provided at the beginning of the unit
- Given the intensity in which this exam is being conducted, it is unconscionable that the LAW4322 cohort should be deprived of the SWOTVAC revision period

Motion #5:

MSA demands that the LAW4322 exam be moved to the examination period to rectify this issue. MSA also demands that if the exam is not moved, students sitting LAW4322 should be offered the ability to withdraw from the unit without penalty.

Moved: Renee Meaney

Seconded: Alex Bourikas

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Marni deferred her chair. She explained that she had been following up with senior members of the Law faculty, as well as the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education to ensure that the university adopts a more equitable approach. She commended the education departments for their hard work on this issue.

Marni gave the call to Sean. Sean expressed the importance of a strong stance considering that the faculty had not been responsive to student concerns on this matter.

Marni gave the call to Charlee. Charlee emphasised the importance of the MSA supporting faculty clubs in their academic advocacy, and stressed that this was an excellent example of the value which MSA can provide.

Motion to maintain pressure for a compassionate special consideration policy:

Preamble: having gathered student testimonies, developed a comprehensive report and met repeatedly with senior university staff, the MSA Education departments and MSA Executive successfully secured a number of compassionate adjustments to special consideration policy in conjunction with MONSU Caulfield, MONSU Peninsula and the Academic Board representatives, including:

- 1. The maximum duration of extensions an academic can directly grant (e.g. your chief examiners) will be increased from 2 days to 5 days.
- 2. Streamlined communication between special consideration administrators and chief examiners to speed up application processing.
- 3. Students with complex cases will work directly with their chief examiner to determine their special consideration needs once approved, saving time in the application process.

These amendments reflect significant delays in the special consideration process. It is essential that pressure is maintained so that students receive adequate support.

Motion #6:

This MSC commends the work of the MSA Education Departments in achieving compassionate adjustments to the special consideration policy, and urges MSA to continue applying pressure wherever necessary to ensure this policy is preserved.

Moved: Alex Bourikas **Seconded:** Renee Meaney

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Marni gave the call to Alex. Alex stressed that while these allowances are excellent, it is vital that MSA maintain pressure on the university, since it was the staffing cuts in 2020 which led the special consideration process to be moved to Monash Connect, resulting in delays.

Marni gave the call to Bailey. Bailey reflected that these sorts of achievements make him proud to be a part of MSA, considering the extent of the impact of this policy for students. He extended congratulations to the Education Departments.

Marni gave the call to Georgia. Georgia expressed her thanks for the MSA's hard work in addressing this issue. She asked whether there were any efforts to seek clarification as to the extent to which Unit Coordinators can require supporting documentation when granting 5 day extensions, since a number appear to be misinterpreting university policy.

Marni gave the call to Charlee. Charlee explained that the MSA had emailed the Pro Vice Chancellor for Education about this very issue to ensure that there is consistency in administration of this policy. In particular, MSA sought clarification on what documentation is required, the number of days covered and the process for applying.

Georgia thanked Charlee for the clarification.

Marni deferred her chair and commended the Education Departments for their incredibly hard work, especially considering the difference it will make to students.

Motion to support Indian international students:

Preamble: The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause devastating harm for India and its healthcare system, with record-breaking case numbers and a shortage of vital resources such as oxygen supplementation therapy. The Australian federal government's ban on flights from India to Australia will continue to separate families for the foreseeable future. Understandably, these events have led to significant stress and anxiety for many Indian students at Monash, and The MSA wishes to show support for the Australian Indian community and the immense impact this situation will continue to have on them.

Motion #7:

This MSC moves to strongly condemn the Australian federal government for its recent ban on return travellers from India. Moreover, this MSC moves to show support and solidarity for Monash University's Indian international students amongst the continuing COVID-19 crisis, and support the continuing efforts of MUISS and MSA in providing support and advocating for Indian students at Monash. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Urging the university to send out emails of support to Indian students
- Working with Indian cultural clubs at Monash to provide support services

Moved: Sejuti Saha

Seconded: Ishka De Silva

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Marni gave the call to Sejuti. Sejuti firstly mentioned that the Vice Chancellor had emailed all Indian students the previous day to express her sympathies, which is very much appreciated. Sejuti also explained the importance of this motion considering that such a significant portion of the Monash cohort are Indian International students, many of whom are now the subject of punitive and cruel threats should they return to Australia.

Marni gave the call to Ishka. Ishka expressed that it is incredibly saddening to see what is happening in India, and that the Australian government ought to be condemned in the strongest terms for their punitive threats of imprisonment.

Marni deferred the chair. She reiterated the importance of this motion and expressed her gratitude to be working closely with MUISS in tackling such a serious issue.

Motion to support Monash Myanmar students:

Preamble: Since February 1, the civil and political unrest in Myanmar has seen immense cases of military brutality, suppressive governance and fear within the population. With over 60 people being killed in the first week of March, multiple Burmese students at Monash have understandably been faced with feelings of isolation and anxiety for their family's back home. For those students still in Myanmar, there is an uncertainty of their situation and wellbeing.

Motion #8:

This MSC moves to condemn the actions taken by the Myanmar military and its actions on the population. This MSC commends the signs of support shown by:

- The ESJ department in their activism on the issue, including supporting protest held by NextGen Myanmar, the Myanmar Students Association Australia (MSAA) and the National Union of Students
- The University, and specifically, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Margaret Gardner, for their personal emails of support

Moreover, this MSC moves to show strong support and stand in solidarity for Monash University's Burmese international students, both in Australia and abroad.

Moved: Sejuti Saha

Seconded: Ishka De Silva

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Marni gave the call to Sejuti. Sejuti explained that while MSA is obviously limited in the extent of the support it can provide to Burmese students. However, she expressed the importance of public demonstrations of solidarity with the people of Myanmar.

Marni gave the call to Ishka. Ishka thanked the ESJ Department for their hard work in advocating on behalf of Burmese students.

I. General Business

None

Meeting Closed at 11:37am