

BOARD REPORT

President

USU BOARD MEETING DATE: 13/12/2024

REPORT PERIOD: December 2024

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ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

Financial Health

There has been no material change in the financial position of the USU from the last President's report. I would like to thank Michelle and James for all their hard work this year and note the important work still to be done for our annual reporting, which will provide an overview of FY2024.

Operational Health

The USU has completed its organizational restructure and is now commencing hiring of a number of new positions to help us align with our 2024-27 strategy. I am particularly excited about the new MOSS role that we are going to market for as this will revolutionise our ability to deliver a strong F&B presence on campus, along with a much-improved digital experience.

As I flagged in November, I will be asking the P&C committee to investigate the efficacy of our EA considering the organisational restructure period. I will be asking for a report on this to be delivered in March next year so that, when the next EA is conducted, the Board of the day is armed with the knowledge that we are.

GOVERNANCE

Committee Updates

The C&S committee met for an extraordinary session to discuss appealed club applications, among other matters. It has been identified by the C&S committee that a new framework for the approval and maintenance of clubs is required to ensure that the Student Experience team's capacity is not overwhelmed and to assist clubs in determining whether they will be approved before a determination has been made. Julia and I will be engaging Kelsey to produce a matrix of this description.

General matters

Thank you to Ben for all his work in the incorporation space. I will continue to chase up David Pacey around required documentation requested by the Board, and I ask for patience from Directors whilst David produces a full account of his interactions with university stakeholders.

The DGR team continues to work on our presentation to the University, and I will be establishing the Nominations Working Group in January.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Some productive meetings have been conducted with SUPRA, COS, and UI over the last two weeks. We have committed to a new formalised provision agreement with SUPRA which will ensure that our two organisations can more effectively pursue SSAF funding and joint projects together. Furthermore, we are keeping the University accountable over the Wentworth Building renovations. In the context of the legislation surrounding international student caps being revoked we can expect further delays from UI regarding their strategy for the building. I will be writing to Nicole Gower to emphasise our need for stability with regards to our buildings.

I will be meeting with the new SRC President, Angus Fisher, on Monday next week to discuss his ideas for campus over the next year and to align our visions.

INTERACTION AND EXPERIENCE

Thank you to the Board for their informal discussion of the Hodgkinson report last week. I am pleased with the outcome we reached and have put together a draft email template which I will circulate following this meeting. The Board is committed to ensuring that the impacts of the report are analysed and communicated effectively to our members, with the Board united to step in and advocate on our members' behalf where necessary.

A big thank you to all USU staff for their work this year and indeed over the next month as we prepare for Welcome Fest 2025!

Thank you to all members of the Board for a productive six-months. We have set our strategy and operationalised a substantial portion of it, with much more to be done in 2025.

In addition, we have made great strides with new initiatives including the introduction of the RAP/DIAP, the pursuance of DGR status, incorporation, and many others.

I wish everyone at the USU a Merry Christmas and a relaxing break.



Bryson Constable
President