

Minutes of the RUSU STUDENT GENERAL MEETING ON PALESTINE

RMIT University Student Union Incorporated
ID number: (A0114140A)

Tuesday, 13 August 2024, 1:00pm
RMIT City Campus, A'Beckett Urban Square

Wednesday, 14 August, 1:00pm
Bundoora West, Building 204

SGM Part One – City Campus

Chairs

RUSU General Secretary, Dhweep Shah & RUSU President, Ella Byrne

Attendance

The SGM was open to all RMIT students to attend and vote. 796 RMIT student pre-registered for the City meeting. 535 confirmed RMIT students attended.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

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.

2. Introductions and Opening of Meeting

I'm Ella, President of RUSU. I'll be assisting to chair today's SGM alongside the RUSU General Secretary, Dhweep Shah. I officially declare this meeting opened at 1.30. At present we have 535 confirmed RMIT students who have registered and entered the meeting.

We are here today because RUSU received a petition from RMIT Students of Palestine with 837 student signatures calling for RUSU to hold this Student General Meeting on Palestine and to vote on 4 specific resolutions.

These resolutions are:

1. RUSU stands for a free Palestine;
2. RUSU demands that RMIT cut ties with all weapons manufacturers and with companies working with the Israeli government;
3. RUSU condemns the complicity of our university and the Albanese government in the genocide in Gaza;
4. That RUSU calls on RMIT to withdraw from the 2024 Land Forces Exposition.

These are the only 4 resolutions that can be considered and voted on at today's meeting. We will consider and vote on each of the four motions separately. Usually in a meeting like this we would ask the mover of the motion to speak to the motion. However, these motions effectively have 837 movers – that's powerful! So instead RUSU has asked RMIT Students for Palestine to nominate a speaker for each of the four motions because they submitted the petition of behalf of the 837 students.

3: Resolutions & Voting: Dhweep

RESOLUTION ONE: RUSU stands for a free Palestine

Speaker: James from RMIT Students for Palestine spoke to Resolution One

Outcome: The motion is carried unanimously

RESOLUTION TWO: RUSU demands that RMIT cut ties with all weapons manufacturers and with companies working with the Israeli government

Speaker: Asyiqin from RMIT Students for Palestine spoke to Resolution Two

Outcome: The motion is carried – 524 For and 1 Against

RESOLUTION THREE : RUSU condemns the complicity of our university and the Albanese government in the genocide in Gaza

Speaker: Holly from RMIT Students for Palestine spoke to Resolution Three.

Outcome: The motion is carried – 524 For and 1 Against

RESOLUTION FOUR: That RUSU calls on RMIT to withdraw from the 2024 Land Forces Exposition

Speaker: Gem from RMIT Students for Palestine spoke to Resolution Four

Outcome: The motion is carried – 524 For and 1 Against

4 - Wrap Up & Close - Ella

Thank you all for coming today. This is a historic SGM for RMIT and a huge show of support for a free Palestine. Meeting Closed.

SGM Part TWO – Bundoora Campus

Chairs

RUSU General Secretary, Dhweep Shah & RUSU President, Ella Byrne

Attendance

The SGM was open to all RMIT students to attend and vote. 53 RMIT student pre-registered for the Bundoora meeting. 35 confirmed RMIT students attended.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

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.

2. Introductions and Opening of Meeting

I'm Ella, President of RUSU. I'll be assisting to chair today's SGM alongside the RUSU General Secretary, Dhweep Shah. I officially declare this meeting opened at 2.10 pm

We are here today because RUSU received a petition from RMIT Students of Palestine with 837 student signatures calling for RUSU to hold this Student General Meeting on Palestine and to vote on 4 specific resolutions.

These resolutions are:

1. RUSU stands for a free Palestine;
2. RUSU demands that RMIT cut ties with all weapons manufacturers and with companies working with the Israeli government;
3. RUSU condemns the complicity of our university and the Albanese government in the genocide in Gaza;
4. That RUSU calls on RMIT to withdraw from the 2024 Land Forces Exposition.

These are the only 4 resolutions that can be considered and voted on at today's meeting. We will consider and vote on each of the four motions separately. Usually in a meeting like this we would ask the mover of the motion to speak to the motion. However, these motions effectively have 837 movers – that's powerful! So Instead RUSU has asked RMIT Students for Palestine to nominate a speaker for each of the four motions because they submitted the petition of behalf of the 837 students.

3: Resolutions & Voting: Dhweep

RESOLUTION ONE: RUSU stands for a free Palestine

Speaker: James from RMIT Students for Palestine spoke to Resolution One

Outcome: The motion is carried unanimously

RESOLUTION TWO: RUSU demands that RMIT cut ties with all weapons manufacturers and with companies working with the Israeli government

Speaker: Asyiqin from RMIT Students for Palestine spoke to Resolution Two

Outcome: The motion is carried unanimously

RESOLUTION THREE : RUSU condemns the complicity of our university and the Albanese government in the genocide in Gaza

Speaker: Holly from RMIT Students for Palestine spoke to Resolution Three.

Outcome: The motion is carried unanimously

RESOLUTION FOUR: That RUSU calls on RMIT to withdraw from the 2024 Land Forces Exposition

Speaker: Matt from RMIT Students for Palestine spoke to Resolution Four

Outcome: The motion is carried unanimously

4 - Wrap Up & Close - Ella

Thank you all for coming today. This is a historic SGM for RMIT and a huge show of support for a free Palestine. Meeting closed at 2.24pm