

Meeting opened at 11:04am on 14/12/21.

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	
Education (Academic Affairs):		
	Renee Meaney	
Activities:	Fergus Smith	Sean Hanna
CLA:	Georgia Barrass	
Welfare:	Charlotte Barber	James Spencer
Indigenous:	Olivia Snell	
Environment & Social Justice:		Branavan Thevashangar
	Katrina Young	
Women's:	Isabella Burton	Lucianne Watts
Queer:	Kieran Couchman	
Disabilities & Carers:	Chloe Gibson	Joshua Strauss
People of Colour:	Dimpy Kamani	Linh Thai
Res Community Department:	Alan Zhao	
MUISS:	John Nguyen	Natasha Tiong
MAPS:	Millie Page	
Clubs & Societies:	Matthew Chipman	
Radio Monash:	Gaby Mountjoy	
General Representative:	Eva Scopelliti	
General Representative:	Ishka de Silva	
General Representative:	Dzemaal Efendic	

General Representative: Grace Ang Isabelle de La Masse-Homsy
General Representative: Lucy Bandiera
Observers: Vladislav Fedorov

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 confirms the minutes of [MSC 10/21](#) to be a true and accurate recording of proceedings.

Moved: Bailey Webb **Seconded:** Eva Scopelliti

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports

[Queer](#)

[People of Colour](#)

Motion #2:

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

Moved: Eva Scopelliti **Seconded:** Josh Strauss

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Financial Motions

Motion #3:

This MSC moves to approve \$16,500.00 for payment of [NUS affiliation fees](#).

Moved: Bailey Webb **Seconded:** Joshua Pelach
For: 24
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Marni deferred the chair. Marni explained that Motion #3 was included in MSC 11/21 because the previous MSC was deferred.

Motion #4:
This MSC moves to approve the [MSA Financial Report for October 2021](#).
Moved: Bailey Webb **Seconded:** Joshua Pelach
For: 24
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Bailey stated that MSA might break even due to government subsidies and having no real expenditure during lockdown. Grants given to Sir John's bar are planned to be reinvested back into the bar to make it a more vibrant student space and welcome students back to campus in 2022.

G. Strategic Plan

Motion #5:
This MSC moves to approve the [MSA Strategic Plan](#) for 2022-2024.
Moved: Bailey Webb **Seconded:** Joshua Pelach
For: 24
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Joshua explained that the strategic plan was designed with MSA Executive Officer with student feedback and input.

Motion was deferred until access to the plan was given, and then MSC went to a vote.

G. Regulations

Motion #6:
This MSC moves to adopt the following [Wholefoods Regulations](#) under clause 20 and 58 of the MSA Constitution.
Moved: Bailey Webb **Seconded:** Joshua Pelach
DEFERRED

Joshua explained that this motion has been deferred so that MSA can better collaborate with the Wholefoods Collective. These regulations were designed to ensure the space is legally compliant and that people who work in Wholefoods are protected. These regulations will hopefully be passed in the new year.

H. Budget

Motion #7:

This MSC moves to amend the Lot's Wife Editor pay fraction for 2022 from 2 to 1.5 in accordance with clause 9.2 of the Regulations for Office-Bearers and Members of MSA Bodies.

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

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Bailey explained that the decrease is due to the decrease in elected Lot's Wife Editors. Traditionally, each editor is subject to a 0.25 pay fraction. Therefore, the proportion each individual editors receives remains consistent.

Motion #8:

This MSC moves to adopt the proposed [budget for 2022](#).

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

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Sean, 2022 MSA Treasurer, stated he was proud of the budget and the work that had gone into it.

Bailey described the enormous process of designing the budget and thanked members of MSA who contributed.

I. Divisional Representative to Executive

Motion #9: [MSA Budget 2022.pdf](#)

This MSC moves to open nominations for the position of divisional representative to the Executive, to be elected by the divisional Presidents in accordance with cl.24(1)(d) of the MSA Constitution.

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

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #10:
 This MSC moves to appoint Matthew Chipman to the position of Divisional Representative to the Executive, as elected by the divisional Presidents in accordance with cl.24(1)(d) of the MSA Constitution.
Moved: Joshua Pelach **Seconded:** Bailey Webb
For: 24
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Bailey explained the process of nomination for divisional representative to the executive, and described that this position would last until next year, and would have to be repeated at MSC 1/22. Only divisional representatives can vote, and MSA President acts as the returning officer. This election occurs as the current divisional representative to the executive's term as C&S president has expired.

Nominee	Nominator	Second
Matt	Matt	Sean
Gabby	Gabby	Joshua Pelach

Matthew gave a speech for the divisional representative to the executive election.

Gabby gave a speech for the divisional representative to the executive election.

Matthew was elected.

J. Policy Motions

Motion to condemn Religious Discrimination Bill

Preamble: the Religious Discrimination Bill came about in the wake of the 2017 legalisation of same-sex marriage in Australia, as religious peoples and organisations were concerned about this conflict with their beliefs. After conducting the 2018 Report of the Religious Freedom Review, the federal government created a legislation package containing the Religious Discrimination Bill, the Religious Discrimination (Consequential Amendments) Bill, and the Human Rights Legislation Amendment (Freedom of Religion) Bill. The first draft was released in 2019, and on November 24th 2021 the bills were officially introduced in Parliament. They can be viewed [here](#).

Early drafts of the bill received widespread criticism, particularly from queer, disabled, and minority religious groups who were concerned about the bill allowing them to be discriminated against through derogatory and vilifying statements, refusal of healthcare, and reduction of workplace protections. The bills have since been reviewed and undergone community consultation. However, the resulting bill is merely a watered down version of the

original - whilst it doesn't explicitly allow for these actions, many people are concerned that it could still be interpreted to allow them.

This bill is not about protecting religious freedom. Rather, it is about affording employers, organisations and even doctors the right to discriminate against marginalised people under the guise of 'religious beliefs.' This has the potential to negatively impact queer people, disabled people, women and people of different cultures, religions and/or ethnicities. Furthermore there are already laws in place, such as the Fair Work Act, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion.

Examples of how this bill could be applied, as compiled by [discrimination law experts](#) include:

- An LGBTQIA+ teacher in a religious school who refuses to teach their class that LGBTQIA+ people are sinners could be fired by the school.
- Allowing people to express derogatory or harmful comments in a workplace, school or online setting if they believe their opinions have a religious foundation
- A manager who says that a woman he oversees is a sinner because she is divorced, and that women should submit to their husbands may face no consequences for making such comments

This bill must be opposed. Equality Australia currently has an open letter urging Prime Minister Scott Morrison to put the bill to public inquiry, which can be read [here](#). It has already been signed by a number of organisations, such as Australian Catholics for Equality and various UNSW collectives.

Motion #11:

This MSC moves to

- Condemn the current state of the Religious Discrimination Bills and stand in solidarity with marginalised people most at risk of being discriminated against under this bill
- Have the MSA sign Equality Australia's open letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison
- Encourage all MSA departments to sign the open letter by emailing info@equalityaustralia.org.au expressing their interest in signing

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

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Bailey commended Keiran and Amber for writing an incredibly well put-together motion. Bailey recalled his time in a Catholic school and the idea that his school could continue practices that discriminate and hurt LGBTQIA+ people is repulsive. Bailey stated that it is not easy growing up queer, and condemned the Religious Discrimination Bill.

Marni deferred the chair. Marni discussed equality and condemned the Religious Discrimination Bill.

Marni took back the chair.

Motion: Australia must stop deporting refugees to danger

Preamble: The following is a statement published by the Tamil Refugee Council:
Prior to the pandemic, almost 50,000 people who had arrived in Australia by plane and whose asylum claims had been rejected were awaiting deportation. Currently, almost 12,000 additional refugees who arrived by boat and hold bridging visas are at risk of deportation. There are several tens of thousands more on other temporary protection visas who cannot settle because the threat of future deportation hangs over them.

Many have fled countries and situations that are unsafe, such as Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Iran. The dangers are particularly acute for ethnic minorities and political dissidents and activists. In many places, the situation has been made more perilous by the pandemic. Vaccines are in dangerously short supply and civil strife in some countries has increased.

Australia is a signatory to the refugee convention, the foundation of which is the principle that people should not be returned to countries in which their "life or freedom would be threatened". Yet, over the last two decades, Australian governments repeatedly have breached this principle, taking all kinds of measures to deny people's claims and deporting refugees to death, torture, arrest and/or harassment in a host of countries.

This practice must stop. Australia should no longer deport people who have well-founded fears for their safety and well-being.

Motion #12:

This MSC moves to publicly call on the federal government to:

- Urgently cease deportations of asylum seekers, both scheduled and underway
- Abolish temporary protection visas and grant permanent protection to all TPV holders to remove the threat of future deportation.
- Release asylum seekers from detention and transit accommodation centres
- Enact an amnesty for asylum seekers currently deemed "unlawful non-citizens".

Moved: Joshua Pelach **Seconded:** Eva Scopelliti

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Joshua stated that in the middle of a pandemic it is easy to forget other world issues, many of which are worse now. Joshua stated that Motion #12 and #13 are of a similar vein, and that MSC should support refugee rights.

Motion to condemn the imprisonment of the Park Hotel Refugees

Preamble: Since at least February, the Park Hotel in Carlton has had a contract with the federal government to imprison refugees. These refugees were moved here to receive

urgent medical attention under the medevac legislation. Instead of receiving the medical attention they require, refugees have been exposed to torturous conditions inside the hotel. They are denied their freedom and locked up in the hotel, unable to go outside, except for a supervised hour of fresh air; they face regular harassment and abuse from the security guards who monitor them; and most recently, they have all been exposed to COVID-19.

At the time of writing, more than 20 refugees have been infected. There is no ventilation, no air filtration systems and none of the staff have health and safety training. In early November, four guards tested positive to the virus at the MITA processing facility. These horrifically dangerous conditions are only putting the lives of refugees in further jeopardy.

Motion #13:

This MSC condemns the horrific treatment and imprisonment of refugees and calls for:

- All refugees detained by the Australian government to be released and granted full citizenship rights, with priority medical access to vaccines and other healthcare services
- The closure of all offshore detention centres
- All refugees to be granted maximum welfare entitlements
- MSA to condemn the imprisonment of refugees

Moved: Joshua Pelach

Seconded: Eva Scopelliti

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Joshua commended this motion.

Motion in solidarity with the Sudanese protests against the military coup

Preamble: On 25 October 2021, the Sudanese military, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, took control of the government in a military coup. In the coup attempt al-Burhan dissolved the government and the sovereignty council, suspended critical parts of Sudan's Constitutional Charter of 2019, and imposed a nationwide state of emergency. Since the Sudanese revolution of 2019 the country's government has been composed of a half civilian and half military structure. This month was to see the civilian portion take full control and to finally see the military's official hold over the government end. Al-Burhan's refusal to hand over power to a fully civilian led government has now been met by millions of Sudanese protesting the military's abuse of power and against the coup.

The MSA condemns the actions of the Sudanese military and its brutality and stands in solidarity with Sudanese people in their pursuit of democracy.

Motion #14:

This MSC moves to:

- Condemn the military coup in Sudan
- Stand in solidarity with the Sudanese peoples and communities in their pursuit of democracy

Moved: Bailey Webb

Seconded: Eva Scopelliti

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

I. General Business

Meeting Closed at 11:37 am