RMIT LINK ELECTION RULES

1. These rules will become effective immediately after being adopted by Link Board, and will be displayed on the Link's website immediately after its adoption.

2. RMIT Link will maintain a roll of electors providing their names and addresses for the purpose of elections under these rules.

3. In any election under these rules the Link Board shall appoint a Returning Officer.

4. Whenever any election is to be held, the Returning Officer shall cause a notice of election to be communicated electronically (e-mail) to the members of RMIT Link. In addition communication may be postal or some other form. This notice will:

   (a) specify the RMIT Link election being held;

   (b) call for nominations to be lodged with the Returning Officer such nominations to be lodged not later than ten working days after the day on which the notice was first exhibited;

   (c) state the hour and day and place at which the poll will be held if the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies which date in the case of a postal ballot will be not less than ten working days after the date on which voting papers are to be made available under paragraph (d) and in any other case will be not less than five working days after the date on which voting papers are to be made available under paragraph (d);

   (d) state that the layout of voting papers will be made available for inspection by electors and candidates by a date not more than ten working days after the date of the close of nominations.

   (e) state that the roll of electors for the election will be those members of RMIT Link on the day fifteen working days before the date on which nominations close.

   (f) offer members the option of a postal vote where they are unable to attend the polling place.

5. (a) The nomination of a qualified person will be made by two persons qualified to vote in the RMIT Link election and have the consent in writing of the candidate to their nomination
(b) Each nomination will specify the class of election for which the candidate is nominated.
(c) A candidate may attach to their nomination a statement not exceeding two hundred and fifty words, providing such information as they consider relevant. Candidates' statements will be posted on the RMIT Link website. The Returning Officer may at their discretion request the candidate to amend the statement if, in the opinion of the Returning Officer, the statement contains inappropriate information or comment. Refusal to comply with this request will result in non-distribution to voters of the information supplied by a candidate.
(d) Where vacant positions remain, nominations will automatically reopen at noon on the academic day following close of the original nominations for a period of three academic days.
6. A candidate may at no later than (3) three working days following the close of nominations withdraw their nomination by notice in writing to the Returning Officer.

7. Where the number of nominations:

(a) does not exceed the number of vacancies, the Returning Officer shall declare the candidate or candidates duly elected
(b) exceeds the number of vacancies, the Returning Officer shall give notice to the members of RMIT Link of the names of the persons nominated.

8. The method of voting will be as follows:

(a) Where only one member is to be elected the system will be optional preferential:
   i. A voter will record their vote on the voting paper by placing the figure 1 in the box opposite the name of the candidate for whom they vote as their first preference;
   ii. A voter may place the figures 2, 3, 4 and so on, as the election requires, in the boxes opposite the respective names of such of the other candidates as they may wish, indicating by such numerical sequence the order of preference for all or any of the candidates;
(b) Where two or more members are to be elected the system will be proportional representation (PR):
   i. A voter will record their vote on the voting paper by placing the figure 1 in the box opposite the name of the candidate for whom they vote as their first preference and the figures 2, 3, 4 and so on for all the candidates listed.

9. At the close of the poll the Returning Officer shall:

(a) open the envelopes or the ballot boxes, as the case may be, containing the voting papers and reject any voting paper where the voter has not conformed with the voting instructions on the voting paper;
(b) where the voting has been conducted pursuant to sub-section 8(a) and 8(b), the method of counting will be that described in N E Renton’s Guide for Voluntary Associations Seventh Edition 2000.

10. Where only one member is to be elected and there are two candidates the result of the poll will be determined as follows:

(a) the candidate who has received the larger number of votes shall be declared duly elected;
(b) if the two candidates have received an equal number of votes the Returning Officer shall decide the result of the poll by lot.

11. Where only one member is to be elected and there are more than two candidates the result of the poll will be determined as follows:

(a) the candidate who receives the largest number of first preference votes provided that number forms an absolute majority of votes shall be declared duly elected;
(b) where no candidate has an absolute majority of votes the Returning Officer shall;
   (i) declare the candidate who has received the smallest number of first preference votes a defeated candidate;
(ii) distribute the voting papers of such a defeated candidate among the remaining candidates next in order of each voter's preference; and

(iii) thereafter again determine the number of votes given to each remaining candidate.

(c) the candidate who then receives the largest number of votes, provided that such number is an absolute majority of votes, shall be declared duly elected;

(d) Where no candidate then has an absolute majority of votes the process of declaring the candidate who has the fewest votes a defeated candidate and distributing the voting papers counted to such a defeated candidate among the remaining candidates next in order of each voter's preference will be repeated and the votes recounted after every such redistribution until one candidate receives an absolute majority of votes and this candidate shall be declared duly elected.

(e) Where on any count two or more candidates have an equal number of votes and one of them has to be declared a defeated candidate the Returning Officer shall decide by lot which candidate is to be declared a defeated candidate and if on the final count two candidates have received an equal number of votes the Returning Officer shall decide the result of the poll by lot.

12. At any election where two or more members are to be elected the result of the poll will be determined as follows:

(a) Votes will be allocated to all candidates as indicated on each voting paper;
(b) Those candidates who reach the quota of votes required will be declared duly elected;
(c) Where in any count two or more candidates have an equal number of votes and one or more of them has to be declared a defeated candidate the Returning Officer shall decide by lot which candidate or candidates is to be declared a defeated candidate.

13. The Returning Officer shall decide whether any voting paper is to be accepted or rejected.

14. The Returning Officer and such persons as may assist in determining the result of an election will not in any way disclose for which candidate any voter cast his or her vote in any election.

15. In these rules:

(a) an "absolute majority of votes" in any count means a number greater than one half of the total number of voting papers (excluding voting papers which require to be rejected or pursuant to these regulations are deemed to be exhausted);

(b) a "remaining candidate" means a candidate not already elected or excluded from the count.

(c) where in any count the voting papers counted to a candidate already elected or excluded have to be redistributed amongst the continuing candidates and any such voting paper does not indicate the voter's next succeeding preference for a remaining candidate such voting paper will be deemed to be exhausted;

(d) the "next in order of the voter's preference" in any count means that preference which is marked next on the voting paper after any prior preference or preferences given by the voter to any already elected or excluded candidate provided that where there is any repetition of a figure or any break in the consecutive numbering of the preferences marked by a voter on the voting paper only the preference or preferences preceding such repetition or break will be taken into account.
16.  
(a)  After determining the result of the poll, the Returning Officer shall forthwith, by notice on notice boards of the University, and by electronic communication on the RMIT Link Website declare the successful candidate or candidates duly elected; 

(b)  The Returning Officer shall send to the candidates and shall place on the University notice boards, and on the RMIT Link Website the distribution of votes in the election.

17.  A candidate may nominate a scrutineer to monitor the counting of votes.

Note that these Rules are adapted from RMIT University Statute 9.1 – Elections, amended 22/3/06, and RMIT Regulation 9.1.1 – Elections, as Approved by Council: 2/8/03