



Minutes

BT-202-M2

An electronic meeting of the LSU Trustee Board was held on the 24 March 2020 at 17:00 via an online meeting platform.

1. PRESENT

Andy Doyle (Chair), Darcey Dunne, Lauren Durkan, Matthew Youngs, Salome Dore, Natalie Doyle, Fraser Barclay, Ana-Maria Bilciu, David Kiddie and Richard Taylor.

In attendance: Trevor Page (Union Director), Maria Turnbull-Kemp, Liam Davis, Alan Williams and Sue Lucas (Clerk)

2. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

No change to the Trustees registers of interest.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting approved

4. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON ACTIONS RAISED

No actions raised

5. TO RECEIVE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

a) To note and approve the Statutory Accounts

MTK requested that the Board receive and approve the signing of the final audited accounts. She added that at the time of being prepared that the accounts were a true reflection and that the Union was a going concern. **The Board approved the accounts for signature.** DK asked when we would be likely to receive an update on the Union pension scheme, the last update being 2016. MTK felt that we should be in receipt of that any day now. In addition MTK asked the Board to consider retaining Cooper Parry for a further 2 years and the Board approved the appointment.

b) Finance and Operations Report, LSU and Subsidiary Companies.

c) To receive management accounts for February 2020

The Board received and noted the Financial papers and management accounts presented.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE

a) To receive and note a roundup report from the Union President on the activities of the Union Executive Committee and Section Chairs.

SD noted that this wasn't the year that the team had expected adding that beside her, Matt, Ana and Lauren, of the Executive team, will be continuing to work offering support and reassurance to students during these difficult times. Everything else will be put on hold. SD also acknowledged and congratulated

Matthew Youngs (President elect) and Ana-Maria Bilciu (re-elected Education EO) on their successful campaigns during the executive election.

The full report was received as read

7. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORTS FROM THE UNION DIRECTOR

a) **Union Director's report – COVID 19 update**

TP outlined the planned furlough of all but key staff for an initial period of 12 weeks in line with the government recommendations. The University have offered the Union a loan to cover the £160k wage bill but this would need to be repaid and so therefore we have taken the decision to furlough our permanent staff to take advantage of the scheme whereby the government pays 80% of their monthly wage with the Union funding the remaining 20%, adding that this was an upsetting but unavoidable step.

TP asked for questions and comment from the Board and those in attendance. The Board queried the furloughing of student staff who were on zero hour contracts. MTK stated that we are currently waiting on guidance from the government and will advise the Board further once the information becomes available.

RT gave a short overview of the University's current status before noting that the University will stand behind the Union and that they were also looking to furlough a number of staff.

FB queried how the current situations with Universities will affect the SUSS pension schemes. MTK responded by saying that this can't be quantified and that she would keep the Board updated.

AD summarised the discussion recognising the challenges faced by the Union in the coming months and recommending that the Board reassess in 12wks.

8. AGENDA ITEMS

- a) To receive and approve the HR policies document which was electronically reviewed by the HR and Remunerations Sub-committee prior to this meeting. The policies stated in the document will be subject to review on or before 31st March 2023

Received as read, any comments should be emailed directly to MTK

- b) Elections Report

The Board received and ratified the Executive Election voter count. DD noted that it was a successful election and although the turnout was lower than previous years it was felt that the voters were more informed. A full report will be made available to the Board at a later date.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) LDU asked RT if the University had plans to release students from their commitment to pay rent and what plans, if any, are in place for those students that can't go home. RT replied that the plan for students is that they remain in residence and continue to pay rent. Our concerns are regarding those students that are losing part-time work and therefore we will be looking at some form of voucher system.
- b) MTK stated that she had been in contact with the insurance company regarding loss of business insurance and will keep the Board updated on any progress.
- c) ND asked RT about students who had opted to defer entry. RT noted that the University were pretty relaxed about recruitment and early indications are that numbers were up on last year although there will be fewer students on placement.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

30th June 2020