



# **2023 ANNUAL ELECTION REPORT**

**MONASH UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS  
SERVICE**

## 1. Introduction

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

Jessica Fox was the Returning Officer for the 2023 MUISS Election and is the author of this report.

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

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

## 2. Process

Pursuant to the MSA Regulations, notice was given on 4 September that Annual Elections would be held from Monday 18 September to Wednesday 20 September 2023 (see **Appendix 1 – Notice of Election**). The Notice of the Election was published on the MUISS Election webpage. An email was sent to all eligible students via Global Connect advising students of the election on 4 September (see **Appendix 2 – Email to Students – Notice of Election**).

Nominations for all positions were due at 5:00 pm Friday 8 September. Nomination forms and all other election paperwork were submitted via email at these elections. Students could also complete a Google Form to submit their nomination.

### Candidate nominations

Nominations were opened at 9:00 am on Monday 4 September and closed at 5:00 pm on Friday 8 September. The final notice of nominations received was posted on Wednesday 20 September (see **Appendix 3 – Notice of Nominations Received**).

After the closing of nominations, a detailed verification process was undertaken to ensure that candidates and their nominators and seconders were eligible to participate in the election by virtue of their enrolment status as well as the international student status of nominators and seconder, as provided for in the Regulations. During this process, all nominations were found to be eligible, with all nominated students eligible to stand for election.

#### **At the close of the nomination period:**

- **9 valid nominations were received**
- **1 ticket was registered**
- **The positions of Activities Officer, Education Officer, President, Publications Officer and General Secretary were declared elected unopposed. There were two contested positions**

### Tickets

Candidates running as a group were stipulated to appoint an Authorising Officer and register their ticket name with the Returning Officer before the close of nominations at 5pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September. One group did so and this is also listed in **Appendix 3 – Notice of Nominations Received**.

## Voting

Voting was delayed due to an incomplete roll being provided by the University and was rescheduled to take place from Monday 25 September and Wednesday 27 September. This was communicated to all nominees via email and was also posted on the MUISS Election webpage.

Polling took place on the BigPulse voting platform. To cast their vote, eligible voters needed click an individual ballot link emailed to their official university email address and follow the prompts to submit their vote.

Eligibility to vote was restricted to Monash Clayton international undergraduate students as per the Election Regulations and MSA Constitution.

The following table summarises the times during which students cast their votes, with the majority of voting taking place the day of the opening of polls. A reminder email was sent to students who hadn't voted yet at 9:00 am on Wednesday 27 September.

Time	Mon 25	Tues 26	Wed 27
00:00-03:00		5	1
03:00-06:00		0	1
06:00-09:00		3	0
09:00-12:00		6	74
12:00-15:00	123	7	19
15:00-18:00	29	11	
18:00-21:00	12	6	
21:00-24:00	9	5	

## 3. Results

### Declarations

Results were declared on Wednesday 27 September, with results then immediately being sent to all candidates via email. The Notice of Results was also published on the MUISS Election website (see **Appendix 4 – Notice of Results**).

### Participation

The 2023 election recorded a smaller number of students voting compared to last year's recent contested elections, with 311 voters casting their votes through the polling period, representing approximately 2.6% of the eligible student population. This is in comparison with 682 voters and 820 voters in the 2022 and 2021 Annual Elections, respectively.

### Appeals/Recounts

No appeals or recount requests were received.

## 4. Issues

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

### **Recommendation 1:**

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

## 5. Conclusion

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

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

**Jessica Fox**  
**Returning Officer**  
**2023 MUISS Election**

## **6. List of Appendices**

**Appendix 1 – Notice of Election**

**Appendix 2 – Email to Students Notice of Election**

**Appendix 3 – Notice of Nominations Received**

**Appendix 4 - Notice of Results**

# NOTICE OF ELECTION

Nominations are called for the following positions:

***MUISS office holders:***

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

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

**Nominations**

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

Nominations are now open and close at 5pm on Friday 8 September 2023.

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

**Copies of the regulations governing the election and all election forms are available via the MUISS website: [msa.monash.edu/muisselections](http://msa.monash.edu/muisselections)**

**Voting**

Polling for the MUISS elections will be from 12pm Monday 18 September until 2pm Wednesday 20 September. You will be able to vote online via a link to your university email address. All campaigning will take place online and no in-person campaigning will be permitted on campus.

Jessica Fox

**Returning Officer**

4 September 2023

0417 613 866

[muis.returningofficer@gmail.com](mailto:muis.returningofficer@gmail.com)

## APPENDIX 2 – EMAIL TO STUDENTS NOTICE OF ELECTION

### NOTICE OF ELECTION

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

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- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Activities Officer
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Jessica Fox  
Returning Officer  
2023 MUISS Annual Elections  
[muiss.returningofficer@gmail.com](mailto:muiss.returningofficer@gmail.com)

## APPENDIX 3 – NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

# LIST OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

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

The following ticket has been registered:

Ticket	Authorised Officer
United	Jahnvi Poddar

The following candidates have been declared elected unopposed:

First Name	Surname	Position	Ticket
Somya	Manchanda	Activities Officer	United
Nguyen	Lam Minh Thu	Education Officer	United
Vedant	Gadhavi	President	United
Alina	Chauhan	Publications Officer	United
Zongjun	Zhang	General Secretary	United

Valid nominations received and accepted:

First Name	Surname	Position	Ticket
Ramya Barathi	Mohan	Services and Welfare Officer	
Vanessa	Lai	Services and Welfare Officer	United
Thaveesha	Balasoorya	Treasurer	
Ayushi	Patel	Treasurer	United

Jessica Fox

**Returning Officer**

20 September 2023

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# NOTICE OF RESULTS

At the close of polls at 2pm (AEST) on Wednesday 27 September 2023, I declare the below candidates elected to the Monash University International Student Service.

The following candidates were declared elected unopposed at the close of nominations:

First Name	Surname	Position	Ticket
Somya	Manchanda	Activities Officer	United
Nguyen	Lam Minh Thu	Education Officer	United
Vedant	Gadhavi	President	United
Alina	Chauhan	Publications Officer	United
Zongjun	Zhang	General Secretary	United

## Treasurer

Candidate	Ticket	Result
<b>Ayushi Patel</b>	<b>United</b>	<b>210</b>
Thaveesha Balasooriya		95
<b>Total</b>		<b>305</b>

*Ayushi Patel was declared elected.*

## Services & Welfare Officer

Candidate	Ticket	Result
<b>Vanessa Lai</b>	<b>United</b>	<b>181</b>
Ramya Barathi Mohan		122
<b>Total</b>		<b>303</b>

*Vanessa Lai was declared elected.*

Jessica Fox

**Returning Officer**

27 September 2023

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