

MONSU CAULFIELD INC

Student Council Executive 2024

Meeting SCE 24.1

Held 23 February 2024 via Level 2 Meeting Room, MONSU, Building S

Minutes

Present:	Angela Liao, Theodore Susetio, Oliver Yin, Eunseo Lee, San-Nhi Chung
Other:	Max Newton (General Manager), Qeeran Lee (Minute taker)
Proxies:	
Apologies:	
Absent:	

Preamble

MONSU Caulfield acknowledges and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging of the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri Peoples of the Kulin nation, the traditional owners of the land on which MONSU Caulfield operates.

Meeting Open

Time opened:	3.12
Quorum:	Reached at 3.12pm

Business Arising**1. Appointment of Activities Officer**

Motion SCE 24.1-1: MONSU Student Council Executives resolves to elect San-Nhi Chung to represent Activities portfolio on the MONSU Executive Council.

Moved: Angela Liao

Seconded: Theodore Susetio

For: Unanimous
Against: None
CARRIED

2. NTEU Parking Rates**Discussion:**

Discussion surrounding an email sent to MONSU from NTEU to reduce parking rates/fees across campuses.

It was noted that there was a 47% increase for blue peak hour parking for students, and a 106% increase for red peak hour parking for staff.

Eunseo noted that a lot of on-campus parking users have had a difficult time accepting the new prices, hence the communication to MONSU to support NTEU in reducing the financial burden and stress placed on users. The goal proposed by NTEU was to ultimately revert parking rates to the 2021 pricing model which was deemed to be much fairer.

Overall support was discussed and it was agreed that the increased pricing would negatively affect students and staff and provide a stronger reason not to study/work on-campus.

Motion SCE 24.1-2: MONSU Student Council Executives resolves to support NTEU on reducing parking rates across Monash campuses.

Moved: Theodore Susteio

Seconded: San-Nhi Chung

For: Unanimous
Against: None
CARRIED

3. O-Fest Cruise	
Motion SCE 24.1-2: MONSU Student Council Executives resolves to discount Cruise Party tickets to \$15 for all MONSU Student Representatives	Moved: Theodore Susteio
	Seconded: San-Nhi Chung
	For: Unanimous Against: None CARRIED

Confidential Business
N/A

General Business	
Item 1: Executive meeting schedule	
Notes:	Schedule will only be done for semester 1 as the timetable for classes will change for semester 2. Tuesday 5pm, on-campus, fortnightly.
Item 2: Financial Budget Review – Honorariums	
Discussion: It was noted that the monetary amount for Honorariums has been the same for 5 years. Max said that the Federal Government increases SSAF by the percentage increase of the cost of living. Therefore, the executives came to the conclusion that it was logical to match the honorariums to the percentage increase of the cost of living as well.	
Motion SCE 24.1-4: MONSU Student Council Executives resolves to pass the 2024 financial budget with the raise of honorariums by 7% starting from April 1st.	Moved: Angela Liao
	Seconded: Oliver Yin
	For: Unanimous Against: None CARRIED
Item 3: Respect at Monash Committee Agenda, EDI Department	

Discussion:

Eunseo requested for any items that the Student Council Executives wanted to include on the agenda so that she can pass this on.

Theodore requested two items to be considered on the agenda:

1. Initiatives that are accessible to International students who aren't able to speak English.
2. Mental health awareness for international students where it is perceived as taboo.

Papers Provided for Information:

Item 1	Motion SCE 24.1-2 Support Document 1
Item 2	Motion SCE 24.1-2 Support Document 2
Item 2	General Business Item 3 Supporting Document 1

Date of next meeting:

12 March 2024, 5pm

Meeting Close

Time closed:

4.00pm

Minutes authorised by:**Eunseo Lee, President****Oliver Yin, Vice President**

OFFICE OF THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR, MAJOR CAMPUSES AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT VICE-CHANCELLOR'S STUDENT PRESIDENTS ADVISORY FORUM (VCSPAF) MEETING 3/2023

MINUTES

Meeting date: Monday 27 November, 2023
Meeting time: 10:30am – 12:30pm
Meeting venue: Level 2, Room 203 (The Boardroom), 27 Chancellors Walk (Chancellery), Clayton campus

MEETING INFORMATION

ATTENDEES

- Professor Susan Elliott, *Interim President and Vice-Chancellor (Chair)*
- Peter Marshall AM, *Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice-President*
- Professor Allie Clemans, *Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and Senior Vice-President*
- Professor David Copolov AO, *Pro Vice-Chancellor (Major Campuses and Student Engagement)*
- Trevor Woods, *Vice President (Services)*
- Simon Kupec, *Executive Director, Campus Community Division*
- Joanne Calmer, *Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice-President, and Director, Student Conduct and Complaints*
- Sahampath Hettiarachchi, *President, Monash Graduate Association*
- Elena Wall, *2023 President, MONSU Peninsula*
- Bessie (Chunyi) Qian, *2023 President, Monash Parkville Student Union*
- Calvin Chow, *Spokesperson, Monash International Student Association*
- Mahmoud Anwar, *President, Monash Residential Services Residents Committee*
- Jarryd Redwood, *Committee Secretary*
- Chloe Ward, *2024 President, Monash Student Association*
- Eunseo Lee, *2024 President, MONSU Caulfield*
- Alexandra Marwood, *2024 President, MONSU Peninsula*
- Daisy (Tran Thao Hien) Phan, *2024 President, Monash Parkville Student Union*
- Xiaoyan Gao, *2024 President, Monash Residential Services Residents Committee*

APOLOGIES

- Mahmoud Anwar, *2023 President, Monash Residential Services Residents Committee*
- Ishka De Silva, *Student Member of Council*
- Qamra Hussain, *President, MONSU Caulfield*

- Sebastian Schultz, *President, Monash Student Association*
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DISCUSSION

ITEM TOPIC

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Vice-Chancellor opened the meeting by acknowledging that the Committee was meeting on the lands of the Kulin Nations, and paid her respects to their Elders past and present. The Vice-Chancellor also paid her respects to the traditional owners of the lands of those members and invited guests attending the meeting via Zoom.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed all Committee members and guests.

She noted the apologies from Mahmoud Anwar, Ishka De Silva, Qamra Hussain, and Sebastian Schultz.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING 2/2023

The Minutes were confirmed.

4. ACTION REPORT FROM MEETING 2/2023

Withdrawn Incomplete Grade applications

Professor Allie Clemans, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), reported that further information has been provided online that will give further clarity around Withdrawn Incomplete Grade applications as an exceptional option for students.

2023 Placement Experience Survey

Elena Wall, 2023 President of MONSU Peninsula, reported that the 2023 Placement Experience Survey would remain open for submissions until December as many students are currently on placement. Alexandra Marwood, 2024 President of MONSU Peninsula, will discuss the findings of the report during Meeting 1/2024.

Professor Clemans noted that the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) have discussed some of the issues raised in the last meeting with the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Professor Clemans also raised that the Education portfolio and the Office of the Chief Operating Officer provide financial support for students during placement. This support predominantly covers student transport costs.

Tram services along Royal Parade

The Vice-Chancellor reported that her office has raised the issue of congestion along Royal Parade with Yarra Trams, as well as the provision of tram services to cater for the growing demands in the region. Yarra Trams acknowledged that the current works to build the new Parkville Station has exacerbated the congestion and thanks staff and students for their patience. A new accessible tram stop will open on November 30th at the intersection Grattan Street,

Elizabeth Street and Royal Parade that will provide direct access to the new Parkville Station. The inner lanes of Elizabeth Street and Royal Parade between Haymarket Roundabout and Genetics Lane will permanently close so to provide better movement of traffic and improve safety around the new Parkville Station super-stop. The new Parkville Station will slash the travel time from Anzac Station from 25-minutes to eight-minutes.

5. **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BUSINESS**

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the University is actively engaged and concluding the process of selecting the next Vice-Chancellor; the Vice-Chancellor noted that, consequently, this would be the only Vice-Chancellor's Student Presidents Advisory Forum that she would be chairing, with the new Vice-Chancellor chairing Meeting 1/2024. The Vice-Chancellor noted that it was a strong field of applicants for the role, and that a significant focus of the selection committee was placed on choosing a candidate with an understanding of student issues and concerns, both in an academic- and extra-curricular-sense.

6. **MONASH GRADUATE ASSOCIATION**

Sahampath Hettiarachchi, President of the Monash Graduate Association (MGA) presented the MGA Report (Attachment X) to the Committee.

Increase in student engagement

Sahampath reported an increase in student engagement throughout 2023, including a 50% increase in sign-ups for the MGA volunteering program, with 150 active participants having volunteered over 1,900 hours across the year, of which 31 volunteers volunteered over 20 hours. Due to this spike in engagement, MGA have augmented the program with a leadership component which will encourage specific volunteers to lead divisions within the program. Each leader will receive training tailored to their specific role.

This increase in student engagements is also seen through the 48 graduate groups managed by the MGA, which have run over 250 events throughout 2023, including a Plant 'n' Sip, Datathon 2023, weekly soccer, and over 18 conferences.

Allocation of space in the Campus Centre

Sahampath claimed that the process for the allocation of space within the Campus Centre was not clear or transparent. As a result, MGA were informed that some space which had become available in the Campus Centre was subsequently assigned to another stakeholder before MGA was made aware of the available space. Sahampath requested that the University nominate a dedicated staff member from the Buildings and Property Division (BPD) to oversee the allocation of space in the Campus Centre and implement a system that is transparent and equitable for all stakeholders.

Peter Marshall, Chief Operating Officer, noted that the allocation of space in the Campus Centre has been decided by agreements between the Monash student organisations and the University.

When space does become available, BPD assesses what other uses the spaces the space may be used for, as has been the case with space vacated by vacating retailers such as the bank branches. Mr Marshall claimed that the current process for the allocation of space in the Campus Centre administered by BPD should be transparent and equitable, and that BPD should not engage in any 'side-deals' with specific parties, and to his knowledge has not engaged in such action. If this is occurring, that is not the intention of the University. Mr Marshall reported that additional space in the Campus Centre was due to become available as a result of the relocation of specific University staff from the building, after which BPD will seek proposals from the existing Monash student organisations on how the space should be allocated.

The nominated staff member for all enquiries or discussions of Campus Centre space allocation is Vicki White, Director of Customer Experience and Insights. Ms White's contact details will be included in the Minutes.

Action: Jarryd Redwood will include Vicki White's contact details in the Minutes.

SSAF transparency

Sahampath reported that MGA had been approached by a number of students asking for more details on the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) and how it's applied to different student cohorts. MGA have also noticed a discrepancy in the funding provided to MGA and the amount outlined in the SSAF report; while the SSAF report indicates that MGA received \$500,000 in SSAF funding, the MGA actually received \$2.5million in SSAF funding. To account for this discrepancy, and so as to remain accountable to constituents, Sahampath requested that the University provide a breakdown of how SSAF is collected and distributed to the Monash student organisations, including the amount paid by various cohorts (e.g. domestic students, international students, joint-degree students, online students).

Mr Marshall noted his appreciation of the MGA's request for transparency regarding SSAF funding arrangements. Some students, such as domestic students, are charged SSAF directly, while other students have the SSAF fee absorbed into the tuition fee they pay to the University. Under a transparent arrangement, the University collects the appropriate fees from the census date, distribute the money according to student load, and then report the amounts distributed in the annual report. Mr Marshall noted that there are some small cohorts for which the University does not charge a SSAF fee (e.g. exchange students). However, if they are receiving incorrect reports or discrepancies in reconciliation, Mr Marshall recommended they contact Marcus Spencer, the dedicated staff member within the Campus Community Division, who will provide whatever reconciliation information required.

Simon Kupec, Executive Director of the Campus Community Division, noted that the discrepancy noted by MGA may be due to the fact that SSAF paid by domestic students directly to University is reported differently than the contributions made by the University on behalf of international

students. Mr Kupec also noted that the reporting process has been significantly streamlined in response to government requests for less expansive reporting.

Parkville campus Graduate Lounge

Sahampath noted that Parkville is the only Monash campus without a Graduate Lounge space. Due to the significant increase in graduate coursework students enrolled at Parkville campus, as well as the University acquiring the former CSIRO site at Parkville for expansion, Sahampath requested that the University consider the provision of a Graduate Lounge at Parkville campus. Sahampath noted that a key goal of the University is to foster a sense of belonging amongst students in an attempt to create thriving community – one of the Monash 2030 Impact goals. The Graduate Lounge model has had significant success in encouraging a sense of community amongst graduate students, providing a place for graduate students to interact with MGA representatives and one another.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the refurbishment of the former CSIRO building recently purchased by the University will take a number of years to ensure. Mr Marshall added that a significant difficulty for student spaces on Parkville campus is the low student base, which results in a lower proportion of SSAF funding for such spaces. The University does not cross-subsidise student fees across campuses and will not take money from the larger campuses at Clayton and Caulfield to establish and operate a space on Parkville campus. The funding must therefore either come from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, or via the University capital plan. Mr Marshall noted that the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences are putting together a case to refurbish the former Campus Security space on the ground floor of Building 402 as a Graduate Lounge, but the University needs to find a way of funding it in an extremely constrained capital budget.

Mr Marshall also noted that the University had provided funding for an outdoor student space that, on a per capita basis, is above that received by students at other campuses.

Travel grants for HDR students

Sahampath reported that the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) cohort have been heavily impacted by financial stress, affecting their ability to attend academic conferences. These conferences provide opportunities to network and collaborate with academics. Sahampath noted that he has been in contact with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Training) Professor Nellie Georgiou-Karistianis, who agreed to establish a working group to review current HDR travel grants. Sahampath suggested that HDR travel grants can be better tailored so as to better support HDR students and promote the 2030 Impact Excellence and International goals.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the University currently has a budget over \$180 million in deficit as a result of the COVID Pandemic, and that a deficit, although very likely lower than that of this year, is very probable in 2024. As a result of this deficit, the capital budget needed to address necessary

upkeep and new spaces has been slashed from \$300 million per year to \$100 million. Therefore, there is no funding available to increase the number or value of available travel grants.

Sahampath noted that the working group's purpose would not be to recommend increasing funding for travel grants in the current financial environment, but rather to review the structure of the existing system and make recommendations to faculties.

University adherence to MSO Funding Agreement

Sahampath reported that the MGA believes that the University has not adhered to the MSO Funding Agreement. He noted two instances where MGA considers the University to have been in breach of the funding agreement. The MGA subsequently followed a clause in the funding agreement and notified the University of this alleged breach, but were met with an insufficient response. Sahampath therefore requested that the University make a commitment to comply to the funding agreement and respond in a timely manner when student organisations raise concerns regarding the funding agreement. He also requested that all future funding agreements include a clause that applies a penalty to the University if it is found to be in breach of the agreement.

Sahampath noted that the Interim Australian Universities Accord that institutions have a duty of care to students, and further that the alleged breaches by the University are not the only incidents. Sahampath suggested that student associations feel limited in their advocacy due to fear of financial retaliation by the institution. This threat of financial retaliation suggests a lack of trust in student organisation committees as the University can allegedly rely on the reticence of the student organisations to pursue action through the courts.

Mr Marshall noted that this issue has been prosecuted back and forth between the Office of the Chief Operating Officer and representatives of the MGA for a number of months. The University's position is as follows:

- During the last round of MGA elections, there were serious allegations made about the integrity of this election process. The allegations were so serious that, if found proven, it could have possibly led to the University no longer recognising the MGA as a Monash student organisation.
- The University requested that the Internal Auditor of the University investigate the allegations. The Internal Auditor subsequently found there was no basis to those serious allegations.
- However, the Internal Auditor did make five recommendations that Mr Marshall considers good-practice recommendations so that the MGA was insulated against similar allegations in the future.
- The University has therefore requested that the MGA acknowledge these five recommendations, implement them accordingly, and give a broad timeline for their implementation. After this process is complete, the University will release the remaining funds.

Mr Marshall noted that this issue is not about a constitutional matter about the independence of the organisation, but rather a matter of the integrity of an organisation to which the University provides millions of dollars of funding each year. Until the MGA makes the changes requested by the University, Mr Marshall will not submit the report clearing the MGA of any wrongdoing to the Audit Committee of Council. If the MGA does not accept these recommendations, there will be questions by the Audit Committee as to whether the MGA is a suitable body to be a registered student organisation and receive the requisite funding.

Sahampath requested that it be noted in the Minutes that MGA's official position is that, while they agree with the University's recommendations that are made in the Internal Auditor's report are reasonable, that as a matter of principle the University must not, in the MGA's opinion, enforce these recommendations for fear of financial retaliation.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the University stands by the position articulated by Mr Marshall above.

.7. **MONASH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORGANISATION**

Calvin Chow, spokesperson for the Monash International Student Association, presented the MISA Report (Attachment x) to the Committee.

Growing unaffordability of student accommodation

Calvin Chow, spokesperson for the Monash International Student Association, suggested that the price increases recently announced by Monash Residential Services (MRS) for 2024 set a new unaffordable bar for vulnerable international student and a new pricing benchmark for surrounding landlords. As of September, 2023, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was measures at 5.4 per cent year-on-year according to the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA). Calvin contended that the announced 2024 MRS price increases to \$333.20 per week for the Urban Community Ensuite and Kitchenette (a \$46.90, or 14%, increase from 2023) and \$279.30 per week for a Standard Room (a \$35.70, or 12.5% increase from 2023) was more than double the CPI rate reported by the RBA. Calvin argued that this increase mirrors the RBA's concern that some firms were indexing prices above inflation, and also sets a benchmark for neighbouring landlords to follow, thereby impacting vulnerable renters and especially international students.

Calvin therefore urged the University to freeze the rental hikes for 2024 and thereby setting a 'best practice' for surrounding landlords. He furthermore recommended that the University work closely with local government authorities to improve housing availability and address the tight rental market.

Mr Kupec noted that the operating environment in which the University finds itself is extremely financially tight, where expenses for the University in maintaining its accommodation have risen dramatically, including a 200 per cent increase in the provision of gas utilities. MRS has done an assessment of the market value of the accommodation offered by the University, an while the increase in pricing of 12.5% and 14% are significant, the accommodation on offer for next year is

still at 55–65% of the assessed market value. Furthermore, the rate of acceptance of offers for MRS accommodation going into 2024 has been the same as previous years, suggesting that there is an appetite from students who are returning to MRS at the new accommodation rates for next year. Mr Kupec noted that the University offers various forms of financial assistance, including scholarships, to assist all students.

Mr Kupec disputed the assertion that surrounding landlords benchmarked pricing against the University's pricing, citing that the University's offering differs from surrounding providers in that it is all-inclusive, with rent covering utilities, internet, parking, common spaces, communal facilities, some food, engagement activities, and pastoral care and support. The market value for this offering is well above that being requested by the University. These prices are also well below those of other providers of purpose-built student accommodation in Melbourne. While Mr Kupec accepted the impact that these price rises may have upon students, he suggested that MISA remind students struggling financially of the financial support available.

Action: Simon Kupec will provide MISA with a list of financial support programs available for students suffering financial insecurity.

Cost of living and PhD stipends

Reiterating the RBA's finding that CPI rate year-on-year is 5.4 percent as of September, Calvin reported that a significant number of international students were suffering from food insecurity (as reported in the *Monash Lens* in June 2023) and suggested that the high cost of living was jeopardising the financial security of student. Calvin recommended several proposals to assist international student in financial difficulty, including:

- Establishing a permanent food bank, like that established by the Queensland University of Technology;
- Setting up a no-frills grocery store on campus similar to Aldi;
- Lobbying the state government to introduce Myki concession initiatives for graduate students;
- Establish cafeterias at all campuses serving affordable foods; and
- Increase the PhD stipend in line with Group of Eight best practices (e.g. The University of Sydney).

Professor David Copolov, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Major Campuses and Student Engagement), noted that the Vice-Chancellor delegates \$100,000 per year to the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Major Campuses and Student Engagement), of which \$42,000 was distributed to Monash student organisations for the establishment and operation of initiatives and programs to combat food insecurity. He noted that the proportion of this funding being committed to such programs has increase tenfold over the past six years. The Institute for Health Transformation published a document titled [Uni-Food Australia 2023](#) which benchmarked nine universities across Australia using a number of criteria relating to governance system, campus facilities, and good

retail outlets to determine each institution's response to food insecurity. Monash University was rated best in this survey for response to food insecurity, ranking significantly better than numerous other universities in the study. This study shows the numerous steps that Monash has taken to address this issue, although Professor Copolov conceded that more work was required. Professor Copolov asked for the report to be attached to the Minutes.

Action: Jarryd Redwood will attach the Uni-Food Australia 2023 report to the Minutes.

Professor Copolov noted that the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Craig Jeffrey is an expert on food insecurity and is proposing the establishment of a working group to address food insecurity to consider a range of initiatives, including a number proposed by Calvin. Professor Copolov also acknowledged the difficulty in establishing low-cost food retailers on campuses, such as Caulfield campus, which had struggled to maintain any food retailers and these may undercut the pricing of other providers and make them financially unsustainable. Professor Copolov recommended that MISA representatives get in contact with Professor Jeffrey, as well as Professor Lucas Walsh who has done a significant amount of work in this area, to discuss further.

Action: Jarryd Redwood will provide contact details for Professor Craig Jeffrey and Professor Lucas Walsh in the Minutes.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that numerous parties, including the University, have advocated for the state government to introduce concession fares for graduate students. The University will continue to lobby the government for these changes. Joanne Calmer, Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice-President, and Director, Student Conduct and Complaints, noted that Public Transport Victoria offer and [International Student Travel Pass](#), which provides a 50% discount on public transport.

Action: Jarryd Redwood will provide a [link](#) to information about the International Student Travel Pass in the Minutes.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the University will be announcing the PhD stipend shortly, once the Commonwealth government provide the 2024 rates and the Group of Eight publish their stipend rates. The University is not in the position of The University of Sydney which, throughout the pandemic, had record surpluses; rather, the University is currently recording deficits, and is therefore constrained in what PhD stipend rise is possible. The University is, however, lobbying the Commonwealth government and Accord Panel to increase the Commonwealth government stipend.

International student levy and media commentary

Calvin expressed concern about the potential introduction of an international student levy as proposed by the Interim Australian Universities Accord. This levy would place an additional financial burden upon already struggling international students. Furthermore, MISA is concerned by comments made by economist Chris Richardson and Assistant Treasurer Stephen Jones

regarding the need to curb the number of international students coming to Australia. Calvin urged the University to consider international student as an important part of the Monash community.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the University, along with the other Group of Eight Universities, has been extremely active in opposition to the proposed international student levy. Monash has made multiple representations to the relevant minister and the Accord Panel, contributed to numerous op-eds in the media, and engaged in intense lobbying in opposition to the levy. The Vice-Chancellor also noted that the University is incredibly supportive of the role that international student play in the Monash community, making campuses more vibrant and diverse, while providing a plethora of important skills to the nation.

8. MONASH STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Chloe Ward, 2024 President of the Monash Student Association (MSA), introduced herself to the Committee and noted the apology from 2023 MSA President Sebastian Schultz. As Sebastian had given Chloe limited notice, she was unable to speak to the agenda items provided in the MSA Report by Sebastian.

Chloe noted that, as President of the MSA in 2024, she hoped to ignite a shared vision for position change for students, not only academically, but also for their overall experience at university. Chloe reflected that University should be a time growth, a time where young people can explore their passions and find out who they are. In her time at Monash, she has had rich experiences that have allowed her to grow as a person; however, Chloe has also experienced firsthand the challenged that students currently face in tertiary education. Chloe suggested that, as one of the leading institutions in the nation, it is important for Monash to embrace these challenges and innovate within the tertiary education sphere in order to establish Monash as the best university in the country, and become even more competitive worldwide.

Chloe expressed her feeling of great honour and privilege to present her peers, and noted that she will not take this opportunity for granted, working tirelessly to advocate for all students. Chloe outlined her vision for the MSA as one of positive, with her and her fellow representatives committing to enhancing the student experience, addressing the challenges that lie ahead, and helping to set a new standard of excellence in education. One of Chloe's main goals as President of MSA is to establish and MSA Food Bank which will provide students struggling with the ongoing cost of living and food insecurity crises with their basic pantry needs. Citing the [2021 Australian Youth Barometer](#) which found 20.8% of young Australians surveyed reported experiencing food insecurity in the previous year, Chloe highlighted the need for localised initiatives at ground level to ensure student are not just surviving, but rather thriving.

Chloe notes that many Monash alum consider their years at Monash to be the best of their lives; however, Chloe has seen the other side of life at university, full of stress, uncertainty, and a feeling that student voices are unheard amongst the clamour of institutional processes. During her

election campaign, Chloe had a number of students tell her that, while these were meant to be the best years of their lives, many students are struggling to just get by.

Chloe concluded her statement by noting that the platform she intends to carry throughout her presidency is one of empathy and understanding. She pledged to acknowledge the real-life experiences of all students, including the challenges they are confronted with. To overcome the challenges faced by students, Chloe urged collaboration between student organisations and the University.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Chloe for her comments and noted that the University was looking forward to working with Chloe and MSA in 2024.

9. MONSU CAULFIELD

Eunseo Lee, 2024 President of MONSU Caulfield, reported that:

- MONSU Caulfield implemented a number of initiatives to transform the Student Lounge in Building S, previously desolate due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, into a vibrant hub of student activity. This includes the introduction of a Breakfast Club held every Tuesday, the hosting of Stress Less Week in the space, live music, workshops, and complimentary snacks and coffee;
- MONSU Caulfield have allocated an additional \$500 as a start-up fund for newly established clubs to encouraged a wider variety of clubs and societies;
- Throughout Semester 2, the MONSU Workshop has been providing tours to design students, acquainting them with production equipment and wide array of services available to aid them in their final assessments;
- MONSU Caulfield is proud to extend its support the Monash Art, Design and Architecture program by undertaking all printing and production responsibilities for their forthcoming end of year graduate show in November 2023;
- Various MONSU Caulfield events and initiatives, including Midweek Meet, Breakfast Club, and Tracks on Tuesday, have experienced a significant increase in attendance compared to 2022;
- MONSU Caulfield's Safe 'n' Sexy Week was well attended by students. The event was part of MONSU Caulfield's commitment to fostering a safe and well-informed community regarding sex education; and
- Stress Less Week was well received by participating students. Highlights include yoga and Pilates events, live music, and a board games night.

10. MONSU PENINSULA

Elena Wall, the 2023 President of MONSU Peninsula, reported that:

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- 2023 was a successful year for MONSU Peninsula, with increasing engagement on campus;
 - MONSU Peninsula had a large focus on welfare throughout the year in response to the increasing cost of living;
 - MONSU Peninsula established the official role of Indigenous Officer, which has been a wonderful addition to the team and will be continued into 2024;
 - An array of events including Breakfast Bars, Thursday Edits, and the MONSU Ball were well attended;
 - MONSU Peninsula's Queer Officer launched a new Queer Lounge on campus;
 - MONSU Peninsula ran Women's Health Week events in collaboration with the University Health Service to promote services to students; and
 - MONSU Peninsula held two wellness lounges and two fresh food markets which were well attended by students.

Placement update

Elena reiterated that the Placement Experience Survey would remain open until December to allow submissions from students on placement during November and December. Alexandra Marwood, the 2024 President of MONSU Peninsula, will submit the completed report in the first VCSPAF meeting of 2024. Elena also noted that MONSU Peninsula had provided 59 students with placement relief funding to date, with a majority of students receiving these funds studying physiotherapy, followed by occupational therapy. The most common reason for students to apply for funding was to assist with the cost of transport. Elena noted that funding from the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the contribution by MONSU Peninsula has been exhausted; however, MONSU Peninsula has received additional funding from the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Major Campuses and Student Engagement) to continue offering students this funding over the next several months.

Concluding her remarks, Elena thanked everyone involved in the planning and execution of all the events and initiatives delivered by MONSU Peninsula throughout 2023.

2024 President, goals and initiatives

Alexandra introduced herself to the Committee before outlining the key goals and initiatives of MONSU Peninsula in 2024. Due to the ongoing cost of living crisis, MONSU Peninsula will have a major focus on student welfare, including the Placement Relief Fund, weekly breakfast bars, wellness lounges, and fresh food markets. Alexandra also noted that MONSU Peninsula would ensure that the student voice is heard and valued in 2024, and that appropriate initiatives would be developed in response.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Alexandra for her comments, and noted that the University has advocated strongly to the Accord Panel and minister for initiatives to combat placement poverty.

11. MONASH PARVILLE STUDENT UNION

Bessie (Chunyi) Qian, 2023 President of Monash Parkville Student Union (MPSU), reported that:

- MPSU has been dedicated to providing helpful services and improving student welfare throughout 2023;
- Major highlights throughout 2023 including the Parkville Pride Fest, the MPSU Annual Ball, the MPSU Graduate Ball, Grab and Go events, the One World Festival as part of the Diversity and Inclusion Week, and Stress Less events;
- In Semester One, MPSU events attracted 3,443 student engagements;
- MPSU held numerous events at the Docklands campus located at 750 Collins Street due to a number of students have classes scheduled at this location;
- MPSU had actively supported affiliate clubs by providing training, funding, and spaces campus for club meetings and events. MPSU provided financial support for over fifty club events; and
- MPSU launched a monthly newsletter run by a team of volunteers.

12. MONASH RESIDENTIAL SERVICES RESIDENTS COMMITTEE

Xiaoyan Gao, 2024 President of the Monash Residential Services Residents Committee (ResComm) noted the apology from 2023 President Mahmoud Anwar. Due to limited notice, Xiaoyan was not briefed on the ResComm report submitted by Mahmoud.

Considering his future tenure as President of ResComm, Xiaoyan expressed his intention to advocate for MRS residents on a number of issues, including the proposed rental rate increase. ResComm will also focus on providing events for MRS residents, including the ResComm Ball, which the committee is hoping will be bigger and better than the successful event held in 2023. ResComm, in collaboration with MSA ResComm, will also trial free period products available across on-campus residences.

13. OTHER BUSINESS**Support for students impacted by conflict in Gaza**

Professor Copolov raised the conflict in Gaza and the significant distress the conflict has inflicted upon students with connections to the region. On the 14th October, the Vice-Chancellor distributed a Global Email expressing the concerns of the University with regards to the conflict, as well as outlining the support systems in place for students impacted by the incident. Leading the response has been Professor Sharon Pickering, the Acting Provost, working with Mr Kupec and Professor Copolov. The University has met with representatives from the Monash University Islamic Society (MUIS) and the Monash Jewish Students' Society (MonJSS) regularly to ascertain the needs of students with connections to the region. Professor Copolov has also been in close contact with

Associate Professor David Slucki, Director of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation to discuss the situation.

Professor Copolov noted the special counselling service setup by the University Health Service, as well as special Monash Security services to ensure the safety and security of the campus and its inhabitants. Professor Copolov commended Monash Security for their handling several complex issues and incidents with care and professionalism. He also noted that, while individuals will have their own opinions about the conflict, that Monash will not accept any Islamophobia or antisemitism, or any behaviour or comments which go against the Student Charter. However, enforcing these standards become difficult in the sphere of non-Monash social media, especially Monash Stalkerspace. Monash is unable to monitor the entirety of social media; however, the University will not accept discriminatory comments or actions on its campuses or media channels.

Mr Kupec requested that the Monash student organisations contact the Campus Community Division in the new year, with the broader landscape of the conflict becoming clearer in the meantime, to forward important messaging about available services to their student cohorts. He requested that the Monash student organisations play a pivotal role in the communication of important information to students.

Closing remarks

The Vice-Chancellor thanked all representatives, committee members, and invited guests for attending and participating in discussion.

The meeting closed at 12:11pm.

Next meeting

The details of VCSPAF meetings throughout 2024 are to be confirmed.

REGISTER OF ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE	DETAIL
1.	Include Vicki White's contact details in the Minutes.	Jarryd Redwood	Complete	Vicki White Director, Customer Experience and Insights Buildings and Property Division E: vicki.white@monash.edu P: (03) 9905 2463
2.	Provide MISA with a list of financial support programs available for students suffering financial insecurity.	Simon Kupec	In progress	
3.	Attach the <i>Uni-Food Australia 2023</i> report to the Minutes.	Jarryd Redwood	Complete	Link
4.	Provide contact details for Professor Craig Jeffrey and Professor Lucas Walsh in the Minutes.	Jarryd Redwood	Complete	Professor Craig Jeffrey Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) E: craig.jeffrey@monash.edu P: (03) 9902 0070 Professor Lucas Walsh Education Policy & Practice E: lucas.walsh@monash.edu P: (03) 9905 6944
5.	Provide a link to information about the International Student Travel Pass in the Minutes.	Jarryd Redwood	Complete	Link

Dear Monash University Management,

We, the undersigned, are concerned with the exorbitant parking fees put to staff and students by university management. In an era marked by spiralling inflation and stagnant wages, this decision inflicts an undue financial burden upon students and staff.

The university's justification of "encouraging sustainable transportation" is a hollow pretext.

- For countless students and staff, public transport is simply not a viable option. The prospect of enduring public transport commutes of up to two hours (one way) is both impractical and unsafe.
- Parents with school pick-up/drop-off responsibilities are particularly hard-hit. They are forced to choose between the exorbitant cost of parking and the well-being of their children.
- Lower-income staff, such as those working at service desks, are denied the privilege of remote work and are expected to be physically present on campus five days a week. For these individuals, the monthly parking fee of \$200 represents a significant financial hardship.
- Students, who are expected to attend classes everyday are also disproportionately affected. The financial burden of parking fees adds to the already considerable costs of education.

The university's implementation of "surge pricing" is nothing short of exploitative. It preys upon the desperation of those who have no alternative but to drive to campus. This practice is a betrayal of our shared values of equity and inclusion and will have a devastating effect on campus culture.

We, the undersigned, demand that Monash University Management:

- Immediately roll back parking fees to 2021 levels, in line with the Consumer Price Index.
- Cease the predatory practice of surge pricing.

If Monash University is expected to live up to its rhetoric of the [Impact 2030 statement](#) and be truly inclusive, then it's time for the university to live up to its ideals and prioritise the needs of those it serves.

NTEU Monash Branch {other union signatories}
monash@nteu.org.au

Fields for the survey:

Name

Position: (eg: student, senior lecturer, alumni, program coordinator)

Department:

Do you have a message for university management on the impact of surge pricing?

Would you like to make your message anonymous?

Would you like to stay in touch as we push for fairer parking fees at Monash? If yes, include your email address below:

Monash daily and hourly PAYG Carparking Rates									
2021	RED				Blue				
daily hourly rate	\$ 0.87				\$ 0.47				
daily cap rate	\$ 4.35				\$ 2.35				
2022	RED	Annual %inc			Blue	Annual %inc	Blue Peak Inc		%
daily hourly rate	\$ 0.96	10.3%			\$ 0.51	8.5%	\$ 0.67	42.6%	
daily cap rate	\$ 4.79	10.1%			\$ 2.58	9.8%	\$ 3.35	42.6%	
2023	RED				Blue	Annual %inc	Blue Peak		
daily hourly rate	\$ 1.03	7.3%			\$ 0.56	9.8%	\$ 0.72	7.5%	
daily cap rate	\$ 5.17	7.9%			\$ 2.79	8.1%	\$ 3.62	8.1%	
				% increase					
2024	RED	Annual %inc		RED PEAK	Blue	Annual %inc	Blue Peak		
daily hourly rate	\$ 1.07	3.9%	\$ 2.12	106%	\$ 0.58	3.6%	\$ 1.06	47.2%	
daily cap rate	\$ 5.35	3.5%	\$ 10.60	105.0%	\$ 2.90	3.9%	\$ 5.30	46.4%	
Effective Hourly Rate Change 2021 - 2023									
		18.4%				19.1%			53.2%
Effective Hourly Rate Change 2021 - 2024									
		23.0%				23.4%			126%