

Meeting opened at 11:05am on 03/03/2023

CONFIRMED MINUTES

A. Attendance

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proxy</u>
President	Sebastian Schultz	
Treasurer:	Sidratul Ahmed	
Secretary:	Natasha Tiong	
Education (Public Affairs):	Ann Maria Sabu	
Education (Academic Affairs):	Paris Enten	
Activities:	Claris Yee	
CLA:	Fleur Timmins	
Welfare:	Stuart Gibson	
Indigenous:	John Sopar	
Environment & Social Justice:	Mariam Madiha	
Women's:	Nikkita Chandnani	Megan Kong
Queer:	Oli Shemmell	
Disabilities & Carers:	Elena Ruefenacht	
People of Colour:	Susie Lei	
Res Community Department:	Katya Spiller	
MUISS:	Anshuman Das	
MAPS:	Vick Arjuna	Masum Bin Khalil Seyam
Clubs & Societies:	Arjun Girish	
Radio Monash:	Nick Lazzara	Sarah Stancombe
General Representative:	Isabelle Cummane	Absent
General Representative:	Sadman Arafat	
General Representative:	Pranami Gamage	Absent
General Representative:	Tippi Morgan	Joshua Strauss
General Representative:	Mahzarin Katrak	
Observers:	Jessica Oats	

Che Kudagamage
Louis Walmsley

B. Acknowledgment of traditional owners of land

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

C. Confirmation of Agenda Order

Confirmed

D. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion #1:

This MSC confirms [W MSC Minutes 1/23.docx](#) to be the true and accurate recording of the proceedings.

Moved: Isabelle Cummane **Seconded:** Sidratul Ahmed

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Seb called for votes

E. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports

MUISS
MAPS
Clubs & Societies
Radio Monash
Education (Academic Affairs)
Education (Public Affairs)

Environmental & Social Justice
People of Colour
Indigenous
Queer
Disabilities & Carers
Residential Community
Welfare
Womens

Motion #2:
 This MSC accepts all submitted Office Bearer and Divisional Reports en bloc.
Moved: Sidratul Ahmed **Seconded:** Arjun Girish
For: 20
Against:
Abstentions:
MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Seb explained the nature of these reports and the purposes for which they are submitted at every MSC according to each department’s or division’s reporting schedules. He called for votes and the motion passed unanimously

F. Motion to endorse the production of an MSA Reconciliation Action Plan

Preamble: The Reconciliation movement within Australia strives to provide equitable outcomes for Indigenous Australians across the country. As part of this movement and ongoing process, Reconciliation Australia, the peak body representing the movement within Australia, established the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) program. This program provides a framework for organisations to leverage their spheres of influence, both internally and externally, to advance the ideals of Reconciliation.
 This MSA is looking to produce our own RAP, in order to better contribute to Reconciliation within Australia and our communities, which will be our inaugural RAP. The production process of the RAP will include consultations with members across the organisation, including Indigenous staff and key stakeholders.

As part of the registration process, a registration fee must be paid to Reconciliation Australia. This fee covers provision of materials for RAP development, membership to the nationwide RAP network, consultation with Reconciliation Australia during RAP development, and official endorsement upon completion.

To advance the aims outlined in the RAP, and to guide the development of the RAP, a RAP Working Group (RWG) will also be established. As recommended by Reconciliation Australia, this RWG will be composed of ten members from across the organisation, including the Indigenous Officer/s.

Motion #3:

This MSC commits itself to advancing the aims and ideals of the Reconciliation movement, providing equitable outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

This MSC moves to endorse the production of a MSA-wide Reconciliation Action Plan.

This MSC commits itself to the establishment of a Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group to oversee the development and implementation of the inaugural RAP.

Moved: John Sopar **Seconded:** Natasha Tiong

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Seb went through the preamble, which has comprehensively explained the nature, purpose and execution of the RAP. Seb called for speakers, to which no one responded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

G. Motion to endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart

Preamble: The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a significant movement to enshrine an Indigenous voice into the Australian Constitution, as a means of improving the representation of First Nations peoples in Australia. Although originally rejected in 2017 by Malcolm Turnbull and his team, they endorsed the statement in full. The government is currently working with First Nations leaders to settle details for a referendum, within which all Australians will be asked if they support an alteration to the constitution that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice.

Signed by 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and leaders, the statement outlines hopes and aims for the future of Australia's Indigenous peoples. Three aims are prominent, being Voice, Treaty, and Truth. The latter two of these, Treaty and Truth, or Makarrata, call for agreements between the Australian Government and Indigenous peoples, as well as Truth-telling about Australia's history. Victoria leads the way in these two areas, with the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria meeting with the Victorian government for

the treaty process, and the Yoorrook Justice Commission set to produce its final reports in the coming years.

Monash continues to grow their Indigenous cohort, with 365 First Nations students enrolled at Monash at time of writing. A significant way for MSA to show support for these students is to fully endorse the Uluru Statement from the heart, and all its aims.

Motion #4:

This MSC fully endorses the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and commits itself to fighting for an equitable future for all Indigenous peoples.

Moved: John Sopar **Seconded:** Sidratul Ahmed

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

John outlined that Monash University had just released an official statement on 28 February 2023 which expresses its unanimous support and contribution to the process detailed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart to establish a First Nation's Voice to the Commonwealth Parliament of Australia. John expressed his agreement with the University's stance while explaining that such endorsement across all levels of university including students and staff has been a long time coming. He voiced his gratitude and excitement for this progress and is looking forward to more.

H. Motion regarding O-Week

Preamble: O-Fest 2023 has yet been another successful celebration and welcome of all new and returning students, especially with approximately 40,000 international students arriving into Australia due to changed visa requirements and this figure reflects students flying in from China alone. This 4-day festival from 20th February to 23rd February saw hundreds of clubs and societies, as well as, MSA departments and divisions stationed in various locations on campus. Eager students signed up for MSA and club memberships, as they listened to the perks and events each department and club/society had to offer for 2023. The Activities Department, along with the assistance of MSA Volunteering successfully organised After Dark at the Royal Melbourne Hotel on two nights, with tickets sold out for the first night. The Radio Monash Division in collaboration with student artists provided engaging and exciting performances to entertain the crowd on the Lemon Scented Lawns.

Motion #5:

This MSC moves to congratulate and express gratitude to all Clubs and Societies, Office Bearers, Divisional Representatives, and staff-run Departments for their incredible dedication and hard work during O-Week.

Moved: Arjun Girish **Seconded:** Natasha Tiong

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Seb called for speakers from the mover and seconder as well as the floor, to which no one responded. The motion immediately moved to a vote and was passed unanimously.

I. Motion regarding the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria

Preamble: On Monday 6 February, two 7.8 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes struck Gaziantep in Türkiye. These led to large scale destruction of buildings across Türkiye and Syria, leaving over 1 million people without shelter, 900,000 in urgent need of food, and causing over 50,000 deaths. With freezing temperatures rescue and emergency service efforts have proved to be difficult. Whilst this is a natural disaster, it has also been compounded by poor planning and building regulations, a lack of resources, and corruption amongst officials in the hardest hit areas. Natural disaster preparation and response must be considered globally, in order to protect the lives and livelihoods of those living in disaster prone regions. The ESJ department has a resource on its Instagram with guidance, should anyone wish to provide their support.

Motion #6:

This MSC recognises the need to demand immediate and continuous aid for Türkiye and Syria.

This MSC supports those amongst our student community with relatives and friends in the regions that have been affected and extends the deepest condolences to those who have lost their lives and those that are continuing to struggle with the repercussions of this disaster.

Moved: Mariam Madiha **Seconded:** Isla Hickey

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Seb called for speakers, to which no one responded. The motion moved to a vote immediately and was passed unanimously.

J. Motion to support international students during the Australian rental crisis

Preamble: Newly announced changes to Student Visa requirements have left international students rushing into Australia for face-to-face learning by 30 June 2023 to ensure compliance with the National Code. Failure to comply with the condition would impact on the validity of their student visas and Monash University has planned to remove all online study options for international students, effective 1 July 2023. Similarly, Chinese education officials have also mandated students to return to in-person learning or risk not having their foreign credentials recognised and accepted in China. Accordingly, approximately 40,000 international students from China alone are expected to rush into Australia before the start of the semester - and this figure excludes thousands of other international students arriving from other countries.

This leads to a shortage of rental properties and student accommodation rooms. Scape, a renowned student accommodation has 80% of its 6000 beds filled up. On-campus accommodation in Clayton is believed to be at full capacity as well. Other issues flow from this including scams and inequitable selection of tenants. Due to high demand and low supply of mentioned properties, landlords or rental agents are able to pick and choose tenants in a manner that favours applicants with a stable income or credible rental history, over new international students who may not necessarily have those two attributes. There have been cases of students getting scammed by persons promising a property for rent, only for these persons to disappear as soon as students pay 'rent'. Desperate students with no place to live are even offering 12 months' worth of rent upfront or increased rental price to secure such properties, which places tremendous financial burden on students who are looking to further their studies. Other universities have taken initiatives to support their international student community, by encouraging homestay arrangements and providing an accommodation guarantee before the crisis worsened.

Motion #7:

This MSC recognises housing as a fundamental, basic human right and expresses its support for international students placed in such dire circumstances.

This MSC calls for Monash University to join other Australian universities in developing progressive solutions to the rental crisis, such as encouraging staff members to open up their homes to international students and engaging in investment opportunities for the development of purpose-built student accommodation.

Moved: Natasha Tiong **Seconded:** Mahzarin Katrak

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Natasha detailed the multi-faceted nature of this issue and how it extends beyond having accommodation capacity. She explained that this opens up doors to further concerns such as high rental prices, scams, tremendous financial burden on students, terrible living conditions and others. She went on to list a few solutions and actions other universities have or are doing including Curtin University's encouragement of its staff members to open up their homes as temporary accommodation and the provision of an accommodation guarantee for all international students by the ANU. Natasha raised that discussions will be held with MUISS and the University to raise awareness about this issue that is often overlooked and to work on practicable solutions.

K. General Business

Nothing was raised in General Business.

Meeting closed at 11:21am