

PUBLIC

MEETING: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD ON: Friday 23 February 2024

TIME: 1:00 to 3:00pm

LOCATION: Cullen Room or Online via Zoom:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Andrew Mills	Chief Executive Officer & Board Secretary
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Jess Reed	Chief Operating Officer
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Carole McElligott	Governance Coordinator/Asst. Board Secretary
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GUESTS

1. Opening

1.1. Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country

The meeting opened 1:09pm.

The President made an acknowledgement to Country.

1.2. Apologies and Leaves of Absence

The Board **NOTED** attendance as follows:

Present: Nazanin Sharifi, Nicholas Dower, Grace Porter, Grace Wallman, Alexander Poirier, David Wright, Cole Scott-Curwood, Sargun Saluja – arrived 1.11pm

Online attendance: Onor Nottle, Bryson Constable – arrived at 1.45pm, Benjamin Hines, Julia Lim – arrived at 1.20pm, Alyssa White – left at 2.00pm and rejoined at 2.40pm.

Apology: Madhullikaa Singh, Ben Hines and Julia Lim requested attendance online. Alyssa White noted that she will depart the meeting between 2.00pm – 2.30pm.

RESOLUTION		RB#01/24
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors moved the apologies and leave of absence		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Grace Porter	Carried

2. Conflicts of Interest

Grace Porter noted an update to the Director Register of Interests on the USU website. David Wright noted that he is no longer a staff member of the University of Sydney. Cole Scott-Curwood noted that he is no longer a staff member.

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

3. Confidential Meeting Administration – In Camera

RESOLUTION		RB#02/24
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors move ‘in camera’.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: David Wright	Carried

3.1

RESOLUTION		RB#03/24
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approved the CONFIDENTIAL minutes of the previous Board Meeting, 8 December 2023.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Grace Wallman	Carried

RESOLUTION		RB#04/24
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approved the CONFIDENTIAL minutes of the previous two special Board Meetings on 19 January and 2 February 2024.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Onor Nottle	Carried

Public Business – out of Camera session

10 Meeting Administration (Out of Camera)

RESOLUTION		RB#05/24
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors move ‘out of camera’.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Bryson Constable	Carried

10.1 Meeting of the Previous Board Meeting (Public)

RESOLUTION		RB#06//23
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approved the PUBLIC minutes of the Board Meeting, 8 December 2023.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Grace Wallman	Carried

10.2 Review Public Action Item from Out of Camera Session.

Actions Arising from This Meeting – refer attached.

Noted

10.3 Endorsement of Circular Resolutions

10.3.1 Change of signatory of USU bank accounts and USU contacts for ATO

RESOLUTION		RB#07//24
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approved Circular Resolution #1:		
Proposed Resolution 1:		
That USU’s Board of Directors approve the addition of DHAVAL ASHOKKUMAR AMIN, USU Senior Finance Manager, as a signatory to all USU bank accounts held with National Australia Bank and Commonwealth Bank of Australia.		
Proposed Resolution 2:		
That USU’s Board of Directors approve the addition of DHAVAL ASHOKKUMAR AMIN, USU Senior Finance Manager, and MICHELLE ANN TONGE, USU Chief Financial Officer/Director of Corporate		

Services, as authorised contacts for the Australian Tax Office, to speak and provide instructions on behalf of the USU.

Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi

Seconded: Grace Wallman

Carried

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

11.1 Matters for Decision

11.1.1 Resolution: Date of USU AGM 2024

RESOLUTION		RB#08/24
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approved the time and date for the AGM as 12:30pm on Friday 31 May 2024 at the Refectory.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Bryson Constable	Carried

11.1.2 Special Board Resolution: Endorse amendments of Debates Committee Principles and Guidelines

RESOLUTION		RB#09/24
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors endorsed the amendments to the Debates Committee Guidelines and Procedure, according to USU Regulations, A2.4.5. The amendments consist of motions approved by the Debates Committee at meetings held on 18 October and 15 November 2023, subject to small amendment in the Sam Trotter section on page 24.		
Proposed: Onor Nottle	Seconded: Grace Wallman	Carried

11.1.3 Election Committee Recommendations

RESOLUTION		RB#10//24
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors accepted:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The recommendation of the Electoral Committee dated 9 February 2024, to appoint Simone Whetton as Returning Officer for the USU Board elections.2. The recommendation of the Electoral Committee dated 9 February 2024, to appoint Dr Penelope (Penny) Crossley as Electoral Arbiter for the USU Board elections.3. The recommendation of the Electoral Committee dated 9 April 2024, for the date of the Board Nominations to Open at 10am on Monday 11 March 2024 and to Close Nominations at 5pm on Monday 8 April 2024, (refer <i>Important Election related Dates</i>).		
Proposed: Grace Wallman	Seconded: Bryson Constable	Carried

11.2 Matters for Decisions

The appeal of the Securities and Analysis Society is forwarded to the March Ordinary Board Meeting.

11.3 Matters for Noting

11.3.1 Director Handovers

Naz advised that the 2nd year directors are required to complete their handover notes by April for the Incoming Board directors.

12 CEO Report – Strategic, Governance and Operational updates

Andrew noted that Michelle had provided a briefing on changes to Employment Law to the HODs which will be discussed at the next P&C Meeting. The briefing included switching off at weekends and other employment approaches.

Noted

13 Finance Reports, (includes Compliance Report)

13.1 Board Finance Report

Noted

13.2 USU Compliance Report

Noted

13.3 Finance Committee Forward Plan

Noted

14 Strategic Plan Refresh Board

Noted

15 Draft Risk Register

Noted

16 Exec Reports

16.1 Report of the Honorary Secretary

Onor noted that:

- The report on the recommendations from the Student Safety Conference will be finalised and distributed to attendees and to Naz to pass to Student Life. Following positive feedback this conference will run again, hosted or at another suitable venue.
- The Debates Society had been successful at both the CDC and WIDC tournaments.
- There has been a steady increase in volunteers for Food Hub.
- Congratulated PULP on edition 12.
- Kate and Alex will meet with PULP on a monthly basis.

Noted

16.2 Report of the Hon. Treasurer

Nick congratulated Onor and the working party on the Student Safety Conference and the success of WelcomeFest. Nick noted the positive feedback from the opening of the Hossei exhibition at Verge.

He noted that USU had received an increase in revenue during the last quarter, driven by Manning Bar and retail sales.

Noted

16.3 Report of the Vice President

Madhu's report was taken as read.

Noted

16.4 Report of the President

Naz noted:

- The C&RR working party have completed the review of the Regulations which will be submitted to the Governance Committee.
- Ben will lead a new working party on re-creating the Speaker Series.
- Conversations have taken place with the University Governance Office with regards to appointments of S-ADs and incorporation pathways.

17 Other Business

17.1 Reports of Portfolio Holders

*Wom*ns:* Grace P congratulated Onor on the success of the Student Safety Conference. Grace noted that she had introduced herself to Welcome to Women and started a dialogue with this group. SRC is working with USU on issues.

Disability: Grace W noted the SSAF funding of \$60K for implementing the DIAP to ensure inclusion and accessibility for all students to have full participation in student life. An additional resource will be a professional disability consultant. A working party will be formed to deliver and prioritise initiatives within the plan.

International: Sargun noted the success of WelcomeFest. She also noted that one of the main concerns are both housing and working rights with regards to exploitation.

Ethnocultural: Julia thanked Onor and all who had been involved in the Working Party for the successful Student Safety Conference, which JL had received positive feedback about. JL noted that she had been in touch with the SRC's new Ethnocultural Officers, Rav and Sidra, who had noted they were looking forward to working together.

Queer: Alex provided the following update:

- Currently Mardi Gras
A shame that the Fair Day in Victoria Park and other events were cancelled because of the asbestos mulch
Today is the opening of QTopia, the largest Queer History Museum in the world, in the old Darlinghurst Police Station
- We also need to remember the history of Mardi Gras, being a protest in 1978 that ended with many people being violently assaulted by police locked up in that station, so it can be quite a traumatic place
- A big congratulations to Onor for the Student Safety Conference, I'm so proud to see something she's been so passionate get off the ground and I'm keen to see it continue into the future
I made a lot of good connections with other universities, both with student leaders and university staff (e.g. UNSW Queer Officer, the head of Respect Now Always at UTS)
The National Union of Students is very keen to continue attending this conference, and to have stronger participation in planning, to help get more students to attend and strengthen the profile of the conference
- The University Queer Forum is up and going again, with all the heads of the queer clubs, SRC/QuAC and SUPRA queer officers, and queer/equity officers of the faculty societies and associations
 - We are discussing the look and feel we would like for the Glitter Gala, which I'll then bring to meetings with Naz and management to implement. The Gala has somewhat been declining in popularity, but the Forum is keen to see it revitalised
 - The pronoun pins at Welcome Fest returned, and were incredibly appreciated by the Forum and a few other queer-esque clubs and women's clubs – thank you to student programmes for ordering
- Met with Naz and the Queer Action Collective convenor to discuss the initiatives I'll be leading as part of my portfolio, including:
 - free period products at the Uni
 - supporting QuAC's gender affirmation drive
 - Queer History Archive
 - safe sex support on campus
- The Queer Action Collective has repainted one of the walls in the Queer Space
- Next week there is a roundtable organised by Student Life, Supporting LGBTQIA+ Students – we'll then have a meeting in Week 11 to hear reports from Student Life on how things have been implemented (to keep them to account)
 - I have been coordinating the participation from the Forum, and we are going to be attending in a bit of a "united front" of our wishes and expectations
 - I will be bringing some of the queer initiatives to the Roundtable on behalf of the USU, particularly free period products

18 Open Question Time

Nil

19 Next Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, 28 March 2024, 1-3.30pm

13 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 3pm.