



**University of Hertfordshire Students' Union Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, 15th June 2022 on campus and via MS Teams**

Present:

- David Ball (DB)
- Rhiannon Ellis (RE)
- Sarah Fuell (SF)
- Prosasti Ganguly (PG)
- Stephen Isaacs (SI)
- Simon Petar (SP)
- Victoria Udeh (VU)
- Dr Mairi Watson (MW)

In attendance:

- Rebecca Hobbs, *Chief Executive Officer, HSU (RH)*
- Steve Owen, *Head of Student Services, HSU (SO)*
- Leena Patel, *Head of People and Resources, HSU (LP)*
- Md Sajal, *incoming Vice President Activities, HSU*
- Osama Siddiqui, *incoming Vice President, Community, HSU*
- Aman Tripathi, *incoming Vice President, Education, HSU*
- Umar Mohammed, *incoming External Trustee*

1. Apologies for absence

- Junaid Ahmed (JA)
- Karen McKenna (KMck)
- Katie Morton (KM)

DB said that JA has now resigned his role as Vice President, Activities with immediate effect.

Non-Attendance

None

Welcome

DB welcomed all Trustees to the meeting, with a particular welcome to those who will take up their posts imminently.

2. Declarations of Interest

SP declared an interest as an occasional advisor for the Union of Jewish Students.

No further interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Signed Dated

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the last meeting which was held on Wednesday, 4th May 2022 at 4.00 pm.

4. May Management Accounts, Year-end Forecast and 2022-23 Budget Update

The Board received the May 2022 Management Account. RH highlighted the following:

- A loss of approximately £20k was reported for the month, primarily due to the Summer Ball.
- Actual year-to-date is £68k against budget of £6k.
- Some additional expenditure has gone towards web provision as the current domain is no longer being supported by the current provider.
- For new Trustees, she highlighted that HSU's income is received from two sources, the Block Grant from UH and income from the Forum nightclub through tickets and private hire. Training will be provided for new Trustees to better support them with the financials.

RH reported that the 2022-23 HSU Budget is passing through the UH planning round and thus far, has been met very favourably. Final approval will be received in due course from the Board of Governors. She went on to note that in respect of the Forum, commercially the space has outperformed expectations but the forecast that has been made is a little more conservative for 2022-23 now that the venue is now no longer so novel and out of its initial phase.

5. CEO Update – Year in Review and Next Year's Plans

The Board received the CEO update. RH highlighted the following:

- 2021-22 has been a year of rebuilding the student community.
- Significant obstacles, such as a slower than expected return to face to face teaching, led to a decline in student engagement with HSU initiatives such as societies. This will continue to remain a challenge for HSU into the next academic year.
- However, Semester B and the arrival of substantially higher numbers of international students did see an increase in student engagement.
- RH drew attention to the Diverse Adversities Report which, through surveys and focus groups, students spoke about the positive aspects of their life at UH, as well as barriers and adversities. This work was presented at a recent Wonkhe conference attended by 500+ higher education professionals.

6. Sabbatical Officer Year in Review

RE and PG explored the successes and challenges they had experienced through the year. They both said that they felt it had been a very positive and interesting year, but challenging to come out of the pandemic, learning what students wanted and needed on their return to campus.

DB thanked both RE and PG, and the other Officers who had been part of the team this year. He said it had been a year like no other with so much uncertainty in the national and global landscapes, and that the two Officers had worked so effectively as part of reduced team for

much of the year. He congratulated them on all they had achieved. SF agreed and thanked RE and PG for representing HSU outstandingly and accepting the student mandate on behalf of their colleagues.

7. University update

MW updated the Board on the current opportunities and challenges facing UH.

8. Risk Register update

The Board received the latest iteration of the Risk Register.

For new Trustees, DB noted the standard nature of this report which is presented to the Board at regular intervals.

9. Remuneration and Appointments Committee update

DB reported that the process to recruit new External Trustees, for those that are completing their term of office during the next academic year, is underway. Two new Student Trustees are also in the process of being recruited to backfill those who will also retire and the Committee are confident that one, if not both positions, will be filled by September.

The Head of Operations, after his hugely effective work on the successful launch of the Forum, has now moved on and a new appointment has been made.

10. Finance and Audit Committee update

SF reported on a positive and robust meeting of the Committee recently.

11. Closed Business

The Board of Trustees discussed an item of confidential business.

12. AOB

On behalf of the Board, DB said a formal farewell to the outgoing Student Trustees, VU and KM, and thanked them for their fresh approach to business this year and for their incredibly valuable contributions.

DB went on to thank PG, at the end of her term of office, for her service and again, her most important contribution over the year.

DB closed by thanking SP wholeheartedly for his constant and significant contributions over the last six years, particularly bringing his skills into all sorts of issues. DB thanked SP, on behalf of the Board for everything he has done for HSU which has been so greatly appreciated. SP said that it has been an absolute and genuine pleasure to work with the Board.

Hertfordshire Students' Union Board of Trustees – Wednesday, 15th June 2022
DB wished all retiring Trustees the very best for the future.

Meeting closed at 6.00 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 27th July at 4.00 pm via MS Teams