

21st March 2018

To the concerning parties,

It is with disappointment that we as student groups write to you in regards to the new costs for booking conference rooms in MAZE. This additional cost, a large fee for groups to cover, impacts the ability of student groups to run events, engage with members and most importantly, enhance student life on campus.

MAZE has been marketed as a space for students and it is disappointing that the largest and most adaptable area of this space is not available free of charge. Many groups need to use spaces like this on a regular basis for events such as rehearsals or training, and \$90 for each use is not a viable long term alternative.

Furthermore, this issue becomes more critical for student groups at the beginning of semester due to the 3-week booking block-out, during which classrooms and theatres are unable to be booked. This is a critical time for almost every society as it is when new students join societies. Not having access to ideal spaces for welcome events, auditions and other purposes greatly impacts the ability of societies to grow.

Additionally, especially for those societies who don't charge any membership fees, this new cost increases the likelihood that future events won't be run in the first place since funding can not be obtained for these rooms. This is compounded by the fact that Campus Engagement has lost funding, affecting the ability of student groups to cover pre-existing costs, in addition to these new costs.

In light of this current situation, we ask that the following recommendations be met;

1. That the fees for conference room use are removed and/or reimbursed for the first three weeks of semester due to the inability to access any other large spaces on campus
2. That the fees for conference room use are subsidised or removed at least once a semester per student group as to allow for large events to occur in all societies, regardless of their ability to fund the room
3. Negotiations and consultations are made available to student groups who have an urgent or ongoing need for these spaces

Each student society simply wants to make the activity or group we provide as accessible, diverse and enjoyable as possible for new and existing students. This change greatly impacts our ability to achieve that goal and ultimately detracts student life on campus.

This letter has been compiled and signed by the following student groups:

1. **180 Degrees Consulting- Macquarie**
2. **Amnesty International**
3. **Amnesty Macquarie University**
4. **AnimeMQ**
5. **Australia-China Youth Association ACYA at Macquarie University**
6. **Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC)**
7. **Biology and Environment society (BAES)**
8. **Christian Union Macquarie University (CU)**
9. **Criminology Society**
10. **DRAMAC**
11. **Grapeshot Magazine**
12. **Japanese Association at Macquarie (JAM)**
13. **Macquarie Animal Rights Society (MARS)**
14. **Macquarie Armenian Students' Association (MASA)**
15. **Macquarie Association of Computing Students (MACS)**
16. **Macquarie Chess League**
17. **Macquarie Labor**
18. **Macquarie Turkish Society**
19. **Macquarie University Acappella Society (MUAS)**
20. **Macquarie University Bangladesh Students Association (MUBSA)**
21. **Macquarie University Debating Society (MUDS)**
22. **Macquarie University Education Society**
23. **Macquarie University Engineering Society**
24. **Macquarie University Freedom Club**
25. **Macquarie University Gaming and Computing Society**
26. **Macquarie University German Society**
27. **Macquarie University Greek Association (MUGA)**
28. **Macquarie University Liberal Club**
29. **Macquarie University Men's Collective/Group**
30. **Macquarie University Mental Health Society**
31. **Macquarie University Musicians Society**
32. **Macquarie University Muslim Students Association (MUMSA)**
33. **Macquarie University Nepalese Students Association (MUNSA)**
34. **Macquarie University Nordic Society**
35. **Macquarie University Philosophy Society: The Platonic Society**
36. **Macquarie University Politics Society (MUPS)**
37. **Macquarie University Psychology Society (MacqPsych)**
38. **Macquarie University Roleplaying society**
39. **Macquarie University Speech, Hearing and Linguistics Society (MUSHLS)**
40. **Macquarie University Sustainability Squad**
41. **Macquarie University Symphony Orchestra (MUSO)**
42. **Macquarie University United Nations Society. (MUNS)**

- 43. Macquarie University Women Entering Business (MQUWEB)**
- 44. Orbis Consulting Group**
- 45. Queer Collective**
- 46. Science Fiction Association**
- 47. The Big Lift**
- 48. The Critical Thinkers Society**
- 49. Vietnamese Student Association (VSA)**
- 50. Vision Generation (VGen)**
- 51. Women In Science and Engineering (WISE)**
- 52. Women's Collective**
- 53. Wushu Tai Chi Qigong & Taekwondo**