



## A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2013-14 WAS HELD AT 5PM ON 19 MARCH 2014 IN THE BOARD ROOM

21 MAR 2014

BT-142-M2

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### MINUTES

**Present:** John Palmer (Chair), Josh Hurrell, Zak Evans, Helen Crossley, Paul Nanson, Sam Minnitt, Richard Taylor, Gideon Adekunle, Krupa Nandha, Mark Dunkley.  
**In attendance:** Andy Parsons, Louisa Allen.

- 1. Apologies:** Matt Peat, Lemuel Valdez
- 2. Register of interests.**  
Any updates please notify LA.
- 3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting and to deal with matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda – BT-142-M1.**  
The minutes were approved.
- 4. To receive a financial update including February management accounts – ZE/AP.**  
ZE presented the update.  
SM: stupid Tuesday. How do you work out that the attendance is increased by the offers? AP stated that after the offer was in place, we were up on the year-on-year figures. It clearly follows. Attendance was increased by approx 200 each week (equates to around £1400 though there is a cut on the margin) We don't know if those figures would have improved by themselves. We needed to improve the figures to address the risk of attendees not continuing to attend. We see two bad weeks as a trend we need to respond to.  
DH: universal Thursday, is this night financially significant? ZE stated that Gasim has developed a working group so there is crossover. UT is more of a service to students than a commercially viable night like FND. It addresses the issue of the perception of the union as a place where you just drink/dance. It is a broader experience. More home students are attending too. Mondays have also improved with an arts focus.
- 5. To receive a detailed report on progress on Strategic Objective 1 – JH.**  
JH presented the report, based on the Your Education priorities.  
Good feedback for the top ten improvements.  
RT stated that the university finds this work very helpful, for example PGT and LiL.  
Are the students aware of this? JH reports that programme presidents are informed about all of these issues, and many students have taken part in the feedback-gathering process (approx 1500 comments cards, for example), and meetings have been well attended by students. Student feedback has formed the ten points, but it is likely an average student wouldn't be able to name them specifically perhaps some more work needs to be done on the publicity of this.  
MP noted that these are very practical.  
RT noted that the university is trying to respond to these concerns in a timely manner. There is some work to do to get these issues into policy.

AP noted that support for these issues at top level in the university is excellent, and it needs to be supported further into departments etc in order to make progress. RT noted that the NSS is a key reason for the university to be proactive - though of course the student experience is equally important.

**6. To receive a report on Strategic objective 2 – LA/AP**

LA presented the report.

Alumni: university have a system where alumni register to be mentors but it is not utilised. Get on it. Students report they want people who are further in to their careers as well as recent graduates. Media report that theirs is very successful especially in a small group capacity. Aim would be for our 1300 leaders, 1000 of them to have a mentor. DT reports that graduate recruiters send alumni to each university. There are training, location and safeguarding issues, requiring considerable investment.

We need to start by asking.

Collaboration: possible MIT collaboration, who have a really good SU. NUS also have a hub which is under development. The unions we would consider working with are also our biggest competitors. SDC, obviously - coaching and development are priorities. And careers.

Strategy: messages need to be the same with union and university.

**6. To receive and approve a report from the Executive – JH.**

Highlights: women's officer won an award, and our women's group was second.

7147 voters- 40.1% beaten only but the very small Scottish university.

Volunteering week 187 volunteers.

**7. To receive and approve a report from the Union Director - AP**

IIP: we got a very high Silver award and need only a small amount of work to transform that into a Gold in due course.

**8. Any items referred to the Board from Union Council and vice versa:  
Executive committee**

The Board noted the proposed changes to the executive committee. KN has discussed with governance committee. Alumni and Employability DO will be merged. VP Communications and HOM are proposed to be merged, or VP Finance and VP Democracy. Exec have fed back their opinion that the President should take the lead with communication, but to have a VP Union Affairs for finance and running the elections. This will be researched over Easter into a coherent proposal ready for the summer term.

**9. Institutions.**

- University: the Board noted the proposal to the University. AP took RT's advice on aligning the strategies.
- College: the Board noted the proposal for the College Sabb. Details of expectations are being discussed. To be elected in May. Operational details to be discussed.

**10. Any other business.**

**Paperwork** – Barclays paperwork needs to be completed

**FMSC** – Additional member required from Board: HC.

**RNIB** – students are unable to vote in our elections. Toying to work as partnership rather than as part of the governance process. Ideal of making these students associate members but take the institution out of the governance process. JH to bring paper to next board.

**11. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 20 May at 5pm.**