

Meeting opened at 11am on 28/10/21

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	Helen Vu
Education (Academic Affairs):	Charlee Hawkes	
Activities:	Sean Hanna	
CLA:	Nick Broussard	
Welfare:	Thanura Ediri	Gurpal Singh Randhawa
Indigenous:	Isobella Kruger	
Environment & Social Justice:	Georgia Saunders	Katrina Young
Women's:	Chloe Yeats	Isabella Burton
Queer:	Amber Hodgson	
Disabilities & Carers:	Tiana Sixsmith	Joshua Strauss
People of Colour:	Linh Thai	
Res Community Department:	Lily Van Berkel	
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	
General Representative:	Grace Ang	
General Representative:	Lucy Bandiera	

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:

This MSC moves to approve the minutes of [MSC 9/21](#) as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved: Nick Broussard

Seconded: Josh Strauss

E. Policy-based Motions

Motion to condemn far-right anti-vax protests

Preamble: This 20th November Melbourne Freedom Rally, a group lead by Melbourne far right figure Harrison McLean, are organising an anti-vax, far right demonstration. This demonstration, coinciding with other 'World Wide Rallies for Freedom' organised by far right and fascist forces, will be protesting against covid vaccines and health measures. While our hospitals and healthcare workers are being overrun, they celebrate selfish individualism that would see the bodies pile high as the virus rips through the community unabated.

The demonstration is being supported by Reignite Democracy Australia - the electoralist arm of the movement who have recently teamed up with Clive Palmer and Craig Kelly to create a new far-right force in Australian politics. Amongst them is also the Proud Boys, a neo-fascist, misogynist and anti-trans all-male group who have been regular attendees at anti-lockdown protests. Harrison McLean has also recently been exposed for offering 'counsel on effective ways to introduce people to "entry level research" on antisemitic conspiracy theories, given advice on how to create effective antisemitic memes and explained how he helped introduce followers in his anti-lockdown movement to more radical views", as the Guardian reported.

A counter demonstration has been called by the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism, as a part of a national day of action, to challenge these far right conspiracy theories and anti-human ideas. We need to politically oppose and counter the far right, and fight for social-solidarity and public health. When the far right advances like this, it is an immediate threat to people of colour, women, and LGBTIQ+ people. If there is no public opposition to these forces, they will continue to grow.

Motion #2:

This MSC moves to:

- Condemn the 20th November Melbourne Freedom Rally and the disgraceful far-right, anti-vax ideologies which it promotes
- Encourage all students to actively campaign against such rallies, including through counter-protests where safe to do so, ensuring adequate measures are taken to ensure COVID-safety

Moved: Joshua Pelach

Seconded: Bailey Webb

Ay: It is very important that we challenge the ideas of anti-vax campaigners or their sentiment will continue to grow. The Campaign against Racism and Fascism are the ones that are organising a counter-protest against the far-right. It is really important for students to mobilise and demoralise the right, demonstrating that their views are on the fringe. CARF did this in 2015 when Reclaim Australia was prominent. This is much more important now that we are opening up. It would be good to explicitly endorse the CARF protest.

Luka: the issue with the protest is not that it's spreading COVID, but rather that the political content of the protest is terrible. It would be terrible if their demands were met. You would be able to behave completely recklessly and spread the virus, resulting in thousands of deaths. We would support good protests in the middle of COVID even if there was a chance of the virus spreading. There can be an illusion that these are ordinary people - this is the far right. I strongly encourage people to come to the counter-rally. It won't be in the same area as them to avoid a clash. The point of the rally is to be a political, not physical, opposition.

John: it is extremely important to counter the far right. The only way they tend to be fought off is by counter protests, showing that they are on the fringe and have no place in society. At the same time as the anti-vax rally, CARF will be organising a counter-protest. It's a bit of a shame that that has not been expressly endorsed. It's great that the MSA is endorsing action, but there is a concrete event happening which we would love support for.

For: 24

Abstain: 0

Against: 0

Motion to call for increased COVID safety post-lockdown

Despite the end of lockdown and reopening of Victoria, we are still in the midst of a serious health crisis. Reaching a peak of 2297 cases last week, and with over 1000 lives now lost, there remains a significant risk to the health and safety of Victorians, especially the elderly and immuno-compromised who are most at risk. Although lockdown may have eased, there are plenty of measures which can and must be taken to curtail the spread of COVID-19 and save lives. Government must always make decisions based upon the accepted advice of the scientific community, even if these decisions are not palatable.

Motion #3:

This MSC calls on the State and Federal governments to:

- Ensure the vaccine is approved for younger children as soon as it is safe to do so
- Take necessary measures to rapidly reach a 100% double vaccination rate throughout the eligible population
- Provide accessible and generous financial support for those required to isolate
- Where necessary, refurbish workplaces, schools and business to ensure adequate ventilation
- Increase research and investment in CO2 monitoring, community access to N95 respirators, expanded air-gapped quarantine facilities and sewage surveillance to help trace COVID-19 cases
- Increase investment in Australia's health system to manage outbreaks and better support front-line health workers

Moved: Joshua Pelach

Seconded: Bailey Webb

Josh: while lockdown may have ended, it is clear that there is still a lot to do to ensure COVID-safety and prevent further spread of the virus, while ensuring that decisions are always made in light of scientific consensus.

Bailey: especially in light of our condemnation of anti-vax protestors, it is doubly important that we re-emphasise the importance of scientific consensus. Where there might be lethargy in ensuring safety, it is essential that we campaign for proper measures.

Luka: it is a shame that we are not pursuing an elimination strategy. The fact that we have failed to eliminate COVID in Victoria will result in hundreds of deaths, including 25 people today. There are a lot of things that MSA as a union can do to curtail the spread of the virus, including the measures mentioned in the motion. There is also a lot more that Monash can do, including regular CO2 checking and proper ventilation. I am very keen to see MSA take this approach in the coming year.

For: 24

Abstain: 0

Against: 0

Motion to support mandatory vaccination at Monash

Preamble: by 5 November 2021, Monash University is requiring all authorised staff and students who attend campus to have had both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, excluding those who are unable to take the vaccine for medical reasons. This is a vital step in ensuring that the student and staff communities are best protected, especially those who are immuno-compromised or elderly, or have relatives who are at risk. Those who choose not to get vaccinated on the basis of misinformation or disregard for health advice put the rest of the community at risk, and willingly contribute to the enormous suffering caused by this virus.

Motion #4:

This MSC moves to support mandatory vaccination at Monash, and calls on all eligible staff and students to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Moved: Joshua Pelach

Seconded: Bailey Webb

Bailey: I am very excited about this mandate. It is an excellent step in helping to fight the spread of the Delta Variant. Vaccines have given us the opportunity to open up again and enjoy a much-needed return to society. It is essential that we do not put immuno-compromised students at unnecessary risk.

Alyssa: I think this motion is good. It is important to support mandates. Getting vaccinated is an act of social solidarity against the conspiratorial anti-vax far-right. Especially in the context of education, with the government dangerously opening up schools, it is really important that MSA show leadership and support vaccine mandates.

Marni defers the chair to Bailey.

Marni: I strongly agree with the motion, and especially appreciate it as a science student. We have definitely had a very tough year, especially students on placement. Vaccines are so vital in allowing us to return to campus and take advantage of university facilities. I'm really appreciative of all the work that has gone into getting us where we are today.

For: 24

Abstain: 0

Against: 0

G. General Business

Meeting Closed at 11:27pm