

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

Thursday, 19 September 2021
4.00pm, Zoom

Chair & Presenters

This SGM was co-chaired by RUSU General Secretary, Jarred Armitage.

Meeting Presenter: RUSU President, Akshay Jose

Meeting Opened: 4.05pm

1. Acknowledgement of Land

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. Attendance & Quorum

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

78 students attended the Zoom AGM.

The official Quorum for a RUSU AGM is usually 300. Due to Covid and lockdown that will be hard to achieve. However we did our best to reach as many students as possible in the circumstances.

In addition to our AGM meeting we have included our Annual Report on the website, posted it on Facebook and emailed the 6000+ people on our members newsletter.

The AGM agenda was officially published on the RUSU Website and Facebook on 23 July.

3. Order of Business

No changes are necessary to the order of business

MOTIONS TO ANNUAL 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.

4. Business

4.1 2020 Financial Activity Report

RUSU 2020 Financial Statement (audit report)

<https://www.rusu.mit.edu.au/files/Resources/elections/2021/Signed%20RMIT%20Student%20Union%20Council-Financial%20Report.pdf>

Motion:

"That this Annual General Meeting of the RMIT University Student Union accepts the audited financial report for 2020 of the RMIT University Student Union"

Moved: Karan Hemang Mehta

Seconded: Matte Howard

Outcome: Carried without dissent

4.2. Report on the Activities of the Student Union

RUSU 2020 Annual Report

https://www.rusu.mit.edu.au/files/Reports/2021/RUSU_AnnualReport_2020.pdf

RUSU President Akshay Jose presented the RUSU Annual Report and highlights of the year for RUSU.

4.3 Constitutional Change – proposal for RUSU to become an incorporated association.

General Secretary, Jarred Armitage updated students on RUSU's plans to become incorporated and encouraged students to attend the SGM on 7 September.

5. Other Business

5.1 Additional Agenda Item - Affirming RUSUs Democratic Values

RUSU received an additional agenda item for the AGM from a member of the Student Union Council. The item is called Affirming RUSUs Democratic Values.

Procedural Motion: That the AGM approves putting the additional item, Affirming RUSU's Democratic Values, onto today's agenda.

Moved: Ravi Jain

Seconded: Ayesha Ahmed

Outcome: Carried without dissent

Motion: Affirming RUSU's Democratic Values

Background: RUSU is a democratic representative body that fights for its members' rights. Being an organisation accountable to its membership is integral to RUSU's strength and ongoing functioning. In all its practices RUSU is committed to the principles of democracy and transparency, in the hopes that students are more readily able and willing to engage with their representative body.

Motion:

- (1) RUSU is committed to the principles of democracy, openness, and transparency in all of its practices with particular emphasis on being accountable to its members.
- (2) RUSU recognises the importance of students being able to participate in the decision-making process of the union and is committed to maximising these opportunities.
- (3) RUSU believes students should have regular opportunities to voice their opinions as part of strengthening the ongoing relationship between students and their elected representatives.

Moved: Chris Giddings

Seconded: Cormac Mills-Ritchard

Outcome: Carried Unanimously

Note: Dissent in the motion was raised by one student, so the vote was put to a formal poll. In the end 50 students voted yes in support of the motion and no students voted No (against the motion).

6. Prize Draw

10 x Lucky door prizes Uber Eats Vouchers drawn

7. Meeting Closed

4.42pm