



MONSU Peninsula
2021 ANNUAL ELECTIONS
Monday 20 September – Thursday 23 September 2021

2021 ELECTION REPORT

Contents

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

1. Introduction

In 2021, MONSU Peninsula (**MONSU**) engaged OGL Group to conduct their Annual Elections, after having conducted their Annual Elections for over a decade.

Gavin Ryan was the Returning Officer for the 2021 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 11 August that Annual Elections would be held from Monday 20 September to Thursday 23 September 2021 (see [Appendix 1 – Notice of Election](#)), with nominations for all positions due 5pm Friday 27 August. The Notice of the Election was disseminated to all Peninsula students by email and was also published on the MONSU Peninsula website.

In line with continued Victorian Government and University COVID restrictions, nomination forms and all other election paperwork including candidate and policy statements could only be submitted via email at these elections.

Candidate Nominations

Nominations were opened at 9am on Wednesday 18 August and closed at 5pm on Friday 27 August.

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 as provided for in the Constitution and the Regulations.

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

3. Results

Once the eligibility of the nominations had been determined, the Notice of Nominations Received was posted on Friday 27 August with all positions being declared unopposed (see [Appendix 2 – Notice of Nominations Received & Declaration of Results](#)).

The notice made available on the MONSU website and via an email sent to all candidates.

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 a number of positive attributes that make it appropriate for use for MONSU's Annual Elections. Its use in Australian student union elections is however still quite recent and requires further improvement to ensure it can be used with no issue. In particular, the inability to run test ballots or adequately view and test the election prior to polls opening is an issue that needs to be resolved.

MSL's compatibility with MONSU's new regulations was untested this year due to the election not being contested.

5. Recommendations

There is only one recommendation, as below:

Work with MSL to improve the voting module

MSL's functionality is increasingly improving, however there are still improvements that are needed to ensure it functions as well as possible within the requirements of the Regulations.

In particular the following areas should be worked on prior to any future elections:

- Ability to adequately test the voting platform by the Returning Officer and election staff prior to the opening of polls.
- Refinement of ticket voting options, including ensuring the Returning Officer can amend the ticket order as required.
- Modification of the election counting module to comply with the requirements of the Regulations.
- Option to ensure all voting data is anonymised including to MSL. While the current system where individuals voting data is not able to be accessed by MONSU or the Returning Officer is largely acceptable, this should be improved such that the data MSL has and can provide for manual recounts does not include identifiable voter data. This is particularly important if any data breaches occur.

6. Conclusion

The election this year was very straightforward due to the absence of polling.

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

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

Gavin Ryan
Returning Officer
2021 MONSU Elections

7. List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Notice of Election

Appendix 2 – Notice of Nominations Received & Declaration of Results

APPENDIX 1 – NOTICE OF ELECTION



MONSU Peninsula

2021 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Monday 20 September – Thursday 23 September 2021

NOTICE OF ELECTION

The MONSU Peninsula (**MONSU**) 2021 Annual Elections will be held from Monday 20 September to Thursday 23 September 2021 for the following positions:

- President – Chair & Spokesperson
- Vice President – General Secretary
- Education Officer
- Welfare Officer
- International Student Officer
- Social Officer
- Volunteer Officer
- Women's Officer
- Queer Officer
- First Year Officer

Nominations

Nominations will open at 9am Wednesday 18 August and close 5pm on Friday 27 August.

All Monash Peninsula students may stand for each position (except Women's and Queer Officers) if they are not employed by MONSU Peninsula or Monash University.

Candidates can nominate via the MSL election platform where indicated in their accounts. Election Forms will be available on the MONSU Peninsula website (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 20 September and 5pm Thursday 23 September.

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

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.

Applications to Re-Register a ticket from the previous election open 9am Wednesday 11 August and close 5pm Monday 16 August.

Applications to Register a new ticket name open 9am Tuesday 17 August and close 5pm Friday 20 August.

A Ticket Registrant must also fill out an 'application to be set out as a ticket' specifying the candidates grouped on a particular ticket. This must be submitted via email to the returning officer by the close of nominations on 5pm Friday 27 August.

Partial tickets that do not run candidates for all contested positions are permitted.

Statements of Distribution of Preferences will be made available to ticket registrants and candidates after the close of nominations.

Contact details

The contact details for the Returning Officer are:

Email: monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com

Telephone: 0403 336 829

Nominations can be submitted via MSL on the MONSU Peninsula Website or submitted via email. All forms must be submitted by email to monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com.

Copies of the MONSU Peninsula Constitution and Election regulations governing this election are available from the MONSU Peninsula website at (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.

**Gavin Ryan
Returning Officer
monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com
11 August 2021**

APPENDIX 2 – NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED & DECLARATION OF RESULTS



MONSU Peninsula

2021 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Monday 20 September - Thursday 23 September 2021

NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED AND DECLARATION OF RESULTS

At the conclusion of the MONSU Peninsula 2021 Annual Election nomination period, I received the following nominations.

Candidate	Position	Ticket
Tessa Alexandra Kent	President	Evolve
Aidan Joel Waide	Vice-President	Evolve
Pansy Oi Yeung Chan & Cheuk Long Lee	Education Officer	Evolve
Hang Yee Chan & Hetvi Hasmukh Gudhka	International Officer	Evolve
Anne Gu & Hannah Nerys Croft	Welfare Officer	Evolve
Eunika Burger & Riley Stewart	Queer Officer	Evolve
Caitlyn Naitoko & Lok Lam Winnie	Volunteer Officer	Evolve
Ellen Malmo & Elena Mary Iris	Women's Officer	Evolve
Lakeisha Ludbey & William Slade	Social Officer	Evolve
Benjamin McKenna	First Year Officer	Evolve
Dayna Kelly-Guthrie	General Officer 1	Evolve
Abigail Matta	General Officer 2	Evolve
Vanessa Tucek	General Officer 3	Evolve

I declare the above candidates elected unopposed.

Gavin Ryan
Returning Officer
monsu.returningofficer@gmail.com
27 August 2021