



AUSU
Trustee Board Meeting
25th April 2024
In person and via Teams

Present

Elain Gwynedd (EG)	- AUSU Welsh Culture Officer, UMCA President & Trustee (chair)
Helen Cooper (HC)	- AUSU Wellbeing Officer & Officer Trustee
Tiff McWilliams (TMW)	- AUSU Student Opportunities Officer & Trustee
Anna Simpkins (AS)	- AUSU Academic Affairs Officer
Ryan Beasley (RB)	- AUSU External Trustee
Jon Allsopp (JA)	- AUSU External Trustee
Dan Fow (DF)	- AUSU External Trustee
Tom Molyneux (TMO)	- AUSU Student Trustee
Andra Jones (AJ)	- AUSU Student Trustee

In attendance

Trish McGrath (TMcG)	- AUSU CEO
Annamarie Evans (AE)	- AUSU Head of People & Wellbeing (notetaker)

MEETING ADMINISTRATION

EG began the meeting by welcoming Dan Fow, who has been appointed as External Trustee.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Debra Croft, Alan Roberts and Bayanda Vundamina.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held 29th February 2024 were approved.

Approved

4. Matters Arising

The Opportunities team are reviewing training for committee members and will be able to monitor figures once complete and get in place for next year.

Noted

STRATEGY

5. Finance: Management Accounts

Trish explained the Management accounts to March 2024. Overall, we are showing -£17k deficit.

Noted

6. KPI Progress

TM provided the Board with updated KPIs. No questions asked.

Noted

7. CEO Update Report

TM covered areas within her CEO report on staffing, finance and resources which included the University's financial position, communications & engagement, celebrates, opportunities, advice and wellbeing, student voice which included the election results.

Noted

8. Officer Update

Opportunities Officer – busy with Varsity, no excuses campaign resurrecting and delivering to community training, Empower Aber, Tiff tries during Mental Health Awareness Week, code of conduct work with Committees, officer RAG event Charioke and all work on Celebrates.

Wellbeing Officer – Women in research networking, Empower Aber, Reclaim the Night, collaboration NUS Wales conference, planning De-stress week, arranging free pregnancy kits, Papyrus suicide prevention and Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Academic Officer – NUS National Conference – NUS reform is going ahead – instead of UK president split across the nations. Cost of living policy, solidarity people of Palestine and free speech on campus. Neurodiversity celebration week, new neurodiversity webpage which should be student led and a platform for students to talk about their experiences. Senate – adopt a fit to sit policy – if you don't do exam, project or dissertation – go to next resit opportunity for uncapped mark – consensus is not willing to accept it yet – will update in June.

Welsh Culture & UMCA Officer – Eisteddfod Rhyngol UMCA Won for the first time since 2015! AGM – policy to change the name to Undeb Aberystwyth passed, grant for £1k for UMCA 50 and RAG Week currently raised £3,266.59 so far.

Noted

9. CEO Objectives

A report was provided giving progress against objectives for the CEO.

Noted

10. Budget

TM gave a detailed report and budget for 2024/2025 giving various scenarios for the Board to consider as requested by the University. The trustees requested that TM continue with the networking and support she currently gets as they feel in the current crisis, it is vital. The Trustees stated that it is important to show the University the levels of impact that would happen with decreased funding and to stress how much we provide value for money. To consider stressing about the lack of income possibility that can be generated due to giving the commercial arm of the business over to the University.

There was a discussion around the solar fields and whether that should mean utility costs should come down and if that saving has been apportioned correctly to the Students' Union.

Noted and approved for TM to go with savings to the University.

11. Risk Register

TM briefly discussed the updated risk register. TM to look at any possible actions against risks that have increased.

Action - TM

12. AGM

Minutes of the AGM were ratified by the Board.

Approved

13. Constitution update

TM asked the Board to approve replacing AUSU or AberSU with Undeb Aberystwyth in the constitution and Bye-Laws.

Approved

14. A.O.B.

DF commented that we must stress to the University that we are an award winning SU, that we are exceeding in so many areas of our work and for a Students' Union our size, the University are getting huge value for money. And congratulated all.

15. Date of next meeting

13th June 2024