Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date **17th July 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

Incoming Full Time Officers in attendance to Observe the Meeting:~ James Varney – VP Democracy and Development Officer, Ananya Sheekumar - VP Education Officer, Ollie Chapman - VP Welfare & Campaigns Officer, Maanya Raju– Post Graduate Officer, Adam Skrymowski – VP Societies Officer

Apologies for Absence ~ Nickan Panjehshahi, Charlotte Dodd, Prosper Omopariola, Szonja Kenderesi.

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

No declarations of interest raised.

5.1 Minutes of the Previous

The minutes of the previous meeting, 22nd May 2025, are approved as a true and accurate record of that meeting, with one correction, with one amendment to agenda point 4.4 which should read

- confirmed that for the year 24/25, costs towards Societies are greater than expected. This should read Sports.

5.2 Matters Arising

All matters arising will be covered within the meeting

5.3 Sports Strategy Presentation – Mark Hyndman

Mark Hyndman was in attendance presenting the shared direction of Sport and improvements to the Sports provision ensuring it is student centric and in collaboration between the University and Warwick Students' Union.

MH asked for WSU Board support a review of the current service model to better serve Students and for MH to return to this Board to update. **SR** questioned whether this would be a joint review, University and WSU? **MH** confirmed this will be a joint review. **JD** suggested that **LG** should be involved in the review and added that it is important that the SU Brand remains central.

5.4 Chairs & Full-Time officer Report

EN introduced the Chair and FTO end of year presentation, each officer providing an overview of their work during their time in office.

5.5 CEO Report

To Note and Approve

- Revised budget
- Proposed 2025-30 strategy content and endorse the development of a public-facing set of assets

To Note

- To note the progress of the continued Governance Regeneration work (including recent emerging issues) and the timelines suggested
- To note the recommendations relating to elections from the Returning Officer –
- To note the YTD (to June 2025) performance of WSU and MSL

Report Overview

NSS Result – The annual NSS survey results were released on 9th July and the picture of results is partially positive. I'm pleased to report that WSU has increased its satisfaction for a third successive year, but we have fallen from 13th to 18th in the Russell Group standings. We have a new data insight colleague in place and will start to integrate the data to a great degree.

New full time Officer team 2025/26, in attendance in the meeting and are undertaking a month long training and hand over period. Trustee Board training for all board members is booked for Monday 22nd September and we intend to schedule a mid-year refresher training session.

FTO Elections - The Union have concluded the final Officer elections, Louis Gosling returning as VP Sports Officer. The returning Officer report(s) for the two FTO elections were included in the papers and the Board was asked to note the opinions/recommendations.

For action

- The RO recommends that Warwick SU considers changes to the communication of elections guidance, to ensure clarity for candidates and staff supporting the process. We have work to do regarding elections guidance and keeping Bye laws under review.
- The RO makes recommendations regarding the role and purpose of the Adjudication Committee and the manner in which disputes/complaints are managed.

Governance - Quinquennial Review of the Unions governance - the next formal review is scheduled for January 2026. The University will allocate a Lay Member of University Council to lead the review and it will share its findings, observations and queries with the Union's Board of Trustees before the end of the 2025-26 academic year. The board is asked to note the impending review.

Full time officer team structure – PS distributed the report from Sam Harris, Deputy Director of the NUS Charity, reviewing the elected officer structure following on from the Advance HE review in 2022, The Board raised the following point:

AT suggested that this should be discussed at the next Board meeting, September 2025, including next steps.

JD suggested a sub committee or workshop to work to improve the governance and look at the FTO structure, with the agreement of Student Council and inline with the University requirements. We need members of the Board and Student Council to scope out and understand how we move forward with the FTO structure and what that is going to look like. **PS** suggested we cover this at an additional Trustee training day in September, creating a roadmap and next steps. **AT** added that Student Council need to be included in discussions, as well as members of the Board of Trustees.

Any changes are required to be in place in Term 1 to ensure we are ready for the 2026 Spring Elections

5.6 Management Accounts Period 8

Board received an update on the management accounts for period 10.

JS questioned the number of water ingress leaks in the Atruim building, **SR** explained that the work is the responsibility of the University estates team, and there are currently insufficient funds to cover the work, he went on to add that we are working closely with the Estates department and are improving our relationship. **PS** added there is a large amount of work the estates department do for the SU and could charge for but don't. **JD** suggested that a member of the FTO team should be included in Estates meetings, **PS** agreed and added that the University are introducing Estates planning meetings and he has suggested that an FTO should be included.

5.7 Reserves Policy

MC provided the Board with the Reserves Policy and made the following recommendation.

The Board of Trustees are recommended to approve the proposed basis of the Reserves Policy for WSU and target of £845k for unrestricted reserves, after the exclusion of the loan reserve.

Approved.

5.8 Federation Fee Paper

PS talked through the Federation Fee paper.

The Board of Trustees are requested to approve a reduction in society federation fee to £12, the reduction in fees for PG and Medical Students and accept an increase in the net budgeted expenditure position note the financial position of £9,200.

The Board Approved the decrease in Federation Fee.

5.9 Budget 2025-30

MC ran through the Budget and asked the Boards for formal approval. **JD** is happy to agree the budget but is not in agreement with the long term strategy and decline in the reserves.

TM added that following the confirmation of the Block grant, we will bring a cost of living pay proposal to the September Board meeting, which will be back-dated to August 25

5.10 Strategy 2025-30

The Board were presented with the Strategy proposal 2025-30.

Points raised: Members of the Board present endorsed the strategy. The next steps will be for the Marketing team to work to produce the strategy into a finished presentable document.

Action- JD suggested that there should be an annual review of the strategy to ensure the incoming officers team are involved with the strategy, and can suggest any relevant changes.

The board approved the strategy.

5.11 Enablement Strategy

The Board received planned changes within the structures of directorate teams – for information

5.12 Committee Meetings Update

Previous Audit & Risk, People & Remuneration and Governance & Appointments are taken as read

5.13 CEO Objectives

Item below the line for noting

5.14 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 Board thanked the outgoing Full Time Officers for the commitment and support this year.

Next Meeting – 23rd September 2025