

*Meeting opened at 11am on 7/07/21.*

**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):		
Education (Academic Affairs):	Renee Meaney	
Activities:	Fergus Smith	Sean Hanna
CLA:	Georgia Barrass	Nick Broussard
Welfare:	Charlotte Barber	Thanura Ediri
Indigenous:		
Environment & Social Justice:	Katrina Young	
Women's:	Isabella Burton	
Queer:	Kieran Couchman	
Disabilities & Carers:	Chloe Gibson	
People of Colour:	Dimpy Kamani	Linh Thai
Res Community Department:	Alan Zhao	
MUISS:	Sejuti Saha	
MAPS:	Jan Morgiewicz	
Clubs & Societies:	Francesco Barrese	Matthew Chipman
Radio Monash:	Giorgia Cahoon	
General Representative:	Eva Scopelliti	
General Representative:	Ishka de Silva	Josh Strauss
General Representative:	Dzemaal Efendic	
General Representative:	Grace Ang	Georgia Saunders
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 confirms the minutes of [MSC 7/21](#) and [MSC 8/21](#) to be a true and accurate recording of proceedings.

**Moved:** Bailey Webb

**Seconded:** Eva Scopelliti

**For:** 21

**Abstaining:** 0

**Against:** 0

**E. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports**

[President](#)

[Treasurer](#)

[Secretary](#)

[Activities](#)

[Creative & Live Arts](#)

**Motion #2:**

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

**Moved:** Eva Scopelliti

**Seconded:** Josh Strauss

**For:** 21

**Abstaining:** 0

**Against:** 0

**F. Financial Motions**

*Dzermal enters.*

**Motion #3:**

This MSC accepts the submitted [MSA financial statement](#) for August 2021.

**Moved:** Bailey Webb

**Seconded:** Joshua Pelach

**For:** 21

**Abstaining:** 0

**Against:** 0

*Luka: why is there \$1.5M in expenditure? That seems very large in proportion to income.*

*Bailey: there is a lot of unaccounted income which has not yet been included. I have a meeting with the Finance team shortly, after which I can provide more details.*

**Motion #4:**

This MSC moves to appoint Nexia as the MSA auditor for the 2021-2023 Financial Years.

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

**For:** 21

**Abstaining:** 0

**Against:** 0

**Motion #5:**

In accordance with s.9.5.1 of the MSA Office-bearer regulations, this MSC moves to pay the Lot's Wife Editors at a reduced pay fraction from November 1 to December 31 for the purpose of training the next year's Lot's Wife Editors.

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

**For:** 21

**Abstaining:** 0

**Against:** 0

*Marni defers the chair to Bailey.*

*Marni: this is standard procedure to ensure that Lot's Wife editors can continue to receive proper remuneration while assisting the handover process.*

## **F. Policy Motions**

### Motion on Gender affirming surgery and healthcare

**Preamble:** content warning: mention of transphobia. The cost of gender affirmation surgeries in Australia can range from \$5,000 to \$80,000 with Medicare coverage either minimal or non-existent, depending on the surgery and surgeon. These surgeries include, but aren't limited to: double mastectomy, vaginoplasty, and phalloplasty. For many transgender people, these surgeries are necessary so that they are able to look the way they feel matches who they are. [Research](#) has shown that access to these procedures lead to better quality of life for the people that receive them, from improving interpersonal relationships to decreasing the risk of gender-related violence.

[This parliamentary petition](#) is asking for all gender-affirming surgeries to be made eligible for Medicare benefits, as the steep prices make these inaccessible to the majority of the people who need them the most.

A link to the above petition promoting it and explaining it's importance was recently shared to the Monash Stalkerspace Facebook group by a transgender student. There were several negative and transphobic comments in response, ranging from mockery to hostility. This kind of behaviour is unacceptable. MSA Queer, and MSA as a whole organisation, do not condone transphobia and will continue to actively work to ensure transgender students feel safe and respected at Monash.

**Motion #6:**

This MSC moves to:

- Continue to actively fight transphobia wherever it arises - be it from within the university or from our government.
- Endeavour to educate the wider Monash community about transgender people and issues, in order to foster greater acceptance and respect towards transgender people both within and outside of Monash University.
- To promote this petition to Monash students by the central MSA Facebook page resharing the post made about it by MSA Queer. These Facebook posts must be closely monitored, and offensive/transphobic comments to be deleted.

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

**For:** 21

**Abstaining:** 0

**Against:** 0

*Marni defers chair to Bailey.*

*Marni: I think this is a really important motion to ensure that we are fostering a safe and inclusive environment for Monash students.*

*Kelly: I think that this is a good motion. Healthcare is a particularly important issue when fighting for the rights of trans and gender non-conforming people. Up to 1 in 7 trans people are being denied basic healthcare in the UK, and I think we are seeing something similar in Australia given the attacks by the Liberal government. In particular, the Religious Discrimination Bill will result in trans people being denied vital healthcare. It would be good to see MSA also engaging in rallies and promoting this petition.*

*John: this is especially important, given the right-wing attacks by the Liberals in NSW. I think it would also be good to oppose the legislation being put forward at a federal level to deny LGBTQA+ people basic rights.*

*Kieran: I think it would be good to stick to this issue for now, and we can move another motion on that issue at another time.*

Motion to condemn wage theft inaction

**Preamble:** recently, Monash became the third Australian university in just six weeks to reveal that it had underpaid staff by up to \$9M. These underpayments flow from a combination of timesheet errors and an inconsistent classification of teaching activities, including the reclassification of lectures and tutorials as workshops, practicals or laboratories which attract a lower hourly rate. Although Monash did voluntarily undertake an audit of staff

payments, which is to be encouraged, it is unacceptable that such errors and inconsistencies went undetected for so long, leaving thousands of staff out of pocket. As the President of the NTEU Monash branch, Ben Eltham has said, 'wage theft is not just a scandal at Australian universities, it's a result of their business model'. It is high time that changed.

**Motion #7:**

This MSC moves to:

- Condemn the systemic underpayment of staff by Australian Universities, and the deliberate reclassification of teaching activities to reduce hourly wages
- Call on all Australian Universities to audit staff payments and ensure proper procedures and processes are implemented to avoid this issue occurring in future
- Call on Monash to ensure that all staff who have been underpaid are properly compensated, accounting for inflation, as soon as practically possible

**Moved:** Charlee Hawkes      **Seconded:** Renee Meaney

**For:** 21

**Abstaining:** 0

**Against:** 0

*Josh: this is clearly a systemic issue. I don't think we should accept the rhetoric from Australian Universities that this is wholly a mistake, especially considering the deliberate measures taken to reduce hourly wages by reclassifying learning activities.*

*Charlee: It is essential that we take a stance on this issue.*

Motion on COP26

**Preamble:** the world's climate continues to degenerate and global temperatures are soaring above pre-industrial averages. Climate change is here, it is one of the key issues of our generation and its effects are well and truly visible even today. A prominent example was the severe flooding in the Henan province of China in July. One of its major cities Zhengzhao received over 8 inches of rain in just one hour. 14 people drowned underground in a flooded subway tunnel. These events will only become more frequent and more extreme moving forward.

The COP26 conference is a major gathering of senior policymakers, community leaders, industry experts and non governmental organisations to discuss climate action. It is where supposedly more ambitious climate commitments will be made. But the history of climate conferences like these in the past shows that the depth and timescale of the actions promised at these conferences is never enough.

The international climate movement is intervening at this moment, when the world is watching this climate conference, to make its voice heard. Mass demonstrations will be taking place all across the globe to use the moment to demand immediate, urgent and far-reaching social transformations to address the climate crisis, including an immediate transition to renewables with support for those currently working in the fossil fuel industry, and funding and support for communities most affected by climate change. Demonstrations

like these will also be taking place in Australia on November 6, including one organised by the National Union of Students in Melbourne at the State Library at 1 pm.

**Motion #8:**

This MSC moves:

- To endorse the 'COP26 Global Day of Action - Melbourne' event
- To promote the event through MSA social media
- To organise a contingent of Monash students to the protest
- To promote the event in the the MSA newsletter

**Moved:** Bailey Webb

**Seconded:** Eva Scopelliti

**For:** 21

**Abstaining:** 0

**Against:** 0

*Josh: I think we're all very sick of seeing the sheer number of climate conferences which have now been held with little to no tangible outcomes or reforms. It is high time that something was done and I think we should mobilise people behind this cause.*

*Alevine: protests are really important in creating political pressure. Clearly not enough action has been taken and trying to revive the climate movement seen in 2019 will be very important. This day is especially important because there will be actions coordinated in cities all across the world, not just Australia. We need to take advantage of that moment to demand real action, especially since Australia is one of the biggest contributors to greenhouse gases globally, yet has some of the worst commitments. One of the things we need to do as society reopens is to create a strong, lively, active protest movement.*

*Kelly: the COP26 protests are going to be a really important opportunity to revive the climate movement after a long period of lockdown. It is also really good that it is a global action. Greta Thunberg has shown a lot of leadership recently. I would also note that Uni Students for Climate Justice are the ones organising these protests.*

*Jos: this is a great motion. I think that this protest recognises that we need to take immediate action and make our voices heard to rebuild the climate movement.*

*Madeleine: I agree that it is time to get the climate movement back on track. World leaders are doing a whole lot of nothing at these conferences and trying to pretend that governments are actually doing something, when they clearly aren't.*

*Alyssa: particularly among students, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the promises of world leaders are hollow. The action is very well timed and it is essential that MSA do everything it can to help promote this event.*

Motion to condemn anti-lockdown protests

**Preamble:** Over the last couple of months, anti-lockdown protests have been on the rise throughout Australia. There have been sizable demonstrations in Sydney, Perth and Melbourne. These came to a head in Melbourne when thousands of protesters targeted the CFMEU offices as well as vaccination clinics throughout the city. These protests are

generally organised by far-right, anti-vax campaigners who demonstrate no regard for peoples' lives or our struggling hospital system. There are also known fascists, Proud Boys and Neo-Nazis organising and recruiting out of these events.

**Motion #9:**

This MSC moves to:

- Stands in solidarity with unions and against the far-right attacks on the union movement, which the current anti-vax movement represents.
- The MSA affirms that saving lives with public health measures is more important than the loss of profits that these measures cause.

**Moved:** Bailey Webb

**Seconded:** Eva Scopelliti

**For:** 21

**Abstaining:** 0

**Against:** 0

*Eva: I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels incredibly frustrated with these protests taking place. This motion is so important as MSA must stand against this behaviour.*

*Strauss: I would like to echo Eva's sentiment. It is incredibly important that we as a community uphold public health advice. We are seeing whole teams of doctors moving to COVID-specific patients, jeopardising our healthcare system. To see these protests going ahead and disseminating false information is disgraceful.*

*John: these developments are really disturbing. We've seen far-right Nazis emerging and acting with confidence. This needs to be shutdown as swiftly as possible. We must do everything we can to denounce these movements and build campaigns to show that the majority of people are staunchly opposed to these protests.*

*Aisha: recent protests have definitely shown a rise in the confidence of the far-right. It is essential that we confront this politics and demonstrate that their views are on the fringe, and the majority of people are very pro-vax. I am a part of the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism and we have launched a campaign called Pro-Vax, Pro-Union, Anti-Facist which is aiming to ensure people know that these fringe views are extremely dangerous. It would be enormously helpful if MSA could help promote this campaign.*

*Kelly: I think this motion is really good. People are right to identify that neo-nazi and fascist groups are on the rise in Victoria. These are the same people who, a couple of years ago, were organising rallies calling to ban Muslims and migrants. We were able to push them back then, and we need to do the same now. I think the CARF campaign is a particularly important one. We had an initial meeting after the first few protests with over 800 attendees. There is a real sentiment among those who want to actively combat these far-right protests.*

*Alevine: I want to be clear. The most important reason to oppose these protests is not because they are protests, but rather because they are far-right. This shouldn't be taken as denouncing the right to protests, which I think should be maintained even when the pandemic is really bad. The best strategy for left-wing people is to counter-protest.*

*Beth: I would propose an amendment to say that MSA endorse the CARF campaign, as I think it is really important that there is a public response to the far-right. I have been a part of this campaign since Reclaim Australia was founded in 2015 - the first time that the far-right*

*had begun actively protesting again since Hanson in the 90s. I think the reason they stopped protesting for so many years is because they were counter-protested against. The point of their protests is to move to the mainstream. It is really important that we show them that they are really just a pathetic minority and prevent them from spreading and growing. We have been stickering the entire city with Pro-Vax, Pro-Union, Anti-Vax stickers. We would really appreciate an institutional endorsement by the MSA.*

*Josh: It seems that the campaign has done a lot of good work, and I agree that it is very important that people collectively act together in response. I generally have a reservation about endorsing particular groups that we aren't affiliated with, as it means that anyone looking to support the motions needs to be familiar with that particular group. We want everybody to be able to support this motion, irrespective of whether they have researched or support this particular group. As I said, you seem to be doing good work, and if you approach us to have a meeting about the support that MSA can provide as part of this movement, we are always more than happy to do that.*

*Bailey: I am also happy with the motion as is.*

#### Motion to protect the Victorian community

**Preamble:** Covid case numbers are rapidly increasing in Victoria, with cases reaching a high of 1438 recorded on the 29th September. With the dangerous rise in case numbers has also come the deaths of over 40 Victorians since the outbreak began, taking the overall death toll over 850 people. Our public health system and staff have been overwhelmed, with approximately one fifth of hospitalisations requiring intensive care. It is more important than ever that the state and federal governments strictly follow the advice of health professionals to avoid increasing the number of deaths and the strain on hospitals as a result of COVID-19, rather than succumbing to public or financial pressure.

The government also needs to ensure that workers are supported in remaining home and safe. The Liberal government's decision to cut off welfare support to those in states with a vaccination rate of 80% is appalling. Those who are poorer are up to four times more likely to die from the virus because they are pushed to work in the middle of dangerous outbreaks to survive. The government must step up to provide unconditional financial support for these people, not cutting it. Additionally, within workplaces, the government should hold businesses accountable for having strong Covid safety measures such as proper ventilation, providing face masks and hand sanitiser, paid leave to isolate, get tested or vaccinated, capacity for social distancing and more. Staff at Monash university and the NTEU should be supported by the MSA in their efforts to demand safer working conditions on campus as well.

#### **Motion #10:**

This MSC moves to:

- Call for the Federal and State government to ensure any decision to ease restrictions is entirely based on health advice
- Call for more financial support for individuals during the pandemic, with a permanent increase to JobSeeker
- Demand supports for all workplaces to be made as safe as possible to prevent the spread of the virus, including better ventilation systems, extra and unlimited paid leave to isolate while sick or being tested, ensure capacity for social distancing and more.

- Support calls for a substantial investment in healthcare infrastructure - including hospitals, staff and equipment - to ensure a better capacity to deal with current and future health crises.

- Call for the following health measures on Monash Clayton campus: enforcement of density requirements, installation of air filters and ventilation systems

**Moved:** Bailey Webb

**Seconded:** Eva Scopelliti

**For:** 21

**Abstaining:** 0

**Against:** 0

*Josh: we've seen a lot of political rhetoric at both a State and Federal level in regards to easing restrictions. It is very easy for the conversation to get away from the health advice. It is so fundamental that any decision made by government is entirely based upon scientific advice, rather than succumbing to populist and business pressures. The sheer number of lives saved through lockdowns demonstrates just how important this is.*

*Luka: this is a great motion. The push to open up has overwhelmingly come from businesses that are looking to make a profit. The Business Council of Australia petition which was published in all major newspapers was really telling of that. It is essential that we carve out a position that nobody should die from COVID. Although we are clearly moving to open up, it is essential that we do so in a gradual and sensible way. The measures listed in this motion are extremely important in ensuring that precautions continue to be taken. There is a lot that the union movement can do about that.*

*Eva: I would like to endorse this motion. I got double-vaxxed yesterday, which was very exciting. I have been unable to work during lockdown, which has been incredibly stressful, but it is nonetheless so important that we strictly follow the health advice.*

*Madeline: We can expect the healthcare system to be completely overwhelmed if we don't take appropriate measures to protect the community. The healthcare system has also experienced some pretty serious underfunding. Any health worker can tell you just how much strain they are under as a result of the recklessness of the government. Reopening can only happen when it is safe. There is a lot more that can be done on campus in terms of COVID-safety by way of air filters and ventilation systems to keep both students and staff safe. Businesses don't want to pay for these measures that are necessary to save lives. They are primarily concerned with maximising profits.*

*Jos: this is a really good motion. I like the emphasis on more individual support for students during the pandemic. All the measures like JobKeeper which previously existed have been removed and watered down. Those who need to isolate due to COVID should be paid to stay home. Ideally, it would be good if Monash can increase emergency grants. People should not feel pressured to attend work.*

*John: The calls for financial support are really important. The mainstream press go on and on about ending lockdown due to mental health, and I think that can be attributed to a huge amount of financial insecurity during lockdown. That has had a massive impact on people's well-being, so I think this is a really important measure. The health measures on campus are also really important. Vaccine mandates are great, but not a silver bullet.*

*Alevine: it is very concerning that there are so many calls to open up ASAP. There are still heaps of cases in the community, and when we do reopen, there is a potential for a huge strain on the healthcare system, even with very high vaccination rates. We can't simply get vaccinated and now party. We need to do everything we can to keep people safe. I agree*

*with the point about acting based on health advice. However, it is also plain that many businesses have been very inconsistent in following the health advice, which is why the third point in this motion is also so important.*

*Marni defers her chair.*

*Marni: I agree with what everyone has been saying. It has been a very difficult semester being online again, but it has certainly kept us safe.*

## **I. General Business**

**Meeting Closed at 12:01pm**