

PUBLIC

MEETING: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD ON: Friday 27 October 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

Ethan Floyd, Bipasaha Chakraborty, Veronica Lenard.	Honi Soit
Greg Robinson	UI Infrastructure – departed at 2.57pm
Chris Watts	UI Infrastructure – departed at 2.57pm

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 Sharif, Nicholas Dower, Grace Porter, Grace Wallman, Sargun Saluja, Alexander Poirier, Benjamin Hines. Onor Nottle, Julia Lim

Online attendance: Cole Scott-Curwood, Madhullikaa Singh, Bryson Constable, David Wright, Alyssa White

Apology: Nil

2. Conflicts of Interest

Cole Scott-Curwood – Cole noted an edit to his Register of Interests from the September Ordinary Board meeting which should read, 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#68/23
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors move 'in camera'.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Benjamin Hines	Carried

3.1

RESOLUTION		RB#69/23
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approved the CONFIDENTIAL minutes of the previous Board Meeting, 29 September 2023.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Grace Wallman	Carried

Public Business – out of Camera session

10 Meeting Administration (Out of Camera)

RESOLUTION		RB#70/23
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors move 'out of camera'.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Onor Nottle	Carried

10.1 Meeting of the Previous Board Meeting (Public)

RESOLUTION		RB#71/23
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approve the PUBLIC minutes of the Board Meeting, 29 September 2023.		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Bryson Constable	Carried

10.2 Actions Arising from This Meeting – refer attached.

The Board note that AV infrastructure is included in the budget.

10.3 Endorsement of Circular Resolutions

Nil

10.3.1 Appointment of 2024 Debates Committee applicants and their assigned portfolio positions

That the Board approves appointment of 2024 Debates Committee applicants and their assigned portfolio positions, subject to correction of the names of two of the applicants, Elinore Douglas and Archie Wolifson (Circular Resolution #3).

10.3.2 Addition of Michelle Tonge, USU CFO/Director of Corporate Services as signatory to USU Bank accounts

That the Board authorises Michelle Tonge, USU CFO/Director of Corporate Services to be added as signatory to the USU Bank accounts, (Circular Resolution #4).

RESOLUTION		RB#72/23
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approve 'en bloc'		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Appointment of 2024 Debates Committee applicants and their assigned portfolio positions. Circular Resolution #3, (10.3.1).Addition of Michelle Tonge, USU CFO/Director of Corporate Services as signatory to USU Bank accounts. Circular Resolution #4 (10.3.2).		
Proposed: Nazanin Sharifi	Seconded: Julia Lim	Carried

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

Nil

11.1 Motion on Notice

Nil

11.2 Matters for Decision

11.2.1 DSP Policy and 11.2.2 Publications Policy

Ben and Sargun suggested several amendments across both policies.

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 Australian Government has committed to an Australian Universities Accord to drive lasting and transformative reform in Australia’s higher education sector. There are five priority actions. Priority Action 2 is supported by the Government to cease the 50% pass rule which will benefit under-represented student groups. Priority Action 3 is also supported by the Government to extend demand driven funding to metropolitan First Nations students.

AICD has released their Not-for-Profit Governance & Performance Study 2022-23 which includes the top three priorities for organisations in the next 12 months and the top three actions for the board.

Carlsaw and Abercrombie had the highest redemption of cheap eats and the ticketing system for Food Hub is working well. Revenue is down for September but the graduations will increase revenue in October.

Noted

13 Finance Reports and Recommendations

13.1 Board Finance Report

The Finance Report was taken as read.

The final P&L reforecast for 2023 (Reforecast Q3: RFC Q3) has been completed. USU is anticipating a full year surplus of \$338k. This is an uplift of \$87k compared to the predicted surplus of \$252k per RFC Q2.

Noted

13.2 USU Compliance Report

Noted

13.3 Finance Dashboard

Noted

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

15 Draft Risk Registry USU Risk Register [DRAFT] (monday.com). Refer Action Items.

15.1 Report of the Hon. Secretary

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

Onor noted that the Debates dinner was fantastic and the C&S Awards celebrated the achievements of the clubs and societies. The Student Safety Conference is progressing well with the support of the working party.

15.2 Report of the Hon. Treasurer

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

Nick noted that his report had been covered in USU 2024 Draft Budget item (6.6). Nick thanked Michelle for her and the finance teams work on the budget.

15.3 Report of the Vice President

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

Madhu noted that at the International Student Symposium she had facilitated a panel discussion on Diversity, Equity and Wellbeing in collaboration with SUPRA, City of Sydney, SRC and University of Sydney. The findings from the Symposium will be fed back to USU and relevant stakeholders.

15.4 Report of the President

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

Naz thanked Michelle and her team for work on the USU Draft Budget 2024 and for the USU team effort in the successful running of 'Someday Soon'. Naz also noted that there was a formal handover of the Disability Community Room from University Infrastructure to key student organisations. Naz thanked Jess for working with the relevant SRC, SUPRA representatives to ensure that the space is fit for purpose.

16 Other Business

16.1 Reports of Portfolio Holders – Verbal updates

Ethnocultural Portfolio: No report.

Disability Portfolio: Grace noted that the Disability Community Room is now open. Grace also noted that disability access has been included in the current round of SSAF applications. Honi Soit to produce a Disability Honi edition soon.

Wom*ns Portfolio: No report.

International Students: Sargun noted the USU/SRC Indian Communities Mixer Badmington Challenge.

Queer: Alex noted SRC had recently elected both Queer Officers and First Nations Officers. He was putting together a case for additional free period products. Andrew noted the launch of the Indigenous mural at Cellar Theatre by SUDS.

17 Open Question Time

Honi Soit raised a safety concern with the ticketing system for Food Hub. It was noted that this was an interim solution until the end of 2023 and was put in place due to a lack of volunteers from SRC. The ticket system will be replaced when a regular roster of volunteers is in place.

It was noted that labelled period products are free in all USU bathrooms. This initiative is SSAF funded.

18 Next Meeting of the Board of Directors

Friday 24 November, 1 -3.30pm

19 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 3.11pm.