

Meeting time: Opened at 05:03 PM on 25/08/2024

Meeting location: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

A. Attendance

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proxy</u>
President:	Chloe Ward	
Secretary:	Zareh Kozanian	
Treasurer:	Joshua Walters	
Education (Academic Affairs):	Naomi Drego	
Education (Public Affairs):	Nafiz Ibrahim	
Activities:	Reggie Noor	
CLA:	Haider Shah Gina Ford	
Welfare:	Teagan Hayward	
Indigenous:	Marlley McNamara	
Environment & Social Justice:	Sophie Allen (Absent)	
Women's:	Zoe Binns	
Queer:	Madeline Curkovic	
Disabilities & Carers:	Charlotte Sutton	
People of Colour:	Tooba Javed	
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	Joshua Strauss

- General Representative: Diyara Jaswar
- Observers: Lucia Darcy
Connor Knight
Harleen
Luka Kerm
Dom
Malak Ababneh
Mahathir Lutfullah
John Sopar
Alex Self
Jos Downey
Kristen Dodson-Geary
Sam Allan
Angus Duske
Amiriya
Max Tory

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. MSC 9/24

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

Motion #1:

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

Moved: Zareh Kozanian **Seconded:** Paul Halliday
In Favour: 11
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, Paul Halliday, waives his right of speaking.

Leave of Absence Request

Motion #2:

This MSC approves unpaid leave of absence for Joshua Walters for the 16th of August 2024

Moved: Chloe Ward Naomi Drego **Seconded:** Paul Halliday
In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Naomi Drego, waives his right of speaking.

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

Indigenous Office Bearer

Motion #3:

It is moved that this MSC removes Marley McNamara as Indigenous Officer of the MSA, as per Section 42(1)(e)(i) of the MSA Constitution, due to failing to attend three consecutive MSCs, namely Special MSC 2, MSC 7 and MSC 8.

Moved: Chloe Ward Charlotte Sutton **Seconded:** Paul Halliday
In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Charlotte Sutton, waives his right of speaking.

The seconder of the motion, Paul Halliday, spoke to the motion highlighting that ongoing challenges in establishing contact with Marley excited since January, despite multiple outreach attempts. William Cooper Institute at Monash expressed serious concerns over her lack of engagement, which has now led to reputational risks for the Monash Student Association (MSA) due to this disconnect. The Institute is considering scaling back its involvement with the MSA if the issue remains unaddressed, making it a priority to ensure Indigenous students are represented by an actively engaged student office bearer. The speaker emphasised the importance of maintaining a positive relationship with William Cooper Institute to support student-led initiatives and preserve MSA's standing in these collaborations.

Motion #4:

That the MSC appoints John Sopar to fill the vacancy in the position of Indigenous Office-Bearer

Moved: ~~Chloe Ward~~ Charlotte Sutton

Seconded: Paul Halliday

In Favour: 11

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Charlotte Sutton, waives his right of speaking.

The seconder of the motion, Paul Halliday, noted that John, last year's Indigenous office bearer, had performed exceptionally well and had taken on the role again this year in Marley's absence.

MSA Student General Meeting

Preamble:

The horrors being committed by Israel in Gaza are only getting worse, with more than 40,000 confirmed dead and projected death count estimates as high as 186,000. Monash University has outrageously maintained its ties with arms companies like Lockheed Martin, Textron, and others, which are complicit in, or profiting from, the crimes being committed in Gaza.

Students should not let their universities maintain such connections unchallenged. Universities should serve the goal of human need, rather than contributing to humanitarian disaster. Over the last few months, Student General Meetings at UQ, USyd, RMIT, Adelaide Uni, QUT, Unimelb have seen thousands of students take a powerful stance against the complicity of their universities.

900+ students have signed the petition to call a student general meeting. This overwhelming response reflects the depth of student feeling about this issue. The MSC has an obligation to respond to these 900 students by calling a Student General Meeting and allowing them to put their motion in support of the people of Gaza.

Motion #5:

Platform

- 1) Students for Palestine has collected more than 900 signatures of students at Monash Clayton, and they delivered them to the MSA executive office on Monday.
- 2) The MSA constitution 10.(2) states: "The MSC **must** convene a student general meeting if petitioned by at least 1% of students."
- 3) The MSA constitution 10.(3) states "The MSC must by resolution set the date, place and agenda of each student general meeting."
- 4) The MSA constitution 11.(1) "Student general meetings may only be held between 1:05 p.m. and 1:55 p.m. on an academic day at the Clayton Campus."
- 5) The MSA constitution 15.(1) states "The President is entitled to chair student general meetings." 15.(2) states: "If the President is not present, or does not wish to chair the meeting (or part of the meeting), the Deputy Chair is entitled to chair." 15.(3) states "If neither the President nor the Deputy Chair is present, or if neither wishes to chair the meeting, the MSC must appoint a chair."
- 6) This resolution fulfills these constitutional obligation in its action points below

Action

- 1) In accordance with its constitutional obligations, this MSC calls a Student General Meeting for Tuesday the 3rd of September.
- 2) The Student General Meeting location will be the Lemon Scented Lawns
- 3) Registration for the Student General Meeting will open at 12pm on the day, to allow for those attending to be processed and verified as students before the meeting begins. The meeting proper will then begin sharply at 1:05pm

4) As stated in the constitution, the chair of the MSC will be the President Chloe Ward. If she does not wish to chair, then deputy chair Joshua Walters will. If he does not wish to chair either, then this MSC appoints Madeline Curkovic to chair the meeting.

5) The Agenda for the student general meeting will be a discussion of the following motion, which was attached to the petition that over 900 students signed:

1. *MSA supports an immediate and just end to Israel's war on Gaza. This means stopping the bombing, a permanent withdrawal of Israeli troops, an end to the 18- year long blockade, and reparations to be paid for the reconstruction of Gaza.*

2. *MSA endorses the demands of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment protests - calling on Monash University to reveal and cut all ties with companies and institutions involved in the development and manufacturing of weapons used by the IDF against the Palestinian people.*

Moved: Luka Kiernan

Seconded: Malak Ababneh

Moved: Madeline Curkovic

Seconded: Beck Riches

In Favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

MOTION PASSES

[Discussion during MSC:](#)

Amendment by Mover

1) Add action Platform 7, the mover of the motion Luca Kiernan and seconded Malek Abenef will have three minutes to speak to the motion and those who want to speak in favor or against the motion will have two minutes of speaking time.

2) Action point four to read as stated in the constitution the chair of the MSC the chair of the MSC will be President Chloe Ward. Madeleine Kirkevich will co-chair the meeting with if the president does not wish to chair then deputy chair Josh Walters will. If he does not wish to chair either then this MSC appoints Dilhan Simsek to chair the meeting with Madeleine Kirkevich.

3) To add an action point to read, the MSA executive will decide on a location by Saturday the 24th of August as per their constitutional requirement to decide a location six academic days before the meeting.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Madeline Curkovic clarifies the proposed amendment, stating that the amendment involves appointing Madeline Curkovic as a co-chair of the meeting alongside either Chloe, Josh, or

Dilhan. Madeline Curkovic explains that the reasoning behind this proposal is based on the significant work they, along with others present at the meeting, have undertaken throughout the year to support the Palestine campaign on campus. Given this extensive involvement, Madeline Curkovic emphasizes that it would be logical for them to co-chair the meeting with one of the executive members of the MSA.

Stella Robinson raises a point of clarification, asking whether the structuring of chairing and co-chairing applies only to this specific, one-off calling of a general meeting or if it is intended as an ongoing arrangement. They inquire if this structure would also apply in situations where one percent of students petition to hold another general meeting on a different topic.

Chloe Ward provides clarification regarding the constitutional guidelines for chairing meetings. They explain that, as per their understanding of the constitution, the president is entitled to chair meetings, with the deputy chair taking on the role if the president opts not to. In the event that neither the president nor the deputy chair is present or willing to chair, it falls to the MSA to elect another chair in their stead. Chloe Ward notes that the co-chair structure is not explicitly prescribed in the constitution. They clarify that this arrangement would apply solely to this Special General Meeting (SGM). Chloe Ward invites Paul, who is more well-versed in the constitution, to correct them if this interpretation is incorrect.

Madeline Curkovic confirms that the co-chair structure applies only to this Special General Meeting (SGM) and would require a constitutional amendment to be used for all meetings. They explain that this arrangement is justified by their significant role, alongside others, in organizing the Palestine campaign, including efforts with Students of Palestine, the encampment, and campaigning for the SGM. They highlight that over 900 student signatures were collected to make the meeting possible, further supporting their role in chairing.

Connor Knight (Observer) expresses agreement with the proposed co-chairing arrangement and adds a political justification for Madeline's role as co-chair. They argue that, considering the political content of the motions and the significant number of students—now likely exceeding a thousand—who have signed in support, it would be inappropriate to delegate sole chairing to a member of the Labor Party. Connor emphasises the importance of aligning the meeting's leadership with the spirit of the motions and the political values they represent. They highlight Madeline's background as a left-wing activist with a strong record of standing with the oppressed, asserting that Madeline's involvement would ensure meaningful political contributions to the chairing. They argue that sole control by a Labor student would be unacceptable in this context.

Chloe Ward rules that Madeline and Beck will use their speaking time as the mover and seconder of the motion. Once they have concluded, the discussion will proceed to Paul's proposed amendments. The Chair invites Madeline to speak as the mover.

Madeline Curkovic speaks as the mover of the motion, outlining the reasons for its approval and the efforts made to organize the meeting. Madeline Curkovic explains that the motion is part of a national campaign, with student general meetings at various universities advocating for divestment from weapons companies complicit in genocide in Gaza.

Successful meetings have been held recently at UQ, RMIT, QUT, and UniMelb, creating a positive atmosphere and providing students with a platform to support Palestine through democratic processes in student unions. Madeline Curkovic emphasizes that this is a significant political issue, likening it to Vietnam for this generation. The motion aims to oppose genocide, address the university's potential involvement with weapons companies, and challenge political support for Israel's war effort in Gaza. Madeline Curkovic highlights that over 900 students have signed the petition, demonstrating widespread support for the meeting and providing students the opportunity to vote on motions that oppose genocide, address the university's involvement, and respond to the university's treatment of pro-Palestinian students and the encampment. Madeline Curkovic criticizes the university for supporting Israel and suppressing pro-Palestine activism. Madeline Curkovic further notes that student general meetings were historically common at Monash, especially during the 1970s, reflecting a rich history of left-wing activism. They argue that this meeting is a significant opportunity for Monash students to engage with a pressing issue and ensure that student unions take a stance on the gravity of the situation in Palestine.

Lucia (Observer) speaks on the motion, sharing their experience with pro-Palestine activism, which began a few months ago and served as their first major interaction on campus. They highlight their involvement in campaigning as a student and commends Madeline's tireless daily efforts in this area. They also acknowledge the challenges Maddy has faced, including criticism from the university due to her activism, particularly concerning the encampment. They argued that Madeline is the logical choice for chairing the meeting, emphasizing their limited interaction with Dilhan during their time in pro-Palestine activism. Lucia notes that many students recognize Madeline from her visible role on platforms like the Students for Palestine Instagram and would likely appreciate seeing a familiar and active figure chairing the meeting.

Motion to Amend:

Motion attached at the end of this document

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: Dilhan Simsek

In Favour: 11

Against: 4

Abstentions: 2

MOTION CARRIED

Madeline Curkovic responds to the discussion, clarifying their concerns regarding certain aspects of the proposed amendments. They express strong disagreement with politically objectionable changes, specifically highlighting the removal of language that states weapons companies are complicit in or profiting from crimes committed in Gaza. Madeline Curkovic emphasizes their belief that this removal is illogical, asserting that weapons companies producing components for F-35s are, without question, complicit in the genocide occurring in Gaza.

Dilhan Simsek raises a point of clarification, directly asking whether the amendment has been accepted or not.

Madeline Curkovic responds to the amendment, stating that they are addressing it in its entirety. They explain that while there are parts of the amendment they find objectionable, there are other parts they agree with.

Dilhan Simsek seeks clarification, asking whether the amendment, if accepted, will proceed to debate.

Madeline Curkovic clarifies that the amendment has not been accepted. Madeline Curkovic elaborates, stating that while there are parts of the amendment they find acceptable, there are other parts they strongly object to. They question why the amendment is being considered as a single block, highlighting specific concerns. These include provisions that remove their right to co-chair and the removal of references to the encampment, which they describe as "disgraceful." Madeline Curkovic clarifies that they cannot provide a simple yes or no answer regarding the amendment, as it contains distinct components with differing implications. They express the desire for the amendment to be split into at least two separate amendments, allowing for individual consideration. They explain that they agree with certain parts but strongly disagree with others.

Dilhan Simsek moves a procedural motion requesting that the amendment now be put to a vote, allowing the student council to decide.

Procedural Motion:

That this MSC moves the motion to be put to a vote

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

In Favour: 13

Against: 3

MOTION CARRIED

Madeline Curkovic moves a procedural motion requesting that the amendments be split into separate parts for individual consideration.

Chloe Ward clarifies the process for handling procedural motions. The first procedural motion, moved by Dilhan, is to put the amendment to a vote. The Chair states that this procedural motion must be addressed and voted on before proceeding to the second procedural motion, which requests splitting the amendments.

Madeline Cukovic suggests that the process does not make sense factually. They point out that a massive document has been moved without a clear acceptance or rejection.

Paul Halliday raises a point of order that Madeline does not currently have the floor to speak.

Madeline Curkovic requests the opportunity to speak against the proposed amendments.

The Chair clarifies that the amendments are proceeding directly to a vote, and therefore there will not be an opportunity to speak against them at this stage.

Madeline Curkovic interrupts the chair.

Chloe Ward addresses Madeline, reminding her that she has not been called on to speak and instructing her to refrain from speaking out of turn. The Chair states that Madeline will be named again if she continues to interrupt.

Chloe Ward explains that the MSC will address the amended motion.

Madeline Curkovic expresses strong objections to the recent vote on the amendments, arguing that it undermines student democracy. They emphasize that 900 students signed a petition requesting a specific motion to be moved at the Student General Meeting (SGM) and criticize the decision to alter the motion without respecting the original intent. Madeline Curkovic highlights the removal of references to the encampment and the complicity of weapons companies. They question the appropriateness of editing a motion that 900 students supported and express outrage that approximately 20 individuals voted to pass these amendments without individual consideration. They accuse the process of being undemocratic and allege deliberate sabotage of the motion over the past week. They claim that the amended motion misrepresents the intent of the petition and fails to reflect the original request of the students. While expressing frustration, the participant acknowledges relief that the motion is finally being discussed after significant delays.

The Chair moves a procedural motion to limit the speaking time of each participant in the debate to two minutes. This decision is made in the interest of time to ensure that other important motions can also be addressed. The Chair emphasizes the importance of allowing everyone a chance to speak on the issue.

Max Tory acknowledges Madeline's objections and expresses willingness to wait for their turn on the speaking list. They then propose allowing Dilhan to take their place to respond directly to Madeline's concerns, particularly regarding the appropriateness of changing the wording of a motion that over 900 students signed petitions in favor of.

Dilhan Simsek provides clarification regarding the petition and its relation to the current discussion. They note that while the petition gathered 900 signatures, only about 250 of those could be verified by the MSA. They explain that the council's current action is not directly responding to a petition of 900 people but is instead exercising its authority to call a Special General Meeting (SGM). They acknowledge the significance of even 250 verified signatures as a basis for calling the SGM. Dilhan commends the broader movement of SGMs across Australia, describing it as inspiring, and emphasizes the importance of having a similar initiative at Monash. They highlight the relevance of recognizing international events and refer to a statement issued at the first MSC meeting, encouraging members to review it and reflect on the council's position. On the topic of chairing, they argue that the chair's role is administrative rather than partisan and assert that political affiliations or beliefs should

not influence the ability to fulfill this role effectively. They express disagreement with the idea that being left-wing or politically active enhances the capacity to chair and cite past examples of chairs successfully managing MSCs.

Max Tory (Observer) notes that Dilhan did not directly respond to the question raised by Madeline and themselves. They express strong disagreement with Dilhan's claim that only 250 signatures from the petition were able to be verified, describing this assertion as absolutely ridiculous.

Dilhan Simsek requests clarification, asking for confirmation on whether only 250 signatures from the petition are able to be verified by the MSA.

The Chair addresses the point of clarification, explaining that according to information provided by the MSA senior management team, only 250 to 300 signatures from the petition could be verified using the MSA's available data. The Chair notes that this does not imply the remaining signatures were invalid but rather that they could not be verified due to limitations in the MSA's data, which does not include the university's data.

Luka Kerm (Observer) raises a point of clarification, questioning whether the inability to verify signatures was due to the MSA not taking sufficient steps to process the signatures.

Paul Halliday provides clarification regarding the verification process for petition signatures. They explain that Monash University does not share full student lists with the MSA or any of the student unions at Monash, which restricts the ability to verify signatures. Paul Halliday emphasizes that it would be inappropriate to approach Monash with a list of students who have taken a political position on an issue. Sharing such information, including names and email addresses, could compromise the privacy of international students or others who may not want the university to be aware of their involvement. Paul Halliday stresses that this limitation is not an excuse but a reflection of the obstructionist practices of Monash University. Paul Halliday clarifies the actions taken by the MSA to verify petition signatures. They explain that the MSA acted to the fullest extent possible using the data available in their database. This included broadening the definition of "student" to include inactive students who had logged on, which, under a strict interpretation of the constitution, should not have been counted. This approach allowed for the verification of approximately 350 signatures. Paul Halliday emphasizes that the remaining 600 signatures are not considered invalid but simply could not be verified due to the lack of data sharing by Monash University. They reiterate that it would be improper for the MSA, as a third-party student union, to share the political positions of students with the university, as it could compromise the privacy and safety of those who signed the petition.

Max Tory (Observer) expresses skepticism about the explanation regarding signature verification, questioning how the MSA is able to verify signatures for student election validation and similar processes if such limitations exist. Max Tory raises objections to the substantive politics of the amendment. They criticize the removal of language asserting that weapons companies profiting from selling arms to Israel are complicit in bombing civilians in Gaza. They also highlight the omission of references to the Gaza solidarity encampment. Max Tory attributes these changes to sectarianism and a refusal to honor the intent of the

900 students who signed the petition, specifically supporting the demands of the Gaza solidarity encampment. They suggest that the amendments reflect the affiliations of Labour Party members and their reluctance to take a strong stance against the government and the university by adopting the original wording from the Gaza solidarity encampment. Max Tory concludes by expressing that these amendments dilute the political content of the motion and represent a significant step back.

Paul Halliday clarifies that they did not state the signatures were valid but rather that they have no way of proving they are not valid. They emphasize that this lack of validation does not confirm validity but acknowledge that if all signatures were validated, it is likely the threshold would be met. However, they reiterate that there is no definitive way to confirm this.

Connor Knight (Observer) raises a series of objections to the amendments and decisions regarding chairing the meeting. They criticize the focus on bureaucratic debates, suggesting it serves to deflect attention from the core political issues. The participant argues that members of the Labor Party, a party they describe as complicit in the ongoing genocide, have received a petition from over 900 students only to politically dilute and moderate its demands. They attribute these actions to sectarianism, political moderation, and loyalty to the Labor Party. Regarding the chairing decision, the participant asserts that chairing a political meeting about Palestine is inherently political. They accuse the decision not to allow Madeline to chair as politically motivated, aimed at preventing a left-wing, radical activist from having control over the meeting. They describe the effort to reduce the meeting to a bureaucratic exercise as a way to suppress the significance of the campaign.

Procedural Motion:

That this MSC moves the motion to be put to a vote

Moved: Jay Davis

In Favour: 12

Against: 4

MOTION CARRIED

Madeline Curkovic requests that her amendment in the zoom chat must be heard prior to the procedural.

Paul Halliday addresses the Chair, citing Standing Order 22.2, which states that an amendment can only be moved between speakers and not while a speaker is mid-speech. Paul also references Section 14.4, which specifies that speakers may not interrupt during another speaker's allocated time. Paul draws the Chair's attention to these procedural rules to ensure compliance with the standing orders.

Jay Davis cites Standing Order 24.7, which stipulates that once a procedural motion has been moved, it must be put to a vote.

The Chair acknowledges the reference and confirms that they were about to proceed with putting the procedural motion to a vote.

Connor Knight (Observer) has been named by the Chair for interrupting

Harleen (Observer) has been named by the Chair for interrupting

Dom (Observer) has been named by the Chair for interrupting

Connor Knight (Observer) has been named once more by the Chair for interrupting

Election of ResComm Office Bearer

Preamble:

As it stands the MSA constitution requires candidates for Women's Officer, Disability and Carers Officer, Indigenous Officer, Queer Officer and People of Colour Officer to be a member of their respective autonomous group. However the same requirement does not apply to the Residential Community Officer; although this requirement has recently been introduced via the election regulations, it would be desirable to also have it in the constitution.

Motion #6:

This MSC:

~~1. resolves to hold a student referendum during the 2024 MSA annual elections on the proposed constitutional changes as outlined—~~

The new clause:

~~a. The Residential Community Officer must be directly elected by and from students who reside in on-campus accommodation.~~

~~Is to be inserted as 32(7) and subsequent clauses be renumbered accordingly.~~

2. resolves that the wording of the referendum question to be as follows:

~~**A Proposed Change:** To amend the MSA Constitution to require that the Residential Community Officer live in on-campus accommodation.~~

~~**Do you approve of this proposed amendment?**~~

~~3. appoints OGL Group to act as Returning Officer of the student referendum. This MSC resolves that the dates, locations and hours of polling for the student referendum shall be that of the 2024 MSA Annual Elections.~~

~~4. directs the Returning Officer to—~~

~~a. ensure that copies of the proposed changes are made available to all students on the MSA website and via email as part of the Election Guide.~~

~~b. place the referendum questions on the same ballot as the annual elections.~~

Moved: Jay Davis **Seconded:** Dilhan Simsek
In Favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 2

MOTION CARRIED

[Discussion during MSC:](#)

Amendment by Mover

This MSC:

1. resolves to hold a student referendum during the 2024 MSA annual elections on the proposed constitutional changes as outlined–

The new clause:

a. The Residential Community Officer must be directly elected by and from students who:

new clause:

currently reside in on-campus accommodation; or

Is to be inserted as 32(7)(a).

c. The new clause:

have resided in on-campus accommodation within the past 12 months.

Is to be inserted as 32(7)(b).

2. resolves that the wording of the referendum question to be as follows:

A Proposed Change: To amend the MSA Constitution to require that the Residential Community Officer be elected by and from students who currently live in on-campus accommodation or have done so within the past 12 months.

Do you approve of this proposed amendment?

3. appoints OGL Group to act as Returning Officer of the student referendum. This MSC resolves that the dates, locations and hours of polling for the student referendum shall be that of the 2024 MSA Annual Elections.

4. directs the Returning Officer to–

a. ensure that copies of the proposed changes are made available to all students on the MSA website and via email as part of the Election Guide.

b. place the referendum questions on the same ballot as the annual elections.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Zareh Kozanian highlights concerns about members speaking without raising their hand, noting that this behavior deviates from appropriate council conduct. Zareh Kozanian proposes to disable the mute/unmute option to better maintain order during the meeting. They suggest requiring participants to send a message in the chat if they wish to respond, emphasizing the need to uphold proper council behavior.

Chloe Ward (Chair) responds to the proposal, expressing a preference for allowing participants to unmute themselves but acknowledging that due to repeated instances of members speaking out of turn, it might be appropriate to require participants to ask for permission to unmute. The Chair reiterates the importance of maintaining order and directs members to raise their hands if they wish to speak. They confirm that participants will be called on in turn.

Jay Davis explains the motion he is raising, which stipulates that the Residential Community Officer must be someone who currently lives on campus or has lived on campus recently. The rationale behind the inclusion of "recently" is to account for situations where an individual may take a break or temporarily leave campus, ensuring the university cannot target the office bearer if they are no longer residing on campus. Jay clarifies that this motion addresses concerns that were raised with him. He also notes that student opinions are important, as recognized by the constitution, and that students are required to vote on referendums to alter the constitution.

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

Madeline Curkovic responds to the motion, explaining that referendums serve as a way to ask the student population whether they agree with a particular issue, similar to how the SGM petition functioned. They express frustration that the MSC has disregarded the petition and the rights of students to move a motion and accept a position previously supported by 900 students. They argue that the MSC has failed to take up the demands of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment, effectively ignoring student democracy. Madeline Curkovic accuses the MSC of undermining the position that weapons companies are complicit in genocide, calling this stance absurd. They challenge the MSC, questioning whether they would openly express such views at rallies, knowing the negative backlash they would face. The participant asserts that the involvement of weapons companies in genocide is widely recognized and that the positive momentum of mass meetings across campuses supports this view. They criticize the MSC for gutting the original motion, calling it indicative of the political leanings of the members. The participant states that aside from one motion at the start of the year, the MSC has not taken any meaningful action in favor of Palestine. They emphasize that the petition, supported by nearly 1,000 students, is far to the left of the positions the MSC has taken, and urge the MSC to reflect on this contrast.

Dilhan Simsek highlights that the call for an SGM is a result of student demand, as evidenced by the petition. They acknowledge that the previous motion passed with support from Madeline and others, and express hope that this SGM will be a significant step forward, similar to successful SGMs seen around the country. The participant notes the discussion regarding the verification of signatures and emphasizes that the MSA could have prevented the SGM from occurring but chose to move forward with the motion, indicating the MSC's desire for the SGM to take place. They clarify that the issue with signature verification was due to the data limitations of the MSA, and while the signatures could not be verified, the MSC exercised its right to call an SGM. They argue that the perception of the MSC opposing the SGM is misplaced, as the MSC has actively supported the SGM. Dilhan Simsek expresses optimism about the upcoming SGM, noting the significance of having a pro-Palestinian stance and recognizing the efforts of Students for Palestine in organizing the petition. They encourage all members to support the SGM and contribute to the pro-Palestinian action.

The Chair moves a procedural motion to close the speaking list after Malak, ensuring that everyone who has raised their hand will have a chance to speak. This decision is made in the interest of time.

Malak Ababneh expresses strong dissatisfaction with the MSA's actions, particularly regarding the verification of signatures. They accuse the MSA of disregarding student opinions and politically moderating the motion that students petitioned for. The participant criticizes the MSA for aligning with Labor or Labor-affiliated members, calling the actions politically motivated and appalling. The participant states they are leaving the meeting to attend a refugee rally, referencing the Australian Labor Party's (ALP) treatment of refugees over the years as part of their rationale for leaving. They express frustration with the MSC's decision to ignore student opinions.

Jay Davis acknowledges that there appears to be no significant objection to the motion and addresses the Trots, suggesting that the previous motion has been concluded and that the discussion has moved on to a new topic. They invite anyone with comments on the substance of the current motion to share them but propose that, unless there are further comments, the meeting should proceed to a vote.

Zareh Kozanian acknowledges that the procedural motion to close the speaking list passed as it was moved by the chair, but asserts their right to propose a procedural motion to put the current motion to an immediate vote.

Procedural Motion:

That this MSC moves the motion to be put to a vote

Moved: Zareh Kozanian

In Favour: 11
Against: 2

MOTION CARRIED

Jay Davis requests confirmation that the procedural motion passed by the absolute majority required by the constitution to proceed.

The Chair confirms that the procedural motion has passed, meeting the required majority for it to be valid according to the constitution.

Multi-member Positions & Honoraria

Preamble:

Currently only 21% of the positions on MSC are multi-member positions. This is far below many other comparable student organisations/unions:

- UMSU (UniMelb): 68%
- LTSU (La Trobe Uni): 64%
- SRC (USyd): 98%
- YouX SRC (Adelaide Uni): 31%
- Student Guild (UWA): 59%
- Arc SRC (UNSW): 46%

Historically this has led to winning tickets holding large super-majorities on the MSC, with other tickets only receiving one or two positions despite receiving substantial voter shares. This proposal would change the number of MSC members elected through multi-member positions from five to nine, resulting in a modest increase of their proportion to 32%. It would also allow future MSCs to consider the payment of honoraria to all members of the MSC while continuing to allow the payment of Honoraria to Officer Bearers who are not members of the MSC such as the Editors of Lot's Wife.

Motion #7:

This MSC:

1. resolves to hold a student referendum during the 2024 MSA annual elections on the proposed constitutional changes as outlined—

a. The current clause 21(20)-(24):

5 members directly elected by and from students

is to be replaced with clause 21(20)-(29):

9 Student Councillors directly elected by and from students.

b. The current clause 24(1)(e):

~~one member elected by and from the members of the MSC referred to in subclauses 21(20)-(24);~~

Is to be replaced with:

~~one member elected by and from the members of the MSC referred to in subclauses 21(20)-(28);~~

c. The current clause 32(8):

~~The MSC may only pay an honorarium to office-bearers directly elected by students (which includes the Women's Officer).~~

Is to be replaced with:

~~The MSC may only pay honoraria to the following:~~

d. The new clause:

~~office-bearers directly elected by students, and~~

Is to be inserted as 32(8)(a):

e. The new clause:

~~members of the MSC.~~

Is to be inserted as 32(8)(b):

2. resolves that the wording of the referendum question to be as follows:

~~**A Proposed Change:** To amend the MSA Constitution to increase the number of multi-member proportionally elected positions on the Monash Student Council from five to nine and extend the payment of honoraria to all members of the Monash Student Council.~~

~~**Do you approve of this proposed amendment?**~~

~~3. appoints OGL Group to act as Returning Officer of the student referendum. This MSC resolves that the dates, locations and hours of polling for the student referendum shall be that of the 2024 MSA Annual Elections.~~

~~4. directs the Returning Officer to—~~

~~a. ensure that copies of the proposed changes are made available to all students on the MSA website and via email as part of the Election Guide.~~

~~b. place the referendum questions on the same ballot as the annual elections.~~

Moved: Jay Davis **Seconded:** Dilhan Simsek

In Favour: _____

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION LAPSED

[Discussion during MSC:](#)

The Mover of the motion, Jay Davis, withdrew this moving of the motion

Motion lapsed due to the lack of a mover

Housing Motion

Preamble:

There is a serious, ongoing housing crisis in Australia. Last year Australia ranked the third most expensive housing market in the world, with average house rents increasing 6 times faster than wages, and unit rents 4 times faster [1] . The cost of buying property continues to soar out of reach of working class Australians [2].

For students, median uni accommodation comes to \$426 weekly, [3] which youth allowance doesn't come close to covering. This means many students have to choose between going to class or working to cover their cost of living. This pressure is multiplied for International Students on insecure Visas.

In the midst of this housing crisis, Federal and State Labor governments have responded worse than inadequately. The HAFF, for example, was a neoliberal non-solution, and will not scratch the surface of the demand for public housing.

Labor has ended spending on new public housing projects, while demolishing existing public housing. The residents of the last public housing standing in Victoria have launched a class action lawsuit against the Allan Government, but expect eviction. To add insult to injury, land which the Allan government had previously promised wouldn't be sold to private developers, has been put on the market [4].

The promised replacement 'social housing', again, is a neoliberal smokescreen for injecting the profit motive into every aspect of the housing market.

The ALP is fundamentally unable to provide genuine solutions to the housing crisis, because as a party its commitment is to profit and profit making. Under Labor the rich get richer, and the rest of us are left holding the bag.

Sources:

[1]

<https://www.hotspotting.com.au/rents-rise-faster-than-wages/#:~:text=The%20speed%20of%20rental%20growth,growth%20in%20the%20March%20quarter.>

[2]

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/jul/18/melbourne-public-housing-towers-demolition-to-go-ahead-despite-residents-class-action-ntwnfb>

[3]

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.abc.net.au/article/104117606>

[4]

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/land-set-aside-for-social-housing-to-be-sold-off-for-private-development-20240807-p5k0iw.html>

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/homelessness-support-services/homelessness-week/homelessness-statistics/australia-housing-crisis/>

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.abc.net.au/article/103754274>

Motion #8:

The MSC:

1. Calls for the Labor government to scrap negative gearing and Capital Gains Tax concessions, implement rent freezes and build more public housing, not private social housing.
2. Calls on monash to use some of its billions of dollars to help provide affordable housing for students.
3. Acknowledges that housing is a human right, and rejects the idea that housing should be for profit.

Moved: Beck Riches

Seconded: Madeline Curkovic

In Favour: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion during MSC:

Beck Riches expresses disbelief that anyone from Change would support the motion, criticizing what they perceive as subservience to the Labor Party and its conservative politics. They accuse the MSA of being dominated by these influences throughout the semester. The participant criticizes Dilhan's recent support for the SGM, highlighting his previous opposition to the SGM and Palestine activism. They allege that Dilhan's attempted to discredit the camp by spreading false claims about violence and presented fabricated legal advice. The participant further accuses Dilhan of withholding a quorum in multiple meetings, questioning his commitment to the SGM and his concern for the 900 students who signed the petition supporting the camp's demands. Beck criticizes Dilhan, accusing him of hypocrisy for not contributing to building the SGM but now seeking to chair it. They assert that Dilhan's actions are an attempt to water down the SGM and make it as conservative and meaningless as possible. Beck specifically condemns the removal of references to the Gaza solidarity camp and the complicity of weapons companies in the genocide. They label Dilhan's actions as

hypocritical and appalling, citing his conservative stance and opposition to the camp's demands.

Dilhan Simsek expresses support for the motion, acknowledging the housing crisis and agreeing that more needs to be done. They affirm that the policies of the Labor Party, particularly those related to housing, are a step in the right direction. Dilhan notes that they had previously moved motions calling for an increase in youth allowance, which is addressed in the current motion, and highlights the importance of increasing housing supply. While they do not agree with everything the Labor Party does, they believe the government has the ability to make more substantial changes and that real action is possible within the structure of government. The participant reiterates their stance on housing, supporting the building of more housing, the scrapping of negative gearing and capital gains tax, and an increase in public housing. They conclude by stating that housing is a human right and expressing their rejection of the idea that housing should be profit-driven. The participant confirms they will be voting in favor of the motion.

Madeline Curkovic has passed her speaking rights to Connor Knight

Connor Knight (Observer) strongly critiques the approach to addressing the housing crisis, asserting that the primary issue is not the supply of housing, but the misuse of existing housing. They point to areas like Footscray, where many properties sit vacant, used as speculative investments by wealthy property developers. They argue that there is more than enough housing, but it is being hoarded by the wealthy. The participant criticizes the Labor Party's actions, particularly their policy of demolishing remaining public housing in states where they are in power, including Victoria and New South Wales. They argue that public housing, a crucial resource for working-class Australians, is being systematically destroyed. They reject the Labor Party's housing policies as neoliberal, specifically citing the government's \$10 billion investment in the stock market with the hope of funding future housing projects. The participant labels this approach as neoliberalism, accusing the government of handing public resources over to private businesses, which ultimately harms the working class. They further contend that under the Labor Party's leadership, the housing crisis has only worsened, with increasing support for property developers and the destruction of public housing. They suggest that, given the results of these policies, those within the party should reconsider their self-congratulation, as their actions are not addressing the real issues at hand.

Max Tory (Observer) agrees with Connor's points, particularly in response to Dilhan's contradictory statements regarding the motion. They express confusion over Dilhan's comment that the Labor Party has not done enough, yet also claims it is a step in the right direction. The participant argues that the problem is not that the Labor Party has done insufficiently, but that their policies have actively worsened the housing crisis, citing the

demolition of public housing in Melbourne and large handouts to private property developers. The participant emphasizes that the claim of "supply being the problem" is misleading, as the real issue is not housing supply but the disproportionate number of unoccupied homes compared to the number of homeless people. They argue that when the Labor Party talks about increasing supply, they are referring to subsidizing for-profit housing development, which contradicts the principle that housing should be provided based on need, not profit. The participant concludes by expressing confusion over Dilhan's position, stating that their statement does not make sense in the context of the housing crisis.

Malak Ababneh (Observer) argues that the MSC should take clear political positions on social issues, particularly housing and Palestine, as both are fundamental human rights concerns. They highlight the issue of the Labor Party's housing policies, where profits are prioritized over people's needs. The participant then explains their reasoning for seconding the motion at the SGM, emphasizing the significance of SGMs as a mass exercise of student democracy. They state that these SGMs are a powerful way for students to express their opposition to their universities being complicit in the genocide and supporting weapons companies. The participant criticizes the amendments made to the motion, arguing that they gutted the political content of the statement and failed to acknowledge the complicity of weapons companies in the genocide. They note that the chair, being a political position, plays a key role in shaping the meeting, including who speaks and how the meeting is run. The participant expresses frustration with the use of the excuse regarding invalid signatures to obstruct the SGM, criticizing those who have made the SGM a less impactful exercise of student democracy. They recount their involvement in various aspects of the Palestine campaign and contrast it with the watered-down version of the SGM, which they argue has been turned into a milquetoast condemnation of the university's ties to genocide. They also mention the vulnerability of the SGM to being shut down by pro-Israel students, referencing the amendment proposed by Madeline that was blocked.

Connor Knight (Observer) expresses frustration over a lack of response to their criticism of the Labor Party's housing policies, which they believe have worsened the housing crisis in Australia. They note that political arguments made by their faction have been largely ignored throughout the meeting. He urges participants to engage with the political issues being raised, emphasizing that this is student politics, not just procedural motions.

Procedural Motion:

That this MSC moves the motion to be put to a vote

Moved:Jay Davis

In Favour: 13

Against: 2

MOTION CARRIED

Motion on gender panic surrounding Algerian Olympic boxer Imane Khelif

Preamble:

The Olympic women's boxing competition has seen the whipping up of a transphobic furore against Algerian boxer Imane Khelif. She and another boxer, Lin Yu-ting had been disqualified from the 2023 boxing world championships due to not meeting certain 'gender eligibility' requirements. Both are cisgender women, whose participation in the 2024 Olympics has since been at the centre of a media storm.

The fact that right wing figures such as Elon Musk and J. K. Rowling have publicly accused Khelif of being a man shows the nature of the 'debate'. Anti-trans activists have latched onto Khelif as a means of waging a campaign against trans rights. They are using dubious claims about Khelif's testosterone levels and chromosomes to create a moral panic and claim she is a danger to other women competing, and unfairly taking their place in the competition.

It is evident that attacks on trans women's participation in sports have further opened the door to the gender policing of cisgender women as well, where they are publicly scrutinised for their adherence to narrow gender stereotypes. In sport, women have often been the target of sexist remarks for appearing too masculine, and this is even more so the case for women of colour.

The broader context for these attacks is the growth of the far right, which targets women and trans people to wage culture wars and spread their bigoted ideology. It is important that the attacks on Khelif's gender are identified as rooted in the transphobia and sexism championed by the far right.

Motion #9:

Platform:

This MSC:

1. Condemns the transphobia and sexism used to generate a moral panic around women athletes' gender.
2. Supports the rights of women and gender diverse people to participate and compete in sports at every level.
3. Recognises the need to fight against the rising far-right and their reactionary ideas on women and trans people.

Action:

1. The MSA will do a joint post on social media with MSA Queer, MSA Clayton and NUS Queer in support of Imane Khelif, making it clear that the MSA supports the rights of

women, trans people, and other gender diverse people to engage in sport without restriction or harassment.

Moved: Madeline Curkovic

Seconded: Beck Riches

In Favour: 11

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion during MSC:

Zoe Binns raises a question regarding why the Women's Department was not consulted on the motion.

Madeline Curkovic responds to the question, explaining that moving a motion related to women and gender-diverse people does not require permission from everyone on the MSC. She further clarifies that the content of the motion concerns transphobia, despite the woman involved in the incident being cisgender. Madeline emphasizes that the attacks were transphobic and points out how the far-right has latched onto such issues globally, mentioning figures like Andrew Tate. A participant highlights the broader issue of how the far-right globally has latched onto transphobia as a key element of its political agenda, aiming to push back against progressive movements. They note that transphobia is used alongside other divisive tactics targeting women, transgender people, migrants, and other marginalized groups. The participant expresses surprise that anyone on the MSC would object to the motion, suggesting that if the Women's Department does have objections, they should raise them. They emphasize that the primary goal of the motion is to make a statement against the far-right, which has used gender panic politics to advance its agenda. The participant points out that this type of far-right politics is a global issue, referencing examples from Hungary, Australia, and the UK, where similar rhetoric has been used to target gender identity issues. They express support for the MSC's involvement in addressing this issue and applaud the discussion taking place.

Connor Knight (Observer) asks whether the Women's Department objects to the motion in any way, seeking clarification on their stance.

Zoe Binns responds, stating that they personally do not object to the motion but were wondering why the Women's Department was not consulted on it.

Madeline Curkovic discusses the far-right's campaign on issues like trans rights, explaining that it aims to undermine left-wing politics, the workers' movement, and various social rights movements. They emphasize that trans rights has become a focal point for the far-right to advance their agenda, noting how trans politics in Australia has become increasingly

polarized. The participant reflects on the protests against Posey Parker, a figure they argue is not a women's rights campaigner but a far-right transphobe supported by neo-Nazis. They stress that the far-right uses transphobia as a tool to undermine progress and rights movements. They also reference the rise of far-right politics in Italy, highlighting Giorgia Meloni's campaign against LGBTQ+ rights, including attempts to deny gay couples adoption rights and alter birth certificates for lesbian parents. The participant argues that these actions reflect a broader far-right attack on rights and liberties. The participant stresses the importance of the MSA and the left in general taking a strong stance on these issues, as the fight for rights is ongoing. They warn that whenever rights are won, they are also at risk of being taken away, citing examples like the rollback of Roe v. Wade. The participant calls for continued resistance against the rise of far-right politics, anti-migrant sentiment, anti-trans politics, and misogyny, framing it as an urgent and collective responsibility to fight back against these movements.

Beck Riches briefly addresses the issue of transphobia, agreeing with Madeline's point that it is a key issue, but also noting that it reflects deeper societal misogyny. They criticize the conservative right's argument that women must conform to a particular feminine standard to be considered women, labeling it as a reactionary and sexist view. The participant emphasizes that this attitude is part of a broader societal issue, also linked to the discussions around Emma Cliffe.

Paul Halliday echoes the sentiments expressed by Madeline and Beck, expressing surprise that the issue at hand gained such significant global attention. They criticize the media coverage, describing it as a week-long spectacle centered on transphobia, sexism, and racism, which they deem completely ridiculous. The participant agrees with Madeline's point about defending rights, emphasizing that pushing back on these issues is crucial to prevent the erosion of rights for queer people and other marginalized groups. They argue that failing to defend rights on issues like this leads to the loss of broader rights. They further note that issues like this embolden the far-right, using them to recruit people and normalize far-right politics, making it socially acceptable. The participant concludes by stating that this is their final point on the matter.

Charlotte Sutton echoes Zoe's point made in the chat, emphasizing that Zoe asked a perfectly respectful and genuine question. They argue that if the meeting is discussing issues like misogyny, it's important to approach discussions with respect. The participant commends Zoe and Katya for their advocacy, noting that consulting with other departments does not diminish the motion. They stress that the organization is one body and that collaborating with different perspectives strengthens the movement. The participant expresses strong support for the motion, acknowledging that Zoe was not undermining it. They call for more respectful engagement and label some of the previous remarks as unnecessary. They further

highlight the importance of addressing systemic issues and incorporating intersectional perspectives into the conversation.

Stella expresses strong support for the motion, agreeing that it is important to make a statement about the issue. They propose an amendment to include the word "intersex" in the statement, suggesting that it should also be recognized as part of the broader debate surrounding transphobia and sexism. The participant acknowledges that the athletes in question are cis women and do not identify as intersex or trans. However, they note that the right-wing reactions to this issue have also impacted larger queer and gender-diverse communities, including the intersex community. They seek guidance on whether they should formally make this suggestion as an amendment to the motion.

Motion to Amend:

Rewrite the motion line to include the term "intersex."

Moved: Stella Robinson

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

Connor Knight (Observer) highlights the worrying international trend of the far-right's growth, particularly around queer and women's issues. They note a significant increase in transphobic and sexist groups in Australia, including those attempting to shut down events like drag story times and holding events with anti-abortion speakers, such as the speaking tour of Posie Parker. They connect this rise to the far-right's reaction to events like the overturning of Roe v. Wade and the broader pushback against the gains made by the women's rights movement in the past 50 years. The participant expresses strong support for the motion, emphasizing the importance of the MSC being aware of and actively opposing these trends. The participant also points to the rise of anti-immigrant rhetoric as another key issue being used by the far-right to gain traction globally. They stress the MSC's responsibility to oppose any government actions or rhetoric that blame immigrants for societal problems, including the Australian government's approach to international students, which they view as a concession to far-right anti-immigrant sentiment. They conclude by reinforcing the importance of solidarity, referencing the phrase "touch one, touch all," and encouraging the MSC to take a firm stance against any measures that negatively impact marginalized groups. The participant expresses excitement about the motion and its significance, adding a celebratory note at the end.

Max Tory (Observer) addresses the broader question of how to effectively fight for trans rights, women's rights, and against the far-right, especially in light of current global issues. They reference the racist riots in the UK, the drag story time protests in Australia, and the

rise of far-right figures like Posey Parker. They also mention the Voice to Parliament referendum in Australia and the racism associated with Peter Dutton and the Liberal Party. The participant critiques the Labor Party's response to these issues, arguing that they often back down, fail to address the questions, or adopt some of the far-right's talking points. They highlight Anthony Albanese's response to Piers Morgan's question about what defines a woman, where he stated "an adult female," which they view as a dog whistle to transphobia, particularly associated with far-right figures like Posey Parker. The participant also criticizes the Labor Party for not condemning the racism involved in the Voice referendum and for failing to respond to Peter Dutton's recent comments about Palestinians. They note that when asked if Dutton's comments were racist, Albanese refused to confirm or condemn them. On the issue of drag story time protests, the participant references a debate where left-wing and socialist groups sought to mobilize the public to oppose far-right protests, contrasting this with the response from establishment politicians like Keir Starmer in the UK and Anthony Albanese in Australia, who argued that opposition to the far-right should be left to the police and government. This, the participant argues, allows the far-right to grow and thrive, as politicians normalize their rhetoric. They conclude by emphasizing the need for oppositional activism and protest to combat the far-right, stating that the Labor Party cannot be relied upon as they adopt many of the far-right's policies and rhetoric themselves.

Paul Halliday adds to Max's points, emphasizing that the issues he raised are not distant or abstract. They mention that, last year, a drag story time event in the City of Monash was canceled due to concerns over backlash. They criticize the council for giving in to this pressure, ultimately deciding to cancel the event.

Madeline Curkovic expands on the growing trend of far-right attacks on vulnerable groups and issues. They note that far-right groups often target events they view as politically objectionable but also easy targets, such as drag story times, which were targeted last year. The participant draws parallels to the lack of resistance when the Roe v. Wade decision was overturned in the US, stressing the importance of fighting for rights and opposing far-right agendas whenever they arise. The participant also highlights a refugee encampment in Port Melbourne, inspired by the Gaza Solidarity encampment, where refugees are standing up against Australia's immigration policies, including the lack of permanent visas and precarious living conditions. The encampment has been targeted multiple times by neo-Nazis, the same group that supported Posey Parker last year. The participant critiques the Labor Party's handling of anti-migrant sentiments and its ongoing policies, including the capping of international student visas. They argue that the fight against the far-right should not be left to political forces that are not genuinely committed to it, citing Albanese's controversial statement about what defines a woman as an example of how far-right politics are being normalized in mainstream discourse. They assert that the Labor Party has adopted far-right positions on various issues, including migrants, refugees, and trans rights. The

participant calls for more effective action against the far-right, urging active participation in organizing protests and fighting back politically, rather than simply campaigning for the Labor Party. They stress that this is necessary to combat the rising far-right politics and the harm it causes to marginalized communities.

Statement Regarding the Unrest in Bangladesh

Preamble:

The 2024 quota reform protests in Bangladesh, which began in June, have become one of the most significant and violent movements in the country's recent history. Initially, the protests were nonviolent movements, with students taking to the streets after the Supreme Court reinstated a controversial 56% job quota with the majority allocated to descendants of freedom fighters from Bangladesh's liberation war in 1971. This policy meant that only 44% of available government jobs would be merit-based, reversing a previous government decision to abolish the quota following protests in 2018.

The situation quickly escalated due to the government's harsh crackdown, including the use of lethal force by police and military forces. Hundreds of people were killed, and thousands were injured, with reports of arbitrary arrests and human rights violations further intensifying public outrage. A five-day internet blackout intended to prevent international media coverage created additional confusion, as those abroad were unable to contact their loved ones in Bangladesh. The government's implementation of a nationwide curfew exacerbated public anger.

Despite a subsequent Supreme Court ruling that reduced the quota to 5%, the protesters remained dissatisfied, demanding justice for those killed and further reforms to ensure fairness and meritocracy in government job allocations. The movement gained momentum as the working class joined the students, unified in their demand for the Prime Minister's resignation.

Following the intense 2024 quota reform protests, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced her resignation amid mounting pressure and widespread civil unrest. This resignation was seen as a significant turning point, leading to the formation of an interim government tasked with restoring order, addressing the grievances that fueled the protests, and ensuring a free and fair electoral process.

While the interim government, led by Nobel laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus, offers hope for stability, the chaos has led to a surge in violence against minority communities. Reports of targeted attacks against ethnic and religious minorities have surfaced. These attacks were allegedly carried out by extremist factions exploiting the unstable situation.

All Bangladeshi students at Monash are without a doubt distraught following the events over the last few weeks. Monash University needs to do more to support these students. While I appreciate [this statement](#) being sent out, perhaps Monash University should provide the

services other institutions in Melbourne are providing - including more lenient special consideration and financial grants to those directly affected.

Motion #10:

1. The MSC recognizes the acts of violence committed against the students and general population of Bangladesh, especially the targeted attacks against minorities that are yet to cease.
2. The MSA will release this motion as a statement, recognizing the unrest and outlining support options available to students.
3. The MSC implores Monash University to provide lenient special consideration, counselling support, and financial grants to affected students.

Moved: Nafis Ibrahim

Seconded: ~~Chloe Ward~~ Charlotte Sutton

In Favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion during MSC:

Nafiz Ibrahim provides an update on the current situation in the country, highlighting that the interim government has led to some progress, although the country is still facing challenges, including a significant flood. The participant connects this context to the motion they are raising, which proposes giving extensions and grants to students affected by these disasters. They mention that University of Melbourne is already providing similar support to Bangladeshi students who have been impacted either directly or indirectly. The participant requests that Mahathir, the president of the Bangladeshi Student Association, be invited to speak further on this matter.

Madeline Curkovic expresses strong support for the motion, highlighting the ongoing situation in Bangladesh. They discuss the violent actions taken by the government against students who are protesting for economic justice and an end to the autocratic regime that has been in power for over 15 years. The participant condemns the government's attack on student movements and democracy, noting that removing access to stable jobs based on merit is an economic attack on students. The participant proposes an amendment to add a new point (Point 4) stating that the MSC supports the student movement in Bangladesh against the autocracy and for economic justice. They emphasize the bravery of the students who have taken to the streets to demand change, despite facing severe consequences such as imprisonment for speaking out against the regime. The participant commends the students for their courage in fighting for their rights and urges the MSC to recognize their actions. Madeline also proposes an additional amendment to change the wording in Point 1

from "recognizes" to "condemns." They argue that while the violence is recognized, it is crucial for the MSC to formally condemn it, particularly as it is state violence targeted at students who are peacefully protesting for democracy. The participant emphasizes the importance of condemning such actions in response to the current situation.

Motion to Amend:

Add a new point (Point 4) stating that the MSC supports the student movement in Bangladesh against the autocracy and for economic justice.

Change the wording in Point 1 the MSC condemns the acts of violence committed against the, against the students and general population of Bangladesh by the previous Hasina government, especially the targeted attacks against minorities.

Moved: Madeline Curkovic **Seconded:** Beck Riches

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

The Mover and Seconder didn't consented to this amendment and so this motion did proceed to a vote.

Madeline Curkovic elaborates on their proposed amendment to change the wording in Point 1 from "recognizes" to "condemns," explaining that the state violence against protesters is deeply objectionable. They argue that the fact that the violence occurred a few weeks ago does not diminish the need to condemn it, drawing a parallel to the continued condemnation of historical injustices such as Nazi actions. The participant emphasizes the bravery of the students involved in the protests, noting that their actions represent a political revolution against an autocratic state. They acknowledge the change in the political landscape with the establishment of an interim government but assert that the violent repression of students will remain a significant event in history. They stress the importance of the MSC taking a strong stand on this issue, even if it is a few weeks after the violence occurred, stating that it would be meaningful for the MSC to condemn the actions of the state against students who were demanding their rights to stable jobs and democratic representation. The participant also critiques the economic disparities in Bangladesh, highlighting the rich being beneficiaries of economic improvements while ordinary people, especially students, suffer under autocratic rule. They commend the students for their resistance and celebrate their actions, such as storming the house of Prime Minister Hasina, as a powerful symbol of protest. They conclude by reiterating the need for the MSC to oppose the violence against these students rather than merely recognizing it.

Beck Riches strongly agrees with the proposed amendment to change the wording from "recognizes" to "condemns," arguing that the justification for using "recognizes" instead is

nonsensical. They emphasize that this is a very recent movement, involving serious state violence against peaceful protesters, many of whom have been killed, with the death toll reportedly in the hundreds. The participant criticizes the notion of simply "recognizing" the violence, suggesting that it seems like a passive acknowledgment rather than a clear moral stance. They argue that saying "recognize" reads as begrudging and wishy-washy, lacking moral clarity. In contrast, they believe "condemn" better conveys the MSC's strong opposition to both the regime and the violence perpetrated against the protesters. The participant reiterates that if the MSC is truly supportive of the movement and opposed to the state violence, the language used should reflect that moral clarity and take a firm stand against the actions of the regime.

Max Tory (Observer) participant provides context for the amendment, emphasizing that while the immediate chaos and state violence of the revolution may have subsided, the demands of the movement are far from being met. They argue that the situation remains relevant and ongoing, with the movement continuing to fight for economic and social justice in Bangladesh. Max critiques how the movement has often been framed in the media as solely opposition to Hasina, the Awami League, or specific quotas, while, in reality, it has evolved into a broader political revolution against neoliberalism, imperialism, and the exploitation of Bangladesh as a "sweatshop" for global capitalism. They highlight the harsh working conditions and poverty wages faced by millions in the country, driven by large corporations and government entities profiting from the exploitation of labor. The participant further critiques the new interim government, which has brought temporary peace but has not addressed the fundamental demands for justice. They draw comparisons to past uprisings, such as the Arab Spring and Sri Lanka's recent revolution, noting that while students and demonstrators have shown remarkable courage in toppling tyrannical regimes, the interim governments or military forces that follow often fail to challenge the capitalist inequalities that sparked the revolution. The participant concludes by stressing that the revolution in Bangladesh is ongoing and that condemning the violence, even if it occurred some time ago, remains relevant. They reiterate the importance of standing in solidarity with the movement and its continued fight for justice.

Mahathir Lutfullah (Observer) suggests that the amendment to condemn state violence could be appropriate if it specifies condemning the previous government rather than the current interim government. They explain that the initial hesitation to use "condemn" was to avoid confusion, as some might mistakenly think the interim government is responsible for the violence. The participant also discusses the support provided by other institutions in Melbourne, specifically Melbourne University, which has been offering special consideration extensions to Bangladeshi students by simply attaching their Bangladeshi passport. They express disappointment that Monash has not implemented similar measures, calling for Monash to adopt such practices. Additionally, they mention that a financial grant of up to

\$1,000 has been provided to students facing financial hardship due to the situation in Bangladesh. They note that Melbourne University has also extended the fee payment deadline, something Monash has not yet done. The participant urges the MSA to advocate for similar changes to support Bangladeshi students at Monash.

Connor Knight (Observer) agrees that specifying the condemnation of Hasina and the Awami League in the motion is a reasonable and appropriate adjustment. They further discuss the heroic struggle of the students in Bangladesh, emphasizing their bravery in standing up to an autocratic regime that has been in power for decades. They highlight the significant achievements of the students, including how large sections of Bangladesh are now effectively being run by the people, with functions like traffic control and other state activities falling into their hands. The participant views this as a beautiful and inspiring moment in recent history. The participant stresses that the success of the Bangladesh students did not come from working within the system or joining the ruling party, but by being oppositional and fighting for their demands. They note that some members of the Awami League have been among the worst actors in the violence against protesters. The participant concludes by emphasizing that the actions of the students in Bangladesh offer a powerful lesson in resistance and a model for others to follow.

Max Tory (Observer) expresses support for the motion and praises the heroic nature of the movement against the autocratic government. However, they question the inclusion of language in the motion that would imply MSA acceptance of the new interim government. They acknowledge that the new leader, Mohammad Yunus, has been welcomed by the people of Bangladesh and that his rise to power is seen as a democratic victory for them. Despite this, the participant raises concerns about Yunus, describing him as a neoliberal banker who invented microloans. They argue that while the people of Bangladesh have the right to accept and welcome the new government, the MSA should not endorse Yunus due to his neoliberal capitalist background and skepticism about his ability to meet the movement's demands for economic justice. The participant suggests that the wording in the motion should be adjusted to reflect this position, expressing a desire for the MSA to take a firmer stance on the matter.

Dilhan Simsek responds to Max's comments about Mohammad Yunus, providing context for those who may not be familiar with him. They highlight that Yunus is a Nobel Peace Prize winner, credited with introducing microcredit programs in impoverished areas of Bangladesh and other countries. These microcredits, particularly targeted at unemployed women who were often single and raising households, have lifted thousands of people out of poverty, especially women. The participant acknowledges that there may be ideological disagreements with Yunus, but stresses that his efforts have had a significant positive impact in Bangladesh, particularly in improving the lives of women. They express a willingness to support the new interim government, as it aligns with the community's desires, while

advocating for more respect toward Yunus for his contributions to poverty alleviation. The participant concludes by emphasizing the importance of recognizing Yunus's achievements and providing more respect to his name in the discussion.

Financial Statement Summary April 2024

Motion #11:

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

Moved: Chloe Ward Dilhan Simsek **Seconded:** Paul Halliday

In Favour: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED

[Discussion during MSC:](#)

Procedural Motion:

That this MSC moves the motion to be put to a vote

Moved: Paul Halliday

In Favour: 12

Against: 0

MOTION CARRIED

O. General Business

Angus Duske (Observer) informs the group that they will be posting a link to the report for Edition Six of Lot's Wife in the chat. They explain that, due to this being the last edition of the year, SRSU has requested that the reports be slightly longer, with a word count of 500-600 words. The reports should summarize each department's achievements over the year, giving an overview for students who may not have been following closely. The participant highlights the low completion rate in the previous editions and encourages everyone to get started on the reports. They ask members to coordinate with their co-office bearers and work together to complete the reports. The participant mentions reaching out to Chloe, Paul, Dilhan, Joshua, and Zareh to help ensure the reports are finished. The form for the report is provided in the chat, and the participant thanks everyone in advance. They also apologize for the late hour and wish everyone a good evening.

Dilhan Simsek informs the MSC that he wishes to raise two motions in general business and therefore he will move a procedural motion. They note that the request has been flagged for the secretary's attention.

Procedural Motion:

That this MSC moves to hear General Business Motion 1 and General Business Motion 2 at this meeting

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

In Favour: 12

Against: 1

MOTION CARRIED

General Business #1:

This MSC approves Haider Shah to take up to, uh, to take unpaid leave effective from the 28th of August until the 1st of December

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

Seconded: Paul Halliday

In Favour: 11

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED

General Business #2:

This MSC appoints Anban Raj as caretaker to the position of creative live arts office bearer for the period of Haider Shah's leave of absent pursuant to section 32 nine B of the MSA constitution.

Moved: Dilhan Simsek

Seconded: Charlotte Sutton

In Favour: 9

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

MOTION CARRIED

Paul Halliday informs the MSC that he wishes to raise one motion in general business and therefore he will move a procedural motion. Paul Halldiay discusses the proposed

amendments that were voted on earlier in the SGM, noting that if someone refuses to leave the meeting, the meeting would be compelled to suspend. The participant emphasizes that this amendment is intended to prevent intentional obstruction by individuals who may attempt to disrupt the meeting by refusing to leave when asked.

Procedural Motion:

That this MSC moves to hear General Business Motion 3 at this meeting

Moved: Paul Halliday

In Favour: 10

Against: 0

MOTION CARRIED

General Business #3:

Any decision to suspend proceedings at the SGM on the 3rd of September 2024 will be at the discretion of the chair.

Moved: Paul Halliday

Seconded: Charlotte Sutton

In Favour: 9

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Procedural Motion:

That this MSC moves the motion to be put to a vote

Moved: Paul Halliday

In Favour: 9

Against: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting Closed at 07:58 PM

P. Appendices

MSA Student General Meeting

Preamble:

The horrors being committed by Israel in Gaza are only getting worse, with more than 40,000 confirmed dead¹ and projected death count estimates as high as 186,000². MSC has heard reports that Monash University has ~~outrageously~~ maintained its ties with arms companies like Lockheed Martin³, Textron⁴, and others, ~~which are complicit in, or profiting from, the crimes being committed in Gaza~~ that are involved in the development and manufacturing of weapons used by the IDF against the Palestinian people.

Students have reported being horrified by the situation in Gaza and that they are distressed and affected by Monash University's connections to these companies.

Students should not let their universities maintain such connections unchallenged. Universities should serve the goal of human need, rather than contributing to humanitarian disaster. Over the last few months, Student General Meetings at UQ, USyd, RMIT, Adelaide Uni, QUT, Unimelb have seen thousands of students take a powerful stance against the complicity of their universities.

MSA's purposes include to:

- make representations on behalf of students to the community at large;
- otherwise protect, promote and develop the interests and welfare of students;
- make representations on matters affecting students to any member or body of the University, and in particular to the Council, the Academic Board, the Vice-Chancellor and the General Manager; and
- to be an accountable, representative and democratic body for students.

900+ students have signed ~~the a~~ petition to call a student general meeting. That petition was delivered to the MSA executive office on Monday. This overwhelming response reflects the depth of student feeling about this issue and the Student Council is concerned that students' voices are not being heard. ~~The MSC has an obligation to respond to these 900 students by calling a Student General Meeting and allowing them to put their motion in support of the people of Gaza.~~

Part 4 of the MSA Constitution provides for student general meetings and referenda.

Pursuant to rule 10 of the MSA Constitution, the MSC may convene a student general meeting by resolution, and it must convene a student general meeting if petitioned by at least 1% of students.

1: <https://apnews.com/article/israel-hamas-gaza-war-palestinians-statistics-40000-7ebec13101f6d08fe10cedbf5e172dde>

2: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01169-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01169-3/fulltext)

3: www.monash.edu/industry/monash-technology-precinct/explore-the-precinct/real-world-impact

4: www.monash.edu/industry/monash-technology-precinct?_cf_chl_rt_tk=fG7YGz4ay9AD6eqP2uwOpJABkkmRBg6f3qXGpfE2aoc-1723784290-0.0.1.1-4286
https://www.monash.edu/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/3067465/MonashPrecinctMap22052024.pdf

Platform:

- 1) ~~Students for Palestine has collected more than 900 signatures of students at Monash Clayton, and they delivered them to the MSA executive office on Monday.~~
- 2) ~~The MSA constitution 10.(2) states: "The MSC must convene a student general meeting if petitioned by at least 1% of students."~~
- 3) ~~The MSA constitution 10.(3) states "The MSC must by resolution set the date, place and agenda of each student general meeting."~~
- 4) ~~The MSA constitution 11.(1) "Student general meetings may only be held between 1:05 p.m. and 1:55 p.m. on an academic day at the Clayton Campus."~~
- 5) ~~The MSA constitution 15.(1) states "The President is entitled to chair student general meetings." 15.(2) states: "If the President is not present, or does not wish to chair the meeting (or part of the meeting), the Deputy Chair is entitled to chair." 15.(3) states "If neither the President nor the Deputy Chair is present, or if neither wishes to chair the meeting, the MSC must appoint a chair."~~
- 6) ~~This resolution fulfills these constitutional obligation in its action points below~~

Action:

MSC resolves:

1. To convene a Student General Meeting.
2. That the date of the Student General Meeting will be Tuesday 3 September 2024.
3. That the place of the Student General Meeting will be the
1) ~~In accordance with its constitutional obligations, this MSC calls a Student General Meeting for Tuesday the 3rd of September.~~
2) ~~The Student General Meeting location will be the~~ [Robert Balckwood hall if available, if not Campus Centre Dining Hall](#) ~~Lemon-Scented Lawns.~~
4. That (unless the MSC resolves otherwise before 12:05pm on 3 September 2024), the agenda of the Student General Meeting will be to consider, and vote on, the following resolutions:
 1. MSA, on behalf of the students at Monash University Clayton Campus, supports an immediate and just end to Israel's war on Gaza. This means stopping the bombing, a permanent withdrawal of Israeli troops, an end to the 18- year long blockade, and reparations to be paid for the reconstruction of Gaza.
 2. MSA endorses the demands of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment protests

calling calls up on Monash University to reveal and cut all ties with companies and institutions involved in the development and manufacturing of weapons used by the IDF against the Palestinian people.

2-3. MSA will make representations on behalf of students by bringing resolutions [1] and [2] to the attention of the Vice-Chancellor and the General Manager of Monash University.

4.5. Registration for the Student General Meeting will open at 12pm on the day, to allow for those attending to be processed and verified as students before the meeting begins sharply at 1:05pm.

6. ~~As stated in the constitution, t~~The chair of this Student General Meeting ~~MSC~~ will be the President Chloe Ward. If she does not wish to chair, then deputy chair Joshua Walters will. If he does not wish to chair either, then this MSC appoints Dilhan Simsek ~~Madeline Curkovic~~ to chair the meeting.

2.

7. The SGM shall use the MSC standing orders as a guide at the chair's discretion with the following stipulations.

a. The SGM shall have 2 minute speaking times, attendees may speak twice however preference must be given to first time speakers

b. The Chair may at their discretion eject an attendee from the meeting for speaking or behaving in an intimidating manner, or behaving in anyway disruptive to the meeting, after providing them with a warning

c. If an attendee refuses to leave after being ejected by the chair the meetings shall be suspended until they have left

8. The media may attend the meeting

~~3) Registration for the Student General Meeting will open at 12pm on the day, to allow for those attending to be processed and verified as students before the meeting begins. The meeting proper will then begin sharply at 1:05pm~~

~~4) As stated in the constitution, the chair of the MSC will be the President Chloe Ward. If she does not wish to chair, then deputy chair Joshua Walters will. If he does not wish to chair either, then this MSC appoints Madeline Curkovic to chair the meeting.~~

~~5) The Agenda for the student general meeting will be a discussion of the following motion, which was attached to the petition that over 900 students signed:~~

~~1. MSA supports an immediate and just end to Israel's war on Gaza. This means stopping the bombing, a permanent withdrawal of Israeli troops, an end to the 18-year long blockade, and reparations to be paid for the reconstruction of Gaza.~~

~~2.4. MSA endorses the demands of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment protests -- calling on Monash University to reveal and cut all ties with companies and institutions involved in the development and manufacturing of weapons used by the IDF against the Palestinian people.~~

FY24 SUMMARY

	Actual	Budget	Variance	% Budget
Income	\$ 1,930,490	\$ 3,229,269	-\$ 1,298,779	59.78%
Expenditure	\$ 3,894,671	\$ 7,112,592	-\$ 3,217,921	54.76%
Net Expenditure	\$ 1,964,181	\$ 3,883,323	\$ -	50.58%
SSAF	\$ 3,974,198	\$ 3,974,198	\$ -	100.00%

Net Expenditure	\$	1,964,181
Budget	\$	3,883,323
% Budget		50.58%
% Expected		58.33%

BUDGET VS. ACTUAL

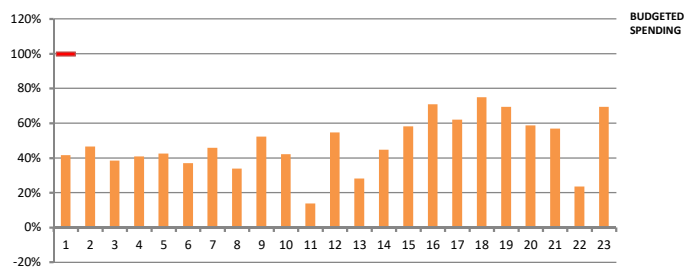


Figure 1. Percentage Variance By Department / Division

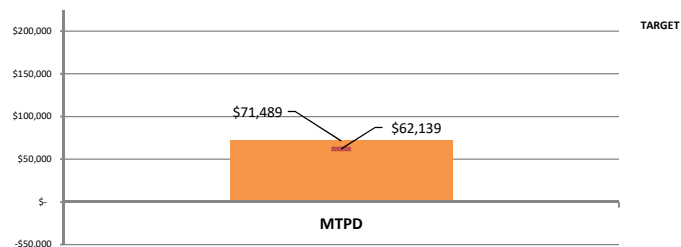


Figure 2. MSA Surplus Generating Department

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

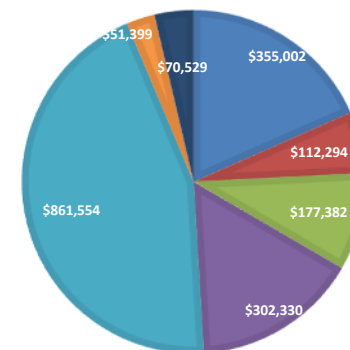
MSA+ SALES

	YTD	MONTH
2023	9,633	661
2024	9,969	751
2024 - G	568	67
2024 - S	9,401	684

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

JULY 2024 \$ -

INCOME



INCOME SOURCES

- 1 Contributions & Investment
- 2 MSA+
- 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	Queen Victoria Night Market	458
VOL	On-Campus BBQ Lunch & Social Mixer	449
VOL	Melbourne Skydeck	254
VOL	Scavenger Hunt	246
VOL	Amazing Race	156

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS FOR THE MONTH

MSA is performing at 51% of its budgeted spending, compared to 58%, which is in line with the minimising losses strategy. MSA also has received the last 25% of its 2024 SSAF funding. The final SSAF for 2024 is forecasted more than the budgeted amount. This will assist with reducing the overall deficit for the organisation.

Semester 2 has started, Wholefoods and Sir John started trading and July represented its one week of trading results.

INCOME STATEMENT

1 January - 31 July 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	11,665	158,067	146,402	48,600	109,467	325%
Investment	158,346	196,935	38,589	225,000	-28,065	88%
MSA Rewards Sales	102,398	112,294	9,896	127,623	-15,329	88%
Advertising & Sponsorship	147,492	177,382	29,890	165,000	12,382	108%
Sales	256,222	302,330	46,108	790,714	-488,384	38%
Courses Revenue	756,790	861,554	104,764	1,629,788	-768,234	53%
Fines & Charges	29,276	21,926	-7,350	24,850	-2,924	88%
Office Supplies	1,403	1,137	-266	1,050	87	108%
Activities	1,437	0	-1,437	44,500	-44,500	0%
Functions & Productions	80,077	51,399	-28,678	109,500	-58,101	47%
Other Income	36,453	47,466	11,013	62,644	-15,178	76%
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1,581,559	1,930,490	348,931	3,229,269	-1,298,779	60%
EXPENDITURE						
Salaries & On Costs	2,471,776	2,543,497	71,721	4,772,746	-2,229,249	53%
Building & Maintenance	18,234	16,476	-1,758	32,801	-16,325	50%
Equipment	144,200	200,923	56,723	24,000	176,923	837%
Software Development & Licence	218,154	167,977	-50,177	220,275	-52,298	76%
Fees & Administrative Charges	59,925	67,319	7,394	251,647	-184,328	27%
Legal & Consultancy	61,808	43,421	-18,387	65,000	-21,579	67%
Office Expenses	42,280	36,004	-6,276	88,500	-52,496	41%
Subscriptions	8,870	11,759	2,889	18,100	-6,341	65%
Training & Conference	18,723	15,185	-3,538	64,268	-49,083	24%
Grants & Donations	77,738	99,756	22,018	178,500	-78,744	56%
Projects & Campaigns	132,003	148,775	16,772	311,426	-162,651	48%
Activities	128,422	133,765	5,343	253,834	-120,069	53%
Functions & Productions	136,786	122,312	-14,474	246,800	-124,488	50%
Cost of Goods Sold	189,734	160,869	-28,865	354,674	-193,805	45%
Other Expenses	156,591	126,633	-29,958	230,021	-103,388	55%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	3,865,244	3,894,671	29,427	7,112,592	-3,217,921	55%
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2,283,685	1,964,181	-319,504	3,883,323	-1,919,142	51%
OPERATING MARGIN		50.43%		54.60%		

FINANCIAL STATEMENT BY DEPT

1 January - 31 July 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	810,071	863,056	52,985	2,079,267	-1,216,211	42%
110 Education Public	17,037	16,333	-704	35,019	-18,686	47%
120 Education Academic	15,843	15,955	112	41,549	-25,594	38%
130 Women's	12,965	18,245	5,280	44,722	-26,477	41%
140 Welfare	19,756	22,875	3,119	53,722	-30,847	43%
150 Queer	17,202	15,329	-1,873	41,452	-26,123	37%
160 Environment & Social Justice	18,872	14,992	-3,880	32,662	-17,670	46%
170 Indigenous	14,114	12,360	-1,754	36,572	-24,212	34%
180 Disability	13,205	18,097	4,892	34,642	-16,545	52%
190 People of Colour	12,418	16,399	3,981	38,872	-22,473	42%
200 Activities	15,723	11,800	-3,923	86,107	-74,307	14%
210 Lot's Wife	36,844	39,810	2,966	72,721	-32,911	55%
220 Creative Live Arts	14,544	16,432	1,888	58,257	-41,825	28%
230 Residential Committee	19,524	19,026	-498	42,572	-23,546	45%
250 The Bike Shop	9,628	11,716	2,088	20,141	-8,425	58%
300 Wholefoods	37,577	51,421	13,844	6,753	44,668	761%
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	2,190,156	1,868,446	-321,710	4,315,123	-2,446,677	43%

*Denotes MSA Surplus Generating Departments

Zareh Kozanian

Secretary

Report to MSC 9/24

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

Late Penalties Reduction:

After a year-long effort, Monash University has agreed to reduce late penalties from 10% to 5% starting in Semester 2, 2024, and continuing into the future. This marks a significant advancement for student rights at Monash, ensuring that students are not excessively penalised for submitting assignments late. We extend our gratitude to the members of the Undergraduate Academic Board who played a crucial role in making this change official university policy.

Additionally, the new Late Penalties policy includes a provision allowing Chief Examiners to waive penalties if an assignment is submitted within one hour of the deadline due to technical difficulties. However, students with a history of academic misconduct may not be eligible for this consideration. It's encouraging to see the University beginning to listen to students, though there is still much work to be done. The Monash Student Association (MSA) remains committed to advocating for further improvements on behalf of students.

Special thanks to the Undergraduate Academic Board Members for 2024 for their continued effort and success. This win eventuated to their dedication and commitment.

If you need assistance or advice regarding special consideration applications or any other academic matters, don't hesitate to reach out to Student Advocacy and Support (SAS) for help.

Transparency in Advocacy:

The MSA is deeply committed to ensuring transparency in our advocacy efforts, and we are dedicated to keeping Monash students fully informed and involved in the initiatives that affect their university experience. We recognize the importance of offering a clear and comprehensive view of our advocacy work. To this end, we will regularly share summaries of our initiatives, achievements, and challenges. Our goal is to cultivate a culture of transparency, collaboration, and active engagement, empowering students to take an active role in shaping and supporting our advocacy agenda.

Withdrawn Incomplete Changes:

Many students encounter compassionate challenges during their time at university, and Monash's policies should reflect this reality. To better address these issues, the current process for awarding Withdrawn Incomplete (WI) grades is being overhauled. The new approach extends the special circumstances process used for debt remission and fee refunds to include compassionate considerations. As a result, the standard Withdrawn (WDN) grade will now be automatically granted for approved special circumstances applications related to debt remission and fee refunds, provided the application is submitted within 10 working days of the unit's results release date.

Moreover, students who are unable to complete a rescheduled deferred assessment within the 90-day limit will also be eligible to receive a Withdrawn (WDN) grade. Importantly, the WDN grade will not affect a student's Weighted Average Mark (WAM) or GPA, and it will be excluded from the academic progress risk level calculation. These changes are already in effect for Semester 2, 2024.

Chloe Ward

President

Report to MSC 9/24

GOALS

- To continue promoting diversity on campus, in all forms
- To continue in providing free food programs to service all Clayton students and tackle food insecurity
- Continue to monitor the MSA Pantry (Foodbank) within Wholefoods to further address food insecurity and provide pantry staples to students in need
- Continue promoting the Open Letter with NTEU about the recent exploitative Parking Fee Increases and continue to work with the NTEU to find out more information regarding University profit from parking
- To continue advocating on behalf of students on issues such as the reduced Library opening hours at Matheson and Hargrave libraries, Special Consideration improvements, Unpaid Placements and Universal Submission Times
- To continue to provide and deliver safe, accessible and inclusive events for students in order to better their overall university experience

PROJECTS

MSA Pantry Launch (MSA Foodbank)

The MSA Executive, in conjunction with our Volunteering leaders, have officially launched the MSA Pantry in Week 1 of Semester 2. The initiative is currently being run out of Wholefoods Cafe and provides fresh food and groceries to hundreds of students. After many trials to investigate how the space worked with the project and explore whether further infrastructure needed, the MSA Pantry is finally up and running for students. Additionally, we have secured a new partnership with SecondBite, which allows us to increase the amount of fresh produce and food items that we can give away to students. We are providing bulk goods, such as rice, lentils and beans, so that students have access to vital pantry staples, as well as an array of fresh fruit and vegetables as well. We know and understand that food insecurity is a massive issue for students during this current cost-of-living crisis and whilst there is systemic change needed to fully solve this issue, we are committed at the MSA to ensure that students always have access to free or low-cost food. We are also continuing to have ongoing conversations with the University about food insecurity and how it continues to affect students at Monash. I have personally has

meetings with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Craig Jeffrey about Monash's initiatives to improve and solve food insecurity at Monash at an institutional level. Keep an eye on socials for when the MSA Pantry is running and don't forget to bring your own bag to collect your items!

Parking Fee Increases, Open Letter, and future plans

As many students are now aware, at the beginning of Semester 1, the MSA was informed that Monash University was choosing to increase the parking fees dramatically for 2024. We were angered and outraged at this decision, especially as it was made without any student or staff consultation. During a cost-of-living crisis, the University should be supporting both staff and students, not financially disadvantaging them further through a price increase of up to 106%. For many staff and students, public transport is not a viable option - lengthening travel time and possibly endangering students and staff if travelling on PTV late at night. The costs associated with attending university are already astronomical; textbooks, course fees, devices required for learning all contribute to the considerable cost of education. In light of this, I have had specific meetings with the Vice-Chancellor about this issue and how it negatively affects students. The response by the University was less than positive and again made the case of encouraging students and staff to utilise PTV on their journey to University. However, this is a clear example of greenwashing to hide the University's true intention: to increase profits. The MSA has an upcoming campaign to launch about the exploitation of parking and will be giving away bumper stickers and other stickers for students to show their outrage at these continued changes. Despite the University's stubbornness on this issue, the MSA will continue to fight on this issue and ensure that students are not negatively affected by this ongoing issue. Continue sharing the Open Letter and have these conversations with your peers - cause without collective action, the University will continue to make profit out of students. The Open Letter has now reached over 2000 signatures, which clearly shows just how angry students and staff alike are about this exploitative move.

I would like to, once again, extend a special thanks to Adam Fernandes (NTEU Victorian Branch President) who has continued to meet and fight alongside me to ensure that students and staff's voices are heard and listened to. Both myself and Adam have made separate Freedom of Information requests to the University in the hopes that we can begin to expose the true numbers behind the profit Monash is making. While the University is attempting to delay answering these as much as possible, both Adam and I will continue to fight for information and transparency from the University, something both students and staff are owed. We will hopefully have more updates in the future but stay angry because no one should have to pay for parking at an educational institution that they pay to attend in the first place.

Library Opening Hours and 24/7 Study Spaces: Update

Libraries are a necessary and integral part of studying at University and procuring your education. When the brash decision was made by Monash at the beginning of the year to slash library hours, I fought back. I have now entered many meetings with many different levels of University management to fight for both Ground and Lower Ground levels of Matheson to be open 24 hours. This would allow students to have access to vital amenities, such as WI-FI, printing and computers, that the new study space in Campus Centre or Campbell Hall's study space do not have. Many students wrote to me about these changes, some citing that they do not have internet access at home, and thus rely on the University's internet to complete and submit assignments. It's stories like these that show just how important 24 hour spaces are to students, especially during a cost of living crisis.

The MSA has created an Open Letter about library hours that is available on our website to sign and will be submitted to the University.

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

Late Penalties Reduction Win:

After fighting the University all year, Monash has finally decided to reduce late penalties from 10% to 5% for Semester 2 2024 and into the future. This is an exciting step forward for student's rights at Monash, and allows students to not be unfairly punished for submitting assignments late. I would like to extend a thanks to the Undergraduate Academic Board members that were also important to getting this change through and implemented officially into University policy.

An additional change as well to the Late Penalties policy also included Chief Examiners having the opportunity to decide to waive late penalties when a submission is received within one hour of the submission time due to technical difficulties. However, if you have prior academic misconduct, you may not be eligible for this leniency.

It is exciting to see that the University is finally beginning to listen to students, but there is still much more to do and the MSA will continue fighting for improvements for students. Finally, if you ever need assistance or advice while applying for special consideration or anything else to do with your studies, please do not hesitate to reach out to Student Advocacy and Support (SAS) for help.

Withdrawn Incomplete Changes Win:

Many students face compassionate issues within their time at University and Monash's policy should reflect that. The existing process and criteria for awarding Withdrawn

Incomplete (WI) grades is being replaced with a new process. This new process extends the special circumstances process used for remission of debt and fee refunds to also include a compassionate response. This means that the standard existing Withdrawn grade (WDN) will become an automatic outcome of approved special circumstances applications for remission of debt and fee refunds, provided that the application was received within 10 working days of the results release day for the unit.

Additionally, students who are unable to complete a rescheduled deferred assessment within the 90 day time limit will be able to receive a Withdrawn grade (WDN). This means that the WDN grade will not impact a student's WAM or GPA and will be removed from their academic progress risk level calculation. These changes are already in effect for Semester 2 2024.

Bathrooms for All Campaign

The MSA is aware there have been reports of students questioning others' rights to use gendered bathrooms from other students on campus. This behaviour is unacceptable and the MSA affirms that everyone has the right to use safe and accessible bathrooms, in line with their gender identity.

Signage has been put up in the bathrooms in Campus Centre to ensure that people are reminded that there is etiquette when using the bathroom.

*Key Activities

Outline key activities completed thus far since last report:

- Edition four released (23/7/24)
- Coverage of M.S.C.s
- Submissions closed for edition 5

Can outline work being done for upcoming events/projects

- Edition five in final stages of editing
- 60th Anniversary celebration (contacting former editors, preparing decorations etc.)
- Edition six submissions to open soon
- Election guide to be released week prior to election (9/9/24) including policy speeches, photos, and descriptions of positions per R.O.'s instructions

Department Goals

Goal	Progress (complete/ongoing/incomplete)	Comments
Slay 60 year event and edition	Ongoing	Inviting former editors and contributors Writing articles on the history of <i>Lot's Wife</i> for the edition Timeline of student publications at Monash from 1961 to 2024 complete Plans to bind remaining unbound editions for S.U.R.L.Y.
Keep submissions strong for semester 2	Ongoing	17 submissions for edition 4 14 submissions for edition 5 Submissions to open for edition 6 soon
Actually improving	Ongoing	Plans afoot to update



Sam Hudson, Mandy Li, & Angus Duske
 Lot's Wife *REPORT* and 2024 Goals
 [Report to MSC 09/24]

website		existing aspects of the website to be cleaner and more user-friendly Gradually adding photos to each article so it doesn't look so empty!!
Leaving <i>Lot's Wife</i> better than we found it	Ongoing	Significant increase in social media presence Better on-campus news and current events reporting, highlights the importance of student media