

MINUTES

MEETING: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD ON: 29 April 2022

TIME: 1:03am to 2:22pm

LOCATION: Cullen Room, plus online via Zoom

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat	President, Chair	Present
Ruby Lotz	Vice President	Present via audio visual link
Benjamin Hines	Honorary Treasurer	Present
Belinda Thomas	Honorary Secretary	Present
Kailin (Vikki) Qin	Director	Present via audio visual link
Telita Goile	Director	Present via audio visual link
Isla Mowbray	Director	Present
Cole Scott-Curwood	Director	Apology
David Zhu	Director	Present
Du Du	Director	Present
Nicholas Comino	Director	Present
David Wright	Senate Appointed Director	Apology
Marie Leech	Senate Appointed Director	Present via audio visual link
Irene Ma	Immediate Past President	Present via audio visual link

USU STAFF

Andrew Mills	Chief Executive Officer	In attendance
Rebecca Sahn	Head of Student Programs	In attendance via audio visual link

OBSERVERS

Ellie Stephenson	Editor - Honi Soit	In attendance
Lauren Lancaster	President - SRC	In attendance

MINUTES

1. Opening
1.1 The meeting opened at 1:03 PM The Chair delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.
1.2 Apologies and Leaves of Absence Resolved B24/22: That the BOARD OF DIRECTORS noted Apology for David Wright and Cole Scott-Curwood and online attendance for Telita Goile, Ruby Lotz, Vikki Qin, and Irene Ma. Mover: David Zhu Seconder: Nicholas Comino 11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; Carried.
1.3 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest There were no disclosures of conflicts of interest.
2. Meeting Administration
2.1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting Resolved B25/22: That the BOARD OF DIRECTORS approves the minutes of the previous meeting including a minor amendment re wording of formation of working parties. Mover: Nicholas Comino Seconder: Belinda Thomas 11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; Carried.
2.2 Business Arising from the Minutes Not Addressed Elsewhere The Board notes that Telita Goile will sit on the NSSS & Safety working party and will elect members to the WP at the next Board meeting. Noted. Resolved B26/22: That the BOARD OF DIRECTORS notes the formation of the NSSS working party and election of members at its next meeting. Mover: Nicholas Comino Seconder: David Zhu 11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; Carried.
2.3 Endorsement of Circular Resolutions

Nil.

2.4 Motions on Notice

Nil

3. Matters for discussion

3.1 CEO/Secretariat Report:

The CEO report was taken as read. The CEO then provided an update to the Board via a PowerPoint presentation, which followed the Hon. Secretary's Report.

The Board requested that a report be prepared on the attendance / impact of the CY Sessions on Fridays and TBC Tuesdays at Hermann's Bar. Noted.

Action: Management to prepare a report for the next Board meeting.

Resolved B30/22:

That the BOARD OF DIRECTORS approves the CEO report as read and tabled.

Mover: Ruby Lotz

Seconder: Nick Comino

11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; **Carried.**

3.2 Finance Report

The Finance report was taken as read. Management noted that the results for March and Q1 were very positive, however it was further noted that April and May results may ease back due to the timing of Easter and ANZAC Day holidays and the potential impact to operations from the USYD staff strike over their EBA negotiations.

Resolved B27/22:

That the BOARD OF DIRECTORS accepts the report as read and tabled and notes the Q1 reforecast and CAPEX plan.

Mover: David Zhu

Seconder: Belinda Thomas

11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; **Carried.**

Resolved B28/22:

That the BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

1. endorses the recommendation for the re-appointment of Pitcher Partners Sydney as Auditors for the USU in 2022; and
2. notes the Financial Report for 2021 and the Financial Audit Clearance Report and authorises the President and Honorary Treasurer to sign the Financial Report.

Mover: Benjamin Hines

Seconder: David Zhu

11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; **Carried.**

3.3 USU Activity Report: was noted above in 3.1 CEO Report.

3.4 Report of the Hon. Secretary

Report to be taken as read.

The Board noted that Marlow Hurst had been appointed to the role of Senior Editor for PULP print and noted with pleasure that Marlow was going well. Applications from 2 prospective editorial teams had been received and the PULP WP will make an appointment in coming weeks. Management was looking into possible suitable locations for the editorial team to occupy in time for their start date (by 1 July).

The Board also noted an update about the Student Leadership Training initiative (SSAF funded but managed by the USYD office of Student Life). There was discussion regarding how to improve update of training by student leaders and it was suggested that dedicated email and communications will have more impact than emails with multiple subject matter. It was also noted that 2 x full days of F2F training was difficult for students to commit to during semester and it is preferred to offer this training prior to the start of the next semester (Week 0).

The Board also queried the timing to form the Clubs strategy WP and it was noted this timing will coincide with the appointment of new position of Clubs Community Officer in due course.

Resolved B29/22:

That the BOARD OF DIRECTORS approves the report as read and tabled.

Mover: Nicholas Comino

Seconder: David Zhu

11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; **Carried.**

3.5 Report of the Hon. Treasurer:

Report to be taken as read and noted the strong result for March and Q1.

The Treasurer noted his recommendation that Management investigate options to invest some of its high cash reserves into suitable student-centric initiatives. The Treasurer did, however, note that as he was an executive on SULLS that this may represent a conflict of interest, should SULLS be a recipient of any additional funding. Management noted that in its 2022 Budget, the Board had approved expenditure to establish PUP Print, and the Music Festival, amongst other student-centric initiatives, however we had been successful in receiving SSAF funding for these projects which exceeded the budgeted funding. The Treasurer also requested that management update the ASIC listing of Officers for Wentworth Annex Ltd.

Resolved B31/22:

That the BOARD OF DIRECTORS notes the report as read and tabled and accepts the recommendation for management to investigate potential investment opportunities into student services or initiatives.

Mover: David Zhu

Secunder: Nicholas Comino
11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; **Carried.**

3.6 Report of the Vice President

Report to be taken as read.

Resolved B32/22:
That the BOARD OF DIRECTORS approves the report as read and tabled.

Mover: David Zhu
Secunder: Nicholas Comino
11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; **Carried.**

3.7 Report of the President:

Resolved B33/22:
That the Chair moved to Benjamin Hines.

Mover: Telita Goile
Secunder: Cole Scott-Curwood
11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; **Carried.**

The President noted the following initiatives:

- P&C Committee 12-month review of the CEO's KPIs
- Debates team results
- Discussions with the SRC regarding the reestablishment of a Food Hub
- Presentations to incoming Board candidates
- Women's Revue
- planning for the Manning Party

Resolved B34/22:
That the BOARD OF DIRECTORS accepts the report of the President as read.

Mover: Nick Comino
Secunder: Du Du
11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; **Carried.**

Resolved B35/22:
That the Chair be moved back to Prudence Wilkins-Wheat.

Mover: Nick Comino
Secunder: Isla Mowbray
11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; **Carried.**

3.8 Other Matters for Discussion

The President also spoke to her Motion of support for right for staff to support the NTEU strike action.

The motion of support is:

On May 11 & 12, staff at Sydney University will go on strike for 48 hours. They will stop all work in support of their demands for better working conditions and pay.

The USU recognises that the past few years have been particularly difficult on staff and students. Many hundreds of staff have been laid off or made redundant, and faculties have been restructured or cut all together. Staff working conditions are student learning conditions and tutors cannot deliver a quality education when they feel overworked, underpaid, or precariously employed. As a student union, who are passionate about the student experience, we have a responsibility to support the staff who teach us.

The NTEU are asking for reasonable workloads; conversion for casuals onto permanent contracts; a fair pay increase, enforceable targets for First Nations employment and the protection of their right to current research allocations. Student life begins in classroom, and we support the pursuit of a quality education by our staff.

The USU Board supports the right of the NTEU to strike and the students who choose not to come to class on Wednesday and Thursday.

Resolved B36/22:

That the BOARD OF DIRECTORS accepts the proposed motion of support as amended.

Mover: Prue Wilkins-Wheat

Seconded: Belinda Thomas

11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; **Carried.**

The Board noted brief updates from the Enviro Portfolio, Queer Portfolio, and International Student Portfolio. **Noted.**

There were no other matters for discussion.

4. Other Matters for Decision

No other matters for decision.

5. Open Question Time

Honi Soit

Lauren from SRC asked if USU outlets would be open or closed during the 48-hour strike, and if the Board Directors intended to join the picket line. The President responded that outlets were an operational matter, and that for the safety of staff, it was decided to close the outlets for the duration of the strike action. Also, that any participation on the picket line was a decision for individual Directors to make.

Ellie asked if USU had any comment on sustainable investments following the recent article in Honi Soit. The President noted that we'll have more to say after the Finance Committee makes its recommendation to USU's investment strategy.

Ellie further asked about a space for the Disability Collective. The President responded that the VP had already addressed this issue and referred Ellie to her reply.

Ellie asked about the progress of the Elections and candidates. The President responded that we were proud of the many candidates for their commitment to serve on the Board and wished them well for the upcoming election.

Lauren asked why the USU did not spend some of its extra cash on the Food Hub to support students in need. The President responded that USU is already working with the SRC on this matter and would consider after due consideration. Management noted that the USU and SRC will be meeting with FoodBank at the earliest possible time to discuss options and costing for food parcels. It was also noted that the SRC is still to prepare an evaluation of the SSAF-funded Food Hub program for 2021 and also to develop a needs analysis to outline the scope and depth of the issue currently facing students in need.

Student Media left the meeting at around 1:56pm.

Resolved B37/22:

That the BOARD OF DIRECTORS moves in camera.

Mover: David Zhu

Seconded: Benjamin Hines

11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; **Carried.**

Resolved BC14/22:

Pursuant to resolution B37/22, the Board moved out of camera at 12:40pm.

Mover: Ruby Lotz

Seconded: David Zhu

11 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain; **Carried.**

6. Close of Meeting

6.1 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS is held on **Friday 27 May 2022** at 1:00pm in person in the Cullen Room, or via audio visual link.

The meeting closed at 2:22pm.