

Meeting opened at 12:35pm

UNCONFIRMED 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	Absent
Education (Academic Affairs):	Paris Enten	Absent
Activities:	Andrew McGaw	Absent
CLA:	Che Kudagamage	Absent
Welfare:	Krista Lymbouris	Joshua Strauss
Indigenous:	John Sopar	
Environment & Social Justice:	Louis Walmsley	
Women's:	Vicky Kwong	
Queer:	Oli Shemmell	
Disabilities & Carers:	Elena Ruefenacht	
People of Colour:	Desna Ramjee	Absent
Res Community Department:	Katya Spiller	Absent
MUISS:	Vedant Gadhavi	Zong Jung
MAPS:	Stuart Gibson	
Clubs & Societies:	Paul Halliday	
Radio Monash:	Georgie McColm	
General Representative:	Mahzarin Katrak	
General Representative:	Pranami Gamage	Rohan Kalanje
General Representative:	Sadman Arafat	
General Representative:	Tippi Morgan	Absent
General Representative:	Diyara Jaswar	
Observers:	Charlotte Sutton Ayushi Patel	

Isabella Rogers-Headicar
Joshua Walters
Teagen
Anban
Arjun Girish
Aylin
Naomi Degro
Syed Nasser Haider
Zareh Kozanian
Thomas White

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 10/23](#) to be the true and accurate recording of the proceedings.

Moved: Natasha Tiong

Seconded: Diyara Jaswar

For: 15

Against:

Abstentions: 1

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports

[President](#)

[Secretary](#)

[Treasurer](#)

[Activities](#)

[CLA](#)

Motion #2:

This MSC accepts all submitted Office Bearer and Divisional Reports en bloc.

Moved: Sidratul Ahmed

Seconded: Joshua Strauss

For: 16

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Election of Divisional Representative to the Executive

Motion #3:

This MSC seeks nomination for the position of Divisional Representative to the MSA Executive. Only Divisional Representatives can be elected to and vote for this position.

Moved: Natasha Tiong

Seconded: Mahzarin Katrak

For: 16

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Sebastian Schultz asked for nominations from Divisional Representatives.

Paul Halliday submitted his nomination.

As Paul Halliday is the only nominated candidate, his nomination is accepted.

Motion #4:

This MSC approves the election of Paul Halliday to the MSA Executive for 2024, pursuant to section 24(1)(d) of the MSA Constitution.

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

For: 16

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Sebastian Schultz went to a vote and all Divisional Representatives voted in favour of Paul Halliday.

Paul Halliday is successfully and unanimously elected as the Divisional Representative to the MSA Executive.

G. Financial Motions

Motion #5:

This MSC moves to accept the MSA Financial Statement for the months of [September](#) and [October](#).

Moved: Sidratul Ahmed **Seconded:** Diyara Jaswar

For: 16

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

H. MSA Policies

Preamble:

The following internal MSA policies are to be approved by the MSC on a yearly basis, having been endorsed by the Executive:

- [Professional Development Policy](#)
- [RSA Policy](#)
- [Unreasonable Complainant Conduct Policy](#)
- [Sexual Harassment Policy](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Freedom from Harassment Policy](#)
- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [Anti-Bullying Policy](#)
- [Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy](#)

- [Interactions Protocol](#)

No changes have been made to the attached policies.

Motion #6:

This MSC moves to accept the MSA Policies and Protocol as listed above.

Moved: Natasha Tiong **Seconded:** Sidratul Ahmed

For: 16

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

I. QUAC election

Preamble:

The Committee Regulations require that the QUAC elections, that is election of the Queer Affairs Collective, be held over 5 days within the teaching period. However, with the MSA Elections being pushed to Week 11 and results being released at the end of said week, the current year committee were short on time to properly organise and hold an election per the requirement stipulated in the Committee Regulations. Legal advice has been sought from Tony Land, MSA's solicitor on retainer. Pursuant to his advice, the only solution in the absence of any alternative stipulated in the Regulations, is for an Executive Resolution permitting the QUAC elections to be held in November (outside the teaching period). This Resolution is then to be approved retrospectively by the MSC in the following MSC - being this MSC. The Resolution can be found as attached -

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j7tTA6iRSijcxKiCjzJks8td-Ce3YUvV/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100746350202703506835&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Motion #7:

This MSC moves to accept the MSA Executive Resolution pertaining to the postponement of the QUAC election.

Moved: Natasha Tiong **Seconded:** Oli Shemmell

For: 16

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

J. MUISS Budget Appeal

Preamble:

Monash University International Student Service (MUISS) has formally requested the MSC to review and consider their appeal regarding the 2024 budget allocation. This follows the Budget Committee's decision to reject their initial appeal.

The budget process thus far has been as follows:

1. MUISS submitted their comprehensive budget for 2024, detailing the financial requirements for various events planned for the coming year, including a boat cruise, weekly free food events, fortnightly sports nights, camps, and trips, among others. The original budget submitted requested a subsidy of \$214,659.
2. In the context of MSA's current financial situation and with the objective of balancing quality student services with the imperative to reduce MSA's deficit, the Budget Committee - comprising current and incoming executives, the Executive Officer, and the Finance Officer - proposed a revised budget subsidy of \$119,609. This proposal was aimed at aligning MUISS's budget more closely with the financial performance of the previous year and with the broader financial goals of MSA for the upcoming year.
3. Subsequent to the Committee's proposal, MUISS presented an appeal for a revised subsidy amount of \$146,297. After careful consideration, the Committee upheld its initial decision and rejected the appeal, citing similar financial prudence reasons.
4. Additionally, the incoming MUISS President has requested an increase in his honorarium, proposing an increase from the existing \$10,000 to \$30,000, then \$25,000 in the appeal and subsequently revised to \$15,000 post-appeal. This request, along with the proposal for honorariums for other MUISS executive members, was also rejected by the Committee as the current honorarium payable to the MUISS President of \$10,000 is proportionate to the distribution of honorariums for other divisions like Radmon, MAPS and C&S. Further, the current position provides that only Divisional Presidents are paid an honorarium as a token of appreciation and acknowledgement for their dedicated service to students - not other executive members. Should MUISS' budget appeal be dismissed by the MSC, we will proceed to approve the proposed budget for 2024 in the subsequent motion (#9).

For clarification purposes, the yellow column refers to MUISS' initial budget submission; blue column refers to MUISS' appeal; and green column refers to the Budget Committee's proposal.

Motion #8:

This MSC moves to accept [MUISS budget appeal \(blue column\)](#) for events only.

This MSC moves to accept MUISS' request for an increase of \$15,000 in the president's honorarium.

Moved: Zong Jung **Seconded:** Sidratul Ahmed

For: 1

Against: 15

Abstentions:

MOTION DISMISSED

Sidratul Ahmed clarified his seconding, despite being on the Budget Committee that rejected the appeal, on the basis that he acknowledges the importance of due process when it comes to Budget matters. He applauded MUISS for their impeccable and fundamental delivery of services to the international student community. Sidratul Ahmed addressed the steady increase in MUISS' budget allocation in the period of 2019-2022. That said, the Budget Committee was of the opinion that a proposed subsidy increase of \$200,000 was significant when compared to the previous years. He noted that MUISS' budget allocation has still increased with the Budget Committee's proposal. That said, he noted that MSA as an organisation has been experiencing a deficit that cannot be overlooked. In light of this, the Committee has been conservative with increases in budget allocation to all departments and divisions of the MSA. Sidratul recommended that MUISS' enthusiasm in organising new events for the upcoming year should be funded by their Reserves as a "trial run", and if successful, can be revisited by the next Budget Committee at the end of 2024.

Georgie McColm sought clarification about the alleged proportionate distribution of honorariums. Georgie raised that should the increase in honorarium for MUISS' President be accepted by this MSC, it would place MUISS in better proportion to the honorariums of the Presidents of C&S and Radmon.

Sidratul Ahmed requested for clarification of Georgie's question. Sidratul went on to clarify the distribution of honorariums - proportional by reference to the breadth of students a relevant division services. Therefore, by this rule, C&S receives the highest honorarium amongst all Divisional Presidents.

Georgie McColm thanked Sidratul Ahmed for his clarification.

Zong Jung expressed that the Committee Proposal is insufficient for 2024. Further, Zong Jung expressed that honorariums should be distributed to Executives within each Division as well to acknowledge their efforts and incentivise their engagement with their roles.

Joshua Walters introduced himself as the incoming MSA Treasurer and sat on the Budget Committee. He concurred with Sidratul's position that the financial health of the organisation should be of important consideration.

K. Budget

Motion #9:

This MSC moves to adopt the [proposed budget for 2024](#).

Moved: Sidratul Ahmed

Seconded: Natasha Tiong

For: 15

Against: 1

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Sidratul Ahmed sought to provide an overview of the Budget Committee's underlying goal, being to continually take strides towards reducing the MSA's deficit, as has been evidenced by this year's numbers - from a deficit of \$1,000,000 to a projected deficit of \$250,000-\$300,000 this year. He kindly asked Office Bearers and Divisions to understand this position and to remain on a conservative track for approximately two more years to secure long-term financial stability and henceforth adopt an expansionary approach once that is achieved.

L. Motion pertaining to sexual violence in higher education

Preamble:

275 university students are sexually assaulted in a university setting in Australia every week. 2023 has been a year of yet more devastating revelations around the severe failure of Australian universities to prevent and respond to sexual assault within their institutions. Federal Education Minister Jason Claire has recently released a draft action plan to tackle the sectors' shortcomings, a plan which is the result of years of hard work by victim- survivor organisations and is a hard won opportunity for meaningful change. Among the reforms proposed are the establishment of a national code to be implemented by a dedicated unit within the education department, along with a national student ombudsman to investigate complaints. It is imperative that Monash University takes a clear stance in support of victim-survivors and the reforms for which they are widely advocating. It is time to make meaningful change to prevent and address sexual assault so that every student can enjoy the safety they deserve.

Motion #10:

This MSC condemns the decision by Universities Australia in July 2023 to scrap a national campaign dedicated to sexual consent education.

This MSC implores Universities Australia to publicise which member universities voted against the rollout of the campaign.

This MSC joins advocates against university sexual violence in condemning Universities Australia's 2023 Charter on Sexual Harm for merely recycling existing policy statements from the 2017 Charter, rather than consulting meaningfully with victim-survivors to enact real change.

This MSC calls for the distribution of an updated National Student Safety Survey as soon as possible.

This MSC condemns TEQSA's gross failure to investigate any of the 39 complaints they received regarding university responses to sexual assault and calls for an independent review of the agency.

This MSC fully endorses the reforms proposed in the Education Minister's Draft Action Plan to address sexual violence in higher education.

The MSC implores Monash University to provide a public statement acknowledging the severe failure of universities nationally in responding to sexual violence.

Moved: Vicky Kwong

Seconded: Mahzarin Katrak

For: 16

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

M. General Business

Meeting Closed at 1:01pm