RUSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

NOTICE OF TRANSITIONAL CLAUSE AND REFERENDUM – ADDITIONAL INDIGENOUS OFFICER FOR RUSU

The Student Union Council motion passed on the 9 August 2023 enables the election of two RUSU Indigenous Officers to be included in the 2023 Annual Student Union Elections process where in previous elections only one Indigenous Officer has been elected.

The Indigenous Officers position will be on the ballot for the RUSU 2023 Annual Student Union Election process and two eligible candidates will be elected to take up office in the subsequent term, subject to the approval of constitutional changes which create this position. Eligibility criteria are also included in the Notice of Election.

Should the constitutional changes not be agreed to, the second position will not be able to be taken up after the election by the successful candidate. If the changes are not agreed to, in effect there is no second position to be elected to.

The referendum to approve the SUC's Constitutional change will run concurrently with the Annual Election process with a ballot inviting a 'yes' or 'no' vote to be sent along with ballots to elect the SUC, Catalyst Editors and National Union of Students Delegates.

Please find the details of the Constitutional change on the next page.

Constitutional Change Proposal

Background: RUSU has been in discussions with the RUSU Indigenous Officer and Ngarara Willim about increasing the number of elected RUSU Indigenous Officers from one to two. The purpose is to support and increase representation of Indigenous student voices at RUSU and RMIT.

The proposal is to use the same model as the RUSU Queer Officers, whereby candidates can run on a joint ticket of up to two candidates and the SUC vote is shared, with regulations governing this process. Using this model will enable RUSU to proceed with electing a second Indigenous Officer at the 2023 RUSU elections, which will then come into effect if the Constitutional change is formally approved through a referendum.

Constitutional Change: To amend section 4.1.9 of the RUSU Constitution to increase the number of elected Indigenous Officers from one to two through replacing the current clause:

4.1.9 the Indigenous Officer - The Indigenous Officer must identify as Indigenous (as determined by the Student Union election Regulations)

With a new clause:

> *4.1.9 the Indigenous Officer- The position of Indigenous Officer may be held by up to two eligible students running on a joint ticket, each who identify as Indigenous (as determined by the Student Union election Regulations). If two students hold this position, then together they may cast only one vote at SUC meetings in accordance with the Student Union Regulations*

As provided for by section 25.2.3.2 of the constitution, the SUC approves the proposed constitutional change special resolution, being put to a referendum. This referendum shall be held alongside the 2023 Annual RUSU elections and shall be conducted by the Returning Officer for those elections, OGL Group, using the voting platform (BigPulse). That the SUC approves the following wording of the referendum question:

RUSU Elected Indigenous Officers

The RUSU Student Union Council is proposing to amend section 4.1.9 of the RUSU Constitution to increase the number of elected RUSU Indigenous Officers from one to two. The purpose of this change is to increase representation of Indigenous student voices at RUSU and RMIT. The proposed new clause is:

> *4.1.9 the Indigenous Officer. - The position of Indigenous Officer may be held by up to two eligible students running on a joint ticket, each who identify as Indigenous (as determined by the Student Union election Regulations). If two students hold this position, then together they may cast only one vote at SUC meetings in accordance with the Student Union Regulations*

REFERENDUM QUESTION:

Do you support the proposal to amend the RUSU constitution to increase the number of elected RUSU Indigenous Officers from one to two.

Yes

No

Jessica Fox
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10 August 2023