



**AUSU**  
**Trustee Board Meeting**  
**13<sup>th</sup> March 2015**  
**Committee Room**

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**Present**

Jacob Dafydd Ellis (JDE) – AUSU President, Chairperson & Trustee  
Miriam Williams (MW) – AUSU UMCA President & Trustee  
Will Atkinson (WA) – AUSU Student Welfare Officer & Trustee  
Grace Burton (GB) – AUSU Student Education Officer & Trustee  
Harriet O’Shea (HO) – AUSU Student Activities Officer & Trustee  
John Glasby (JG) – AUSU CEO  
Andrew Morwood (AM) – AUSU Membership Services Manager  
Catrin Hopkins (CH) – AUSU Finance Officer

**Skype**

Peter Curran (PC) – AUSU External Trustee

**In attendance**

Annmarie Evans – AUSU Executive Assistant to the Board  
Eleri Wyn Roberts – AUSU Marketing & Communications Manager (in attendance for the Marketing Presentation only)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Estelle Hart – AUSU External Trustee

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None

**3. Approve Minutes of Meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

Minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were approved as a true record of account.

**Proposed: GB**

**Seconded: PC**

**4. Chair’s Business**

The Chair reported that the University are still pushing for us to complete the Operational Manual for the Mauritius Campus due to open this September. He explained that there are still a lot of unanswered questions that need to be clarified before we can proceed.

**Noted**

Following a discussion regarding lack of attendance at recent meetings, it was agreed that the Chair would write to both Student Trustees to remind them of their responsibilities.

**Action – JDE**

## 5. CEO Report

JG gave a summary of his report that had been previously submitted. This covered Trading, HR, NSS, Staff Survey and Bad Press. JG explained the action taken with regard to recent bad press surrounding a recent Bier Keller promotion that contained a symbol appearing to closely resemble Nazi insignia. JG explained that an internal investigation was held and found that this was a genuine mistake made by Tony Bickley (Events Coordinator) with no intent to cause offence. The symbols are available in single form (i.e. not as a pair) on a website used to enhance social media posts, and were duplicated to form a separation between Welsh & English text. Recommendations were made to prevent further problems arising. Also the risk register has been amended to include sign off of all events postings by the Marketing & Communications Manager.

**The Board were happy with the actions taken.**

## 6. Finance Report

CH discussed the previously submitted accounts for January 2015 and explained that the figures show a £12k negative variance versus budget which was a significant improvement on December's accounts. Strong cost of sales performance and the flattening out of monthly payroll swings were the main contributors.

### **Noted**

PC congratulated everyone on the improvements but shared his concerns regarding the £32k loss on Events. It was agreed that a task/focus group would be set up to gain students' views and additional research to report in the next Trustee meeting. The members of this task group were agreed as follows:

Jacob Dafydd Ellis  
Grace Burton  
Will Atkinson  
John Glasby

## 7. Budget

CH presented the 2015/16 Budget and invited the Board to approve.

PC asked whether this was a pessimistic budget as he was concerned with the low level of surplus included and commented that we should get agreement in writing from the University that the block grant will not be reduced. PC also explained that whilst he was Finance Director, there were plans to charge all departments including the SU to help reduce the deficit in the staff pension fund. JG explained that he had already had conversations with Rebecca Davies and other members of the Exec about this and successfully argued that the Students' Union should be excluded from the charge. PC stated that it would be reassuring to get this in writing.

### **Action – JG**

JDE informed the Board that we will not agree any staff support for Mauritius Campus unless further funds are provided. PC stated that this needs to be stressed to the University and to mention that the money could come out of the Projects Budget and any longer term financial success of the Mauritius Campus needs to be factored into our future funding.

### **Budget Approved**

## **8. Prevent Agenda**

WA informed the Board that new legislation detailing how public bodies, including universities, are to prevent radicalisation has been passed and the UK Government is working on the wording of the guidance to be sent to institutions. Will explained that there has been an update since so asked that this be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

JDE thanked both WA and JG for bringing this to the Board's attention and stated that this is an operational issue for JG to take forward.

**Noted**

## **9. External Trustee Recruitment**

JDE explained that he previously sent an email out asking Trustees to vote on what external company they would like to use to help us recruit for the final External Trustee. As the response was low, the motion failed so he invited the Trustees to vote again.

**Unanimously voted for Peridot & Partners**

**Action – JG**

## **10. Trustee Disciplinary Update**

JDE updated the Board on the decision the panel of Trustees took in relation to the Men's Rugby Union Team. A discussion was held around possible changes to be made to Schedule 3 of the constitution.

**Noted**

AM informed the Board that a FOI request has been placed to find out how Men's Cricket were dealt with in 2013 compared to the punishment agreed for Rugby Union:- questions have been raised on whether they have been dealt with fairly and whether the same protocol was followed.

**Noted**

A member of the Rugby Union Team has lodged an Appeal against the sanctions agreed by the Board. It is not clear under Schedule 3 if an appeal can be raised against such a decision, but given the lack of alternative challenges, the Trustee Board agreed to allow the Appeal to go ahead. JG will set up an Appeals Panel according to Schedule 3, item 23 of the new Constitution.

**Action – JG**

## **11. Officer Role Review**

AM presented the Board with evidence obtained from other Students' Unions in relation to the Directorship of the Commercial Arm. It was agreed that it is unique to have one Trustee as Director and we should look at setting up at least two or three.

**Ongoing**

## **12. Marketing & Communication Presentation**

Eleri Wyn Roberts provided a presentation to introduce herself and her Team and explain the work the Department undertakes.

JDE thanked Eleri and her Team for all their hard work and support and stated that there have been huge improvements made already. JDE asked whether there was any way of knowing who isn't engaging with us and to investigate how best to engage with them.

**Action – Eleri Wyn Roberts**

### **13. Elections Update**

AM provided the Board with a briefing of Election Results and explained that the full report will be available for the next Trustee Meeting in May. Election Turnout was 29.24% against last year's 24%. There were no major incidents and only two formal complaints require action.

JDE thanked AM on behalf of the Board and asked that thanks be passed on to our Campaigns & Democracy Coordinator, Dan Meehan, for all his hard work to achieve this target.

### **14. Risk Register Update**

JG provided the Board with an updated Risk Register and invited the Board to review and approve the amendments.

**Approved by the Board**

### **15. Matters Arising**

None

### **16. A.O.B.**

JG informed the Board that he has been approached by the University to carry out a review of their commercial services and that he had already received provisional approval from the Chair regarding spending a limited amount of time on this. It was considered a repayment for the services provided during and after the restructure when the SU was without a Finance Manager for 6 months and cover was provided by the university FOC.

**Noted**

### **17. Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11am, Sport Wales, Cardiff** where Officers Elect will be invited for observation purposes only. AE will be in touch with further information.

**Noted**