



MONSU Caulfield Inc.
2018 ANNUAL ELECTIONS
Monday 17 September - Wednesday 19 September 2018

2018 ELECTION REPORT

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1. Introduction

In 2018, MONSU Caulfield (**MONSU**) engaged OGL Group to conduct their Annual Elections, after having conducted their Annual Elections from 2015-2017.

Glenn Donahoo was the Returning Officer for the 2018 Annual Elections and is the author of this report.

This report sets out the process by which the elections were undertaken, specifically highlighting areas that required attention by the Returning Officer and electoral participants. An overview of the results is provided, emphasising trends and other observations. The key issues and other areas of concern experienced in the election are discussed in detail. Finally, a set of recommendations are provided to MONSU and future Returning Officers as suggestions by which the electoral process can be improved.

2. Process

In 2018, the MONSU Student Council passed a vastly updated set of Election Regulations (**Regulations**) that governed the conduct of these and future elections. In accordance with provisions in the Regulations, the dates of polling were called by the Student Council, with other electoral deadlines being consequently set by the Regulations.

Pursuant to the Regulations, notice was given on 13 August 2018 that Annual Elections would be held from Monday 17 September to Wednesday 19 September 2018 (see [Appendix 1 – Notice of Election](#)). Notice of the election also was disseminated to all Caulfield students by email. An update Notice of election was published on 16 August 2018 that removed references to the election of NUS Delegates and made a number of additions following the updated Regulations being approved by the Student Council (see [Appendix 2 – Notice of Election \(updated\)](#)).

Nomination forms and other election paperwork could be submitted to the MONSU Workshop directly or to myself in person or via email. When forms were submitted to the Workshop election participants were given a receipt for the forms that they submitted and all paperwork tendered was scanned and sent daily to the Returning Officer by email by MONSU staff. Electoral participants availed themselves of both methods of submitting election paperwork over the course of the election.

Candidate statements and photos were lodged electronically throughout the election process.

Briefing Session

The Returning Officer held a briefing session for interested students on Wednesday 22 August in the OSS Lounge. The session was advertised in the notice of election posted to the MONSU website and sent to students by email. The purpose of the session was to provide students with an overview of the electoral process and to answer any questions arising.

The session was attended by five students and was well received.

Tickets

Ticket registrations were opened at 9am on Monday 20 August and closed at 5pm on Thursday 23 August. Three ticket registrations were received in total.

Ticket Name	Ticket Registrant	Notes
Reps For You	Fintan Dowling	Accepted
Unite	Yi Ran Wang	Accepted
Forward	Bryn Dodson	Accepted

Candidate Nominations

Nominations were opened at 9am on Monday 27 August and closed at 4pm on Monday 3 September.

The final notice of nominations received was posted on Monday 3 September (see [Appendix 3 – Notice of Nominations Received & Accepted](#)).

After the closing of nominations, a detailed verification process was undertaken to ensure that candidates and their nominators and seconders were eligible to participate in the election by virtue of their enrolment as a Caulfield student, their completion of the requisite number of

semesters of study along with having the requisite number of units left in their course, as provided for in the Constitution and the Regulations.

The verification process resulted in all but four nominations being determined as being eligible.

Name	Position	Reason
Kristen Lucas	Vice President	Second (Anne Gordon) is not eligible to second the nomination under 13.4.2 of the Election Regulations, as they have not completed at least 2 semesters of study at the University.
Andy Nguyen	Marketing Officer	Candidate did not provide their email address, as required under 13.1.1 of the Election Regulations.
Andy Nguyen	Education Officer	Candidate did not provide their email address, as required under 13.1.1 of the Election Regulations.
Andy Nguyen	Activities Officer 1	Candidate did not provide their email address, as required under 13.1.1 of the Election Regulations.

Following the verification of nominations, all positions had one valid nomination received except for the position of Vice President which received no valid nominations. This led to the 15 candidates who had submitted valid nominations being declared elected to their positions unopposed.

At the close of the nomination and ticket registration periods:

- **19 nominations had been received**
 - **4 nominations were invalid**
 - **15 candidates were elected unopposed**
 - **1 position was declared vacant as no valid nominations were received**
- **3 ticket names had been successfully registered**

3. Results

Declarations

Results were declared on Wednesday 5 September, with the notice made available on the MONSU website (see [Appendix 4 – Declaration of Results](#)).

4. Recommendations

Recommendation 1 – Eligibility to nominate & second candidates

The Regulations state, under regulation 13.4.2, that the Returning Officer must reject any nomination where the person nominating (and by inference seconding) the nomination is not eligible to run for this position.

This restriction caused a nomination to be ruled invalid this year as the seconder, while an enrolled Caulfield student and eligible to vote in a ballot for Vice-President, was not eligible to stand due to a practical requirement that they have completed at least 2 semesters of study at the University.

I would recommend that this regulation should instead state that the nominator (and seconder) must be eligible to vote for the position they are nominating a candidate for, or that the nominator must be a currently enrolled student at the Caulfield campus.

Recommendation 2 – Eligibility of students to stand for election

A number of changes were made to the Regulations in 2018 surrounding the eligibility of certain groups of students to vote for specific elections, specifically regarding postgraduate students only being able to vote for the Postgraduate Representative and undergraduate students being able to vote for all other positions, with specific provisions surrounding the Queer Officers. All students, regardless of what course they are enrolled in, may still stand as a candidate for all positions excluding Postgraduate Representative, subject to their identity for the Women's & Queer Officers.

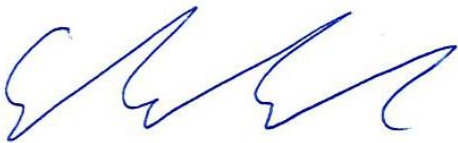
While there is no direct problem with the distinction between the positions candidates can run for and vote for, MONSU should consider the reasons that they have decided that postgraduate students should not be eligible to vote for a number of positions and whether these reasons should equally apply to whether postgraduate students should be eligible to run and hold these positions.

5. Conclusion

This year's elections saw all positions elected unopposed or remaining vacant, with the election run in accordance with a largely updated set of Regulations, that while not tested through a fully contested election should serve MONSU well in future annual elections.

Thanks go to all the staff involved in running the elections, including both OGL Group and MONSU staff who assisted in various ways throughout the election.

I wish all successful candidates the very best as they undertake their new responsibilities in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Donahoo', written in a cursive style.

Glenn Donahoo
Returning Officer
2018 MONSU Elections

6. List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Notice of Election

Appendix 2 – Notice of Election (updated)

Appendix 3 – Notice of Nominations Received & Accepted

Appendix 4 – Declaration of Results

APPENDIX 1 – NOTICE OF ELECTION

APPENDIX 2 – NOTICE OF ELECTION (UPDATED)

APPENDIX 3 – NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED & ACCEPTED

APPENDIX 4 – DECLARATION OF RESULTS