

Meeting opened at 12:06pm on 27/01/2023

CONFIRMED MINUTES

A. Attendance

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proxy</u>
President	Sebastian Schultz	
Treasurer:	Sidratul Ahmed	
Secretary:	Natasha Tiong	
Education (Public Affairs):	John Nguyen	
Education (Academic Affairs):	Paris Enten	
Activities:	Andrew McGaw	
CLA:	Che Kudagamage	
Welfare:	Kristalleni Lymbouris	
Indigenous:	John Sopar	
Environment & Social Justice:	Louis Walmsley	
Women's:	Victoria Kwong	
Queer:	Annabelle Lamb	Absent
Disabilities & Carers:	Isabella Rogers-Headicar	
People of Colour:	Susie Lei	Duc-Tri Bui
Res Community Department:	Isla Hickey	
MUISS:	Anshuman Das	Arabella Davies
MAPS:	Vic Arjuna	Masum Bin Khalil Seyam
Clubs & Societies:	Arjun Girish	
Radio Monash:	Nick Lazzara	Sarah Stancombe
General Representative:	Isabelle Cummane	
General Representative:	Sadman Arafat	Aadhya Vyas
General Representative:	Pranami Gamage	Branavan Thevashangar

General Representative: Tippi Morgan Joshua Strauss

General Representative: Mahzarin Katrak

Observers: Jessica Oats
 Noah Loven
 Luka Kiernan
 Aidan Hawe
 Tully McEwen
 Connor Knight
 Josiah Downey
 Aisha Khodary

B. Acknowledgment of traditional owners of land

This MSC acknowledges and pays respect to the Bunurong peoples 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: Natasha Tiong **Seconded:** Sidratul Ahmed

For: 22

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Sebastian calls for nominations for the role of General Representative Executive.

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

Isabelle Cummane nominated.

Sebastian detailed that in the absence of any other nominations, the election does not need to go to a ballot and the MSC is deemed to accept this nomination.

Motion #2:

This MSC approves the election of Isabelle Cummane to the MSA Executive for 2023, pursuant to s24.1(e) of the MSA Constitution.

Moved: Natasha Tiong **Seconded:** Sidratul Ahmed

For: 22

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: Natasha Tiong **Seconded:** Sidratul Ahmed

For: 22

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Sebastian calls for nominations for the role of Division Representative to the Executive .

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

Arjun Girish nominated.

Sebastian explained that in the absence of any other nominations, the election does not need to go to a ballot and the MSC is deemed to accept this nomination.

Motion #4:

This MSC approves the election of Arjun Girish to the MSA Executive for 2023, pursuant to s24.1(d) of the MSA Constitution.

Moved: Natasha Tiong **Seconded:** Sidratul Ahmed

For: 22

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Motion to grant MSA Executives capacity to approve Central Funds Applications

Motion #5:

This MSC moves to grant the 2023 MSA Executives the capacity to approve Central Funds Applications at weekly Executive Meetings.

Moved: Sidratul Ahmed **Seconded:** Natasha Tiong

For: 22

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

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; that their colonial history and continued oppression runs counter to the values and ideals of both the MSA and Australia at large.

Motion #6:

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

Moved: John Sopar **Seconded:** Louis Walmsley

For: 22

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Aisha expressed her rejection of the motion, in that the MSC should move to abolish the date. Aisha stated that there is no cause for celebration when it comes to Australian nationalism, as the day is built on oppression and genocide.

Connor agreed with Aisha in seeking to abolish the day as the general consensus observed in Australia Day protests is the abolishment rather than a change of the date. Connor urged student unions to take on a leading role in such social movements.

Luke argued for the abolishment of Australia Day as it is the responsibility of MSA, as a progressive institution representative of students, to go beyond criticising Australia Day and to fight for its rejection.

John expressed his understanding that the majority stance is to see to the removal of Australia Day. John clarified his role as Indigenous Officer and the motion's intent as a holistic representation of all Indigenous students. John stated that moving to change the date diplomatically bridges two different stances - one in favour of abolishment, the other without strong opinions on abolishment.

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

Preamble: Today is the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which marks 78 years since the liberation of Auschwitz. It is critical that we remember those lost, share the testimony of those who survived and ensure that hatred and antisemitism in all forms is not tolerated.

Australia has the highest per capita population of Holocaust survivors and their descendants outside of Israel, and this heritage informs the culture and psyche of the Jewish students at Monash University. In 2022, post-Holocaust antisemitism hit a record high globally, locally, and on campuses, thus subjecting Australian Jewish students to intimidation, attacks and segregation.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has created a working definition of antisemitism which supports Jews in working against hate. It has received overwhelming support from every single mainstream Jewish organisation in Australia and is endorsed by 38 countries.

This MSC has previously adopted and endorsed the IHRA definition of antisemitism, seeing to an overwhelmingly positive impact on the students of Monash especially in stressing that this MSC will listen to minority voices on minority issues.

Motion #7:

This MSC remembers and commemorates the six million Jewish victims, 500,000 Romani and Sinti victims, 10-15 thousand LGBTQIA+ victims, and the many lives lost during the Holocaust.

This MSC moves to support academic freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of thought, and freedom of expression.

This MSC endorses the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism, and encourages Monash University to formally do the same.

This MSC recognises that discrimination can come from any and all sides of the political spectrum, and commits to a firm stance against bullying, harassment and discrimination on the basis of any personal characteristic, including ethnicity, religion and culture.

This MSC acknowledges that criticism of the Israeli government is not antisemitic, without additional evidence to support antisemitic intent.

This MSC recognises that holding the Israeli government to the same standards of other liberal democracies, or, taking particular interest in the Israeli government's policies or actions does not constitute antisemitism, without additional evidence to support antisemitic intent.

Moved: Paris Enten **Seconded:** Natasha Tiong

For: 22

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Paris introduced her role as the Vice President of the Australasian Union of Jewish Students. She explained that the motion reflects the collaborative writing with other Jewish students. Paris emphasised on the importance of the motion given the recent release of a 13-page report on on-campus incidents of antisemitism. She clarified that the intention of IHRA definition is not to arbitrarily monitor the use of language, but rather to emphasise that certain words can offend and hurt the Jewish community. She expressed her willingness to converse openly with others regarding the motion.

Luka agreed that there has been an increase in reports of antisemitism. Luka expressed his rejection of the IHRA definition as it impliedly categorises any support for Palestine as antisemitic.

Paris clarified that the definition fails to mention Palestine. She also emphasised that the motion acknowledges that criticism of the Israeli government to the same standards of other liberal democracies does not amount to antisemitism.

H. General Business

Motion to endorse the NUS National Day of Climate of Action

Preamble: Climate catastrophes are already mounting across the world, and the need for action has never been more urgent. Heatwaves are becoming more frequent, floods are more devastating and people across the world, especially the poor, are losing their livelihoods because of the crisis. Over the last 3 decades, 1 in 3 deaths caused by summer heat were directly due to human-caused global heating. These are millions of people who have lost their lives as a result of the climate crisis.

The world is now on track for a global temperature rise of 2.5°C at the very least. Such a rise in warming would bring even greater death and destruction than what exists today, and exceeds even the modest climate targets agreed upon at the 2015 Paris Climate Accords.

The global response, but especially in Australia, has been not to divest from fossil fuels, but to expand them. The Australian government is one of the worst offenders in this regard, giving the fossil fuel industry \$11.6 billion in subsidies in 2021-2022, and having pushed through the approval of 114 new fossil fuel projects. This includes the Scarborough Project in Western Australia, which over its lifetime will produce *three times* Australia's carbon emissions as they stand currently.

It follows then, that the climate crisis is also a political one. In response to the inaction of the Australian government in the face of a looming ecological and humanitarian disaster, the National Union of Students (NUS) has called a National Day of Action (NDA) for March the 17th, 2023. The day is to hold coordinated protests for university students and young people concerned about the climate across the country, organised by NUS. At the NUS National Conference last December, student delegates across political factions committed to supporting this action and building it to be a successful event.

Motion #8:

This MSC endorses the National Day of Climate Action planned on 17 March 2023 including its Melbourne-based component, being a protest meeting outside the State Library of Victoria at 2pm.

This MSC will show its support by promoting the above-mentioned event on MSA social media and advertising platforms, in line with the MSA Communications Strategy.

This MSC will show its support by organising a Monash contingent to the protest at the mentioned location.

Moved: Louis Walmsley

Seconded: Sidratul Ahmed

For: 22

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Louis explained the urgency and significance surrounding action on climate change. He detailed that Australia's climate record will progressively worsen unless there is opposition against the government's policy to develop fossil fuels. Louis expressed his support in organising a Monash contingent to the protest meeting.

Tully detailed statistics surrounding climate disaster in Australia. Tully requested that the student union echo the students' passion and concern regarding climate change.

Josiah expressed his gratitude that the MSA put forward the above motion as it reflects the stance of other universities. He reiterated the importance of rebuilding and reigniting the climate action movement amongst students.

Aidan emphasised that climate change is an issue all students are aware of and passionate about and the importance of organising a solid Monash contingent to the protest meeting with the support of the MSA.

John raised how Indigenous peoples experience the effects of climate change in a disproportionate manner. John referred to how acts contributory to climate change have seen to the destruction of cultural and historical landmarks, thus the significance of this movement in recent times.

Luka explained that the points in the motion must be actioned for the above mentioned reason, through the contribution of MSA resources and efforts in organising a contingent to the protest.

Duc-Tri suggested that the student union should actively pursue climate action.

Connor expressed his agreement with the above mentioned points given its nationwide recognition. Connor raised his concern regarding the connection of the Scarborough project in Western Australia to Monash University

Meeting Closed at 12:35pm