



AUSU
Trustee Board Meeting
29th February 2024
In person and via Teams

Present

Bayanda Vundamina (BV)	- AUSU President and Chair
Elain Gwynedd (EG)	- AUSU Welsh Culture Officer, UMCA President & Trustee
Helen Cooper (HC)	- AUSU Wellbeing Officer & Officer Trustee
Tiff McWilliams (TMW)	- AUSU Student Opportunities Officer & Trustee
Anna Simpkins (AS)	- AUSU Academic Affairs Officer
Jon Allsopp (JA)	- AUSU External Trustee
Alan Roberts (AR)	- AUSU External Trustee
Debra Croft (DC)	- 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

BV began the meeting by welcoming Andra Jones, who was elected as Postgraduate Student Trustee and introductions were made.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Ryan Beasley.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held 7th November 2023 were approved.

Approved

4. Matters Arising

Any matters arising were covered in agenda items.

Noted

STRATEGY

5. Finance: Management Accounts

Trish explained the change in how the budget is being presented and requested that the board let them know if they would prefer it presented in a different way or want anything added. Overall reforecast figures are showing a deficit of £49k, to be discussed in agenda item 12.

Noted

6. KPI Progress

TM provided the Board with updated KPIs. A discussion was held around training of committee members and ensuring the training is completed. TM will discuss further with the Opportunities Team.

Action - TM

7. CEO Update Report

TM covered their CEO update that included People, Budgeting and Finance, Spaces, University Leadership, Comms & Engagement, Strategy, Student Opportunities, Student Voice, Celebrates and Advice & Support. TM explained that each club and society will receive information that breaks down what they club/society costs are to run. As part of the ongoing work for the building refurb, there has been a 3D scan of the whole building, looking at the sustainability of the building, costing up how much it would be to update kitchen facilities to improve offer to students and plan to use Aber Forwards to do focus groups with students. With regards to Varsity, there will be a review as to whether it's something we want to continue to do. AE will invite trustees to celebrate.

Noted

8. Officer Update

President – focussing on anti-racism campaigns and workshops, global week, on the Board to discuss University banking.

Opportunities Officer – Boathouse clear out, facilities – monthly meetings with Sports Centre, monkey hut clear out, dome exists, faith space – in meetings with estates on how can change the space to meet all needs, monthly forum going well. Tiff tries, Arts Fest, Refreshers, SuperTeams without incident or injury, currently working on LGBTQ+ history month, RAG Event, Code of Conduct for Student groups around behaviour – tie into complaints procedure. Policy submitted to AGM.

Wellbeing Officer – SHAG week, 100 winter packs for students in Aber over Winter, Wellbeing guide and Academic guide, Anti Spiking posters – more focussed on getting help perpetrator, solidarity circle for sexual violence awareness week, ISVA met with from student services. LGBTQ+, Women's History month, money week, increase engagement on consent module. Suicide Safer Group.

Academic Officer – looking at changing assessments to take into consideration AI and Neurodiversity. Easily explainable modules on blackboard. Neurodiversity web page, accessibility services who they are, how to get diagnosed in Wales.

Welsh Culture & UMCA Officer – intercollege dance over 500 students from across Uni in Wales, Welsh languages rights day exhibition of society for the week. Film night showing Swm, Eisteddfod Dafarn, Weekly chat. Idea for AGM – union would be known as Undeb Aberystwyth. Welsh Week this week, Pantycelyn choir, inter college eisteddfod. UMCA 50 – festival on 15th June to celebrate 50 years of UMCA.

Noted

9. Finance Update

TM updated the Board on upcoming challenges with regards to block grant next year. TM explained her rationale for the budget and said she would bring back to board at the next meeting. AR suggested TM add another category, circular costs, that looks at areas that if cut by the SU would need to be paid by the University, also considering what the Union can provide cheaper than the University.

Noted

10. Appointment of External Trustee

The board were informed of the interview held with Daniel Fow, Head of London Operations, University of Sunderland and asked the board to approve the appointment.

Approved

11. AGM

The board were provided an update on AGM to note.

Noted

12. Reforecast Budget 23-24

Come back in the next week, as long as happy to go to minus £49k

Noted

13. Appointment of Auditors

Went out to tender, 3 responses, proposing to go with PJE in Aberystwyth and has worked with us and understand our activities. AR asked TM, auditing in general to think about not having the same auditor, to auto renew every 3 years and look for the most experienced auditors.

Approved and Noted

14. A.O.B.

None

15. Date of next meeting

25th April 2024