

Trustee Board Minutes 11 January 2016

Present

Alison Griffin, External Trustee (Chair) Jack Mably, President Ben Chapman, Activities & Development Officer Daisy Lindlar, Representation & Resources Officer Izzy Lenga, Education Officer Remy Claustres, Sports Officer Roberto Sorrentino, Housing & Community Officer Ross Strong, Welfare Officer Claire Boothman, Student Trustee (Postgraduate) Daniel Longhorn, Student Trustee (Undergraduate) Farah Abdelhameed, Student Trustee (International) Jeevan Jones, Student Trustee Chris Granger, University Representative Trustee Bob Saunders, External Trustee Chris Davies, External Trustee Richard Evans, External Trustee Wyn Williams, External Trustee

In attendance

Jo Thomas, Chief Executive Naomi Atkin, Director of Engagement Elliott Packham, Executive Assistant (note taker)

Apologies

None

The Chair welcomed everyone and welcomed the new External Trustee, Wyn Williams. The meeting commenced at 18:05.

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	Notes	ACTION
1	Minutes from 26/10/15	The minutes from 26 th October 2015 were approved as a true record with no amendments.	Approved
2	Matters Arising	There were no matters arising.	
3α	Finance Committee Minutes 26/11/15	The Representation & Resources Officer presented the Finance Minutes from 26th November for the Board's approval. The main points noted were: • Food concept to be discussed further on main agenda • October 2015 Management Accounts noted • Strong surplus of £251.5k • Finance Strategy was presented and noted • Apprenticeship plans were noted	Noted Noted

		The Board approved the Finance Committee minutes.	Approved
3b	HR Committee Minutes	The Welfare Officer presented the HR Minutes from 2 nd December for the Board's approval.	Noted
	02/11/15	 The main points noted were: Student staff monthly pay date New probationary salary increments were approved Silver IiP accreditation targeted for 2017 The Guild recruiting two apprentices in HR and Finance Pay adjustments for cleaning staff were approved 	Noted
		The Board discussed the changes to student staff pay. It was noted that following student staff consultation, it was agreed to pay student staff on the last Friday of each month in line with rent payments.	Noted
		The Board approved the HR Committee minutes.	Approved
4	Postgraduate Officer Proposal	The Education Officer presented the Postgraduate Officer Proposal (PGO) for the Board's approval.	Noted
		The paper presented plans for a new Postgraduate Officer position to join the Officer Team in 2016/17. It was noted that the Board approved funds for this role in May 2014.	Noted
		CB raised a discussion about staff support for the new Postgraduate Officer. It was noted that they would receive the same level of staff support as other the Officers. It was further noted that specific support would be determined once the Officer is in post.	Noted
		A discussion was had regarding funding the new position, and it was noted that the Guild would request part funding from the University as part of the Compact discussions. However it was agreed that the outcome of this discussion would not prevent the role being approved.	JT/NB
		BS raised concerns about voter participation as many postgraduate students are on one year courses. The CEO noted that the position will be reviewed after a two year trial period and voter participation would be looked at as part of this.	Noted Noted
		JJ raised a discussion about whether the PGO role would be more representation or education focused. WW noted that many PG courses attract high numbers of international students and the support they	Noted
		require is not just educational. The EO noted that the PGO would mostly focus on education issues and other PG student issues would be dealt with by the appropriate Officer.	Noted
		The Board approved the Postgraduate Officer paper	Approved
5	Food Concept Report	The Director of Engagement presented the Food Concept Report for the Board's information.	Noted
		BS noted that further work was required on the financial aspect of the proposal and raised concerns about the new food outlet competing with existing franchises. JT noted that Subway were aware of the Guild's plans for the vacant space. It was further noted that the proposed concept was unique to anything else on campus and therefore didn't	

		directly compete with existing franchises.	Noted
		BS noted that if the University funded the proposal, they would expect a return on their investment. JT noted that the external consultant had highlighted that in her experience other University's had helped fund the development of the students' unions food outlets and funding was mentioned in the report for discussion purposes It was agreed that the finances behind the Food Concept Proposal need to be scrutinised further, at the forthcoming Finance Committee.	Noted NB
		JJ noted that there was not currently any Guild branding on the logo. NA noted that further work need to be undertaken with the branding offer, and alternative ways of ensuring that students are aware that the outlet is run by the Guild.	NA
		The Board noted the Food Concept Report.	Noted
6	Media Groups Elections	The Representation and Resources Officer presented the Media Groups and Election Reporting paper for the Board's approval.	Noted
	Regulations	The paper noted that Guild Council passed a motion in 2015 to allow media groups greater freedom to report on elections and give views on candidates. The paper raised the following concerns: - Potential for the private lives of candidates to be scrutinised - Increased resources would be required to proof election reports - Conflict of interest - Media groups supporting a particular candidate could result in a legal challenge against the Guild as we have ultimate legal responsibility for their outputs.	Noted
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		The Representation and Resources Officer noted that due to the five day campaigning window, there is little time for candidates to respond to comments made by media groups. CB noted that a formal interview reduces the risk of bias as opposed to written articles.	Noted
		CA questioned why media groups had not been allowed to report on elections previously. The RRO noted that societies are not permitted to endorse candidates and as media groups are classified as societies, this rule applies to them as well.	Noted
		The Chair recommended that further discussions should take place as proposed in the paper and an update should be presented to the Board after the elections.	Noted
		The Board approved the proposal outlined in the paper to develop alternative plans for Media Groups Elections Regulations	NA/RRO
7	Delegation of Authority	The CEO presented an update to the Guild's Delegation of Authority for the Board's approval.	
		The paper presented minor changes a result of the Guild's new democratic structure and job tiles.	Noted
		The Board approved the Delegation of Authority (version 7).	Approved
8	Strategic Plan Update	The CEO presented the Strategic Plan Update for the Board's information.	

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		The CEO noted resources are being focused on Theme 3 where Jobs, Skills and Volunteering service have experienced staff sickness and turnover.	
		CA asked how the Guild was communicating the Officer's successes to students and suggested using info-graphics.	Noted
		The Board noted the Strategic Plan Update	Noted
9	Counter Terrorism and Security	The Director of Engagement presented the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (CTSA) Update for the Board's information.	Noted
	Update	The paper confirmed that HEFCE have been announced as the monitoring authority for compliance with the Counter Terrorism and Security Act.	Noted
		NA noted that Guild does not fall under the definition of a 'relevant Higher Education body' and therefore HEFCE will not be monitoring the Guild directly. It was further noted that the Guild's speaker request process was a key cross over point and this will be monitored on an	Noted
		ongoing basis.	Noted
		The Board noted the CTSA Update.	Noted
10	Democratic Structures Update	The Representation and Resources Officer presented the Democratic Structures Update for the Board's information. It was noted that 30 ideas were submitted online of which 29 were voted on. It was further noted that none of the ideas achieved quoracy level although some were close. In order to improve this, it was suggested to send an email to any student who submitted an idea to	Noted
		help them promote it to the student population. DL raised concerns about quoracy for liberation groups. NA noted that finding a standard number is difficult as the Guild does not have	Noted
		accurate data for the total number of students within each liberation group. The RRO noted that the same idea is currently allowed to be	Noted
		repeated if it didn't achieve quoracy.	Noted
		The Board noted the Democratic Structures Update.	Noted
11	Green Impact Update	The Representation and Resources Officer presented the Green Impact Update for the Board's information.	Noted
		It was noted that the Guild is aiming for a 'Gold' Green Impact Award for 2015-16 and the Housing and Community Officer explained some of the recent activities related to sustainability that the Guild has organised.	Noted
		The Board noted the Green Impact Update	Noted
12	Student	The Education Officer presented the Student Written Submission for the	
	Written	Board's information.	
	Submission	The Board noted the Student Written Submission	Noted
13	CEO Report	The Board approved the CEO Report.	Approved
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14	Guild Officer	The Board approved the Guild Officer Report	Approved
	Report		

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:55

