



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 Time: 3.30pm

Venue: Online Webinar Meeting

## Minutes - Open

### **Circulation:**

Ben Newsham, Tiana Holgate, Milly Last, Chloe Batten, Luke Mephram, Charlotte Lloyd, Alice Churm, Max Renna, Alice Dermody Palmer, Lukasz Kolodziej, Amy Jaiteh, Melanie Chen, Lara Onel, Nyasha Pitt, Graham Parker, Jill Finney, Angella Hill Watson, Mark Crook, Rob Parkinson, George Dowding, Celia Mankelow, Steve Russell

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Nyasha Pitt, Melanie Chen, Lara Onel

### **OBSERVERS IN ATTENDANCE - INCOMING TRUSTEES 20/21**

Megan Clarke, Akosua Sefah, Olly Barron, Izzy Bourne, Jemimah Aggrey, Toby Kunin, Samuel Baldwin, Felicity Andrews.

### **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of Interest declared

### **REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS**

Webex meeting – Unable to complete forms

### **6.1. O MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – OPEN**

That the open minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 be approved as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

### **6.2. O MATTERS ARISING – OPEN**

No matters arising, which are not covered on the agenda

### **6.3. O CHAIRS BUSINESS - OPEN**

**Ben Newsham**

**BN** thanked all out going Trustees for all their hard work and commitment, during a very challenging year.



## Decision & Discussion

### 6.4. O RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY – STUDENTS' UNION REVIEW GROUP

Jill Finney

**JF** introduced the recommendations of the Review Group, which include a new set of principles to enable partnership working between the SU and University and a series of priorities for partnership working which will help shape the work of a refocused Student Union Liaison Group from October 2020. The report also recommends changes to the Framework of Good Governance and Accountability between the University and the SU. **JF** said that the recommendations of the Review Group, which she had co-chaired with Bal Claire, an Independent Member of the University Council, had been approved by University Council on 8 July. **JF** said that the discussions had been very positive and that implementation of the recommendations should result in a more effective working relationship between the SU and the University. **JF** noted that the University had, during the process, highlighted concerns about the SU's performance, for example in relation to the NSS, and that Review Group members had agreed these concerns needed to be addressed as part of future partnership working.

The Board was asked to approve the following recommendations

1. Approve the new principles to enable partnership working
2. Approve the priorities for future partnership working
3. Approve the accountability actions
4. Approve the changes to the Framework of Good Governance and Accountability

**AC** noted a change of wording regarding freedom of speech in the Framework of Good Governance and Accountability. **RP** said that this was designed to update the document in line with legislation.

**CB** asked whether the report sufficiently addresses discussions that had been had by the Board of Trustees around the need for shared accountability; and that it is not just the case of the SU being accountable to the University. **JF** said that shared accountability is central to the new principles to enable partnership working and that the Review Group had been very clear that the SU plays an important role in holding the University to account on behalf of members.

**GP** said the paper and associated vision represented an excellent and valuable piece of work. **AHW** asked what had changed most about our relationship with the University as a result of this work. **RP** felt there had been a renewed commitment to working together for the benefit of students. **JF** noted that this had been her first opportunity to work with the University as a lay trustee and that the resulting board-level relationships which can now be developed with University colleagues have the potential to add real value and consistency to the relationship going forwards.



**AHW** recommended that the SU carry out a relationship stakeholder mapping exercise.

**ML** said that working with the University is essential and that Sabbatical Officers needs to be clear on the type of relationship they want to have with the University, informed by these recommendations.

**Resolved** – the Board of Trustees approved all four recommendations.

## 6.5. O SABBATICAL OFFICER - PRIORITY REPORT

**Sabbs**

The Sabbatical officers talked through the priority work carried out this academic year:

- **Ben Newsham** – Worked to reformed University Discipline process, focusing on Sexual misconduct, racism and hate crime. **UK Island fees** inline with UK fee's, **Campus comfort**, welcoming and comfortable campus, Investment in the University buildings and working on the Library refurbishment project which has unfortunately been put on hold.
- **Tiana Holgate** - Improvement to **mental health support**, accessibility and inclusivity, worked closely with the University Director of wellbeing and safeguarding to write the Universities first wellbeing strategy for staff and students. Carried out research with Warwick students regarding accessing Mental Health support. **Community**, supporting Students who live off Warwick Campus, ensuring their integration as part of the Community, assisting with Housing, Transport, Alcohol and drugs information, and reaction to issues linked to Covid 19, including helping a number students secure a release from their lease contracts. **Race equality**, encouraging the University to work to improve the race issues in the wider community.
- **Chloe Batten** – Closing the **Black attainment gap** ensuring the continued work by the University to close the gap by 2025. Fighting for an Education service that is liberated. Securing continued funding for the **Decolonise work**. **Exam resit fees** abolished.
- **Alice Churm** – Working towards an Education that is free liberating and accessible for all. **Employment contracts** for PG Students who are teaching.
- **Milly Last** – **Transforming** the SU into an organisation Students find accessible, relatable, and useful, including improved voter turnout, working for Students on a non-traditional education path, candidate number increase. Engagement with improved Marketing and Communication. Working with Campaigns and development on a new branch of societies called **Associations** to better support underrepresented groups. The **Democracy review** has been completed ready to be voted on at the first Student Council of the 20/21 Academic year. Ensuring the SU and University take real action on the **Climate emergency**, working on Mobility and Education, including getting the



university to full divest from fossil fuels, University are no longer sending out paper copies of information to incoming students this is all done online. Held a panel discussion on the Global Climate Emergency

- **Charlotte Lloyd – Reshaping sport** to make it inclusive, accessible and as diverse as possible, including the first ever disability sport at Varsity, **BUCs trans athlete policy** lobbying work, University have called for the Inclusion board to review the Trans policy.
- **Luke Mepham – Society and sports club training. Affordable society membership**, a Paper will be brought to the next Board Meeting. **Warwick Volunteer strategy** working to improve Volunteering opportunities

**GD** requested the Sabbatical officers update the priority tracker on the Website, to reflect their success over the last 12 months.

#### 6.6. O RISK REGISTER

**Rob Parkinson**

**RP** went through the updated Strategic Risk register, following work with the Audit and Risk committee we have reduced the large number of risks on the previous register to make it more relevant and manageable, creating a living document which will be reviewed regularly through the Audit and Risk committee, and brought back to the Board Meetings for an extended discussion on an annual basis.

**ML** questioned whether the Democracy review is right to be included in the section of demonstrating value money, but possibly it should be Democratic Representation, **RP** agreed and put forward that the Transformation Project and next steps should also be included.

**JF** suggested in view of the heightened interest by the SU and University in the NSS scores, should these be highlighted as a major risk in future, **RP** agreed highlighting them as a major risk as they would benefit from greater focus.

**AHW** Suggested that the EDI review should be increased to a quarterly review not half yearly, and the work on this should be resumed. **CM** agreed the review of this work should be increased, being a higher profile will help to drive forward this culture piece.

#### 6.7.0 ACTION LOG

Action log has been updated, we have 5 ongoing actions from the Board and Committees being taken into the next academic year 20/21.



#### **6.8. O ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**MC** updated the Board on the ongoing Charity Commission Regulatory investigation, we have received no response to our letter.

The HMRC VAT issue - following the inspection we have been asked if we would like to make a complaint against HMRC, we have responded asking them to respond to our previous communication before we decide if a complaint is warranted.

**RP** suggested we schedule in an additional September Board meeting, date to be confirmed

**Time and Date of Next Board of Trustees Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020**