

Proposal for the Establishment of a POC Officer at MONSU Caulfield

Overview

We are proposing the establishment of a People of Colour (POC) Officer at MONSU Caulfield.

Background

Earlier in the year, the Student Council held a goal-setting session in which they outlined various goals to be achieved before the end of 2021. One of these goals was the establishment of a POC Officer at MONSU Caulfield.

This goal was developed amid discussions regarding organisational growth in line with diverse and inclusive representation of the Caulfield student body.

Following this session MONSU General Representatives Tiana Schurmann, Nan Jiang and Bridget Lee formed a working group aimed at compiling data and gathering feedback for consideration in regard to potential POC Officer establishment. However, data was not collected due to the inability to quantify this element of identity. Although we were able to gather feedback.

Anna reached out to the MONSU Crew with an expression of interest message for students of colour. She then spoke with some students one on one to talk about the goal and overall representation at Caulfield for people of colour. These students were excited at the prospect of the POC Officer role being created.

As a result, Anna discussed this proposition with the Student Council Executive at their meeting on July 6th. It was concluded that she would prepare a formal proposal to be presented at the next Student Council for the Representative's consideration.

Value of Position

As the peak representative body for Undergraduate students at Monash Caulfield, it's integral that MONSU represents students across all identities of race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and gender. Having this representation on the Student Council has tangible effects on the functioning of democracy.

A truly representative student union enables more mindful, inclusive and comprehensive policy making and event and initiative planning while better achieving equity. Importantly, having a POC Officer on Council enables this individual to elevate the voices of their peers through their unique experiences, opinions and thoughts on academic and social matters, subsequently enhancing MONSU's ability to serve the needs of its members.

More specifically, there is an opportunity for a MONSU POC Officer to sit on various University committees. And, if not themselves, they will be able to collaborate with the MONSU

representative on each Council to ensure the voices of students of colour are considered in all discussions at all levels.

Put simply, no one understands the needs of a community better than the people in it. With a POC Officer established, Caulfield students of colour can look to MONSU and feel confident that they have an individual representing their interests who will be able to provide opportunities and resources specific to their needs.

Lastly, the establishment of this role fits with MONSU's diversity and inclusion vision; to grow the organisation in an equitable manner while amplifying the voices of all students safely and responsibly, and celebrating the unique community of Monash Caulfield.

Recommendation

We recommend that the MONSU Student Council moves to establish a People of Colour (POC) Officer.

Anna Purtill, President

Nan Jiang, General Representative

Bridget Lee, General Representative

Tiana Schurmann, General Representative