



Report of the business of the Board of Trustees For the Annual General Meeting 4 April 2017

The Board of Trustees meets six times each academic year. The board has been meeting at this frequency but going forward will be four times per year, with additional meetings of the three sub committees, recently implemented. At time of writing, since the last Annual General Meeting on 9 February 2016, the Board met on 23 February 2016, 27 April (inquorate so rescheduled to 18 May 2016, which was cancelled due to also being inquorate with subsequent decisions being taken by email), 11 July 2016, 24 August 2016, 15 December 2016 and 23 February 2017.

The Board of Trustees is made up of five elected Officer Trustees, up to four appointed Student Trustees and up to six appointed External Trustees. With the three new sub-committees; HR and Employee Engagement, Finance and Risk and Appointments and Governance, there are up to 9 recruited expert committee members.

The Trustees discussed a range of issues including:

Finance

- The management accounts year to date and cash flow forecast were scrutinised by Trustees at each meeting.
- Budgets for 2015-16 were approved
- The Trustees approved the audited accounts 2015-16, which will be received at this Annual General Meeting. These will shortly be available on our website.

Student Council

Trustees reviewed decisions taken at Student Councils to ensure policy was included in decision making. Trustees approved the changes to the bye-laws which were passed at Student Council.

Risk

- Strategic risk workshop – the Board considered the potential strategic risks the organisation may face over the next 10 years. These included internal risks such as funding and external risks such as Government policy.

Pension Schemes

Updates regarding the Union's current and previous pension schemes were received.

Staffing and Recruitment

- Updates on staffing, recruitment and induction was received.

- The Chief Executive's job description was re-written and approved.
- A new staffing structure was proposed by the Chief Executive and approved by the board. Recruitment for new roles have begun.

Strategy

- The monitoring report for the Union's 3 year Strategic Plan 2013-16 was received.
- The board were asked to note that all goals in the old plan had been partly or fully achieved. Thanks were extended to the staff who had worked hard over many years to achieve this.
- The new strategic plan was approved.

Governance

- The board had a review conducted of the board and its governance by an external party.
- The board were given recommendations for implementation to strengthen the governance of ARU SU, these were considered, agreed and the implementation of each one is underway.
- Trustee and expert committee recruitment took place and the first 2 of 3 sub-committee meetings have met.

Space Developments

- The board were asked to consider and approve the development of our current spaces in Tindal and moving our activity to Peter Taylor house.

Officers' Reports

The Officers gave reports on the progress made against their individual and team objectives, which were received.

Student Trustees

Induction for our Student Trustees took place.

Operational Reports

The Board received operational updates at each meeting from the Chief Executive, senior managers and managers where appropriate.

On behalf of the Trustees

Leigh Rooney

President

April 2017