

# Monash Student Council

## Confirmed Minutes

Meeting 11/05 of the Monash Student Council was held on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> August at 11.30am in the conference room.

### 1. Attendance:

Nyssa Hadgrast (proxy for Ruth Parker)  
Sam Kastelan (proxy for David Taft)  
Miles Brennan  
Carmal Carlin-Smith  
Mari Linnik (left at 12pm)  
Kane Wishart  
Jono Walters (chair)  
Juan Munoz (minutes)  
Con Helas  
Danya Bryx  
Ollie Bennett  
Matt Hansen  
Mel McLay (left at 12pm)

### Apologies:

Tali Sternfein  
Anthony Walls

### Observers:

Phil Norton  
Mel Szydzik

### 2. Acknowledgment of traditional owners of land

This MSC acknowledges and pays respect to the people 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.

### 3. Confirmation of agenda order

Agenda item number 12, the NDA, was moved above agenda item number 9, NUS affiliation fees.

### 4. Confirmation of previous minutes

**Attachment 01/11**

MSC 10/05

**Motion #1 (Moved from the Chair):** “That this MSC confirms the minutes of MSC 10/05 as a true and accurate record.”

**For:** 4

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions: 7**

**Motion carried**

**5. Summary of exec financial motions**

**Attachment 02/11**

The summary was noted

**6. Reports**

**Attachment 03/11**

**(continued from MSC 10/05)**

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Activities Chairs

**No Secretary Report submitted**

**Treasurers Report:**

No questions

**Female Queer Officer Report:**

No questions

**Male Queer Officer Report:**

No questions

**President's report:**

**Activities Report:**

**Motion #2:** "That this MSC accepts these reports on block."

**Moved from the chair:**

**For: 9**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 0**

**Motion carried unanimously**

**Nick Richardson and Sharon Roussos arrived.**

**7. MSA elections**

**Attachment 04/11**

**7.1. Tender**

**7.2. Polling locations**

**7.3. Electoral regulations**

Ollie: MSC has not formally accepted the tender process. Only Above Quota Elections submitted a tender. This was emailed to all MSC members, but only Miles responded to the email.

Jono: If everybody could read the elections material.

Carmal: Is Lot's Wife going to do the Election Guide this year?

Sam: spoken to one of the Lot's editors, and they seem to be willing to do the election guide.

Sam: We need to use them

Con: Polling times. Would like to introduce 10am starting times for polling times and 4pm finishing time. When we extend the polling times to the night, does not seem necessary as there is no-one here on night polling times. Does not seem to be concerned with the 'anonymous polling staff,' as long as they are employed from the election company. Would not be worthwhile to introduce more polling sites, and alternative election materials, such as BBQ and debate sounds like a good idea.

Ollie: Would like to say many things, but is not prepared, especially frustrating that many people who are meant to be here are not here. Would suggest the removal of above the line voting so that it removes the effectiveness of feeder tickets. Would like to suggest deferral of discussion until later today.

Con: Will run out of time, so would suggest that we stick to the issue.

Mel: Multiple issues. What company we use can be decided today, and the other issue the process of elections cannot be decided today. They will have some sort of timeline, so do we know what their cut off date is?

Ollie: We are not prepared and Stephen is not here. Need to confirm the polling times. If we could also confirm that we are going to them is a bare minimum for today.

Con: Support Mel's procedural way of doing things for MSC. Polling times are burdensome for everyone. Would suggest a reduction in polling times.

Mel: Next MSC is in two weeks, so can those things be decided in two weeks?

Ollie: Not sure.

Mel: Concerned about accessibility issues, if we reduce polling times and reducing polling sites. In favour of longer polling times.

Sam: Reduced polling times is worth having a discussion about, but thinks there is some constitutional element to it. Extended polling times on Tuesday may be constitutional.

Ollie: Understanding is that polling times has no constitutional requirements, only the days of the week that polling is open.

Con: Extended polling times are not used by students, even though we may want students to use them. Students do not utilise extended polling times.

Carmal: Can see it from that point of view, but is of the opinion that we should have extended polling times.

Con: The idea that we should extend polling times so that 3 or 4 people can vote is a bit ridiculous, because those students who want to vote will vote at the allocated polling times.

**Motion # 3:** “That we formally accept Above Quota Elections to conduct the 2005 MSA elections.”

**Moved:** Ollie Bennett

**Seconded:** Matt Hansen

**For:** 12

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**Motion passed**

Nick: It's cost saving in an expensive democracy.

Con: Cost is not part of this argument, but about extended polling times not being utilised by students. Students who come to campus will vote in the times that we provide to them. This is not a reduction in democracy.

Kane: That last year we had 3 votes after 6:15. We must remember that to keep the votes going after then is a cost drain. If we advertise the polling times.

Mel: Context: polling times have been open for longer times in the past, and this is a further cut. Democracy is not only about opening for the majority, but also other groups. In response to the RO has written, we go with option 1, with a modification of 9:30 on the Thursday.

Nick: Less people can vote if we reduce polling times. Regardless about the amount of people that vote, it is about giving people the opportunity to vote. Do we save \$500 or do we want to continue maximising democracy. The financial benefit of cutting the hours is insignificant.

Con: Attack this idea that we are reducing the opportunity to vote. It is not a fair or accurate statement. Anecdotally, it is people who are already planning to vote who vote, not about giving people the opportunity to vote. For tickets running for elections, it would make it easier on them.

Ollie: Students have four whole days to vote as well as the opportunity of postal votes.

**Motion #4:** “That polling times be conducted as follows:

*10am – 4:30pm Monday*

*10am – 6:30pm Tuesday*

*10am – 4:30pm Wednesday*

*9am- 4:30pm Thursday”*

**Moved:** Ollie Bennett

**Seconded:** Matt Hansen

**For:** 7

**Against:** 4

**Abstentions:** 1 (Juan)

**Motion passed**

Kane: Can any of these recommendations be implemented this year?

Ollie: Don't know the answer to this question. These are recommendations ignored by MSC every year and everyone hates the elections but never does anything to change them

Mel: We need to discuss this eventually, but if we don't have sufficient information, there is no point in battling over specific recommendations. What we need to set now is tasks for what is necessary for us to decide for these recommendations.

Ollie will take on the task of getting this information ready.

Con: That we have an MSC solely dedicated to the way in which we run elections.

#### **7.4. Climate change referendum**

**Con took over the minutes from Juan.**

Mel: have sourced external funding from private sources. That funding amounts to \$1000. These sorts of proposals have been successful in the United States. While Monash has stated its commitment to the environment, it has no concrete solutions to the issue. These proposals are an effective way to positively affect climate change. There are three questions to be considered. There are structural changes that can have an effect. A recent energy audit showed the Science centre used on 0.2% of the University's energy usage while the Strip used 16% of the University's energy usage. On site power generation, while incurring a cost, can be mitigated by giving the proposal a research dimension. The University of California has installed solar power generation. Residual energy usage can be reduced and can save the University money, which can mitigate other costs of implementing clean

energy. Discussions with the University administration have been beneficial. They have positively responded to the Climate Change Group, which is run by students. The student referendum will not cost students money as an external group will provide the funding necessary for the referendum. The targets are achievable. What we need is for MSC to provide direction and give its support to the proposals.

**Phil Norton entered at 12:43 pm**

**Motion #5:** “That this MSC supports the clean energy referendum and the three targets which will be asked as referendum questions.”

**Moved:** Mel Szydzik

**Seconded:** Sam Kastelan

**For:** 11

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**Motion carried unanimously**

**Stephen Luntz (returning officer) entered at 12:46 pm**

There was further discussion about student elections.

Juan: We should call a special MSC for next week. We currently have no time and we will lose quorum shortly.

**Stephen left at 12:48 pm**

## **8. VSU contingency**

Juan: The core values statement will be submitted by David.

Jono: Need to give support to the time line.

Nick: the core values statements will have more value when the process is complete. It is not yet formalised. At some point MSC will need to make some decisions. Our decision can be based on the core values statements or on the further information that will be provided in future. Members need to read the documents before we can fully engage. The time line to implement these proposals will also need to be considered. The MSA will continue to operate as it currently is until May or June 2006. Voluntary subscriptions need to be discussed:

Jono: Do we have a response from the staff to the time line.

Phil: Not yet. Will be available at the next MSC.

Jono: Is there anything else we need to decide.

Nick: What we decide today will not be meaningful as there is currently a group working on these issues.

Phil: It would be great to see the timeline as it would be a good step to disseminate that.

Juan: The document does not read too well. Its focus is too narrow and it should be broadened. The timeline constraints suggest we need to have this decided by October.

Jono: Have been in discussions with the University. The 18<sup>th</sup> of October is the submissions date. We do not have that much time left.

Juan: We should move a motion giving effect to protecting the MSA in its current form. We should call on the University to give the MSA a block grant so we can independently run our services.

Sam: This is a very symbolic measure better left to a SGM

**MSC went to break at 12:59 pm**

**MSC resumed 2.05pm**

**Monique holding Danya's proxy Steph Puskza holding David's & Joshua Bakanursky holding Mari's. Carmal & Matt not present. Nick minuting**

**Motion #6:** "That this MSC calls an SGM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August to address VSU contingency, specifically the position of the MSA with the university. Further, this MSC directs lots wife to dedicate two pages to debate around the issues."

**Moved:** Nick Richardson

**Seconded:** David Taft

**For:** 10

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 1

**Motion passed unanimously**

In regards to the core values.

We need something in writing with some substance to take to the University. This could be the core values or it could be from the SGM.

The SGM is something that will be a bit more symbolic because there will not be that much discussion. Is there any other stuff about the core values from the original meeting?

There are the dot point versions of the core values.

## **9. NUS affiliation fees**

Jono – My feelings are that NUS is not something that we should be funding with \$100K and funding NUS is not something that will be best for the student movement.

Sharon – can the chair not lead discussion?

Tafty – we should pay 2005 affiliation fees, my concern is that there is no meaningful rationale for not paying. Everyone is paying and we have an obligation to pay for the functioning of the organisation. There is no meaningful alternative to NUS and we should work from within the structure to change the organisation.

Juan – NUS is the National Union of Students, there are national office bearers in many areas and organise conferences and contribute to campaigns. We should pay affiliation fees, but it seems to serve the factions rather than students themselves. But this is not reason to not fund the union.

Con – fight the factions

Phil – if we have budgeted for it then is there an issue of whether or not we should pay or not. Perhaps we have already made the commitment.

Jono – we budgeted for that amount but it still needs to be passed by MSC.

Sharon – NUS shits me to tears but we should be supporting a National Union of students.

Tafty – It is really important that the Union survives so that there is something that can work against VSU once it has been implemented. The only way that we can repeal the legislation is with the National Union of Students.

Procedural: to reopen the speaking list

**For:** 4

**Against:** 6

**Abstentions:** 0

### **Procedural lost**

Josh – what is the money spent on?

The money is spent on staff and obs as well as campaign materials.

Authorisation of payment of NUS affiliation fees were postponed.

## 10. Forbes 500

Con- I will be on the front line amongst the cops with my baton...bring it on.

Sharon – Is this thing actually going to go ahead?

Tafty – Is there somebody here that can speak to this and knows things about it?

Jono – This is a protest similar to the s11 protest in 2000. The point is not to shut down the thing because it is something that cannot be done. There is also the sub-plot conference that is being organised before the forbes conference. There is a flier attached.

Tafty – I support that we fund people to go to the protest and it is something that would go to a broad group of people. Am not in favour of funding sub-plot.

Juan - Even though you might not get funding...the buses would go early so as to facilitate their participation in the conference. There should not be further cost.

Tafty – as I said we should not fund people to go to sub-plot...

Juan – sub-plot is not the same as an ALS conference because you do not have to be a member to go...it is as open as forbes. It is open to a lot of ideas, so it is not the same as an ALS conference.

**Motion:** “ That this MSC pass \$3000 to fund students travel to and from Sydney to attend the Forbes 500 protest at Sydney Opera house.”

Tafty – how widely is there interest?

Jono – There is a lot of people that are willing to attend and meetings are in the new bar.

Sharon – it is important that this is disseminated widely.

Juan – this sub-plot is not a limited conference and so why should we not fund this as we have funded people to attend the Law conference.

Ollie – this money is entirely for the cost of the bus not food or accommodation. People will be covering/acquiring the costs for other things themselves.

Sharon – something like this is difficult to control who is attending the conference as such. There is no figure for registration so what are we talking about.

**Motion #7:** “That this MSC pass \$3000 to fund students travel to and from Sydney to attend the Forbes 500 protest at Sydney Opera house.”

**For:** 8

**Against:** 1

**Abstentions:** 1

**Motion carried**

## 11. NDA

Juan – for the last NDA the MSA had a bit of a shut down and this is a possible option for the NDA. It should be the priority of people to attend the protest. Staff should be given the afternoon off and that all MSA spaces should be shut down.

Tafty – Multicultural festival means that many are precluded from doing this.

Phil – this is the same for SwiCh.

Jono – can people clarify what is happening?

Nick – the NDA will go from the library past the liberal HQ to a meeting at the corner of Swanston and Flinders St.

Ollie – this is the first time that the idea of a shut down has been raised. It is too soon – maybe not penalise those staff that go to the Aug 10 protest and have a shut down for Aug 25<sup>th</sup>.

Phil – this has not been discussed at a staff meeting yet, the general feeling is that staff wish to be as active as possible so if there is an action then it would have full support to go down there. As far as closures go, this prevents people going.

**Motion (tabled):** “That this MSC supports a shut down on the days of 10<sup>th</sup> of August and 25<sup>th</sup> august. That staff be given the afternoon off from 1pm on those days. That staff be encouraged to attend the rally. That given Multicultural week is on Wednesday august 10 that MUISS and C&S may not be able to shut down. That SWICH also remain open.”

**Moved:** Juan Munoz

**Seconded:** Sharon Roussos

There is concern over the purpose of a shut down is it just going to hurt students. It was effective last semester in highlighting services that will be lost.

Perhaps we can have a proper shut down for the second NDA. So that it is more planned and is a more effective stunt.

If we had the SGM on the date of the protest then it would be a good rallying point about VSU.

Maybe, if there is not going to be a shut down then perhaps there is no point in having a motion. Let's change the date of the shut down to simply the 25<sup>th</sup> of august. The other thing is that the 25<sup>th</sup> is meant to be a point staff and student one.

**Motion withdrawn.**

**Motion #8:** "That staff be given the afternoon off in order to attend the anti-VSU rally on August 10<sup>th</sup>."

**Moved:** David Taft

**Seconded:** Juan Munoz

**For:** 9

**Against:** 2

**Abstentions:** 0

**Motion carried**

**Motion #9:** "That the MSA have a shut down on august 25<sup>th</sup> for the NDA rally."

**For:** 9

**Against:** 2

**Abstentions:** 0

## **12. MSA Position on Turnitin**

**Preamble:** Monash University's proposed introduction of Turnitin software as a 'plagiarism detection tool' poses substantial risks. Given that Turnitin breaches students' intellectual property rights, is punitive in nature and has a substantial capacity for abuse and misuse, the MSA believes that Turnitin should only be used as an educative tool, and as part of a broader strategy of educating students about plagiarism. Using a tool that erodes intellectual property rights to "protect intellectual property rights" is counterproductive, and does little to address and counteract the causes of plagiarism.

**Motion #10 (tabled):** The MSA recognises that plagiarism is a serious problem at university. However, given its substantial problems and limitations, the MSA opposes the use of Turnitin software as a punitive mechanism for plagiarism detection. The MSA calls upon Monash University to not introduce Turnitin in 2006 if it is used as a punitive mechanism. Furthermore, the MSA calls upon the university to improve plagiarism education programs as a way of addressing plagiarism concerns.

**Moved:** David Taft

**Seconded:** Juan Munoz

Tafy ran through the Preamble and explanation of what turn-it-in is. The problem is that it is a breach of intellectual property also there is no possibility to redress this because the database is based in Canada. At RMIT this has lead to an abuse of disciplinary processes.

Con questioned whether it is prone to mistakes...Tafty responded that the software just matches texts not checking actual plagiarism. Also turn-it-in means that the only evidence will be the turn-it-in result.

Also this means that people can only type stuff.

### **Motion #10 put**

**For:** 10

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

### **13. Multicultural festival**

MUISS will be having an Australian 'flavour' for the multi-cultural festival in terms of food and bands.

It is necessary to pass money to cover the costs of the food. This can be passed at an executive meeting.

### **14. The bar**

#### **Rosi Granland arrived 3.10pm**

**Motion (tabled):** "That this MSC recognises the student takeover of the bar as a legitimate assertion of student control of student affairs. Further, this MSC recognises the bar collective as the only body with legitimate responsibility for the future of the bar."

**Moved:** Nick Richardson

There is concern over the make up of the group in the bar and also that the future of the bar cannot be determined by this body.

There was a plan for the MSA to purchase the bar.

Nick made a speech...

Jono – There is concern that the motion is a bit vague.

Sharon – I have concern about what the direction of things are.

Tafty – we should not do this until we clarify the options.

Nick – where is the MSA's authority over the issue?

Tafty – our authority comes from the money that we put into the bar.

Sharon – I agree with Nick's sentiments, if the MSA is not going to have a say and shit goes down, then what are we going to do. They are going to need help from the MSA at some point.

Juan – What I would like to see is that the MSA is willing to support the bar, but also people have put themselves in risk and there should be recognition that those people will not be put at risk by other people. If we take control then we will be dis-empowering the people involved. If the MSA went behind the bars back, then it will leave this group in a really difficult position.

Taft – One of the concerns is, given the collective has not made decisions about whether they wish to be in continuous control of the space. We should not do this until we have worked out issues about what we want from the bar next year. It is also, an issue that a collective may become too exclusive.

Sharon – In terms of the collective body – I disagree that it is an open collective. It is not something that is open to everyone. Maybe we should have a motion.

Mari – this does not limit things the motion only puts in things about recognition of their control.

Nick talked.

Ollie – I guess we can have this debate again when MSA decides to interfere with the bar, as far as things go. Also, it would be good to know what is happening with the money from the bar.

Sharon – As long as it does not turn into a strip joint, if that occurs then the place will be burnt down.

Tafty – what if a situation arises where the space is not safe, and we loose the ability to control the bar we will not be able to make determinations of things. What happens if people are thrown out and we purchase the bar then they will have control of the space. If we do want to make an arrangement then it has to be mutually beneficial. We should not clarify a position. This body has no actual control of the bar, it is not part of the MSA and if it does then it does not have control of the bar but the collective does.

### **Con Helas left 3.30pm**

Mari – We don't want to take their autonomy then can't we intervene in other ways as we do with other things. I see David's concerns that it is an all binding decision for the future. If they are forced out then the question becomes irrelevant anyhow.

Motions separated

**Procedural:**

To open speaking list.

**Put:**

Passed

Nick – talked

About collectives versus formalised representational power...

Tafty – at least with MSC you can know about what is happening with the process. If the bar collective wanted to make the venue into a strip joint then there would be no redress. What if SAS moved in? It is better to have MSA with ultimate control and a collective management as experienced in Wholefoods.

Sharon – Juan’s motion seems to state things in a vague way. It is still important that we are able to have control of the bar, so as to stop them from being able to do things like tie women up and put them on a stove. Can’t support this motion,

Ollie - The MSA already has significant involvement, including resources

**Motion #11:** “That this MSC recognises the student takeover of the bar as a legitimate assertion of student control of student spaces. “

**Moved:** Nick Richardson

**Seconded:** Juan Munoz

**For:** 10

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 0

**Motion carried unanimously**

**Motion #12:** “Further, this MSC recognises the bar collective as the only body with legitimate responsibility for the future of the bar.”

**Moved:** Nick Richardson

**Seconded:** Juan Munoz

**For:** 2

**Against:** 4

**Abstentions:** 4

**Motion lost**

**Meeting ended 3.50pm**