



2024 ANNUAL ELECTION REPORT

**MONASH UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
SERVICE**

1. Introduction

Monash University International Students Service (**MUISS**) is a division of the Monash University Student Association (**MSA**). Under the agreement between MSA and OGL Group (**OGL**), OGL is responsible for conducting the Annual Elections for the MSA and its divisions, including for MUISS.

Jessica Fox was the Returning Officer for the 2024 MUISS Election and is the author of this report.

This report sets out the process by which the elections were undertaken, specifically highlighting areas that required attention by the Returning Officer and electoral participants. An overview of the results is provided, emphasising trends and other observations.

The key issues and other areas of concern experienced in the election are discussed and recommendations are provided to MUISS as suggestions by which the electoral process can be improved.

2. Process

Pursuant to the MSA Regulations, notice was given on 7 October that Annual Elections would be held from Monday 14 October to Wednesday 16 October 2024 (see **Appendix 1 – Notice of Election**). The Notice of the Election was published on the MUISS Election webpage. An email was sent to all eligible students via Global Connect advising students of the election on 4 September (see **Appendix 2 – Email to Students – Notice of Election**).

Nominations for all positions were due at 5:00 pm Friday 11 October. Nomination forms and all other election paperwork were submitted via email at these elections. Students could also complete a Google Form to submit their nomination.

Candidate nominations and declaration of results

Nominations opened at 9:00 am on Monday 7 October and closed at 5:00 pm on Friday 11 October. At the close of nominations only four positions had received nominations. Per clause 6.12.3 of the Election Regulations, nominations were reopened on Sunday 13 October until 5pm Monday 14 October (see **Appendix 3 – Notice of Nominations Received and Reopening of Nominations**).

When nominations closed for the second time, a detailed verification process was undertaken to ensure that candidates and their nominators and seconders were eligible to participate in the election by virtue of their enrolment status as well as the international student status of nominators and seconder, as provided for in the Regulations.

At the close of the nomination period:

- **7 valid nominations were received**
- **1 nomination was determined to be ineligible**
- **All positions were declared elected unopposed**

Tickets

Candidates running as a group were stipulated to appoint an Authorising Officer and register their ticket name with the Returning Officer before the close of nominations at 5pm on Friday 11 October. No tickets were registered during the ticket registration period.

3. Results

Declarations

All positions were declared elected unopposed on Monday 14 October (see **Appendix 4 – Notice of Nomination and Declaration of Results**). The notice was sent to all candidates via email and published on the MUISS Election website

Appeals/Recounts

No appeals or recount requests were received.

4. Issues

Issue

There are several inconsistencies present in the latest version of the MUISS Election Regulations which are routinely worked around in the election process (such as referring to a mandatory Notice as per Schedule 1, where no Schedule 1 exists). This governing document has not kept pace with changes in other MSA documents with which it works in tandem, in particular the MSA Election Regulations.

Recommendation 1:

That MUISS review their Election Regulations as a whole, drafting such amendments as necessary to ensure that these Regulations are complete and without inconsistency and error, and to ensure consistency and accuracy with the stipulations set down in the MSA Election Regulations and Constitution.

Issue

The short time frame between close of Nominations and commencement of polling means that nominations need to be confirmed immediately and, in circumstances where nominations need to be reopened, to ensure that polling dates are not impacted. This is the second time in three years that nominations have needed to be reopened and impacted polling periods.

Recommendation 2:

That MUISS extends the standard timeline to a minimum of three weeks to provide time to conduct eligibility checks and to reopen nominations if necessary.

5. Conclusion

Thanks go to all the staff involved in running the elections, including MSA and University staff who assisted in various ways throughout the election. In particular, my thanks to Lowan Sist and Sylvia Francisca.

I wish all successful candidates the very best as they undertake their responsibilities in the coming term.

Jessica Fox
Returning Officer
2024 MUISS Election

6. List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Notice of Election

Appendix 2 – Email to Students Notice of Election

Appendix 3 – Notice of Nominations Received and Reopening of Nominations

Appendix 4 - Notice of Nominations and Declaration of Results

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Nominations are called for the following positions:

MUISS office holders:

- President
- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Activities Officer
- Education Officer
- Publications Officer
- Services and Welfare Officer

These elections are conducted in accordance with provisions as required under the electoral regulations for MUISS.

Nominations

Please nominate using this [Google Form](#). If you are unable to complete the Google Form, you can submit a soft copy Nomination form which is provided on the MUISS elections website: msa.monash.edu/muisselections. Please note that soft copy nominations may take longer to process.

Nominations are now open and close at 5pm on Friday 11 October 2024.

Candidates running as a group must appoint an Authorising Officer and register their ticket name with the Returning Officer before nominations close.

Copies of the regulations governing the election and all election forms are available via the MUISS website: msa.monash.edu/muisselections

Voting

Polling for the MUISS elections will be from 12pm Monday 14 October until 2pm Wednesday 16 October. You will be able to vote online via a link to your university email address. All campaigning will take place online and no in-person campaigning will be permitted on campus.

Jessica Fox

Returning Officer

7 October 2024

0417 613 866

muis.returningofficer@gmail.com

APPENDIX 2 – EMAIL TO STUDENTS NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE OF ELECTION

The Monash University International Students Service (MUISS) is an independent division of the Monash Student Association (MSA). It promotes and protects the interests, rights, social welfare and education of all undergraduate international students. The MUISS Annual Elections are held once a year to elect the new MUISS Executive Committee.

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- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Activities Officer
- Education Officer
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Jessica Fox
Returning Officer
2024 MUISS Annual Elections
muiss.returningofficer@gmail.com

LIST OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED AND REOPENING OF NOMINATIONS

All nominations received by the deadline have been listed by position below. This list has been checked for eligibility and is now considered final.

The following candidates have been declared elected unopposed:

First Name	Surname	Position
Bryan	Law	President
Isshira	Seth	General Secretary
Jasmina	Le	Treasurer
Sadonna	Leong	Publications Officer

The following nominations were received by were determined to be ineligible:

First Name	Surname	Position	Reason
Annika	Chu	Service and Welfare Officer	Candidate is not a student on Clayton campus per Constitution clause 2.1.7
Manya	Singh	Activities Officer	Secunder is not an international student
Grace	Tay	General Secretary	Candidate is not an international student
Carissa	Chua	General Secretary	Secunder is not an international student

No valid nominations were received for the following positions:

- Activities Officer
- Education Officer
- Services and Welfare Officer.

Nominations for these positions have been reopened and will close at 5pm on Monday 14 October. Should there be multiple eligible nominations for any of these positions, a ballot will be held from Wednesday 16 October until Friday 18 October.

Jessica Fox

Returning Officer

13 October 2024

0417 613 866

muiss.returningofficer@gmail.com

NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED AND DECLARATION OF RESULTS

All nominations received by the deadline have been listed by position below. This list has been checked for eligibility and is now considered final.

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First Name	Surname	Position
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Isshira	Seth	General Secretary
Jasmina	Le	Treasurer
Sadonna	Leong	Publications Officer
Annika	Chu	Services & Welfare Officer
Manya	Singh	Activities Officer
Carissa	Chua	Education Officer

The following nominations were received by were determined to be ineligible:

First Name	Surname	Position	Reason
Grace	Tay	General Secretary	Candidate is not an international student

Jessica Fox
Returning Officer
14 October 2024
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