



## **AUSU**

### **Trustee Board Meeting**

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013**

**Committee Room**

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#### **Present**

Ben Meakin (BM) – AUSU President, Chairperson & Trustee  
Carys Thomas (CT) – UMCA President & Trustee  
Jessica Leigh (JL) – AUSU Education officer & Trustee  
Ioan Evans (IE) – AUSU Activities officer & Trustee  
Laura Dickens (LD) – AUSU Student Support officer & Trustee  
Josh James (JJ) – AUSU Undergraduate Trustee  
Rhys Dart (RD) – AUSU External Trustee  
Christopher Lloyd-Jones (CLJ) – AUSU Post Graduate Trustee  
John Glasby (JG) – AUSU Interim CEO  
Emyr Phillips (EP) – AUSU Interim Finance  
Stephen Harrison (SH) – AUSU Interim Finance

#### **In attendance**

Anmarie Evans – AUSU Board of Trustee Clerk

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Stephen Meachem

#### **2. Approve Minutes of Meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

#### **4. Briefing from the Chair**

BM welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the newly elected Post Graduate Trustee, Christopher Lloyd-Jones. He also explained that Emyr Phillips, who is on loan from the University until July 2013 to carry out the Finance function has taken up a new role in IBERS and thanked him for his contribution to date. He then introduced Stephen Harrison, who will be taking over the interim Finance role from Emyr.

BM informed the group that as part of the structure moving forward, a Membership Services Manager had been appointed, Andy Morwood and a Marketing & Communications Manager, Jamie Barker.

#### **5. Officers' Report**

BM reported that he had been busy with the Strategic Plan, working with the Marketing Team on May Ball and with Green projects/Campaigns.

JL explained that it had been the busiest week she had experienced in her role to date. She has had to attend a lot of meetings in one week which has proved very difficult alongside supporting academic appeals.

LD informed the group that aside from elections she has been busy with Accommodation issues, Mental Health issues including compiling a report on the counselling provision. LD informed the group that she received an award from NUS from her Housing Survey.

CT has been busy with Rhangol Eisteddfod, St David's Festival and Rhag which is 9 days full of events. She commented that she wished to thank the student staff translators as they have worked extremely hard over the past few weeks to ensure all translation has been completed.

IE has been busy with Elections, Varsity and Super teams so it has been an extremely busy time. All food left over from Super teams was donated to Ceredigion Care Society. IE reported that there had been a serious incident with some of the Rugby Team. He informed the group that this had been dealt with by the University and the Students' Union and that the Police were involved.

#### **6. Elections Update (Report from Emily Cannon/NUS Wales)**

Emily conducted an investigation into the Elections Process after a number of formal complaints were received. The following recommendations were made:

- Deputy Returning Officer and a member of elections committee attending training – NUS hold a day event aimed at Deputy Returning Officers – possibly December is the next one
- A complete review of the election rules and regulations
- Development of a structured candidate briefing/training and to be held in an appropriate setting, not the main hall.
- Clear distinction of relationship between the Returning Officer and Elections Committee – it needs to be made clear that the election committee carries out the day to day running of the elections and the returning officer will make sure rulings and appeals are submitted to the trustee board.
- Staff to develop timetable for elections (2013/2014) and then elections committee to ratify.
- Development of an election plan incorporating all aspects – marketing, comms strategy, candidate training, evaluation, dates, target setting (number of candidates, voting numbers).
- A full elections review with all candidates surveyed to identify their experiences of the elections.

JG thanked Emily for her report and said that the Union accepted the findings. He did however, explain that following restructure, there had been no Membership Services Manager or other staff member experienced in running elections available. Since then Andrew Morwood had been appointed, who is highly experienced in running officer elections. One of his KPIs would be to audit and completely overhaul the current Elections Process,

and he was confident there would be no recurrence of the issues experienced this year.

Emily also provided a report to the Board with regard to the President's role during the election process and in particular, the unauthorised running of the Presidential Count whilst it had been suspended. A discussion followed in which JL informed the group that she had encouraged BM to run the count and that a staff member was also present when the count was viewed. The Trustees expressed their disdain at this action and asked BM, JL and IRE to leave the room whilst they discussed the matter further.

After a discussion, it was agreed to instigate a process to consider the removal of BM and JL as Officer Trustees via clause 57 of the constitution.

**Agreed – RD, JJ, CLJ, CT, LD**

It was also agreed that a Press statement would be put together by JG on behalf of the Board to explain to Students what has happened to date. This was to be approved by the Trustees prior to being released.

**Action - JG**

It was agreed that JG would investigate the alleged involvement of the staff member and report back to the Trustees.

**Action – JG**

The board agreed that all discussions were open and fair and that all present were in agreement with this course of action. At this point it was decided that RD and JG would inform BM, JL and IRE of the decision.

At this point the Board agreed that any further items on the agenda would be moved to the next Trustee Meeting.

**The next meeting is to be confirmed.**