

Meeting time: *Opened at 05:18 PM on 26/07/2024*

Meeting location: *In the Conference Room at the Campus Centre of Monash University and Zoom (Hybrid)*

Meeting Minutes

A. Attendance

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proxy</u>
President:	Chloe Ward (Absent)	
Secretary:	Zareh Kozanian	
Treasurer (Chair):	Joshua Walters	
Education (Academic Affairs):	Naomi Dreger	
Education (Public Affairs):	Nafiz Ibrahim	
Activities:	Fatima Iqbal	
CLA:	Anban Raj	
Welfare:	Campbell Frost	
Indigenous:	John Sopar	
Environment & Social Justice:	Sophie Allen	
Women's:	Zoe Binns	
Queer:	Madeline Curkovic	Max Tory
Disabilities & Carers:	Charlotte Sutton	
People of Colour:	Anshuman Das	
Residential Community:	Aylin Vahabova	
MUISS:	Vedant Gadhavi	
MAPS:	Stuart Gibson	
Clubs & Societies:	Paul Halliday	
Radio Monash:	Georgie McColm	
General Representative:	Jay Davis	
General Representative:	Dilhan Simsek	
General Representative:	Beck Riches	Josiah Downey

General Representative: Stella Robinson
General Representative: Diyara Jaswar
Observers: Angus Duske
Mandy Li
Amiriya Dorian
Sarvesh Bhagavathi
Sam
Lucia
Lana Abdelhalim
Asma illyas
Rofida Arnaout
Zain Chaudhry
Ashhar Hassan
Remus Brasier
Samantha Hudson
Leroy Van Schellebeck
Connor Knight
Mandy Li
Caleb Murphy
Sasha Braybrooke
Mohamed Orabi

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

Motion to Amend:

That Agenda Item M be renamed to “NUS Affiliation Fees”

Moved: Jay Davis

The Mover and the Seconder consented to the amendment so this motion did not proceed to a vote

AMENDMENT PASSED

D. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion #1:
 This MSC confirms [Minutes 7/24](#), [Minutes 8/24](#), and [Minutes 9/24](#) to be the true and accurate recording of the proceedings

Moved: Zareh Kozanian **Seconded:** Dilhan Simsek
In Favour: 11
Against: 0
Abstentions: 5

MOTION PASSED

Discussion during MSC:
Josh raised that Minutes 8/24 and 9/24 stated the meetings were held in the Banquet Hall instead of the Conference Room.

Motion to Amend:
 This MSC confirms [Minutes 7/24](#), [Minutes 8/24](#), and [Minutes 9/24](#) to be the true and accurate recording of the proceedings **with amendments**.

Moved by the chair

The Mover and the Seconder consented to the amendment so this motion did not proceed to a vote

AMENDMENT PASSED

E. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports

Office Bearer and Divisional Reports	Submission Compliance
Lot’s Wife Editors	Report Submitted on time
President	Report Submitted on time
Secretary	Report Submitted on time
Treasurer	No Submission Received

Motion #2:

This MSC accepts the reports submitted by Lot's Wife, President, and Secretary as attached at the end of this document.

Moved: Zareh Kozanian

Seconded: Dilhan Simsek

In Favour: 18

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Zareh Kozanian, waives his right of speaking.

The seconder of the motion, Dilhan Simsek, waives his right of speaking.

Joshua Walters states he did submit his report.

Motion to Amend:

This MSC accepts the reports submitted by Lot's Wife, President, **Treasurer**, and Secretary as attached at the end of this document.

Moved by the chair

The Mover and the Seconder consented to the amendment so this motion did not proceed to a vote

AMENDMENT PASSED

Jay Davis asks if the cost of attending the Student Media Conference was paid by Lot's Wife and Radio Monash or through Central Funds and how much it cost.

Angus Duske, speaks on behalf of Lot's Wife stating that their accommodation and expenses were paid for by reimbursement from the Student Representative Council at Sydney University and no MSA money was spent.

George McColm, said only a small amount of money was spent by Radio Monash on the trip, having had shared accommodation with Lot's Wife and the cost of their flights was covered, excluding an excess of about \$150 which was covered by leftover money from an under budget event.

Jay Davis asks why the Agenda does not include a summary of Executive Expenditure as required by the regulations and if this will return in future agendas.

Joshua Walters responds stating that there hasn't been much Executive Expenditure recently and that the next MSC will have a summary.

F. Solidarity with Bangladeshi workers resisting neoliberal attacks from the Yunus government.

Preamble:

Factory workers are striking across Bangladesh, particularly in the garment industry. Demands range from higher wages to the nationalization of industries.

Garment production is a major industry in Bangladesh's economy. Workers there famously face hyper-exploitation and terrible conditions, making it an attractive location for international clothing companies to invest. Many workers say they face starvation due to the unlivable wages.

This strike wave is happening off the back of the mass uprising led by students, where after months of protest, the people of Bangladesh were able to force out the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government.

The new interim government, led by Professor Muhammad Yunus, has recently proved that they are just as committed to a profitable economy and the exploitation of the workers as Hasina. They are also just as committed to using force to maintain these profits. In response to the strike, they have threatened "tough steps against anarchy" and have even sent in the military to repress workers fighting for their rights.

Far from offering a path towards genuine liberation for the people of Bangladesh, the Yunus government represents a continuity of oppression and exploitation. The revolutionaries in Bangladesh deserve our solidarity as they continue to resist attacks on working class living conditions.

Motion #3:

The MSC:

1. Stands with the workers on strike in Bangladesh
2. Calls on the [Bangladeshi](#) Government to meet their demands and end the repression of striking workers.

Opposes the new interim government's inability to guarantee the wages and conditions of workers and their deployment of the army on striking workers.

Moved: ~~Madeline Curkovic~~ Max Tory

Seconded: ~~Beck Riches~~ Josiah Downey

In Favour: 7

Against: 10

Abstentions: 3

MOTION FAILED

[Discussion during MSC:](#)

Max Tory states that he believes that Muhammad Yunus is a banker, neoliberal and technocrat who is there to continue the Status Quo exploitation and attacks on working conditions of Bangladeshi workers that caused the recent revolution. He argues Yunus' goal is to stabilise Bangladeshi capitalism and conditions where workers in Bangladesh are brutally exploited. He asserts Yunus is using security forces who were recently repressing student protesters to crush workers trying to fight for livable conditions in Bangladesh. He believes that Bangladeshi workers should have our full solidarity against neoliberal leaders who are supported by the Australian Government.

Joshiah Downey states he agrees with Max Tory and he believes Bangladesh is an important example of why it is important to understand who leaders are, who have come to power and evaluate them against the demands of recent revolution before giving them support. He expresses that Yunus won a Nobel Prizes for creating the Bangladeshi equivalent of Afterpay and he does not think this qualifies Yunus to be considered a hero fighting for removal of austerity or the restoration of higher working standards for workers. He asserts the Yunus government is cracking down on workers who continue to strike, noting he doesn't know if the strikes are still going on. He claims this is a betrayal of the revolution and the working class in Bangladesh and that the MSC should stand with the striking workers.

Charlotte Sutton asks if the Bangladeshi Students Association or anyone from the Bangladeshi community was consulted about the motion?

Max Tory states they were not, citing debates at previous MSCs they were involved in. He asserts that it is within the rights of the Queer Officer and a General Representative to move a political motion.

Amiriya Dorian states the motion is in the interests of Bangladeshi workers and students and for standing in solidarity with them. She believes that changing the leader of the government has not changed anything about Bangladeshi society. She explains that there is still exploitation and oppression of workers and they are continuing their fight against multinational companies. She believes we should send our solidarity to them in their continued fight for higher pay, better conditions and a more equal society.

Naiz Ibrahim states he appreciates the concerns the mover and seconder have for the Bangladeshi workers. He explains that as a Bangladeshi with deep connections having been born and raised in Bangladesh he has concerns with the motion having also consulted with the Bangladeshi Student Association. He notes that the Yunus government has only been in place two months with a lot of mess going on in the country involving civil administration, the judicial system, corruption, law and order and many other government functions having broken down. He believes things are still broken and that the Yunus government is trying to

make everything functional, active, and free from corruption. He asserts the Yunus government has resolved the work exploitation issues. He states it is a matter of time until the Yunus government can clear out any corrupt officials, especially in the commerce ministry that he asserts is accountable for the garments and export industry. He cites that many Ministries are currently being changed but this can not be done overnight. He claims that law and order has broken down, partly caused by officers being relieved of duty due to corruption creating the need for the use of military forces and that there has been no direct killing or direct violence. He states that in Yunus' recent speech in the UN Yunus claimed his government had made significant improvements on outstanding issues, including the economy and garment workers and promised economic transparency and invited UN observers. He notes the Yunus government asked for up to 18 months to bring systematic change, to fix government worker's wages and eliminate exploitation. He mentions that the previous dictatorship lasted 15 years so he believes it is unrealistic to expect Yunus to fix everything overnight and that he believes the government starting by removing corrupt officials, as part of systematic changes being made and more time needs to be given this.

Procedural Motion:

That debate be limited to two minutes per speaker for Motion #3.

Moved: Naomi Drego

In Favour: 19

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Josiah Downey states that what Nafiz said is a defence of a government that is using the military to wind up strikes and that historically many governments have done this following a revolution. He believes that Yunus' law and order campaign is aimed to reassert capitalist rule over Bangladesh, the exploitation of workers, neoliberalism, austerity, and the status quo. He thinks the MSC needs to stand for the Bangladeshi people, workers, and students fighting against austerity, neoliberalism, and attacks that Yunus has reintroduced. He claims Nafiz's defence is a counter-revolutionary attack on the workers and students who have fought and put their lives on the line and that he believes students should offer solidarity to the students in Bangladesh who are fighting against attacks by the Yunus Government.

Motion to Amend:

1. Stands with the workers on strike in Bangladesh
2. Calls on the [Bangladeshi](#) Government to meet their demands and end the repression of striking workers.

Opposes the new interim government's inability to guarantee the wages and conditions of workers and their deployment of the army on striking workers.

Moved: Campbell Frost

The Mover and the Seconder consented to the amendment so this motion did not proceed to a vote

AMENDMENT CARRIED

Nafiz Ibrahim states he appreciates the concern from previous speakers about the issue. He states Yunus and his Government have been put in place by the people including students of Bangladesh. He believes previous speakers are stating their own perceptions of other governments have done, without an idea of who are the parties and leaders of the current Bangladeshi government, claiming they have no political past and are new, including NGO workers, UN workers, people from the middle class and two students. He urges people to refrain from making biased and unrealistic comments and to instead take their time and observe. He refers to examples like the Bangladeshi government's action to freeze bank accounts of garment businessmen, such as Bashundhara Group as examples of actions taken.

Amiriya Dorian argues that the motion isn't is unrealistic with workers currently holding mass strikes in the textile industry and fighting against austerity. She states that while Yunus may have been elected he is now acting against the wishes of the recent revolution and Bangladesh needs to elect real democracy. She believes workers need democracy over their own production and what they produce rather than have a dictator cracking down on them.

Nafiz Ibrahim states he believes the previous speaker has given a very generalised view without understanding or looking at the current situation in Bangladesh. He states that the Bangladeshi Government has a work exploitation committee that has already been investigating and that since the government has only been there two months it is unrealistic to see more progress. He asserts that properly looking at the news about the situation in Bangladesh or doing a bit of due research, they would understand that the Bangladeshi government is taking steps to improve the situation, including listening to students.

Max Tory argues the inclusion of two former student leaders into the government does not represent democracy or consultation with students and that the vast majority of Bangladeshi students and workers did not get to vote on whether the military was sent in to end a strike of government workers. He asserts it is a basic principle of unionism that support be given to workers having the right to strike against the government without the military action being taken. He states a fair negotiation can not take place after the use of military action. He believes this shows Yunus is committed to neoliberalism given that within a month

of the recent revolution he betrayed the demands of the revolution by sending in the army against striking workers.

Dilhan Simsek states the MSC has heard from on one side a bunch of revolutionaries and on the other an actual Bangladeshi. He supports Nafiz's point that it has only been a couple of months, and the Yunus government has been looking to restore law and order against a campaign pushing for anarchy, which has been successfully stopped for the moment. He also believes that we should give the Yunus government more time to demonstrate how it will support the Bangladeshi people.

Nafiz Ibrahim says he believes Max Tory is not being realistic about the situation in Bangladesh currently, given that Max mentioned that the government has used military to suppress protests but with research it can be shown that protests have been peaceful with civilian forces like police or marshals being present. He repeats that as the police could not enforce law and order on their own, the military was needed to assist. He asserts that claiming the Bangladesh government has used military force to suppress protests doesn't actually reflect what has happened. He argues that allegations of corruption against the student advisors are completely baseless and have been proven wrong by multiple media sources.

Zareh Kozanian asks a point of clarification if Nafiz spoke to Mathahir, the President of the Bangladeshi Students Association and if he supports what Nafiz is saying

Nafiz Ibrahim states he has spoken to Mahathir who fully supported what he is now saying and he also had discussions and conversation over the past three days with other members of the Bangladeshi community, including other members of the BSAMU committee and he is trying to be a voice for them and the whole Bangladeshi situation.

G. Students support the NTEU campaign against job cuts

Jay Davis declares a conflict of interest as a casual staff member of the University and leaves the meeting at 5:58 PM.

Preamble:

Monash University has imposed serious staff cuts under the pretext of responding to both the international student caps and the alteration to the definition of casual employment. This is an appalling attack on highly exploited university workers amid a cost-of-living crisis. Many Monash staff have been left in insecure casual positions for years, some for more than a decade. These workers are now under serious threat of unemployment as Monash has threatened to sack casual staff.

The cuts have already begun. Shortly after changing the definition of casual employees, Monash ended the contracts of dozens of staff employed in the FAST program. FAST was

an internal program that was used to backfill staff on leave in professional roles. The ending of FAST means that Monash University services will be further understaffed and underequipped, and the staff will lose work.

The NTEU are calling for secure jobs and class size ratios of 20:1. As part of the campaign, the NTEU held a rally on Monday, the 7th of October at the Graduate Study Pop-up expo from 12-2PM to demand a response from the university. The attacks on staff conditions are of great concern to students, particularly student unionists. Student unions should stand in solidarity with staff fighting back against university management. When staff conditions are under attack, this undermines the quality of our education as students.

Motion #4:

This MSC

1. Condemns Monash University and Sharon Pickering for the current and proposed cuts to casual staff.
2. Endorses and extends solidarity to the NTEU Monash campaign for secure working conditions.
3. Demands that Monash University guarantees secure jobs for staff and reverses the cuts that have already been implemented.
4. Condemns current, proposed and future cuts to all Monash University staff.

Moved: Beck Riches Josiah Downey **Seconded:** Madeline Curkovic Max Tory

In Favour: 16

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion during MSC:

Josiash Downey thinks this will be a non-controversial motion and that most people would understand that it's important for students to stand with striking workers, workers fighting for higher paying conditions against the government or the university whether they want to crack down or cut jobs. He references an NTEU meeting he attended where the Arts Faculty staff were discussing attacks and how many of them are employed as casuals and have been for more than a decade but are likely going to lose their jobs next year which he says is disgraceful. He mentions there have been rumours of classes sizes increasing to 70, effectively replacing tutorials with workshops. He claims Monash is justifying this using changes to the definition of casual workers that was introduced by the government at the end of August this year and states he believes that Monash is using this as an excuse to do what they've previously wanted to do, citing previous attacks on the Arts Faculty. He argues that the MSA needs to be prepared to fight cuts in the coming years, with this motion laying the basis for this. He states the MSA needs to be prepared to make this a big public issue. He refers to the 2014 education campaign as a demonstration of student power and that when

students fight back, they are able to make a significant impact with the campaign resulting in stopping the Abbott budget on education and the deregulation of degree which was led by Socialist activists and Labor students.

The seconder of the motion, Max Tory, waives his right of speaking.

Dilhan Simsek agrees with what was said by Jos and states he wants to recognise the importance of standing in union with the workers against attacks from organisations whether they be the University or any company. He says he commits himself during the remainder of his degree, to fight against any actions taken against the university and stand in solidarity with Monash Staff as a proud member of the NTEU, similar to what was seen when Sharon Pickering was Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

Max Tory states he wants to make a broad argument, also relevant to other motions at this MSC. He argues that many student unions run by Labor Party affiliated tickets seek to act as a co-manager of the university and as a PR department for the university, which occasionally runs events, but doesn't behave like a union to mobilise students to fight for their interests against the university. He states there is a concerted attack, throughout the higher education sector, on the rights of staff, education quality, learning conditions, on the right to free speech and activism against the university which is something he believes threatens student unions. He believes that the higher education sector is gearing up for a massive attack, which will triple class sizes. He asserts that a collaborationist approach that says student unions should work together with university management is not going to work. He argues that if universities launch attacks against students and staff, the MSA needs to be prepared to mobilize, be an activist body, be prepared to fight the university and annoy university management. He argues that the recent MSA election result provides a mandate for that approach to student unionism as Palestine candidates campaigned on that and received about 1500 votes on their estimates. He believes this provides a resounding mandate for a much more radical activist and combative approach to student unionism in the future.

Campbell states this is a really important motion. He says it was good to see a lot of people at the NTEU rally including, MSA President Chloe Ward and 'friend of the MSC' Luka Kernan giving speeches. He mentions that while this motion talks specifically about the FAST program, there are cuts in Monash Connect and other departments including students employed at the University. So this is a really close to home one. Campbell states he would like to move an amendment.

Amendment:

This MSC

1. Condemns Monash University and Sharon Pickering for the current and proposed cuts to casual staff.
2. Endorses and extends solidarity to the NTEU Monash campaign for secure working conditions.
3. Demands that Monash University guarantees secure jobs for staff and reverses the cuts that have already been implemented.

4. Condemns current, proposed and future cuts to all NTEU Monash branch members.

Moved: Campbell Frost

Seconded:

In Favour:

Against:

Abstentions:

AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN

Josiah Downey declines to accept Campbell's amendment as while he appreciates the proposal, it is poorly worded and does not cover all Monash employees.

Campbell Frost withdraws his proposed amendment.

Paul Halliday says based on his experience the School of Music is always at the edge of being cut and in 2019 the bachelors of musicology and ethnomusicology was cut along with most of the associated units alongside many staff. He argues that what has happened to the School of Music is now happening to the rest of the university based on which degrees are profitable resulting in members of staff having to teach areas outside their fields resulting in poor teaching. He mentions that the university relies on casuals for marking and is cutting areas like Monash Connect and Lab Assistants too.

Georgie McColm states her experience is similar to Pauls with 4 units she planned to take next year being cut and TAs with lots of experience at high risk of not receiving new contracts. She states her concern for the humanities at Monash due to past and potential future cuts. She argues that if class sizes are increased for Languages like they have been for Science it will impact the ability of students to acquire languages.

Amiyara Dorian states she finds it atrocious that cuts are being made because some courses are not economically viable for capitalism and there isn't enough government funding for universities. She argues that the MSA needs to stand against the University being run like a business and the cuts are because there isn't enough government funding for the universities which their refusal to address this leads to the university cutting courses and staff. obviously that comes at, uh, at the expense of staff here. She states that the Labor Government needs to do more and the MSA needs to be against Sharon Pickering and the University when they attack student rights and staff rights.

Max Tory argues the MSA needs to reject arguments for the University that they can't afford staff due to student caps. He claims universities use accounting tricks in terms of what they define as a profit and investment to make it look like they're not profiting enormously when they are in the black. He states that there should be more public funding for universities which the Labor Party isn't doing. He further argues that the University is making a choice to implement these cuts.

Amendment:

This MSC

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2. Endorses and extends solidarity to the NTEU Monash campaign for secure working conditions.
3. Demands that Monash University guarantees secure jobs for staff and reverses the cuts that have already been implemented.
4. Condemns current, proposed and future cuts to all Monash University staff.

Moved: Josiah Downey **Seconded:** Max Tory

AMENDMENT ACCEPTED

Jay Davis re-enters the meeting at 6:21 PM.

H. International Student Caps in Australia

Preamble:

Labor's new international student caps should be opposed by student unions. As part of the Higher Education Accords process, they are part of the restructuring of the entire Australian higher education sector. The Accords seek to bring universities in line with the needs of Australian industry and the military, and the caps are part of that mission. Universities in Australia have developed into businesses in themselves, operating entirely for profit, and depending on the hyper-exploitation of international students in order to do so.

The Accords, including the international student caps, seek to subordinate the higher education sector to the rest of the Australian economy, producing workers for the most profitable industries, and providing research and skilled experts for the military. However, opposing the caps does not mean supporting the total deregulation of places at university - which would entail jamming as many students into courses as possible to maximise profitability. Neither the old system of maximising the profitability of universities themselves, nor the new accords model of serving the needs of Australian capitalism are supportable. Both of these models of higher education should be opposed by student unions, who should fight for an enriching educational experience that provides graduates for socially useful professions.

These caps are also migration policies dressed as education policies, and seek to scapegoat international students and migrants as the cause for the cost of living and housing crisis in Australia. This racist logic, an argument pushed by the Liberal Party, paves over the real cause for these issues: profiteering landlords and companies. Student Unions should reject

this and stand for the rights of international students against their intense exploitation in the university sector and in society at large.

Student unions need to be prepared to fight the restructuring of the higher education sector. Universities will claim a decline in revenue from international student enrolments, and use that to justify major sackings, job cuts, and correspondingly, course and unit cuts. These flow-on effects of the international student caps will have deeply adverse effects on the quality of education at Australian universities.

Our response needs to be:

Universities are incredibly profitable institutions in their own right and allocate huge amounts of funding to capital projects. Students and staff should not have to shoulder the burden of a tighter university budget. These cuts should be primarily directed from these capital projects and exorbitant executive salaries. Additionally, Monash specifically has an international student cap above the international student enrolments for 2023. While other universities might lose revenue, any attempts to restructure Monash is purely opportunistic and uses the international student cap as an excuse to cut costs even though it doesn't affect Monash.

Most importantly, the role of Student Unions should not be to give financial advice or attempt to account for lost revenue to a university. If a company is not profitable, a trade union would not jump in to address the finances of that workplace or give the boss advice on restructuring; it is their job to make sure that worker's interests are not sacrificed in the interests of profitability. So too is it the Student Union's role to defend the quality of education for students by opposing staff, unit and course cuts despite the financial, pragmatic arguments made to it from university administration.

Motion #5:

Platform

The MSA opposes Jason Clare's International Student cap.

The MSA advocates for an education system based on enriching the lives of students and providing graduates to socially positive professions - not serving the profitability of the Australian economy or Australian imperialism.

The MSA opposes the international student cap being used to justify job, course, or unit cuts, especially in the case of Monash.

Action

This MSC commits to fighting any cuts imposed by the Monash University administration in 2024 and 2025.

This MSC will suspend standing orders for at least 20 minutes to discuss what members think of the international student cap, and surrounding issues.

Moved: Beck Riches Josiah Downey **Seconded:** Madeline Gurkovie Max Tory

In Favour: 17

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIES

Discussion during MSC:

The chair, Joshua Walters strikes the second action point with the agreement of the mover and seconder.

Procedural Motion:

That there will be no time limit for debate on this motion.

MOTION IMPOSED BY CHAIR

Amendment:

Motion #5:

Platform

The MSA opposes Jason Clare's International Student cap.

The MSA advocates for an education system based on enriching the lives of students and providing graduates to socially positive professions - not serving the profitability of the Australian economy or Australian imperialism.

The MSA opposes the international student cap being used to justify job, course, or unit cuts, especially in the case of Monash.

Action

This MSC commits to fighting any cuts imposed by the Monash University administration in 2024 and 2025.

Moved: Paul Halliday

AMENDMENT ACCEPTED

Josiah Downey says he believes the government has brought it the caps is not the given for about housing and is instead an anti-migration tactic to pin the housing crisis on international students instead of developers and landlords. He argues another reason it is happening is the higher education accords, which is restructuring the university sector in Australia to better suit the needs of capitalism. He states that an example of this is at ANU, where 600 new positions have opened in nuclear engineering to tie in with AUKUS which demonstrates the subordination of quality of education to Australian business. He argues that the accords take the position that the purpose of universities in Australia is to fulfil the needs of businesses and that students and student unionists should be opposed to this. He asserts that the political reasons behind the decision relate to treating international University students like commodities and Universities are run like businesses.

So I think that all that should affect how we approach this issue and how we should approach the question of higher education going forward, that it should be about a fight to make education better for students. It should not be done for the sake of improving businesses' bottom lines or to shore up Australia's capacity to fight an imperialist war with China or any other country in the coming decades.

Jay Davis raises a point of clarification asking whether International Student Caps for Monash in 2025 are higher or lower than the number of International students Monash currently admit per year.

Dilhan Simsek replies that compared to 8,700 enrollments of international students, the soft cap has been temporarily set to 10,000 for next year. However he is unsure how this applies with Monash College students.

Max Tory agrees with Josiah and argues Jason Clare is making a political argument that higher education is only valuable because of the economic benefits which is not an argument the MSA Should accept. He states that the University system acts as a profit multiplier for the Business so it should not be students paying for their courses but instead taxes on corporations. He also asserts that part of the decision is aimed at reducing Chinese students due to AUKUS. He refers to previous Student Union campaigns including the 2014 education campaign against the Abbott government's budget which he argues was an attack on students and the working class as a whole. He states this is the approach the MSA should be taking now.

Dilhan Simsek says there will always be a higher demand for Australian Universities than what Australian Universities can accommodate as Australian Universities are highly ranked and students want to study here, which is a good thing. Based on this he puts forward that there should be a cap on the number of places, however the question is what the cap should look like. He states that as a result it is important the MSA participates in the processes to make these decisions, especially through the National Union of Students. He argues this is important to ensure there are student perspectives in any conversations with University management and governments more broadly. He also mentions that it is important to fight for more government funding for universities, hold Universities accountable to use their

profits to build more student accommodation and not let Universities use student caps as an excuse to cut staff.

Paul Halliday states he does not believe the caps are good policy. He acknowledges there were caps previously and quality of education has been going down as the university moves to a more business-like model, partially due to high numbers of International Students but argues this doesn't mean we should implement international student caps. He argues that accepting caps is accepting the narrative that immigration being the cause of the housing crisis and racist fears that members of the community and members of parliament hold.

Campbell Frost mentions in his experience as a student from a regional area in Victoria and that it was hard to find accommodation in Melbourne. However, he argues that this is not the fault of international students and the key issue is rather than Universities are not investing enough in housing for students, as stated by the NUS President. He recommends that everyone vote for the motion.

Jay Davis expresses support for the main action point of the motion, as he believes it's a core aspect of student unionism to oppose any cuts a university might impose. However, he finds other parts of the motion confusing. He highlights that while the motion discusses the need to prevent universities from becoming instruments of capitalism, he believes the focus should not only be on student caps for international students but also on the broader re-regulation of university places. This, he argues, would prevent universities from viewing students solely as profit generators. Jay also criticizes the motion's description of course cuts as pragmatic, questioning how cuts could realistically be considered sensible or practical. He finds the characterization of course cuts as pragmatic to be deeply flawed.

Amiriya Dorian criticizes the proposed motion to cap international students, arguing it serves to increase university profits by cutting courses and diversifying income streams. She contends that the housing crisis is being falsely blamed on international students, pointing out the large number of vacant homes in Victoria and the government's failure to address housing issues. Amariah advocates for real solutions, such as funding public housing and removing negative gearing. She also opposes collaborating with university management, as she believes it undermines student and staff interests. She concludes by stating that caps on international students are a scapegoat for broader issues in tertiary education funding.

Sam critiques the Australian government's view that cuts to arts degrees are pragmatic, arguing that this perspective is rooted in economic interests rather than societal benefit. They assert that the government sees education purely as a tool for economic growth, which leads to cuts in non-profitable fields like the arts. They also emphasize that the international student cap is part of a broader strategy to restructure the higher education sector in response to geopolitical and economic priorities, especially in light of Australia's changing relations with China. The speaker stresses that the real cause of Australia's housing crisis is the government's refusal to invest in public housing, not the presence of international students. They condemn universities for using international student caps as a scapegoat for austerity measures, which include course cuts, larger class sizes, and worsening student conditions. To combat these attacks, the speaker advocates for a proactive, activist

approach, similar to the 2014 fees cuts campaign, which succeeded due to mass student mobilization. The speaker concludes by calling for continued organization and protest against these government-imposed austerity measures.

Josiah Downey emphasizes that the current cap on international students is part of a broader attempt by the Australian government to reshape the higher education sector to fit its economic and strategic needs. This includes focusing on profitability rather than the quality of education, leading to course cuts and larger class sizes. The participant believes that this cap has racist undertones and does not address the real issues, such as the government's refusal to invest in public housing. They argue that international students are being scapegoated for the housing crisis, while the government's policies continue to favor landlords and fail to address the root causes of the housing shortage. The participant also critiqued the approach taken by universities, which they see as more focused on increasing profits than providing quality education. They point out that without proper regulation, universities would simply increase enrolments, lowering education standards even further.

Dilhan Simsek responds to previous comments, building off Jay's and Paul's statements. They argue that markets fail and governments need to intervene to correct market imbalances, emphasizing the importance of regulation in an organized society. They then highlight the issue with universities prioritizing profits over the quality of education. If caps on international students are removed, universities will likely increase enrolments without improving quality, leading to larger class sizes and reduced student-to-staff ratios. Dilhan believes a more nuanced approach is needed, acknowledging that the government must play a role in regulating international student numbers. Despite their criticism, they support the existence of such caps, though they acknowledge the issues around them.

Josiah Downey seeks clarification on Dilhan's position, asking whether he believes Jason Clare's proposal for an international student cap is an overreach, yet still supports it, or if he supports the broader idea that the government should regulate international student numbers in some way.

Dilhan Simsek clarifies that he supports the idea of a government-regulated cap on international student numbers, as it's not feasible to accommodate all students who want to study in Australian universities. He believes the government should control the intake to ensure education quality is maintained, as class sizes have grown, negatively impacting education. However, he acknowledges that the government's current cap proposals go too far and argues that limiting growth would be better than reducing numbers, especially considering some universities are still increasing their intake.

Josiah Downey asks for clarification on whether Dilhan Simsek opposes the specific international student cap proposed by Jason Clare, as the current motion focuses on it. He is asked to state his position clearly on this cap, considering his broader views on international student regulation.

Dilhan Simsek states that he believes there should be caps on international students, he acknowledges that caps on students can be implemented in various different ways and still have the same outcome.

Max Tory criticizes the idea of student unions participating in the accords process, arguing that student unions' power does not lie in negotiating with universities or the government. They contend that the accords process gives political legitimacy to attacks on student and staff rights, which they oppose. The speaker emphasizes that the current regulatory proposals are racially motivated and designed to serve capitalist and imperialist interests. They advocate for student unions to adopt an activist role, fighting against recent crackdowns on freedom of speech and the right to protest. The speaker invites members of NUS (National Union of Students) to share their thoughts on these issues.

Amiriya Dorian emphasizes the importance of activism for all students, not just for those aligned with specific political ideologies. They mention a recent event where the Islamic Society's fundraiser for medical aid to Palestine was cracked down on by university management, despite another fundraiser occurring simultaneously. The speaker condemns this hypocrisy, arguing that it affects all clubs and societies, not just those with socialist or political ties. They also point out the increasing presence of security on campus, highlighting the broader implications for student activism. The speaker addresses concerns about racism and attacks on activism, particularly targeting pro-Palestinian actions on campus. They describe an incident where someone wearing a keffiyeh was questioned in class, which they consider blatant racism. The speaker argues that activism supporting Palestine, such as chanting slogans or discussing the genocide in Palestine, is being labeled as anti-Semitic, and universities, supported by the Labor Party, are enabling this crackdown on activism. They call for unwavering opposition to these actions.

Campbell Frost acknowledges that Vedant, from the International Student Society, is present and wonders if they have a position on the issue, specifically regarding how the student union can support international students. They mention that the president of the society, Nari, who is from NLS (National Labor Students), has already come out in opposition to the issue being discussed.

Josiah Downey is seeking clarification asking about the position of NLS (National Labor Students) regarding the crackdowns on protesting and activism on university campuses. They're specifically asking how NLS views the current actions being taken against student protests and activism across universities.

Campbell Frost explains that members of NLS (National Labor Students) across the country, including at University of Sydney, are opposed to campus access policies and crackdowns on activism. They also mention that NLS has been actively engaging in protests, like hosting barbecues to challenge these policies. The speaker suggests that they may move a motion later regarding these issues, potentially involving the group in that process.

Josiah Downey addresses Campbell, who will be the treasurer of the MSA (Monash Student Association) next year. The speaker is asking whether, as part of the incoming executive, Campbell will take a stronger stance on free speech and the right to activism on campus, especially considering their dissatisfaction with the MSA's position this year. They express frustration with the MSA's previous stance, which they felt failed to protect students' rights to activism, citing reasons like potential legal risks or conflicts with fiduciary duties.

Campbell acknowledges that he cannot speak for past decisions made by the MSA regarding free speech and activism on campus since he joined the executive halfway through the year. However, he expresses his willingness to collaborate with active student groups within the union, such as Ed Pub and ESJ, to improve the MSA's stance on activism. He emphasizes the importance of working together, regardless of factional differences, to ensure students' rights to organize and protest are respected. He stresses the responsibility of the MSA to students and the need for a unified approach to address these issues.

Vedant, as a member of MUISS, shares that the International Student Network has raised concerns about the student cap and the increase in student visa fees at the last VCSPAF meeting. MUSE is opposed to the cap, as it feels the university is sending mixed messages, welcoming international students for the financial benefits but imposing barriers to their entry. This stance reflects MUISS's position of standing against these measures.

I. Defend the CFMEU against government attacks

Preamble:

In August of this year, the Albanese government placed the CFMEU into administration, which is the most undemocratic, anti-union, and pro-business actions taken by a government in this country in decades.

Administration has seen all elected positions in most state branches of the union replaced with a single unelected, court-appointed administrator who has publicly committed to strictly following Australia's highly punitive industrial laws. This action strips away workers' right to elect their own representatives in one of the most profitable and exploitative industries in the country. Such an attack is fundamentally anti-democratic and anti-worker.

The administration of the union will have disastrous effects on gains to workers' wages and conditions negotiated by the CFMEU. This is an especially egregious attack given the painful cost of living crisis.

Using hypocritical allegations of corruption within the union as a cover to attack one of the only unions left in the country that ensures a decent living for its members, the Labor Party has proven itself to be committed to answering the cries of big business, conservative media, and the Liberal Party.

Motion #6:

1. This MSC condemns the hypocritical and deeply conservative attacks on the CFMEU from the mainstream media.
2. This MSC opposes the deeply conservative and anti-democratic administration of the CFMEU.

Moved: Beck Riches Josiah Downey **Seconded:** Madeline Curkovic Max Tory

In Favour: 14

Against: 1

Abstentions: 1

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion during MSC:

Josiah Downey discusses a significant attack on the CFMEU, one of Australia's most militant unions, which has been placed under administration. The move is seen as an attack on union democracy, as it involves removing elected delegates and appointing a high-paid administrator. The speaker condemns the involvement of both the ALP and the ACTU in supporting this action, calling it an anti-democratic step. They emphasize that the attack on the CFMEU is part of a broader effort to weaken trade unions, especially during a time of economic struggle, and argue that student unions should stand in solidarity with workers and oppose such measures.

Max Tory emphasizes the importance of union independence and democratic control, arguing that the attacks on the CFMEU undermine these fundamental principles. They highlight that the appointment of a pro-boss administrator, who adheres to restrictive industrial laws, threatens workers' ability to strike and organize effectively. The speaker critiques the Australian Labor Party (ALP) for actively attacking the working class by supporting policies that benefit landlords and property developers while failing to raise workers' wages. They advocate for reviving rank-and-file democracy and militant class struggle unionism, as opposed to collaborating with the government and bosses.

Jay Davis agrees with previous comments, condemning the federal government and the ACTU's attack on unionism. They point out the hypocrisy of placing the CFMEU in administration while business entities would not face similar treatment despite potential allegations. This highlights the unequal treatment of unions versus businesses in the eyes of the government.

Amendment:

Adding federal government and ACTU to the end of action point one

Moved: Jay Davis

AMENDMENT ACCEPTED

Sam stresses that the Labor Party's attack on the CFMEU is a submission to the interests of big business, which has long sought to dismantle the union. They argue that the Labor Party's actions set a dangerous precedent where any union challenging business profitability could face severe consequences, such as being placed into administration and stripped of democratic rights. The speaker criticizes the government's actions as aligning with big

business interests, worse even than the Liberal Party's stance, and laments that the Labor Party now represents business interests more effectively than the Liberal Party ever could.

Lucia highlights that the crackdown on the CFMEU is part of a broader effort to make powerful unions in Australia more compliant, specifically addressing the lack of evidence for violence or coercion, which were used as the basis for placing the union in administration. They argue that the real issue stemmed from industrial action taken in Brisbane, where workers were subjected to dangerous working conditions, and that the violence referenced was a result of scuffles when muscle was hired to break the picket lines. The speaker asserts that any corruption within the union should be handled by re-electing delegates, not through national-level administration. They also criticize the classist attacks on blue-collar workers, particularly the CFMEU, and argue that their militancy and commitment to industrial action should be championed, advocating for fair wages and improved living standards for all workers.

J. Monash Student Council (MSC) Report – Academic Board Update

Motion #7:

This MSC:

Accepts the Academic Board Report submitted, as attached at the end of this document.

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

Seconded: Jay Davis

In Favour: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

Dilhan Simsek briefly updates on their progress, mentioning that one of the biggest wins was successfully reducing late penalties from 10% to 5%, in collaboration with Dimitri and the MSA. They are currently working on bringing back the mid-semester break, aiming to schedule it closer to week 6/7, and will provide further updates on that initiative.

Jay Davis acknowledges the great progress made this year and expresses optimism for continued progress by the academic board representatives in the upcoming year.

K. Authorised Officer Attack and Concession Mykis for all Students

Preamble

Last week, a disturbing video emerged showing a Monash University student being violently tackled by multiple Authorised Officers while commuting to university on the 601 bus from Huntingdale Station. The incident allegedly occurred due to the student's failure to tap on his

Myki card. The video captures the student being pinned to the ground, struggling to breathe as officers applied excessive force, ignoring his desperate pleas for air. This egregious use of force against a student has raised serious concerns regarding the safety and treatment of students by public transport authorities.

In MSC 5/24, Motion G addressed the ongoing issue of public transport concession fares in Victoria, noting that it remains one of the only states in Australia that does not provide concession fares to all full-time graduate and undergraduate students. The MSA has committed to supporting graduate students in their efforts to lobby for concession fare reforms and systemic changes that would directly benefit the student community.

Additionally, the MSA has taken proactive steps by introducing a Free Travel Pass, which has helped hundreds of students save tens of thousands of dollars in travel costs. However, this is a temporary solution, and the MSA acknowledges that not all students in need can be provided with a pass. Therefore, it is crucial that the MSA continues its advocacy for government reform to extend public transport concessions to all students.

This motion calls for an update on the previous directive for the MSA to write to other student unions to lobby the Minister for Public Transport, as well as a reaffirmation of the MSA's commitment to securing long-term solutions for affordable student travel. The recent incident highlights the need for additional protections for students to ensure their safety and dignity while using public transport.

Motion #8:

This MSC;

Condemns the violent incident involving a Monash University student being physically assaulted by Authorised Officers on the 601 bus route for allegedly not tapping on his Myki.

Expresses deep concern over the excessive use of force and the disregard for the student's well-being, as evidenced by the video of the student being pinned to the ground and struggling to breathe.

Requests an immediate update from the MSA President on the status of the directive to write to other student unions across Victoria to lobby the Minister for Public & Active Transport regarding the extension of public transport concession fares to all graduate and undergraduate students. If this action has not been completed, the MSC directs the MSA President to ensure this is completed by 25/10/2024.

Reaffirms its stance that public transport is a public good and supports the ongoing efforts to provide free travel to students.

Commits to supporting graduate students in their efforts to lobby for public transport concession reforms and will collaborate with graduate student groups at Monash and across the state to achieve systemic change.

Moved: Jay Davis **Seconded:** Zareh Kozanian
In Favour: 14
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

Jay Davis expresses frustration about the lack of free public transport, stating that it should be free as it's public transport. The motion aims to extend transport concessions to all students in the short term, while advocating for free transport for everyone in the long term. Under standing order 30.5, "I'll probably just end by saying fuck the police and fuck authorised officers."

Max Tory strongly advocates for free public transport, criticizing the presence of authorized officers (AOs) and police on campus, equating them to an unnecessary burden. They argue that public transport should be free since it's publicly funded, and they believe the current system, where private companies profit from it, is unjust. They call for the MSA to oppose this system.

L. Monash University Cancelled October 7th Fundraiser Event

Preamble

On the morning of October 6th, with less than 24 hours' notice, Monash University's executive staff abruptly cancelled the Monash University Islamic Societies and Monash Arab Societies long-planned fundraising dinner, an event aimed at supporting PANZMA, an organisation dedicated to sending doctors on medical missions to Gaza. This event, approved by Monash Security and Monash Venues, had been planned for months and was scheduled for a date proposed by the university itself. The vague reasoning provided for the cancellation—"staff and student concerns" and an "inappropriate choice of date"—is deeply troubling, especially given that other groups are holding vigils on campus without interference.

This cancellation is a direct attack on our community's ability to mourn and raise funds for humanitarian aid, and is reflective of Monash's broader pattern of bias and suppression of Palestinian voices. Despite repeated efforts to engage with the university on issues of discrimination and racism faced by Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab students, Monash continues to ignore our concerns. The cancellation of this event, alongside the university's decision to host Zionism Victoria and Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) soldiers earlier this

year, contributes to a hostile environment for Palestinian students and their allies on campus.

Monash's actions not only vilify our efforts but contribute to harmful rhetoric that paints our community in a negative light. The university's complicity in allowing discriminatory media coverage to flourish, while failing to take responsibility for its actions, further marginalises already vulnerable students. These experiences will be included in our submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission's Study into the Prevalence and Impact of Racism in Australian Universities.

Motion #9:

This MSC;

1. Acknowledges the discriminatory nature of Monash University's decision to cancel the PANZMA fundraiser with less than 24 hours' notice. This decision undermines the Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab communities' right to mourn, gather, and raise humanitarian aid.
2. Demands an immediate public apology from Monash University for its unjust cancellation of the event, its failure to provide a legitimate reason, and its continued neglect of the Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab students' wellbeing.
3. Calls on Monash University to publicly condemn the racially charged and inflammatory media coverage that has emerged from external organisations and politicians, which has mischaracterised the intentions of this event and further harmed Muslim and Arab students.
4. Demands that Monash University takes accountability for the psychological and physical harm caused by this cancellation and implements measures to prevent further discriminatory actions against Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab students on campus.
5. Reaffirms its commitment to standing in solidarity with all Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab students on campus and supports the continuation of efforts to raise funds for humanitarian missions, including PANZMA's medical aid to Gaza.
6. Commits to supporting organisers and students on campus to engage in the submission of this incident, along with other instances of anti-Palestinian and Islamophobic discrimination, to the Australian Human Rights Commission's Study into Racism in Australian Universities.
7. Congratulates MARS and MUIS for standing up to the university and not allowing their intimidation and discriminatory behaviour from stopping their event and for running a well organised and attended event with less than 12 hours of preparation.
8. Directs the MSA President share this motion with the Vice Chancellor, Sharon Pickering, demanding a response and report to the next council meeting with the Vice Chancellors response.

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

Seconded: Zareh Kozanian

In Favour: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

Dilhan Simsek briefly comments on the importance of listening to the experiences of MARS and MUIS, as well as other students affected. They express their appreciation for the efforts of the organizers and attendees of a peaceful event, which Monash University attempted to cancel. He recognizes the meaningful act of solidarity before passing the floor to Lana or Asma.

Paul Halliday seeks clarification from Dilhan Simsek regarding the preamble to the motion, pointing out that it uses "we" and "our" throughout. They ask if the statement was released by MARS and MUIS, and if it reflects the strong stance of the community leaders against the issue. The speaker emphasizes the importance of accurately reflecting this in the minutes.

Dilhan Simsek confirms the clarification.

Lana Abdelhalim explains that at 9 AM, they received a phone call from executives, including the head of security and a shadow vice chancellor, demanding a meeting within 15 minutes to cancel their event. The speaker highlights the irony, as these executives are usually unreachable after working hours, and they were contacted on a Sunday morning. They express frustration over having to organize the event at the last minute, thanking Dilhan for his support. Despite the short notice, they were unable to cancel food meant for 300 people, leading to excess food, which the speaker finds troubling considering the dire conditions in Palestine. The speaker criticizes Monash University for its unprofessionalism and negligence, which led to them being slandered by various organizations like AGA, Sarah Henderson, and Sky News, and receiving personal threats. They express disappointment that Monash knew about the event, its security plans, and the external organizations involved but still made a political move to cancel it. The speaker also notes that other groups on campus were not required to cancel their vigils and questions why their fundraiser was targeted. They insist that their event, held in an enclosed space, posed no harm, and the suggestion that it would be simply propaganda. The speaker emphasizes the importance of MSA support in these situations and urges the MSA to vote for the motion.

The chairing of the meeting was passed to Paul Halliday as Joshua Walters wanted to head to the bathroom.

Asma illyas adds that the situation was unexpected and inconvenient but views it as a new low for Monash, showing their dismissal of the concerns raised by Arab, Muslim, and Palestinian students throughout the year. Despite multiple meetings with the university to relay these concerns, the speaker was shocked by the swift cancellation of the fundraising dinner, especially when other student groups had their concerns heard without issue. The speaker expresses disappointment, noting that it seems Monash is prioritizing certain groups

over Arab, Muslim, and Palestinian voices. They emphasize the importance of passing the motion to hold the university accountable and demand an apology for the harm caused by their actions.

Rofida Arnaout, as an Arab student at Monash, shares their understanding of how different groups at the university seem to silence or use their voice for their own agendas. They express disdain for the university caving to external pressure and prioritizing one student group's grief over another. The speaker calls for support of the motion, emphasizing that it's the responsibility of the MSA and all university students to stand up against anti-Arab racism.

Zain Chaudhry highlights the reasons given for canceling the fundraising dinner, which were that the event posed a safety risk and occurred on a problematic date. The speaker points out that these reasons either insinuate Islamophobic rhetoric or suggest that one group's right to mourn and fundraise is more important than another's. They emphasize that both reasons are unacceptable and contribute to damaging Islamophobic rhetoric. The speaker also notes that the rise in Islamophobic attacks on campus is concerning, as indicated by a survey showing that 95% of Arab and Muslim students felt unsafe. The speaker strongly supports the motion, thanking Dilhan for his support.

Josiah Downey argues that there is no justification for shutting down the event, calling the action by Monash University an attack on students' rights to support Palestine and mourn those affected by the ongoing genocide in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. The speaker emphasizes that Monash University, along with the Australian government, continues to support this genocide. They assert that this motion is essential as it represents an attack on the right to free speech, protest, and express political opinions. The speaker connects this issue to broader attacks on Palestine activism and freedom of speech across Australia, including actions taken by the Liberal and Labor parties. They argue for a militant approach in defending the rights of Palestine activists and call for the MSA to oppose these attacks.

M. ~~Monash University Cancelled October 7th Fundraiser Event~~ NUS Affiliation Fees

Preamble

The motion below concerns the Affiliation Fee that is payable to the National Union of Students, with an amount of \$16,500.00 incl GST. This affiliation fee must be paid to ensure that the MSA has voting rights at the 2024 NUS National Conference.

Motion #9:

This MSC approves the expenditure of \$16,500 for the NUS Affiliation Fees.

Moved: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

Seconded: ~~Paul Halliday~~ Dilhan Simsek

In Favour: 16

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

Jay Davis: "I stand with NUS."

The seconder of the motion, Paul Halliday, asks if anyone else would like to second the motion as he is a delegate to this year's conference.

Dilhan Simsek agrees to second the motion. He thanks the NUS for providing the MSA with reduced rates in recent years in recognition of hardship in the financial position of the MSA.

Charlotte Sutton asks what \$16,500 gets the MSA as it is a lot of money.

Campbell Frost responds that the money goes to the NUS, for which we have a number of delegates at NUS Conferences based on the number of students at Monash. He states the money mainly goes towards paying the President and General Secretary at full time minimum wage and other positions at other rates. He mentions they run various campaigns like Change the Age and also run multiple conferences across the year such as the Disability conference at Western Sydney Uni which is coming up soon.

Paul Halliday restates the MSA is getting a discounted rate from the NUS, he adds it is a body which organises nationally on student issues, coordinating different campuses, giving it legitimacy when it advocates for students in Canberra.

Jay Davis adds that the different conferences run by NUS include National Conference, Disability Conference, Education Conference and Ethnocultural Conference.

Jay Davis requests his initial statement to be quoted directly under standing order 30.5.

N. General Business

Procedural Motion:

That Motion 10 be considered urgent and be dealt with immediately.

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

In Favour: 12

Against: 5

MOTION CARRIED

Motion #10:

This MSC open nominations for the election of MSA Executive Divisional Representative for 2024, pursuant to s24.1(d) of the MSA Constitution.

Moved: Dilhan Simsek **Seconded:** Zareh Kozanian

MOTION LAPSED

Joshua Walters struck the motion based on the office bearer regulations, which require proper notice to be given for an election.

Jay Davis explains that there was a reasonable opportunity for the reps to attend the meeting, as outlined in section 14.3. If the meeting notice was properly given and the representatives had the chance to attend, then it might not be necessary to strike the motion.

Procedural Motion:

Dissent in the chair.

Alternative Ruling: "That the election be held."

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

In Favour: 11

Against: 5

MOTION CARRIED

Campbell Frost becomes chair

Dilhan Simsek expressed that the motion is being considered as an urgent matter, and there has been equal opportunity for all divisions to participate. If council has already voted to treat this as urgent, then it might be reasonable to proceed with the election and uphold the decision to have it. This decision is contingent on the understanding that all the procedural requirements for fairness and equal opportunity have been met, and the urgency has been acknowledged by council.

Under standing order 30.5, Joshua Walters:

I don't think it really matters the urgency because the standing orders say that there has to be reasonable notice, like opportunity to attend the meeting. I don't really think it's fair to not tell people and then they've left and they don't really have the opportunity to attend the election. Also, it says the aforementioned election like it hasn't been mentioned before. That's what that implies. I think it's quite undemocratic to pull this shit.

Under standing order 30.5, Paul Halliday:

I guess, like, why wasn't this on the agenda is my question. Again, like we've seen Zareh as demonstrated in the last MSC is prepared to put things on the agenda up to 15 minutes before a meeting. It seems patently ridiculous that this is urgent enough that it needs to be voted on today, but not urgent enough that Zareh could have sent out an updated agenda. It seems quite clear that the point of this motion is to blindside people. The point of this motion is maybe moved opportunistically after it's been seen that Georgie has left the meeting.

Zareh Kozanian explains that the council has decided to discuss this motion as a matter of urgency explaining that having effective executive members is important. He hears Paul and suggests Paul Halliday to revise the standing orders, dragging his attention to 8.2.1. He clarifies to Paul that appropriate procedures are followed as suggested by the majority of the student representatives on the MSC council voting in favor of discussing the motion.

Under standing order 30.5, Paul Halliday:

Are you not seconding the motion?

Zareh Kozanian explains that he supported the urgency to conduct the election hence seconding the motion. He further explains that contradicting Paul's suggestion, he emphasises that the council has decided if the motion is urgent as compared to adding it pursuant to 8.2.1. Zareh Koznaian notes that the motion was not submitted to him by a mover and a seconder prior to the MSC.

Under standing order 30.5, Paul Halliday:

Okay, so it wasn't sent to you. So why is it urgent enough that during the meeting it needs to be moved?

Zareh Kozanian demonstrates his extreme disappointment by Paul's comment.

Paul Halliday makes a point of order that there is someone in the waiting room and draws Zareh's attention to allow them in.

Jay Davis raises a point of order dragging the chair's attention to the office bearer regulations, expressing that he initially misinterpreted the clause per 14.3 which states that the resolution electing a member to the Executive must be passed by an absolute majority of all members eligible to vote in the aforementioned election. Given two out of four isn't an absolute majority, this motion is invalid.

Following Jay Davis's interpretation, Dilhan Simsek and Zareh Kozanian withdrew the General Business #1; hence, the motion lapsed.

Procedural Motion:

That Motion 11 be considered urgent and be dealt with immediately.

Moved: Paul Halliday

MOTION LAPSED

Georgie raises the concern of soundproofing issues at Radio Monash, which are affecting other departments like academic affairs and the advocacy group. She humorously points out the contrast between loud music playing in the background and the emotional struggles students might be facing with academic problems. She suggests that this issue could be addressed by ensuring after-hour access and considering soundproofing measures to improve the situation.

The MSC meeting lost quorum and the chair and the procedural motion lapsed due to the lack of quorum.

Joshua Walters decided to continue on the vote in-quorum.

Preamble:

This motion is drafted in light of recent changes to student rights to organise and protest on campus launched by both university administration across Australia and the government.

It is incredibly important that these fundamental rights of students and the broader community are protected.

Motion #11:

This MSC condemns attacks on the rights of students to organise and peacefully protest.

This MSC commits to fighting any attempts made by Monash University to restrict students' rights to peacefully organise and protest on campus.

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: Campbell Frost

In Favour: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The chair, Joshua Walters, explains that this motion will need to be ratified at the next Monash Student Council meeting due to the lack of quorum.

Meeting Closed at 08:23 PM

O. Appendices

Chloe Ward

President

Report to MSC 11/24

GOALS

- To continue promoting diversity on campus, in all forms
- To continue in providing free food programs to service all Clayton students and tackle food insecurity
- Continue to monitor the MSA Pantry (Foodbank) within Wholefoods to further address food insecurity and provide pantry staples to students in need
- Continue working with the NTEU and MGA to fight for better parking conditions for all staff and students at Monash University
- To continue advocating on behalf of students on issues such as the reduced Library opening hours at Matheson and Hargrave libraries, Special Consideration improvements, Unpaid Placements and Universal Submission Times
- To continue to provide and deliver safe, accessible and inclusive events for students in order to better their overall university experience

PROJECTS

MSA Pantry Launch (MSA Foodbank)

Joshua Walters and I have been continuing to work hard on the MSA Pantry initiative and it has been a great success so far this semester. The initiative is continuing to run out of Wholefoods Cafe and provides fresh food and groceries to hundreds of students. We are providing students with bulk goods, such as rice, lentils and beans, so that students have access to vital pantry staples, as well as an array of fresh fruit and vegetables as well. The MSA knows and understands that food insecurity is a massive issue for students during this current cost-of-living crisis and whilst there is systemic change needed to fully solve this issue, we are committed at the MSA to ensure that students always have access to free or low-cost food. We are also continuing to have ongoing conversations with the University about food insecurity and how it continues to affect students at Monash. I have personally had meetings with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Craig Jeffrey about Monash's initiatives to improve and solve food insecurity at Monash at an institutional level. There has been a Food Insecurity Committee formed to ensure that the University and MSA are keeping food insecurity as an issue at the forefront of all our

minds. Keep an eye on socials, as MSA Pantry is running every Thursday and don't forget to bring your own bag to collect your items!

Parking Win for Students!

The MSA has been working all year to ensure that Monash University knows students and staff alike are against the parking price increases and surge parking. The MSA collaborated with the NTEU and MGA to create a petition, which has now amassed over 2000 signatures to show just how angry staff and students are. The MSA President submitted 3 Freedom of Information requests to find out just how much the University makes on parking and has had a multitude of meetings with the Vice-Chancellor to ensure student's voices are heard, and the University is finally listening.

It was announced today that effective from Monday 30th September 2024:

- Parking on Fridays will become free for students at all campuses and off-campus locations in all Blue and Red parking areas
- Students must start a CelloPark session to receive free parking on Fridays
- In the event of an infringement, students will now receive an additional warning in lieu of receiving a fine, totalling two (2) warnings over a 12-month period
- Students will become eligible to park in Red permit areas from 10am on weekdays (instead of from 10:30am)

Thank you to everyone that put a bumper sticker on their car, signed the petition or wrote to the Vice-Chancellor. Your voices are important and make real change when you make them heard. We will continue to fight for even better parking conditions for students because the fight isn't over yet. We still have clear demands, students deserve greater transparency in parking at Monash and an end to surge pricing. We'll keep you updated on further changes.

While these changes are a great step forward, there is still more to do. The MSA is continuing to work with the NTEU and recently helped with an online platform to allow students and staff anonymously report their solutions and issues with the current parking prices and CelloPark system. We will continue to fight for students and staff until Monash finally understands that we all deserve to park on campus for free.

Library Opening Hours and 24/7 Study Spaces: Update

Libraries are a necessary and integral part of studying at University and procuring your education. When the rash decision was made by Monash at the beginning of the year to slash library hours, I fought back. I have now entered many meetings with many different levels of University management to fight for the Lower Ground levels of Matheson to be

open 24 hours. This would allow students to have access to vital amenities, such as WI-FI, printing and computers, that the new study space in Campus Centre or Campbell Hall's study space do not have. Many students wrote to me about these changes, some citing that they do not have internet access at home, and thus rely on the University's internet to complete and submit assignments. It's stories like these that show just how important 24 hour spaces are to students, especially during a cost of living crisis.

I have been continuing to have conversations with the University around piloting this idea but it is yet to be confirmed so stay tuned on the socials to see any updates we may have!

Myself and the rest of the MSA Advocacy team will continue to keep fighting for the library hours to be extended again and increase accessibility to students for the amenities and buildings that their course fees pay for.

Student General Meeting (SGM):

In September, the MSA held a Student General Meeting (SGM) as we were presented with a petition from over 900 students.

It was great to see students on campus exercise their rights as students to voice their opinions and stances within a public forum. A special thanks to Joshua Walters who chaired the meeting and ensured that it ran smoothly.

Zareh Kozanian

Secretary

Report to MSC 11/24

GOALS

- Ensure that all meetings, decisions, attendance, and official documents within the MSA are accurately recorded.
- Ensure students are well-informed about the MSA's decisions and activities by facilitating effective communication within the MSA by sharing important information, announcements, and meeting agendas.
- Assist the president and the MSA Office Bearers and divisions by providing administrative support, coordinating logistics for initiatives, and handling correspondence.
- Ensure that students are provided with quality services and support the MSA's continued advocacy for students.
- Addressing any concerns about accessibility and transparency by fostering an inclusive and accessible environment within the MSA.
- Ensure the MSA's compliance to its constitution and relevant regulations

Report for MSC 11

Serving as the Secretary of the Monash Student Association (MSA) this year has been a truly fulfilling experience, with numerous accomplishments that positively impacted the student community. One of the key successes was our campaign to reduce the late submission penalty from 10% to 5%. This change aimed to provide students with more leeway during stressful periods, acknowledging the various challenges many face when juggling academic and personal commitments. It was a significant win for student welfare.

Another achievement I am particularly proud of is the expansion of 24/7 study spaces on campus. Recognizing that not all students follow the same study schedules, we pushed for more accessible study areas around the clock, providing a supportive learning environment for those who need flexibility.

Additionally, this year saw the creation of the Monash Foodbank, a vital initiative that assists students experiencing financial difficulties by offering food and essential supplies. As the cost of living rises, the Foodbank has been an important support system, fostering a sense of community care.

Our social initiatives also thrived, with the MSA hosting larger parties and events than ever before, enriching student life and strengthening campus culture. These events played a key role in fostering connection and inclusion among students.

As Secretary, I was responsible for the organization and scheduling of Monash Student Council meetings. This role required a high level of coordination to ensure smooth communication across the council. I also focused on enhancing transparency within the MSA, keeping students informed about our decisions and initiatives. My goal was to ensure that our processes were clear and accessible to all.

Reflecting on this year, I am proud of what we have achieved, and I believe the MSA has made significant strides in supporting the Monash student community.

*Key Activities

Outline key activities completed thus far since last report:

- Editing for edition six complete, released to printers
- Coverage of M.S.C. meetings
- Attendance at Student Media Conference alongside Radio Monash at the University of Sydney from September 27-29, 2024.

Can outline work being done for upcoming events/projects

- Handover to the 2025 editors

Department Goals

Goal	Progress (complete/ongoing/incomplete)	Comments
Slay 60 year event and edition	Complete	Good feedback on edition 5 and associated pieces Event at The Count's attended by 57 people the majority of whom previously worked on <i>Lot's Wife</i> Plans to bind remaining unbound editions
Keep submissions strong for semester 2	Ongoing	33 submissions for edition 6, aided through submissions from the ATS3950 Academic Freedom unit.
Actually improving website	Ongoing	Once edition 6 goes to print this will be looked at further.
Leaving <i>Lot's Wife</i> better than we found it	Ongoing	Beginning planning handover to the 2025 editors to ensure a smooth transition and allow them to

		begin work immediately.
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MSA Conference Report Back Template

Conference Name	Student Media Conference
Report written by	Sam Hudson, Mandy Li, and Angus Duske
Conference Date and Location	September 27-29, 2024 – The University of Sydney, N.S.W.

Post-event summary of conference
<p><i>Lot's Wife</i> along with representatives from the Radio Monash committee attended Student Media Conference between September 27th and 29th at the University of Sydney, at the invitation of <i>Honi Soit</i> and Student Media Australia. A variety of panels, Q.&A.s, and workshops were convened and attended with focuses on climate change, investigations, the history of student journalism, archiving, newswriting, and creative writing.</p>
What were the benefits of the conference
<p>Alongside attending these sessions across the weekend, Student Media Conference brought together publications from across the A.C.T., New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria, meaning there were plentiful opportunities for the sharing of ideas, experiences, and techniques that are unique to student journalism. These opportunities alongside the panels allowed for the sharing of ideas that could be applied to <i>Lot's Wife</i> to improve the publication.</p>

Would you recommend conference to other staff to attend
<p>For others from the M.S.A. involved with student media (that is representatives of <i>Lot's Wife</i> and Radio Monash) we would highly recommend attending such a conference, for the opportunity to share experiences and tips for operating a student publication.</p>
Would you want to attend this conference again
<p>Yes, the panels and interactions at Student Media Conference were most insightful in how we operate <i>Lot's Wife</i> but also to form relationships that can be used to share experiences and how other publications operate.</p>



Sam Hudson, Mandy Li, & Angus Duske
Lot's Wife *REPORT* and 2024 Goals
[Report to MSC 10/24]

Academic Board Report

At MSC 5/24, I had the opportunity to deliver the first Academic Board update at an MSC meeting in several years, marking a significant step forward in ensuring that the Monash Student Council remains engaged with the university's key academic decision-making body. Since that update, I am pleased to provide a follow-up on the progress made on several important initiatives that directly benefit students.

1. Reduction in Late Submission Penalties: One of the most significant achievements has been the reduction of late submission penalties from 10% to 5% per day. This change, implemented through our persistent lobbying efforts and collaboration with faculties across the university, affects all 80,000+ students at Monash. It ensures that students facing unforeseen circumstances have more flexibility without the harsh penalties previously imposed, making it fairer for students managing deadlines alongside personal or academic challenges.

2. 24/7 Study Space: We have continued to lobby the university for the creation of a new 24/7 study space at the Clayton Campus. This would provide students with a secure, accessible, and convenient environment to study at any time, offering greater flexibility for those who need to work late at night or during non-standard hours. This space will be an invaluable resource for students throughout the academic year, particularly during exam periods and we will continue our advocacy on this front.

3. Expansion of Special Circumstances Criteria: To further support students dealing with difficult personal situations, we have worked towards expanding the special circumstances criteria of withdrawn grades. This change makes it easier for students to receive fee remission and have withdrawn grades removed from their academic transcript. These changes will ensure that students who face hardships are not unfairly penalised academically or financially, making the system more compassionate and accommodating to those in need.

4. Review of the Delayed Second Semester Break: In response to concerns raised by students about the scheduling of the second semester break, we have initiated an Academic Board review. The review is focused on addressing the delay and considering reforms that would provide students with a more balanced academic calendar. We expect reforms to be announced in the coming months, which will align better with student needs and wellbeing.

5. Universal Assignment Submission Time: The University has given a commitment that in 2025, there will be the implementation of a universal assignment submission time of 11:55pm for all assignments. This change will bring consistency across faculties and reduce confusion around different deadlines. Students will now have a standard submission time, simplifying the process and allowing for more efficient time management. Now it's up to the University to keep its promise and deliver common sense policy for students.