

PUBLIC

MEETING: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD ON: Friday 29 September 2023

TIME: 1:00 to 3:00pm

LOCATION: Cullen Room or Online via Zoom:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nazanin (Naz) Sharifi	President, Chair
Madhullikaa (Madhu) Singh	Vice President
Nicholas (Nick) Dower	Honorary Treasurer
Onor Nottle	Honorary Secretary
Bryson Constable	Director
Benjamin (Ben) Hines	Director
Julia Lim	Director
Grace Porter	Director
Sargun Saluja	Director
Grace Wallman	Director
Alexander (Alex) Poirier	Director
David Wright	Senate-Appointed Director
Alyssa White	Senate-Appointed Director
Cole Scott-Curwood	Immediate Past President

USU STAFF

Andrew Mills	Chief Executive Officer & Board Secretary
Michelle Tonge	CFO/Director of Corporate Services
Jess Reed	Chief Operating Officer
Carole McElligott	Governance Coordinator/Asst. Board Secretary

GUESTS

Misbah Ansari and Ethan Floyd	Honi Soit
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1. Opening

1.1. Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country

The meeting opened 1:10pm.

The President made an acknowledgement to Country.

1.2. Apologies and Leaves of Absence

The Board **NOTED** attendance as follows:

Present: Nazanin Sharifi, Madhullikaa Singh, Nicholas Dower, Grace Porter, Bryson Constable, Grace Wallman, Sargun Saluja, Alexander Poirier, Benjamin Hines.

Online attendance: Cole Scott-Curwood, Julia Lim, Onor Nottle, David Wright – arrived at 1.30pm, Madhullikaa Singh

Apology: Alyssa White

2. Conflicts of Interest

Cole Scott-Curwood – Electoral Officer, Sydney University Law Society

3. Confidential Meeting Administration – In Camera

The reason to move into camera is to discuss confidential, tenancies and employee matters.

RESOLUTION		RB#61/23
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors move 'in camera'.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Nicholas Dower	Carried

3.1

RESOLUTION		RB#62/23
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approved the CONFIDENTIAL minutes of the previous SPECIAL Board Meeting, 8 September 2023.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Grace Wallman	Carried

Public Business – out of Camera session

10 Meeting Administration (Out of Camera)

RESOLUTION		RB#63/23
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors move 'out of camera'.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Grace Wallman	Carried

10.1 Meeting of the Previous Board Meeting (Public)

RESOLUTION		RB#64/23
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approve the PUBLIC minutes of the SPECIAL Board Meeting, 8 September 2023.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Bryson Constable	Carried

10.2 Actions Arising from This Meeting – refer attached.

10.3 Endorsement of Circular Resolutions

Nil

11 Motions on Notice /Matters for Decision / Matters for Noting.

11.1 Motion on Notice

11.1.1 Ratification of Jane Coles, as new Interim Head of Marketing, Membership and Communications.

RESOLUTION		RB#65/23
RESOLVED that the Board of Directors, ratifies the appointment of Jane Coles as Interim Head of Marketing, Membership and Communications.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Nicholas Dower	Carried

11.1.2 Approval of the appointment of William Price Cunliffe, as Director of Debates for 2024 and Isabella Freeland as the reserve.

RESOLUTION		RB#66/23
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors, approves the appointment of William Price Cunliffe, as Director of Debates for 2024 and Isabella Freeland as the reserve (Circular Resolution #2).		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Grace Wallman	Carried

11.2 Matters for Decision

11.2.1 Complaints and Discipline Procedure (Student Groups) Policy

RESOLUTION		RB#67/23
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors, endorses the update to the Complaints and Discipline Procedure (Student Groups) Policy, as recommended by the Governance Committee, subject to grammatical amendments.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Nicholas Dower	Carried

Andrew noted that this policy will made accessible to the student cohort.

11.3 Matters for Noting

Nil

12 CEO Report – Strategic, Governance & Operational updates

12.1 CEO Report

Andrew run through his PPT. He highlighted:-

- The Fair Work Commission’s new ‘Employee-Like’ Forms of Work for Gig Economy workers.
- Operational performance is tracking well.
- USU infrastructure improvements: Manning meeting rooms upgrade with inbuilt Zoom capability.

Noted

13 Finance Reports and Recommendations

13.1 Board Finance Report

The Finance Report was taken as read.

The first draft of the 2024 Budget and the 2023 Reforecast will be presented to the Finance Committee on Friday 20 October. August’s net P&L result is a loss of \$110k, compared to the

Q2 reforecast of \$18k deficit. (Refer 5a. P&L Result - Variance to Q2 Reforecast). There has been strong revenue in the outlets and events run by HostCo which has resulted in higher payroll expense. Michelle and Nick are arranging finance training for the Board.

Noted

13.2 USU Compliance Report

Andrew noted that this report is updated every month and includes legislative and regulatory timelines. Relevant items are also discussed at the WHS meetings. Andrew noted that the last two items in the Management Response Letter are now green from amber.

Noted

13.3 Finance Dashboard

Noted

14 STRATEGY REFRESH – the link to the Strategy Refresh on Monday.Com was noted.

15 Exec Reports

15.1 Report of the Hon. Secretary

The Board NOTED the Hon. Secretary's report as taken as read.

Onor congratulated William Price for his appointment to Director of Debates in 2024. it was fantastic to hear about the success of our debaters as they look forward to AWGMDC. Attendance meeting and working parties has included, ExCo, C&S and the Student Safety Conference. PULP has issued its 10th edition and the Festival of Creativity working party contributed to its huge success.

15.2 Report of the Hon. Treasurer

The Board NOTED the Hon. Treasurer's report as taken as read.

Nick has been looking at enhancing USU's monitoring and reporting methodologies around sustainability in order to track our sustainability progress. Our objective is to align our actions with our policies and with the expectations of our members. He was also investigating finance training options for the Board. Nick noted that the ExCo had met with key Uni stakeholders.

15.3 Report of the Vice President

The Board NOTED the Vice President's report as taken as read.

Madhu noted the success of the Festival of Creativity and the importance of building on stakeholder relationships.

15.4 Report of the President

The Board NOTED the President's report as taken as read.

Naz noted the fourth instalment of the USU Speaker Series. Naz also highlighted the challenges of resourcing and restocking Food Hub and the importance of increasing cheaper and free food options across campus.

16 Other Business

16.1 Reports of Portfolio Holders – Verbal updates

Ethnocultural Portfolio: Julia noted the importance of a diversity of panels and speakers at the Student Safety Conference. Julia thanked Naz, Kelsey, JL and Henry for their work on the Ethnoculture space.

Disability Portfolio: Grace has engaged with Uni to access disability support and resources. Grace is also contributing to the Student Safety Conference Working Party, (SSCWP) to ensure that this type of event is accessible to people with disabilities. Grace also noted that the Disability Room will be open soon. Onor recognised Grace's paper to the SSCWP which provided good disability guidelines for large events going forward.

Wom*ns Portfolio: Grace noted that a Women's Honi edition had been published. USU is supporting the USyd Women's Collective in The Radical Pride and Consent Week which will run from 10 – 13 October. Grace also noted that the organisation of the Student Safety Conference is ramping up.

International Students: Sargun noted that an Indian Community Mixer will take place on 4 October which is a new event for this unrepresented cohort of students.

Queer: Alex noted that the Sydney Fringe is taking place through September. Alex is also investigating Mardi Gras 2024.

16.2 First Nations Strategy

Resources for First Nation students will be investigated after the Referendum.

17 Open Question Time

Honi Soit will contact Naz with regards to details of the Budget Reforecast which is not shared in the public section of the board meeting. Honi noted that First Nations students were not supported. Naz noted that she will talk to VC and student leaders to understand the needs of this cohort of students. These students can reach out to Naz and through the Ethnoculture Portfolio holder. Naz to reach out to JL to put up QR codes in the Ethnoculture space to collect data.

18 Next Meeting of the Board of Directors

Friday 27 October, 1 -3.30pm

19 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 2.52pm.