

Lancaster University Students' Union Trustee Board

Minutes of formal meeting held Friday 14 January 2022

Members Present		
Oliver Robinson	SU President & Chair of Trustee Board	He/Him
India Ellis	SU VP Union Development	She/Her
Amy Merchant	SU VP Welfare	She/Her
Paul McCarthy	SU VP Sport	He/Him
Gayatri Shewani	SU VP Education	She/Her
Amanda Chetwynd [Teams]	External Trustee Board Vice-Chair Finance & Risk Sub-Committee Chair	She/Her
Richard Soper	External Trustee Governance Sub-Committee Chair	He/Him
Dave Morris	External Trustee	He/Him
Tony Camp	External Trustee FRSC expert member	He/Him
Sam Maesschalck [Teams]	Student Trustee	He/Him
Rhys Peploe	Student Trustee	He/Him
Callum Slater	Student Trustee	He/Him
In attendance		
Misbah Ashraf	SU Chief Executive	She/Her
Jane Morgan Jones	Financial Controller & Company Secretary	She/Her
Veronica Longmire	Executive Administrator	Minutes
Chris Cottam [for item 3.3]	Advocacy & Governance Manager & SU Data Protection Officer	He/Him

OPENING BUSINESS

The Chair of Board thanked members for attending the meeting, particularly external trustees

Apologies | noted | **Declarations of Interests** | Actions identified.

Minutes of previous meeting and Matters arising from the Minutes | Board accepted the minutes of the meeting held 15 October 2021 and noted the outstanding actions.

MATTERS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL / CONSENT

Poster Code Bylaw | Board observed the poster code bylaw changes which had passed at Executive Committee level and that, together with the Executive Committee, was jointly responsible for changes to the bylaws of the Union. Board was asked to approve a change to the bylaws under Section 52 of the Articles of Association.

Comments/observations: the poster code was currently being used to suppress free expression | reference to an officer role no longer in existence | regular removal of posters | the Chair of Board's preference for there to be an explicit, updated policy and bylaw in place having held dialogue with the University. Board expressed agreement in principle to the proposed changes and suggested the University be given the opportunity to offer comment on the proposals. Action.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Board noted the management accounts to 30 November 2021, observing that whilst the financial position continued to show an overall deficit there were positive variances to the budget | the gross margin | connectivity between commercial areas | potential opportunities | possible advantages of recruitment | importance for budgetary control | clear understanding | the belief around an aligned strategic plan | work underway on projected outturn. Board observed that the block grant was due for discussion and expressed its thanks to all concerned for their work around arduous matters.

Board held discussion around nightclub activity in the city and expressed its continued commitment to maintaining a venue.

Governance & Democracy Review | Board noted the paper presented by the GSC Chair who advised it had not been formally approved by GSC due to shortage of time and that the exercise had been undertaken to ensure full benefit of the Counterculture review [reported initially to Board in December 2020] could be obtained.

Board was asked to observe that most recommendations in the review had been accepted in principle by GSC and the proposal included: a further attempt to secure changes to the Articles [and Bylaws], modified to those previously put to Referendum, a concerted effort to develop strategic policies by holding a Board Conference Day of student and external trustees, retiring and newly-elected FTOs. The recommendations of the GSC were adopted in full and the committee, and working group thanked for their efforts.

It was noted, in respect of two key areas, the make-up and powers of the proposed Union Council and the exact process for future appointment of external trustees, that further debate was required. However, the headline principles in the GSC report : that there be a Council to try to improve member democratic engagement and

appointment of external trustees would be by interview and confirmation by a representative body, but that the routes by which they could be recalled would be revisited to bring them closer to the norm within the sector were agreed. Additional discussion of these detailed aspects would be undertaken away from the meeting.

There was a lengthy discussion of the timescale within which it would be possible to secure referendum approval of the changes to the Articles (once agreed in detail) and agreement that Board should press ahead without undue delay. There was concern to ensure that all compliance aspects were properly observed, that the adverse impact on other activities was understood, and that the timescale adopted would not impose an unreasonable burden on the Student Union's staff. Actions.

Student Trustees Items for Discussion | Board noted items raised by student trustees. Actions identified.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Chair's Report | Board noted the submitted report.

Report from Chief Executive | Board noted the submitted report.

COP 26 Festival | Board acknowledged the paper providing an overview of the contributions of the Green Lancaster team to the University's COP 26 Festival held in October 2021.

ADDITIONAL AND FUTURE BUSINESS

Board noted the Forward Schedule of Business and the date and time of the next formal meeting.

The Chair of Board had pleasure in closing the meeting.
