



MONSU Peninsula.  
**2020 ANNUAL ELECTIONS**  
Monday 5 October - Friday 9 October 2020

# 2020 ELECTION REPORT

## Contents

1. Introduction
2. Process
3. Results
4. Recommendations
5. Conclusion
6. List of Appendices

## **1. Introduction**

In 2018, MONSU Peninsula (**MONSU**) approached OGL Group to submit a quote for the running of its 2018 annual elections. OGL was subsequently appointed by MONSU to run the 2018, 2019 and 2020 annual elections.

Jarrold Allen was the Returning Officer for the 2020 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 2020, MONSU Peninsula decided that the annual election would be held online due to Government and University restrictions put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with provisions in the MONSU Peninsula Constitution (**the Constitution**), the dates of polling were called by MONSU Peninsula Student Council, with other electoral deadlines being consequently set by the Constitution and the Returning Officer and publicised through the notice of the election.

Pursuant to the Constitution, notice was given on 31 August 2020 that the Annual Elections would be held from Monday 5 October to Friday 9 October 2020 (see [Appendix 1 – Notice of Election](#)), with nominations due on Friday 18 September. The Notice of the election was posted on the MONSU Peninsula website and sent to all Peninsula students by email.

Nomination forms and other election paperwork could be submitted to myself via email only.

### Tickets

Ticket registrations were closed at 3PM on Monday 21 September. Two ticket registrations were received.

### Candidate Nominations

Nominations were opened at 9AM on Monday 7 September and closed at Midday on Friday 18 September.

The final notice of nominations received was posted on the afternoon of Friday 18 September (see [Appendix 2 – Notice of Nominations Received & Positions Elected Unopposed](#)).

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 Peninsula student, as provided for in the Constitution.

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

#### **At the close of the nomination and ticket registration periods:**

- **23 nominations had been received**
  - **1 candidate was declared elected unopposed**
  - **0 positions remained vacant**
- **2 ticket names had been successfully registered**

### Candidate Statements

Candidate statements and accompanying photographs were able to be submitted prior to the close of nominations. All candidates submitted statements and photographs.

## Polling

Polling was conducted using the MSL voting system on the MONSU Peninsula website. All eligible students were able to cast their ballot after logging onto the website using their student account.

The following table summarises the times during which students cast their votes, with the majority of voting taking place almost immediately after the opening of polls.

| Time        | Monday 5 | Tuesday 6 | Wednesday 7 | Thursday 8 | Friday 9 |
|-------------|----------|-----------|-------------|------------|----------|
| 00:00-03:00 | N/A      | 3         | 5           | 3          | 6        |
| 03:00-06:00 | N/A      | 0         | 0           | 0          | 0        |
| 06:00-09:00 | N/A      | 0         | 2           | 1          | 4        |
| 09:00-12:00 | 139      | 16        | 17          | 4          | 22       |
| 12:00-15:00 | 95       | 9         | 25          | 12         | N/A      |
| 15:00-18:00 | 71       | 13        | 24          | 9          | N/A      |
| 18:00-21:00 | 42       | 18        | 9           | 15         | N/A      |
| 21:00-24:00 | 26       | 13        | 7           | 15         | N/A      |

## 3. Results

### Declarations

Results were declared following the count and were distributed to candidates at approximately 12:15PM on Friday 9 October. The declaration of results was available on the MONSU website almost immediately following the declaration. (see [Appendix 3 - Results](#)).

### Participation

The 2020 Election saw 625 voters cast ballots over the five days for all positions. With the highest number of votes coming from Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) Students who cast 104 votes or 16.64% of the total vote. There was a significant increase in the number of votes cast compared to the 2017, 2018 and 2018 election and voting remained broadly constant across the different office bearing positions.

### Informal Votes

The MSL voting platform utilised meant that no informal votes were cast as voters were not able to submit a vote unless it was formal. A small number of abstentions were cast for each of the positions, though the numbers were quite small.

#### **4. Recommendations**

##### ***Recommendation 1 – Updating MONSU Peninsula Election Rules***

The election rules currently in place are inadequate for facilitating and governing a significantly contested election, such as this one. This is due to the ambiguity surrounding the deadline for certain actions to be completed during the election period, the need for the Returning Officer to authorise all election material and the failure to account for the behaviour of participants in a contested election.

*I would recommend that the Election Schedule be removed from the Constitution and detailed Election Regulations be adopted by the Student Council. These Regulations should provide more explicit rules to govern the election and in particular what behaviour is not allowed by candidates. The current Election Tribunal should also be replaced by a single member Tribunal. MONSU Peninsula should look at modelling the updated regulations on the existing MONSU Caulfield and La Trobe Student Union Election Regulations.*

#### **5. Conclusion**

This year's elections saw a significant increase in the number of votes cast and overall participation from the student population, with all positions being contested and filled in the 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. My particular thanks goes to Elise Redmond for all her assistance throughout the election process.

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

**Jarrold Allen**  
**Returning Officer**  
**2020 MONSU Elections**

## **6. List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Notice of Election

Appendix 2 – List of Nominations

Appendix 3 – Results

# **APPENDIX 1 – NOTICE OF ELECTION**



MONSU Peninsula  
**2020 ANNUAL ELECTIONS**  
Monday 5 October – Friday 9 October 2020

# NOTICE OF ELECTION

The MONSU Peninsula (**MONSU**) 2020 Annual Elections will be held from Monday 5 October to Friday 9 October 2020 for the following positions:

- President – Chair & Spokesperson
- Vice President – General Secretary
- Education Officer
- Welfare Officer
- Volunteer Officer
- Social Officer
- International Student Officer
- Gender & Sexuality Officer
- General (Social) Officer
- General (Welfare) Officer
- General (International) Officer

## **Nominations**

**Nominations will open at 9am Monday 7 September and close at 12 midday on Friday 18 September.**

All Monash Peninsula students may stand for each position, provided that they are not employed by MONSU Peninsula or Monash University.

Nomination Forms will be available on the MONSU Peninsula website ([www.monsupeninsula.org.au](http://www.monsupeninsula.org.au)) or by contacting the Returning Officer.

Candidates should use a separate nomination form for each position they are contesting. Candidates who are nominating for multiple positions must lodge a list showing the order of priority in which they wish to hold them in the event that they are elected to more than one.

## **Voting**

If required, polling will be conducted online on the MONSU Peninsula website between 9am on Monday 5 October and 12midday Friday 9 October.

Further details of polling will be made available following the close of nominations, should the number of nominations exceed the number of positions available.

## **Tickets**

Following the close of nominations, any group of students may register a ticket to support a complete list of candidates in the election by filling in the appropriate form. Group names shall be no longer than three words, must not include the word “independent” or similar, and must not be misleading, deceptive, offensive, libellous or slanderous.

Tickets must include the signatures of all candidates endorsed by the group, and for multi-member positions must include the order in which candidates are to be ranked. Partial tickets that do not run candidates for all contested positions are permitted.

**Completed Ticket Registration Forms must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 3pm Monday 21 September.**

### **Candidate Statements**

Candidates and tickets may also submit written statements in support of their candidacy for publication on the Election Website. Statements must not exceed 200 words and may include a photograph of the candidate. **Statements and photographs must be submitted to the Returning Officer at [monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com](mailto:monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com) and must be received by 3pm Monday 21 September.**

### **Contact details**

The contact details for the Returning Officer are:

Email: [monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com](mailto:monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com)

Telephone: 0448 813 547

All forms must be submitted by email to [monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com](mailto:monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com).

**Copies of the MONSU Peninsula Constitution and Election by-laws governing this election are available from the MONSU Peninsula website at ([www.monsupeninsula.org.au](http://www.monsupeninsula.org.au)). The Returning Officer strongly encourage 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.**

**Jarrold Allen  
Returning Officer  
0448 813 547**

**31 August 2020**

# **APPENDIX 2 – LIST OF NOMINATIONS**



MONSU Peninsula  
**2020 ANNUAL ELECTIONS**  
Monday 5 October – Friday 9 October 2020

## **NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED**

The following nominations have been received by the deadline for positions to be elected at the 2020 MONSU Election. These nominations have been subject to verification in accordance with the Constitution.

The following nomination has been accepted and has been elected unopposed:

| <b>First Name</b> | <b>Surname</b> | <b>Position</b>            |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Elise             | Kervin         | Gender & Sexuality Officer |

The following nominations have been accepted and will be going to a ballot:

| <b>First Name</b> | <b>Surname</b>  | <b>Position</b>                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Kate              | Weikel          | President                       |
| Alice             | Peddle          | President                       |
| Shihab            | Isa             | Vice President                  |
| Patricia          | Scarlett        | Vice President                  |
| Akshita           | Gadiparthi      | Education Officer               |
| Daisy             | Wang            | Education Officer               |
| Brigitte          | Bertolus        | Education Officer               |
| Jhanvi            | Punjabi Punjabi | Welfare Officer                 |
| Daisy             | Wang            | Welfare Officer                 |
| Ella              | Davis           | Welfare Officer                 |
| Jun               | Soong           | Volunteer Officer               |
| Jasmin            | Baker           | Volunteer Officer               |
| Patricia          | Hassim          | Social Officer                  |
| Jessie            | Farquharson     | Social Officer                  |
| Joanne            | Cheah           | International Student Officer   |
| Siu Kwan          | Kwok            | International Student Officer   |
| Josip Rodriguez   | Janekovic       | General (Social) Officer        |
| Ho Man Moon       | Lau             | General (Social) Officer        |
| Dhrupad           | Barua           | General (Welfare) Officer       |
| Liam              | Hemingway       | General (Welfare) Officer       |
| Oshani            | Paranagama      | General (International) Officer |
| Yik Lung          | Lam             | General (International) Officer |

**Jarrold Allen**  
**Returning Officer**

**18 September 2020**

# **APPENDIX 3 – RESULTS**



MONSU Peninsula  
2020 ANNUAL ELECTIONS  
Monday 5 October – Friday 9 October 2020

## NOTICE OF RESULTS

### President

| Candidate    | Team            | Total      |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| Kate Weikel  | Peninsula Proud | 206        |
| Alice Peddle | Evolve          | 381        |
| <b>Total</b> |                 | <b>587</b> |

*Alice Peddle was declared elected.*

### Vice-President

| Candidate         | Team            | Total      |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Shihab Isa        | Peninsula Proud | 182        |
| Patricia Scarlett | Evolve          | 361        |
| <b>Total</b>      |                 | <b>543</b> |

*Patricia Scarlett was declared elected.*

### Education Officer

| Candidate          | Team            | Total      |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Akshita Gadiparthi | Peninsula Proud | 170        |
| Brigitte Bertolus  | Evolve          | 349        |
| Daisy Wang         |                 | 20         |
| <b>Total</b>       |                 | <b>539</b> |

*Brigitte Bertolus was declared elected.*

### Welfare Officer

| Candidate              | Team            | Total      |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Jhanvi Punjabi Punjabi | Peninsula Proud | 166        |
| Ella Davis             | Evolve          | 361        |
| Daisy Wang             |                 | 13         |
| <b>Total</b>           |                 | <b>540</b> |

*Ella Davis was declared elected.*

## Volunteer Officer

| Candidate    | Team            | Total      |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| Jun Soong    | Peninsula Proud | 190        |
| Jasmin Baker | Evolve          | 347        |
| <b>Total</b> |                 | <b>537</b> |

*Jasmin Baker was declared elected.*

## Social Officer

| Candidate          | Team            | Total      |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Patricia Hassam    | Peninsula Proud | 174        |
| Jessie Farquharson | Evolve          | 361        |
| <b>Total</b>       |                 | <b>537</b> |

*Jessie Farquharson was declared elected.*

## International Student Officer

| Candidate    | Team            | Total      |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| Joanne Cheah | Peninsula Proud | 194        |
| Cassidy Kwok | Evolve          | 350        |
| <b>Total</b> |                 | <b>544</b> |

*Cassidy Kwok was declared elected.*

## General (Social) Officer

| Candidate                 | Team            | Total      |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Josip Rodriguez Janekovic | Peninsula Proud | 164        |
| Moon Lau                  | Evolve          | 351        |
| <b>Total</b>              |                 | <b>515</b> |

*Moon Lau was declared elected.*

## General (Welfare) Officer

| Candidate      | Team            | Total      |
|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Dhrupad Barua  | Peninsula Proud | 145        |
| Liam Hemingway | Evolve          | 367        |
| <b>Total</b>   |                 | <b>512</b> |

*Liam Hemingway was declared elected.*

## General (International) Officer

| Candidate         | Team            | Total      |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Oshani Paranagama | Peninsula Proud | 162        |
| Victor Lam        | Evolve          | 350        |
| <b>Total</b>      |                 | <b>512</b> |

*Victor Lam was declared elected.*

**Jarrold Allen**  
**Returning Officer**

**Declared at 12:15pm 9 October 2020**