

Meeting time: *Opened at 05:20 pm on 09/02/2024*

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

AGENDA

A. Attendance

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proxy</u>
President (Chair):	Chloe Ward	
Secretary (Minutes):	Zareh Kozanian	
Treasurer:	Joshua Walters	
Education (Academic Affairs):	Grayson Lowe	Campbell Frost
Education (Public Affairs):	Sahar Farukh	
Activities:	Fatima Iqbal	
CLA:	Gina Ford	
Welfare:	Teagan Hayward	
Indigenous:	Marlley McNamara (Apology)	Tayla Husband
Environment & Social Justice:	Sophie Allen	
Women's:	Zoe Binns	
Queer:	Madeline Curkovic	
Disabilities & Carers:	Charlotte Sutton	
People of Colour:	Tooba Javed	
Residential Community:	Ariq Ilham (Apology) Aylin Vahabova (Apology)	Kristy Dodson-Geary
MUISS:	Vedant Gadhavi (Absent)	
MAPS:	Stuart Gibson	
Clubs & Societies:	Paul Halliday	
Radio Monash:	Georgie McColm	
General Representative:	Jay Davis (Apology)	Huayan Hu
General Representative:	Anban Raj (Apology)	
General Representative:	Beck Riches	

General Representative: Stella Robinson (Absent)

General Representative: Paris Enten (Apology) Joshua Strauss

Observers: Thomas White
Campbell Frost
Luka Kerm
Angus Duske
Charles Heyburn
Lana Abdelhalim
Michelle Grigorian
Dilhan Simsek
Mohamed Orabi
Kit Message
Colten Senior
Stella Hefferman
Nhan Nguyen
Mandy Li
Haneen Ghanayem
Rohan Kalanje

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 [Minutes 11/23](#) to be the true and accurate recording of the proceedings.

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

In Favour: 7

Against: 0

Abstentions: 13

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

[Discussion during MSC:](#)

The mover of the motion, Joshua Walters, speaks to the motion reminding MSC Members that they are only able to vote on the motion if they attended the MSC on Friday, 8th of December 2023.

The seconder of the motion, Zareh Kozanian, speaks to the motion thanking Natasha Tiong and Sidratul Ahmed for their effort and involvement in the handover process.

E. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports

The reports inform the MSC and the student community of the Office Bearers and Divisions endeavours. The reports were to be submitted to the MSC Secretary by the 2nd of February, Friday at 05:00 pm.

Office Bearer and Divisional Reports	Submission Compliance
President	Report Submitted on time
Treasurer	Report Submitted on time
Secretary	Report Submitted on time
Lot’s Wife Editors	Report Submitted on time
Activities	Mon, Feb 5, 2:31 PM (Late Submission)
Creative and Live Arts	Fri, Feb 2, 6:31 PM (Late Submission)

Motion #2:
 This MSC accepts the reports submitted by the President, Treasurer, Secretary and Lot’s Wife Editors en bloc, as attached at the end of this document.
 This MSC also accepts the late reports submitted by the Activities and CLA OBs en bloc, as attached at the end of this document

Moved: Zareh Kozanian **Seconded:** Joshua Walters
In Favour: 20
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

F. 2023 MSA Election Report

Motion #3:

This MSC accepts the [2023 MSA Election Report](#) as prepared accordingly by the Returning Officer.

Moved: Zareh Kozanian **Seconded:** Joshua Walters
In Favour: 20
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

G. MSA Executive General Representative

Each year one of the General Representatives is elected to sit on the Executive. This motion will open nominations for that position. Only General Representatives may nominate or vote in this election.

Motion #4:

This MSC opens nominations for the election of MSA Executive General Representative for 2024, pursuant to s24.1(e) of the MSA Constitution.

Moved: Zareh Kozanian **Seconded:** Joshua Walters
In Favour: 20
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

Chloe Ward calls for nominations for the role of General Representative Executive.

Chloe Ward declares that she will be the Returning Officer for this election, reminding the MSC that only Gen Reps (or their proxies at MSC) can vote or nominate for the MSA Executive General Representative and explains the election process.

Joshua Strauss (proxy of Paris Enten) nominats Paris Enten.

H. MSA General Representative Election Result

This motion confirms the election of a General Representative to the Executive. Only General Representatives may vote for this motion.

Motion #5:

This MSC confirms the election of Paris Enten as Executive General Representative

Moved: Joshua Strauss

Seconded:

In Favour:

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION LAPSED

Discussion during MSC:

Joshua Strauss (proxy of Paris Enten) moved the Motion

Chloe Ward calls for a seconder on the motion.

Chloe Ward declares the motion lapsed due to lack of a seconder to the motion.

I. MSA Executive Divisional Representative

Each year one of the Divisional Representatives is elected to sit on the Executive. This motion will open nominations for that position. Only Divisional Representatives may nominate or vote in this election.

Motion #6:

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

Moved: Zareh Kozanian

Seconded: Joshua Walters

In Favour: 20

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

Chloe Ward calls for nominations for the role of MSA Executive Divisional Representative.

Chloe Ward declares that she will be the Returning Officer for this election, reminding the MSC that only Divisional Representatives (or their proxies at MSC) can vote or nominate for the MSA Executive Divisional Representative and explains the election process.

Stuart Gibson nominates Paul Halliday.

J. MSA Divisional Representative Election Result

This motion confirms the election of the Divisional Representative to the Executive. Only Divisional Representatives may vote for this motion.

Motion #7:

This MSC confirms the election of Paul Halliday as Executive Divisional Representative

Moved: *Stuart Gibson* **Seconded:** *Georgie McColm*

In Favour: 3

Against: 0

Abstentions: 17

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

Joshua Strauss (proxy of Paris Enten) raises a point of clarification on the Executive General Representative election (Motion 5) asking for confirmation that only General Representatives are to vote in the motion electing the MSA Executive Divisional Representative motion.

Chloe Ward answers Joshua Strauss (proxy of Paris Enten)'s query by reading the relevant regulation, Regulation 14.2 of Regulations for Office-Bearers and Members of MSA Bodies.

K. Expenditure Authorisation

Motion #8:

That this MSC, pursuant to Section 23(e)(i) of the MSA Constitution, resolves to allow the Executive to authorise the expenditure of up to \$10,000 per administrative item in its role as day-to-day Manager of the MSA, excluding staffing, industrial, consultancy and legal expenditure. Further, a summary of Executive financial motions be tabled in the appendices at every MSC meeting.

Moved: *Joshua Walters* **Seconded:** *Grayson Lowe*

In Favour: 20

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

L. NTEU Support Motion

Preamble:

The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) is the union that represents staff across the tertiary education sector. Last year multiple NTEU branches initiated industrial action across different universities. This included the Monash NTEU branch which conducted a work stoppage and a 48-hour strike. This industrial action was called to ask the University to improve workload models, to decasualise the workforce, to better working conditions and to improve pay to be fairer.¹

On top of this, the NTEU has also filed legal action against the University, alleging that Monash has stolen around \$9 million from casual academics.² In response to this Monash attempted to retroactively change the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement so that what they did was not considered wage theft. This unlawful attempt to avoid paying workers properly was rightly thrown out by the Fair Work Commission.³

As a student union, it is our job to advocate for the needs of students but in order to advocate for students we also need to be advocating for the staff that educate and support them because staff working conditions are student learning conditions. This is why the MSA needs to stand in solidarity with the NTEU and Monash staff and support them in their fight for fair wages, proper working conditions and secure work.

Sources:

- 1) https://nteuau.sharepoint.com/:p:/s/documents/EZyh_A0Zy-JKpjfD87dfEs0Be5Y1KW5vYpQ6tNPZa7lk9Q?rttime=HSDbV8km3Eg
- 2) <https://www.smh.com.au/business/workplace/monash-tries-to-dodge-10m-wage-thrift-bill-as-uni-sector-wage-crisis-deepens-20230412-p5czrk.html>
- 3) <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/monash-uni-loses-bid-to-rewrite-workplace-agreement-in-9m-unpaid-wages-fight-20230608-p5df4j.html>

Motion #9:

This MSC:

1. Condemns wage theft wherever and whenever it occurs.
2. Recognises that staff working conditions are student learning conditions, and the increase in working rights to staff will overall benefit students.
3. Commits the MSA to work with the NTEU to inform students on the importance of supporting and respecting industrial action, such as strikes and picket lines.
4. Commits the MSA to continue its support of the NTEU Monash Branch and wider Victorian Branch in its ongoing efforts to fight against wage theft, casualisation and decreased working conditions.

Moved: Grayson Lowe

Seconded: Joshua Walters

In Favour: 20
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Grayson Lowe, speaks in favour of the motion showing high support for the NTEU and requests that MSC members vote to support the motion

The seconder of the motion, Joshua Walters, speaks in favour of the motion highlighting the importance of the role of educators in the university and how it directly impacts the student learning experience at Monash as student learning conditions are staff working conditions.

Stella Hefferman (Observer) speaks in favour of the motion and expresses the importance of supporting staff strikes to aid the NTEU's bargaining for improved staff working conditions and students' learning conditions.

M. 26th January is Invasion Day

Preamble:

The 26th of January marks the date in 1788 that Captain Arthur Philip raised the Union Jack and landed on already occupied Gadigal land in the Eora Nation of what is now in so-called 'New South Wales'. The day marks the beginning of large-scale settler colonialism in so-called 'Australia'.

This date represents the beginning of an extensive and brutal operation of dispossession, forced relocation, and mass slaughter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples all across these lands. In 1938, the Aboriginal Progressive Association and the Australian Aboriginal League declared the 26th of January as an Aboriginal Day of Mourning signifying the start of invasion, colonialism, and "seizure of [the] country" (Patten, 1938). It was 56 years later that Australia Day was recognised as a national holiday. Concurrently, other framings of the 26th of January as 'Invasion Day' or 'Survival Day' represent a long history of opposition from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Activists to the national celebration that occurs on this day. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students should feel welcome and supported by the MSA. The MSA should not in any way endorse or remain complacent on the celebration of a national holiday that commemorates the beginning of colonialism, slaughter, and a centuries long legacy of oppression. Additionally, as an institution based on stolen lands from the Bunurong people of the Eastern Kulin Nation, we have a responsibility to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander causes and efforts.

The MSA sent an official contingent to the 2024 Naarm Invasion Day Rally that was organised by the Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance and was very proud to be able to support and learn from activists and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Source:

- 1) Patten, J. (1938, January 26). Speech by Jack Patten following the Conference of the Aborigines of Australia [A speech delivered following the passage of a motion pertaining to the recognition of the 26th of January as a Day of Mourning for Aboriginal people]. Defining Moments: Day of Mourning. Retrieved February 6, 2024, from <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/day-of-mourning#:~:text=We%2C%20representing%20the%20Aborigines%20of,during%20the%20past%20150%20years%2C>

Motion #10:

This MSC moves to recognise January 26th as a day of mourning. It is not a day that should be celebrated in Australia, and the MSA will support efforts to either change or abolish the date as it currently stands, standing in solidarity, and as allies, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Moved: Thomas White **Seconded:** Marley McNamara

Moved: Sophie Allen **Seconded:** Teagan Hayward

In Favour: 19

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

Due to the absence of the initial mover, Thomas White, and the initial seconder, Marley McNamara, Chloe Ward calls for a new mover and seconder for the motion.

Sophie Allen moves the motion, and Teagan Hayward seconds the motion.

The mover of the motion, Sophie Allen, speaks in favour of the motion supporting Indigenous rights and requested the acknowledgement of the 26th of January as a day of mourning, asking MSC members to vote in favour of the motion and thanks all the attendees that joined her at the rally.

The seconder of the motion, Teagan Hayward, speaks in favour of the motion, supporting the motion and requests that MSC Members vote in favour of the motion.

Kit Message (Observer) speaks in favour of the motion supporting activism and encouraging students to be vocal on this issue.

Stuart Gibson spoke to the motion and informed the MSC that he intends to abstain from voting in this motion as he feels that this issue is not relevant to the students represented by MAPS.

N. MSA Condemns the National Socialist Network and Growing Global Far Right

Preamble:

On the 26th of January, a far right neo-nazi group called the National Socialist Network attempted to organise a disgusting demonstration in favour of Australian nationalism in Sydney as a national mobilisation of their members from all across the country. The next day, on International Holocaust Memorial Day, they held an anti-semitic 'Holocaust Celebration' event. Last year in Melbourne they organised demonstrations in support of notorious transphobe Kellie-Jay Keen and championed the racist and sexist slogan of an 'Australia for the white man'.

Their attendance at transphobic events and their crashing of Drag Storytime council events last year is a worrying step in the emboldenment of bigoted, far right politics. Many queer rights activists have organised protest events against this development, and the MSA recognises the importance of fighting for the rights of queer people.

The actions and confidence of the NSN are spurred on by the alarming international trend of a growing far right. In the US, Trump seems very likely to win the Republican nomination, and possibly a second term as President. Italy is being led by a Musollini venerating Georgia Meloni, and Argentina by chainsaw wielding, public spending slasher Javier Milei. In Germany, the Alternative für Deutschland held undisclosed meetings to discuss proposals of mass deportations of millions of refugees and German citizens.

These politics are the most vile edge of the racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia in society, and they are gaining steam - both in electoral victories and growing violent street mobilisations. These groups should be condemned for their politics, and left wing people need to come out and publicly oppose the movement they attempt to build. The MSA recognises that to push these neo-nazis backwards, left wing activism is needed.

Motion #11:

This MSC condemns the actions and politics of the National Socialist Network and the global far right they seek to emulate.

This MSC calls on students to join in campaigns and counter demonstrations to publicly oppose the growth and normalisation of extreme right wing politics.

Moved: Madeline Curkovic

Seconded: Beck Riches

In Favour: 19

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Madeline Curkovic, speaks in favour of the motion highlighting that the rise of the far-right is an attack on queer rights, and stresses the importance of fighting the far-right.

The seconder of the motion, Beck Riches, waived their speaking rights.

Colten Senior (Observer) speaks in favour of the motion and notes that the far-right is growing in Australia and all across the world. They ask the MSC to support the motion and encourage involvement in activism against the far-right.

Joshua Walters speaks in favour of the motion and notes that organisations such as Victoria Police play a role in promoting and supporting the far-right. He provides the example of Victoria Police attacking queer people at the Midsumma Festival.

Stuart Gibson speaks in favour of the motion and highlights the importance of discussing politics because of its impact on people's lives and opinions. He encourages democracy, and notes there is fear of speaking out due to the far-right and far-left, and stresses the importance of having a balance.

Joshua Strauss (proxy of Paris Enten) speaks in favour of the motion, highlighting an incident in Caulfield, and reiterates his support of the motion.

Luka Kerm (Observer) speaks in favour of the motion stating that the far-right is a serious threat around the world, and highlights how important it is for student unions in Australia to participate in campaigns against the far-right.

Madeline Curkovic speaks in favour of the motion, stating that equating the far-right and the far-left is right wing in nature and problematic

Charlotte Sutton speaks to the motion stating that being far-right or far-left is unacceptable, and notes that the far-left wing is not supportive of disabled people. She highlights that the MSC shouldn't fight against only one side of extremism as it could imply support to the other side, and she mentions that extremism on both ends is an issue to be discussed.

Chloe Ward allows Madeline Curkovic to reply with a restriction of speaking time to one minute.

Madeline Curkovic highlights that the far-left supports disabled people and agrees on the importance of providing services to disabled people. She disagrees that extremism is an issue on the basis that the left doesn't support disabled people.

Chloe Ward allows Charlotte Sutton to reply with a restriction of speaking time to one minute.

Charlotte Sutton replies noting her disagreement as historically disabled people were not cared for in the far-left politics.

Procedural Motion:

That this MSC put this item to a vote

Moved: Chloe Ward (Chair)

As per S24.10 of the Standing Orders this procedural does not need to be put to a vote

MOTION CARRIED

O. End the Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine

Preamble:

This MSC acknowledges the ongoing humanitarian crisis occurring in Palestine and moves to condemn the Israeli government for its blockade, imprisonment and bombing of Gaza's civilian population, which escalated on October 7th 2023. The Gaza Strip is home to 2.3 million people, approximately half of whom are children.¹ Since October 7th, the Israeli government has cut off basic necessities, including food, water, electricity, gas and medical supplies. Between 1st and 10th January 2024, only three out of 21 planned deliveries of food, medicine, water, amongst other life-saving aid were delivered to the north of Wadi Gaza.² The ability of the Israeli government to wield this power reflects the asymmetrical nature of this conflict. Since the Israeli government's military operations began, at least 27,000 Palestinians have been killed, over 66,000 people injured and 1.7 million Palestinians internally displaced (75% of Gaza's population) according to the Minister of Health Gaza.³ 70% of those killed are women and children.³

The Israeli government's actions against Palestinians have and continue to cause an ongoing humanitarian crisis and have inflamed international tensions. As a result of this conflict, there continues to be hate crimes against all religious communities that make up the demographics involved in this conflict, including Muslims, Jews and Christians.⁴ This MSC recognises that for there to be lasting peace in the region, Israel's continuous and ongoing occupation of Palestine, must immediately come to an end and an immediate ceasefire is necessary.

Under International Humanitarian Law and the Geneva Convention, collective punishment of a civilian population is a war crime. Among the rules of International Humanitarian Law, it stipulates that parties that are involved in a conflict must distinguish at all times between

combatants and civilians and as a result, must take all feasible precautions to minimise harm to civilians and civilian objects, such as homes, shops, schools, and medical facilities. The Israeli government's indiscriminate bombing of Palestine is in direct contradiction with the aforementioned International Humanitarian Laws and thus, is illegal.⁵

Australian State and Federal politicians have already directly addressed the conflict in condemning Hamas. Yet, the Australian government has failed to effectively condemn the Israeli government's indiscriminate and unrelenting bombardment of Palestinians in Gaza, which is contrary to international law. Inaction, evidenced by Australia's previous abstentions in the UN resolutions, occurring on October 28th, calling for a humanitarian truce and refusal to condemn the Israeli government's actions against the Palestinian people have real implications for the people of Palestine.

While the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) definition of genocide is rather narrow, this MSC acknowledges the finding that there was a plausible case that Israel was committing genocide in Gaza. The ICJ demanded Israel take immediate steps to prevent genocidal actions, punish incitement to genocide, allow access to humanitarian aid and prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of alleged crimes.

This MSC condemns the bombing, killing, and kidnapping of innocent Israeli civilians by Hamas, these actions were totally reprehensible. This MSC will firmly stand against genocide, ethnic cleansing, settler colonial projects, occupation, and the targeting of civilians. This MSC abhors any further violence against Palestinians and Israeli civilians. This MSC unequivocally condemns antisemitism and Islamophobia and stands in solidarity with all those affected by the crisis. This MSC commits to ensuring that Monash University is a safe and inclusive space for all students, always.

- 1) <https://www.npr.org/2023/10/18/1206897328/half-of-gazas-population-is-under-18-heres-what-that-means-for-the-conflict>
- 2) <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-89-enar>
- 3) <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-reported-impact-day-121>
- 4) <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2023/oct/20/antisemitic-hate-crimes-in-london-rise-1350-since-israel-hamas-war-met-says>
- 5) <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/09/questions-and-answers-october-2023-hostilities-between-israel-and-palestinian-armed#One>
- 6) <https://jerusalemdeclaration.org/>

Motion #12:

This MSC:

1. Condemns the Israeli government's military operations in Gaza and total blockade of basic necessities which has resulted in the death of over 27,000 Palestinians.

2. Expresses our dissatisfaction with the insufficient support offered by the University to Australian Palestinian students and their community, many of whom have loved ones trapped in Gaza and wider Palestine and the asymmetrical treatment of students.
3. Asks Monash University and Federal and State Governments to recognise that Palestinians and Jewish students and communities have been the targets of hate speech, discrimination, and dehumanising language both online and within the wider community. We call on the University and government to combat such behaviour wherever it happens.
4. Commits the MSA to combating antisemitism and Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian rhetoric wherever it has the power to do so.
5. Urges Monash University and Federal and State Members of Parliament to condemn the total siege on Gaza and bombing of civilian populations in Palestine and Israel.
6. Moves to adopt The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism to use as a tool for understanding antisemitism.⁶
7. Calls for the Federal Government to uphold principles of international law and human rights, and to condemn all war crimes that have occurred in this crisis, including the Israeli government's use of collective punishment on the people of Palestine.
8. Calls the Federal Government to:
 - a. Provide the same opportunities for evacuations for Palestinian Australians and their families and Israeli Australians and their families;
 - b. Urge the Israeli government to lift the siege on Gaza, withdraw military occupation and end the blockade on Gaza;
 - c. Urgently provide much-needed humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, including medical supplies and funding that will facilitate the restoration of passages from Gaza.
9. Calls Monash University to:
 - a. Support students affected by antisemitism, Islamophobia and the crisis in Gaza in their education at university, ensuring there are suitable special consideration grounds put in place for those students who are affected, assessed on an individual basis;
 - b. Continue to ensure that Monash University is a safe place for all students, regardless of race, religion, gender, or any other factor.
10. Recognises that pro-Palestinian sentiment or actions are not inherently antisemitic without additional evidence to support antisemitic intent.
11. Acknowledges that criticism of the Israeli government is not antisemitic, without additional evidence to support antisemitic intent.
12. Firmly stand against genocide, ethnic cleansing, and the targeting of civilians, and abhor any violence against any civilians in Palestine and Israel. We unequivocally condemn antisemitism and Islamophobia and stand in solidarity with all those affected by this crisis.

Moved: Joshua Walters

Seconded: Tooba Javed

In Favour: 16

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

Procedural Motion:

That this MSC moves to discuss this matter through formal debate

Moved: Kristy Dodson-Geary (proxy for Aylin Vahabova)

In Favour: 14

Against: 1

Abstentions: 5

MOTION CARRIED

Chloe Ward elaborates on the procedure for formal debate and refers to the Standing Orders

Mover:

The mover of the motion, Joshua Walters, spoke in favour of the motion noting that the MSC should stand against genocide, colonialism, and ethnic cleansing wherever it occurs. He mentions that Monash University's response to the crisis as per the statement issued last year was frankly abysmal. He commended the collaborative efforts of the NTEU and Monash Arab Society for their response to Monash's statement. He also noted that The Australian Government's inability to investigate allegations surrounding UNRWA, as admitted by Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong, is unacceptable, as it is crucial to address these allegations before halting humanitarian aid. As mentioned in the Preamble, the ICJ ruled that there is a plausible risk that Israel is committing genocide against the people of Gaza. The International Criminal Court (ICC) ordered Israel to refrain from Genocide Convention acts, prevent incitement to genocide, and provide humanitarian aid to Gaza civilians, but there's little evidence of implementation. Benjamin Netanyahu has recently made statements indicating that Israeli troops would be preparing to operate in Rafah. Increasing military activity in Rafah will exacerbate the devastating humanitarian crisis that is already engulfing the city.

Seconder:

The seconder of the motion, Tooba Javed, spoke in favour of the motion. She noted that the Israeli government's actions against Palestinians are causing a humanitarian crisis and ongoing hate crimes against all religious communities, including Muslims, Jews, and Christians. It's essential to recognise that for there to be lasting peace in the region, Israel's continuing occupation of Palestine, must immediately come to an end and an immediate ceasefire is necessary. She noted that the MSC should firmly stand against genocide, ethnic cleansing, and the targeting of civilians, and abhor any further violence against Palestinians.

Monash must be an inclusive place for all students. She requested the MSC to urge Monash University to ensure inclusivity and support for all students affected by the crisis, including Arab society, by implementing equitable special consideration procedures and ensuring their voices are heard. They are eager to collaborate with the university to ensure a supportive environment. She encouraged the MSC members to vote this motion up and take a real stand on these issues.

Amendment:

Stuart Gibson explains that the primary role of the MSA is to support students at Monash and provide the best educational experience.

Chloe Ward reads the proposed amendment to all MSC members to ensure their understanding of the amendment.

Motion to Amend:

That sections 1, 5, 7, and 8 to be removed from the motion, and remove all the words after "Palestinian" and replaced with "and Israeli students" in Section 2.

Moved: Stuart Gibson

Seconded: Charlotte Sutton

In Favour: 3

Against: 13

Abstentions: 4

MOTION FAILED

Chloe Ward asks for speakers in order to develop a speaking list for formal debate

Speaker Against:

Joshua Strauss (proxy of Paris Enten) speaks to the motion noting he will be abstaining from voting on this motion. He also mentions that the Jewish community wants to be involved in discussions around antisemitism on campus, including the implementation of action point 6, and wants to ensure that their voices are heard.

Grayson Lowe leaves the room at 6:21 pm his vote was then passed to his proxy Campbell Frost

Speaker For:

Lana Abdelhalim (Observer) spoke in favour of the motion mentioning that this motion is the bare minimum, especially considering what Palestinians are going through. The lack of acknowledgement of what is happening to Palestinians in Palestine is loud and clear. Monash has taken a stance and has released a statement, not being apolitical. As a Palestinian, she mentioned how disgusted Palestinians feel by the way their concerns are being handled, and highlighted that they feel unsafe on Monash Campus, speaking on behalf of Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims. She highlighted the need to have open dialogue as the

Palestinian voice has been silenced by Monash, experiencing asymmetry when discussing the matter. She encourages MSC members to vote for the motion.

Speaker Against:

Madeline Curkovic spoke against the motion, raising that the MSA must encourage involvement in protests that are pro-Palestine. It was highlighted that the situation has been occurring prior to the 7th of October 2023. Awareness had been raised about a couple of problematic things in the preamble such as condemning Hamas as the nature of this takes away what is mainly happening in Palestine. It was stressed that they would vote for the motion. It was informed that this is a campaign being held by people not supporting Palestine, especially on campuses around Australia, trying to paint pro-Palestine activism as antisemitic. It was highlighted that pro-Palestine activism is not antisemitic and mentioned the importance of the MSC taking a pro-Palestine stance.

Speaker For:

Mohamed Orabi (Observer) spoke in favour of the motion. As the President of the Monash Arab Society, he advocated for the rights of Palestinians. The very need and constant presence for there to be a definition for antisemitism raises the question of why there isn't symmetry with regard to definition. If it serves a significant purpose, why isn't the same necessity applied to anti-Palestinian rhetoric, Islamophobia and other forms of discrimination? These selected definitions function as an obstacle to improving Palestinians' rights on campus. When it comes to adopting the JDA definition or any other definition, the motion has to be clear and accurate in historical context first, as these definitions end up serving as a guideline to the debate between Israeli and Palestinian politics. The MSC shouldn't look at the 7th of October events or subsequent plausible occurrence of genocide that is currently taking place across Palestine without highlighting historical knowledge that contextualise these events. Moving forward, there must be much greater consultations with Palestinians and members of the committee such as Lana Abdelhalim could be reached out to. He encourages MSC members to vote for what is right and advocates to consider actions based on the points raised if the motion is passed.

Speaker Against:

Luka Kerm (Observer) spoke with reference to the dismissed amendment motion moved by Stuart Gibson mentioning that students are humans who are part of society, not only people who come to university campuses for education and disappear once they leave campus. Students have real opinions and are affected by politics outside of campus. He also highlighted how student unions continue to have a critical role in struggles for social justice which was clear throughout history. For instance, the advocacy of the Monash Student Association during the Vietnam War. The idea of the student union cannot be isolated from society and politics. In the MSA we have a particular responsibility to have close ties with Israeli universities including Tel Aviv University which host companies that are involved in carrying out attacks in Palestine. He agrees with the points raised by Mohamed Orabi (Observer) and Madeline Curkovic. He supports that the MSC is raising this motion.

Right of Reply:

The mover of the motion, Joshua Walters, is given 3 minutes by Chloe Ward for his right to reply. He thanks everyone for their input on the motion as it is valuable. He responds to Mohamed Orabi's (Observer) concerns on the JDA, elaborating that the MSC has done a lot of research about the definition around antisemitism and consulted with students as well as academics that specialise in Jewish studies. The advice given by academics was that it is better for organisations to not adopt definitions as language is constantly changing. However, given that the MSC has adopted IHRA as a definition, the MSC believes that it is important to use the JDA as an interpretive tool due to the concerns raised earlier.

P. The MSA endorses the National Student Strike for Palestine

Preamble:

Students For Palestine has called a National Student Strike for Palestine to be held on Thursday 29th February, and the MSA has an important responsibility to support this demonstration and show solidarity with Palestine.

Motion #13:

The MSA endorses the National Student Strike for Palestine on 29th February and will promote the demonstration using social media. The MSA will commit to having leaflets promoting the event on its tables at Orientation Week to distribute to students.

Moved: Madeline Curkovic

Seconded: Beck Riches

In Favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Madeline Curkovic, waives her speaking rights.

The seconder of the motion, Beck Riches, speaks in favour of the motion, highlighting the role of student unions in advocating for political positions in society. They encourage students to participate in activism and stand in solidarity with Palestinians.

Q. This MSC stands in solidarity with the movement against the far right Milei government in Argentina

Preamble:

A new wave of harsh austerity measures and ferocious attacks on workers' rights has been ushered in on the back of the December 2023 Argentine presidential election. The

incumbent president, Javier Milei, is yet another addition to the global rise in far right politics.

A key package introduced by Milei is the Mega Decree. This package involves mass privatisation and cuts to the public sector, axing at least 5000 government jobs. These cuts are expected to worsen the daily lives of ordinary Argentines. Deregulation of the housing market has led to skyrocketing rent, the cost of basic necessities has also drastically risen with a 500% increase in bus fares, and close to a 700% increase in gas prices. Workers are turning to increasingly overrun community programs in order to secure food as their wages are no longer adequate to meet the upsurge in living costs across the board.

In recent weeks, an inspiring movement of tens of thousands of angry Argentinians including unions, workers collectives, students and the unemployed, has come out in force to oppose Milei's attack on their rights and livelihoods. Students have especially begun to protest in opposition to the government's desire to regulate the university sector and phase out free education. Free education is a right that is upheld and fought for by student unions across the world.

This is an important fight in the world at the moment to defend the rights and livelihoods of ordinary people, which importantly includes the right to study what individuals have a genuine interest in, and for free.

In recent days, the bill has been voted to return to the commission for redrafting, because of political pressure put on the government and the Milei government's centrist allies. This is an important victory which demonstrates how powerful organised workers and activists can be. But, more action is needed to beat back the far right in future

Motion #14:

This MSC stands in solidarity with Argentinian workers, students and unions fighting against the far right Milei government's attacks on the public sector, including education.

~~This MSC will take a photo petition with signs saying "I stand in solidarity with Argentinian workers and students", and post it to official MSA social media.~~

This MSC will take a photo petition, with consenting members, with signs standing in solidarity with Argentinian workers and students, and post it to official MSA Social Media

Moved: Madeline Curkovic

Seconded: Beck Riches

In Favour: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 5

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

[Discussion during MSC:](#)

Amendment by Mover

That the following be added to the end of the preamble;

“In recent days, the bill has been voted to return to the commission for redrafting, because of political pressure put on the government and the Milei government’s centrist allies. This is an important victory which demonstrates how powerful organised workers and activists can be. But, more action is needed to beat back the far right in future.”

That the second action point be changed to read;

“This MSC will take a photo petition with signs standing in solidarity with Argentinian workers and students, and post it to official MSA Social Media.”

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

MOTION CARRIED

Paul Halliday speaks to the motion requesting the wording of the signs remain in the motion so the MSC is aware of what they are agreeing to.

Stella Hefferman speaks in favour of the motion and supports the motions and advocates for continuous support for the workers and students.

Stuart Gibson speaks to the motion agreeing with Paul Halliday and requesting the wording of the signs remain in the motion so the MSC is aware of what they are agreeing to.

Motion to Amend:

That the second action point have the words “with consenting members” added after “photo petition”

Moved: Joshua Walters

Seconded: Zareh Kozanian

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

MOTION CARRIED

Chloe Ward reads aloud the signs prepared by Madeline Curkovic which will be included in the photo.

The mover of the motion, Madeline Curkovic, speaks in favour of the motion highlighting the reason for the amendments to make it factually accurate, as the assemblies were successful in defeating the actions of the far right government in Argentina.

Motion to Amend:

That the following statement be added to the motion “Only publish the photo petition in the next Lot’s Wife edition being the primary method of communication between students and MSA”

Moved: Stuart Gibson **Seconded:** Joshua Strauss

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

In Favour: 7

Against: 7

Abstentions: 6

MOTION FAILED

This vote is tied and goes to the Chair for their casting vote. The Chair, Chloe Ward, votes against the motion.

R. Against SSAF- for Universal Student Unionism

Preamble:

The implementation of voluntary student unionism (VSU) and the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) in 2005 and 2011 has had a profound impact on the student union movement in Australia. Prior to these changes, students were automatically represented by student unions. However, with the introduction of VSU, student unions now rely on funding from the SSAF, which is collected from students by the university.

Student unions should operate independently from university management and VSU has led to a significant decrease in student union membership nationwide.

Motion #15:

MSC supports a return to universal student unionism.

This MSC rejects the university's current SSAF funding model which places a majority of student money into the hands of university bosses.

MSC will support campaigns for a reintroduction of universal student unionism and direct funding models, where unions receive a greater share of the current SSAF model.

Moved: Sahar Farukh **Seconded:** Sophie Allen

In Favour: 15

Against: 2

Abstentions: 3

MOTION PASSED

Discussion during MSC:

The mover of the motion, Sahar Farukh, waives her speaking rights.

The seconder of the motion, Sophie Allen, speaks in favour of the motion, highlighting the importance of giving SSAF to student unions and encouraging all members to vote in favour of the motion.

Beck Riches speaks in favour of the motion and notes that we should not allow the bureaucracy of the University to dictate the funding of student unions. They raise the need to increase memberships in student unions and continue advocacy to support it.

Chloe Ward moves a procedural motion to put the motion to a vote.

S. General Business

In the interest of time and as per MSC notice, Chloe Ward moves a procedural motion to limit General Business to 10 seconds.

Meeting Closed at 07:00 pm

T. Appendices

Executive Expenditure Summary

Department	Type	Cost	Date Approved
Volunteering	Training & Conferences	\$144	12/12/2023
MSA Executive	Training & Conferences	\$500	13/12/2023
Finance & IT	Training & Conferences	\$984.4	13/12/2023
Human Resources	MSA HR	\$978	19/12/2023
Finance & IT	MSA HR	\$1795	19/12/2023
MSC (Central)	Special Projects	\$600	10/01/2024
MSC (Central)	Training & Conferences	\$2290	10/01/2024
MSA Executive	Training & Conferences	\$395	12/01/2024

MSA Executive	Training & Conferences	\$395	15/01/2024
MSA Executive	Training & Conferences	\$395	19/01/2024
MSC (Central)	Capital Works	\$130	22/01/2024
MSA Executive	Training & Conferences	\$2500	06/02/2024

Attendees' Entry and Exit Register within the Conference Room

Name	Exit Time	Entry Time
Joshua Strauss	5:40 pm	5:43 pm
Mohamed Orabi	5:39 pm	5:41 pm
Dilhan Simsek	5:40 pm	5:42 pm
Mohamed Orabi	5:49 pm	5:50 pm
Dilhan Simsek	5:48 pm	5:51 pm
Paul Halliday	6:09 pm	6:12 pm
Grayson Lowe	6:21 pm	NA

Chloe Ward

President

Report to MSC 1/24

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.
- To establish an MSA Foodbank to further address food insecurity
- To continue restoring student engagement to pre-COVID levels, especially given 2024 enrolments are now back to pre-COVID levels.
- To advocate on behalf of students on issues such as Universal Submission Times, making the LTB open 24/7, reinstatement of 5-day extensions, and many other pressing issues academically and socially affecting students.
- To continue to build a strong and beneficial relationship with the NTEU Monash Branch to benefit both students and staff.

PROJECTS

TW: This report mentions Indigenous deaths and people who have passed as well as topics such as genocide that may be triggering to some readers.

MSA Foodbank Project

Research demonstrates that university students around the country are at high risk for food insecurity. According to the journal article, "Severity of Food Insecurity among Australian University Students, Professional and Academic Staff", 41.9% of students experienced some level of food insecurity.¹ This issue has only been exacerbated by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis occurring throughout the country. This indicates that the need for food welfare is greater than ever, pushing the Executive team, in conjunction with the Environment & Social Justice OBs and Welfare OBs, to create a Foodbank proposal to present to the University at a time of great need for initiatives to improve food security. As we continue to put pressure on the University to assist in funding this project, the MSA will be continuing its array of existing free food initiatives, such as Free Food Mondays, Welfare on Wheels, and Residential Food Drops. As this project continues to move forward, I will update students on the progress and prospective opening dates.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9571391/>

O-Week 2024: Plans and Updates

O-Week for 2024 is just around the corner, beginning on the 19th of February! As always, the MSA will be playing a key role in involving a range of sponsors, supporting over 100 C&S affiliated clubs and beginning our advocacy journey with our MSA OB's stall and activities. Due to enrolment levels now hitting pre-COVID numbers, this upcoming O-Week is expected to be the biggest attendance since 2019. This is an exciting prospect, not only for MSA, but also for Clubs & Societies as they have a greater opportunity to grow their clubs and continue to build bigger and better events, with the support of the amazing C&S Executive and Staff, moving into 2024. I can't wait to see all of the OBs, Clubs & Societies and Sponsors organised by the MSA engage with first-year and experienced students during O-Week 2024!

The Muslim Prayer Space Completion

After five years of tireless work and advocacy, the Muslim Prayer Space has finally begun and is scheduled to finish on the 15th February 2024, prior to the reactivation of campus. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of all past MSA Presidents, Monash University Islamic Society (MUIS), and those hard-working students who fought to advocate for this space to be built and improved upon. The location of the new Muslim Prayer Space is the Krongold Centre for Worshippers, located next to Matheson Library on the Clayton Campus. There are currently plans being worked on by Fatima Ramtoola in conjunction with our People Of Colour OBs, Tooba Javed & Anshuman Das, and myself to organise a grand-opening event to celebrate the achievements of all those who advocated and worked on this campaign. As construction nears completion, we will be releasing more information about this event where all students can attend and celebrate this amazing achievement.

General Academic Advocacy

In conjunction with the rest of the Executive, the Education (Academic Affairs) OBs and the Academic Board Undergraduate Representatives, we have begun advocating on important issues that affect all students. Our main focus for Semester One has been: 5-Day Extension reinstatement, Universal Submission Times, and making the LTB a 24/7 study space available to students. Submissions have been made to the Academic Board around these issues and we will continue to update students on the response from the University as we learn more. I have also continued to consult the NTEU Monash Branch on their stance, making sure to include staff and tutor's working conditions when advocating for these issues, ensuring that they do not negatively affect staff, as staff working conditions are student learning conditions.

NTEU and MSA Collaboration 2024

I have continued to meet and liaise with multiple members of the NTEU Monash Branch and the wider Victorian Branch to ensure that the MSA and the NTEU continue to build

our relationship to ensure that both students *and* staff continue to increase their fundamental rights and experience within the university landscape. It is vital moving forward that the MSA continues to have a strong relationship with the NTEU as staff working conditions are student learning conditions, often meaning that outcomes that benefit staff, benefit students more broadly. There will be an array of campaigns that we will be working with the NTEU on, so keep an eye out for those in the near future!

MSA Working Groups

This year, there have been multiple working groups established in order to better tackle a wide variety of issues being faced by students at Monash University. These include: Special Consideration (SpecCon), SA Prevention on Campus, and Period Positivity Project working groups. As we progress through the year, these working groups will act as a collaborative space to ensure that these larger issues on campus are tackled effectively and collaboratively moving forward.

MSA Contingent to Invasion Day

On January 26th, we saw 35,000 people gathered on Wurundjeri land outside State Parliament in solidarity with our Indigenous comrades to protest against 'Australia Day', a day which marks the day that Arthur Phillip first hoisted the British flag at Sydney Cove in 1788, the beginning of a genocide and attempted mass extermination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There were a variety of views, some calling for the date to be changed, while others called for the date to be abolished altogether. It was the first time in years that the MSA had organised a contingent for the Invasion Day rally, so it was really exciting to see the turnout and show our support.

NUS President's Summit & National Conference

During the early days of December, myself and the rest of the Executive drove to Ballarat to attend the National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference 2023. It was an interesting and eye-opening experience, we were able to see students from around the country debate and discuss issues concerning students and direct where the NUS and their campaigns will be targeted in 2024. As well as NUS National Conference, we also attended the President's Summit at RMIT University to learn more about the NUS Executive and their goals for the year. It was informative and exciting to get to know and learn from other student unions and their student leaders to inspire us at the MSA and also talk about our own plans for the rest of the year. As the year continues, I am excited to work more closely with the NUS and their campaigns.



Joshua Walters

TREASURER'S REPORT
Report to MSC 01/24]

Joshua Walters

Treasurer

Report to MSC 1/24

GOALS

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

PROJECTS

MSA Foodbank Project

I have been working with the rest of the Executive, as well as our ESJ OB's, Welfare OB's and staff to develop our plans for an MSA Foodbank. We believe that providing a regular and accessible supply of groceries to students is one of the most important ways the MSA can address food insecurity on campus. The Foodbank is intended to operate alongside many of the free food events we already run such as Res Drops.

Much of my involvement with this project has been creating a realistic budget for the Foodbank. I have also been heavily involved in writing a proposal to the University to ask for funding support for this project.

2024 Budget Process

A project that I completed late last year was the 2024 MSA Budget process. Chloe Zareh and I, alongside the 2023 Executive and the MSA Finance Officer and Executive Officer,



Joshua Walters

TREASURER'S REPORT
Report to MSC 01/24]

met with each department and division to receive their budget submissions. We then reviewed each of their submissions and made our recommendations on the budgets. These budgets were then approved in the final MSC of 2023. Throughout the budget process, we kept two key aims in mind, reduce the deficit, and make sure everyone has the funding to provide for students. I think we did achieve both of these with the 2024 Budgets. Our deficit is significantly lower than it was at the end of the last financial year, and the MSA is set for a busy year of service provision and advocacy.

I would like to give special thanks to Sid, the 2023 MSA Treasurer for his work in managing the MSA's finances and making a massive dent in the deficit.

National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference and Presidents Summit

In December of last year, I attended the NUS National Conference (NatCon) along with Chloe and Zareh. NatCon functions as the NUS' AGM and is also where the policy for the NUS is decided on. The conference lasted for 4 days and was held at Federation Uni. It was a unique experience, with lots of heated debate over a myriad of issues from unionism to international politics. It was also a great opportunity to meet and connect with student union leaders from all over the country.

I also attended the NUS Presidents Summit in January of this year. The Presidents Summit is a training and networking opportunity for student union leaders. We received presentations from the NTEU, EROC and many others, as well as presentations from the NUS National Executive. I found the summit extremely useful for giving perspective into how other student unions operate and interact, as well as insight into both the issues shared by all of us, but also the unique issues faced by each student union.

Zareh Kozanian

Secretary

Report to MSC 1/24

GOALS

- Ensure that all meetings, decisions, attendance, and official documents within the MSA are accurately recorded.
- Contribute to the establishment of an MSA Foodbank aimed at addressing food insecurity on campus.
- 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
- Review MSA's staff performance to enhance productivity, ensuring the efficiency of the MSA's organisational structure.

PROJECTS

MSA Constitution and Standing Orders Revision

I'm investigating strategic initiatives to enhance and adapt the governance framework governing the Monash Student Association (MSA) through revising the MSA Constitution and Standing Orders. Moreover, it is critical to ensure that these foundational documents accurately reflect the evolving values, needs, and aspirations of the MSA. I seek to enhance the clarity, transparency, and relevance of our operational guidelines.

The executive team will be seeking legal advice and input and feedback from the student body to incorporate diverse perspectives. This project is a proactive step towards fostering a more inclusive, responsive, and effective student union to adeptly navigate the challenges and opportunities of the present and future.

MSA Working Groups

In order to enhance our efficiency with resolving critical issues impacting the student experience at Monash, we established multiple working groups, including the Period Positivity Project, Special Consideration (SpecCon), SA Prevention on Campus working group. In addition, the objective of the working groups is to create a more collaborative and holistic approach to addressing student concerns.

Moreover, the executive team is investigating the opportunity of holding an MSA Expo to unify the effort of departments and divisions into a major event that would benefit all Monash students. Also, the intention of the project is to serve as a one-stop platform for all students to learn about and engage with different facets of university life. Through ongoing collaboration and innovative initiatives, we seek to enrich the student experience at Monash and provide meaningful support to all Monash students.

National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference

In December 2023, I attended the NUS National Conference (NatCon) alongside Chloe and Josh. Also, the conference provided a unique opportunity to connect with student union leaders from all around Australia, identifying the key concerns and issues that students are experiencing and requesting nationwide. Moreover, the exchange of ideas and perspective from the attendees enriched our perspectives with a deeper understanding of the challenges and potential solutions. Furthermore, the conference highlighted the key strategies for effective advocacy to attain a positive change within our student union. The 4 day conference was held at Federation Uni, and the NUS conference allowed students to engage and shape national policies in respect to student welfare, education, and other pertinent issues.

National Union of Students (NUS) Presidents Summit

In January 2024, I attended the NUS Presidents Summit which included valuable training sessions on effective advocacy and networking opportunities, empowering us to enhance the representation of the students' interests. The summit included presentations from the NUS National Executives elaborating on their endeavours. I got exposed to the numerous issues that student unions are facing nationwide, and was enlightened by the unique approaches of each union to overcome hindrances. The presentations held by the NTEU and the EROC were extremely insightful as well. I am keen to work more collaboratively with the NUS and participate in their fruitful initiatives and campaigns.

MSA's Organisational Review

I wish to improve our organisational structure by carrying out a comprehensive review to identify weaknesses, strengths, threats, and opportunities within our current structure, ensuring that the roles and responsibilities are aligned with the evolving student needs and association's objectives. In addition, I wish to enhance the workflow efficiency and communication channels within the MSA based on evolving organisational priorities and student needs.

Additionally, I will be investigating the establishment of clear and measurable KPIs that align with the MSA's overarching goals and objectives. I am interested in implementing meaningful surveys and feedback mechanisms to gauge satisfaction levels among students and external stakeholders of our organisational performance. It is critical to foster and enhance the culture of continuous improvement within the MSA, encouraging feedback and suggestions to determine opportunities for efficiency gains.

O-Week 2024

O-week for 2024 is initiated on the 19th of February, and with enrolment levels now reaching pre-COVID numbers, this upcoming O-Week is anticipated to be the largest since 2019. The MSA as always will play a pivotal role in orchestrating this wonderful event.

The MSA is eager to engage and welcome first-year students and ease their integration into university life, and foster a sense of community. We will be providing a comprehensive introduction to the unique university experience at Monash. We will be present to answer queries and provide support, setting a positive tone for their academic journey. Also, we will be promoting inclusion, introducing students to available support services, and encouraging a proactive approach to mental and physical well-being.

We are excited to facilitate social interaction among students through the MSA stalls, assisting them make new friends and form valuable connections with peers who share

similar interests. We will also be inviting them to participate in our amazing events and endeavours.

Academic Advocacy

Our combined efforts, in collaboration with the MSA Executive, the Academic Board Undergraduate Student Representatives, and the Education (Academic Affairs) Office Bearers, have been directed on advocating for issues and concerns that negatively impact every student. Moreover, we created a number of initiatives, including the reinstatement of 5-Day Extensions, the transformation of the Learning and Teaching Building (LTB) into a 24/7 study space accessible to all students, and the implementation of Universal Submission Times.

In addition, we will be keeping the student body at the MSA well-informed and engaged throughout the process, providing updates on the progress. Also, we acknowledge that any enhancements in academic policies or facilities must be approached with a holistic perspective, accounting for the concerns and well-being of all involved stakeholders. We seek to attain positive and lasting changes that enhance the academic experience for the university community at Monash.

DEPARTMENT: *Lot's Wife*

Outline of Department's Core Values and Aims for 2024: *Lot's Wife* aims to amplify the student voice at Monash this year reporting on the student experience and advocating for meaningful change. Whilst also providing students with greater insight to the actions of the M.S.A. through greater reporting.

Outline of Departmental planning so far in elected term: Thus far submissions have closed for edition one (34 submissions from 25 contributors), with submissions for edition two about to open at time of writing (February 1, 2024), an edition in collaboration with the Disabilities and Carers Office to celebrate Neurodiversity Week, which will be marked with a launch event.

Department Goals for 2024

Goal	Methodology	Comments
Build a pool of regular contributors (at least 10)	Establish an effective communications medium with contributors Engage with M.S.A. Volunteers Facilitate pieces that contributors can regularly work on (news on campus/satire section?)	Engaged 25 unique contributors to edition one
Increasing digital presence	Regularly posting to social media feeds Investigate the feasibility of a TikTok	
Diversification of content (at least 50% non-fiction pieces)	Encourage contributors to reflect on their university experience and where improvements could be made	Edition One Submissions: 12 Non-Fiction / 11 Fiction / 11 artwork

Enhance student awareness of the M.S.A.'s actions	Coverage of M.S.C. meetings (live-Tweeting) Departmental Reports in every published edition (as opposed to in only one) Encourage O.B.s and Committee Members to contribute pieces on campaigns and/or events	Plans to live Tweet M.S.C. 1 Departmental Reports received from all bar 3 departments/divisions for edition one
Improvements to the website to improve user engagement	To be carried out in conjunction with goal 2 (digital presence) Highlight individual articles on the website Reforms to the web design to be more user-friendly	
To publish six editions in 2024 (three per semester)	Publishing three editions per semester Relying on regular contributors throughout the Semester	Edition one editing in progress Submissions open for edition two

DEPARTMENT: ACTIVITES

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

Inclusivity, productiveness, event planning, communication

Outline of Departmental planning so far in elected term:

O-Fest After Dark 2024, Harmony Day, Futsal Tournament of the World (Semester 1 Events)

Department Goals for 2024

Goal	Methodology	Comments
Successful O-FAD event	Taking the necessary steps in preparing O-FAD, by being organised, collaborative and productive	
Contributions	To be a team player, showing how valuable we are to our committee peers	
Trainings	To be up to date and competent with trainings	
Creativity	To be creative and insightful when planning events throughout the semester	
Weekly check ins	To check in with SRSU support group and inform them on how things are going, receive help when necessary	

DEPARTMENT: Creative and Live Arts

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

In 2024, our department's main goal is to create diverse and engaging Wednesday sessions, bringing together artists, international cuisines, and a welcoming community to celebrate our multicultural world.

Outline of Departmental planning so far in elected term:

Research and identify artists from diverse cultural backgrounds to showcase in upcoming Wednesday sessions. Collaborate with local food vendors representing various cuisines to introduce a multicultural culinary experience.

Department Goals for 2024

Goal	Methodology	Comments
Goal 1: Multicultural Wednesday Sessions	Introduce diverse cultures through artists and food to engage a variety of audiences	Research and identify artists from different cultural backgrounds. Collaborate with local food vendors representing various cuisines. Evaluate audience feedback to ensure cultural representation aligns with preferences.
Goal 2: Exciting Challenges on Wednesday Sessions	Implement engaging challenges for student participation with prize money or coupons.	Develop a variety of challenges suitable for campus culture. Collaborate with campus facilities for potential partnerships. Evaluate participation rates and feedback to adjust future challenges and incentives.

<p>Goal 3: More Wednesday Merch</p>	<p>Create additional promotional Wednesday merch like umbrellas, fans, hoodies, plushies, stickers, and hair clips.</p>	<p>Collaborate with designers and manufacturers to expand the merchandise line. Monitor sales and gather feedback to refine and improve the merch selection. Organize merch-focused events to boost sales and brand visibility.</p>
<p>Goal 4: More Brand Engagement</p>	<p>Involve popular brands to promote and sponsor Wednesday sessions, potentially sponsoring bigger artists.</p>	<p>Identify potential brand partners and sponsors. Develop sponsorship proposals outlining mutual benefits. Track brand engagement metrics and audience response to measure the effectiveness of brand collaborations.</p>
<p>Goal 5: Bigger Wednesday Sessions</p>	<p>Turn Wednesday sessions into larger events by upscaling stages, decorations, and venues</p>	<p>Assess potential venues for capacity, accessibility, and scalability. Develop a budget for enhanced staging, decorations, and logistics. Regularly monitor attendance and feedback to gauge the success of the upscaled events.</p>