

Minutes of the Meeting of the SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the RMIT University Student Union

Tuesday 7 September, 5.30pm, Zoom

1. Opening Business

Meeting Opened: 5.35pm

Welcome

In opening this meeting, we acknowledge the people of the Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nations on whose unceded lands we conduct the business of the RMIT University Student Union. We respectfully acknowledge their Ancestors and Elders, past and present. We would also like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and their Ancestors of the lands and waters across Australia where we conduct our business.

Chair

This SGM was co-chaired by RUSU General Secretary, Jarred Armitage and RUSU President, Akshay Jose

Attendance

Attendance was open to currently enrolled RMIT students to register through Eventbrite. Registrations were checked and recorded through Zoom (on entry).

Close to 500 students registered for this event and received the agenda and links to the proposed constitution.

331 attended (327 as participants and 4 as co-hosts). Quorum was met.

2. Proposal to Incorporate & Approve Constitutional Change

The purpose of this SGM was specifically to consider the proposal that RUSU become an incorporated association and to approve the proposed RUSU Incorporated constitution. The proposed constitution of the incorporated association can be viewed at: <https://www.rusu.mit.edu.au/constitution>

The Notice of the SGM and proposed constitution were officially posted on 16 August 16, 2021. This complies with the requirements of the Incorporated Associations Reform Act and exceeds the timeline required by the RUSU Constitution

Motions to Special General Meeting

Voting process

Voting was conducted via Zoom poll. The poll was explained and shared onscreen with all participants who could lodge a yes or no vote for each motion.

Participants who choose not to vote could simply not participate in the poll.

The poll was an electronic poll run by Zoom. It was administered by RUSU staff who were delegated as Zoom co-hosts.

Voter participation was high and all votes had significant margins with overwhelmingly clear outcomes.

Motion 1: Incorporation Approval

Background: https://www.rusu.mit.edu.au/files/Resources/Documents/RUSU_SGM_Notice2021.pdf

Motion: That this Special General Meeting of RUSU approves the proposal for RMIT University Student Union to become an incorporated association under the Act and authorizes Mandi Scott, RUSU Governance & Operations Manager, to apply to the Registrar for incorporation of the association.

Moved: Beatrice Co

Seconded: Daniel Hoogstra

Outcome: Carried

303 votes received. 294 votes in favor and 9 votes against.

Motion 2: RUSU Incorporated Proposed Constitution Approval

Background: <https://www.rusu.mit.edu.au/files/Resources/Documents/FOR%20WEB%20210816%20Updated%20constitution.pdf>

Motion: That this Special General Meeting of RUSU approves the proposed Constitution of the RMIT University Student Union Incorporated as presented to this meeting and posted on the RUSU website. In accordance with the Act, this updated Constitution will come into effect once approved by the Registrar.

Moved: Beatrice Co

Seconded: Daniel Hoogstra

Outcome: Carried

303 votes received. 297 votes in favor and 4 votes against.

Motion 3 - Extra Constitutional Clauses Proposal

Background: RUSU received some additional proposed clauses/rules from a member of the Student Union Council. **These amendments are NOT supported by RUSU or the RUSU Student Union Council** (see: <https://www.rusu.mit.edu.au/constitution> for RUSU's position). However in the interest of the democratic process we agreed to include them for consideration at the SGM.

Motion 3A: Creation of a Social Justice Officer for RUSU

Background: [https://www.rusu.rmit.edu.au/files/Resources/elections/2021/RUSU%20SGM%20-%20%20Extra%20Constitutional%20Clauses%20Proposal%20%20\(motion%203A\).pdf](https://www.rusu.rmit.edu.au/files/Resources/elections/2021/RUSU%20SGM%20-%20%20Extra%20Constitutional%20Clauses%20Proposal%20%20(motion%203A).pdf)

That, in addition to the proposes Rules/ Constitution approved in motion 2 this Special General Meeting of RUSU approves the additional rules (Social Justice Officer – as outlined below) proposed by Chris Giddings being included in the proposed RMIT University Student Union Incorporated constitution, with the constitutional clauses being inserted and renumbered accordingly.

Moved: Chris Giddings

Seconded: Cormac Mills Ritchard

Outcome: Defeated

287 votes received. 56 votes in favor and 231 votes against.

Motion 3B: Increasing Democracy in RUSU

Background: [https://www.rusu.rmit.edu.au/files/Resources/elections/2021/RUSU%20SGM%20-%20%20Extra%20Constitutional%20Clauses%20Proposal%20%20\(motion%203B\).pdf](https://www.rusu.rmit.edu.au/files/Resources/elections/2021/RUSU%20SGM%20-%20%20Extra%20Constitutional%20Clauses%20Proposal%20%20(motion%203B).pdf)

That, in addition to the proposes Rules/ Constitution approved in motion 2, this Special General Meeting of RUSU approves the additional rules (Increasing Democracy at RUSU– as outlined below) proposed by Chris Giddings being included in the proposed RMIT University Student Union Incorporated constitution, with the constitutional clauses being inserted and renumbered accordingly.

Moved: Chris Giddings

Seconded: Cormac Mills Ritchard

Outcome: Defeated

262 votes received. 68 votes in favor and 194 votes against.

3. Prize Draw –

Lucky door prizes; \$250 JB HiFi Voucher, \$200 Coles voucher, Uber Eats Vouchers

4. Meeting Closed – 7.01pm