

Meeting opened at 11am on 22/4/21.

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):	Alex Bourikas	
Education (Academic Affairs):	Charlee Hawkes	
Activities:	Sean Hanna	Joshua Strauss
CLA:	Nick Broussard	
Welfare:	Thanura Ediri	
Indigenous:		
Environment & Social Justice:	Georgia Saunders	
Women’s:	Chloe Yeats	
Queer:	Amber Hodgson	Kieran Couchman
Disabilities & Carers:	Tiana Sixsmith	
People of Colour:	Jersyn Doh	
Res Community Department:	Lily Van Berkel	Alan Zhao
MUISS:	Sejuti Saha	
MAPS:	Jan Morgiewicz	
Clubs & Societies:	Francesco Barrese	
Radio Monash:		
General Representative:	Eva Scopelliti	
General Representative:	Ishka de Silva	
General Representative:	Dzemaal Efendic	
General Representative:	Grace Ang	
General Representative:	Lucy Bandiera	Binari Almeida

Marni warned that a number of motions being moved at this MSC could be triggering to certain attendees, and that they should feel welcome leaving the Zoom if necessary.

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

Motion #1:
 That this MSC confirms the [minutes of MSC 3/21](#) to be a true and accurate recording of proceedings.
Moved: Bailey Webb **Seconded:** Eva Scopelliti
For: 21
Abstentions: 1
Against: 0
MOTION CARRIED

E. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports

Women’s	Attached
Welfare	Attached
Lot’s Wife	Attached
People of Colour	Attached
Environment & Social Justice	Attached
Residential Communities	Attached
Education Public Affairs	Attached

Motion #2:
 That this MSC accepts all submitted office-bearer and divisional reports en bloc.
Moved: Dzemal Efendic **Seconded:** Grace Ang
For: 22
Abstentions: 0
Against: 0
MOTION CARRIED

F. Financial Motions

Motion #3:

This MSC moves to submit the MSA [Financial Report](#) for 2020 for consideration at MSA's 2021 AGM.

Moved: Bailey Webb

Seconded: Joshua Pelach

For: 22

Abstentions: 0

Against: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Marni gave Bailey the call. Bailey noted that MSA passed the annual audit for 2020.

Motion #4:

This MSC moves to accept the MSA [Financial Summary Statement](#) for March 2021.

Moved: Bailey Webb

Seconded: Joshua Pelach

G. Human Resources

Motion 5:

This MSC moves to grant a 3 month leave of absence to Muhaimin Habib in his capacity as Disabilities and Carers Officer.

Moved: Bailey Webb

Seconded: Eva Scopelliti

Marni gave Bailey the call. Bailey explained that Muhaimin Habib was forced to return to Bangladesh because of the poor health of his father and other family members. It is unlikely that he will be able to return to his office-bearer duties anytime soon. Our thoughts are with him and his family at this difficult time.

H. Policy-based Motions

Motion to advocate for a more efficient special consideration process

Preamble: In previous years, students were able to apply for special consideration directly to their faculty in order to apply for a new submission date. Due to staff cuts made in 2020 and 2021 by Monash University, the special consideration process was reorganised to be under the management of Monash Connect, meaning all special consideration requests from students are reviewed and approved through Monash Connect staff. The special consideration department was overloaded with requests for special consideration from students since March 2021 hence resulting in students receiving approval of their application much later than their supposed submission date. This has impacted negatively on students' mental wellbeing hence academic performance.

Motion 6:

This MSC moves to:

- Advocate for students to receive results for their Special Consideration application within 5 business days
- Condemn Monash University's cuts to staff that majorly contributed to the poor handling of special consideration applications

Moved: Alex Bourikas

Seconded: Charlee Hawkes

For: 22

Abstentions: 0

Against: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Marni gave Alex the call. Alex explained that the current delays in special consideration policy has had a devastating impact on student mental health, and it is essential that the university take immediate action to rectify this issue.

Motion to support the fight against mandatory detention

Preamble: The Australian government is currently detaining eleven refugees within the Park Hotel in the Melbourne CBD. These men have endured years of offshore detention and for the last year have been brutalised in on-shore prisons, where they have been denied access outdoors, adequate levels of healthcare, and their freedom. This acts as a continuation of crimes committed against refugees.

Daily protests have been successful in freeing over 50 men from detention. However the campaign must continue to demand for the release of all the refugees imprisoned in Park Hotel, including the 17 new arrivals only this week, and in similar detention centres across Australia and offshore.

Fight Together for Justice - runs daily protests throughout the week against the appalling treatment of asylum seekers. RISE - a protest organisation run by and for refugees, survivors and ex-detainees - has also organised a student walkout on the 5th of May at the State Library at 1pm to encourage others join the call of ex-detainees to End Detention Centres and Mandatory Detention Policy. The Campaign Against Fascism and Racism also organises Freedom Friday rallies every week and a larger rally has been called for the 8th of May.

As a student union, the MSA recognises the need for students to fight for the rights of those unjustly persecuted by current and former Australian governments. The MSA endorses the upcoming action through daily protests and on May 5 and May 8, and pledges to fight for:

- The immediate transition of any refugees in detention to freedom
- The granting of permanent protection visas and a path to full citizenship rights for all persons verified to be refugees
- The permanent closure of all detention centres
- The provision of intensive support to refugees in assisting their transition

- To fight for improved conditions for refugees already living in the community on unstable temporary/bridging visas (of which there are around 30,000), with inadequate or no access to study or work rights, healthcare (i.e. Medicare), governmental financial assistance and housing support

Motion 7:

This MSC moves to:

- Support the ESJ Department in promoting refugee protest demonstrations in whatever way they deem most effective, including but not limited to:
 - a) Requesting that the university assist in promoting refugee protests on the television screens around campus
 - b) Putting up posters advertising marches around campus
 - c) Promotion of the event on MSA social media, including the MSA Environment and Social Justice Facebook page and the MSA central Facebook page in consultation with the Communications and Design Department
 - d) Mail outs to MSA Rewards subscribers, provided this complies with the MSA's social media policy and the terms and conditions associated with MSA Rewards
 - e) Information stalls around campus
 - f) Promotion of marches at other MSA events
 - g) Collaboration with MSA clubs and societies in promoting marches
 - h) Promotion through the MSA E-newsletter
 - j) Informing students of other effective actions that can be made as well as protesting
- Require the Environment and Social Justice Department to continue demanding that Monash University allow students to attend refugee marches without any academic or disciplinary consequences

Moved: Georgia Saunders **Seconded:** Joshua Pelach

For: 22

Abstentions: 0

Against: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Georgia proposed an amendment to insert the following clause at the end of the preamble:

- *“To fight for improved conditions for refugees already living in the community on unstable temporary/bridging visas (of which there are around 30,000), with inadequate or no access to study or work rights, healthcare (i.e. Medicare), governmental financial assistance and housing support”*

Josh agreed to the amendment. Marni gave the call to Georgia. Georgia explained that the amendment is intended to acknowledge that the men released from the Park Hotel were only given \$307 and only 3 weeks accommodation with no right to study after 8 years of imprisonment. She commended the motion.

Marni gave the call to Aisha. Aisha mentioned that the motion is very supportable, but asked when the information stalls and posters were going to be distributed?

Marni gave the call to Josh. Josh explained that the purpose of the motion is to list the means at the disposal of the ESJ Department in whatever way they deem most effective. They would certainly be deciding on an appropriate course of action in the coming days, and are receptive to any feedback on that matter.

Marni gave the call to Kelly. Kelly emphasised that the motion is extremely important, especially considering that the Australian government are one of the world's worst offenders. She stated her support for the action items within the motion.

Motion to support UMSU in the fight against transphobia

Preamble: For several years now, the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU), especially their Queer Department, has been campaigning against the University of Melbourne institutionally supporting transphobia amongst its teaching staff. This year, a notoriously transphobic senior lecturer launched a website called "No Conflict They Said" to provide a platform for cis women to promote hateful misinformation and fearmongering about trans women 'invading' women's spaces. In addition, this lecturer coordinates a second year philosophy unit which she uses as a platform to preach transphobic rhetoric and demean transgender, intersex and gender diverse (TIGD) students.

The Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) prescribes a "positive duty" for employers such as the University of Melbourne to prevent protected groups, including TIGD staff and students, from hate and harm, but the University is failing this. Two rallies have been held by UMSU Queer on 03/03/21 and 31/03/21 with clear demands for the University of Melbourne to take action, but to date, not all demands have been met.

The media statement by UMSU Queer is also attached for further information. This preamble and motion have been composed in consultation with the UMSU Queer Officers.

Motion 8:

This MSC moves to:

- Support University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) in demanding the University of Melbourne to take action against transphobia within the university and to follow their duty to protect transgender, intersex and gender diverse (TIGD) students. This includes, but is not limited to supporting UMSU in advocating for the University Of Melbourne to:
 - Stop promoting transphobia in their subjects;
 - Condemn the transphobic website "no conflict they said";
 - Support protections for academic freedom, whilst not protecting hate speech.
- Condemn any form of transphobia within Monash University ;
- Affirm the MSA's strong support in advocating for, creating safe spaces for and affirming inclusivity for TIGD students.

Moved: Kieran Couchman **Seconded:** Bailey Webb

For: 22

Abstentions: 0

Against: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Marni gave the call to Kelly. Kelly expressed her support for the motion and disgust with with website in question, which portrays trans women as a threat to other women. However, Kelly expressed a frustration with the second point (“support protections for academic freedom, whilst not protecting hate speech”) as she felt that this left it at the discretion of Melbourne University to decide what was hate speech.

Marni gave the call to Josh. Josh expressed that he absolutely agreed with the sentiment of Kelly’s statement, but that he believed that this was reflected in the motion - there was no suggestion that the university should have the right to determine for itself what constitutes hate speech. The motion is clearly referring to ‘hate speech’ in a legal and political sense.

Marni deferred her chair. She added her support for the motion, and expressed the importance of maintaining a safe and inclusive space at Monash. She resumed her chair.

Marni gave Aisha the call. She expressed her support for the motion, but concurred with Kelly that it can often be difficult to define what hate speech means, and the motion leaves the definition at the discretion of the university.

Kelly recommended that the clause be removed. Marni gave the call to Kieran. Kieran explained that the motion had been carefully drafted in conjunction with the UMSU Queer Officers, and thus he was reluctant to make any amendments without consulting them.

Marni gave Bailey the call. Bailey expressed his agreement with Kieran.

Motion to condemn independent assessment use in NDIS reform

Preamble: over the last week, new Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Linda Reynolds has paused on plans to introduce independent assessments for the usage of NDIS funding. The recent proposed reforms fail to listen to disabled people, students and young people included, and will create further barriers to fair and accessible treatment. The privatised approach that would see strangers assessing patients requirements has been highly rejected by community, and opposition parties.

Motion 9:

This MSC moves to condemn the Morrison government’s disregard for the rights of disabled people and urges the government to engage in community consultation prior to further reform proposals.

Moved: Tiana Sixsmith

Seconded: Joshua Pelach

For: 22

Abstentions: 0

Against: 0
MOTION CARRIED

Marni gave the call to Tiana. Tiana offered to provide some background. Reforms have been tabled which would allow independent psychologists to make funding decisions for a disabled person with whom they have had no prior dealings whatsoever, which is plainly wrong. This has received widespread opposition and ought to be condemned.

Motion to improve accessibility on campus for disabled students

Preamble: Historically, it hasn't always been easy being a disabled student studying at University. However, following the global pandemic there has been further recognition of the importance of flexibility and accessibility. Given the extensive diversity within the disabled community, considering accessibility when holding events, both online and in-person, will be key in the pursuit of inclusion and acceptance.

This motion recognises that a substantial effort from departments is required to continue to improve the inclusiveness of events and spaces at Monash University. Whilst only the beginning, the motion is key to strengthening discussion around greater accessibility and consideration towards disabled students.

Motion 10:

This MSC moves to:

- Support the MSA's Disabilities and Carers department in their pursuit of greater campus accessibility
- Recognise the need to fundamentally reform the usage and booking of study spaces, with a focus on disabled students
- Request that other departments engage with the MSA's Disabilities and Carers department to continually improve event accessibility, both online and in-person, with consideration given to:
 - The need for live-captioning, Auslan interpretation or closed captioning on videos where possible
 - The provision of quiet spaces or spaces with reduced external stimulation to rest during events
 - The need for accessible entrances, lifts and ramps at event venues
 - The use of Alt-Text or image descriptions when sharing visual promotional materials
 - Visible signage for accessible bathrooms, lifts and ramps
 - First Aid trained individuals available in case of accidents, seizures, illness or other relevant incidents

Moved: Tiana Sixsmith **Seconded:** Eva Scopelliti

For: 22

Abstentions: 0

Against: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Marni gave the call to Tiana. Tiana explained that the events which MSA has been holding this year have been very successful with respect to accessibility and signage. It is important to ensure that this remains at the forefront of everyone's minds when running events. The premise is that, rather than creating events at which disabled people are accepted, events should be created with disabled people in mind.

Marni gave the call to Eva. Eva commended the motion and, by extension, Tiana for all the work she has done so far this year in her capacity as D&C OB. It is so important that these principles are adopted in every section of the community.

Marni gave the call to Bailey. Bailey concurred with Eva and expressed that it was fantastic to see the visibility that Tiana had brought to Disabilities & Carers - something which has been lacking in the department for quite a long time. That is especially impressive considering that Tiana's office-bearer partner has been unable to contribute. He expressed his excitement to see what else the year had in store for D&C.

I. General Business

None

Meeting Closed