

Board of Trustees Meeting

Minutes

Date 13th March 2025

Time 16.30

Venue Kevin Gately

Circulation: ~ Enaya Nihal, Muneeba Amjad, Sasha King-Smith, Joe Stanley, Louis Gosling, Naomi Carter, Alijah Taha, Sinai Ejechi, Szonja Kenderesi, Charlotte Dodd, Prosper Omopariola, Noor Syed, Nickan Panjehshahi, Angella Hill Wilson, John Dubber, Robert Pegg.

Executive Board in attendance: ~ Philip Smith, Mark Crook, Tracy Murphy, Steve Russell, Louise Marjoram, George Dowding

Apologies for Absence ~ Prosper Omopariola, Noor Syed

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

MC declared a conflict of interest with regards to the SUSS pension work, as a Trustee of SUSS and also an employee of the University.

3.1 Minutes of the Previous

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Board of Trustees, dated 30th January 2025, are approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3.2 Matters Arising

TM has received a request to have the Board meeting recorded and fully transcribed, **TM** responded that having discussed this with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Board, this request is declined

3.3 Chairs & Full-Time officer Report

EN introduced the Chair and FTO update which provides an overview of the Full Time Officers work during term 2.

3.4 CEO Report

PS takes the report as read and highlighted the salient points

SUSS Pension Section 75 buyout – we are in the final stages of the process and in a position to sign this off, the exit valuation was significantly less than previously stated. The process should be complete by the 24th March 25

The University Quinquennial review – Under the education act the University are required to review our Governance procedures every 5 years, the previous review was satisfied with the work we were carrying out on the Governance Regeneration Project, and over the next 12 months we will work to ensure everything is in order prior to the review.

3.5 Management Accounts Period 6

MC presented the Period 6 accounts and requested any questions or queries.

MC highlighted the money coming into the accounts following the Loan from the University will present a confusing picture for the membership, we need to clearly articulate where and why these funds are included in our financial statements.

3.6 Strategy 2025-30 Update

PS ran through the presentation highlighting the work which has been carried out so far on the 2025-30 Strategy.

Prior to bringing a further draft back to the Board in May, before Marketing and Comms format the finalist version for Board approval in July 25, ready for the new academic year 2025/26

3.7 Student Council / Board of Trustees Update

PS updated the Board on the Student Council and Board of Trustees.

PS and **LM** proposed a way forward, there is a scheduled council meeting on the 29th April, which it is proposed will host a meeting of the council and NUS to talk through their concerns. Having discussed the proposal with the Chair of council he is supportive of this idea.

3.8 Election Update

LG, **MA** and **AT** are asked to leave the meeting as presidential candidates

EN removes herself from the meeting as the interpreter of Bylaw 7.

LM removes herself as the deputy returning officer

JS and **SKS** remove themselves declaring a conflict of interest.

PS gave a brief summary of the situation up to this point:

We held the election in term 2 week 9, 6000+ students voted, **LM's** team worked extremely hard and ran an exceptional election with the help of the democracy assistants, and the Comms and Marketing team.

We filled 5 posts

- DDO
- Societies
- Welfare
- Education
- Post Graduate

The voting student body voted to reopen the nominations for the Sports Officer, and therefore an election will take place in term 3, if we are able to elect at this point we will have a full Officer team for the start of Term 1 2025/26.

We have been unable to declare for the Presidents role following receipt of a number of complaints which needed to be investigated, **PS** is unable to give any further specific information and will communicate next steps following the conclusion of the investigation.

JD asked for clarity on the decision-making process- provided in meeting

Action Log

The action log has been reviewed all actions are within timelines or have been completed within this meeting, the log will be updated.

AOB

The updated draft calendar of meetings has been distributed, and asked all trustees to consider it and feedback any issues.

LM shared that the Advice Centre have been awarded the Advice Quality Standard. This is an amazing achievement on the back to 12 months work to achieve the accreditation, Marketing and Comms will be publicizing the achievement once the certification is received.

Next Meeting – 22nd May 2025