

MONSU.CAULFIELD

MONSU Caulfield.

2025 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Monday 22 September – Thursday 25 September 2025

2025 ELECTION REPORT

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1. Introduction

In 2025, MONSU Caulfield (**MONSU**) engaged OGL Group to conduct their Annual Elections, after having engaged OGL Group to conduct their Annual Elections since 2015.

Thomas Balakas was the Returning Officer for the 2025 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 is 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 25 August that Annual Elections would be held from Monday, 22 September to Thursday, 25 September 2025 (see Appendix 1 – Notice of Election), with nominations for all positions due 5pm Tuesday, 9 September. The Notice of the election was published on the MONSU Caulfield website.

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, 3 September and closed at 5pm on Tuesday, 9 September.

The provisional notice of nominations received was published on Wednesday, 10 September, and then the final notice of nominations received was posted on Tuesday, 16 September (see [Appendix 2 – Notice of Nominations Received](#)).

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 no nominations being determined as being ineligible.

Following the verification of nominations, all positions had at least one valid nomination received, with the following position(s) being declared elected unopposed: Education Officer.

A provisional Notice of Nominations Received was posted on 10 September, with the final Notice of Nominations Received being posted on 16 September, following the completion of all eligibility checks. (see [Appendix 2 – Notice of Nominations Received](#)).

At the close of the nomination period:

39 nominations had been received

5 nominations were invalid

1 position was elected unopposed

Polling

Polling was conducted using the BigPulse voting system. All students on the Electoral Roll are provided by MONSU Caulfield received an email at the opening of the polling with a secure personal voting link that would take them to their ballot.

‘Above the line’ voting was made available to students voting in the election. This allowed voters to mark a single box for a team, which would then mean that they vote for that team in every ballot that voter was voting in.

A reminder email was sent to all voters who had not already cast a vote at midday on Wednesday and Thursday during the polling week.

The following table summarises the times during which students cast their votes, with spikes in voting following each email being sent.

Time	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25
00:00-03:00	N/A	4	1	4
03:00-06:00	N/A	1	0	0
06:00-09:00	N/A	2	3	1
09:00-12:00	116	19	10	34
12:00-15:00	113	41	126	133
15:00-18:00	59	17	63	79
18:00-21:00	26	6	7	N/A
21:00-24:00	13	16	10	N/A

3. Results

Declarations

Results for all positions were declared after final confirmation of candidate eligibility on Friday, 25 September, with the notice published on the MONSU website and sent directly to all candidates via email.

Participation

The 2025 election recorded 892 participants (representing 9% of eligible voters).

The table below shows each group of positions, the number of eligible students provided by the University, the number of votes received and the percentage of the electorate those votes represent.

Position	Electorate provided	Number of votes cast	Percentage of electorate
President – Chair and Spokesperson	9,958	755	7.58%
Vice President – General Secretary	9,958	755	7.58%
Activities Officer	9,958	770	7.73%
Marketing Officer	9,958	766	7.69%
Welfare Officer	9,958	614	6.17%
Sustainability Officer	9,958	752	7.55%
Clubs Officer	9,958	753	7.56%
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer	9,958	752	7.55%
Women’s Officer	812	588	72.41%
Queer Officer	365	288	78.90%
International Officer	4,020	471	11.72%
General Representatives	9,958	767	7.70%
NUS Delegates	9,958	763	7.66%

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.

In-person campaigning

The election regulations currently limit in-person campaigning to two hours per day during the polling week. This is not the common practice amongst elections of similar nature and scale and often led to complaints about students campaigning in-person out of hours, whilst there were still many students on campus casting their votes.

This practice also led to more intense campaigning during the two-hour period, with a series of complaints about student campaigner conduct due to a significant increase in election activity for each two-hour period.

MONSU Watermarked Paper

The requirement to produce and provide MONSU watermarked paper to election participants was a new requirement imposed shortly before the commencement of the 2025 election period. Whilst this is a feature of only one other student election in Victoria, it is a legacy requirement that need not be imposed on MONSU. This is not a practice reflected in any election of a similar scale, given that the other election that adopts this attracts a high number of election participants and half a dozen electoral teams.

5. Recommendations

Recommendation 1 – That in-person campaigning times be expanded to reflect best practice

MONSU should consider allowing in-person campaigning to occur on campus between the hours of 10am and 4pm each day of polling. This will serve to create a new norm where participants understand they have more than a few hours to campaign to students in-person during the polling period and is likely to reduce tension amongst competing election participants. This also provides the Returning Officer greater flexibility to analyse student behaviour and establish a pattern of behaviour should there be election participants engaging in consistent breaches of the regulations.

Recommendation 2 – Remove the requirement for hard-copy campaign material to be printed on MONSU-watermarked paper

MONSU should consider removing the requirement for the Returning Officer to prepare and issue MONSU watermarked paper to election participants as a method to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy for both election participants and the Returning Officer during the election process.

6. Conclusion

This year's election we saw an increased number of participants and largely landed well despite the introduction of the new voting platform.

Thanks go to all the staff involved in running the elections, including OGL Group, MONSU, BigPulse 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 for their work throughout the election period.

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

Thomas Balakas
Returning Officer
2025 MONSU Elections

7. List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Notice of Election

Appendix 2 – Notice of Nominations Received

Appendix 3 – Notice of Results

APPENDIX 1 – NOTICE OF ELECTION

MONSU.CAULFIELD

MONSU Caulfield Inc.

2025 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Monday 22 September – Thursday 25 September 2025

NOTICE OF ELECTION

The MONSU Caulfield Inc. (**MONSU**) 2025 Annual Elections will be held from Monday 22 September 2025 to Thursday 25 September 2025 for the following positions:

Student Council

- President – Chair and Spokesperson
- Vice President – General Secretary
- International Officer
- Activities Officer (x2)
- Marketing Officer
- Education Officer
- Welfare Officer
- Queer Officer
- Sustainability Officer
- Clubs Officer
- Women's Officer
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion 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 9 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 and Re-registration

You may re-register a ticket from 9:00am on Monday 25 August until 5:00pm on Monday 1 September. You can register a new ticket from 9:00am on Wednesday 27 August until 5pm Tuesday 2 September.

Nominations

Nominations for all positions will open at 9am Wednesday 3 September and close at 5pm on Tuesday 9 September.

Details on eligibility requirements for all positions can be found in the Election Regulations. You may nominate via a google form via the election webpage upon the opening of nominations. 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. Candidates may withdraw at any time prior to the close of polling.

Voting

Polling will be conducted online between 9am Monday 22 September and 5pm Thursday 25 September.

Contact details

The contact details for the Returning Officer are:

Email: monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com

Telephone: 0405 603 853

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.

Thomas Balakas

Returning Officer

0405 603 853

Glenn Donahoo

Deputy Returning Officer

0447 189 538

Jessica Fox

Deputy Returning officer

0417 613 866

25 August 2025

APPENDIX 2 – NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

MONSU.CAULFIELD

MONSU Caulfield.

2025 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Monday 22 September – Thursday 25 September 2025

LIST OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

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.

The following nominations have been received and declared elected unopposed:

First Name	Surname	Position	Ticket
Evelyn	Kong	Education Officer	Spark

Nominations Received for Positions subject to a ballot:

First Name	Surname	Position	Ticket
Samantha	Ma	Activities Officer	UNITED!
Purab	Tanna		
Raina	Chennamanani	Activities Officer	
Heinrich	Ferari	Activities Officer	Spark
Kyra	Goh		
Nicole	Tan	Clubs Officer	Spark
Fergus	Thomson	Clubs Officer	UNITED!
Shreedevi	Iyengar	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer	Spark
Anne	Vo	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer	UNITED!
Chenyu	Wang	General Representative	
Gwyneth	Lee	General Representative	Spark
Chris	Kelsey	General Representative	UNITED!
David	McCleery		
Evelyn (Si U)	Chau	International Officer	Spark
Cynthia	Mok	International Officer	UNITED!
Raina	Chennamanani	Marketing Officer	
Anna	Andrasi	Marketing Officer	Spark

First Name	Surname	Position	Ticket
Raegan	Carter	Marketing Officer	UNITED!
Tashani	Davidson Fuller	NUS Delegate	
Chenyu	Wang	NUS Delegate	
Mehika	Agarwal	NUS Delegate	Spark
Bailey	Parrot		
Shreedevi	Iyengar		
Kyra	Goh		
Evelyn (Si U)	Chau		
Evelyn	Kong		
Fergus	Thomson	NUS Delegate	UNITED!
Roxy	Robson		
Jaimie	Stratopoulos		
Purab	Tanna		
Chris	Kelsey		
Danielle	Moss		
Mehika	Agarwal	President / Chair and Spokesperson	Spark
Roxy	Robson	President / Chair and Spokesperson	UNITED!
Chenyu	Wang	Queer Officer	
Ethan (Han)	Wong	Queer Officer	Spark
Darcy	King	Queer Officer	UNITED!
Danielle	Moss	Sustainability Officer	UNITED!
Amber	Wong	Sustainability Officer	Spark
Bailey	Parrot	Vice-President / General Secretary	Spark
Jaimie	Stratopoulos	Vice-President / General Secretary	UNITED!
Yuling	Tao	Welfare Officer	
Shefali	Rohit	Welfare Officer	Spark
Yuling	Tao	Women's Officer	
Mary Swarnika	Noyel Nerio	Women's Officer	Spark
Krishna	Dedhia	Women's Officer	UNITED!

The following nominations were rejected:

First Name	Surname	Position	Reason
Sarvesh	Bhagavathi	NUS Delegate	Not a MONSU member at the close of nominations
Oscar	Geraghty	NUS Delegate	Not a MONSU member at the close of nominations
Zaid	Janbek	NUS Delegate	Not a MONSU member at the close of nominations
Jesslyn	Zheng	NUS Delegate	Not enrolled at Caulfield campus
Jesslyn	Zheng	Education Officer	Not enrolled at Caulfield campus

Thomas Balakas
Returning Officer
 16 September 2025

APPENDIX 3 – NOTICE OF RESULTS

MONSU.CAULFIELD

MONSU Caulfield.

2025 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Monday 22 September – Thursday 25 September 2025

NOTICE OF RESULTS

President

First name	Last name	Ticket	Total
Mehika	Agarwal	Spark	497
Roxy	Robson	UNITED!	258
Total			755

Mehika Agarwal was declared elected.

Vice President

First name	Last name	Ticket	Total
Bailey	Parrot	Spark	504
Jaimie	Stratopoulos	UNITED!	251
Total			755

Bailey Parrot was declared elected.

International Officer

First name	Last name	Ticket	Total
Evelyn (Si U)	Chau	Spark	346
Cynthia	Mok	UNITED!	125
Total			471

Evelyn (Si U) Chau was declared elected.

Education Officer

Candidate	Ticket
Evelyn Kong	Spark

Evelyn Kong was declared elected unopposed.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer

First name	Last name	Ticket	Total
Shreedevi	Iyengar	Spark	497
Anne	Vo	UNITED!	255
Total			752

Shreedevi Iyengar was declared elected.

Marketing Officer

First name	Last name	Ticket	Total
Raina	Chennamanani		28
Anna	Andrasi	Spark	494
Raegan	Carter	UNITED!	244
Total			766

Anna Andrasi was declared elected.

Welfare Officer

First name	Last name	Ticket	Total
Yuling	Tao		84
Shefali	Rohit	Spark	530
Total			614

Shefali Rohit was declared elected.

Sustainability Officer

First name	Last name	Ticket	Total
Danielle	Moss	UNITED!	254
Amber	Wong	Spark	498
Total			752

Amber Wong was declared elected.

Activities Officer

First name	Last name	Ticket	Total
Samantha	Ma	UNITED!	253
Purab	Tanna		
Raina	Chennamanani		28
Heinrich	Ferari	Spark	489
Kyra	Goh		

Total			770
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Heinrich Ferari and Kyra Goh were declared elected.

Clubs Officer

First name	Last name	Ticket	Total
Nicole	Tan	Spark	504
Fergus	Thomson	UNITED!	249
Total			753

Nicole Tan was declared elected.

Women's Officer

First name	Last name	Ticket	Total
Yuling	Tao		54
Mary Swarnika	Noyel Nerio	Spark	367
Krishna	Dedhia	UNITED!	167
Total			588

Mary Swarnika Noyel Nerio was declared elected.

Queer Officer

First name	Last name	Ticket	Total
Chenyu	Wang		11
Ethan (Han)	Wong	Spark	195
Darcy	King	UNITED!	82
Total			288

Ethan (Han) Wong was declared elected.

General Representative

First name	Last name	Ticket	Primary vote
Chenyu	Wang		16
Gwyneth	Lee	Spark	500 (elected 1st)
Chris	Kelsey	UNITED!	242 (elected 2nd)
David	McCleery	UNITED!	9 (elected 3rd)
Total			767

Gwyneth Lee was elected first, Chris Kelsey was elected second and David McCleery was elected third following the distribution of preferences from Chris Kelsey and Gwyneth Lee.

NUS Delegate

First name	Last name	Ticket	Total
Tashani	Davidson Fuller		1
Chenyu	Wang		16
Mehika	Agarwal	Spark	490 (elected 1st)
Bailey	Parrot	Spark	3 (elected 3 rd)
Shreedevi	Iyengar	Spark	2 (elected 5 th)
Kyra	Goh	Spark	3 (elected 6 th)
Evelyn (Si U)	Chau	Spark	3 (elected 7 th)
Evelyn	Kong	Spark	3
Fergus	Thomson	UNITED!	235 (elected 2 nd)
Roxy	Robson	UNITED!	3 (elected 4 th)
Jaimie	Stratopoulos	UNITED!	1
Purab	Tanna	UNITED!	1
Chris	Kelsey	UNITED!	2
Danielle	Moss	UNITED!	0
Total			763

Mehika Agarwal, Fergus Thomson, Bailey Parrot, Roxy Robson, Shreedevi Iyengar, Kyra Goh and Evelyn (SI U) Chau) were declared elected.

Thomas Balakas

Returning Officer

25 September 2025

monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com