

University of Gloucestershire Students' Union Board Of Trustees

Minutes of the meeting held 1 November 2022 (In Person and Online Meeting)

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| Attendance: | Present: |
| Jeremy Davies (Chair and External Trustee) | Josh Clare (CEO) |
| Eleanor Hill (Vice Chair and Officer Trustee) | Karen Hill (Governance and Administration Co-Ordinator) |
| Paige Archer (Officer Trustee) | |
| Beth Timmons (Officer Trustee) | Apologies: |
| Laura Batty (External Trustee) (Left during item 3 due to technical issues) | Emma Boobyer (Finance Manager) |
| Consoluta Price OBE (External Trustee) | Nikki Greenway (External Trustee) |
| Angela McNaught (External Trustee) | |
| Gary Foxley (Student Trustee) | Absent: |
| Jess Bleazard (Student Trustee) (Left during item 10) | Charlie Bengueyfield |

Item

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| 1. | <p>Welcome and Apologies Apologies: EB and NG Absent: CB</p> <p>Action: KH to send related-party forms to LB, AM, NG and JB.</p> <p>Action: LB, AM, NG and JB to return related-party forms to KH by Tuesday 8 November</p> |
| | CONSENT AGENDA |
| 2. | <p>Minutes of the Last Meeting and Actions Outstanding The minutes of the last meeting were approved.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Chief Executive Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome This was successful in relation to non-commercial activity. The commercial performance, however, was more challenging. Nightclub revenue is reducing at the SU and other institutions. 79 black cards were sold in 2019 but this year only 17 were sold. This reduction in sales has a big impact on the profitability of Welcome. Students now prefer smaller-scale events. - International Students There is a growing international population at UoGSU. Their arrival has been staggered until 14 October. This is a full month after the stated official start of term. The staggered start has an impact both on Welcome income and the ability to talk to new students in a short and controlled period of time. |

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| 4. | <p>- Strike Action</p> <p>The Universities and Colleges Union (UCU) have balloted their staff on strike action. In order to hold a legitimate strike there must be a 50% voter turnout and 50% must vote for strike action. UCU achieved 81% and 84% respectively. Unison, however, is the largest Union representing staff on campus.</p> <p>(LB left the meeting due to technical issues.)</p> <p>EH has met with the Immigration and Compliance Officer and Unison Rep, Jo. UCU and Unison are going to undertake joint strike action. They are asking for pay to be 3% above inflation. They are also unhappy that the university is employing all new professional services staff through a separate company with an inferior pension scheme. They believe that terms and conditions are being eroded. It is believed that students will support the unions with their request for pay in line with inflation. Officers are to meet with BH regarding SU communications on the issue. The removal of services for a day or two could have a significant impact on the SU's members. This is particularly because there will be many assessments at that time. Officers are mindful that they have a good working relationship with the university executive, however, they understand that Union action is necessary. Officers want students to form their own opinion on the subject and so consistent, well-meaning and impartial communications are needed.</p> <p>It was said that international students may not understand as they have not been living through the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>Action: JC/Officers to ask the University executive to put contingency support in place for students during any strike action.</p> <p>Action: JC to send Trustees details of any contingency support to be put in place by the University.</p> <p>It is a difficult situation for UoGSU as it is heavily funded by the university. Some UOGSU staff may feel supportive of strikers and wish to support them out of work time.</p> <p>Action: Officers with Becky Fieldhouse(BF), Marketing and Commercial Services Manager and CP to plan the SU's pre- and post-strike communications.</p> <p>Agreement: The SU exists to support students and to ensure that, as far as possible, contingencies are put in place for students</p> |
| 5. | <p>Finance Report</p> <p>Paper 003C details the most recent accounts. The SU is overall 4K in deficit due to Welcome. Support is 2K positive. The Marketing and Commercial Services budgets are off setting each other. BF is looking into bringing in alternative income which is not dependent on students, for example, room hire. In terms of Student Activities, the teams cost more money if they are more successful. The Societies budget is healthy. Sport and Commercial Services are the main areas of concern. Heating costs are covered by the University.</p> <p>A review of the auditors will need to take place this year.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Officers' Reports</p> <p>- PAs Report:</p> <p>The Pasta for Penny event date will be held on a different date. There will be an alternative name and a free food bag.</p> |

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| | <p>It was suggested that there could be alternative bags for students who have different diets. Rice, for example, is widely eaten in many parts of the world.</p> <p>Officers are able to make food bank referrals where needed.</p> <p>- BT's Report: BT is trying to create a Teams chat for Committee members and is also looking to obtain funding from the Council for bystander training. Regarding Never OK, BT is in talks with the Network about the 'Girls' Night in'. During the Committee Training Officers ran a Never OK workshop.</p> <p>It was said that international students may first experience racism here and may need support in dealing with this. They may also need support in dealing with cultural differences.</p> <p>There is an online reporting tool for reporting incidents. The SU only has the power to remove union membership which prevents students from joining sports teams and attending SU social events. The SU, however, is not involved in the university disciplinary process although it can provide feedback on an individual.</p> <p>- EH's Report: EH's campaign is about international students' support and is called Access All Areas although the focus is on access to academics. EH is producing a report during her time in office detailing suggestions for alternative provision. University resource for internationals is quite sparse and is bolted onto other roles, for example, the chaplaincy. The lack of accommodation is a major issue. There will be a weekly international student drop-in session at the job shop. Security clearance is an issue for international students, for example, in cyber security. EH has met with BF to talk about social events for international students. A bring your festive traditions event may be held. A student researcher for the project has been recruited called Ibby. There is an issue with course leaders not following procedures and not storing data in the correct place despite repeated requests from Emma Milsom, Student Voice and Advocacy Manager.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Governance</p> <p>- Update from Audit and Risk Committee There has been no meeting as the audit process is due to start. The Chair noted the comments about the new auditor.</p> <p>- Update from People Committee There will be a lot of new Trustees next year. NG's second term ends on 31 December 2023 and LB and JD's first term finishes on 17 February 2023. Recruitment and induction need to be aligned.</p> <p>Action: JD to ask LB if she wishes to serve a second term.</p> <p>JD will also give his thoughts on serving a second term.</p> <p>Six individuals have been shortlisted for the Student Trustee role. No applicant has specifically said that they want to represent students. Instead they have just referred to general governance. Most applicants are international students and from finance and business backgrounds. It was suggested that it would be good to have Student Trustees from different Academic Schools in order to ensure wide representation.</p> |
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| | MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL |
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| 9. | Related Party Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any updates to declare by BOT <p>Related part forms were completed at the start of the meeting.</p> |
| 10. | City Campus Commercial Update <p>JC has met with the Head of Facilities about a possible SU coffee bar. The SU may need to prove a certain level of commercial liquidity as the tender is of a certain size. This is in line with EU legislation being adopted by the UK. The requirements are currently being checked. The SU could use a commercial partner and the Vice Chancellor is keen to support local business in the space. JC will advise board when the tender document is published. The aim is to both make a profit and interact with students.</p> |
| 11. | Culture, Skills and Induction <p>The Trustee induction process is not a training day but is a checklist that should be ticked through to ensure that Trustees are confident at doing their role. It was requested that the Chair and Vice Chair meet with new Trustees earlier than three months.</p> <p>Action: Trustees to give feedback on board papers 007a- The Culture of Staffing at UoGSU V2 and 007b - UoGSU Trustee Induction Checklist, by 30 November.</p> <p>JB left the meeting.</p> |
| 12. | Any Other Business – to be notified to the Chair in advance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Antisemitism Investigation <p>The NUS President has been removed from their post today. The findings have not been released yet.</p> |
| 13. | The meeting closed at 19.45 |
| 14. | BOT Future Meeting Dates and Times: <p>31 January 2023, 18.00-20.00 29 March 2023, 18.00-20.00 20 June 2023, 18.00-20.00</p> |