

Meeting opened at 11:00am on 04/03/2021

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	Lena Lay
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	Mahzarin Katrak
MUISS:	Jesslyn Soegiharto	Absent
MAPS:	Millie Page	
Clubs & Societies:	Matthew Chipman	
Radio Monash:	Gabby Mountjoy	Absent
General Representative:	Giorgia Giannakopoulos	
General Representative:	Paris Enten	
General Representative:	Arjun Girish	
General Representative:	Gavin Douch	
General Representative:	Aimee Boston	Olla Saarbarry
Observers:	Kelly Cvetkova Jos Hughdow Madeline Curkovic	

Aisha Khodary
John Roberts
Allysa Jade

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

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

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports

Clubs and Societies
MUISS
MAPS
Radio Monash
Education (Academic Affairs)
Education (Public Affairs)
Welfare
Environment and Social Justice
Queer
Disabilities and Carers
People of Colour
Womens
Residential Community

Motion #2:

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

Moved: Paris Enten **Seconded:** Millie Page

For: 21

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Lena Lay arrives at 11:08am

Olla Saarbary arrives at 11:09am

F. Motions in support of social justice

Preamble: Russia has invaded Ukraine. On the first day of the invasion, Ukraine's Health Minister Oleh Lyashko reported the deaths of 57 people. The horrors of this war are being broadcasted across the world - photos and videos of schools, homes and lives being destroyed. We must condemn the Russian aggression, and the human cost of this imperialist, violent campaign.

People of Ukrainian descent and their allies have engaged in protests against the violence across the world. It is important for members of the Monash community to stand with our Ukrainian colleagues as they see their lives, culture, family and homes threatened. It is important for members of the Monash community to likewise support the actions of NGOs including but not limited to the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations, UNICEF and UN's Ukraine Humanitarian Fund who directly help people affected by the crisis.

Motion #3:

This MSC moves to support the Ukrainian community at Monash by offering support through the following:

- By increasing advocacy for special considerations for students affected by this crisis
- By pledging to ensure that University Health Services remain accessible throughout these chaotic and debilitating times
- By pledging to raise awareness for the conflict and support for individuals and families affected both directly and indirectly

Moved: Seb Schultz **Seconded:** Giorgia Giannakopoulos

For: 21

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Kelly expressed the importance of condemning the actions of Russia and the devastation the conflict has brought. Kelly reported that the UN had stated that the conflict had already generated over 1 million refugees. Kelly expressed that the most tragic part of the conflict is how ordinary Ukrainians have been forced between two imperialistic powers, as the US/NATO has previously committed war crimes and invaded the Middle East.

Jos raised that the massive increase in tension across Europe was concerning, especially with the threat of nuclear war, increases in military budgets, and loss of neutrality. Jos expressed that the best outcome would be a strong and resolute victory for Ukraine.

Preamble: For decades, Australian refugee policy has been some of the most ruthless in the world, and an inspiration to far right political leaders globally. In 2019, former US President Donald Trump shared images of Australian immigration propaganda and commended the hardline approach of the Australian government, whose 'No Way' campaign led to thousands of refugees languishing indefinitely in offshore prison facilities. This same campaign inspired Dutch Politician Geert Wilders to launch an islamophobic anti-immigration party whose lines were borrowed from Australia's refugee detention propaganda.

The treatment of refugees in the Manus and Nauru offshore detention centres has been recognised by the United Nations as a violation of the international Convention Against Torture.

There are currently over thirty refugees unjustly imprisoned in the Park Hotel. These refugees spent, on average, seven years in offshore detention facilities before being temporarily brought to the Australian mainland to receive medical care. However, since being brought to Australia, the Medevac refugees have not received medical care, and have instead been locked up in various hotels and onshore detention facilities across the country. These refugees have spent the last nine years of their lives in indefinite detention.

Since 2020, the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism (CARF) has been organising regular demonstrations to demand the freedom of these refugees and an immediate end to refugee detention in Australia. After weekly demonstrations, in February 2021, 58 of these refugees were released on insecure Bridging Visas. Since then, over half of the men in Park Hotel were infected with COVID after the government delayed in providing them with vaccines, and their lives still hang in the balance of the whims of federal elections campaigns.

Motion #4:

This MSC moves to support refugees incarcerated in the Park Hotel through the following:

- By supporting the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism weekly refugee demonstrations that call for the immediate release of all refugees and an end to immigration detention.

- By supporting the ESJ department in promoting student involvement in refugee protest demonstrations in whatever way they deem most effective, including but not limited to promotion through the MSA newsletter and on MSA Facebook pages
- By standing in solidarity with refugees against the inhumane actions of the federal government

Moved: Joshua Strauss **Seconded:** Seb Schultz

For: 21

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Joshua expressed the importance of standing in solidarity with people who are unjustly incarcerated. With the global support for refugees fleeing Ukraine, Joshua stated that we must support all people fleeing crises, no matter where on the globe that crises have occurred.

Aisha expressed that the only way to free refugees is to be on the streets and fight for it. Aisha stated that the Liberal party opened the offshore detention facilities, the Labor party reopened them.

Madi noted that it is important that MSA support is actionable. Madi asked the ESJ Department whether they would support a Monash contingent to the protests and print posters for awareness.

Seb said that he will discuss with the other ESJ OB and the committee.

Kelly discussed the use of Monash University screens or the newsletter to advertise the protests.

Preamble: Misogyny is embedded in Australian culture, industry, schooling and politics. The Jenkins Report revealed that more than half of the people working in parliament had experienced at least one incident of bullying, sexual harrassment or actual or attempted sexual assault. The review reported that “Aspiring male politicians who thought nothing of, in one case, picking you up, kissing you on the lips, lifting you up, touching you, pats on the bottom, comments about appearance” and that “the culture allowed it.”

In Australia, [1 in 5 women](#) have experienced sexual assault since the age of 15, and 1 in 4 emotional abuse by a partner. Women’s rights are further impeded by the movement of legislation such as the Religious Discrimination Bill that threatens reproductive autonomy. It

is particularly important that we recognise that woman of colour and First Nations women are even more likely to face discrimination, racism and misogyny.

International Women's Day is set to take place on the 8th of March, celebrating the achievements of women whilst combatting a culture plagued with bias, stereotypes and discrimination. MSA Women's is running an event for all students, which can be found [here](#).

Motion #5:

This MSC moves to strongly condemn all forms of gender based violence, sexism and misogyny, and encourages all students to attend MSA Women's International Women's Day Morning Tea in order to better confront the ideals of allyship, inclusion and intersectionality.

Moved: Aayushi Shah **Seconded:** Giorgia Giannakopoulos

For: 21

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Allysa expressed their discontent with the motion and equated organising a morning tea with not standing against sexism in society.

Kelly expressed that MSA should endorse the protest called in Melbourne. Kelly referred the preamble and stated that every person in parliament has either committed sexual assault or was an apologist, and stated that MSA should support protests.

John stated that they didn't see how holding a morning tea was fighting back against sexism.

Aayushi stated that MSA Women's department acknowledges concerns and invited the speakers to send an email to the department. Aayushi discussed how goals of the department include combatting sexism and oppression with policy, and acknowledged that various issues can be confronted in different ways, but noted that the aim of the morning tea is to engage with students about allyship and intersectionality.

Kelly stated that she had already emailed Joshua and Aayushi. Kelly suggested that MSC should make an amendment to the motion to support the protest.

No amendment was moved to the floor.

Preamble: The climate crisis is continuing to worsen. The effects of climate change are clear and apparent across the globe, from the 2019-2020 bushfires that decimated the east coast of Australia, floods in China and Queensland leaving people trapped and their homes inaccessible, heat waves in the US and the February 2021 cold spell in Texas leaving between 58 and 210 people dead from exposure to sometimes sub-zero temperatures.

We cannot afford to wait until 2050 to reach net-zero. As politicians attend climate conferences and make flimsy promises, sea levels are rising, air quality worsens and our lives are threatened. Despite pledges to take serious action on pollution at COP26 and various other international conferences, climate emissions have continued to increase, with governments relying on technology that either is not capable of reducing emissions or flat out does not exist.

As the climate crisis goes ahead unabated, we will see an increase in wars over resources, increasingly severe natural disasters and weather events, and the displacement of people. The Institute for Economics and Peace has estimated that there will be 1.2 billion climate refugees by 2050.

We need immediate action now to combat the expansion of the fossil fuel and other polluting industries. Greta Thunberg and the global climate movement have announced the next Climate Strike for the 25th of March. Uni Students for Climate Justice have organised contingents for university students to attend, to play our part in this struggle for radical climate action.

Motion #6:

This MSC moves to endorse the Uni Students for Climate Justice Global Climate Strike taking place on the 25th of March at the State Library of Victoria, and will organise a Monash contingent to meet in the same location, and advertise the event through relevant social media platforms.

Moved: Seb Schultz **Seconded:** Arjun Girish

For: 21

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Seb emphasised that although MSA is an apolitical organisation in that it does not support political groups, the goal of the ESJ department is to represent all students. Seb emphasised that supporting this event is in line with the department's objectives.

Jos expressed his discontent with Seb's statement. Jos disagreed that MSA does not get involved with political causes, and discussed the two major federal parties.

Aisha expressed the importance of a contingent and was thankful of the support for the event, but echoed that student unions should be political. Aisha expressed the importance of the NDA and that a meeting should be organised to discuss promotion.

John said that every motion passed at MSC 2/22 had been political, then considered that apolitical may refer to not supporting political parties. John discussed the major parties and their support for the fossil fuel industry.

Madi expressed that mention of the Australian Labor Party should have been included in the preamble to Motion #6. Madi expressed that the use of 'apolitical' can be disarming. Madi referenced the floods in Queensland and asked for support for protests.

Kelly referenced the term apolitical in regards to motions passed at MSC 2/22, going through the motions and detailed their political nature. Kelly expressed that MSA should be involved in protests.

Allyssa echoed Kelly's sentiments. Allyssa stated that it is shameful that MSA would not support climate action because it is political.

Joshua provided clarification for previous speakers in chat, and emphasised that Motion #6 was in fact supported.

G. Arts Cuts

Preamble: The Faculty of Arts has a history of being subject to vicious and debilitating attacks from both the University establishment and the federal government: class caps cut, funding slashed and students being forced to pay larger sums of fees. The Arts Honours Program has subsequently been attacked, with [changes in 2022](#) resulting in the cuts of the Anthropology, Communications and Media Studies, Criminology, Film and Screen Studies, Human geography, Journalism, Linguistics, Politics, Religious Studies and Sociology areas of study. This is outrageous and unacceptable. Humanities, and the valuable lessons they teach, deserve full and complete funding from the University. Anything less is tantamount to unacceptable.

The University has suggested students complete a Masters Program instead, this is not an acceptable alternative. Honours is an essential learning opportunity that should be available to all students interested in research and deeper learning.

MSA Education is fighting to reverse these changes. MSA Executive have organised meetings with Professors Sharon Pickering and Professor Kris Ryan in order to elevate students' concerns to the highest level of academic decision making at Monash University. MSA will continue to negotiate with key University staff to ensure that this decision is reversed and students are able to specialise in areas of study that they deem important, not the university.

Motion #7:

This MSC moves to condemn the actions of Monash University in decreasing funding to the Arts Faculty and denying many students the opportunity to gain an Honours degree. We ask that:

- This decision is reversed immediately.
- Monash University commits itself to valuing and appropriately funding Arts Degrees.
- Arts students are provided with equitable learning and research opportunities.

Moved: Marko Moutafis **Seconded:** Sean Hanna

For: 21

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Marko reiterated that it was disappointing that Arts degrees have been subjected to many cuts and disadvantages as the federal government and university do not see them as worthwhile degrees to study.

Allyssa echoed Marko's comments. Allyssa expressed that MSA shouldn't negotiate with key university staff as they were involved with the aforementioned cuts. Allyssa stated MSA should instead build a campaign for students to fight back against cuts.

John expressed that nothing has come from previous motions regarding arts cuts. John expressed that the only successful way to stop education cuts is through organised protests.

Kelly stated that negotiations are naive and a campaign is needed. As MSA has reportedly previously not offered proper support against arts cuts, Kelly expressed her lack of confidence in the ability of elected student representatives.

H. Motions regarding O Week

Preamble: O-Fest 2022 saw the return and arrival of many generations of Monash students. Clubs, societies, teams, departments and divisions were spaced out across campus and saw a flurry of activity and sign ups. MSA Activities, MSA Volunteering and other departments and clubs ran hugely successful after-hours events that helped integrate years of Monash students back into social life after 2 years of unfortunate but necessary deprivation.

Motion #8:

This MSC moves to congratulate all Clubs Office Bearers and Divisional Representatives, MSA Office Bearers, particularly Activities and CLA, for their hard work during O-Week, and commend their success at reinvigorating the campus experience.

Moved: Zoe Kral **Seconded:** Luci Watts

For: 21
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

I. Supporting students at Adelaide University

Preamble: An [article](#) recently published by University of Sydney Newspaper Honi Solt detailed how the right-led Adelaide University Union blocked important funding and distribution of Adelaide Student Representative Council materials. Student-sourced information in handbooks critical of university policies were effectively prohibited, and the materials SRC aimed to use to cover up fascist stickers detailing “white workers build Australia” and “white students deserve safety” were blocked by AUU. Student unions across Australia have condemned this attack on democracy and AUU’s ability to prohibit publication of student-sourced material.

Motion #9:

This MSC moves to condemn the antidemocratic actions of Oscar Ong and Adelaide University Union.

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

For: 21
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Joshua expressed that this situation is horrendous. Joshua emphasised that ridiculousness of a student representative council being out of money because their funding and purchases were blocked by another elected student council, and condemned the fascist actions referenced in the preamble.

Kelly referenced that this incident was a byproduct and consequence of student unions being unable to act in political ways.

I. General Business

Meeting Closed at 11:46 am

