

BOARD REPORT

PRESIDENT

USU Board meeting date: 23/04/2026**Agenda item:** 12.4**Report Period:** April 2026**Author:** Phan Vu**Title:** President**Phone/mobile:** +61 493 322 268

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Recommendation 1 That the Board notes this report.	2-6	

SUMMARY

April has been a landmark month for the USU. On 1 April 2026, the Union formally completed the transfer of assets, liabilities and operations to USU Ltd, and with the conclusion of the Transition Period on 9 April, the incorporation process has now moved into implementation and consolidation.

This month's work has focused on embedding the governance and administrative arrangements of the incorporated entity, progressing membership transition, advancing the name change process, and preparing for the 2026 elections. This has occurred alongside the continued delivery of student services, events and broader student-facing initiatives.

Taken together, the progress made this month reflects both the significance of this transition and the organisation's continued commitment to ensuring that incorporation strengthens the USU's ability to serve its members.

GOVERNANCE

Incorporation

April has marked an important moment in the Union's 152-year history, with the formal transition of its assets, liabilities and operations from the former unincorporated entity to the new incorporated entity, USU Ltd. We have received an outpouring of support and encouragement from members, including past USU directors, which has meant a great deal.

Upon the conclusion of the Transition Period on 9 April, the necessary governance steps were completed, including the transition of the USU Board and Executive from the unincorporated USU into the corresponding roles within the incorporated entity. At the same time, we had worked to put the finishing touches in place that resulted in the incorporated USU now has a refined and updated Constitution, as approved by members at the Special General Meeting last year, together with functioning, modernised Bylaws, both of which are now available on our website.

The Board also continues to progress the name change process for the Union, with the necessary steps having been taken to notify the relevant regulatory bodies of the change of name of the unincorporated USU to Holme Annexe, and for USyd Student Union Ltd to ultimately assume the University of Sydney Union name.

A number of communications have also been issued to the USU community and other relevant stakeholders.

Our focus now turns to membership transition, with various campaigns launched to ensure that existing members of the unincorporated USU are transitioned across and that there is no disruption to member-facing service delivery.

Once again, while this is an incredibly important step from a legal and governance perspective, it does not represent a change to the USU's purpose or student-facing role. The USU will continue to operate for the benefit of its members, and in doing so, our student services, clubs and societies, events, and campus life activities will continue as they always have. Indeed, they will continue to grow bigger and better. Incorporation does not, and will not, mean corporatisation. The USU will remain at the Heart of Uni Life.

We thank our members for the trust they have placed in the Board to carry out this reform for the Union, and we remain committed to delivering on that mandate.

Board Composition

At the close of the Transition Period, James Dwyer indicated that he did not wish to continue as a director of USU Ltd due to full-time work commitments affecting his capacity to attend meetings and fulfil the duties of office. Accordingly, he did not transition across as Honorary Treasurer of USU Ltd. James Dwyer remains a director of Holme Annexe.

Annika Wang has resigned as Queer Portfolio Holder. As this role carries an autonomous requirement, the vacancy will not be filled. Instead, responsibility for the portfolio will be assumed collectively by the Board, with the President acting as the primary contact point.

2026 Elections

Prior to the close of nominations, I spoke at the election information session to share key information about the election process, the roles and responsibilities of directors, and to answer questions from prospective candidates.

Nominations have now closed. We received 12 nominations, with the Notice of Ballots to be published on Friday, 24 April at 12pm.

The compulsory Candidate Briefing is to be held on Thursday, 23 April at 6pm. Presentations will be delivered by the Returning Officer covering the rules, process, and the dos and don'ts of campaigning, together with defamation training and campaigning tips and tricks from the Marketing team, as is the case each year.

Next month will see the commencement of active campaigning, with various opportunities for candidates to engage with students across campus.

Committee Updates

Clubs and Societies Committee

The Committee received an update on the impact of incorporation on clubs and noted that, as anticipated, the transition has had only minimal administrative impact on clubs.

A small number of clubs sought extensions of time to apply for club grants, as the original deadline was slightly tighter than in previous years due to the timing of the transition. Those clubs have been granted an extension until May to complete their applications.

The Committee also discussed plans to reopen applications for new clubs for Semester 2, 2026 following the successful migration to the new clubs platform, myUSU.

Our Honorary Secretary, Shirley, has also been working closely with the Clubs team to review the clubs applications matrix, which was previously developed by the former Honorary Secretary and has now been in operation for around a year. That review is currently underway, and updates will be provided to the Board at the next meeting should there be recommendations for further improvement. The aim is to ensure that we maintain a robust and fair process for admitting new clubs, while balancing sustainability, long-term growth, and maximising engagement between clubs and the USU.

Finance, Risk, and Audit Committee

The Committee discussed the temporary finance systems blackout period required as part of the transition from the unincorporated USU to USU Ltd. This blackout is a standard and necessary control measure when winding down one legal entity and establishing another. This blackout period ensures that payroll, tax, banking, audit and statutory obligations are correctly finalised in the outgoing entity, while equivalent systems, controls and approvals are safely established in the new incorporated entity.

The Committee also noted that there will need to be separate meetings of the Holme Annexe Finance Committee and the Holme Annexe Board to approve the relevant financial documents for the purpose of fulfilling the reporting obligations that remain outstanding prior to the winding up of Holme Annexe.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Student Executives x Student Life

In my fortnightly meeting with the Head of Student Life, Lydia Dutcher, and the Presidents of the SRC and SUPRA, I provided updates on incorporation and raised issues relating to the need to maintain inclusive and safe environments, as well as maintenance issues affecting autonomous spaces, following feedback from members at the March Board meeting.

We had a productive and collaborative discussion, and I expect to organise a further meeting between myself and representatives of the SRC, particularly the collectives that regularly use those spaces, to better understand the needs of users and to clarify communication pathways between users and USU Portfolio Holders, who act as a liaison between the USU and students in relation to those spaces and their amenities.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE & IMPACT

Autonomous Spaces

Following discussion at the March Board meeting, a number of practical steps have now been put in place to strengthen oversight, access arrangements and accountability in autonomous student spaces. This has included the introduction of QR codes and standardised notices directing students to a centralised form for cleaning, maintenance, equipment and other space-related issues.

That process is designed to ensure matters are visible to both Facilities and the relevant Portfolio Holder, enabling timely follow-up and escalation where needed. The notices also clarify the routine cleaning and maintenance arrangements that apply to these spaces on weekdays.

In light of past difficulties with access for Facilities and Cleaning staff, a clearer process has also been established so that any future access issues can be recorded and raised with the relevant Portfolio Holder for resolution.

Australian Intervarsity Debating Championships (Sydney Easters):

The USU was proud to host the Australian Intervarsity Debating Championships (Easters) this year. This is one of the most prestigious events in the Australian debating calendar, bringing together Australia's top university debaters, adjudicators, and alumni:

- 13 Universities were represented, with 305 students from across the country participating, making it the biggest edition of the tournament since Covid-19.
- 63 students from USYD competed, with a large number of students taking on prestigious roles setting motions and tabulating the tournament.
- One of University of Sydney's teams made it to the semi-finals, and three others ranked in the top 16. The USU also had 4 speakers rank in the top 10 Novices at the tournament, and 5 of the top 10 Judges.

This was considered a successful year for the University of Sydney, especially with a very young contingent. The eventual winners were a team from the University of Melbourne, with second place going to the University of Technology Sydney

Food & Culture Fair

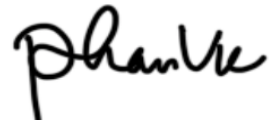
Spanning two days on campus, the Food & Culture Fair was a vibrant celebration of the diversity of our student community and achieved a strong outcome. Through cultural performances, workshops and shared experiences, the event brought members closer together and gave students the opportunity to explore cultures from around the world right here on campus.

This event forms part of the USU's broader commitment to fostering a greater sense of belonging on campus and supporting international students through inclusive and engaging community initiatives.

I would like to thank the Board, the Senior Leadership Team, and all USU staff for their continued work and commitment during this significant period for the Union.

April has marked the formal completion of the incorporation process and the beginning of the next phase of implementation. Alongside this, the organisation has continued to deliver student programs, services and events, while progressing membership transition, election preparations, and the governance and administrative work required to support the new entity.

Thank you again for your dedication, collaboration, and continued commitment to the USU and the students we serve

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phan Vu', with a stylized, cursive script.

Phan Vu
PRESIDENT