

## Ruling (2) – Ramsay Centre Protest

We have been informed that a protest is planned against a proposed collaboration between the University of Melbourne and the Ramsay Centre, to coincide with the Academic Board meeting on September 10.

Generally speaking, it is desirable for UMSU to not organize events of this nature during polling week, but in this case clearly there was no choice on the matter, since the timing was effectively determined by the University. UMSU should not be prevented by the timing from making its position known on an issue it has deemed to be of importance.

On the other hand, for candidates in the election to use their positions in the UMSU to raise their profile or that of their tickets at an event of this nature would be a breach of the regulation 44.5 (r).

To balance these conflicting interests, our direction is that no candidate in the 2026 UMSU election should represent UMSU to the student body or the media at the event, nor anyone who will be prominently campaigning for a ticket. No candidate or campaigner holding an office within UMSU should use that office to speak publicly at the event.

However, since the President of UMSU will have the opportunity to address the Academic Board (very few of whom are students), this opportunity should not be passed up. Therefore, the President can attend the Academic Board and speak on this (or any other matters) during election week, but should not be the spokesperson on any statement UMSU issues, nor speak to the media, nor address any rally held during polling week. The same applies to other officeholders within UMSU who are also candidates or will be campaigning.

Stephen Luntz  
Returning Officer  
Above Quota Elections

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