

Meeting opened at 11:03am on 15/02/2021

**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):	John Nguyen	
Education (Academic Affairs):	Elizabeth Walker	
Activities:	Chayli McCann	Proxy to Saskia Mulder
CLA:	Jack Barry	
Welfare:	Demitri Kaminis	
Indigenous:	Jaya Blandthorn	Absent
Environment & Social Justice:	Isabelle de La Masse-Homsy	Proxy to Lucianne Watts
Women's:	Aayushi Shah	
Queer:	Keiran Couchman	
Disabilities & Carers:	Lyndelle Chan	
People of Colour:	Linh Thai	
Res Community Department:	Mahzarin Katrak	
MUISS:	Jesslyn Soegiharto	
MAPS:	Millie Page	
Clubs & Societies:	Matthew Chipman	
Radio Monash:	Gabby Mountjoy	
General Representative:	Giorgia Giannakopoulos	
General Representative:	Paris Enten	Proxy to Yingtong Li
General Representative:	Arjun Girish	
General Representative:	Gavin Douch	
General Representative:	Aimee Boston	

Observers:

Ananya Gupta  
Vladislav Fedorov  
Joshua Pelach  
Marko Moutafis  
Michelle Nguyen

**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. 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 the MSC 1/22](#) to be true and accurate recording of proceedings.

**Moved:** Sean Hanna    **Seconded:** Giorgia Giannakopoulos

**For:** 21

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**MOTION:** PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

**E. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports**

<a href="#">President</a>
<a href="#">Treasurer</a>
<a href="#">Secretary</a>
<a href="#">Creative and Live Arts</a>
<a href="#">Activities</a>

**Motion #2:**

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

**Moved:** Gavin Douch    **Seconded:** Yingtong Li

**For:** 21

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

**MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## F. Financial Motions

### Motion #3:

This MSC accepts the provided summary of executive financial motions (see Appendix Item 1).

**Moved:** Matthew Chipman    **Seconded:** Giorgia Giannakopoulos

**For:** 21

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Keiran arrived at 11:05am*

*Arjun arrived at 11:06am*

## G. Motions regarding Wholefoods

Preamble: In conjunction with the Wholefoods Collective, the MSA, including members of the 2021 and 2022 executive teams, has designed new regulations governing the operation of Wholefood. A step towards mending what has been a previously turbulent relationship in the best interests of students and the Wholefoods community, the regulations operate 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
- Formalising the vital relationship between MSA and the Wholefoods Collective

These regulations have been designed with collaboration and constitutional compliance in mind. In particular, it is important to note that the Collective is able to propose any amendments to these regulations at any point. Likewise, it is important to note that MSA should seek to confer with the Collective when it appears that the application of the aims of the regulations is not remotely possible (for example, during a pandemic) or issues related to s3.2 or the instruction of Wholefoods coordinators arise.

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 the following:
  - Student health and safety being compromised
  - MSA Staff or volunteers incurring liability
  - MSA acting in contravention of its Constitution
- 3.3: to ensure that the regulations cannot be misconstrued to restrict the access of any person to the Wholefoods space

**Motion #4:**

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:** 23

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**MOTION:** PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

*Joshua summarised requirements for marking attendance before discussing the motion.*

*Joshua referenced that this is an amended motion and preamble from the deferred Motion 5 from MSC 1/22. This motion was originally meant to be passed at the final MSC for 2021 but wasn't, and was withdrawn at MSC 1/22 due to miscommunication between MSA Executive and the Wholefoods Collective. Amendments to the regulations include explicit mentions that MSA Executive should confer with Wholefoods at certain events, and that the regulations cannot be used to prohibit access of any people into the Wholefoods space. Joshua explained that the regulations are required for the operation of Wholefoods as per MSA legal advice, and noted that the Collective is able to propose amendments at any time.*

*Vlad thanked MSA. Vlad detailed that some members of the Collective were not enthusiastic about the regulations as they were concerned that they could be misused. Vlad suggested*

that “participate” in 3.1(d) be amended to “block”. Additionally, Vlad raised that there has been a lack of consultation and inclusion between MSA Staff and the Collective. Vlad suggested that a meeting with the Executive was required. However, Vlad noted that the Collective agreed that there was no malicious intent of the Executive and the regulations could be trusted to pass.

Ishka deferred the chair to Joshua. Ishka detailed that this MSC is committed to working with the Collective and that Wholefoods continues to be an integral part of MSA. Ishka said she shares concerns about reported behaviour and wants to ensure collaboration.

Joshua gave the chair back to Ishka. Joshua amended “participate” in 3.1(d) to be replaced by “block”. Joshua detailed that the regulations provide standing for what MSA is obligated to provide Wholefoods, and echoes Ishka’s sentiments. Joshua thanked the Collective for their collaboration in this process.

Aayushi positively echoed what had been said by Vlad and members of MSA Executive. Aayushi encouraged members of the MSC and other Monash Students to get involved with Wholefoods.

**Motion #5:**

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

**Moved:** Sean Hanna

**Seconded:** Joshua Strauss

**For:** 23

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**MOTION:** PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Sean expressed his happiness at being able to approve the entire budget for 2022.

**H. Motion addressing the issues surrounding the return to campus and the law faculty**

Preamble: Overall, students have been excited about the prospect of returning to campus in 2022. However, when logging in to Allocate+, law students found that lectures had been replaced by 3 hour seminars which were confirmed to be in person with recordings not available to all students. Lecture and seminar recordings are essential learning tools, and therefore the creation of barriers that impact students’ abilities to access recordings is severely detrimental to students who have pre-existing health conditions (or do not wish to expose the people who they live with), students who require learning tools to be viewed at a speed appropriate to them, and students who require flexibility for other commitments, paid or voluntary, which are often encouraged by the university.

The MSA Education team and the Executive were successful in liaising with the university, ensuring equitable access to learning materials for students enrolled within the law faculty.

**Motion #6:**

This MSC moves to commend the work of MSA Executive, MSA Education and the Law Students' Society in their work to rectify the lack of access to learning materials.

**Moved:** Elizabeth Walker      **Seconded:** Demitri Kaminis

**For:** 23

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**MOTION:** PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

*Liz thanked everyone involved in the process. Liz detailed that this outcome was sorely needed, and that a positive relationship is now being fostered with key university staff. For context, Liz raised that this change was only for semester 1, and hence the advocacy will not stop; all students should have access to essential learning tools.*

*Demitri commended the advocacy of MSA Executive, Education and the Law Students' Society. Demitri expressed the importance of continued access to recordings.*

**I. Motion regarding cancellation of off-campus overnight events**

Preamble: On the 10th of February at 2:47pm, an email was sent out announcing that all off-campus overnight events were immediately prohibited until further notice. MSA had a camp planned to begin at 9am on the 11th of February, and many other MSOs and Clubs had camps planned for the upcoming weeks. The reasons cited were Covid-safety and compliance. This does not seem to be in line with the University's policies for its own events, which are still set to take place and draw in thousands of students, alongside their in-person model for the start of the new semester.

For clubs and departments, having camps cancelled decreases revenue used to fund events throughout the year, and decreases exposure, resulting in a flow-on effect to all other student-lead events set to take place for the rest of the year. This decision is ultimately detrimental to the student experience as a whole.

The university has offered to cover the costs of any deposit that is not fully refunded. However, due to the impact the prohibition of these events has on all future events, and the time, money and resources already dedicated to organising these events (which can sum to thousands of dollars without deposits), this is bewilderingly inadequate.

An open letter to the university can be found [here](#).

**Motion #7:**

This MSC moves to support clubs and departments through the effects of the cancellation of off-campus overnight events through the following:

- Demanding that the university immediately retracts this decision and consults with appropriate student-led bodies.
- That in the event that camps remain cancelled, the University subsidises any cost required for replacement activities run by clubs or departments who have had their off-campus overnight events cancelled.
- That in the event that camps remain cancelled, the University provides compensation to any clubs or departments affected by this decision, as they will have to spend more on future events to make up for the lack of engagement.

**Moved:** Matthew Chipman    **Seconded:** Joshua Strauss

**For:** 23

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**MOTION:** PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

*Matthew expressed that this decision was ridiculous and hypocritical due to the double standard between student-run and university-run events. Matthew noted that it was insulting to Monash clubs, and these events are crucial to the way clubs and departments run sustainable and financially-supported events; camps are an opportunity for involvement for first years. Matthew continued that the University has not provided information about what they will be reimbursing, and some clubs are facing up to \$40 000 in fees associated with camps. Matthew encouraged members of the MSC to sign the open letter in the preamble.*

*Yingtong expressed that in his role within MUMUS, this decision has been absolutely devastating to students and volunteers. Yingtong condemned the university for their paternalistic, unilateral cancellation of events without consulting with students. Yingtong thanked MSA for their quick action and commended the motion to council.*

*Marko expressed that the impact on clubs and societies could not be understated. Hundreds of students are missing out on fundamental experiences, and it is disappointing to see camps thrown out of the window with such short notice. Marko mentioned that members of MSC who had attended camps would be able to express the impact of camps on their social and academic lives.*

*Vlad recalled that he was a member of Host Scheme in 2012 and expressed the importance of these experiences. Vlad encouraged the MSC to submit a request for a performance audit or assurance review. Vlad expressed that we wanted to support MSA in any capacity as a*

*member of Victorian Greens. Vlad stated that he had contacted Senator Mehreen Faruqi to talk about democracy on campuses as a general principle, and believed that their principles mirrored that of MSA.*

*Aimee echoed the sentiments of previous speakers. Aimee enquired whether MSA Executive have engaged with Clubs and Societies, as it would be beneficial for C&S Executive to be involved in this process.*

*Matthew raised that he is President of Clubs and Societies and the Divisional Representative to MSA Executive, and has signed and supported every letter sent to the University regarding this issue so far. He has been working with C&S Executive and staff, who have been focused on reaching out to clubs and compiling their projected losses due to this decision to send to the university. Matthew noted that he and Ishka were meeting with Professor Sharon Pickering later this week.*

*Ishka deferred the chair to Joshua. Ishka expressed her support for this motion and stated that it was horrifying to read the announcement on the background of the university restricting clubs during O Week and restricting student events on the Thursday of O Week. Ishka noted the lack of discussion and consultation. With two generations of first years already missing out, Ishka expressed that she did not know why the university would do this.*

*Ishka took back the chair.*

*Aayushi questioned whether there was a way to get ResComm or HallSocs to support the pushback against the university.*

*Matthew said that he would reach out and share the open letter in those spaces.*

## **J. General Business**

**Meeting Closed at 11:37 am.**



## Appendix Item 1

<b>Department</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>
Clubs & Societies	Training & Conferences	Online Staff Development Program	712.8	4/02/22
MTPD	Training & Conferences	Online Staff Development Program	110	4/02/22
MTPD	Training & Conferences	Online Staff Development Program	170	4/02/22
MTPD	Training & Conferences	Online Staff Development Program	385	4/02/22
MTPD	Training & Conferences	Online Staff Development Program	160	4/02/22
Finance & IT	Capital Works	MSA+	6635	4/02/22
MSC (Central)	Training & Conferences	Office Bearer Training	74	11/02/22
MSC (Central)	Capital Works	Maintenance	495	11/02/22