

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HUU LIMITED
Held on 10 December 2015 at University House

- Present: Trustees: Simon Clements (Chair) Jeff Caplan (JC), Judith Donovan (JD), Andrew Gurr (AG)
Sabbatical Trustees: Chubike Okide (Deputy Chair/President); Matthew Evans, Vice-President Education (VPE); Ashleigh Davies, Vice-President Welfare & Community (VPWC); Kathy Brook, Vice-President Activities (VPA); Gurmok Sanghera, Vice-President Sport (VPS); Simon Hernandez, Vice-President Scarborough (VPSc)
Student Trustees: Jamie Boote (JB), Lewis Worrow (LW)
- Attending: Stephen Willis, University Chief Finance Officer (SW), Jackie Berry (CEO); Kevin Pearson, Interim Finance Manager (FM); Andy King, Commercial Services Director (CSD); Liz Pearce, Membership Services Director (MSD); Kate Jude, HR Manager (HRM); Rachel Kirby, Marketing & Communications Manager (MCM), Sally Bates, minute taker

1 Apologies
Received from Elizabeth Palmer.

2 Minutes
The minutes were approved.

3 Matters Arising

The matters arising from the last meeting were discussed. JC asked what had been done about improving signposting to HUU. MCM said the University were doing a project and she would be liaising with their Marketing department. HRM explained that the Investors in People audit had been postponed to allow time for the culture work to be embedded. JD said the action point to review the NUS fee should have been noted as "to review NUS membership". Chair confirmed he had followed up welfare issues with Sabbatical Trustees. FM advised that the unincorporated charity had now been closed.

6 Report from Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

As Chair of the Committee, JC summarised the minutes of the first meeting. He asked the Board to approve minor amendments made to the Committee's terms of reference – the inclusion of a representative from the University's finance team and that quorum should be four members, to include an external trustee, two student trustees and a member of the University's finance team. These amendments were approved by the Board.

7 Report from Appointments & Governance Development Committee

As Chair of the Committee, SC summarised the minutes of the first meeting. AG had pointed out that the terms of reference appeared to apply more to appointments than to governance

and this was being addressed to balance it out. The recruitment process for a trustee had begun and an advert sent out via the alumni network.

Presentation on the NUS

Richard Brooks (RB), NUS Union Development Office, attended the meeting to discuss how the NUS supports students' unions and the resources available.

He said the NUS was set up to promote, defend and extend student lives and RB described how the organisation was founded and its current structure. He said they provide to students' unions strategic and HR support, officer development programmes, an information hub, students' union local conferences, quality students' unions (green impact, best bar none, and alcohol impact).

He explained how unions save money through the NUS' purchasing power and how commission is earned. The structure of affiliation fees was discussed and whether these could be negotiated in certain circumstances.

Following the changes to share ownership JC asked whether there was a strategy in place if the NUS is bought out. RB said he would find out.

It was agreed that future Sabbatical teams should receive a detailed induction from the NUS about the support and resource they provide.

8 Sabbatical Trustees Reports

Chair asked that the reports should be taken as read and asked Sabbatical Trustees to give an update if appropriate on any activities.

Governance: President said the team had been through a tough first semester but he was happy they had met the challenges head on. His report included updates on his objectives - student engagement and transparency and accessibility, adding that this project had been retitled "Action for Access".

LW had received feedback about a perceived lack of progress within the students' union and questions about what the Sabbs were working on. He also drew attention to a recent article in Hullfire entitled "Has HUU lost its soul" which debated the loss of control of the Union by its students. It was suggested that this feedback should have been given to the Sabbatical Trustees direct. VPE said that improving the accountability of Union Council and the zones was part of the governance review. It was also acknowledged that communication about what the team does and has achieved has been poor. Chair suggested that LW speak to the individuals concerned after the meeting. **Action: LW**

Education: VPE's report included updates on his objectives – feedback and assessment and departmental and faculty level representation. He summarised details about the HE Green Paper and its potential impact. VPE expressed concern that we were moving away from our primary role of student representation and voice and were moving students towards being consumers – of their education and of the students' union.

CSD said the Sabbatical Trustees should find out what students want and we would then work towards delivering that. JB was concerned that if resource was put into this, when would the focus return to strategy. CEO suggested discussion points on the bigger picture should be brought to the next Board meeting and the sub committees could then work on the building blocks. **Action: CEO**

Discussion followed on engaging with students and JC said that commercial activity was essential to bring students into the building where we then have the opportunity to let them know what we offer. JC added that improvement to the campus signage to the Union was urgently required as he believed there were students who did not know where the Union was. He said he had brought this up in the summer before WelcomeFest and nothing had happened and said we needed to act with more urgency.

Welfare & Community: VPWC reported on progress with her objectives – raising awareness of the White Ribbon Campaign, mental health and housing. She said the Housing Fair was a success and they had 350 people through the door. VPWC said the proposal for gender neutral toilets would go to the next Union Council. JB asked about the level of consultation on this. VPWC said the research has been done. JC was concerned that the wider population had not been consulted.

Activities: VPA's report included updates on her objectives – zone accessibility, rewarding volunteers and the student experience campaign. LW asked why the ISA and societies were not doing so well this year. VPA believed that the decrease in numbers correlated with a decrease in drinking. She said academic societies were increasing and there was more emphasis on education.

Sport: VPS's report detailed progress with his objectives – AU funding, sport empowerment and getting better at sport. He said that 680 deposits had already been received for Tour and it could be the biggest one to date. VPS was concerned we were not seeing the benefits of our commitment to the University's sports development project and that the financial contribution we had made could have been better used elsewhere within sport. CEO suggested VPS reviews this with MSD and reports back to the next meeting.

Action: VPS and MSD

Scarborough: VPSc reported on progress with his objectives – increasing engagement on campus by 10%, creating better cross campus links and creating better representation of liberation groups. He advised that a marketing volunteer would be recruited in the new year which would enable them to turn jobs round quickly. A postgrad association has just been set up with 35 attending the first meeting. VPSc said it had been very interesting to hear some of their issues.

9 Chief Executive & Senior Management Team Reports

The senior management team reports were taken as read.

The possibility of a second Starbucks had been mentioned and CSD said if Starbucks' approval was given, a proposal would go to the Finance, Audit & Risk committee. MSD said she would have a full complement of staff by the end of January.

10 Health & Safety Report

The report was taken as read.

Any Other Business

None reported.

Next meeting: 3 February 2016 at 10.30 am