



03 Board of Trustees
24/2/2014

Action

26 ATTENDANCE

26.1 Members Present

Megan Bennett (Officer trustee), Gabbi Foreman (Officer trustee), Jack Goodwin (Officer trustee), Tomeeka Johnson (Student trustee), Paul McHugh (External trustee), Janice Maclean – CHAIR (External trustee), Patrick Selby (Student trustee), Daryl Sharpe (Officer trustee)

In Attendance

Linda Collett (Minute taker), Guy Stepney (Representation and Communications Manager – Item 28 only), Gill Thompson (Chief Executive)

26.2 Apologies

James Barlow (External trustee), Cheryl Brint (Student trustee), Gail Cottage (Student trustee), Fran Rust, (Officer trustee), Claire Sharples (External trustee),

27.3 Absent

None

28.4 Declaration of interest

None

27 ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

27.1 Accuracy

The previous Minutes were accepted as a true record.

27.2 Matters Arising

16 – Financial report – MK55 Consultants - It was noted that the code was used by Finance for repayment of the re-structuring loan and also for costs related to guest speakers for clubs and societies. With regard to the latter, these would subsequently be moved to the expenditure code within clubs and societies' accounts and the figure would revert to zero by the end of the year. GT plans to discuss with Finance whether additional subjective codes could be created to reflect the various costs more accurately

5.3 – Sport – Management of clubs' money – Finance are now handling this appropriately. The issue with the Rugby club funds had now been resolved.

14 – Student trustee feedback – It had been agreed to move the student trustee feedback item further down the agenda. Student trustees indicated that they found pre-trustee meeting briefings beneficial and that they did not require post-meeting briefings.

15 – CEO report – The Ohio visit report had been circulated to trustees. It was noted that UK democracy was better developed, but that the drive on sport and engagement of students in sport was more successful in the US. Overall it was noted that a working relationship with the University was paramount.

19 – Appointment of student trustees – This was an item on the agenda.

20 – Student newspaper – No progress had yet been made, but one of the current Communications reps had expressed an interest in taking this forward. It was noted that research had previously been carried out, and that this may be worth re-visiting. It was suggested that the University be approached to establish what objections they might have, and that other unions be contacted for details on the systems they have established. DS and GF to consult with FR and bring the item to the next meeting.

24.1 – Trustee resignation – Dates had been set for student trustee interviews.

DS/GF

28 STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-16 MONITORING REPORT JANUARY

GS explained that the monitoring report gave an overview of the focus for the year and that progress would be monitored at the end of the year. It was noted that the Union Steering Group would continually monitor the report so that any commitment or goal that was not covered by departmental or individual plans could be addressed cross-departmentally. It was agreed that it was important that the Strategic Plan had status and validity with the University and that this would be reviewed by trustees at the end of the

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year.

The monitoring report was received and noted.

29 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive's report was received and considered.

2 - Annual Strategic Planning Meeting - The annual meeting with the Vice Chancellor was held on 7 February 2014. The Union were praised for their efforts in reducing their negative reserves and as a result a grant will be awarded this year to cover the remaining deficit. However due to reduced funding generally for the University further funds to expand the SU activities were unlikely to be forthcoming.

3 - Auto enrolment - It was confirmed that Aegon would accept the Anglia Ruskin Students' Union scheme for auto enrolment, but that a NEST would still need to be set up for zero hours and student staff, although few would meet the criteria for auto enrolment. From 1 May, contracts would change and new staff would be auto enrolled at 1%/1% contributions with an opt-out clause or could choose to join the scheme at 6%/6% contributions.

30 FINANCIAL REPORT

The finance report was received and considered.

Although the management accounts were still showing a significant surplus to budget, this was a phasing issue and was likely to reduce the budget over time.

GT brought to the Trustees attention that the turnover to date of the Cambridge shop was significantly adverse to budget - measures are in place to try to address this and this will be discussed at Union Steering Group.

31 OFFICERS' REPORTS

Officers presented their reports and took questions from the Board.

FR to advise when the "Inside Out" programme was to be broadcast.

FR

The reports were received and noted.

32 STUDENT TRUSTEE FEEDBACK

TJ had met with FR regarding student trustee recruitment.

PS noted there had been some confusion about the terminology surrounding Union Council and the Annual Members' Meeting. This was noted for the future.

33 STUDENTS' UNION SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

The report and briefing were received and noted. GT will be attending the SUSS AGM in Manchester as part of the NUS Strategy & Scrutiny Conference this week.

34 RECRUITMENT OF STUDENT TRUSTEES

The advert had been sent to 800 students and placed on the website. Current student trustees were to promote the vacancies at the Rep Society meeting and to ask students what would motivate them to stand as a student trustee.

To date 11 students had requested a pack but only one had so far been returned. The closing date was 25 February.

The external trustee vacancy had been advertised to Alumni and had been placed with the Employment Bureau but so far no replies had been received.

35 POLICY UPDATE

A progress report of policies passed at the November Union Council was presented. Trustees were also advised of policies discussed at the Annual Members Meeting, all of

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which were passed with the exception of the boycott of Coca Cola.

It was noted that GC was very supportive of a policy to introduce audio recordings of lectures/tutorials.

Trustees were advised that officers were each delegated to take some policies forward.

36 ACCESS AGREEMENT 2014-15

The report was received and noted.

It was agreed that the option for students to spend £50 in the SU was about engagement and also an important way in which to increase income. A strategy group was to be established including Helen Valentine and Mike Frost to discuss how this income could be maximised.

37 STEERING OUR UNION

FR to include this item on the agenda for the next meeting and to circulate a paper in advance.

FR

38 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Investment in Volunteers

It was noted that the audit for Investing in Volunteers had taken place and although the report would not be available for some time, the team were optimistic that the award would be achieved. Congratulations were extended to Stephanie Lane who had done a lot of the preparatory work and to the team as a whole.

39 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 29 April – 4.00-7.00 pm by video conference

Stephanie Lane
29/4/14

