

Meeting opened at 11am on 25/01/2021

CONFIRMED MINUTES

A. Attendance

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proxy</u>
President	Ishka De Silva	
Treasurer:	Sean Hanna	
Secretary:	Joshua Strauss	
Education (Public Affairs):	Alex Bourikas	
Education (Academic Affairs):	Marko Moutafis	
Activities:	Zoe Kral	
CLA:	Luci Watts	
Welfare:	Demitri Kaminis	
Indigenous:	Jaya Blandthorn	Absent
Environment & Social Justice:	Seb Schultz	
Women's:	Aayushi Shah	
Queer:	Amber Hodgson	
Disabilities & Carers:	Lyndelle Chan	
People of Colour:	Ananya Gupta	
Res Community Department:	Che Kudagamage	
MUISS:	Jesslyn Soegiharto	
MAPS:	Millie Page	
Clubs & Societies:	Matthew Chipman	
Radio Monash:	Gabby Mountjoy	Nick Lazzara
General Representative:	Giorgia Giannakopoulos	
General Representative:	Paris Enten	
General Representative:	Arjun Girish	
General Representative:	Gavin Douch	
General Representative:	Aimee Boston	
Observers:	Mahzarin Katrak Jack Barry Chayli McCann	

Elizabeth Walker
Beth Jackson
Ana Best
John Roberts
Vladislav Fedorov
Abu Bakr Ayoubi
Madeline Curkovic

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. MSA Executive

Motion #1:

This MSC seeks nominations for the position of General Representative to the MSA Executive. Only General Representatives can be elected to and vote for this position.

Moved: Joshua Strauss **Seconded:** Sean Hanna

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Ishka calls for nominations for the role of Gen Rep Exec.

Joshua explained the role and detailed that only Gen Reps can vote or nominate for the position.

Giorgia Giannakopoulos nominated.

Joshua explained that as no other nominations have been received, the election does not need to go to a ballot and the MSC must accept this nomination.

Motion #2:

This MSC approves the election of Giorgia Giannakopoulos to the MSA Executive for 2022, pursuant to s24.1(e) of the MSA Constitution.

Moved: Joshua Strauss **Seconded:** Sean Hanna

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #3:

This MSC seeks nominations for the position of Divisional Representative to the MSA Executive. Only Divisional Representatives can be elected to and vote for this position.

Moved: Joshua Strauss **Seconded:** Sean Hanna

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Ishka calls for nominations for the role of Division Representative to the executive .

Joshua explained the role and detailed that only Divisional Representatives (or their proxies at MSC) can vote for or nominate for the position.

Matthew Chipman nominated.

Joshua explained that as no other nominations have been received, the election does not need to go to a ballot and the MSC must accept this nomination.

Motion #4:

This MSC approves the election of Matthew Chipman to the MSA Executive for 2022, pursuant to s24.1(d) of the MSA Constitution.

Moved: Joshua Strauss **Seconded:** Sean Hanna

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Motions regarding Wholefoods

Preamble: In conjunction with the Wholefoods Collective, MSA has designed new regulations governing the operation of Wholefoods with the following objectives:

- Guaranteeing the provision of services to Wholefoods
- Ensuring compliance with the MSA Constitution and associated Regulations
- Guaranteeing the health and safety of those using the Wholefoods space

- Avoiding issues of accountability and liability with respect to MSA staff and volunteers
- Mitigating any perceived/actual conflicts of interest in management of Wholefoods
- Maintaining positive and healthy workplace relations between all stakeholders
- Formalise the vital relationship between MSA and the Wholefoods Collective

The operative clauses of these Regulations have the following aims:

- 3.1(a): to ensure that all Stakeholders understand that the management of, and accountability for, the Wholefoods space ultimately lies with the MSA Executive, as required under clause 23(1) of the MSA Constitution
- 3.1(b): to ensure that the MSA Executive is not in breach of clause 20 of the MSA Constitution by knowingly operating Wholefoods at a deficit
- 3.1(c): to mitigate and avoid MSA Staff and Volunteers assuming liability as a result of any breaches of procedural or legal requirements
- 3.1(d): to avoid the conflict of interest which arises when Staff in decision-making capacities are involved in making recommendations to themselves
- 3.2: to ensure that the MSA Executive does not continue to operate Wholefoods in circumstances involving significant risk of:
 - Student health and safety being compromised
 - MSA Staff or volunteers incurring liability
 - MSA acting in contravention of its Constitution

Motion #5:

This MSC moves to adopt the following [Wholefoods Regulations](#) under clause 20 and 58 of the MSA Constitution.

Moved: Joshua Strauss

Seconded: Sean Hanna

For:

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Joshua detailed that the regulations were designed in consultation with legal services in order to ensure and manage the points listed in the preamble. This process began with the MSA Executive team of 2021 and the regulations were deliberated upon, however the motion was deferred during the December 2021 MSC to be moved at the start of 2022 to ensure that the updated budget, including the budget from Wholefoods, can be moved today. Joshua detailed that these regulations formalise the relationship between the Wholefoods Collective and the rest of the MSA body, and ensure that, as an entity associated with the MSA, Wholefoods is compliant with the constitution. As per the legal advice, the MSA will remain at risk until a proper framework is put in place for the regulation of operations so that they are conducted in accordance with the relevant legislation and other

legal requirements. Joshua assured that this shall in no way impact the operational capacities of Wholefoods except for that it will be fully compliant.

Vlad, a member of the Wholefoods Collective, thanked the members of the MSA who had worked on the regulations but expressed that he felt they were not yet complete. He encouraged the MSC to delay this motion so the members of the Collective could properly consider it.

Amber expressed that some members of the Collective had expressed some concerns and suggested that the motion should be delayed until a future MSC.

Nick expressed concern and suggested that the motion should be delayed until a future MSC.

Alex noted that regulations are needed but suggested more discussion was needed.

Aayushi disclosed that she is an active member of the Wholefoods Collective, and suggested more clarity about the regulations was needed. Aayushi requested more information regarding section 3.1 of the regulations.

Joshua thanked members and observers of the MSC for their comments, and clarified that regulations were not designed to impede on a non-hierarchical decision-making process, rather to ensure that neither Wholefoods nor the MSA remained at risk as per legal advice. Joshua apologised for any miscommunication. On the condition that these regulations could be discussed shortly and moved at the next MSC, Joshua withdrew the motion.

Motion #6:

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

Moved: Sean Hanna

Seconded: Joshua Strauss

For:

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Sean reported that Motion 6 needed to be withdrawn as Motion 5 did not pass.

Alex questioned whether there were regulations regarding not adopting a budget at the first MSC.

Sean deferred the motion.

F. Motion to support changing the date of Australia Day

Preamble: January 26 observes the day that Captain Aurthur Phillip ‘founded’ the penal colony of New South Wales in 1788 by raising the British flag for the first time on already occupied Aboriginal lands. The date of Australia Day, 26th of January marks the beginning of illegal occupation, dispossession of land, violence and genocide toward Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and therefore has historically been a day of mourning for Indigenous Australians. The Change the Date movement recognises January 26 as a date not to celebrate and calls for the Australian Government to change the date of ‘Australia Day’ to one when all Australians can celebrate. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students should feel welcome and supported by the MSA.

Motion #7:

This MSC moves to strongly support changing the date of Australia Day, and stands in solidarity with, and as allies to, Indigenous Australians.

Moved: Seb Schultz

Seconded: Giorgia Giannakopoulos

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Seb notified the MSC that this motion was discussed with and reviewed by Jaya.

Madeline described Australia Day as a celebration of Australian nationalism, and therefore the date should not be changed and the holiday should be abolished.

Ana detailed protests that were occurring regarding Australia day, and requested an amendment to the motion to support these protests.

Alex commended the motion. Alex expressed his disappointment in speakers detracting from the motion and promoting other causes.

Joshua commended the motion. Joshua cautioned against making amendments to the motion given that they could not be reviewed by the MSA Indigenous Office Bearer.

Beth was named for her language in the chat.

Seb emphasised that he would not be comfortable with amendments to the motion without consulting members of the Indigenous community.

Beth noted that the protests are supported by members of the Indigenous community.

G. Motion to condemn racial, cultural and religious vilification on campus

Preamble: In an [Executive Council Australian Jewry report](#) published in December 2021, it was revealed that last year Jewish students were forced to cancel events celebrating the Jewish festival of Shavuot due to suggestions that it would not be “physically safe for [Australasian Union of Jewish Student] members to attend their campuses, or hold events celebrating our Jewish identity”. Collectively holding Jewish students or the Jewish Community of Australia responsible for the actions or policies of foreign governments is a form of intimidation and antisemitism which should no longer be tolerated. Free and frank discussion regarding any geopolitical event or concern should be encouraged and celebrated, however, it is unacceptable that any member of our community should feel unsafe celebrating their religious identity at Monash University.

Bigotry cannot be accepted in the name of freedom of speech or political discourse, and can no longer be an avenue through which minorities of any description are made to feel unsafe. The hostages taken at Beth Israel synagogue during a shabbat service in Colleyville, Texas, on the 15th of January is exemplary of how bigotry can breed extremism.

Motion #8:

This MSC commits to a firm stance against bullying, harrassment and discrimination on the basis of any personal characteristic, including race, religion and culture.

This MSC moves to ratify its adoption of the definition of antisemitism provided by the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance](#), and take proactive measures against instances of antisemitism on campus and online, including;

-By acknowledging the 27th of January 2022 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and 28th of April 2022 as *Yom Hashoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day in Israel).

-By committing itself and calling upon Monash University to work on tackling antisemitism, Holocaust awareness and education.

-By standing with the victims of hatred, extremism and violence, including the Jewish Community of Colleyville, Texas.

Moved: Paris Enten **Seconded:** Joshua Strauss

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Paris explained the increase in antisemitism experienced across the country in 2021 and noted that antisemitism was prevalent at Monash University too. Paris emphasised the need for a sense of belonging for all Monash students.

Joshua commended the writing of the motion.

Beth detailed that the far-right was responsible for a global resurgence of antisemitism. Beth expressed her disappointment on the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism due to its description of the criticism of Israel as antisemitic. Beth suggested that the MSA should endorse protests against the far-right if they want to fight antisemitism.

Abu suggested that the IHRA definitions are not appropriate for fighting antisemitism. Abu stated that any actions or criticisms could be labelled as antisemitic if this motion were to pass.

Paris clarified that antisemitism occurs from across the political spectrum, left or right. Paris implored the MSC to listen to Jewish voices and the Jewish community that she and Joshua represent. She noted that the preamble of the IHRA definition states that the criticism of Israel is valid and should be encouraged.

H. Motion regarding student fee increases

Preamble: In November, Monash University sent out an email detailing increases to student fees despite two years of hybrid education. This was an insult to many international students, who, during the pandemic, suffered disproportionately, already paying ridiculous sums of money without any government support for access to programs and facilities of a university that many are yet to set foot on. This change is unfair and utterly lacks empathy.

Motion #9:

This MSC moves to condemn Monash University for their decision to raise international student fees, and commends the advocacy being performed by the MSA Executive, MUISS and Sadman Arafat.

Moved: Jesslyn Soegiharto **Seconded:** Ananya Gupta

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Ananya explained that Monash University has increased student fees despite lack of access to facilities and Monash campuses. Ananya explained that the university has not been empathetic and has been difficult to reach.

John condemned the university's attack on international students and suggested that international students should protest against university management.

I. General Business

Joshua explained that the 2022 budget (not including the Wholefoods budget) was passed during MSC in December 2021. Sean explained that they had consulted the constitution and MSA finance.

Joshua and Sean withdrew Motion 6.

Alex enquired the change between the budgets.

Sean explained that the only difference in Motion 6 is the inclusion of the Wholefoods budget.

Aayushi enquired whether Wholefoods would be able to operate, and proposed a formal process to ensure discussion between Wholefoods, the MSA and Finance.

Joshua agreed with the proposal.

Meeting Closed at 11:44am