

# Agenda

**Meeting: Board of Directors**

**USU Board meeting date:** 24/04/2025

**Report Period:** April

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<b>Recommendation 1</b> That the Board note the report.		

## HEADLINE SUMMARY

Count	Key Issue	Key Areas
1	Organisational Health and Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial health</li> <li>• Operational health</li> </ul>
2	Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation</li> <li>• Committee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Finance</li> <li>○ Debates</li> <li>○ Clubs &amp; Societies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Working parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Textbook exchange</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3	Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Senate advisory group</li> <li>○ Nicole Gower</li> <li>○ Sustainability strategy</li> <li>○ Elections</li> <li>○ Hodgkinson Report</li> </ul> </li> <li>• External <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TECSA</li> <li>○ University Investments</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Student groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Weihong</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4	Interaction and Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing events</li> <li>• Revue season</li> <li>• Enviro Week</li> </ul>

## ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

### Financial Health

The organisation's financial health remains strong, with a considerable surplus recorded in line with our projections. This surplus positions us well to reinvest directly into student services and provides an important buffer against potential force majeure events. Our Food & Beverage outlets are performing particularly well, with standout results from Banh Mi and the recently launched BurgerLab outlet, both of which have exceeded expectations in terms of revenue and student engagement.

### Operational Health

Operationally, the organisation is in a strong position. Steve Moore commenced this month and is settling in well, while Sam Robinson is set to begin next week. With their appointments, we will finally have a full complement of Heads of Department, which is a significant milestone in ensuring effective leadership and continuity across our operations.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Geraldine for her outstanding service to the organisation. As this is her final Board meeting, I want to acknowledge the dedication, professionalism, and warmth she has brought to her role. Geraldine's contributions have been deeply valued, and she will be greatly missed by colleagues and members alike.

## GOVERNANCE

### Incorporation

While the outcome of the recent Special General Meeting was not what the Board had hoped for, we remain committed to progressing incorporation. We will now regroup and consider the most effective path forward to secure member approval—whether that be through the upcoming Annual General Meeting or a Referendum. In the meantime, we are entering a new phase of consultation on the draft Constitution, and I look forward to working closely with stakeholders and members to ensure the revised proposal reflects broad support and understanding.

### Committee Updates

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee recently completed a reforecast and reviewed the March financials, alongside early-stage discussions on our future investment strategy. These efforts have ensured we remain well-informed and adaptive in managing our financial outlook. A sincere thank you to Michelle and her team for their continued diligence and professionalism.

Debates Committee: Thank you to the Debates Committee for their ongoing work in supporting and strengthening our debating programs. Their commitment continues to foster critical thinking and public discourse across campus.

Clubs & Societies Committee: The C&S Committee has approved a number of new clubs this month, reflecting the continued enthusiasm of our student body. We expect to finalise the new clubs matrix shortly, which will streamline the application process and assist prospective clubs in submitting strong proposals. Particular thanks go to Julia for her leadership in this important piece of work.

### Working Groups

A big shout out to Phan for getting the Textbook Working Party up and running. This is an important initiative, and we're expecting to see meaningful progress over the coming month. There is also potential to involve the SRC in this process to broaden collaboration and ensure we're addressing student needs comprehensively.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### University

I recently met with Michelle Stanhope and Chancellor David Thodey to discuss a range of matters relating to the University Senate. During the meeting, I raised several key issues, including the future of the Wentworth Building, our progress on incorporation, the performance and strategic direction of our Food & Beverage outlets, and the University's campus experience strategy.

I have since engaged Nicole Gower in further discussions regarding the Wentworth Building and its significance to the student experience.

I also connected with Jillian from the University's Sustainability Strategy team, and we have arranged an initial meeting for May, which Sargun will also attend. This meeting will focus on opportunities for the USU to contribute to and align with positive developments in the University's sustainability initiatives.

In addition, I am advising the University on how we can improve the conduct and coordination of student elections across campus, with the goal of increasing engagement and institutional consistency.

Finally, I am participating in a group that is advising the Chancellor on matters including the Hodgkinson Report and the Campus Access Policy. While I am doing this in a personal capacity, there is naturally some overlap with the work of the USU.

### External Stakeholders

I, along with a number of other Board members, will be meeting with TEQSA to discuss compliance matters relevant to our operations. This is an important opportunity to ensure we are aligned with national standards and to affirm our commitment to good governance.

The final report of the University's Investment Review Working Party—of which I was a member—is now with the Senate for consideration. With the submission of this report, this body of work is complete from both my perspective and that of the USU.

### Student Groups

I've met with Weihong on several occasions to discuss Food & Beverage offerings on campus. These conversations have been constructive, and we are continuing to explore ways to improve both the student experience and commercial performance in this area.

## INTERACTION AND EXPERIENCE

We continue to hold G'day Gatherings and day trips each month as part of our ongoing support for international students. These initiatives play a key role in helping students build community and feel welcomed on campus.

We also hosted a number of successful events this month, including a USU Trivia Night, the Verge Gallery launch, and a Band Night—all of which contributed to a vibrant and engaging campus atmosphere.

We are now heading into graduations season and Revue season. I will be in touch with the Board about attending these Revues – it is an expectation that, unless there is a good reason not to, each member of the Board will attend the Revues.

Finally, Georgia, Sargun and I met with Sam to go over plans for Enviro Week and discuss ways we can enhance our promotion of sustainability initiatives across the USU and the broader student community.

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I was unwell for just over a week this month, which has meant that some projects have been prioritised over others as a result. I appreciate everyone's understanding and flexibility during this time. Thank you to all staff, Board members, and stakeholders for your continued hard work and support—it's been instrumental in keeping everything moving forward.