

Attn: Sam Gibbard
Branch President
National Tertiary Education Union
RMIT University Branch

14 September 2020

Dear Sam,

I'm writing to express RUSU's disappointment at the major change proposals put forward by RMIT, which involve significant cuts to the library. RUSU was not consulted on these proposed changes before they were announced, and I am very concerned about the impacts these changes will have on the student experience at RMIT. RUSU will be making a submission to RMIT directly, but I also wanted to write to you to outline RUSU's perspective.

RUSU will be running an active campaign to students throughout this week to encourage students to make RMIT aware of the negative impact this will have on student experience.

RUSU is concerned that these changes will be bad for staff, bad for students and will undermine the future of the library. Students have told us repeatedly that, with the fees they pay to study at RMIT, they expect high quality on-campus services, not just online learning. The proposed changes will overemphasise online resources to the detriment of physical collections and in-person advice.

Students need access to face-to-face support from qualified librarians.

We need to preserve our print collections as an essential resource alongside online materials

Students rely on the Makerspace as a key source of access to free tools and equipment for design-based courses. RUSU strongly rejects any proposal to scale back the Makerspace.

We understand this is a difficult time for staff and students alike. RUSU stands in solidarity and expresses support for the library staff.

In solidarity,



Daniel Hoogstra
President