

BOARD REPORT

PRESIDENT

USU Board meeting date: 24/07/2025

Agenda item: 11.4

Report Period: July 2025

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Recommendation 1 That the Board notes this report.	2-4	

FOREWORD

I am incredibly honoured and humbled to be serving as USU President over the next year working alongside a fantastic Executive and Board to serve over 50,000 of our members. I am excited to see our new Directors transition so smoothly into their roles and I know we will be achieving great outcomes for the USU, its members and staff over the coming months and into the new year.

July marked a steep learning curve for both myself and the Board as a whole, as we navigated transitions and found our footing. Our informative Board induction, conducted over the past three days, helped us set the right expectations, understand how best to support our staff, and identify where we can better serve our members. The USU calendar for the remainder of the year is equally exciting as we continue some of our biggest events and programs, with Welcome Fest just around the corner.

I have engaged in numerous introductory meetings with our key stakeholders and am excited to continue building upon our strong existing relationships whilst fostering new ones. The previous Executive and Board have laid strong foundations, and we look forward to building upon their momentum across Committees and Working Parties.

As we mark 151 years since our founding in 1874, we're reminded of the USU's long and dynamic history. So much has changed over the decades, yet one constant remains: our people. It's their energy, creativity, and shared commitment to enhancing student experience that form the heartbeat of this organisation.

I remember my first Welcome Fest when I started university in mid-2022. There was a sense of uncertainty about what to expect, but I was eager to find my place and to feel like I belonged. Through its various programs and support tailored to international students like me, the USU made me feel seen and valued. That deep sense of gratitude and connection fuels my passion to give back, and it will stay with me as I begin this new chapter with the USU.

Our legacy inspires us, but our future demands reflection, reinvention, and purpose-driven action. This is yet another defining chapter for the USU that is not one of preservation alone, but of progress. And with that, I am committed to leading this Board with humility, integrity, and confidence.

GOVERNANCE

Incorporation

Over the past month, we have continued to make progress on the USU's path to legal incorporation. Following the successful SGM in June and in line with the Board's authorisation, work has advanced to establish USYD STUDENT UNION LTD, which will be located at Level 6, Holme Building, Science Rd, Camperdown NSW 2050 and seek appointments of individuals as follows:

- Laura Camilletti: Company Secretary
- Jane Coles: Public Officer
- Benjamin Hines: Independent Director, Chair
- Phan Vu: Director, Deputy Chair
- Bryson Constable: Director

I instructed Bryson to apply for an ABN which has been successfully approved (ABN: 52688637818; ACN: 688637818). The Board has approved the necessary expenditure to continue engaging Gilbert + Tobin in this process.

Committee Updates

Clubs and Societies Committee: Following the approval of the new Clubs and Societies Matrix at the June Board meeting, implementation commenced mid-July. My thanks to Julia, our former Honorary Secretary, for her excellent work on developing this matrix. It represents a reset of our approach to new club applications, moving away from precedent-based decisions toward a more consistent and transparent process. I also want to acknowledge Kelsey for stepping into the role of Director of Student Experience, ensuring continuity and momentum in this portfolio.

Debates Committee: Congratulations to William Ryan and Samuel Druce on their successful appointments to the 2025 Debates Committee. I look forward to the continued growth of debating at the USU with their contributions and involvement.

The Governance and Finance Committees have also met in the past month. Congratulations to our new Directors who have used these meetings to familiarise themselves with their roles and responsibilities.

Working Groups

During the induction, Georgia and I have clarified the proper procedure for establishing new Working Groups which requires approval by the Vice President (Georgia) with agreement from the President (myself). While past practices have varied, the Governance Committee is currently developing a formal mechanism to streamline this process and will provide further updates next month.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

University

Following a smooth handover from Bryson, I have met or am scheduled to meet with every major USU stakeholder. These conversations have been highly productive, and I look forward to strengthening our relationships both on and off campus to ensure the USU is well positioned in future discussions.

The Canteen Working Group continues discussions regarding offerings from Semester 1, 2026 onwards. Throughout this process, we, along with leaders from other student organisations, have actively advocated for student voices to be heard in decision-making around the canteen site, using consultation and student surveys. Our recent survey, with over 1,000 responses, indicates a strong

preference for the canteen to be located near the Wentworth Building, aligning with our food and beverage strategy to operate a full-time canteen in the Wentworth precinct from Semester 1, 2026 onwards. For Semester 2, 2025, the USU Laneway will be repurposed to pilot a \$5 meal program.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE & IMPACT

Semester 1, 2025 Impact Report

This semester, we have seen significant increases in student engagement across core areas including Membership, Clubs and Societies, Events and Programs, and Food Security. The report highlights the USU's continued role in enriching campus life and the meaningful social impact we deliver together.

Demand for cost-of-living support services continues to grow, with a 35% increase in visits to FoodHub and an increase in free meals served. This data underscores the vital role our free food initiatives play in supporting students. I would like to thank the Student Life team, the Vice-Chancellor's Office, and others for their valued collaboration on these initiatives.

I am also proud to report that 51% of our USU staff are students, representing 231 student employees.

Membership has grown by 8%, now exceeding 50,000, with sustained growth in co-curricular engagement. Last semester alone, over 20,994 students joined at least one club, averaging four clubs per student.

Special thanks to Jane and her marketing team for their outstanding work in driving these results.

LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Staff Engagement

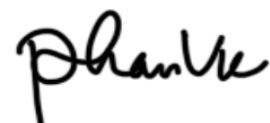
I want to also take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the incredible work of our staff. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Janina for her immense contribution to the organisation. Our weekly meetings have been both productive and forward-thinking as we work together to safeguard and strengthen the health of the USU.

Over the past month, I have also met with each Head of Department to better understand their portfolios and priorities. I will continue to support their work where possible and will convene monthly meetings with the HODs to ensure regular, transparent, and collaborative engagement across the organisation.

Board Engagement

It was a pleasure to work alongside the Board and SLT members during our annual induction this month. Directors engaged actively in the sessions, setting a strong tone for the year ahead.

I am committed to supporting ongoing capacity-building to ensure that every Director is equipped to lead effectively and contribute meaningfully to the strategic direction of the USU.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Phan Vu'.

Phan Vu
PRESIDENT