

MONSU.CAULFIELD

MONSU Caulfield.

2024 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Monday 30 September – Thursday 3 October 2024

2024 ELECTION REPORT

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1. Introduction

In 2024, MONSU Caulfield (**MONSU**) engaged OGL Group to conduct their Annual Elections, after having engaged OGL Group to conduct their Annual Elections since 2015.

Glenn Donahoo was the Returning Officer for the 2024 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

Pursuant to the Regulations, notice was given on 26 August that Annual Elections would be held from Monday 30 September to Thursday 3 October 2024 (see [Appendix 1 – Notice of Election](#)), with nominations for all positions due 5pm Tuesday 17 September. The Notice of the election was published on the MONSU Caulfield website and emailed to all students enrolled in the Caulfield Campus.

In line with previous elections, nomination forms and all other election paperwork including candidate and policy statements could only be submitted via email or an online form for these elections.

Candidate Nominations

Nominations for all positions were opened at 9am on Wednesday 11 September and closed at 5pm on Tuesday 17 September.

The provisional notice of nominations received was published on Wednesday 18 September and then the final notice of nominations received was posted shortly after. (see [Appendix 2 – Notice of Nominations Received & Declaration of Results](#)).

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 membership of MONSU Caulfield, 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 six nominations being determined as being ineligible.

Following the verification of nominations, all positions had one valid nomination received except for one queer officer position and one general representative position. (see [Appendix 2 – Notice of Nominations Received](#))

At the close of the nomination period:**38 nominations had been received.****6 nominations were invalid****5 positions were declared elected unopposed****2 positions had no nominations received**

Following the close of polling, I was notified that there may have been an error in the information provided regarding the eligibility of one of the Vice-President candidates who had previously been found eligible. After confirmation from the University that the information originally provided was incorrect and this student was not eligible to hold the position, this additional nomination was declared invalid and the remaining candidate was declared elected unopposed. (see [Appendix 4 – Ruling on Eligibility for the position of Vice President](#))

Voting

As per the Regulations and precedence, voting was conducted online via the MSL voting platform on the MONSU Caulfield website. To cast their vote, students needed to log onto the MONSU Caulfield website through the University's Okta Verification system and follow the prompts to the election webpage. By logging into the MONSU Caulfield website students automatically became members of MONSU Caulfield and eligible to vote.

All undergraduate students at the Monash Caulfield and City (Melbourne) campus received an email with a link to the voting page on Monday 30 September.

100 votes were received for the President positions, the highest polling position of this election.

3. Results**Declarations**

Results for all positions were declared when the final notice of results was posted on 8 October (see [Appendix 3 – Notice of Results](#)).

4. Issues

This section deals with specific problems which arose with the election process or logistics, as well as serious disputes or contentious rulings made by the Returning Officer. It is not intended to be an exhaustive account of each issue that became necessary for the Returning Officer to consider.

MSL Voting Platform

The MSL voting platform has now been used for MONSU's Annual Elections over a number of years. While there are positive aspects of this platform, such as its ability to check current University data to determine voter eligibility, there are still issues that remain with the platform. These include the inability to run test ballots or adequately view and test the election prior to polls opening, meaning issues in the system are not able to be detected until voting is open and it is reported by students to me.

This issue arose during the course of the 2024 elections with students reporting issues when attempting to vote using 'front page voting'. As ballots on the MSL system cannot be tested prior

to the opening of polls, this issue was not able to be identified prior to the opening of the ballot. As MSL do not have support staff working in time zones that overlap with Melbourne's day time, this issue could not be resolved until the overnight period between day 1 and 2 of polling and required MONSU staff to work into the morning to ensure the issue could be resolved.

Election Timeline

The timelines provided in the Election Regulations included dates that require ticket re-registrations to occur prior to the Notice of Election. This requires Election Information to be distributed prior to the Notice of Election, which should be the first distribution of election information. While this timeline was met for the 2024 Election, delays in the appointment of a Returning Officer can mean an amended election timeline is required.

The timeline in the Regulations should be changed to ensure no submission dates are prior to the Notice of Election.

5. Recommendations

Recommendation 1 – Consider if the MSL platform is appropriate for MONSU Elections

The MSL voting module has had significant improvements made since the 2020 election due to the efforts of MSL and staff from across the Monash Student Organisations (MSOs). There have however continued to be issues with the platform over recent years across multiple MSOs that have impacted the proper running of the elections. While the specific issues encountered have been different between elections, they ultimately stem from the inability to adequately test the voting platform by the Returning Officer and election staff prior to the opening of polls. The impacts are worsened by the delay in fixes being applied due to the lack of support during day time hours when polling is initially opened.

If these issues are not able to be rectified, MONSU should investigate whether the MSL platform is appropriate to continue being utilised for Annual Elections or if a different platform would better meet MONSU's requirements.

Recommendation 2 – Modifications to Election Timeline

The timeline needs to be adjusted to move the re-registration of tickets to after the Notice of Election is scheduled. The Notice of Election must be the first action to occur within the election timeline as students cannot be expected to meet deadlines that they have not been made aware of.

Recommendation 3 – Clarification of on-campus campaigning

The regulations were amended to ban any campaigning occurring on campus due the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The World Health Organisation has declared the global emergency from the pandemic is over. Accordingly, this Regulation should be amended to either reinstate campaigning on campus or to make the prohibition of campaigning on campus clear as a permanent feature of the election rather than as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendation 4 – Removal of requirement to submit publicity for approval

Regulation 20.2 requires that all publicity be approved by the Returning Officer prior to being published. This regulation originates from when most campaigning was in person and publicity would be printed and social media was used more sparingly. When this was the case, the number of publicity items was low and could adequately be reviewed prior to publishing with minimal delay.

As campaigning is now entirely online, with no physical publicity, the definition of publicity has expanded and the amount of content that would meet the new definition has grown significantly. In a fully contested election, it would not be feasible for the Returning Officer to adequately review all publicity without causing significant delays to the ability for students to then post this publicity.

This regulation should be updated to meet the current operation of the election by requiring either of the following:

1. Requiring that all publicity made by tickets or individual candidates must be submitted electronically by a student to the Returning Officer before it is made available to students.
2. Removing the requirement that publicity be submitted to the Returning Officer while still requiring that it meet the stipulated requirements for publicity.

Either of these options would be appropriate and MONSU should make a decision on which they believe would be best for their elections. While changing this, the requirement that publicity state "Authorised by the Returning Officer" should be removed.

6. Conclusion

This year saw the MONSU Caulfield Elections attract substantial interest from students, recording a higher number of nominations than in previous years. Despite this however, voter turnout was very low.

Thanks go to all the staff involved in running the elections, including OGL Group, MONSU, MSL and University staff who assisted in various ways throughout the election. In particular, my thanks go to Rebecca Murphy, Ming-En Koh and Caitlyn Dunne.

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



Glenn Donahoo
Returning Officer
2024 MONSU Elections

7. List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Notice of Election

Appendix 2 – Notice of Nominations Received

Appendix 3 - Notice of Results

Appendix 4 – Ruling on Eligibility for the position of Vice President

APPENDIX 1 – NOTICE OF ELECTION

MONSU.CAULFIELD

MONSU Caulfield Inc.
2024 ANNUAL ELECTIONS
Monday 30 September – Thursday 3 October 2024

NOTICE OF ELECTION

The MONSU Caulfield Inc. (**MONSU**) 2024 Annual Elections will be held from Monday 30 September 2024 to Thursday 3 October 2024 for the following positions:

Student Council

- President – Chair
- Vice President – General Secretary
- Overseas Student Service Officer
- Activities Officer (x2)
- Marketing Officer
- Education Officer
- Welfare Officer
- Queer Officer (x2)
- Clubs Officer
- Women’s Officer
- People of Colour Officer
- General Representative (x3)
- NUS Delegates (x7)

Eligibility

To be eligible to nominate for all positions except NUS Delegates in the MONSU Caulfield Annual Elections students must be a member of MONSU Caulfield. To nominate for the position of NUS Delegate students must be eligible to be a member of MONSU Caulfield.

To join as a member students must log into the MONSU Caulfield website (<https://www.monsu.org/login/>) using the student login. Membership is open to undergraduate students enrolled in a course at the Caulfield or City (Melbourne) campuses.

Students must be a member by the close of nominations (5pm Tuesday 17 September) in order to stand as a candidate in the election for any position except NUS Delegate.

All undergraduate students enrolled at either the Caulfield or City (Melbourne) campus are eligible to vote once they have joined MONSU Caulfield as a member.

Any candidates who submit eligibility requests to the returning officer must include the following statement in their email:

“I consent to Monash University providing the MONSU Returning Officer with personal information about me (my name, enrolment status, course location and course title) for the purpose of verifying certain attributes of my enrolment with Monash University to determine my eligibility to participate in the student council election.”

Failure to include the above statement in requests for eligibility confirmation may mean you have not submitted appropriate material and your request may not be actionable per university requirements.

Ticket Registrations

You may register a ticket from 9:00am on Wednesday 4 September until 5pm Friday 10 September.

Nominations

Nominations for all positions will open at 9am Wednesday 11 September and close at 5pm on Tuesday 17 September.

Details on eligibility requirements for all positions can be found in the Election Regulations. You may nominate via this [google form](#). If you wish to submit your nomination in soft copy format, nomination forms will be available on the MONSU elections webpage (<https://www.monsu.org/business/elections/>) or by contacting the Returning Officer. Please note, if you nominate via the soft copy format, your nomination will take longer to process.

Candidates may submit a [candidate statement](#) and a [photograph](#) with their nomination. These must be received by the close of nominations. Statement and Photographs can be submitted by emailing the Returning Officer (monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com). You may submit a candidate statement of up to 200 words. Further details regarding candidate statements can be found in the Election Regulations.

Voting

Polling will be conducted online between 9am Monday 30 September and 5pm Thursday 3 October.

Contact details

The contact details for the Returning Officer are:

Email: monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com

Telephone: 0447 189 538

Copies of the MONSU Caulfield Election Regulations and the MONSU Caulfield Constitution governing this election are available from the MONSU Caulfield office or via the MONSU Caulfield website at (www.monsu.org). The Returning Officer strongly encourages all those interested in taking part in these elections to make themselves familiar with these important documents as they govern how these elections are run.

Glenn Donahoo

Returning Officer

0447 189 538

26 August 2024

APPENDIX 2 – NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

MONSU.CAULFIELD

MONSU Caulfield.
2024 ANNUAL ELECTIONS
Monday 30 September – Thursday 3 October 2024

LIST OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED and POSITIONS ELECTED UNOPPOSED

All nominations received by the deadline have been listed by position below. This list is final as all these nominations have been subjects to checks by both myself and the University for eligibility according to student enrolment and MONSU membership status.

If there have been any errors or omissions in transcription please let me know **as soon as possible** and I will amend.

I declare the following candidate elected unopposed to the position as listed below

First Name	Surname	Position	Ticket
Rachel	Dang	General Representative	UNITED
Vedant	Shah	General Representative	UNITED
Yining	Chen	NUS Delegate	Together
Licheng	Chen	NUS Delegate	Together
Zhiwei	Huang	NUS Delegate	Together
Baitong	Liu	NUS Delegate	Together
Yuanze	Sun	NUS Delegate	Together
Chih-Yen	Tsai	NUS Delegate	Together
Jiaxyngyue	Zhao	NUS Delegate	Together
Karin	Sayama	Queer Officer 1	UNITED
Tanicee	Banerjee	Activities Officer 1	UNITED
Sharlyn	Gotama	Activities Officer 2	UNITED

Nominations Received for Positions subject to a ballot:

First Name	Surname	Position	Ticket
Leo	Jiang	Clubs Officer	UNITED
Hio Lam	Mok	Clubs Officer	
Jiaxyngyue	Zhao	Education Officer	Together
Roxy	Robson	Education Officer	UNITED
Hio Lam	Mok	Education Officer	
June	Lee	Marketing Officer	Together
Mehika	Agarwal	Marketing Officer	UNITED
Anubha	Tomar	Overseas Student Service Officer	UNITED
Sze Wing	Chan	Overseas Student Service Officer	
Yuanze	Sun	People of Colour Officer	Together

Jocelyne	Thayono	People of Colour Officer	UNITED
Zhiwei	Huang	President	Together
Angela	Liao	President	UNITED
Theodore	Susetio	Vice President	UNITED
Roxy	Robson	Vice President	
Baitong	Liu	Welfare Officer	Together
Lizzy	Lai	Welfare Officer	UNITED
Hoh Kai	Poh	Welfare Officer	
Chengzhuo	Wu	Women's Officer	Together
Cherylin Morgan	Wijaya	Women's Officer	UNITED

The following nominations have not been accepted:

First Name	Surname	Position	Ticket	Reason
Yining	Chen	Activities Officer 1	Together	Student not eligible under C34.1 of the MONSU Constitution
Runxuan	Yang	Activities Officer 2	Together	Student not eligible under C34.1 of the MONSU Constitution
Purab	Tanna	General Representative	UNITED	Student not eligible under C34.1 of the MONSU Constitution
Zhongfei	Cao	Clubs Officer	Together	Student not eligible under C34.1 of the MONSU Constitution
Licheng	Chen	Overseas Student Service Officer	Together	Student not eligible under C34.1 of the MONSU Constitution
Chih-Yen	Tsai	Vice President	Together	Student not eligible under C34.1 of the MONSU Constitution

The following positions received no valid nominations:

- Queer Officer (1 position)
- General Representative (1 position)

Glenn Donahoo

Returning Officer

26 September 2024

APPENDIX 3 – NOTICE OF RESULTS

MONSU.CAULFIELD

MONSU Caulfield.
2024 ANNUAL ELECTIONS
Monday 30 September – Thursday 3 October 2024

UPDATED NOTICE OF RESULTS

President

Candidate	Ticket	Total
Zhiwei Huang	Together	10
Angela Liao	UNITED	90
Total		100

Angela Liao was declared elected.

Vice President

Candidate	Ticket
Theodore Susetio	UNITED
Total	

Theodore Susetio was declared elected unopposed. Following corrected eligibility information from the University, Roxy Robson was not eligible to nominate for this position.

Overseas Student Service Officer

Candidate	Ticket	Total
Anubha Tomar	UNITED	70
Sze Wing Chan		9
Total		79

Anubha Tomar was declared elected.

Education Officer

Candidate	Ticket	Total
Jiaxyngyue Zhao	Together	3
Roxy Robson		81
Hio Lam Mok		4
Total		88

Roxy Robson was declared elected.

Marketing Officer

Candidate	Ticket	Total
June Lee	Together	11
Mehika Agarwal	UNITED	69
Total		80

Mehika Agarwal was declared elected.

Welfare Officer

Candidate	Ticket	Total
Baitong Liu	Together	3
Lizzy Lai	UNITED	67
Hoh Kai Poh		4
Total		74

Lizzy Lai was declared elected.

Activities Officer

Candidate	Ticket
Tanicee Banerjee	UNITED
Sharlyn Gotama	UNITED

Tanicee Banerjee and Sharlyn Gotama were declared elected unopposed.

Clubs Officer

Candidate	Ticket	Total
Leo Jiang	UNITED	68
Hio Lam Mok		5
Total		73

Leo Jiang was declared elected.

Women's Officer

Candidate	Ticket	Total
Chengzhuo Wu	Together	6
Cherylin Morgan Wijaya	UNITED	51
Total		57

Cherylin Morgan Wijaya was declared elected.

Queer Officer

Candidate	Ticket
Karin Sayama	UNITED

Karin Sayama was declared elected unopposed, with one position vacant.

People of Colour Officer

Candidate	Ticket	Total
Yuanze Sun	Together	4
Jocelyne Thayono	UNITED	32
Total		36

Jocelyne Thayono was declared elected.

General Representative

Candidate	Ticket
Rachel Dang	UNITED
Vedant Shah	UNITED

Rachel Dang and Vedant Shah were declared elected unopposed, with one position vacant.

NUS Delegate

Candidate	Ticket	
Yining Chen	Together	Elected 1 st
Licheng Chen	Together	Elected 2 nd
Zhiwei Huang	Together	Elected 3 rd
Baitong Liu	Together	Elected 4 th
Yuanze Sun	Together	Elected 5 th
Chih Yen Tsai	Together	Elected 6 th
Kiazingyue Zhao	Together	Elected 7 th

Yining Chen, Licheng Chen, Zhiwei Huang, Baitong Liu, Yuanze Sun and Chih Yen Tsai were declared elected unopposed.

Glenn Donahoo

Returning Officer

8 October 2024

monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com

Appendix 4 – Ruling on Eligibility for the position of Vice President

MONSU.CAULFIELD

MONSU Caulfield.

2024 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Monday 30 September – Thursday 3 October 2024

Background information

Monash University's Student and Education Business Services provided information on the enrolment details for all candidates to me via email on Wednesday 25 September. In this information it was stated that Roxy Robson had completed at least two semesters of study at Monash University. This is a requirement to nominate for the position of Vice President under C34 of the MONSU Constitution.

Following the Declaration of the Election on Thursday 3 October, I was provided information that the enrolment information I was provided from the University may have been incorrect. Subsequent enquiries with Monash University's Student and Education Business Services found that Roxy had not in fact completed at least two semesters of study at Monash University, but rather had completed one semester only.

Ruling

I rule that Roxy Robson is not eligible to nominate for the position of Vice President and hence her nomination is not accepted.

Effect of ruling

The count of the Vice-President ballot will be re-completed with Roxy Robson excluded from the ballot.

As Roxy Robson will not be elected Vice-President, the count of the Education Officer ballot will also be re-completed, with Roxy Robson re-included in the ballot.

Glenn Donahoo

Returning Officer

8 October 2024

0447 189 538