



RULING ON THE USE OF STUDENT VOICE ELECTORAL TEAM NAME

Following the receipt of a complaint regarding the use of the Student Voice electoral name I have made the following ruling:

The student voice network is a student engagement program at RMIT University designed to provide services, career opportunities and professional development to students at RMIT.

The program does not have any association with the RMIT annual general election process whatsoever and adding to this there is sufficient differentiation in terms of branding, means of engagement and objectives with the Student Voice electoral team to highlight the two are not related at all.

As it stands there is nothing in the regulations preventing the registration of the Student Voice team name at the upcoming elections with the election regulations outlined below only allowing for the exclusion of team names based on the use of the name of an RMIT club or society or any RMIT Student Life or RMIT University Club, Collective or Society or names that offensive, misleading or have the potential to cause confusion amongst voters.

6.6.4.8 Team names must not include the name of a club or society affiliated with the Student Union or any RMIT Student Life or RMIT University Club, Collective or Society.

6.6.4.11 The Returning Officer may refuse to register a team name, that is misleading, offensive, or that is so similar to another proposed team name or names as potentially to cause confusion amongst voters and shall give the applicant the option of choosing another name.

The student voice network does not constitute an RMIT Student Life or RMIT University Club, Collective or Society and I do not find the name to be misleading or likely to cause confusion due to the factors I have outlined.

I have allowed the registration of the Student Voice electoral team on the basis that there is no clear cross-over in regard to logo, branding, messaging or colours. This ruling will be subject to change if it can be demonstrated that members of the Student Voice electoral team have deliberately intended to confuse or mislead voters by breaking this direction.

I will monitor this throughout the election process and will be making a recommendation the university, university departments and faculties are covered by section 6.6.4.8 in the election regulations relating to the registration of electoral team names.

Jarrold Allen
Returning Officer

14 September 2021