



USU BOARD OF DIRECTORS Update

SYDNEY, Tuesday 19 May 2020: The BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the University of Sydney Union (USU) wishes to provide an update on its composition, and on the USU Annual Elections taking place this week.

On 15 May 2020, it came to the USU President's attention via the USU membership team – that Zizheng Bai is not a member of the USU.

The USU President put this to Zizheng Bai, offering him an opportunity to prove some basis of eligibility to USU membership.

Zizheng Bai provided a response. The USU received and considered external legal advice. We are fully confident that Zizheng Bai is not a member of the USU.

Article 7.5(a) of the USU *Constitution* provides that:

- (a) A Director shall cease to hold that office if:
 - (i) that Director ceases to be a member of the USU;

Therefore, in accordance with art 7.5(a)(i) of the *Constitution*, Zhizeng Bai ceased to be a Director of the USU as of 1 January 2020.

We would like to take an opportunity to thank Zizheng for his contribution to the USU. During his time on the USU, Zizheng served as the *Disability Portfolio Holder*, launching 'Beyond the View' - a Verge Art Exhibition in Manning House in 2019. In addition as a postgraduate student, Zizheng represented these students on the Board. We thank him greatly for his service.

In accordance with art 10.2(d)(ii) of the *Constitution*, the vacancy shall be filled in the following manner:

- (ii) if the tenure attaching the vacancy is of six months or more, it shall be filled from the candidates for election at either the previous Annual Election or the subsequent Annual Election, whichever is the most proximate to the date at which the vacancy arises, by the next highest polling candidate at the relevant Annual Election who is willing and able to fill the vacancy

Therefore, the highest polling unelected candidate in the 2020 Annual Elections will fill Zizheng Bai's vacancy if they are 'willing and able' to fill the vacancy. The term will begin from the Declaration of Final Results and end on 30 June 2021.

It is noteworthy that the quota for counting votes by proportional representation using the single transferable vote will not change as a result of this vacancy.

ENDS

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