



11.4 Macquarie University

Summary of Impact

In summary the impact of VSU at Macquarie University is assessed on the information available as minimal to mild with impact on the individual campus service organisations assessed as follows:

- Minimal to mild for the Macquarie University Sport and Recreation (**MUSR**) with an increase in staff and a reduction in its operating surplus from 2005 to 2006; and

11. Impact at the In-depth Interview Universities

- It is not possible to comment on Students at Macquarie (SAM)¹⁹² and the Macquarie University Student Council (MUSC) as detailed information has not been provided.

Overview of the Campus Service Organisations at Macquarie University

Macquarie University was founded in 1964 and is located in the northern suburb of Ryde, about 16 kilometres from central Sydney. It was developed as part of the expansion of universities together with Monash, La Trobe, Flinders and Newcastle. In 2006 31,660 students were enrolled at the University and staff numbered 1,915. The EFTSL load was 20,779.¹⁹³

At the time of discussions a new organisational grouping was being finalised to merge SAM with Macquarie University Sport and Recreation as a direct consequence of VSU.

As a result of planning over a three year period Macquarie University Sport and Recreation is well placed to provide a wide range of services in the post-VSU environment.

The organisation called U@MQ is the new university controlled student services body at Macquarie University. The University is the only member of U@MQ and all directors will be University employees or appointees except for a student member of Macquarie's governing body.

A police investigation commenced after an internal audit raised serious questions about the management and finances of MUSC and SAM.

In 2005 the University collected a total of \$7.11 million in compulsory amenities and services fees from students.

Detailed Impact on Macquarie University Sport and Recreation

Macquarie University Sport and Recreation (MUSR) is responsible for sporting and recreational activities including social, sports, short courses and the operation of the Sport and Aquatic Centre. Because the organisation had planned for its future post-VSU no services were substantially reduced. Since 2005 there has not been any significant management restructuring of the organisation except for its constitution. It does not operate under a membership model.¹⁹⁴

¹⁹² Students at Macquarie was the student union at Macquarie University prior to the 2007 restructure of student services at the University.

¹⁹³ As at 18 February 2008 further background concerning Macquarie University could be obtained from the Macquarie web site at:

<http://www.mq.edu.au>

¹⁹⁴ As at 18 February 2008 further background on Macquarie University Sport and Recreation (MUSR) could be obtained from MUSR's web site at:

<http://www.musr.mq.edu.au>

11. Impact at the In-depth Interview Universities

In 2005 MUSR received approximately \$2.8 million in compulsory amenities and services fees and in 2006 approximately \$1.5 million in compulsory amenities and services fees and \$1.4 million University Service fee.

In 2007 it received direct funding of \$2.8 million from the University. As can be seen its income from the University has been stable for the last three years however the amount of direct funding will decrease over the period of the next five years as MUSR's alternate revenue generation increases. By 2010 it is expected to decrease to \$2.1 million.

The Sport and Aquatic Centre, built at a cost of \$19 million was opened in early 2007. The Centre has two pools, an outdoor heated pool of Olympic standard and an indoor pool of 25 metres, a two level health club with 1000m² of floor space, new change rooms, café and a new reception area.¹⁹⁵

The key to the positive situation that MUSR is in today lies in the development of a "sports model" based on flexibility, maximizing participation and providing a consistent message.

Constitution:

The Constitution was altered in 2006 and, as a result, the membership status of the organisation. The judgment was made that the old constitution did not provide the capacity for change.

Sports Model:

The development of this Sports Model in 2006 is regarded as a major achievement as it changed the way in which sport and recreation were delivered to students and staff. The overall objective was to significantly increase participation on campus into the future.

Facilities:

A new Sports and Aquatic Centre opened in mid 2007. In 2006 construction was also completed for full lighting of the University's oval. This allows for night games to be played and additional space for night training to take place.

MUSR operates a golf driving range, 12 tennis courts and a café as commercial tenancies. MUSR is also directly responsible for the management of 7 hectares of sporting fields.

¹⁹⁵ As at 18 February 2008 further details concerning the MUSR Sport and Aquatic Centre could be obtained from MUSR's web site at:

<http://www.musr.mq.edu.au/index.php?p=78ee9abb9f832e2a65a4c02fdcfa4de>

11. Impact at the In-depth Interview Universities

In 2006 the University provided MUSR with a grant of \$1.4 million as a contribution to the continuing provision of sport and recreation services.

Table 11.4.1
Impact on Sport and Recreation of VSU and Organisational Change

| | Pre-VSU 2005 | Post-VSU 2007 |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Direct university funding | \$0 | \$2.8 million |
| Student amenities and services fee as a % of total income | 54% (total income \$2.8 million) | 0% |
| Total current assets | \$6.6 million | \$6.7 million |
| Membership of sports clubs | 2,000 | 2,500 |
| Funding for Sports Clubs | \$160,000 | \$0 |
| Support for inter-university sport | 40% of total cost | \$0 |
| Athletes participating in inter-university sport | 600 | 400 |

Since 2007 MUSR has introduced the following new services/facilities:

- Sport and Aquatic Centre;
- Outdoor sporting activities centre;
- Social sports programs;
- College sport;
- Student development programs; and
- Community programs.

During 2006 a 10 per cent increase in club membership was achieved overall for the 39 sport and recreation clubs. In 2007 there are 2,500 active members of student clubs and approximately 7,000 people involved in sports and recreation facility membership, social sport and recreation and clubs.

11. Impact at the In-depth Interview Universities

Table 11.4.2
Staff Levels at Macquarie University Sport and Recreation over 2005 & 2007

| Year | Full-time | Part-time | Casual | Total |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 2005 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 60 |
| 2007 | 60 | 20 | 70 | 150 |
| Δ in Staff Count | 30 | 10 | 50 | 90 |

Note that additional staff were appointed to cope with the opening of the new Sport and Aquatic Centre in 2007.

In summary MUSR has organised itself to operate effectively in the VSU environment. It has an effective governance structure, the support of the University and very competent staff.

Brief Overview of SAM

During 2005 and 2006 the organisation prepared for the introduction of VSU. SAM was responsible for the delivery of food and beverage services, a wide range of social and recreational events, retail outlets, child care, support for over 500 clubs and societies, a card loyalty program, conferencing business and finally supporting University initiatives such as the provision of six student scholarships.

Impact on SAM and MUSC

It is not possible to express a view on the medium to long term effectiveness of the delivery of Student Union type services and student representation because of the very recent announcement of the establishment of the new organisation U@MQ.