

Meeting time: Opened at 05:12 PM on 28/06/2024

Meeting location: In the Banquet Hall 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	
Secretary:	Zareh Kozanian	
Treasurer:	Joshua Walters (Chair)	
Education (Academic Affairs):	Grayson Lowe	
Education (Public Affairs):	Nafiz Ibrahim	Shaun
Activities:	Fatima Iqbal	Rafiad Ruhi
CLA:	Haidar Shah	
Welfare:	Campbell Frost	
Indigenous:	Marlley McNamara	
Environment & Social Justice:	Thomas White	
Women's:	Zoe Binns	
Queer:	Madeline Curkovic	
Disabilities & Carers:	Charlotte Sutton	
People of Colour:	Anshuman Das	Lana Abdelhalim
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	
General Representative:	Stella Robinson	Mohamed Orabi
General Representative:	Diyara Jaswar	Asma Illyas

Observers:

Kristy Dodson-Geary
Freddie
Dexter Davison-Ling
Alessandro Papaleo
Sarah
George Rubinstein
Ovin Herath
Samantha Hudson
Shali
Khoa Tran
George Rubinstein
Asad Jan
Le An
Sasha Braybrooke
Nick Fallaw
Kit
Rachael Vassallo
Jos Downey
Huayan Hu
Alesandra Roslan
Abdullah Khan
Dominique
Sam
Luka Kerm
Lori
Malak
Amiriya
Alex Self
Angus Duske
Joshua Strauss
Mady Li

B. Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners of Land

This MSC acknowledges and pays respect to the Bunurong peoples of the Kulin nations as the original and ongoing owners and custodians of this land. The MSA commits itself to actively fight alongside Indigenous peoples for reconciliation and justice for all Indigenous Australians.

C. Confirmation of Agenda Order

Confirmed

D. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion #1:

Indigenous	No Submission Received
Women's	No Submission Received
Education (Public Affairs)	No Submission Received
Residential Community	No Submission Received

Motion #2:

This MSC accepts the reports submitted by the Welfare, Disabilities and Carers, Environment and Social Justice, MUISS, C&S, and Education (Academic Affairs) en bloc, as attached at the end of this document.

This MSC also accepts the late reports submitted by Radio Monash and Queer en bloc, as attached at the end of this document

Moved: Zareh Kozanian

Seconded: Dilhan Simsek

In Favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

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.

Madeline Curkovic begins by discussing the Queer Office Bearer Report, emphasizing the detailed account that both Kelly and they have provided regarding their recent activities. Madeline Curkovic notes that their office was the only one involved in organizing the Gaza Solidarity Encampment during its occurrence. Their efforts were focused on opposing the genocide in Gaza at that time. Madeline Curkovic also highlight that the encampment was organized with the support of students of Palestine, other student activists on campus, and some staff members. This initiative took place during the invasion of Rafa, making it a significant moment for such an action. Unfortunately, the encampment faced attacks from the university, creating a tense environment between the institution and pro-Palestinian activists regarding free speech and the right to organize. Madeline Curkovic explains that they, along with other students and staff, dedicated their time to organizing the encampment. Madeline Curkovic recall the last time it was discussed during a previous meeting and notes the strong community support and outreach they received. Madeline Curkovic views the encampment as an important achievement for the MSA Queer Office, particularly in challenging arguments that attempt to link LGBTQ+ support for Palestine with Israel's crimes. Although the encampment was a significant action, Madeline Curkovic

expresses disappointment that only a few people, besides Kelly and themselves, visited the site. Nonetheless, they appreciate the visit from the ESJ officers, acknowledging it as a nice gesture.

Procedural Motion:

Dilhan Simek moves a procedural motion requesting that all observers be seated in the observer bay and use the observer microphone while speaking.

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

In Favour: 12

Against: 2

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Luka Kerm urges the council to reflect on the recent global events, particularly the ongoing genocide in Gaza, where more than 35,000 people, including over 15,000 children, have been killed. He highlights the strong global response with protests at universities, but criticises the student union for its lack of support and failure to address the issue. He expresses frustration over the union's silence while nine students face disciplinary action and condemns the lack of quorum due to boycotts. He urges the student union to pass the Palestine motions and take the issue more seriously moving forward.

Joshua Walters requests that discussions about the encampment or Palestine be limited to the motions that have already been raised. He acknowledges the speaker's current point but asks that future comments stay focused on the relevant motions to ensure other matters can be addressed efficiently.

Dominique emphasises the importance of mentioning the situation in Gaza within the motion, highlighting that tens of thousands of people, including children, have died, and Gaza is devastated. Dominique notes that the global movement with widespread protests, particularly within student communities. Dominique criticises the absence of the MSC in this movement, calling it shameful and questioning the purpose of the MSC if it does not support students and fight for global left-wing movements. Dominique expresses disappointment, stating that only the queer council representatives have actively supported Palestine, describing the lack of broader support as appalling and shameful.

Sam, one of the nine students being disciplined by Monash University, explains they were part of the encampment but were later threatened with expulsion if they returned. Sam highlights that this level of political discipline is unprecedented, with over 20 cases in Melbourne and many more nationwide. Sam criticises the MSA for failing to support the Palestine movement during key moments, including the encampment and MSC meetings, despite being elected on a platform of endorsing student activism. Sam urge the MSA to correct this neglect.

F. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports for MSC 7

Office Bearer and Divisional Reports	Submission Compliance
Secretary	Report Submitted on time
Lot's Wife	Report Submitted on time
Treasurer (Acting President)	Wed, June 26, 03:45 PM (Late Submission)
President (On leave)	No Submission Received
Activities	No Submission Received
Creative Live Arts	No Submission Received

Motion #3:
 This MSC accepts the reports submitted by the MSA Secretary, Lot's Wife as attached at the end of this document.

This MSC also accepts the late reports submitted by the MSA Treasurer (Acting President) 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.

G. Leave of Absence Request

Motion #4:
 That this MSC grants Marley McNamara an unpaid leave of absence for the period 9th of May to 19th of June

Moved: Dilhan Simsek Seconded: Paul Halliday
In Favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

[Discussion during MSC:](#)

The mover of the motion, Dilhan SImsek, waives his right of speaking.

The seconder of the motion, Paul Halliday, waives his right of speaking.

H. D&C Committee

Preamble:

As we have received the resignation of a committee member from the Disabilities & Carers Committee, there is currently a vacancy in the committee. The Disabilities & Carers Office Bearers have provided recommendations to the MSC for filling these vacancies.

Motion #5:

This MSC appoints the Caspian Politini to fill the vacancy in the 2024 Disabilities & Carers Committee.

Moved: Charlotte Sutton

Seconded: Zareh Kozanian

In Favour: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

[Discussion during MSC:](#)

The mover of the motion, Charlotte Sutton, speaks on the motion addressing that one of the committee members resigned, and Caspian, who has been involved with the community, submitted a letter outlining their plans to the committee. The committee unanimously voted in favour of it, and they would really like to give them the opportunity to share their story.

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

I. Tertiary Education Roadmap to enact systemic reforms in Disability and higher education.

Disabled students were forgotten in both the Australian Universities Accord and the Disability Royal Commission. Tertiary education was not mentioned in the entire Disability Royal Commission report and the Accords highlighted the lack of official data available about Disabled student experience rather than enacting reform.

There was no discussion of key issues that impact Disabled students including hybrid learning, reasonable adjustments being denied, how Higher Education Disability Support Program funding is being used and the physical accessibility of university campuses.

In response to this the National Union of Students (NUS), Children and Young People with Disabilities (CYDA) the Australian Coalition for Inclusive Education (ACIE) and other peak bodies in the sector, are pleading that the Australian Government co-design and co-develop a Tertiary Education Roadmap to properly address the skills gap and ensure that universities are safe, flexible, disability-positive centres of learning. The Australian Universities Accord and the Disability Royal Commission have shown that to address these issues, we need a genuine government response that is co-designed and integrates expert advice as well as student experience.

Motion #6:

This MSC

1. Endorses the creation of a Tertiary Education Roadmap to enact systemic reforms in Disability and higher education.
2. Directs the MSA executive to post on social media to raise awareness of the Roadmap campaign.
3. Commits the MSA to continue to support Disabled students

Moved: Charlotte Sutton

Seconded: Jay Davis

In Favour: 16

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Charlotte Sutton, emphasises that disabled students and carers have often been overlooked. He expresses the need to establish a framework with clear targets for improving accessibility in higher education. While acknowledging that this is not a complete solution, he stresses that currently no plan exists. He highlights the importance of involving disabled students and staff in the process and asks for support to move this initiative forward.

The seconder of the motion, Jay Davis, reflects on previous discussions about the higher education framework, noting that it overlooked certain areas, particularly the needs of disabled students. He believes this motion helps the MSA take a stance on the issue and advocate for better outcomes. While it's not a complete solution, they echo Charlotte's hope that this will lead to progress.

J. Financial Statement Summary April 2024

Motion #7:

This MSC moves to accept the MSA Financial Statement Summary 2024 as detailed in the Appendix.

Moved: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Paul Halliday

Seconded: Zareh Kozanian

In Favour: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Paul Halliday, waives his right of speaking.

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

K. Paid Placements

Preamble:

The Albanese government has announced a new cost-of-living measure in the May budget to support students in essential disciplines. This initiative will establish a Commonwealth practical payment for university and vocational education students undergoing mandatory workplace placements as part of their courses.

From July 2025, 68,000 university students and 5,000 vocational education and training students in the fields of teaching, nursing, midwifery, and social work will receive a weekly payment of \$319.50. This amount is benchmarked to the single Austudy rate and is in addition to any existing income support these students receive.

The measure aims to alleviate the financial burden on students during their practical placements, a period during which many students face significant economic hardship. The government's initiative addresses "placement poverty," a term describing the financial difficulties students encounter when they can afford tuition but struggle with the costs associated with mandatory practical experiences.

Motion #8:

This MSC;

1. Acknowledges the much needed support provided by the Labor Government to our future essential workers including student teachers, nurses, midwives and social workers in critical sectors that directly impact the wellbeing of the public;
2. Commits itself to further supporting campaigns aimed at reducing placement poverty and acknowledges it to be a failure of the education sector;
3. Recognises the ongoing work and tireless advocacy of the MSA and NUS to secure national redefining policies for students;
4. Calls on the Government to expand this payment to all university and vocational placements and to increase the rate of the payment above the poverty line.

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

Seconded: Jay Davis

In Favour: 14

Against: 2

Abstentions: 2

MOTION PASSED

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Dilhan Simsek, expresses strong support for student unions and the MSA advocating for paid placements, acknowledging the progress made so far. He highlights ongoing discussions and campaigns from both the NUS and MSA over the years, but argues that the motion does not go far enough, emphasising that all placements should be paid. He believes that mandatory placements should not result in unpaid labour, and both universities and the government should take responsibility. He views this as a great start and encourages the MSA to continue pushing for improvements.

The seconder of the motion, Jay Davis, shares his support, stating that the initiative is a positive step forward, as it increases payment for compulsory placements from zero dollars. While acknowledging that the payment is still below the poverty line and not enough, he emphasises that it is a significant improvement. He also recognizes and celebrates the efforts of both the MSA and NUS in pushing for this progress.

Luka Kerm points out that the motion overlooks a key detail: the paid placements are not funded by corporations, but by the government. He argues that this effectively allows corporations to continue benefiting from free student labour while receiving government money. He criticises this as a handout to big business, not a truly progressive measure. He contends that corporations profiting from student labour should be responsible for paying students directly, rather than relying on government support. He finds it absurd for anyone to celebrate this as an achievement.

Lori criticises the policy, calling it a "nothing burger" and stating that it offers nothing to celebrate. Lori argues that the approach is absurd and non-progressive. Lori expresses concern that if this is how the labour government continues to treat students and trainees, it is truly appalling.

Dilhan Simsek addresses points raised in the chat. He clarifies that concerns about international students are covered by point four, which calls on the government to expand the payment to all university and vocational placements, including both domestic and international students. He also responds to Joshua Strauss's point, noting that many of these placements occur in the public sector, so asking corporations to pay for placements not done in corporations is problematic. However, he agrees that if the placement is in the public sector, the government should fund it, while in the private sector, corporations should cover the cost, calling it common sense. He clarifies that the motion is about paying students placed in public sector placements and does not address corporations. He expresses the belief that all placements, whether through corporations or governments, should be paid. He acknowledges that the government's action to cover public sector placements is a great step, but emphasises that it doesn't go far enough, which is reflected in the motion.

Jay Davis clarifies that the motion acknowledges what has happened without congratulating the government. Instead, any praise is directed at the MSA and NUS for their efforts. He emphasises that while the motion recognizes progress, it does not suggest that it is enough. He views it as a good first step, and they believe further advocacy is necessary. He highlights that this improvement is a significant step up from having nothing at all.

Thomas White critiques the wording of the motion, finding the reference to the Labor government unnecessary and self-congratulatory. Thomas White argues that the focus should be on the fact that unpaid students will now be paid, rather than emphasising that it was Labor who passed it. TThomas White also notes the need for the motion to specifically cover all domestic and international students, including medical students who are not currently included. Thomas White plans to propose an amendment to address this. Additionally, Thomas White agrees that corporations should ultimately be responsible for paying for placements and suggests adding this to the motion's wording.

Motion to Amend:

This MSC;

1. Acknowledges the much needed support provided by the ~~Labor~~ Government to our future essential workers including student teachers, nurses, midwives and social workers in critical sectors that directly impact the wellbeing of the public; **and acknowledges it as a first step towards a reformed education system that would not enforce unfair hardness on students**
2. Commits itself to further supporting campaigns aimed at reducing placement poverty and acknowledges it to be a failure of the education sector;
3. Recognises the ongoing work and tireless advocacy of the MSA and NUS to secure nation redefining policies for students; **including all domestic and international students.**
4. Calls on the Government to expand this payment to all university and vocational placements and to increase the rate of the payment above the poverty line.
5. **Further calls on cooperation to not in any way exploit unpaid students**

Moved: Thomas White

Seconded: Charlotte Sutton

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

AMENDMENT CARRIED

L. An 80% Tertiary Educated Population

Preamble:

The Albanese government has backed a bold plan to boost university numbers and support Australia's economic future through the Universities Accord. This comprehensive blueprint outlines the critical role of higher education in meeting future skill demands and aims to significantly increase the percentage of the workforce with vocational education and training (VET) or university qualifications.

Currently, 60 percent of the workforce holds a VET or university qualification, but the Accord targets raising this to 80 percent by 2050. Achieving these goals requires enrolling more students from under-represented backgrounds, including those from outer suburbs, regional areas, lower socio-economic, and Indigenous communities.

The Accord emphasises the need to make the higher education system more equitable and recommends breaking down barriers between VET and higher education to create a more seamless system. It also suggests additional Commonwealth-supported medical places in regional universities and for all First Nations students, as well as increased job opportunities in relevant fields through initiatives like a "jobs broker."

Education Minister Jason Clare has highlighted the importance of removing financial obstacles that prevent students from completing their education, such as the inability to afford unpaid practical placements. While the government is still considering the Accord's 47 recommendations, there is widespread support from educational leaders and organisations for the plan's potential to address the skills crisis and enhance national prosperity.

Motion #9:

This MSC:

~~1. Acknowledges the comprehensive and forward-looking nature of the Universities Accord, which aims to significantly increase higher education participation and support Australia's economic future.~~

2. Supports the goal of having at least 80 percent of the workforce with a VET or university qualification by 2050;

3. Commits to advocating for the increase in enrolment of students from under-represented backgrounds, including those with disabilities or from outer suburbs, regional areas, lower socio-economic, and Indigenous communities, to create a more equitable higher education system;

4. Calls on the government to prioritise making the higher education system more equitable by removing financial and structural barriers that prevent students from completing their education.

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

Seconded: Jay Davis

In Favour: 12

Against: 2

Abstentions: 2

MOTION PASSED

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Dilhan Simsek, expresses support for the University Accords, highlighting their importance in improving educational outcomes, much like past efforts to increase high school graduation rates. He emphasises the need to support and expand access to education, ensuring university attainment isn't limited to those who can afford it. He stresses the importance of increasing enrolment rates, particularly among disadvantaged communities, First Nations students, and those in regional areas. He encourages everyone to vote in favour of the motion.

The seconder of the motion, Jay Davis, expresses strong support for the motion, stating that increasing educational attainment, especially towards 80% of people completing a tertiary qualification, has no downsides. He highlights the motion's focus on increasing enrolment from diverse backgrounds, including students with disabilities, those from regional areas, lower socioeconomic backgrounds, and Indigenous communities, while making the system more equitable. Like Dilhan Simsek, the speaker encourages everyone to support the motion.

Motion to Amend:

That action item 1 be removed from the motion

Moved: Charlotte Sutton

Seconded: Thomas White

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

AMENDMENT CARRIED

Charlotte Sutton expresses disappointment with the University Accords, stating that from the perspective of their community, the accords were not comprehensive or forward-thinking.

While the accords acknowledge that current disability rates are higher than expected, the lack of sufficient data is a concern. She feels that the needs of people with disabilities were inadequately addressed, and overall, they found the accords to be very disappointing for this group.

Teagan Hayward raises a point about the amendment, noting that previous motions acknowledged flaws in the University Accords while still recognizing their positive aspects. Referring to the Accords as "forward thinking" in this context would contradict past motions passed by the group. They bring this up for consideration.

Jay Davis disagrees with the idea that the current motion contradicts past motions. He acknowledges that the Accords aren't perfect but argues that they are a step in the right direction and forward-thinking in many areas. He notes that previous motions have also called for improvements, and this one does the same. Therefore, he believes the amendment is unnecessary and should not be added.

Luka Kerm argues that the current motion contradicts the next one, which criticises the University Accords for exploiting international students by reducing the number allowed into the country. He expresses the view that the Accords are designed to make Australia's tertiary education sector more economically competitive at the expense of students. He believes that the Accords are focused on making more money and integrating education into the economy, not on improving the student experience. He criticises the process as being dominated by corporations, universities, and the government, with student unions merely rubber-stamping the plan.

Dilhan Simsek agrees to accept the proposed amendment and provides context by explaining that the motion mainly addresses the 80% cap mentioned in the preamble, which he believes is forward-thinking. He acknowledges the second point raised by Luka about the Accords bringing together corporations, universities, students, and the government, stating that it was beneficial to involve all stakeholders in discussions about the future of higher education. He believes that aligning these groups will lead to better outcomes and confirms he is happy to accept the amendment if the seconder agrees as well.

M. Strategic Framework for International Education

Preamble:

The Albanese government will introduce laws to cap the number of international students individual universities can enrol per year. This cap will be flexible, allowing universities to negotiate higher caps if they commit to building new student housing for both domestic and international students.

This policy was announced by the Treasurer in his budget speech on 14 May, emphasising the need to manage the growth of international students to ensure sustainability and integrity in the higher education sector.

The Education Minister asserts that the new rules, outlined in a draft international education framework, will support the sustainability, quality, and integrity of Australia's international education offerings. This aims to limit courses with systemic quality issues, limited value to Australia's skills needs, or where students are exploited.

This sets a new direction for a sustainable, high-quality, and diverse international education and training sector founded on integrity.

Motion #10:

This MSC:

1. Acknowledges the government's initiative to introduce legislation to cap international student enrolments, aiming to manage growth sustainably and ensure the integrity of the higher education sector;
2. Supports the flexible cap model, which allows universities to negotiate higher enrolment caps if they commit to building new student housing, addressing accommodation pressures and benefiting both domestic and international students;
3. Calls on the government to immediately provide clear guidelines and support for the implementation of these measures, including transparent criteria for cap adjustments and mechanisms to ensure compliance without compromising the quality of education;
4. Highlights the need for a balanced approach that addresses housing issues without undermining the contributions of international students to Australia;
5. Calls on the university to immediately begin the process of building more on campus accommodation at a rental rate which is affordable to all students.

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

Seconded: Haider Shah Aylin Vahabova

In Favour: 5

Against: 7

Abstentions: 5

MOTION FAILED

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Dilhan Simsek, expresses concern that international students are being exploited in Australia, paying high fees while struggling to find affordable accommodation. He highlights the importance of increasing the supply of affordable housing for these students, many of whom rely on their families financially but prefer to be independent by working while studying full-time. He emphasises that it's time for the government to address this issue and calls on universities to build more on-campus

accommodation to help alleviate the housing shortage and make rents more affordable for international students.

Beck Riches criticises the preamble, suggesting it reads like a Labor Party press release and lacks logic. He argues that while the motion highlights how international students are being exploited, its solution—limiting their numbers—makes no sense. He points out that proposing universities build housing for international students doesn't address the broader housing issue, especially when the motion aims to reduce the number of international students. He emphasises that as a student union, they should support students' right to study abroad, which this motion undermines. He also links the motion to the current political climate, accusing it of aligning with anti-immigrant rhetoric and urges everyone to vote against it.

N. Changes to the Subclass 485 Visa

Motion #11:

This MSC:

1. Acknowledges the concerns of Monash University graduates regarding the recent changes to the subclass 485 visa program and the impact on their future opportunities;
2. Recognises the importance of clear and targeted communication from the University to ensure affected students receive timely and accurate information about their options and support available;
3. Supports the ongoing efforts of student representatives and in particular the Faculty of Information Technology to advocate for impacted students and to work closely with the University administration to address these issues;
4. Endorses the open letter signed by Student Union Presidents across the state calling on the government to reconsider the changes and to grandfather existing students into the old visa program.

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

Seconded: Vedant Gadhavi

In Favour: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Dilhan Simsek, highlights the MSA's advocacy efforts to support students affected by the 485 visa changes. He emphasises the importance of ensuring that these students received their results in time to apply for the visa and retain the initial five-year length, noting that it was crucial for the MSA to step in and assist in this matter.

Procedural Motion:

To hear Items P, Q, then O following Item N

Moved: Madeline Curkovic

In Favour: 12

Against: 0

MOTION PASSED

P. Monash Student Council Opposes Censorship of Pro-Palestine Speech

Preamble:

Freedom of speech and the right to protest are essential democratic rights for people resisting oppression and exploitation. During the nearly 8 months of Israel's assault on the civilian population of Gaza, there have been consistent attempts to misrepresent popular pro-Palestine slogans as inherently antisemitic or violent.

The Australian senate recently voted overwhelmingly to condemn the slogan "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," claiming that it is "frequently used by those who seek to intimidate Jewish Australians via acts of antisemitism."¹ Prime Minister Anthony Albanese endorsed this, claiming that the slogan is "inappropriate". Conflation of anti-racist pro-Palestinian demands with antisemitism is a frequent tool of the political right and supporters of Israel used to stifle and repress criticism of Israel and its practices of apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and genocide.² It relies on deeply racist and islamophobic stereotypes about Palestinians, and a willful misreading of the historical context and actual use of the slogan as a political demand for equal rights for all people between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean sea.

During the Monash Gaza solidarity encampment, Monash University threatened student protesters with discipline for using pro-Palestine slogans like "From the river to the sea" on campus, or other language which the university deems "harmful". This is an outrageous attack on freedom of speech, and the rights of Palestine solidarity campaigners at Monash. It is disgraceful that Monash University has decided to crack down on students' right to protest against an ongoing genocide. This sets a dangerous precedent for further crackdowns on the right to protest for all pro-Palestine groups at Monash.

Sources:

- 1) Israel war: Fatima Payman criticised by Anthony Albanese Gaza genocide comments (smh.com.au)
- 2) Israel's apartheid against Palestinians - Amnesty International

Motion #13:

Platform:

1. The MSC denies that the slogan “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” is antisemitic, and affirms that the slogan calls for equal rights for all between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean sea.
2. The MSC condemns Monash University’s attempts to crack down on freedom of speech on campus by threatening to discipline students for chanting pro-Palestine slogans.
3. The MSC rejects that support for Palestine constitutes ‘harm’ to anyone.

Action:

1. The MSC demands that Monash university withdraw, in writing, its threats to discipline students for using pro-Palestine slogans such as “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.”
2. The MSC commits to opposing any future attempts by Monash University to discipline students for using pro-Palestine speech, or otherwise attempting to infringe on the right to free speech at Monash.

Moved: Madeline Curkovic

Seconded: Beck Riches

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

[Discussion during MSC:](#)

The mover of the motion, Madeline Curkovic, discusses a motion regarding Monash University's response to the Gaza Solidarity encampment and pro-Palestine protests on campus. Madeline Curkovic, criticises the university for labelling the slogan "From the river to the sea" as anti-Semitic and threatening students with academic discipline for using it. Madeline Curkovic, argues that the slogan is anti-racist, advocating for equal rights for all people in historic Palestine, and views Monash's actions as an attack on freedom of speech. Madeline Curkovic highlights the university's ties to Israel and weapons companies, further accusing Monash of hypocrisy for claiming to support free speech while cracking down on protests. Madeline Curkovic also connects this issue to broader political attacks on Palestine supporters in Australia, including recent campaigns against Adam Bandt. Madeline Curkovic urges the MSA to stand against these actions and support the motion.

The seconder of the motion, Beck Riches argues that Monash University's stance against pro-Palestine slogans, labelling them as harmful, is part of a broader, long-standing tactic used by the political right to silence opposition to Israel's actions in Gaza. He criticises the university for aligning with companies that manufacture weapons used in the conflict, calling it hypocritical to claim concern over harm while supporting such entities. He urges the MSC

to stand against the university's attempts to control speech and support pro-Palestine activism.

Joshua Walters refers to standing order 30.3, which allows minutes to be recorded for writing purposes but mandates that no copy can be kept more than two weeks after the MSC meeting. Additionally, no audio recordings may be archived. He interprets this as meaning only the secretary can record the meeting, and the recording must be deleted once the minutes are completed.

Motion to Amend:

Preamble:

Freedom of speech and the right to protest are essential democratic rights for people resisting oppression and exploitation. During the nearly 8 months of Israel's assault on the civilian population of Gaza, there have been consistent attempts to misrepresent popular pro-Palestine slogans as inherently antisemitic or violent.

~~The Australian senate recently voted overwhelmingly to condemn the slogan "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," claiming that it is "frequently used by those who seek to intimidate Jewish Australians via acts of antisemitism."¹ Prime Minister Anthony Albanese endorsed this, claiming that the slogan is "inappropriate". Conflation of anti-racist pro-Palestinian demands with antisemitism is a frequent tool of the political right and supporters of Israel used to stifle and repress criticism of Israel and its practices of apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and genocide.² It relies on deeply racist and islamophobic stereotypes about Palestinians, and a willful misreading of the historical context and actual use of the slogan as a political demand for equal rights for all people between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean sea.~~

During the Monash Gaza solidarity encampment, Monash University threatened student protesters with discipline for using pro-Palestine slogans like "From the river to the sea" on campus, ~~or other language which the university deems "harmful"~~. This is an outrageous attack on freedom of speech, and the rights of **students** ~~Palestine solidarity campaigners at Monash~~. It is disgraceful that Monash University has decided to crack down on students' right to protest against an ongoing genocide. This sets a dangerous precedent for further crackdowns on the right to protest for all pro-Palestine groups at Monash.

Sources:

~~1) Israel war: Fatima Payman criticised by Anthony Albanese Gaza genocide comments (smh.com.au)~~

~~2) Israel's apartheid against Palestinians - Amnesty International~~

Motion #13:

Platform:

- ~~1. The MSC denies that the slogan "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" is antisemitic, and affirms that the slogan calls for equal rights for all between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean sea.~~
- ~~2. The~~This MSC condemns Monash University's attempts to crack down on freedom of speech on campus by threatening to discipline students for chanting pro-Palestine slogans.
- ~~3. The MSC rejects that support for Palestine constitutes 'harm' to anyone.~~

Action:

- ~~The~~This MSC demands that Monash university withdraw, in writing, its threats to discipline students for using pro-Palestine slogans such as "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."
- ~~The~~This MSC commits [the MSA](#) to opposing any ~~future~~ attempts by Monash University to discipline students [for exercising their right to](#) using pro-Palestine speech, or otherwise attempting to infringe on the right to free speech at Monash.

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: Charlotte Sutton

The Mover and Secunder did not consent to this amendment and so this motion proceeded to a vote

In Favour: 11

Against: 4

Abstentions: 2

AMENDMENT PASSED

Paul Halliday acknowledges that the amendments weaken the wording of the motion but explains that the changes were made based on legal advice. This advice states that, like Monash University, the MSA should avoid taking a stand on the slogan "From the River to the Sea," as it could potentially be considered hate speech under federal and state laws. The speaker emphasises their legal responsibility to ensure that the MSA is not involved in a legal case over this issue. They proceed to outline the amendments: striking the second paragraph, which provided historical context on the slogan; removing elements related to labour, as this might affect future motions condemning labour's actions; and removing an unsourced quote from the university. Additionally, the motion is refocused on students rather than non-student Palestinian solidarity campaigners to align with the MSA's purpose. The speaker explains that the sources were removed as they pertained to a struck paragraph. They clarify that the first item in the platform was also removed because it involved the MSA taking a stand on "From the River to the Sea," which they believe is a legal matter for the

courts, not the MSA. They mention a minor grammatical change and the removal of another unsourced quote. Finally, they highlight the removal of references to "From the River to the Sea" from the motion, generalising the language to focus on the right to free speech.

Madeline Curkovic expresses strong objection to the amendments, stating that Paul has removed all references to "From the River to the Sea" because he believes the MSA should not take a position on the slogan. The speaker finds this approach problematic. The speaker strongly objects to the removal of "From the River to the Sea" from the motion, arguing that it undermines the MSA's position on supporting democratic rights for Arabs and Jews in historic Palestine. They emphasise that the slogan represents a call for equal democratic rights and should not be seen as harmful. The speaker points out that the MSA has previously passed motions in support of Palestine and believes this amendment contradicts those positions. They argue that the issue is not just legal but political, asserting that the MSA should oppose laws labelling the slogan as harmful. The speaker urges others to vote down the amendment, stating that it weakens the motion and goes against the MSA's responsibility to stand up for left-wing causes and support Palestine during a genocide.

Paul Halliday acknowledges that while the preamble provides background on the slogan "From the River to the Sea," and they agree with that background, it does not apply to the specific context in which the slogan was used. They point out that the platform calls for a blanket ruling by the MSA on the slogan, rather than considering it on a case-by-case or contextual basis.

Mohamed Orabi raised a point of clarification to Madeline Curkovic asking whether there has been any effort to demonstrate the specific instances in which students being disciplined made the statements in question, particularly the context in which those statements, such as "From the River to the Sea," were said. They question whether those seeking the MSA's support have shown the MSA how the university responded and the context behind the disciplinary threats.

Madeline Curkovic clarifies that the slogan "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" was used in rallies and protests, just as it is at other demonstrations, including student and Sunday rallies. They assert that the protests have been explicitly anti-racist, including opposition to anti-Semitism. The speaker rejects the notion that Palestine protesters are being anti-Semitic, emphasising that their call is for a free Palestine. They recount how university leaders, including security officials, imposed a blanket ban on the slogan, threatening academic discipline without citing specific instances of anti-Semitism. The speaker views this as a political attack by the university, rather than an issue of anti-Semitism.

Dilhan Simsek asks for clarification on what the university's notice of disciplinary hearing actually says and what the students are being disciplined for. They emphasise that the context of this disciplinary action is relevant to the current motion. He mentions that the MSA will be endorsing a blanket statement, and if that statement is part of the disciplinary hearing, it should be clarified in relation to the motion.

Malak expresses strong agreement with Maddie and Beck, stating that "From the river to the sea" is a call for Palestinian liberation and equal rights. They argue that any distortion of this message is a right-wing attack and a cynical misuse of anti-Semitism. Alak recalls witnessing anti-Semitism at the camp, specifically targeting Jewish participants like Luka, who spoke about his Polish Jewish ancestry and the history of left-wing Jews supporting equal rights. Alak believes that the student union's failure to take a stand is cowardly, especially when many students are facing repression for their activism. They argue that the student union should not act as an extension of the university administration or the Labour Party, but should uphold its own moral stance, support student activism, and stand for liberation causes.

Procedural Motion:

Put the amendment of the motion to a vote

Moved: Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 3

MOTION PASSED

Luka Kerm got named once by the Chair

Procedural Motion:

Put the Motion to a vote

Moved: Zareh Kozanian

In Favour: 10

Against: 7

MOTION PASSED

Sam got named once by the Chair

Luka Kerm got named for the second time by the Chair

Madeline Curkovic got named once by the Chair

Q. Belated endorsement of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment at Monash University

Preamble:

Amidst a generation-defining period of violence inflicted on the people of Gaza and Palestine, an historic student-led movement of encampments and occupations for Palestine has emerged around the world, coming up against state repression, far-right mob violence, and severe legal and academic repression.

The student movement for Palestine has seen tens of thousands of students take on their campuses' complicity in the Israeli genocide, demanding their universities disclose ties with Israel, and divest from these ties.

From Columbia, where the entire NYPD was mobilised to smash the encampment, to Amsterdam, where encampments were violently destroyed with bulldozers, it is impossible to not find the grit and determination shown by student participants inspiring.

The student encampments have not gone unnoticed in Palestine. Gazan refugees in Rafah have sent messages of thanks and support to encampment organisers around the world, including to the Monash encampment.

The establishment of Gaza solidarity encampments at most major universities in Australia has also been a pivotal moment in domestic national politics. Conservative and liberal media outlets alike have spent the past weeks publishing headlines calling for pro-Palestine activism to be crushed and criminalised. Universities have attacked democratic rights on campus, and far-right thugs have seized their chance to intimidate and harass non-violent protests against genocide.

To be silent or ambiguous in situations of injustice is to take the side of the oppressor. The MSA so far has not given any support to the encampment protest at Monash, and this should be corrected. The right-wing press, and campus Israel supporters, have used the lack of student union support to smear the encampment movement. The MSA must step up.

Motion #14:

1. The MSC endorses the Gaza Solidarity Encampment at Monash University.
2. The MSC condemns the right-wing attacks, harassment, and opposition to the Gaza Solidarity Encampment carried out by supporters of Israel.
3. The MSC endorses the demands of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment:
 1. Disclosure of all ties held by Monash University to the state of Israel, Israeli institutions, and enterprises, and defence and military institutions and enterprises outside of Israel, especially those Australian and American.
 2. Divestment of all ties held by Monash University to the state of Israel, Israeli institutions, and enterprises, and defence and military institutions and enterprises outside of Israel.
 3. That Monash University publicly support and sign on to the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement.
 4. That Monash University rescind its appalling student-wide email and public statement made in October 2023 on the "Israel-Hamas conflict" and issue a new student-wide email and public statement in condemnation of the genocidal siege on Gaza being currently carried out by the Israeli state.

4. The MSC condemns Monash University Vice Chancellor Sharon Pickering for refusing to engage with the demands of the encampment or meet with any of the participants.

Moved: Madeline Curkovic

Seconded: Beck Riches

In Favour: 3

Against: 11

Abstentions: 3

MOTION FAILED

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Madeline Curkovic, urges the MSC to support the Gaza Solidarity encampment and its demands, expressing disappointment that the MSC previously refused to discuss the motion while the encampment was active. They emphasize that the MSC should now take a stand, despite the encampment having ended, as a show of solidarity with the pro-Palestinian movement. The speaker highlights ongoing right-wing attacks against peaceful protesters, both by the government and universities, and stresses that this is part of a global student movement for Palestinian rights. They describe the dire situation in Gaza, referencing the ongoing violence and the devastating humanitarian impact, including mass casualties and families searching for loved ones. The speaker also criticises the university's ties to Israel and weapons manufacturers, urging full disclosure and divestment from these relationships, along with a rescindment of a previous university statement that failed to mention Palestinians. They call on the MSC to rectify its past inaction and support the motion to endorse the encampment and pro-Palestine activism, framing it as an obvious and necessary decision.

The seconder of the motion, Beck Riches, argues that the government and universities want to silence discussions about Palestine while allowing Israel to continue its actions, which they describe as genocide. They emphasise that, thanks to the inspiring global student encampment movement, including protests in Australia and the U.S., this issue has not been ignored. The movement has brought attention to universities' ties to Israel and weapons manufacturers, as well as government complicity. The speaker asserts that society cannot continue "business as usual" while innocent civilians suffer, and they stress the critical role students have played in this movement. They find it intolerable that a student union would fail to endorse the demands of the Gaza Solidarity encampment or support students standing in solidarity with Gaza. For them, a student union should stand with student activists who oppose the university's complicity in these actions.

Luka Kerm expresses outrage over the reliance on legal advice to justify not standing up against the Gaza genocide, comparing it to historical instances where laws were used to justify atrocities like slavery and the Holocaust. They condemn members of the Labour Party for aligning with the government's stance and diluting meaningful content in motions regarding Palestine. The speaker criticises the MSA for twice failing to mobilise members and denouncing violence on both sides of the encampment, stating that violence only came from Israel supporters. They emphasise that the motions being presented are the most basic acts of humanism and solidarity, and shame those in the MSA who have not supported the Gaza

Solidarity encampment. The speaker calls for the MSA to approve the motions and reject cowardice in the face of legal advice.

Sam expresses deep anger and disgust, accusing the majority in the room of disregarding the atrocities happening in Gaza. They recount the horrific bombing of a refugee camp by Israel during the encampment, where people were burned alive, and survivors were left to pull out their family members' charred remains. The speaker is appalled that some individuals in the room seem indifferent, calling out Grayson and Campbell for being inattentive. They criticise those who prioritise removing criticism of the Labor government over addressing the massacre and suffering of families in Gaza, labelling their actions as "absolutely disgusting."

Amiriya emphasises that the current international student movement for Palestine is the largest since the anti-apartheid movement. They argue that student unions should take strong left-wing stances against war, genocide, and imperialism, rather than following government or Labor Party legal advice. The speaker condemns those who refuse to stand against genocide and criticizes efforts to water down the political stance on Palestine. They highlight the importance of the slogan "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" and accuse the university of attacking free speech and disciplining students for pro-Palestine activism. The speaker urges others to align with left-wing values and vote in favour of the motions, calling any attempts to bypass debate as cowardly.

Procedural Motion:

Put the Motion to a vote

Moved: Jay Davis

In Favour: 1

Against: 15

MOTION FAILED

Lana Abdelhalim, identifying as Palestinian, expresses frustration with the repeated use of the word "genocide" in discussions about issues unrelated to the situation in Palestine. They find it offensive to link personal activism to the genocide in Palestine, urging others not to conflate the two. The speaker emphasises that support for certain individuals in the room does not equate to support for Palestine and asks for clarification on how the current motion differs from previous ones. They request that the issues be discussed separately from the context of Palestine.

Dilhan Simsek emphasises that the MSA Executive has received legal advice, and it would be a violation of the fiduciary duties of council members to approve the current motion. They express willingness to sit down with the motion's mover and seconder to revise the motion in line with legal advice and fiduciary responsibilities, ensuring it doesn't expose the MSA to litigation. The speaker references a past litigation incident at UMSU as a cautionary example and reiterates that, while the legal advice cannot be shared, they are open to working with the motion's supporters to create a legally sound version that can be approved.

Madeline Curkovic got named for the second time by the Chair.

Thomas White argues that board directors of an organisation should have direct access to legal advice regarding their own duties, rather than solely relying on the executive team for guidance. They suggest that directors should not be expected to vote in favour of motions based on second-hand information without having full insight into the legal advice themselves.

Dilhan Simsek raises a point of clarification asking the Chair to confirm whose responsibility it is to handle legal advice.

Joshua Walters clarifies that the responsibility for obtaining and handling legal advice lies with the MSA executive, not the wider MSA council.

Dilhan Simsek reiterates their point, stating that the MSA Council has previously endorsed pro-Palestinian motions, including a well-written statement from the first MSA meeting of the year. He argues that any suggestion that the council is not pro-Palestinian contradicts a standing resolution. However, he emphasises that the legal advice given to the MSA executive indicates that supporting the current motion would violate the fiduciary duties of the councillors. The speaker expresses willingness to work with the mover and seconder to revise the motion in line with legal advice but insists that, in its current form, the motion must be rejected.

Madeline Curkovic points out that the MSA has previously supported various pro-Palestinian protests, including student strikes, and has passed motions in support of pro-Palestinian activism throughout the year, not just in opposition to the genocide. They emphasise that actions speak louder than words and suggest that the council needs to back up its statements with tangible support for the cause.

Dilhan Simsek urges the MSC Members to follow their fiduciary responsibilities and vote the motion down, emphasising that the MSA Executive has already received clear legal guidance on this matter.

Procedural Motion:

Put the Motion to a vote

Moved: Zareh Kozanian

In Favour: 11

Against: 5

MOTION PASSED

A point of clarification is raised by Thomas White, asking whether it was possible for the council to amend the motion to align with fiduciary duties. The speaker questions if the legal advice provided only stated that the motion, as a whole, violated fiduciary responsibilities, without offering any specific guidance or details for adjustments.

Dilhan Simsek explains that legal advice is sought as a standard procedure for motions presented to the MSC. This advice determines whether passing a motion would violate councillors' fiduciary duties. In this instance, the MSA lawyer has advised that approving the current motion would indeed breach those duties and potentially expose the MSA to litigation.

Luka Kerm raised a point of clarification on the use of a past lawsuit involving the president of the monarchist society and UMSU as a legal precedent, pointing out that the case was settled out of court and did not result in a legal decision. They challenge the idea of using this as a justification for not taking a stand. Additionally, they clarify that the implication of the legal advice being referenced is that councillors are prevented from opposing the genocide due to their fiduciary duties.

Dilhan Simsek clarifies that the UMSU case is not being used as a legal precedent, but rather as an example where a pro-Palestinian motion led to litigation. The MSA executive seeks legal advice on motions to prevent similar legal risks. They reiterate that the legal advice received indicates that passing the current motion would violate councillors' fiduciary duties and expose the MSA to litigation. The executive invites the mover and seconder to collaborate on amending the motion so it can be approved by the MSA lawyer and passed at a council meeting, but in its current form, the motion poses legal risks.

Beck Riches got named twice by the chair and the chair withdrew his third naming at his discretion.

The chair announces a 15-minute adjournment for a break, noting that food, specifically pizza, is available for anyone in the room. The chair encourages people to take a bathroom break and return by 7:40 to continue the meeting.

O. Opposing discipline of pro-Palestine student protesters

Preamble:

9 students from Monash, including both Queer Office Bearers of the MSA, are facing general misconduct charges for their involvement in the Gaza Solidarity Encampment. This represents a broader attack by universities on the right to non-violently protest by attempting to individually discipline people standing against institutional complicity in Israel's genocide in Gaza. Students at the University of Sydney are facing similar disciplinary proceedings and their SRC has passed a motion defending them. The MSA has a responsibility to stand against Monash University's attempts to discipline student protesters and defend its elected representatives from repression.

Student unions have historically defended activists being repressed by universities. In the late 60's, the Monash Association of Students (MAS) took on the University over its attempts to discipline student protesters. Not continuing this tradition would be a shameful capitulation to right-wing pressure from universities and the media and would set a terrible precedent for future campus protests, enabling the institutional suppression of activism against genocide.

Monash is at the forefront of Australian universities' repression against student protests for Palestine. They have banned non-students from attending protests on campus, a fundamental attack on the right to free assembly and freedom of speech at a public institution and have banned pro-Palestine slogans and chants. They have also called for other universities to engage in the same crackdowns. Universities across Australia, including Melbourne and La Trobe Universities, have followed Monash University's lead in taking similar anti-protest actions against their own students and staff. On May 27, Police attempted to destroy the pro-Palestine encampment at ANU. University of Melbourne management repeatedly threatened the occupation of Arts West with Police violence and discipline. There is a national campaign to crack down on pro-Palestine speech and protest at Australian university campuses. The outcome of this discipline case will set a clear precedent for all future Palestine protests at Monash, and student and staff Palestine protesters across the country.

It is therefore especially important that the MSA takes a stand against attempts to repress student protests, and to fight against a nationwide assault on the right to protest for Palestine.

Motion #12:

Platform:

The MSC:

1. Supports the right of students to protest for social justice, including their right to protest for Palestine.
2. Opposes any attempts by Monash University to discipline students for non-violently supporting Palestine.

Action:

1. The MSA President will co-write a statement with the Queer officers, defending the 9 students facing general misconduct charges, defending the right of Monash students and staff to protest for Palestine on campus, and condemning Monash University for its attempts to repress Palestine protesters. This statement will be published on MSA social media and sent to media outlets in the form of a press release.
2. The MSA President will co-write a letter with the Queer officers to the university management, condemning their attempts to discipline students and attack peaceful protest.

Moved: Madeline Curkovic

Seconded: Beck Riches

In Favour: 3

Against: 12

Abstentions: 1

MOTION FAILS

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Madeline Curkovic, expresses outrage at the MSC's decision to vote down the motion endorsing the Gaza Solidarity Encampment and urges the council to support nine students being disciplined by Monash University for protesting against the genocide in Palestine. They describe how the university, along with other institutions, is targeting these students for protesting their involvement in the conflict, threatening expulsion or suspension. The speaker calls this a blatant attack on free speech and the right to protest. They reference past instances where the student association supported activism, such as hiding draft dodgers during the Vietnam War, and argue that the MSC has the capacity to stand up for what is right, as it did in previous decades. The speaker demands public political support for the nine students, warning that if the university punishes them, it would set a dangerous precedent for future protests. They argue that supporting the students is crucial to upholding the right to protest and standing against the university's complicity in the genocide.

The seconder of the motion, Beck Riches, warns that if the MSC does not pass the motion, it signals that the student union is okay with Monash punishing those who speak out about Palestine and the university's ties to Israel and weapons companies. They highlight that this issue extends beyond Monash, noting that around 20 students at Melbourne University and other campuses are facing similar disciplinary charges. The speaker explains that Monash has set a precedent for how universities manage pro-Palestine encampments, and this strategy is now being copied at other institutions. They stress that this situation is about defending pro-Palestine speech on campus and preventing the university from disciplining activists. The speaker urges the council to vote in favour of the motion, emphasising its urgency and the importance of standing in solidarity with Palestine against university efforts to silence dissent.

Dilhan Simsek reiterates that the MSA executive has received legal advice indicating that voting for the motion would violate their fiduciary duties. The speaker emphasises that the MSA executive has repeatedly requested information from the students regarding the disciplinary hearing involving the "Monash Nine" students. They also mention that the MSA executive is prepared to provide independent advice, support, and advocacy for all students involved.

Luka Kerm got named for the third time by the Chair and asked to leave the room.

The chair named Amiriya a third time for recording the meeting and withdrew the naming as it was a picture.

Dilhan Simsek states that the MSA Executive has repeatedly requested the students facing disciplinary action to share details of their cases with independent student advocacy for support. They reiterate that the legal advice received indicates that voting for the current motion would violate the duties of the council.

Procedural Motion:

Put the Motion to a vote

Moved: Zareh Kozanian

In Favour: 13

Against: 3

MOTION PASSED

Sam got named three times by the Chair and asked to leave the room.

Procedural Motion:

~~That this MSC adopts motions 15-70 of this agenda en bloc~~

That this MSC adopts motions 14 to 54 and 57 to 70 of this agenda en bloc and be put to a vote

Moved: Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 1

MOTION PASSED

Jay Davis discusses proposed changes to election regulations, noting that while some aspects are cumbersome, there are both odd and beneficial changes. They mention the removal of arbitrary rules, such as limits on the number of colours allowed on campaign T-shirts and restrictions on using music or videos on social media stories. The speaker highlights positive changes that make it easier to nominate and second candidates, reducing the requirement from over 200 to a more manageable number, which allows for easier support of entire tickets. They also point out that while some changes may complicate ticket registration slightly, the requirement of 40 signatures remains relatively easy for those familiar with gathering support for a ticket.

Joshua Strauss reflects on the eventful MSC meeting, highlighting the discussions around fiduciary duties. They raise a concern about the agenda being sent out only two days prior, which might not meet the valid notice requirement under section 51.1 of the regulations. Although the motions were sent out last Friday at 11 PM, the speaker points out that the MSA election regulations require seven days' notice for amendments or changes, not six days and 20 hours. They suggest that it would be prudent to reissue the motions in accordance with the proper guidelines to ensure compliance with the regulations, as the current timeline has limited the opportunity for others to raise issues. The speaker emphasises the importance of following the election regulations and invites corrections if there has been any misunderstanding on their part.

Joshua Walters responds by clarifying their understanding of the regulations regarding notice periods. They explain that when regulations specify "a day," it means any time within that day is acceptable for valid notice, as opposed to a specific hour count, like 168 hours. The speaker expresses a willingness to consult with the lawyer for confirmation but believes this interpretation is consistent with past advice received.

Jay Davis notes that once the election is called, which will happen in the next agenda item, the motions cannot be amended anymore, emphasising the importance of addressing them today. They agree with the previous speaker's interpretation that the notice period refers to calendar days rather than specific hours.

Thomas White wishes to clarify how notice was handled in previous years regarding changes to the election regulations. They ask whether notifying the MSC members is sufficient to fulfil the notice requirement or if additional forms of disclosure are necessary.

Joshua Walters clarifies that the election regulations state that the motion must be distributed to all members of the MSC at least seven days before the meeting. They emphasise that the only requirement for notice is to ensure that MSC members are notified.

Zareh Kozanian addresses Joshua Strauss, acknowledging his role as the secretary of the MSC, and states that it is up to the MSC to interpret the regulations. They express openness to raising the matter for a vote among the MSC members. They confirm that the understanding among the Executives is that the seven days' notice should not be interpreted in hours. They mention the standing orders also require hour specific notice such as 48 hours, encouraging Joshua Strauss to revise the standing orders. The speaker suggests that if Joshua Strauss wants to seek clarification on the interpretation from the MSC, they are willing to do so, but they also advocate for accepting the notice as valid and proceeding to vote on the motion.

Grace Binns acknowledges that the upcoming motions are primarily housekeeping and administrative but emphasises the importance of motions 55 and 56. These motions propose disqualifying members of the Executive of the National Union of Students (NUS) from running in the MSA elections if passed. The speaker argues that these motions are anti-democratic and anti-unionist, as they would also prevent anyone who has served on the NUS within the past three months from participating in the elections. The speaker criticises the MSC for praising the NUS's advocacy work earlier in the meeting while simultaneously attempting to pass a motion that would disqualify NUS Executive representatives from running in the upcoming MSA elections. They label this action as hypocritical and anti-democratic, arguing that individuals with experience in the NUS are essential for effectively representing students and managing student associations. The speaker acknowledges that if the motion passes, it will likely be appealed and encourages those interested to follow the "Stand With NUS" campaign on social media for updates on the appeal process.

Joshua Strauss appreciates the discussion on the notice and suggests delaying the vote to avoid confusion about its interpretation. They argue that proper notice will facilitate meaningful discussion and allow more contributions to the election regulations.

Jay Davis asserts that there is no issue with the notice and notes that if others wanted to propose changes to the election regulations, they could have done so at any of the previous six MSC meetings. They emphasise that there is no requirement for changes to be made during the same election when the MSC is called. Regarding the NUS-related content, the speaker suggests that it can be removed from the motion if someone wishes to propose an amendment, allowing the council to vote on the other items.

Thomas White seeks insights from someone knowledgeable about the NUS to clarify two main questions: first, why the MSA regulations were changed to include the NUS executive, which seems to exceed the NUS's own definitions; and second, what the NUS's rationale is for prohibiting national office holders from running for student elections. They express that if the reason for this restriction applies equally to NUS executive members, then it would be a reasonable interpretation of the rules. However, if the reasoning does not apply to NUS executives, they feel further discussion is needed.

Dilhan Simsek explains that his understanding is that the NUS bylaws stipulate that national offices cannot run in affiliated student union elections. They clarify that the NUS, or National Union of Students, allows student associations in tertiary education institutions like Monash and the MSA to affiliate with it. The speaker emphasises their support for the NUS and states that the clause exists to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure good governance. Using an analogy, they compare the situation to a government department where the minister and secretary cannot be the same person, as this would create a conflict of interest. They argue that if the president of the MSA is also a national executive, it complicates governance since they would be responsible for both the NUS and MSA. The speaker asserts that being a member of both organisations makes it difficult to act in the best interest of either one, and thus, the regulation aims to strengthen governance. They argue that the changes to election regulations are not anti-democratic; rather, they make it easier for tickets to register and qualify for front-page voting. The speaker highlights that previous election regulations have often disqualified many candidates due to incorrect nomination forms. They state that the current regulation changes enhance the democratic nature of the union and elections. They also point out that other student unions, such as VUSU, have more restrictive campaigning rules, emphasising that the proposed changes benefit the MSA. The speaker insists that the MSA should support the NUS while also ensuring good governance by not allowing overlaps in leadership between the NUS and MSA. Members of the National Union of Students (NUS) and the National Executive condemn the Monash Student Association (MSA), which should represent its affiliate universities and unions. The MSA pays an affiliation fee to be part of the NUS, and all support the work that the NUS does. However, it is considered shameful for the NUS Office Bearers to launch an attack on an affiliate union. The speaker asserts that the MSA is incredibly democratic and that the election regulations proposed at this MSC aim to strengthen that. As an MSA executive, they note that the MSA has not received any correspondence from the NUS suggesting that these regulations are anti-democratic. The speaker understands that there has been no notice from the NUS lawyer, who has reviewed these regulation changes and found them acceptable, to indicate they are anti-democratic or should not be passed. Additionally, the MSA has not received any communication from NUS suggesting otherwise. The speaker highlights that they presented these regulations to a member of the National Executive four weeks prior, and not one issue was raised at that

time. The speaker argues that the attack on the MSA as an affiliate union by the NUS office bearers is anti-student unionism and anti-democratic, as it seeks to suppress the democracy of the MSA. They refer to a previous endorsement of the NUS passed by the MSC and express their commitment to presenting a united front to the NUS while opposing the presence of MSA members on governing bodies, as this constitutes bad governance. The speaker welcomes differing opinions and invites a debate on these interpretations. They criticise NUS Office Bearers engaging in this campaign for its lack of professionalism, stating that no organisation should attack affiliate unions, especially when unionism is on the decline. The speaker emphasises the importance of not discouraging student associations from affiliating with the NUS or participating in it, as it plays a vital role in advocacy. They conclude that labelling these regulation changes as anti-democratic is a misrepresentation and misjudgment, remaining open to further discussion.

Jay Davis states they will be brief and aims to clarify that the proposed changes to the regulations are minor. The adjustment involves expanding the ban from forbidding individuals who hold a national office in the NUS to include everyone on the national executive. They emphasise that those already holding a national office are already banned from running in local elections. Thus, the change is relatively small, merely broadening an existing regulation. The speaker asserts that this change is not anti-democratic and questions whether the MSA wants individuals from the national body to interfere in local student politics.

Thomas White expresses a lack of experience with the NUS and its operations as a national oversight body. They question why the NUS allows its members, who oversee affiliates, to run in those affiliates, suggesting this is fundamentally undemocratic. The speaker asks why the NUS constitution does not explicitly prohibit this practice, pointing out that it only states that office bearers cannot run. They invite someone from the NUS to clarify the logic behind this distinction. The speaker concludes that if no clear rationale exists for the distinction, the proposed regulations appear reasonable.

Dilhan Simsek explains that those who have participated in the NUS and attended a national conference understand its highly political nature, which makes it difficult for various student bodies to amend the constitution due to the requirement for a significant majority of delegates to support any changes. They believe that the absence of certain provisions in the NUS constitution is due to cross-factional deals, and anticipate that any proposal to prohibit NUS office bearers from running in affiliate elections would likely be voted down at a national conference because of delegate composition. However, the speaker asserts that this should not prevent their union from proactively ensuring that regulations are amended in the best interest of governance, independent of the NUS. They emphasise that the MSA is an affiliate of the NUS but operates independently, and thus should not allow any potential conflict of interest to arise. The speaker addresses comments made in the chat about whether the motion is based on the NUS constitution. They clarify that NUS office bearers who resign cannot be reappointed; they must be elected. In contrast, members of the national executive (NX) can be appointed again after resigning, which could lead to a situation where a national executive member could resign, run for election, and then

reappoint themselves. This motion aims to prevent that scenario, thereby ensuring the MSA's independence from its oversight body and maintaining proper governance.

Thomas White raises a point of clarification about the decision to apply the regulation retroactively by three months to prevent NUS officers from transitioning into MSA roles and then back into NUS positions. They question the effectiveness of this measure, asking how it actually prevents someone from resigning a few months before the MSA election, only to be reappointed afterward. The speaker seeks clarification on how this approach addresses the underlying issue of potential conflicts of interest, suggesting that the solution may not adequately resolve the problem they are trying to avoid.

Dilhan Simsek articulates that individuals genuinely interested in the National Union of Students (NUS) should indeed be permitted to hold positions on the national executive. However, they emphasise that if such individuals wish to run for the Monash Student Association (MSA), they should recognize the need to step back from a role that requires them to govern in the best interests of the NUS. The speaker believes this transition allows for proper foresight and encourages those considering candidacy to make informed decisions. They highlight that the structure of the NUS allows for easier reappointment compared to the MSA, where resigning from a position necessitates running through by-elections. This regulation aims to prevent someone from resigning just before nominating for the MSA and then quickly rejoining the national executive, thereby addressing the conflict of interest that arises from such overlapping responsibilities.

Charlotte Sutton expresses uncertainty about the ongoing debate regarding the proposed changes, asking Grace for her perspective. They suggest that if the changes are minor yet still provoke extensive discussion and potential conflict, the exercise may seem futile. The speaker personally believes the arguments for the changes are valid but raises a concern about whether individuals can genuinely commit to either the national executive or the MSA position. They emphasise the importance of considering the outcome of this debate, advocating that the priority should be to make elections accessible for everyone.

Grace Binns clarifies that they have no personal association with the NUS and do not hold a stake in the motion being discussed. They express scepticism about the purpose of the motion, arguing that it would be beneficial for representatives from the student association to advocate on a national level. While they acknowledge the conflict of interest argument, they believe it is not inherently negative to have someone who understands both the MSA and NUS workings representing student interests nationally. The speaker finds the three-month period for disqualification arbitrary and raises concerns about the potential loss of valuable candidates who might resign from the executive, fail to be elected in the MSA, and then be barred from returning to the NUS executive due to these regulations. Ultimately, they deem the regulation unnecessary and arbitrary.

Paul Halliday questions the rationale behind the NUS drawing a distinction between office bearers and members of the National Executive (NX) in their regulations. They ask what makes it non-arbitrary for the NUS to impose restrictions on office bearers while allowing NX members to participate in student elections. The speaker seeks clarification on why an NUS

office bearer is deemed inherently less capable of running in a student election compared to other participants.

Grace Binns acknowledges the question and expresses their lack of familiarity with the internal operations of the NUS. They express curiosity about why the regulation in question has not been previously presented and question the timing of its introduction at the current meeting. The speaker finds the timing peculiar and questions whether the regulation aligns with the NUS's existing rules regarding office bearers, suggesting that if it were consistent, it should have been raised sooner.

Dilhan Simsek expresses gratitude for the questions and contributions regarding the policy and its nuances. They emphasise the importance of discussing representation within the National Union of Students (NUS). The speaker highlights that as an affiliate, the MSA has elected NUS delegates during its elections, allowing these individuals to represent the thoughts and needs of the students who elected them. The MSA president also participates in forums like the President's Summit, providing a platform for Monash students' voices to be heard through the NUS. Additionally, the speaker mentions a previously co-signed letter from union presidents in Victoria, underscoring the NUS's role in uniting student union leaders. They reiterate that the changes being proposed aim to strengthen governance, enhance democracy, and establish a better framework for the union. The speaker remains open to further questions.

Jay Davis reiterates that the proposed changes do not prevent someone from being appointed to the NUS after holding a position in the MSA; they simply have to relinquish their MSA role. The speaker draws a parallel to the governance issues that arise when politicians hold seats in both state and federal parliaments simultaneously, highlighting the potential conflicts of interest that can occur when individuals serve on multiple governing boards. They emphasise that the changes aim to prevent such conflicts and assert that this is not an unreasonable adjustment. The speaker also acknowledges the civility of the current debate, thanking everyone for that positive aspect. They suggest that if there are strong feelings about voting on the specific regulation regarding NUS representatives, individuals should consider moving an amendment to remove it from the en bloc motion, allowing the council to vote on the remaining items before addressing this particular regulation separately.

Joshua Strauss expresses appreciation for the constructive discourse during the meeting and notes that the issue at hand may be slightly misrepresented, though not due to anyone's fault. They clarify that individuals enrolled in a National Union of Students position have long been prohibited from participating in elections, emphasising that the specific concern is about the three-month regulation. They believe this regulation restricts those already representing the NUS from being able to run in the elections, which they view as a significant drawback. They conclude by apologising for any redundancy in their comments.

Asad Jan begins by acknowledging the previous discussion on the conflict of interest related to the three-month rule concerning members of the national executive and their participation in MSA elections. They suggest that instead of a three-month period, it might be more reasonable to implement a one-month rule, allowing those in the national executive who wish to run for MSA elections to do so in a timely manner. They emphasise that this

change could enable these individuals to better represent their fellow students. The speaker also addresses the concern that individuals might resign from the national executive only to seek re-election shortly after. They propose adding a new clause stating that individuals who are part of the MSA cannot seek re-election to the national executive, thereby creating a clearer boundary regarding participation in both roles. The speaker seeks clarification on the reasoning behind the current three-month rule and whether there are any objections to the proposed amendment.

Dilhan Simsek addresses the election timeline, noting that it allows for nine weeks of leeway. They acknowledge that the duration for the rule could vary—ranging from two months to six months—but emphasise that three months serves as an optimal balance. This duration allows members of the national executive to step back without immediately vacating their position, ensuring they are not in a conflict of interest. The speaker explains that one month would be too short to effectively transition, while three months is long enough for someone else to step in and continue advocacy for students. They highlight the importance of good governance, asserting that as members of the MSC and directors of the MSA, they have a responsibility to maintain high standards of governance. The speaker argues that even if the regulations are stricter than those at other unions, it is essential for the MSA to lead in governance practices and implement these changes for the benefit of the organisation and its members.

Alex speaks on the motion wanting to add to the argument in favour of a three-month duration. They express that the three-month rule does not seem arbitrary; instead, it appears reasonable. They note that the MSA already has various periods, including three months, set before elections for appointing individuals and other matters. The speaker believes that three months serves as a good dividing line to help avoid conflicts of interest. They also mention that this timeframe occasionally arises in discussions about new clubs, reinforcing their view that it is a sound model.

Grace Binns asks for clarification regarding the previous question, expressing uncertainty about what was being asked. They emphasise their desire to understand if someone suggests that it is not the right time for individuals to advocate for their interests in the context of the discussion. They also note that this situation does not impose any burden on those who express their views online.

Dilhan Simsek provides a response for the knowledge of everyone present in the room. They seek clarification on whether there is a specific individual being referred to in the previous discussion. They note that there is one person whose situation may be relevant, indicating that this individual had access to the proposed regulations well beyond the three-month deadline. The speaker mentions having engaged in discussions with this individual, during which no issues were raised.

Joshua Walters asses the chair to Paul Haulliday

Joshua Walters briefly addresses the changes related to affirmative action. He explains that the executive has attempted to make the affirmative action policy more inclusive of gender-diverse identities, rather than only focusing on women. However, the current wording

of the constitution hinders this effort. He mentions the intention to pursue a referendum or constitutional change to achieve inclusivity for gender-diverse identities. He clarifies that the existing policy specifies "women only" in the affirmative action context, which the executive tried to address but could not due to constitutional constraints.

Paul Haulliday passes the chair back to Joshua Walters

Dilhan Simsek expresses strong support for democracy and asserts that the proposed election regulations are democratic. They encourage everyone present to vote in favour of the regulations.

Thomas White notes that certain issues can be resolved in the next election and expresses curiosity about how the upcoming election will unfold. They mention concerns regarding the monetary amounts for different tickets and clarify with Josh earlier about the total number of paper ballots available to tickets. The speaker acknowledges that some of the paper ballot numbers have been marginally increased, particularly with the April posters, although the cap remains the same. They emphasise the importance of tracking leftover ballots to avoid excessive paper waste, suggesting that it would be beneficial for all tickets to assess how many ballots remain unused. The speaker urges that steps be taken to regulate the printing of ballots to ensure they align with actual usage for environmental considerations. They conclude by prompting Jay for further input.

Aylin Vahabova suggests the possibility of creating specific recycling bins for ballot papers, noting the lack of paper recycling options on campus. She highlights that when people receive the ballots, they often dispose of them in places like the library instead of recycling them. The speaker proposes that having dedicated recycling locations for ballot papers could address this issue, aligning with the earlier concerns about paper waste and environmental impact.

Joshua Walters declares that the motions 14 to 54 and 57 to 70 of this agenda passes by absolute majority and the election regulations have been changed with 13 votes in favour and one abstention.

Joshua Walters declares that the motions 55 and 56 of this agenda passes by absolute majority and the election regulations have been changed with 14 votes in favour.

R. Election and Committee Regulation Changes

Motion #15:

That this MSC amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 1.1.9, 1.1.10, 1.1.11, 1.1.12 to read as follows

1.1.9. "ticket" means a group of candidates who have registered to have their names set out on the ballot under a common name in accordance with these regulations;

1.1.10. a reference to a time means Melbourne Time.

1.1.11. “unique candidate” means a candidate, running either on a ticket or as an individual, who is a single individual for the purposes of front-page voting. For the avoidance of doubt, an individual who nominates for multiple positions is considered to be only a unique candidate and not multiple candidates. Each candidate sharing an office bearing position is considered to be a unique candidate.

1.1.12. “ballot” is a mechanism, electronically or otherwise, of voting secretly on a particular issue or for a particular candidate.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #16:

That this MSC inserts the following clause, Reg 1.1.13, into the Election Regulations as detailed below.

1.1.13. “exclusion zone” means a location, area or event space determined by the Returning Officer or these regulations where no campaigning shall be permitted.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #17:

That this MSC amends the title of Section 7 and amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 5.4.2, Reg 5.4.3, Reg 7., Reg 7.1, Reg 7.2, Reg 7.2.2, Reg 7.2.3, 7.3 to read as follows

5.4.2. be a currently enrolled student of the University, or has been enrolled at the University within the previous two academic years, unless the Secretary is Returning Officer for a by-election; and

5.4.3. have contested any student organisation election in the five academic years prior to the year of the election, unless the Secretary is Returning Officer for a by-election.

7. Deputy and Assistant Returning Officers, Election Staff

7.1. The Returning Officer may appoint and remove Deputy and Assistant Returning Officers and Election staff

7.2. Deputy and Assistant Returning Officers and Election staff must not:

7.2.1. be candidates in the election;

7.2.2. be currently enrolled students of the University, or has been enrolled at the University within the previous two academic years; and

7.2.3. have contested any student organisation election in the five academic years prior to the year of the election.

7.3. Deputy and Assistant Returning Officers and Election staff are subject to the direction of and have the duties determined by the Returning Officer.

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #18:

That this MSC inserts clause 7.5 to the Election Regulations:

7.5. The Returning Officer will publish a list of Deputy and Assistant Returning Officers prior to the commencement of the nomination period.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #19:

That this MSC amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 6.2 and Reg 6.5.1 to read as follows:

6.2. Any decision of the Returning Officer may be appealed to the Electoral Tribunal in accordance with regulation 46.

6.5.1. The results of the election

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #20:

That this MSC amends Reg 8.3 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

8.3. The Returning Officer must use a two factor authentication or unique voting links voting system for the purpose of maintaining security of the voting system.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #21:

That this MSC amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 9.1, Reg 10.1, Reg 10.2, Reg 10.3, Reg 10.3.3, Reg 10.3.5, Reg 18, Reg 20.6, Reg 20.7, Reg 20.8, Reg 20.21 and Reg 40.3 to read as follows:

9.1. For the annual elections nominations open at 9.00am on the Monday 5 weeks before the annual elections.

10.1. At 9.00am on the Monday 7 weeks before the annual elections the Returning Officer must give notice of the election, by placing notice on the MSA website and by distributing notice via the Monash University bulk e-mail facilities where available;

10.2. At 9.00am 10 academic days before a by-election the Returning Officer must give notice of the election, by placing notice on the MSA website;

10.3. On the Monday 7 weeks before the annual elections (and 10 academic days before a by-election if at least one of the vacant positions is the Indigenous Officer) the Returning Officer, in consultation with William Cooper Institute, will prepare and send an email to all Indigenous Australian students at Monash University (Clayton) campus, that will

10.3.3. call for nominations specifying the opening date of nominations, and provide a nomination form;

10.3.5. emphasise the requirements stipulated in regulations 11.7 and 11.8, specifying the exact date for this requirement.

18. List of Candidates and Registered Ticket Names

The Returning Officer must by 12.00 midday on the Thursday 3 weeks before the annual elections and 4 academic days before a by-election, place on the MSA website a list of candidates in the order they will appear on the Lot's Wife Election Guide and a list of registered ticket names including the authorised officers.

20.6. For the annual elections, the Returning Officer must publish a full list of all registered tickets on the MSA website by 5.00pm on the Tuesday 5 weeks before the annual elections.

20.7. For a by-election, the Returning Officer must publish a full list of all registered tickets on the MSA website by 9.00am 8 academic days before the by-election.

20.21. By 5.00pm on the Monday 6 weeks before the annual elections, the Returning Officer must publish a list of all reregistered ticket names on the website.

40.3. The Returning Officer must place a notice of the declaration of the election on the MSA website as soon as practicable after declaring the election.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #22:

That this MSC deletes Regulation 10.5 from the Election Regulations

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #23:

That this MSC amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 11.1.1, Reg 11.1.2, Reg 11.7, Reg 11.8, 11.8.1, 11.8.2 to read as follows:

11.1.1. disqualified from participation for serious misconduct for a period to be determined by the Returning Officer or Electoral Tribunal; or

11.1.2. prohibited under clause 39(1) of the Constitution; or

11.7. Only students who are registered with the William Cooper Institute as an Indigenous student may run for Indigenous Officer.

11.8. A student who is not registered with the William Cooper Institute and wishes to stand and/or vote for Indigenous Officer and/or the Indigenous Affairs Collective may do so provided they;

11.8.1. satisfy the standard process for identifying as an Indigenous Australian as recognised by William Cooper Institute; and

11.8.2. are accordingly registered with William Cooper Institute at least one week before the close of nominations.

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #24:

That this MSC inserts the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 11.1.3, Reg 11.1.4, and Reg 11.6.

11.1.3. are not ineligible or prohibited from holding a working with children's check; or

11.1.4. appear as a disqualified person on the ACNC disqualified persons register.

11.6. Only students who indicate that they reside in on-campus accommodation on their nomination form may run for Residential Communities Officer.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #25:

That this MSC removes clause 11.8 from the Election Regulations.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #26:

That this MSC deletes the clauses Reg 12.1 and Reg 12.3-Reg 12.5 of the Election Regulations and replaces them with the following:

- 12.1. Nominations must be in the form as determined by the Returning Officer.
 - 12.1.1. Candidates nominating to share the position of “Lot’s Wife” Editors must submit a separate statement as determined by the Returning Officer.
- 12.3. A student may not nominate and second the same nomination.
- 12.4. Candidates must not nominate or second their own nomination.
- 12.5. Students may nominate or second as many nominations as they wish subject to the provisions of the regulations.
- 12.6. The Returning Officer must make nomination forms available at the Student Union Recreation Library and via the internet from the opening of nominations.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #27:

That this MSC amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 13.1, Reg 13.3, and Reg 13.4 to read as follows:

13.1. Nominations must be sent digitally to the Returning Officer on the email published in the Notice of Election except for those stipulated in regulation 13.1.1.

13.3. If a nomination is rejected, the Returning Officer must immediately notify the person concerned, as well as the Authorised Officer if that person is nominating with a ticket, and state the reason for the rejection.

13.4. No decision of the Returning Officer to reject a nomination may be appealed more than one academic day after the list of candidates and registered ticket names is published.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #28:

That this MSC inserts the following clause, Reg 13.5, into the Election Regulations:

13.5. Two academic days prior to the close of nominations, the Returning Officer will publish a provisional list of nominations received and rejected.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #29:

That this MSC inserts amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 16.2.1 and Reg 16.2.2 to read as follows:

16.2.1. for the annual elections – until 5.00pm on the Friday 3 weeks before the annual elections;

16.2.2. for by-elections – until 12.00 midday on the Friday 1 week before the by-election.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #30:

That this MSC amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 17.1, Reg 17.2, Reg 17.3, and the title of Section 17 to read as follows:

17. Draw for Election Guide Order

17.2. If the number of candidates for any position exceeds the number to be elected, the Returning Officer must, at 12.00 midday on the Wednesday 3 weeks before the annual elections and 5pm 5 academic days before a by-election, provided their eligibility has been verified, determine by lot the order of those candidates on the election guide.

17.3. Any student may observe the draw.

17.4. The Returning Officer must place a notice on the internet stating when and where the draw will take place.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #31:

That this MSC inserts the following clause Reg 17.1, into the Election Regulations and renumbers the section accordingly:

17.1. The order of candidates appearing on the ballot shall be subject to a random order function on the voting platform used for the election.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #32:

That this MSC inserts the following clause Reg 19.1.1, into the Election Regulations and renumbers the section accordingly:

19.1.1. If a candidate has nominated to run with a ticket, the authorised officer of that ticket may submit a withdrawal on the candidate's behalf insofar as they have the candidate's consent to do so.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #33:

That this MSC amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, 19.2, 19.5, and 19.6 to read as follows:

19.2. Withdrawals must be in the form determined by the Returning Officer.

19.5. If a candidate withdraws, the Returning Officer may modify ballots as necessary or appropriate.

19.6. Any ballot showing a preference for a withdrawn candidate must be allocated under regulation 38 as if the candidate had been eliminated.

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #34:

That this MSC amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 20.1, Reg 20.4.1, Reg 20.4.2, Reg 20.8, Reg 20.9.1, Reg 20.13.2, Reg 20.16, Reg 20.18, Reg 20.23, and Reg 20.24 to read as follows:

20.1. Any student may apply to have a ticket name registered in the form as determined by the Returning Officer if:

20.4.1. open at 9.00am on the Monday 7 weeks before the annual elections; and

20.4.2. close at 5.00pm on the Thursday 6 weeks before the annual elections.

20.8. Any group of candidates may apply to have their names set out on the ballot under the name of a ticket.

20.9.1. open at 9.00am on the Monday 5 weeks before the annual elections;

20.13.2. the ticket is reregistered with a different authorised officer in the form determined by the Returning Officer.

20.16. The authorised officer of a ticket contesting an election for multiple positions must notify the Returning Officer by writing the order in which they want the names of the members to be printed on the ballot by the close of nominations

20.18 The reregistration period closes at 5.00pm on the Thursday 7 weeks before the annual Elections.

20.23. The Returning Officer must include a separate list of all registered ticket names and authorised officers in the Returning Officer's report

20.24. Tickets may not submit more nominations for a position than vacancies available irrespective of whether the nomination is for an individual candidate or is a shared candidature or is a multi-member position.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #35:

That this MSC amends clause 20.1.1 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

20.1.1. they have found at least 40 students who supported the registration or re-registration of the ticket who must sign and provide their student numbers; and

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #36:

That this MSC inserts the following clause 20.14 into the Election Regulations and renumbers the section accordingly:

20.14. If the proposed name of a ticket includes the name of a ticket used in any MSA election in the past three years, the application must include the consent of the person who most recently registered the ticket, whether or not they are a student.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #37:

That this MSC amends Regulation 22.2 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

22.2. The candidates must sign a declaration acknowledging that they are jointly standing for an office-bearer position on each other's nomination form as determined by the Returning Officer.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #38:

That this MSC amends Regulation 23.4 of the Election Regulations, to read as follows:

23.4. The badges will be made available at the Student Union Recreation Library as well as the Disabilities and Carers lounge and office.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #39:

That this MSC amends Section 24 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

24.1. Candidates may submit by 5.00pm on the Friday 4 weeks before the annual elections a policy speech and photograph for each position for which they nominate.

24.2. Policy speeches and photographs must be submitted electronically in a form specified at the opening of nominations by the editors of "Lot's Wife" before or at the time nominations close.

24.3. Two or more candidates who nominate to share an office-bearer position may submit only one policy speech for that position.

24.4. Tickets that qualify for 'front page voting' may submit a ticket statement and photo prior to the close of nominations so that it may appear on the Lot's Wife Election guide.

24.5. Candidates standing as a ticket for proportionally elected positions may submit only one policy speech for all candidates on that ticket.

24.6. Policy speeches for two or more candidates standing as a ticket proportionally elected positions must be no longer than 300 words. Policy speeches for all other candidates, including co-office-bearers running for directly elected positions must not be longer than 200 words.

24.7. If the number of words in a policy speech exceeds the number permitted by regulation 24.6, the excess words must not be published under regulation 24.8.

24.8. For the annual elections the editors of “Lot’s Wife” must produce an election guide, which must

24.8.1. be at least A4 size;

24.8.2. include a brief description of each position to be elected;

24.8.3. not have any candidate material on the front or back covers, inside the front or back covers, or on the two centre pages;

24.8.4. give the candidate photographs and policy speeches for each position in reverse ballot order;

24.8.5. use the same colour, font, font style and font size for all names and policy speeches;

24.8.6. reproduce candidate photographs at least passport size;

24.8.7. be available for viewing in electronic format from 12pm – 5pm on the Monday 1 week before the annual election;

24.8.8. be able to be amended at the request of a candidate with the approval of the Returning Officer insofar as the amendment does not alter the substance of a statement;

24.8.9. be distributed online on or before the Monday in the week before the annual elections and in hard copy on or before the Wednesday in the week before the annual elections; and

24.8.10. be approved by the Returning Officer before publication.

24.9. The names of candidates who do not submit a policy speech or photo will be published in the election guide, with a note that the other speech and/or photo was not submitted.

24.10. The editors of “Lot’s Wife” and any other person nominated by the MSC must produce the election guide using the facilities of “Lot’s Wife”.

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #40:

That this MSC amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 25.4.6, Reg 25.5, Reg 25.5.1, Reg 25.5.1.1, Reg 25.5.1.2, and Reg 25.6, Reg 25.10, Reg 25.11, and Reg 25.11.1 to read as follows:

25.4.6. be printed on paper received from the Returning Officer in accordance with regulation 25.5

25.5. The Returning Officer must supply tickets and individual candidates with identifiably marked and 'copy-proofed' paper and inform tickets of their campaign spending limits.

25.5.1. Paper must be given to individuals and tickets in the following quantities and their campaign spending must not exceed the following amounts:

25.5.1.1. for individual unique candidates (not standing as part of a group of candidates) and a group of up to 21 unique candidates – 1,500 A4 sheets and 100 A3 posters with campaign spending not exceeding \$1,500;

25.5.1.2. for a group of 21-70 unique candidates – 4,500 A4 sheets and 150 A3 posters with campaign spending not exceeding \$2,500

25.6. The marking on paper supplied by the Returning Officer in accordance with regulation 25.5 must be of sufficient size and visibility to enable the paper to be identified if it is divided.

25.10. Regulations 25.8 – 25.9 do not apply to personal social networking profiles in the name of candidates, where such communication has occurred within the confines of the profile itself;

25.11. The following is prohibited:

25.11.1. Badges, stickers, audio visual content broadcast on campus, balloons, food, drink, drugs or any other give away consumables

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #41:

That this MSC deletes clauses Reg 25.7 and Reg 25.13 from the Election Regulations and renumbers the section accordingly

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #42:

That this MSC amends clause Reg 26.4 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

26.4. The Returning Officer must be given at least 48 hours to review any edition of “Lot’s Wife” as required by regulation 25.2 before it is published.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #43:

That this MSC deletes the content of Section 27 of the Election Regulations, and replaces it with the following

27. Authorisation of Content

27.1. All content must be authorised by the authorised officer of that ticket.

27.2. The authorising officer’s name must appear legibly on the content. A copy or proof ready design of every pamphlet, item or clothing, poster and electronic publicity must be provided to the Returning Officer for their authorisation before it is distributed or displayed. Acceptance of publicity material by the Returning Officer does not indicate that the material does not breach the regulations. Any such material may be ordered withdrawn by the Returning Officer at some later point if it becomes clear that it contains content in breach of the regulations.

27.2.1. Electronic publicity must be provided to the Returning Officer before or as soon as practicable after publishing and is considered automatically authorised, and therefore able to be published, unless the Returning Officer states otherwise.

27.3. The provision of election publicity is to be done in a form determined by the Returning Officer.

27.4. The Returning Officer must make authorised campaign content available for students to inspect upon request.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #44:

That this MSC deletes the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 30.3.2, Reg 30.3.2.1, Reg 30.3.2.2 and renumbers the section accordingly

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #45:

That this MSC amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 32.2, Reg 32.3.1, Reg 32.3.2, Reg 32.5 to read as follows:

32.2. A ticket qualifies for the front page voting where it has completed a valid registration and has nominated at least 7 unique candidates as part of that ticket, and these 7 unique

candidates must be contesting at least one office bearing position and at least two positions on a committee or for NUS delegate.

32.3.1. list each ticket that has satisfied regulation 32.1;

32.3.2. provide instructions that give effect to the method of casting a vote pursuant to Regulation 32.1; and

32.5. Only students who are registered with the William Cooper Institute as Indigenous students may vote for the Indigenous Officer.

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #46:

That this MSC inserts the following clause Reg 33.4 and amends the title of Section 33 of the Election Regulations

33. Issuing of Ballots

33.4. The Returning Officer will distribute reminder emails to students yet to cast their vote at approximately 12:00pm on each day of polling except for the first day.

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #47:

That this MSC amends the following clauses, Reg 34.3, Reg 34.4, Reg 34.5, Reg 34.6, Reg 34.6.2.1, Reg 34.7 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

34.3. For the purposes of regulation 34.2.1:

34.4. For the purposes of regulation 34.2.1:

34.5. For the purposes of regulation 34.2.2:

34.6. A voter who has voted for a ticket in accordance with regulation 34.2.2 is deemed to have voted in the following manner:

34.6.2.1. If a voter has indicated a preference for another ticket that has a candidate nominated in a position where the ticket of the voter's first preference has not nominated, the candidate from the highest preferred ticket where a candidate has nominated for that position will be considered to have received that vote in accordance with regulation 34.2.2.

34.7. A voter who has voted in accordance with both regulation 34.2.1 and regulation 34.2.2 is deemed to have voted in accordance with regulation 34.2.1 and not regulation 34.2.2.

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #48:

That this MSC renames Section 35 of the Election Regulations, as follows:

35. Security of Ballots and the Electoral Roll

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #49:

That this MSC deletes clause 36.2 of the Election Regulations and replaces it with the following:

36.2. Count sheets will be made available to all students upon request.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #50:

That this MSC amends clause 37.2 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

37.2. A vote is only informal when it does not comply with regulation 34 and the voter's intention is not clear.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #51:

That this MSC amends clause 38.1.2 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

38.1.2. The value of each ballot must be allocated to the continuing candidate against whose name appears the lowest number on the ballot.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #52:

That this MSC amends clause 39.1 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

39.1. If a candidate has nominated for two or more positions, they may submit a statement of preference of nominated positions to the Returning Officer to indicate their preference of positions that they have nominated.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #53:

That this MSC removes clause 39.4.1 from the Election Regulations

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #54:

That this MSC amends clause 42.1.2 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

42.1.2. place the results on the MSA website.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #55:

That this MSC amends the following clauses of the Election Regulations, Reg 43.4, Reg 43.4.7, Reg 43.4.17, Reg 43.4.26, Reg 43.4.26.1, and Reg 43.4.31 to read as follows:

43.4. Without limiting the generality of regulations 43.2 and 43.3, the following are specifically prohibited:

43.4.7. publicity not in accordance with regulation 25;

43.4.17. using MSA or University facilities not generally available to all students (this includes the facilities and email lists provided by the Clubs & Societies Office for use by club, with the use of club printing accounts for the printing of election material expressly prohibited);

43.4.26. participating in an MSA election while also holding a national office bearing position or being a member of the National Executive in the National Union of Students.

43.4.26.1. For the purposes of 43.4.26. 'participating' means any conduct likely to directly affect the casting of a vote, including campaigning or interacting with a campaigner, and 'office' has the same meaning as C38 of the National Union of Students Incorporated Constitution 2017.

43.4.31. Approaching a student who wears a 'Do Not Approach Badge' per regulation 23 for campaigning purposes, unless that student first approaches and speaks to the campaigner themselves; and

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #56:

That this MSC inserts the following clauses, Reg 43.4.26.2, Reg 43.4.28, Reg 43.4.28.1, 43.4.29.1, 43.4.33 into the Election Regulations and renumbers the section accordingly:

43.4.26.2. For the avoidance of doubt, 43.4.26 also includes individuals who were members of the National Executive within 3 months of the Notice of Election being issued.

43.4.28. campaigning within an exclusion zone as set by a ruling of the Returning Officer;

43.4.28.1. All official MSA events held during the polling period are exclusion zones

43.4.29.1. The first floor of the campus centre may not be used for any purpose relating to the MSA elections unless otherwise stated in these regulations or as determined by the Returning Officer

43.4.33. Bulk email lists.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #57:

That this MSC removes clause 43.4.20.3 of the Election Regulations and renumbers the section accordingly

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #58:

That this MSC amends clause 44.1.4 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

44.1.4. has not contested any student organisation election in the 5 academic years before the election.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #59:

That this MSC amends clause 45.1 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

45.1. The Electoral Tribunal may conduct hearings by online meeting or by telephone and, subject to the provisions of these regulations, regulate its own proceedings.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #60:

That this MSC amends clause 48.8 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

48.8. The Electoral Tribunal may determine the timetable for a new poll or election ordered under regulation 48.7.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #61:

That this MSC amends clause 49.2 of the Election Regulations to read as follows:

49.2. If a vacancy occurs in a position directly elected by students that is not an office-bearer position the Secretary will contact the authorised officer of the ticket on which the individual who vacated the position ran on when elected to the position, requesting them to lodge a statement in the form of Schedule 1.2, nominating an individual to fill the vacancy.

That this MSC inserts the following clauses, 49.3 and 49.4 into the Election Regulations and renumbers the section accordingly:

49.3. If the filling of a vacancy in one of a number of positions to which clause 39(4)(a) of the Constitution applied at the time of the original election by a man would result in less than half of those positions being held by women, the vacancy must be filled by a woman.

49.4. Students seeking to fill a vacancy must satisfy the same eligibility requirements as if the vacancy was subject to election.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #62:

That this MSC deletes all schedules from the Election Regulations.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #63:

That this MSC creates Schedule 1.1 to the Election Regulations, to read as follows:

Schedule 1.1: Affirmative Action Counting Method

All candidates must be given the opportunity to be elected in their own right before affirmative action applies.

If ever the next step in the count would result in the election of fewer Women than are required under the relevant requirements, and there are candidates who are who have not been elected, then the following steps must be taken:

- (a) reintroduce to the count, with zero votes, all candidates who are Women who have previously been excluded;
- (b) exclude all remaining candidates who are not Women, including the candidate who would have been next elected without the affirmative action requirement; and
- (c) the value of any Ballot Paper distributed from a candidate excluded by affirmative action will be distributed to the remaining Women with the highest preference on that Ballot Paper.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #64:

That this MSC creates Schedule 1.2 to the Election Regulations to read as follows:

Schedule 1.2 - Vacancy Appointment

Monash Student Association (Clayton) Incorporated Vacancy Appointment

I,..... (name of authorised officer)

the authorised office for..... , (name of ticket)

authorise the vacancy created due to..... (name of person who has

created the vacancy)

no longer holding their position on..... (name of body on which the vacancy

has arisen)

be filled by..... (name of person to fill vacancy)

of..... (current postal address of person filling the vacancy)

..... , (student number of person filling the vacancy)

..... , (contact telephone number of person filling the vacancy)

..... (email of person filling the vacancy)

.....

(signature of authorised officer)

.....

(signature of person filling the vacancy)

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #65:

That this MSC resolves to renumber the Election Regulations and amend the table of contents as required by any changes approved at this meeting.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #66:

That this MSC amends the following clauses of the Committee Regulations, 9.2.2, 10.2.2, 11.2.2, 12.2.2, 13.2.2, 15.2.2, 16.2.2, 18.2.2 and 19.2.2 to read as follows

9.2.2. 7 members directly elected by and from women students only.

10.2.2. 7 members directly elected by and from students.

11.2.2. 7 members directly elected by and from students.

12.2.2. 7 members directly elected by and from students,

13.2.2. 7 members directly elected by and from students,

15.2.2. 7 students elected by and from students that identify as queer or questioning at the MSA annual elections.

16.2.2. Up to any 7 Monash University Students, elected at the MSA annual elections

18.2.2. 7 students elected by and from students that identify as having a disability or are a carer at the MSA annual elections

19.2.2. 7 members directly elected by and from students that identify as a person of colour, and

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #67:

That this MSC removes clause 15.3 and clauses 15.3.1 - 15.3.7 from the Committee Regulations

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #68:

That this MSC removes clause 18.3 and clauses 18.3.1 - 18.3.7 from the Committee Regulations

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

S. Election and Committee Regulation Changes

Motion #69:

That this MSC removes Section 20 from the Committee Regulations and renumbers the Committee Regulations accordingly

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #70:

That this MSC inserts the following Section 20 into the Committee Regulations and renumbers the Committee Regulations accordingly:

20. Filling of Vacancies

20.1. If a vacancy occurs in an office-bearer position directly elected by students more than 3 months before the annual elections, a by-election for the position must be held within 30 days, as required by clause 42 of the Constitution.

20.2. If a vacancy occurs in a position directly elected by students that is not an office-bearer position the Secretary will contact the authorised officer of the ticket on which the individual who vacated the position ran on when elected to the position, requesting them to lodge a statement in the form of Schedule 1.14 of the election regulations, nominating an individual to fill the vacancy.

20.2.1. If the individual who vacated the position did not run on a ticket they will act as the authorised officer of the ticket for this process.

20.2.2. If the ticket appointment form is not submitted within one week the Secretary giving notice of the vacancy, then the vacancy shall be filled by resolution of MSC.

20.2.3. The appointment must be noted at the next meeting of the body on which the vacancy occurred.

20.3. If the filling of a vacancy in one of a number of positions to which clause 39(4)(a) of the Constitution applied at the time of the original election by a man would result in less than half of those positions being held by women, the vacancy must be filled by a woman.

20.4. Students seeking to fill a vacancy must satisfy the same eligibility requirements as if the vacancy was subject to election.

Moved: Paul Halliday Seconded: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Jay Davis

In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1 (Thomas White)

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

T. Appointment of Returning Officer and Tribunal

Motion #71:

Upon review of the MSA Executive Officer's Election Tender Summary, this MSC moves to approve OGL's tender submission to conduct MSA Elections for 2024, 2025 and 2026.

Moved: Dilhan Simsek Seconded: Zareh Kozanian

In Favour: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Procedural Motion:

Put the Motion to a vote

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

In Favour: 15

Against: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #72:

That this MSC appoints Andrew Saunders to the Electoral Tribunal

Moved: Dilhan Simsek Seconded: Zareh Kozanian

In Favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

U. Polling Dates for MSA 2024 Election

Motion #73:

This MSC sets the dates for on-campus polling booths to be open during the 2024-MSA Annual Elections:

Polling times:

Monday 16th September: 10am - 4pm

Tuesday 17th September: 10am - 4pm

Wednesday 18th September: 10am - 4pm

Thursday 19th September: 10am - 4pm

Moved: Dilhan Simsek Seconded: ~~Paul Halliday~~ Zareh Kozanian

In Favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to Amend by the Mover

Change from the year 2023 MSA Annual Elections:to 2024 MSA Annual Elections:

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

AMENDMENT CARRIED

V. Interpretation of the MSA Constitution

Preamble:

There has been disagreement clause 42(3) of the MSA Constitution and whether it applies to the position of Executive Divisional Representative. The MSA sought legal advice following an inquiry from MAPS President Stuart Gibson about his ability to as Paul Halliday's nominator in the election for executive Divisional Representative remove him from the office under clause 42(3). The advice sought by the MSA said this was not the case as the clause does not apply to elected positions. Stuart has since sought independent legal advice disagreeing with that of the MSA's legal counsel.

This motion is being brought to the MSC as it has the sole power to interpret the MSA Constitution under clause 27(3)(b).

Clause 42(3) reads as follows:

“The position of a person nominated or appointed to an MSA body becomes vacant if the person or body making the nomination or appointment withdraws it.”

The memorandum of advice prepared by the MSA's Lawyer Tony Lang is attached in the appendix. The legal advice provided by Stuart Gibson is attached as an appendix.

Motion #74:

This MSC moves to accept the interpretation found in the legal advice provided by the MSA's Lawyer on Section 42(3) of the MSA Constitution and rejects the interpretation provided by Stuart Gibson.

Moved: ~~Joshua Walters~~ Charlotte Sutton

Seconded: Zareh Kozanian

In Favour: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

W. Motion of No-Confidence in the Executive Divisional Representative

Preamble:

The Divisions undersigned hereby no longer retain confidence in Paul Halliday to act as the Executive Divisional Representative to the Monash Student Association.

The undersigned have lost confidence in the current Executive Divisional Representative for the following reasons.

- Failure to uphold the stated interests of the Divisions to the MSA Executive
- Failure to uphold the stated interests of the Divisions to MSA Staff
- Actively working against the stated interests of the Divisions
- Failure to support members of Divisions in disputes with MSA Staff
- Failure to pursue stated interests of the Divisions with MSA Executive
- Failure to pursue stated interests of the Divisions with MSA Staff
- Failure to show leadership amongst Divisions
- Failure to keep the Divisions informed of developments relevant to their interests

Due to the stated reasons, the Divisions request that the Monash Student Council dismiss Paul Halliday from their position of the Executive Divisional Representative.

Motion #75:

This MSC dismisses Paul Halliday from the position of the Executive Divisional Representative.

Moved: ~~Stuart Gibson~~

Seconded: ~~Vedant Gadhavi~~

In Favour:

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION LAPSED

Joshua Walters declares the motion lapsed due to lack of a mover and a seconder to the motion.

X. General Business

Procedural Motion:
Move from the chair that the meeting shall consider a motion in general business

Moved: Joshua Walters

In Favour: 14

Against: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

General Business #1:
This MSC sets the dates for polling online voting for the 2024 MSA annual elections to be from September 16th to September 19th. Polling times Monday, 16th, all day starting on Tuesday, 17th, all day, Wednesday, 18th, all day, Thursday, 19th, all day ending 5 PM.

Moved: Joshua Walters **Seconded:** Zareh Kozanian

In Favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting Closed at 09:09 PM

Y. Appendices

Executive Expenditure Summary from MSC 6

Department	Type	Cost (AUD)	Date Approved
100 - Finance & IT	Capital Works	809	24/05/2024
400 - MTPD	Professional Services (eg. Legal Fees)	390.5	24/05/2024
400 - MTPD	Training & Conferences	72	24/05/2024
100 - MSC (Central)	Special Projects	200	24/05/2024
100 - Finance & IT	Capital Works	809	24/05/2024
400 - MTPD	Professional Services	390.5	24/05/2024

	(eg. Legal Fees)		
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FY24 SUMMARY

	Actual	Budget	Variance	% Budget
Income	\$ 1,128,374	\$ 3,229,269	-\$ 2,100,895	34.94%
Expenditure	\$ 2,082,298	\$ 7,112,592	-\$ 5,030,294	29.28%
Net Expenditure	\$ 953,924	\$ 3,883,323	\$ -	24.56%
SSAF	\$ 2,980,649	\$ 3,974,198	\$ 993,549	75.00%

Net Expenditure	\$	953,924
Budget	\$	3,883,323
% Budget		24.56%
% Expected		33.33%

BUDGET VS. ACTUAL

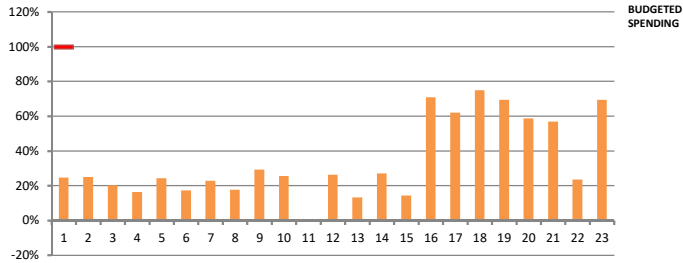


Figure 1. Percentage Variance By Department / Division

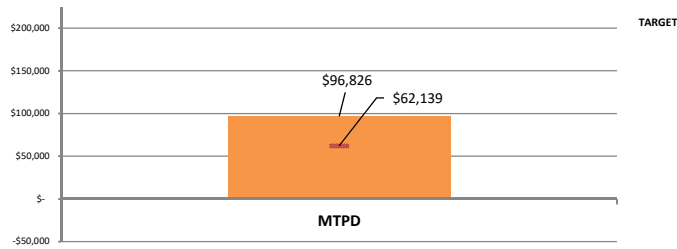


Figure 2. MSA Surplus Generating Department

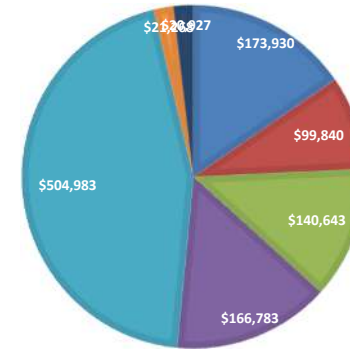
DEPARTMENTS & DIVISIONS

1. Monash Student Council
2. Education Public
3. Education Academic
4. Women's
5. Welfare
6. Queer
7. Environment & Social Justice
8. Indigenous
9. Disabilities & Carers
10. People of Colour
11. Activities
12. Lot's Wife
13. Creative Live Arts
14. Residential Communities
15. The Bike Shop
16. Host Scheme & Volunteering
17. Student Advocacy & Support
18. MUST
19. Clubs & Societies
20. MAPS
21. MUISS
22. Radio Monash
23. SURLY

MSA+ SALES

	YTD	MONTH
2023	8,782	235
2024	8,978	222
2024 - G	485	20
2024 - S	8,493	202

INCOME



INCOME SOURCES

- 1 Contributions & Investment
- 2 MSA Rewards
- 3 Advertising & Sponsorship
- 4 Sales
- 5 Course Revenue
- 6 Events Income
- 7 Other Income

Figure 3. Breakdown of Income Sources

TOP 5 EVENTS*

*In 2024 data is incomplete as MSA Finance is not privy to non-ticketed attendance data.

VOL	Monash Discover Melbourne: Queen Victoria Market	205
VOL	Monash Discover Melbourne: 1,000 Steps	222
VOL	Monash Discover Melbourne: ArtVo	159
PoC	Pizza & Games Night	100
VOL	Monash Discover Melbourne: Werribee Open Range Zoo	98

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS FOR THE MONTH

MSA is performing at 25% of its budgeted spending, performing better than the expected. 75% of SSAF also has been received, with some of the amount is reinvested. The businesses area are performing well with a few challenges in April.

Finance Audit Risk meeting will be conducted to discuss the MSA spending forecast for end of year and strategies to be done to minimise budget losses.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

APRIL 2024	\$	550
Wholefoods washing machine		

INCOME STATEMENT

1 January - 20 April 2024

	YEAR TO DATE			ANNUAL		
	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	Variance	2024 Budget	2023 Budget	2023 Budget
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	Variance (\$)	(%)
	(a)	(b)	(c) = (b) - (a)	(d)	(e) = (b) - (d)	(f) = (b) / (d)
INCOME						
Contribution	-775	99,282	100,057	48,600	50,682	204%
Investment	64,268	74,648	10,380	225,000	-150,352	33%
MSA Rewards Sales	82,670	99,840	17,170	127,623	-27,783	78%
Advertising & Sponsorship	107,722	140,643	32,921	165,000	-24,357	85%
Sales	122,793	166,783	43,990	790,714	-623,931	21%
Courses Revenue	419,915	504,983	85,068	1,629,788	-1,124,805	31%
Fines & Charges	27,441	586	-26,855	24,850	-24,264	2%
Office Supplies	728	501	-227	1,050	-549	48%
Activities	450	0	-450	44,500	-44,500	0%
Functions & Productions	50,238	21,268	-28,970	109,500	-88,232	19%
Other Income	21,892	19,840	-2,052	62,644	-42,804	32%
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	897,342	1,128,374	231,032	3,229,269	-2,100,895	35%
EXPENDITURE						
Salaries & On Costs	1,324,377	1,341,680	17,303	4,772,746	-3,431,066	28%
Building & Maintenance	14,601	12,315	-2,286	32,801	-20,486	38%
Equipment	40,875	1,896	-38,979	24,000	-22,104	8%
Software Development & Licence	154,402	100,363	-54,039	220,275	-119,912	46%
Fees & Administrative Charges	38,179	37,407	-772	251,647	-214,240	15%
Legal & Consultancy	26,797	15,971	-10,826	65,000	-49,029	25%
Office Expenses	25,698	25,179	-519	88,500	-63,321	28%
Subscriptions	6,331	8,041	1,710	18,100	-10,059	44%
Training & Conference	10,459	12,558	2,099	64,268	-51,710	20%
Grants & Donations	7,996	41,065	33,069	178,500	-137,435	23%
Projects & Campaigns	109,279	115,941	6,662	311,426	-195,485	37%
Activities	107,594	114,431	6,837	253,834	-139,403	45%
Functions & Productions	44,775	90,081	45,306	246,800	-156,719	36%
Cost of Goods Sold	114,540	93,092	-21,448	354,674	-261,582	26%
Other Expenses	91,838	72,278	-19,560	230,021	-157,743	31%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	2,117,741	2,082,298	-35,443	7,112,592	-5,030,294	29%
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	1,220,399	953,924	-266,475	3,883,323	-2,929,399	25%
OPERATING MARGIN		45.81%			54.60%	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT BY DEPT

1 January - 20 April 2024

	YEAR TO DATE			ANNUAL		
	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2022/2023	2024 Budget	2023 Budget	2023 Budget
	(\$)	(\$)	Variance (\$)	(\$)	Variance (\$)	(%)
	(a)	(b)	(c) = (b) - (a)	(d)	(e) = (b) - (d)	(f) = (b) / (d)
CODE DEPARTMENT/DIVISION						
100 Monash Student Council	490,793	511,607	20,814	2,079,267	-1,567,660	25%
110 Education Public	9,684	8,781	-903	35,019	-26,238	25%
120 Education Academic	8,490	8,403	-87	41,549	-33,146	20%
130 Women's	7,309	7,292	-17	44,722	-37,430	16%
140 Welfare	10,348	13,008	2,660	53,722	-40,714	24%
150 Queer	9,740	7,171	-2,569	41,452	-34,281	17%
160 Environment & Social Justice	7,938	7,461	-477	32,662	-25,201	23%
170 Indigenous	7,918	6,464	-1,454	36,572	-30,108	18%
180 Disability	7,185	10,153	2,968	34,642	-24,489	29%
190 People of Colour	6,762	9,909	3,147	38,872	-28,963	25%
200 Activities	-8,245	240	8,485	86,107	-85,867	0%
210 Lot's Wife	13,478	19,169	5,691	72,721	-53,552	26%
220 Creative Live Arts	7,757	7,757	0	58,257	-50,500	13%
230 Residential Committee	10,224	11,533	1,309	42,572	-31,039	27%
250 The Bike Shop	6,237	2,881	-3,356	20,141	-17,260	14%
300 Wholefoods	24,330	32,699	8,369	6,753	25,946	484%
350 Sir John's Bar*	58,802	-73,920	-132,722	48,178	-122,098	-153%
400 MTPD*	-69,721	-358,967	-289,246	-143,353	-215,614	250%
500 Host Scheme & Volunteering	168,889	186,122	17,233	262,516	-76,394	71%
520 Student Advocacy & Support	272,667	227,165	-45,502	366,200	-139,035	62%
550 Student Theatre	173,999	187,830	13,831	250,641	-62,811	75%
600 Clubs & Societies	325,295	336,633	11,338	484,940	-148,307	69%
650 MAPS	13,709	15,030	1,321	25,627	-10,597	59%
700 MUISS	57,854	57,195	-659	100,712	-43,517	57%
750 Radio Monash	11,042	3,849	-7,193	16,380	-12,531	23%
800 SURLY	92,297	123,663	31,366	178,252	-54,589	69%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	1,724,781	1,369,128	-355,653	4,315,123	-2,945,995	32%

*Denotes MSA Surplus Generating Departments

DIVISION: Clubs & Societies

Note: this report is less detailed than previous C&S MSC reports due to the short gap between MSC 5 and 6, for a more detailed report refer to the C&S report to MSC 5.

Outline key activities completed thus far:

1. Grants Program

Newly adopted processes continue to be much faster in terms of delivering payouts to clubs. C&S is now taking steps in conjunction with MSA finance to expand the system to encompass more grant types going into sem 2.

2. Club OB Appreciation Day

On the 21 of May C&S held an Office Bearer Appreciation Day as part of activities for national volunteers week. The event gave club OBs an opportunity to catch up and chat with one another and have a donut. This event not only recognised club OBs for their work but also gave them an opportunity to destress in week 12.

3. Club ACNC Registrations

Recent changes in legislation mean affiliated clubs may now be liable to pay income tax unless they complete a self assessment with the ATO or register as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). After much discussion at C&S, MSA and with other associates such as SEN it was decided the best path forward was to support our clubs in registering as charities with ACNC. To this end C&S has prepared materials which have been distributed to clubs and is offering clubs support in their applications and any changes they may need to make in this transition. C&S has now held 4 workshops with clubs to guide them through the process of applying for charity registration.

Outline of Departmental planning and upcoming events/projects

Regular Events

This year C&S is looking to run more regular events for club office bearers. This semester C&S has hosted over 10 events, a major increase from previous years.

Club Governance Overhauls

Many C&S policies are in need of updating. C&S is now taking steps to refresh these regulations. In doing this C&S hopes to be in line with current best practice and provide advice and support to clubs to make any transitions as seamless as possible.

Club ACNC Registrations

As detailed above recent changes have resulted in many clubs needing to register as charities to remain tax exempt. C&S will continue to support clubs in this transition with the goal of having as many as possible registered by the end of October.

C&S Grants Program

The new C&S grants process continues to be rolled out. Jay Davis (C&S Treasurer) is meeting regularly with C&S and MSA Finance Staff to ensure the smooth functioning of the new process. Steps are benign taken to expand the new processes and policy going into next semester.

Division Goals for 2024

Goal	Progress	Comments
Regulations update/refresh	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed for Finance Regs - Completed for club model rules - Partially completed for Affiliation Regs - Planned for Complaints and IT policy
Regular club office bearer events	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Calendar planned for the whole year - over 10 events have been held - Planning for Awards Night started key parties/stakeholders contacted
Encouraging greater use of the C&S Grants Program	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New grants process launched for some Grant Types. - Over \$50,000 distributed to clubs

		<p>this year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faster processing and payout time for clubs this year with new system - steps taken to update additional grants to new processed
Club ACNC applications	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Materials disseminated to clubs - Presentation delivered to club OBs - 4 working groups held - Clubs beginning to apply for registration.

***Key Activities**

Outline key activities completed thus far since last report

- Released an instagram post detailing reports of Monash's emissions data
- Hosted a movie event in collaboration with Rising Tide about their blockade
- Did a series of interviews with the change the age campaigner Frankie to share with students about the change the age campaign
- Hosted our 3rd committee meeting

Can outline work being done for upcoming events/projects

Upcoming events:

ESJ DAY - SEM 2

We have put together a working group to focus on planning ESJ DAY for semester 2. This will hopefully involve lots of activities regarding sustainability and social justice!

CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Followed up on meetings with the monash sustainability team and how to "correct" some inconsistencies in our instagram post.

Sustainability Framework

Currently working towards presenting an MAS sustainability framework to MSC in order to outline how sustainable operations should happen within MSA. This will also be followed up with a "how to run sustainable events document" and a policy update.

Department Goals

Goal	Progress (complete/ongoing/incomplete)	Comments
Protest Contingents	Ongoing	Trying to increase protest attendance and awareness on campus with various issues such as stop woodside etc.
Releasing emissions data/making it available for students	ongoing	Had a third meeting with Monash sustainability to clear up some inconsistencies with the instagram post - will collaborate more closely in the future to release the best and most accurate info
Creating spaces for student discourse on sustainability	ongoing	Hosted another discourse event surrounding technology vs behavioural changes
Practically implementing the sustainability guidelines	ongoing	Working on the sustainable framework and policy to accompany - around 50% done
Campaigns	ongoing	Still planning the campaign



Sophie Allen and Thomas White
Dept REPORT
[Report to MSC 1/06/24]

***Key Activities**

Outline key activities completed thus far since last report

- Completed our fourth welfare lunch
- Completed with our Exam Info session
- Completed with the MUISS Ball at Sea Life Aquarium
- Completed with MUISS Olympics

Can outline work being done for upcoming events/projects

- Working on planning events for the next semester with SRSU
- Working with MSA for the One world fest
- Following up with the university to provide data on short term and long term loans accessed by international students to construct a better working system for loan application for international students

Department Goals

Goal	Progress (complete/ongoing/incomplete)	Comments
Increase community outreach and exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newsletters (ongoing) - Frequent posting and stories (ongoing) 	The MUISS Olympics post along with MSA had a great reach from the audience.

Advocating quality education for all international students and making their transition smooth for first-year students	Guide to Melbourne event (completed) - Seminars and events from Service Melbourne and Monash community for Exam info session (Completed)	Good event with students coming and relaxing with each other before the exams
Cater welfare of all International students	Welfare Wednesday (4 completed) - Welfare Day (incomplete) - R U Ok Day (incomplete)	Served Mexican food from GYG along with fries to 150 students
To organise social and culturally diverse events for all International students	International Student Ball (completed) - MUISS Olympics (completed) - One world Fest (incomplete) - Day trip (completed) - Trivia night (incomplete)	- Successfully completed the MUISS Ball at the Sea life aquarium along with 75 students having a good experience. - Had great turn out of students who enjoyed playing games and vibing to music and had good food.
To organise academic and informative events for all international students and help them with job opportunities	- MSA expo (ongoing) - Career Industry night (incomplete)	

DEPARTMENT: Education (Academic Affairs)

Outline of Department’s Core Values and Aims for 2024:

Advocacy
 Integrity
 Visibility
 Transparency

Outline of Departmental planning so far in elected term:

The Academic Affairs Committee has now been officially established, and we have had very productive discussions about the direction of our department’s campaigns.

So far, the return of 5-day short extensions remains a key focus.

We are also looking at potential reforms to the evidence required for special consideration, and replacing a statutory declaration with a ‘student declaration’, similar to what the University of Sydney uses. This would simplify the process, and potentially act as an intermediary form of evidence in situations where it is impossible to get a doctor's certificate on short notice.

We are also anticipating the second round of APC hearings, and are looking forward to working with our excellent volunteers again. A special shoutout to every single person that volunteered in the first round! Your advocacy and perspective was invaluable in advocating for the best interests of students during the APC process.

Department Goals for 2024

Goal	Methodology	Comments
5 day short extensions	<p>Engaging with the education committee and academic board.</p> <p>Running a campaign on campus to amplify student voices, and to place pressure on the University.</p> <p>Utilising support from the NTEU.</p>	

Universal Submission Times	Meet with relevant decision makers to raise this idea, and ask for their support in education committee	
Improving the special consideration process	<p>Engage with the student population, SAS, and DNC to first identify the key detriments of the process.</p> <p>Use feedback to inform decisions, and plan how to implement the most important reforms.</p> <p>Make special consideration a fair and stress-free process for students.</p>	
Be a strong representative for students	<p>Promote our department contact details to the student population.</p> <p>Respond to, and action requests from, students in a swift manner.</p> <p>Advocate for students effectively.</p>	<p>We want to be a point of call for students, and for them to trust us to help when they are experiencing difficulties within the academic process.</p> <p>This is less of a tangible goal and more of a broad aim about how we want to conduct ourselves, and how we seek to position the value of our department.</p> <p>We are here to help, and we want students to know that</p>

***Key Activities**

Outline key activities completed thus far since last report

- ESJ Week events: workshop and Crip Camp screening
- Auslan intermediate sessions
- Open letter about accessibility issues with cellopark has been sent out
-

Can outline work being done for upcoming events/projects

- getting braille signage created for MSA spaces
- completing the accessibility policy for MSA
- following up on issues raised with DSS
- lifts

Department Goals

Goal	Progress (complete/ongoing/incomplete)	Comments
To improve MSA accessibility	Ongoing	Currently looking into options for Braille signage in

		the MSA spaces that is cost effective and meets the needs of students.
To begin discussions with Monash Residential Services	Ongoing	
To promote accountability and transparency of Disability Support Services	Ongoing	An email with additional questions was sent on ... with no response a follow up email was sent on 24/5
To provide sunflower training and to develop broader disability trainings	Ongoing	In consultation with the D&C committee to options of trainings that are currently available and if these would be practical for our use.
Increase engagement	Ongoing	Lounge supplies continue to be used and the community has been helpful for consultation.

DIVISION: Radio Monash

DIVISION REPORT

BROADCAST:

- Broadcast has been quite successful this semester. With our new desk and a functioning stream, we have been able to be Radio monash again. We have had over 14+ regular shows, which are a mixture of podcasts and radio shows.
- We are expecting a higher demand next semester, which we are looking to grow our capacity for.
- We have been using Radio King for a server to stream on our website, however we have found out that their statistics don't support the meta data required to give to PPCA and APRA AMCOS which are the two licensing agencies in Australia for broadcasting music. We are looking towards a solution with e solutions, where we will create an SLA between MSA/Radio Monash and E solutions for our own server.
- We are planning to expand to the Caulfield campus next semester to target Journalism students for programming.

JOURNALISM:

- Since the last report we have had 10 articles go onto our website.
- Our Journalism team has recorded another 3 episodes of Campus Clubhouse, which continues to promote student clubs and culture to a wider audience.
- The team is currently looking to do a documentary on some parts of Monash in the winter break.
- They have also been interviewing lots of local music talent.

RECORDING STUDIO:

- After a long delay, we have finally been able to reopen to recording studio for bookings. The space is only able to handle rehearsals, as the main MAC computer is outdated. We are looking to purchase a new MAC, but this will severely impact our budget.
- We have had a large demand since it has reopened, and as soon as we are at a recording capacity, I can only see this growing.

EVENTS:

- Band Match Making: This was a sold out event for us which was super exciting. We were able to have over 40 people connect with like minded musicians to form potential new bands and friends. We are already aware of over 3 bands that have formed from this event.
- Vibe Night: Our third largest event of the year, Vibe Night Volume 3 was able to raise some money for us and provide monash students with the opportunity to perform live.

Hosted at the Sir Johns Bar, we had a fantastic turnout of over 50 people, with over 10+ performances. We had to limit the number of performers as we were unable to fit everyone in due to demand. We had a variety of technical issues, and half of the committee was out sick, but a small team put together a fantastic event that we got great feedback on.

- European Music Festival: This was our final event of the semester and was also a great success. In collaboration with the Arts Faculty, we were able to put on a European Music Festival that was free to all students to enjoy and learn about different cultures. We had the event catered, and we gave the opportunity for local monash music students to perform.
- Overall this semester, we have held a variety of events that have allowed student artists to perform. We are a key central hub for supporting Monash Artists, and giving affordable gig opportunities to students.

WRAP UP OF SEMESTER ONE 2024:

This semester has gone really well for us. We have grown at a substantial rate that we haven't seen in years. We have a full committee, regular programming, articles coming out regularly, music being rehearsed/recorded and highly attended events. Next semester will be full on for us with demand, and we can't wait.

DEPARTMENT: *Queer*

Outline of Department's Core Values and Aims for 2024:

In 2024, the main goal for MSA Queer is to create a lively, left-wing activist network that fights for queer rights and other left-wing issues. We aim to diversify types of events and campaigns and to invite and engage wider layers of the queer student population than in previous years.

Outline of Departmental planning so far in elected term:

Thus far we have planned multiple left-wing film screenings, and a speaking event with guests who are former campus queer activists, in consultation with Monash Alumni. Since our last report, we have successfully had a screening of the film "How to Capture a Prime Minister" in the Campus Centre Cinema, with the director and producer of the film visiting campus and giving a speech prior to the film. We also raised awareness on IDAHOBIT, which falls on May 17th.

We have also been a central part of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment, a student protest for Palestine which lasted just over two weeks. MSA Queer was the only section of the Monash Student Association for the entire duration of the encampment that officially supported this protest and had any role in its planning and occurrence. We consider it crucial that student representatives take a political stand against atrocities, like the one unfolding in Gaza at the hands of Israel, with the support and assistance of the Australian Government and several universities, including Monash University.

MSA Queer has played an integral role to the encampment, including chairing 5 rallies at the Gaza Solidarity Encampment. We made repeated attempts to reach out to the MSA executive to support pro-Palestine activism, the right to protest, and freedom of speech. All of these were rejected. It is a disappointment and a disgrace that the only department that was actively involved in the encampment was the Queer department, especially during the time that Israel began its attack on the city of Rafah.

The following is a list of all the protests that the Queer Office Bearers attended, spoke at, or chaired.

April 18th: Student Strike for Palestine organised by Students for Palestine Victoria. We attended and spoke at this demonstration.

May 1st: Gaza Solidarity Encampment Monash Launch Rally. We chaired this demonstration, led a march around Clayton campus, speeches, and chants.

May 2nd: Snap Protest: Defend the Monash Gaza Solidarity Encampment. We helped organise this demonstration on less than 12 hours' notice and chaired it on the day. This was organised by Students for Palestine Monash, following the violent attacks on the encampment in the night prior.

May 3rd: Emergency NTEU Monash Action – Staff: Stand with Students and their Right to Protest on Campus. We chaired and organised this NTEU emergency speak out, alongside groups like Free Palestine Coalition Naarm, NTEU4P, NTEU Monash, Unionists for Palestine, and Students for Palestine Monash. NTEU staff members read out an open letter they had written to the student protesters in support of their choice to stand up for Palestinian rights at Monash Clayton Campus.

May 6th: Shut Down AW Bell Community Picket. In Dandenong South at 5AM, we attended a picket to shut down a weapons factory with ties to Israel. At 9AM on that same day, we chaired the demonstration following this picket. We worked with community groups who organised this protest, including Weapons out of Naarm, Free Palestine Coalition Naarm, Black Peoples Union, Knox for Palestine, Free Palestine Melbourne, Free Palestine Dandenong Action Group, and Students for Palestine Monash.

May 8th: Protest: No to Genocide, Defend Rafah, No to Pro-Israel Violence on Campus. We chaired this demonstration following news that Israel had begun attacking the city of Rafah, in the Southern part of the Gaza Strip. At the Lemon Scented Lawns, we led chants and speeches from an Indigenous speaker from Unionists for Palestine, a Palestinian speaker from Free Palestine Melbourne, and various student activists at Monash.

May 13th: Defend the Monash Gaza Solidarity Encampment, 5PM, Lemon Scented Lawns. We attended and spoke at this demonstration, which took place on the same night as the IDF Memorial event that Monash University hosted on campus. Approximately 350 community members, staff members, students and alumni came to protest for the encampment's defence. This is possibly the biggest pro-Palestine demonstration held on campus in Monash's history.

May 15th: Student and Worker Rally: All out for Palestine on Nakba Day. This city-wide demonstration was attended by members of the Queer Department, and both Queer Office Bearers. We also gave a speech at this demonstration and promoted it on the MSA Queer Instagram Page.

May 18th: Protest at ALP State Labor Conference. We attended this protest which aimed to stand against the Labor Party's ongoing complicity in and support of Israel's genocide of Palestinians.

May 21st: Free Palestine! End Repression! Following the end of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment at Monash, we chaired a demonstration at the Northern Plaza to demand that Monash University respond to our demands and drop accusations of general misconduct against 9 students who participated in the encampment. We led a march from the Northern Plaza to the Chancellery. This was organised by Students for Palestine Monash and attended by at least 30 members of the NTEU Monash branch.

We also intend to attend rallies in coming days and weeks, including the National Day of Action at the Ports on 25th May, the Free Palestine protest on Sunday 26th May, and the AW Bell Community picket on 27th May.

We organised and liaised with the following groups before, during and after the encampment:

- Monash University Greens Society
- Students for Palestine Monash
- Mums for Palestine
- Free Palestine Melbourne
- Amnesty International
- Monash NTEU Branch
- National Union of Students Queer Office
- Unionists for Palestine
- Knox for Palestine
- Weapons out of Naarm
- Dandenong for Palestine Action Group
- Representatives from UTAS
- Muslim Legal Network
- Socialist Alternative
- Green Left
- 3CR Radio
- Anak Bangsa Merdeka
- Greens Jewish Caucus
- Gabrielle de Vietri – Greens MP for Richmond
- Samantha Ratnam – Greens Member of the Victorian Legislative Council
- Jerome Small – Representative from the Victorian Socialists
- Loud Jew Collective
- Jewish Council of Australia
- Aiv Puglielli – Greens MP for Northeastern Metropolitan
- APAN
- MSA ESJ Department
- Monash Arab Society
- Monash Islamic Society

We also hosted a forum on US student protest regarding the global student movement for Palestinian rights, attended the APAN Conference, visited the RMIT Gaza Solidarity Encampment, visited the University of Melbourne Gaza Solidarity Encampment, and helped organise two open letters.

The following is a list of subjects about which we liaised with the Executive of the Monash Student Association regarding Palestine protests on campus:

- We invited the MSA Executive to endorse the Gaza Solidarity Encampment. These requests were resolutely rejected.

- We invited the MSA Executive to attend the Launch Rally on the 1st of May and bring an MSA banner. This was rejected.
- We requested that the MSA Executive rescind and edit their statement regarding violence at protests on campus, which refused to mention that the protests were regarding Palestine, and that the violence that occurred came from the pro-Israel side, and that an Office Bearer of the MSA was assaulted while protesting for Palestine. This request was rejected.
- We asked the MSA Executive to sign on to an Open Letter written by Students for Palestine Monash to defend the 9 students who are being threatened with suspension or expulsion by the university for having participated in the Gaza Solidarity Encampment. This request was rejected.
- We asked the MSA Executive to make a statement in support these 9 students and the right of students to freedom of speech and protest at Monash University. This was rejected by the executive.
- We requested to attend a meeting of the MSA Executive to make a case for why the 9 students being disciplined by the university should be defended by the student union. This request was denied.

Department Goals for 2024

Goal	Methodology	Comments
Goal 1: Meet new student activists	Promote events outwardly with leaflets and social media posts, and advertise them as welcome to students who are newer to activism and the Queer department.	We have met a record number of new student activists who have participated with us in protests over the last month, and expressed an interest in continuing this with our department.
Goal 2: Meet regularly with students	Hold weekly meetings with various groups of students to collaboratively engage in campaign work for queer activism.	We have organised several meetings every week with activists to organise student protest at Monash campus.
Goal 3: Establish a left-wing activist network	Build connections with aspiring queer activists.	We have built relationships with existing and new student activists.
Goal 4: Establish the Queer Office as explicitly left-wing	Make statements on political issues, build rallies and contingents to rallies about left-wing issues, and hold activist-related events on campus.	The Queer Office has taken the most publicly left-wing position regarding Palestine. We have chaired, attended, and spoken at more rallies than any previous Office

		bearer in recent years.
Goal 5: Engage other clubs and societies with MSA Queer	Meet and liaise with members and executives of different clubs to explore possibilities for collaboration.	Numerous clubs and societies have collaborated with us at the Gaza Solidarity Encampment by donating food, supplies and sharing posts in support of student activism.
Goal 6: Collaborate with other MSA Departments and NUS	Meet and liaise with Office Bearers and Committee Members of other MSA Departments to explore avenues for joint events, collaboration on motions.	We collaborated with MSA ESJ, and met with NUS Queer.
Goal 7: Hold activist events on campus	Organise and promote banner paintings, contingents to protests, film screenings and forums regarding queer activism.	We have helped organise and hold the longest protest to ever exist at Monash Clayton campus.

***Key Activities**

Outline key activities completed thus far since last report

Since the last report we have completed a social media collaboration with ESJ, attended meetings regarding various initiatives the MSA is engaged in. We have also continued successfully running Free Food Mondays. We also completed our second Welfare on Wheels for the semester.

Can outline work being done for upcoming events/projects

We are continuing to plan and execute free food mondays. We have planned out days and are planning out activities for Welfare Week which will be happening in semester 2.

Department Goal

Goal	Progress (complete/ongoing/incomplete)	Comments
Expand Free Food Mondays	Ongoing	We are running free food mondays at more people currently.
Research into Student Welfare	Ongoing	We have been liaising with other departments regarding issues that they have found students facing.

Goal	Progress (complete/ongoing/incomplete)	Comments
Expand Free Food Mondays	Ongoing	We are running free food mondays at more people currently.
Raise awareness for welfare issues	Ongoing	Social media campaign being planned.
Contribute to MSA student advocacy campaigns	Ongoing	Have attended meetings and am researching regarding some of the campaigns.
Expand student welfare opportunities	Ongoing	Planning financial events for semester 2 and other ideas are being developed.

Key Activities

Outline key activities completed thus far since last report

Pizza & Game Night

On April 17 2024, at 7PM we hosted our final event of the semester. The event was free of charge, inviting students to attend to enjoy a relaxing night of pizza, drinks and games. Attendees were encouraged to bring friends and unwind before the exam period intensified. With a laid back atmosphere fostering relaxation and positive vibes, it was a promising night with a great outcome of attendees coming along to make use of the free event. With good company, it was a night well spent with friends just before the semester finished. We also gave away lots of leftover pizza, drinks and candy! :)

Can outline work being done for upcoming events/projects

One World Festival 2024

The primary purpose of the Monash Student Association (MSA) is to serve as the representative voice of students within Monash University and the broader community. Through direct elections, the MSA elects Office Bearers to various departments, each focused on specific areas. Through these departments, we address specific issues and challenges faced by these communities. Our mission revolves around creating an environment where students and members of our community from all backgrounds feel valued, supported, and empowered to thrive.

The impact of our organisation within the community is significant. We contribute to the creation of a campus culture that embraces diversity as a strength rather than a barrier. Students feel a sense of belonging and connection, knowing that their identities and experiences are respected and valued. Our advocacy efforts lead to tangible improvements in policies, practices, and campus infrastructure, making Monash University a more inclusive and welcoming place for all.

One World Festival is a vibrant showcase of multiculturalism, bringing together students, staff, and the wider community from over 30 different backgrounds to celebrate the diverse cultures of Victoria. Through engaging activities such as cultural showcases, performances, workshops, and forums, attendees have the opportunity to explore, learn, and connect with different cultural traditions. The festival also features community engagement activities, a culinary experience, and showcases of cultural attire, highlighting the richness and

significance of clothing. With its focus on promoting inclusivity, respect, and social cohesion, the Festival serves as a testament to the Monash Student Associations commitment to embracing diversity and fostering a welcoming environment for all.

Department Goals

Goal	Progress (complete/ongoing/incomplete)	Comments
Organising & Planning for <i>Mid Autumn Festival</i>	Mid Autumn Festival. The society's involvement is integral to the event's success. By expressing interest, they help us gauge enthusiasm and ensure inclusivity for this cherished celebration. Hence, we would like to reach out and get a rough estimate on who is interested in participating for this year's 2024 Festival.	This Event will be a collaboration with other societies/departments.



Joshua Walters

TREASURER'S REPORT
Report to MSC 01/24]

Joshua Walters

Acting President and Treasurer

Report to MSC 7/24

GOALS

- To further reduce the MSA's deficit and achieve a surplus
- To improve the financial transparency of the MSA
- To work with OB's to develop realistic budgets
- To support the MSA's continued advocacy for students
- To work on implementing an MSA Foodbank to help combat food insecurity on campus
- Make sure the University hears Student Voices

PROJECTS

Filling in for Chloe

As Chloe has been on leave due to undergoing surgery recently, I have been acting as the President in her absence. This has included taking on her duties such as representing the MSA and students in meetings with the University and chairing MSC's.

Election Regulations

The Executive has been in consultation with last year's Returning Officers in an attempt to update and improve the MSA's Elections Regulations. We hope these



Joshua Walters

TREASURER'S REPORT
Report to MSC 01/24]

changes will improve engagement and representation in our elections to make sure MSA is truly representative of the Student Body.

Foodbank

Chloe and I have been working closely with the MSA Volunteering department to get a Student Foodbank ready for launch in Semester 2. After some successful trials ran in Semester 1, we hope to expand this initiative so that it can help alleviate food insecurity on campus, and help students make the most of their students by reducing the stress associated with the current cost of living crisis. Keep an eye on the MSA Social Media in the coming weeks for further details.

Parking Advocacy

The University continues to make money of its students and staff by raising parking fees, and continuing to fine its students. In a cost of living crisis this is unacceptable, students are struggling and Monash is contributing to that. To aid our fight for free parking Chloe has been working alongside the NTEU to submit Freedom of Information requests so we know exactly how much the University profits from our parking. Universities shouldn't be trying to extort their students for profit and we are trying to stop that.

Zareh Kozanian

Secretary

Report to MSC 7/24

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

PROJECTS

MSA DAY

The MSA Day has unfortunately been postponed till next year due to the financial hardship the MSA is currently experiencing.

Transparency in Advocacy

Ensuring transparency in advocacy is a paramount commitment for the MSA, and we are dedicated to keeping Monash students fully informed and engaged in the advocacy initiatives that directly impact their university experience. We understand the importance of providing comprehensive insight into our advocacy work, and, as such, we will share advocacy summary of our initiatives, achievements, and challenges. We seek to foster a culture of transparency detailing eny, collaboration, and active engagement, empowering students to play an integral role in shaping and supporting our advocacy agenda.

*Key Activities

Outline key activities completed thus far since last report:

- Edition three released on 13/5/24 (with assistance from E.S.J.)
- Attended the 2024-25 Budget Lock-Up in Canberra and have written articles to go out with edition four
- Coverage of M.S.C. meetings

Can outline work being done for upcoming events/projects

- Edition four submissions open (closing 22/6/24)
- Planning in progress for edition five to be released 19/8/24
- Research into *Lot's Wife* archive in preparation for 60th anniversary celebrations
- Planning underway for a 60th anniversary celebrations to be held on 22/8/24

Department Goals

Goal	Progress (complete/ongoing/incomplete)	Comments
Build a pool of regular contributors (at least 10)	Ongoing	We've noticed some regular contributors writing in almost every edition
Increasing digital presence	Ongoing	Better social media engagement Shitposting is good More followers on social media
Diversification of content (at least 50% non-fiction pieces)	Ongoing	1/3 of articles in edition three were non-fiction Articles planned for edition four covering the recent Budget Planning for edition four to feature articles on Lot's Wife's history predominantly

Enhance student awareness of the M.S.A.'s actions	Ongoing	Coverage of M.S.Cs. 4, 5 (unreleased) Departmental reports in edition 3, 4, and 5
Improvements to the website to improve user engagement	Ongoing	To be completed in conjunction with M.S.A. website updates.
To publish six editions in 2024 (three per semester)	Incomplete	Three editions published in semester one Editions 4 and 5 in planning for semester two Edition 6 to follow

MSA Conference Report Back Template

Conference Name	Federal Budget 2024-25 Media Lock-up
Report written by	Sam Hudson, Mandy Li, and Angus Duske
Conference Date and Location	May 14, 2024 – Parliament House, Canberra

Post-event summary of conference
The 2024-25 Federal Budget delivered a range of provisions designed to assist students including reforms to H.E.C.S. indexation; paid placements for nursing, midwifery, teaching, and social work students; legislated mandatory S.S.A.F. for student organisations; the introduction of a national students ombudsman; and a national education code to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. This is in addition to a range of measures to ease cost-of-living pressures.
What were the benefits of the conference
Given the significant education reforms included in the budget – both those hinted at prior to May 14 (H.E.C.S. reform and paid placements) and the recent handing down of the Higher Education Accords's Final Report – it was an important budget for students to be across. The intention of <i>Lot's Wife's</i> attendance at Budget Lock-up was to convey these changes for students through the perspectives of students. Our coverage of the lock-up will be included in edition four as well as on social media posts.

Would you recommend conference to other staff to attend

The 2024-25 budget delivered significant reforms for the education sector in line with those handed down in the University Accords, however many of the Accords's recommendations are still yet to be actioned so it is likely that future budgets will contain further reform of the sector in which case it would be advisable for *Lot's Wife* to have a presence.

Would you want to attend this conference again

Speaking as editors, the importance of keeping students in the loop on government reforms that affect them. With undelivered recommendations from the Accords and the tertiary education sector in constant need of reform, *Lot's Wife's* presence would be invaluable at another media lock-up to keep students informed.

Monash Student Association (Clayton) Incorporated: Interpretation of Clause 42(3) of the Constitution

ADVICE

Introduction

1. The Monash Student Association (Clayton) Incorporated (“MSA”) has asked me to advise in relation to the interpretation of clause 42(3) of the MSA Constitution (“the Constitution”).

Background

2. At a meeting of the Monash Student Council (“MSC”) held on 9 February this year, Stuart Gibson nominated Paul Halliday for election as the member of the MSA Executive (“the Executive”) elected by and from those members of the MSC who are the Presidents or their nominees of the Divisions of MSA (“the Divisional members of the MSC”). Mr Halliday was then elected unanimously to that position by the Divisional members of the MSC. Mr Gibson now asserts that, having nominated Mr Halliday for election, he has power to remove him as a member of the Executive, and has purported to do so.

Analysis

3. Clause 21 of the Constitution relevantly provides:

21. Membership

The members of the MSC are:

...

(16–19) the President of each Division, or their nominees (who must be a member of the governing body of that Division), ...

4. Clause 24 of the Constitution relevantly provides:

24. Membership

(1) The members of the Executive are:

...

(d) one member elected by and from the members of the MSC referred to in subclauses 21(16)–(19);

...

(2) The MSC may by resolution passed by an absolute majority remove the members elected under paragraph (1)(d) and (e), and hold another election.

5. The minutes of meeting 1/24 of the MSC held on 9 February this year record that:

(1) Mr Gibson nominated Mr Halliday for election to the Executive in accordance with clause 24(1)(d) of the Constitution; and

(2) Mr Halliday was duly elected unanimously to that position by the Divisional members of the MSC present in accordance with clause 24(1)(d) of the Constitution.

6. There is no doubt that Mr Halliday can be removed as a member of the Executive by a resolution of the MSC passed by an absolute majority in accordance with clause 24(2) of the Constitution.

7. Clause 42 of the Constitution provides:

42. Vacancies

(1) The position of an office-bearer or member of an MSA body becomes vacant if the person holding the position:

(a) delivers a signed resignation to the Secretary (or, in the case of the Secretary, to the President);

(b) except in the case of office-bearers other than the President, Secretary and Treasurer, ceases to be a student;

(c) becomes a full-time member of the staff of the MSA or the University;

(d) does not vote in favour of a special resolution in accordance with subclause 60(5)(d) and the binding decision of a student general meeting or referendum;

- (e) in the case of members of the MSC, the Executive and the Committees directly elected by students (including office-bearers), is removed by a resolution passed by an absolute majority of the members of that body on the ground that:
 - (i) the member has without prior leave of the body failed on 3 consecutive occasions to attend within 45 minutes of the time specified for the commencement of a meeting of the body; or
 - (ii) the member has been certified by a registered medical practitioner to be incapable of carrying out the responsibilities of the position because of injury or illness;
 - (f) is removed by a resolution passed by a four-fifths absolute majority of the MSC on the ground that they have breached their duties to the MSA under clause 35, provided that the office-bearer or member of an MSA body has been given:
 - (i) particulars in writing of what it is alleged they have done or failed to do in breach of their duties under clause 35, at least 1 week before the meeting at which the motion to remove them is to be considered; and
 - (ii) a reasonable opportunity to make written submissions to, attend and be heard at that meeting;
 - (g) is removed by binding decision of:
 - (i) a student general meeting in accordance with paragraph 14(2)(a), or
 - (ii) a student referendum in accordance with subclause 17(6); or
 - (h) dies.
- (2) In addition, under section 78(2) of the Associations Act, the position of a member of the MSC becomes vacant if the person holding the position becomes:
- (a) insolvent under administration as defined in section 38 of the Victorian *Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984*, or
 - (b) a represented person under the Victorian *Guardianship and Administration Act 1986*.
- (3) The position of a person nominated or appointed to an MSA body becomes vacant if the person or body making the nomination or appointment withdraws it.
- (4) Vacancies must be filled within 30 academic days:
- (a) in the case of office-bearer positions directly elected by students – by a by-election being held, subject to subclause (5);
 - (b) in the case of other elected positions – in accordance with the regulations; or
 - (c) in the case of positions that are not elected – by another nomination or appointment being made.
- (5) If a vacancy occurs within 3 months before the annual elections, the MSC may appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

- (6) Persons filling vacancies hold those positions for the remainder of the term of office, subject to this clause.
8. Clause 64(1)(l) of the Constitution defines “MSA body” to mean “a body established by or under this constitution, and includes the Divisions”.
9. It is also clear that Mr Halliday could be removed as a member of the Executive:
 - (1) for breach of his duties to MSA under clause 35 of the Constitution – by a resolution of the MSC passed by a four-fifths absolute majority in accordance with clause 42(1)(f) of the Constitution; or
 - (2) without cause – by a binding decision of a student general meeting in accordance with clause 14(2)(a) of the Constitution or of a student referendum in accordance with clause 17(6) of the Constitution.
10. However, Mr Gibson asserts that Mr Halliday can also be removed as a member of the Executive under clause 42(3) of the Constitution, and that he as Mr Halliday’s nominator has power to do so.
11. I cannot agree. Mr Gibson’s interpretation of clause 42(3) is misconceived. Clause 42(3) only applies to positions that are nominated or appointed. While Mr Halliday may have been nominated by Mr Gibson for election to a position on the Executive, he was not nominated to that position, he was elected to it.
12. This interpretation is consistent with clause 42(4)(c) of the Constitution, which provides for the filling of vacancies in positions that are not elected by another nomination or appointment being made.

13. The only positions directly established by the Constitution to which clause 42(3) potentially applies are those referred to in clauses 21(16)–(19) in circumstances where the President of a Division has nominated a member of the governing body of that Division to be a member of the MSC. In that case, that member of the MSC has been nominated to the position, and accordingly may be removed under clause 42(3) by the relevant President as nominator.
14. Clause 42(3) would also apply to any other positions on MSA bodies established by regulation or resolution where that position is filled by nomination or appointment, rather than election. However, to reiterate, clause 42(3) does not apply to positions that are elected.

Conclusion

15. For the reasons I have given, Mr Gibson does not have power to remove Mr Halliday as a member of the Executive, and his attempt to do so is of no effect.

A. D. Lang

Aickin Chambers

A. D. LANG

13 June 2024

Monash Student Association: Request for Tenders for 2024 - 27 Elections

Monash Student Association is looking to conduct its annual elections. That is for 2024 (for positions commencing 2025) and invites you to provide a quote based on the following information.

The tender should include an outline of previous experience and describe performance measures and budget details for all items outlined in the Tender Guide, and in compliance with the MSA Election Regulations.

The following documents should assist in the preparation of the tender:

- Tender Guide (see below)
- 2024 Election Schedule
- MSA Election Regulations (available at msa.monash.edu/about/governance)
- MSA Constitution (Available at msa.monash.edu/about/governance)

A formal service agreement will be established with the successful tender provider. This agreement will specify each cost and service as agreed, and will include an option to also undertake the 2025, 2026 and 2027 elections should the required conditions be met and based on performance of the electoral process in 2024. **To be clear; the agreed and successful tender will be required to provide a clear opt out clause in either 2025, 2026 or 2027 should such action be required.**

Please note that all tenders will be treated as *commercial in confidence* and will not be available for public disclosure. Please lodge tenders no later than **5pm Friday, 17 May 2024** by post **and** e-mail to:

Lowan Sist
Executive Officer
Monash Student Association (Clayton) Inc
Level 1, Campus Centre
21 Chancellor Walk
Monash University
CLAYTON VIC 3800

Phone: 0414 863 792
Email: lowan.sist@monash.edu

MSA TENDER GUIDE

Tender Documentation

The Monash Student Association (MSA) 2024 elections are to be conducted using electronic ballot. The tender document should include an outline of previous experience and other information seen as relevant. It should also provide an itemised budget that includes the projected costs for:

Staffing

- Returning Officer
- Deputy Returning Officer
- Poll clerks and advisors
- Possible additional duties such as extra counting time or Returning Officer's time to deal with appeals

Administration

- Typesetting the Election Guide (in collaboration with Lot's Wife)
- Electoral Roll (access, management and return)
- Producing any election related materials
- Stationary, postage, and other miscellaneous administration-related costs
- Stickers (to be worn by students once they have voted)
- Provision of the final conclusive Election Report in a reasonable time after the election

Polling

- Security and safety of data
- Setting up of information booths to assist voters in accessing the voting system

Election Details

The dates for the MSA election will be Monday 16th September 2024 till Thursday 19th September 2024, with the polling times as follows:

On line voting system available:

Monday 16 th September	9.30am – 4.30pm
Tuesday 17 th September	9.30am – 6.00pm
Wednesday 18 th September	9.30am – 4.30pm
Thursday 20 th September	9.30pm – 4.30pm

Elected Positions and Voting Modes

The election of the following positions:

Office Bearer positions:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Disabilities and Carers Officer
- Education (Academic Affairs) Officer
- Education (Public Affairs) Officer
- Welfare Officer
- Women's Officer
- Queer Officer
- People of Colour Officer
- Environment & Social Justice Officer
- Indigenous Officer
- Activities Officer
- Creative and Live Arts Officer
- Residential Community Officer
- Lot's Wife Editor/s

Monash Student Council and Committees:

- Monash Student Council (5 General Representatives)
- Women's Affairs Committee (9 Members)
- Student Affairs Committee (9 Members)
- Student Welfare Committee (9 Members)
- People of Colour Collective (9 members)
- Creative and Live Arts Committee (9 Members)
- Activities Advisory Committee (9 Members)
- Mental Health and Resilience Committee (20 members)
- Environment and Social Justice Committee (20 members)

National Union of Students:

7 Delegate positions

These elections are conducted using optional preferential voting, and in accordance with other provisions as required under electoral regulations (eg. only females can vote for Women's Officer).

Other elections we require delivery of are:

MSA Divisions:

Mature Age and Part Time Students (MAPS) second semester. Only Mature age students as defined in the Constitution stand and vote (potentially 100 electors)

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer/Secretary
- Social Secretary

Radio Monash Second Semester (potentially 50 electors)

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Monash University International Students Service (MUISS) Only International students can stand and vote (potentially 5000 electors)

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

Other Electoral Information

Approximately 39,000 students are eligible to vote in MSA elections. Recent years have seen 3500-5000 students voting in the main MSA elections. Other elections have far smaller turnouts.

Most voting occurs on line.

Enrolment information (for electoral roll) is available through the University's Student and Community Services Division. This process needs to be undertaken by the Returning Officer.

An independent election tribunal is in place for each election. The tribunal is established based on the electoral regulations

MSA Infrastructure & Support

Voting information spaces are provided. A small office, with desk, phone and computer (internet) are also made available, as is access to photocopying facilities. Any enquiries concerning operational or administrative supports and the Service Agreement are to be directed to the Executive Officer. Enquiries concerning the MSA Election Regulations or Constitution are to be directed to the MSA Executive Officer as appropriate.

2024 MSA Annual Elections Schedule

Based upon the MSA Election Regulations as of 19 July 2021 and assuming the dates of polling being September 16 to the 19 September 2024

<u>Week 9 from Election</u>	
Mon – 15 July 2018	Last day for MSC to appoint Returning Officer
<u>Week 8</u>	
Mon – 22 July	
<u>Week 7</u>	
Mon – 29 July	Notice of election given 09:00 Ticket name re-registration opens 09:00 Letter to Indigenous students to give notice of election sent out 9.00am
Fri – 2 August	Ticket name re-registration closes 17:00
<u>Week 6</u>	
Mon – 5 August	Ticket name re-registrations published 17:00
Tues – 6 August	Ticket name registration opens 09:00
Fri – 7 August	Last day to notify NUS
<u>Week 5</u>	
Mon – 12 August	Ticket name registration closes 17:00
Tues – 13 August	Full list of registered tickets published 17:00
Wed – 14 August	Nominations open 9.00am, publicity regulations apply Applications to be set out as a ticket open 09:00
<u>Week 4</u>	
Fri – 23 August	Nominations close 5.00pm Applications to be set out as a ticket close 17:00
<u>Week 3</u>	
Mon – 26 August	Policy speeches and photos submitted 17:00
Tues – 27 August	Nominations and Ticket list posted by 12:00 Notice of Ballot draw to be posted on line
Wed – 28 August	Ballot draw 12:00
Thurs – 29 August	List of candidates with ticket names available by 2:00
<u>Week 2</u>	
Wed – 4 September	Ballot papers printed Postal vote applications close 12:00
Fri – 6 September	Preference statements close 12:00 Preference statements displayed by 17:00 Postal ballots posted out by 12:00 Election Guide available for viewing in electronic format 12:00-17:00
<u>Week 1</u>	
Mon – 9 September	Last day for distribution of election guide
<u>Week 0</u>	
Mon – 16 September	Polling
Tues – 17 September	Polling
Wed – 18 September	Polling
Thurs – 19 September	Polling

Note: The Returning Officer must present a written report to the MSC within twenty-one (21) days of the polls being declared, which must include a full list of all registered ticket names.

22 May 2024

Monash Student Council

Report on tenders to conduct 2024/25/26/27 MSA elections

Returning Officer Tenders

A request for tenders was sent to three companies:

- OGL Group (OGL)
- Corpvote
- Above Quota Elections (AQE)

Corpvote declined to respond as they are now online only and cannot facilitate a local attendance. OGL and AQE responded and their submissions are now analysed.

In summary: Both OGL and AQE are in the same area regarding significant experience of student Association/Guild/Union elections. They have both carried out RO roles at MSA previously.

Assessment & Recommendation

AQE has extensive experience as a provider of student elections in Australia. This includes MSA, with AQE having conducted all of the MSA elections from 2003 -2009 inclusive, with their Director, Stephen Luntz having been the chief Returning Officer for each. As has been acknowledged previously, their MSA election reports have been proactive in suggesting a range of changes that could be made to further improve the electoral process, and many of these recommendations have been acted upon by MSC. The company has extensive experience in providing election services and its tender provides detailed profiles of the main returning officers who would be overseeing the process.

The OGL Group came into existence in 2009, and has conducted elections at La Trobe, Deakin, NUS, RMIT, University of Melbourne and Monash University Peninsula. One of its Directors, Gavin Ryan, has also previously worked for the Victorian Electoral Commission on State Elections as well as being an election monitor for national elections in Timor Leste. As indicated in its current submission, the OGL Group believes they have a comprehensive understanding of MSA election requirements having undertaken the last 4 MSA elections. As was the case with AQE previously, the election reports provided by OGL are proactive in identifying and suggesting changes that could be made to further improve the electoral process.

This year MSA has asked for a quotation for a four-year provision with an opt out option after any year. This has led to some discounting however at different levels. For the sake of this exercise we are looking at an online version for the elections as opposed to in person or a hybrid of in-person and online. This enables a greater turnout of electors, a faster result and significant cost savings.

AQE
AQE provided a quote for on line only. They provided two prices of \$46024 inc., if MUISS elections are uncontested and \$44057 inc., if not. They also state in assumptions that if MUISS or MSA elections are uncontested there will be a 60% discount on these two elections. There seems to be some confusion on this point and most likely MSA election will be contested (premise mentioned under OGL, below). There is a minor addition error in their costing for sub-total *contested* however this is inconsequential. Their quote includes a costing for the online election provider; *Big Pulse*. For the four-year concept they will index the original price by CPI each year. Big Pulse costed at: \$8470 inc. pa.

OGL
OGL provided three prices for in person, hybrid or online. I have compared online only at \$44359 inc. per year OGL has presented with no indexation. This cost is based on a multiyear discount commitment of 10%. If any part of the election list is uncontested they will discount by 50% that component. As it is most likely MSA election will be contested the major (contested) prices have been used for comparison. This would be windfall benefit only and I have not included this factor in modelling. Their quote includes the cost for *Big Pulse*, however they are developing their own version and when completed this will be made available with additional savings. As this saving is undetermined I have not made any financial adjustments for this. Big Pulse costed at \$6909 in. pa

Between the two applicants there is not a great deal of difference further to the above. The schedule of costings is as listed below.

Costs	AQE	OGL		
Base cost inc of GST based on contested elections Including Big pulse	\$ 44,561	\$ 44,359		
Appeals or recounts	\$90ph	Extra		not declared
If over 300 candidates	\$15 per candidate	included		
Revised Total	\$ 44,651	\$ 44,359		
Indexation over 4 years at conservative CPI of 2.5%				
2024	\$ 44,561	\$ 44,359		
2025	\$ 45,675	\$ 44,359		
2026	\$ 46,817	\$ 44,359		
2027	\$ 47,987	\$ 44,359		
Revised total for four years	\$ 185,040	\$ 177,436		

In summary, both of the tenderers have undertaken MSA elections previously and it is understood both are seen as having done so successfully. OGL responded to the tender request more accurately and provided an online option as well as hybrid and in person. AQE provided a hybrid model and costing only.

The successful applicant will be required to deliver a Candidate's Forum prior to the election process commencing

The difference for 2024 is \$292 and for the entire 4 years is \$7604.

I recommend OGL as the successful tenderer given their recent experience, more accuracy in response to the tender and costings.

Forwarded for the consideration of MSC.



Lowan Sist
Executive Officer

PS: Actual tender responses can be viewed in my office at mutually agreeable times given the commercial in confidence nature of the submissions

Inc: Call for Tenders 2024.pdf
Election schedule 2024.pdf