



## PUBLIC

### CONFIRMED Board MINUTES of The University of Sydney Union held at 1.08PM on Friday 28 July 2023

#### PRESENT

Nazanin (Naz) Sharifi (President, Director)	Ben Hines (Director)
Madhullikaa (Madhu) Singh (Vice President, Director)	Cole Scott-Curwood (Immediate Past President)
Nicholas (Nick) Dower (Honorary Treasurer)	Bryson Constable (Director) via Zoom
Grace Porter (Director)	Grace Wallman (Director) via Zoom
Julia Lim (Director)	Sargun Saluja (Director) via Zoom
David Wright (Senate-Appointed Director)	

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Andrew Mills (CEO)  
Carole McElligott (Asst. Board Secretary/Governance Coordinator)  
Michelle Tonge (CFO/Director of Corporate Services)

#### **Guests:**

Katarina Butler and Bipasha Chakraborty, Honi Soit

#### **1. Opening**

##### **1.1. Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country**

The meeting opened 1:08pm.

The President made an acknowledgement to Country.

##### **1.2. Apologies and Leaves of Absence**

The Board **NOTED** attendance as follows:

Present: Nazanin (Naz)Sharifi, Madhullikaa Singh, Nicholas Dower, Julia Lim, Grace Porter, Ben Hines, David Wright, Bryson Constable, Grace Wallman, Sargun Saluja, Cole Scott-Curwood,

**Absent:** Alex Poirier. **Apologies:** Alyssa White, Onor Nottle

#### **2. Conflicts of Interest**

Nil

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

### **3. Confidential Meeting Administration – In Camera**

<b>RESOLUTION</b>		<b>RB#43/23</b>
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors move ‘in camera’.		
Proposed: Nazanin (Naz) Sharifi	Seconded: Nicholas (Nick) Dower	Carried

#### **3.1**

<b>RESOLUTION</b>		<b>RB#44/23</b>
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approved the confidential minutes of the previous meeting, 30 June.		
Proposed: Cole Scott-Curwood	Seconded: Nicholas (Nick) Dower	Carried

### **Public Business – out of Camera session**

#### **10 Meeting Administration (Out of Camera)**

<b>RESOLUTION</b>		<b>RB#45/23</b>
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors move ‘out of camera’.		
Proposed: Nazanin (Naz) Sharifi	Seconded: Cole Scott-Curwood	Carried

#### **10.1 Meeting of the Previous Board Meeting (Public)**

<b>RESOLUTION</b>		<b>RB#46/23</b>
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approve the PUBLIC minutes of the Previous meeting, 30 June.		
Proposed: Madhullikaa Singh	Seconded: Nicholas (Nick) Dower	Carried

#### **10.1.a Actions Arising from This Meeting – refer attached**

#### **10.2 Endorsement of Circular Resolutions**

Nil

## 11 Motions on Notice /Matters for Discussion / Matters for noting

Nil

### 11.1 Matters for Decision

#### 11.1.a Director of Debates Honorarium

<b>RESOLUTION</b>		<b>RB#47/23</b>
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approves the honorarium for the Director of Debates for Semester 1 for the amount of \$2,500.		
Proposed: Nazanin (Naz) Sharifi	Seconded: Ben Hines	Carried

### 11.2 Matters for Noting

Nil

## 12 CEO Report – Strategic, Governance & Operational updates

### 12.1 CEO Report

Andrew noted the following:-

The CEO was Report was taken as read. A PowerPoint of major issues was presented.

- New permanent positions were in recruitment and new pathways to permanent work included offering long term casuals increased entitlements.
- The Privacy Act Review by the Australian Governance has been enacted with 116 recommendations. Andrew noted that USU does not capture financial data and that USU is covered by the Uni's Cyber Security Policy.
- SSAF 2023 Contestable Funding: USU has received \$365,000 out of a pool of \$914,000. Both the Festival of Creativity, \$70K and \$150,000 for Food Security is SSAF funded. A Volunteer Coordinator is a newly created role who will work with the Wellness Coordinator. There will be a supplementary SSAF CONTESTABLE fund round late October which will have implications for the additional funding of student services in 2024.
- Membership has grown to \$42,000+.
- Elliott Miller Studio is now on level 1 which is smaller but a refurbished fit-for-purpose space. The Fisher café outlet is now upgraded with a new cool room. Food Hub is relocated on level 3 of Wentworth which can now offer a greater variety of items and also cooked meals. A Food Hub Manager is now employed full-time for improved student access. A new Mexican Cantina has opened in Manning House.
- The Board noted that engagement with Alumni and Friends requires reinvigoration.

Noted

## 13 Finance Reports and Recommendations

### 13.1 Board Finance Report

The Finance Report was taken as read.

University of Sydney Student Union, Level 5, Holme Building, Science Road, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006, ABN: 73818179759

Michelle Tonge noted the following:-

The Board noted that the P&L result was \$160,000 in profit and not the \$140,000 predicted loss. This is due to increased revenue from outlets.

David Wright asked why USU is forecasting a reduced profit margin at the end of the year, compared to H1. Andrew noted that new roles, Strategy Refresh, Employee Engagement Strategy and other initiatives are included in Q2 forecast. Michelle Tonge to review GM% between H1 and F.Y. reforecast.

The Board asked for additional information re benchmarking performance analysis of USU's investments with KODA and also clarification on cost of USU's Investment Manager. The Board noted that KODA provided a bespoke portfolio and were a smaller organisation and therefore more agile in meeting their client needs.

<b>RESOLUTION</b>		<b>RB#48/23</b>
It was RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approves the Q2 forecast.		
Proposed: Nazanin (Naz) Sharifi	Seconded: Ben Hines	Carried

Noted

### **13.2 USU Compliance Report**

Noted

### **13.3 Finance Dashboard**

Noted

### **14 GROWTH – Nil to report (updated quarterly)**

### **15 CHANGE – Nil to report (updated quarterly)**

### **16 RISK – Nil to report (updated quarterly)**

The above items were discussed at the Board Meeting in April. No Change.

### **17 Exec Reports**

#### **17.1 Report of the Hon. Secretary**

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

Invitations will be sent out for the Student Safety Conference. Grace Porter will be included in the working party going forward.

#### **17.2 Report of the Hon. Treasurer**

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

Nick thanked Cole for his handover to the new Executive Committee. Nick welcomed Michelle and noted that he is meeting with her weekly. Nick also thanked Michelle for the interactive Finance

Session of the Board Induction Program on 20 – 21 July which was of great benefit to the 1<sup>st</sup> year students.

### **17.3 Report of the Vice President**

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

Madhu noted that the importance of cultivating interpersonal skills which shapes culture and of board members asking questions in the Board setting. She operates an 'open door' policy for Board members.

### **17.4 Report of the President**

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

Naz noted that she was cautiously optimistic in the forthcoming ambitions of the Board. She noted how it is important for both the Executive and Management to support the 1<sup>st</sup> year directors.

## **18 Other Business**

### **18.1 Reports of Portfolio Holders – Verbal updates**

**Disability Portfolio:** Grace Wallman thanked Alex Poirier for his support of the Disability Portfolio and also thanked the disability officers. She noted how important both accessibility and inclusion are and is keen to build on the work of Alex. Grace noted that the autonomous space is called the Disabilities Communities Room.

**Wom\*ns Portfolio:** Grace Porter thanked Naz and Madhu for their support. Grace is looking forward to working with different groups women and will support all initiatives which make women feel safe, included and welcome. Events coming up include the strategy day for the Women's Collective, Pride and Consent week and Queer Action Collective and International Women's Day. Grace will work with Naz on a strategy for this portfolio.

**Ethnocultural Portfolio:** Julia noted that there is a new space. Julia will facilitate discussions and seek out feedback to promote accessibility.

Carole to provide the Volunteer Coordinator PD to the Board. The aim of the role is to provide improved support mechanisms for the V-team.

## **19 Open Question Time**

Honi Soit asked about the status of the RAP and next steps. Andrew noted we had applied for SSAF funding but this was not successful. It is envisaged that there will be one permanent position and one casual student leadership position which will be funded by the USU budget this year. The PDs are being finalised and recruitment for the student leadership position will take place first and will take approximately 6 – 8 weeks. These roles will take the lead in forming and facilitating focus groups of relevant stakeholders for consultation. There will be funding available for participants in these groups. USU's potential involvement with Indigenous providers and vendors was also discussed.

## **20 Next Meeting of the Board of Directors**

Next meeting of the Board of Directors, Friday 25 August, 1pm – 3.30pm, Cullen Room

## **21 Close of Meeting**

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The meeting closed at 2.54pm.