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Media Release - RUSU Campaign for Fair Assessment - Media Release

Yesterday RMIT released 21 draft Assessment Policies for comment online. RUSU believes that, if implemented, these policies will impact the basic rights of students and staff of RMIT including:

- making innovation and flexibility in assessment a thing of the past
- restricting student access to support
- breaching student privacy
- increasing staff workload
- creating a stagnant bureaucratic environment where staff are not relied on to use their own common sense
- effectively removing the process of committee approval of new policy related documents

Despite RMIT’s claim that “This [policy] review has been undertaken via extensive consultation”, RUSU believe that the student voice has not been heard in this process and that the policies are not student focused.

In response to RMIT requesting student consultation during the exam period, RUSU President Hovig Melkonian stated that “We do not feel that the perspective of the student body has been considered as that of key stakeholders in this process. To invite student representatives to consult on important and lengthy policy documents during their busiest time in the year with short notice, clearly implies that this consultation process was not being treated seriously.”

RUSU are campaigning for the implementation of a Human Rights Based Approach to policy which would protect and balance the rights of students, staff and RMIT as an organisation. Melkonian stated “We believe this will address systemic issues and symptomatic problems within the University's administration, appeals systems and approach to equity.”

A Human Rights Based Approach is informed by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006. RUSU believe that education providers have a responsibility to respect and support the Charter in their everyday practice, policy and decision making, in order to proactively advance human rights and social justice principles.

More information available @ www.su.rmit.edu.au/news/fair-assessment-campaign