

Meeting opened at 11:03am

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):	John Nguyen	
Education (Academic Affairs):	Paris Enten	
Activities:	Claris Yee	
CLA:	Che Kudagamage	Marlan De Silva
Welfare:	Krista Lymbouris	
Indigenous:	John Sopar	
Environment & Social Justice:	Louis Walmsley	
Women's:	Vicky Kwong	Megan Kong
Queer:	Oli Shemmell	
Disabilities & Carers:	Elena Ruefenacht	
People of Colour:	Shiqi Lei	
Res Community Department:	Katya Spiller	Absent
MUISS:	Anshuman Das	Bhumija Sakpal
MAPS:	Vick Arjuna	Masum bin Khalil
Clubs & Societies:	Arjun Girish	
Radio Monash:	Nick Lazzara	Madeleine Willshire
General Representative:	Isabelle Cummane	
General Representative:	Pranami Gamage	Absent
General Representative:	Sadman Arafat	
General Representative:	Tippi Morgan	Absent
General Representative:	Mahzarin Katrak	
Observers:	Jessica Oats	

Aisha
 Josiah Downey
 Aidan Hawe
 Beck Riches
 Tully M
 Shan Sinclair

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 4/23](#) to be the true and accurate recording of the proceedings.
Moved: Isabelle Cummane **Seconded:** Sidratul Ahmed
For: 20
Against:
Abstentions:
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Activities
Creative & Live Arts
Clubs & Societies
MUISS
Radio Monash
MAPS

Motion #2:

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

Moved: Masum bin Khalil **Seconded:** Arjun Girish

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Motion acknowledging the MSA President's submission to Academic Board

Motion #3:

This MSC notes and accepts the MSA President's [submission](#) to the third meeting of the Academic Board.

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

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

G. Motion in support of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU)

Preamble: The NTEU held a state-wide stop work meeting at the Trades Hall on the 3rd of May 2023. This was a part of a campaign that aims to limit the use of casual employment, limit fixed term employment, ensure decent pay rises and provide safe and fair workloads. These demands from the NTEU would benefit students by ensuring smaller class sizes and providing a more secure education. The MSA was proud to lead a contingent of students to the Trades Hall, and contribute to subsequent protests on the CBD streets. Such industrial action has a significant role in the history of the MSA and the history of many other student unions across the country. This specific week of action, from the 1st to the 5th of May 2023, is in the context of Monash University having committed egregious wage theft, totalling more than \$10 million that has been or is going to be paid to staff. A further \$10-20 million in backpay is currently being fought for in Federal Court. Student unions must stand in solidarity with staff, as attacks on university staff have degraded students' quality of education and should be fervently opposed by students and staff alike. Moving forward the Monash NTEU's Branch Committee has elected to undertake further action on May 16th from 10:30am to 11:30 on the Menzies Lawn, during which the NTEU leaders and MSA President will speak to the issue.

Motion #4:

The MSA commits itself to continuing the support it has provided the NTEU, in consultation and collaboration with the local Monash branch in their ongoing fight for better working conditions.

The MSA pledges further student involvement as a demonstration of solidarity should further industrial action occur. The MSA strives to educate students on the context of the situation, on why this industrial action is pertinent not only for the fight for fair working conditions but also for the sustainability of students' education.

The MSA supports students who intend to strike and skip their classes, in a show of solidarity with the NTEU, on 16 May 2023, 10:30am to 11:30am, on the Menzies Lawn. The MSA understands that not all students can attend the rally, and will assist such students in showing their support through other means.

The MSA commits itself to educating Monash students about the demands of the NTEU. In collaboration with the NTEU, the MSA will continue to provide and distribute information and resources as to why students should support the NTEU as well as what education they can take.

Moved: Louis Walmsley

Seconded: John Sopar

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Aisha noted the significance of the NTEU strike as ideal and appropriate working conditions for staff ensure quality education for students. Aisha queried the second sentence in the third motion, in that students whose classes would clash with the strike on 16th May 10:30am should not attend class to demonstrate their support. Aisha also sought clarification on how the MSA is working towards building a contingent, specifically the method of promotion whether it be emails, newsletters etc.

Louis Walmsley responded to the first question, clarifying that the alternative is made available to students with disabilities. This provision was made bearing in mind not all students are able to attend the strike in person.

Aidan Howe encountered a technological issue and was unable to speak. He noted in the chat section with a question on whether the strike is and could be promoted via a mass email to all students.

Josiah Downey had his concerns about the promotional methods used by the MSA for the strike, particularly with the need for the event to be shared widely to the broader student community at Monash. Josiah expressed his disappointment in the lack of promotion in the MSA Newsletter. He emphasised that a greater student presence was necessary, beyond the presence of elected student representatives in the MSA.

Sebastian Schultz returned to Aidan in the list of speakers, but he was still experiencing technological difficulties.

Beck Riches raised a similar question to Josiah's in seeking answers to what is being done to build a contingent in terms of promotional methods. Beck expressed that the awareness of this strike should extend beyond student reps in the MSA, in fighting for better pay conditions for staff.

Tully M mentioned that they had similar questions and would like the mover/seconder to respond to the questions raised by persons preceding them in the speakers queue.

Louis provided his assurance that promotion will be done via the ESJ channels, as well as other channels which he will see to.

Tully M wanted clarification on what ESJ channels included. They reiterated that mere advertisement on social media is not sufficient, whereas mass emails, newsletters, screens etc would serve more effectively in promoting the strike. They also emphasised that leafleting is an effective means in engaging with students on campus. They sought clarification as to why the ESJ Department will not opt for leafleting as one of the many ways to promote the strike.

Shan Sinclair noted that it would be beneficial to have the strike advertised on the MSA newsletter, as it appears that students are still not aware of the strike. Shan encouraged advertisement on screens, posters, on-campus presence for the purpose of educating students on the strike, and leafleting.

Aisha noted the importance of advertising it in the newsletter. She reiterated how important it is to have as many students involved in the contingent. She went on to query if other Departments will be participating in this strike, apart from the ESJ Department.

Sebastian dissented the chair to Sid to speak.

Sebastian assured other Departments will be involved in promoting the event, apart from ESJ. ESJ's role in the strike is primarily due to their involvement in the discussions leading up to the strike from the very beginning, and were in fact contacted by NTEU staff. The strike is led by the MSA executive, given Sebastian role as the designated speaker for MSA. MSA central channels will be used to promote the strike, and while he has no control over each individual Department's social media he shall direct them accordingly. With regards to the screens, Sebastian provided assurance that he will make arrangements to ensure that the screens on campus centre will promote the strike however the big screen on Northern Plaza is supervised and controlled by the University (UMAC team).

Sebastian resumed his role as chair.

Josiah was satisfied that the strike will be advertised on the screens. He emphasised that all MSA channels should be utilised to ensure greater student engagement.

H. Motion to adopt the Education (Academic Affairs) Committee

Preamble: This MSC has previously adopted the Ed Ac committee in MSC 3/23, pursuant to section 14.2 of the MSA Committee Regulations. A second round of nominations to the committee was done at the request of several faculty representative societies, which allowed the committees of each society to nominate at their discretion an additional person.

Motion #5:

This MSC accepts the appointment of the following nominees for the Academic Affairs Committee for 2023:

School of Music:	James Pace
Monash Business School:	George Dikranis
Faculty of Law:	Maryam Almufti
School of Medicine:	Jack Zuckerman
School of Biomedical Science:	Audrey Middleton

Moved: Paris Enten **Seconded:** Isabelle Cummane

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

I. Motion condemning discriminatory enrolment conditions in several Australian universities

Preamble: Five Australian universities have either banned or restricted students from certain Indian states in response to a rise in 'fraudulent applications', meaning they don't meet Australian visa requirements set forth by the Department of Home Affairs. These universities include:

- Victorian University;
- Edith Cowan University;
- University of Wollongong;
- Torrens University; and
- (Potentially) Southern Cross University

Students from the following states have been targeted by these bans and restrictions: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab.

These universities have cited their decisions as being based upon reports from the Department of Home Affairs, which highlighted a surge in applications from India.

Unsurprisingly, this has been because in 2022 the 20-hour per week work cap for international students was temporarily lifted. Additionally, these universities have been considering or are in the process of expanding bans and restrictions to impact students from Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Mongolia and other countries that are deemed “at risk” of not being genuine temporary entrants by the Department of Home Affairs.

The MSA wrote to the Vice Chancellor, who replied with a confirmation that Monash accepts applications for admissions from prospective students regardless of their geographical location.

Motion #6:

This MSA deems these bans and restrictions as an act of discrimination, that must be condemned by all other Australian universities.

This MSA condemns the actions taken by the five universities in enacting such restrictions, which were clearly done without proper and appropriate contemplation of the consequences attached and the discriminatory message that is being conveyed.

The MSA continues to pledge its support to international students and those impacted by systematic racism in admissions processes and education systems.

The MSA will continue to monitor Monash University’s decisions around its admissions processes and thereby ensure that it adheres to its anti-racism statement.

Moved: Shiqi Lei **Seconded:** Natasha Tiong

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Josiah Downey noted that the motion was much needed and appreciated. He expressed the importance of student unions in fighting against racist and discriminatory policies implemented by universities.

J. Motion regarding the Federal Budget for 2023-24

Preamble: The MSA has worked with the National Union of Students (NUS), alongside many other Australian Universities, to make demands from the current Labor government. On budget day, Tuesday the 9th of May 2023, the MSA was proud to support the protest in Canberra, for the following demands that were made in consultation with other NUS-affiliated universities:

- Change the age of Centrelink Independence from 22 to 18: Currently, 450,000 young Australians are locked out of Centrelink due to this policy.

- Raise the rate of Youth Allowance: The NUS joins the call of ACOSS and the Government's Economic Advisory Committee to raise the rate of Youth Allowance to \$437 per week.
- Increase Rent Assistance in line with market rates of rent
- Wipe student debt, with an immediate freeze of HECS indexation: With indexation at 7.1% students making the compulsory repayments will still see their debt increase.
- End unpaid placements: The NUS urges the Government to establish financial assistance such as a stipend so that students aren't relying on their savings to live while undertaking hundreds of hours of unpaid work.

Motion #7:

The MSA commits itself to continue supporting the NUS in their pursuit of the aforementioned goals.

The MSA will strive to educate students as to what the current budget will mean for students, and how it will impact their education.

Moved: John Nguyen **Seconded:** Sidratul Ahmed

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Aisha expressed her satisfaction in the motion, given how appalling the Budget is especially in increasing the Youth allowance by slightly over \$2/day and rent assistance by \$15 per week despite the current living costs crisis. She applauded the NUS for their criticism of the Budget.

Beck stands with the motion, in criticising the Budget with billions of dollars going towards fossil fuels, workers and students getting little from the Budget. He stated that more condemnation is warranted, especially with respect to the AUKUS deal.

Shan expressed how pathetic the Budget is and how it was tailored for the rich and wealthy.

Tully agreed with what has been mentioned. They elaborated further on the AUKUS deal, in that \$300B that is to be spent on nuclear submarines, in contrast to the \$2.80 increase per day for Youth Allowance. Tully drew attention to the links of this issue to Monash University, particularly how the University has agreed to do research into the area of nuclear submarines.

Josiah highlighted that the NUS education officer has called for several rallies to be held over the coming week to protest against the Budget. He extended an invite to the MSA to participate in a solidarity photo on Tuesday 16/5, to visually represent MSA's stance against the government and the Budget alongside other patrons.

Aidan agreed with Josiah, and the significance of this action in critiquing the Labor government for neglecting students. They called for greater concrete actions, to create support to fight against the rising living crisis and attacks on students through the Budget.

Sidratul Ahmed noted that the MSA will look into the research Monash has signed into doing with respect to nuclear submarines, and have it included in the next MSC.

K. Motion regarding prevalence of discrimination on and off campus

Preamble: Recent instances of discrimination on campus have been overwhelming for many students. Islamophobia, antisemitism, homophobia and general bigotry have been experienced by many Monash students, both on and off campus. Students have called for quicker response times by the university and Monash Student Organisations. In consultation with various clubs and societies, including those that represent religious and cultural groups, a new anti-racism campaign is being engendered.

Motion #8:

The MSA commits to fostering an anti-discrimination campaign that is created in consultation with clubs and societies.

The MSA's anti discrimination campaign will be deemed as the first step in a larger plan to combat bigotry on and off campus. This larger plan will involve the implementation of a new notification process, through which club executives, C&S representatives, MSA Office Bearers and committee members will be able to notify the MSA executive of instances of discrimination on campus.

Moved: Oli Shemmell **Seconded:** Paris Enten

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Aisha reiterated that the MSA should be a student body that students can turn to in seeking help, having faced oppression including discriminatory attacks. She noted discrimination in the Budget, where the Liberals party argued that the housing crisis has been caused by immigration. She stated that students will experience discrimination in the real world, not just on campus. Accordingly, the MSA should act towards tackling the issue and take a stance on this, beyond discrimination on campus.

L. General Business

Meeting Closed at 11:38am