



PUBLIC MINUTES

USYD STUDENT UNION LTD

ABN 73 818 179 759

Minutes of Meeting of Directors held on: Thursday 26 March 2026

Location: Cullen Room and online via Zoom

Chairperson: Phan Vu

Meeting opened: 10:08am

Meeting closed: 12:55pm

Present

Phan Vu (PV)
Georgia Zhang (GZ)
Shirley Zhang (SZ)
Michelle Choy (MC)
Sally Liu (SL)
Noah Rancan (NR)
Annika Wang (AWa)
Layla Wang (LW)
Archie Wolifson (Awo)
Michael Bromley (MB)
Tiffany Donnelly (TD)
Bryson Constable (BC)
Janina Jancu (JJ)
Jane Coles (JC)
Peita Lane (PL)
Steven Moore (SM)
Tania Maiolo (TM)
Charlotte Long (CL)
Helena Millard (HM)

President & Chair Present
Vice President Present (Left at 11.45am)
Honorary Secretary
Director - online
Director
Director
Director
Director
Senate Appointed Director
Senate Appointed Director
Immediate Past President
CEO
Director of Marketing
Director of People and Culture - online
Director of Operations
Director of Finance
Director of Student Experience
Governance Officer

Apologies

James Dwyer (JD)

Honorary Treasurer Apology

1. Opening and Acknowledgement of Country: The meeting started at 10.08am.

2. Attendance and Apologies

- No apologies were received in advance.
- A formal request for leave of absence for 26 March from James Dwyer was noted.

Moved: LW; Seconded: GZ

3. Disclosure of Interest: There were no conflicts to disclose.

Action: Conflict of interest report to be included at the next meeting.

4. Previous minutes and actions arising: The Board approved the previous minutes of meeting held on 26 February 2026.

Layla Wang joined the meeting in person.

- For the governance item, the item will be sent to Directors by email.
- Minutes to be tabled for the next meeting.

The Board discussed the actions arising and updated the Action List accordingly.

5. Executive Reports

5.1 Honorary Secretary Report

- Noted commitment to performing the role to the best of her ability over the coming months.
- Discretionary funding to be discussed; Finance supported holding a meeting on this matter.
- New club applications to be reopened in the coming months, providing an opportunity to review guidelines and identify gaps.
- It was noted that there has been no formal consultation or feedback from clubs on the guidelines, though some issues have been informally identified.

5.2 Honorary Treasurer Report: No further updates.

5.3 Vice President Report: No further updates.

5.4 President Report

- Incorporation and Governance: Progressing asset transfer and company name finalisation. Work underway to finalise by-laws and governance arrangements.
- Membership Transition: Transition scheduled for 1 April. Membership benefits to continue through Semester 1. Further communications to be issued to clubs and members.
- Elections 2026: Notice of election published. Candidate briefings to be held to support a smooth process and continuity.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Participation in University panel discussions (e.g. belonging, affordability). Ongoing collaboration with the Vice-Chancellor on increased campus activations.
- Senate formally acknowledged and congratulated the organisation following final vote.
- Appreciation extended to SLT and Board for contributions.

Moved: PV; Seconded: AW.

6 Verbal Portfolio Updates

The Board noted the updates from the following Portfolio Holders:

Archie Wolifson – Colleges & Residential Accommodations Portfolio Holder

Trying to ensure Odyssey event is done safely and appropriately.

Layla Wang – Equity Portfolio and Environmental Portfolio

There were no further updates.

Annika Wang – Disability, International Student, Queer and Wom*n's Portfolio Holder

The queer portfolios email account has now been connected through to the Portfolio's Holders USU email so that correspondence can be addressed.

Sally Liu – Ethnocultural Portfolio

There were no further updates.

Moved: PV; Seconded: AW

7 Any Other Business: There was no other business.

8 Open Question Time

Q1: Does the USU recognise the UN as a representative of human rights, and if so, is there any misalignment between the BDS movement and USU values?

The USU aims to remain a place for all students. Formally aligning with BDS may conflict with its responsibility to maintain a representative and inclusive campus while making balanced, responsible decisions.

Q2: Would you say the USU is inclusive of apartheid?

No, that is not the position being expressed.

Q3. Given high student engagement in activism and over 40 USU clubs, do you think this view represents a minority of students?

The USU acknowledges it does not have clear data on member views. With a membership of over 60,000, decisions must consider the broader student body alongside fiduciary and reputational responsibilities.

Q4. What is the USU's position in balancing values with commercial viability?

The Board has adopted a position it is comfortable with, balancing its fiduciary duty, commercial viability, and potential reputational risks.

Q5. Can you clarify what USU values are, particularly around inclusivity?

The USU does not take a blanket endorsement approach. Instead, it focuses on offering choice and variety, with decisions made by the Board based on what it considers appropriate and representative.

Q6. Is the Board truly representative of students?

Yes. All Board directors are considered representatives and have a responsibility to act in the best interests of the USU.

Q7. What benefits did Coca-Cola provide to the USU?

The arrangement was a one-off commercial transaction where space was purchased, and funds were provided to the University.

Q8. What practical mechanisms does the USU use to guide decisions like partnerships?

Decisions are guided by Board-developed policies, reflecting the collective views and judgement of directors.

Q9. Are you receptive to student voices, including those advocating for change?

Yes. The USU aims to serve students by ensuring its offerings remain representative, with decisions made collectively by the Board.

Q10. What happened regarding communication with the Queer space?

There were administrative issues with communication channels, including emails being sent to a personal account. These have been acknowledged and escalated, with commitments to improve processes.

Q11. There are concerns about neglect of autonomous spaces (e.g., Ethnocultural space). How will this be addressed?



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The USU relies on portfolio holders and general staff, with recognition that improvements are needed to prevent ongoing neglect.

Q12. What is being done about drink spiking concerns raised by the Women's Collective?

Several measures are being considered, including increased staffing presence, a reporting portal via the USU app, and training for club and society executives. Proposals are under Board consideration.

Q13. Is there an update on access to period pain relief and a wider variety of menstrual products?

Work is ongoing, with significant progress already made.

9 Next Meeting/Close: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 23 April 2026 from 10am – 12:30pm.