

Minutes of the USASA Board Meeting

Tuesday 18 September 2018

6.00pm Jeffery Smart Building JS6-13

Present:	Jordan Mumford:	President and Meeting Chair
	Board Members:	Kate Riggall (via phone until 18:20) Abid Billah Sneha Manimurugan Bridget Barletta Grace Dixon Pamela Spek Ryan Colsey Natansh Modi Kemal Brkic (via phone) Georgina Gogel Tom Gilchrist Daniel Randell, General Manager Bridget Laffy, Student Representative Support Officer
Advisors:		Nick Anderson, Finance Advisor Arthur Siow, Legal Advisor
UniSA Observer:		Allan Tabor, Director Student and Academic Services
Minute Secretary:		Chula Murray
Apologies:		Sopor Tan
Observer:		Cecilia Tran-Nguyen

The President declared the meeting open at 6.01pm.

1. Meeting Opening

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Board of USASA respects the Kurna and Barngarla Peoples' spiritual relationship with their country and that today we meet on the land of the Kurna people and recognise the Kurna people as the custodians on the land where we meet. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with

the land and acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to these people living today.

1.2 Guest Speaker: David Lloyd UniSA Vice Chancellor

The Board noted that the Vice Chancellor was, at short notice, unable to make the meeting. A meeting will be rescheduled later this week, and it is important that this doesn't wait until October meeting.

1.3 Apologies/Leave Requests

The Chair noted the leave request for:

1.3.1 Sopor Tan

Motion: That the Board accept the leave request of Sopor Tan

Moved: Jordan Mumford

No dissent.

All were in favour and the motion was carried.

1.3.2 Kate Riggall

As Kate was unable to remain connected to the meeting via phone, it was recommended that a leave request be accepted.

Motion: That the Board accept the leave request of Kate Riggall

Moved: Jordan Mumford

No dissent.

All were in favour and the motion was carried.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

The Chair stated:

'that all Members and officers in attendance declare that they have read and considered all papers within this agenda that require decision making and have no known conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to those matters.'

It was noted that any conflict of interest would be declared if and when they arise.

1.4 Previous Minutes

1.4.1 Confirmation – 21 August 2018 Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the July 2018 Board meeting conducted on 21 August 2018 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Jordan Mumford

No dissent.

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

1.4.2 Action Log

2.1 Magill Toasties Activation

On hold.

2.6 USASA Response to Hazing

As this item is ongoing it is to be removed from Action Log.

2.2 Election Timeline

In progress.

2.3 Sexual Assault Policy Steering Group

Complete.

2.2 Election Timeline

In progress.

3.1 President's Report

In progress.

2. Matters for Decision

2.1 Strategic Plan

Daniel Randell spoke to this item.

The Board noted that two minor changes are to be made to document:

1. The plan currently states 2018 – 2020 but it should read 2018 – 2021.
2. The Foundation for Young Australians recommends the use of the term “enterprise skills” to encompass both life skills and soft skills. It was agreed that this reads better in the document.

It was noted that there is still concern with how the University is communicating with students. The movement of embedding student leadership into university decision-making, with students being genuine partners, is growing and developing. Ideally, USASA would provide support and training, and continue to hold the University to account. It is a long-term process and it was noted that the University is attempting to be pro-active in engaging the student body.

Recommendation: That the Board accept the 2018 – 2021 Strategic Plan

Moved: Jordan Mumford

Abstention: Tom Gilchrist

The Motion was carried.

2.2 AUU/USASA Working Group Discussion

Jordan Mumford spoke to this item.

It was agreed that sharing ideas and information across campuses will better inform the response to the proposed merger.

It was noted that discussions regarding the proposed working group have not yet been raised with the AUU President.

Recommendation: That the Board actions the President to invite the AUU President to create a joint working group to facilitate sharing of resources and information between both parties.

Moved: Jordan Mumford

No dissent.

Recommendation: That USASA supports the AUU's merger survey and acknowledges the value of a combined student knowledge-base to advocate for our shared objectives.

Moved: Jordan Mumford

No dissent.

All were in favour and the Motions were carried.

3. Matters for Discussion

3.1 Merger Survey Results

Jordan Mumford spoke to this item.

It was noted that the majority of the students surveyed supported the two universities discussing the merits of a merger. However, approximately half of the students surveyed felt that they had not received enough information regarding the process of the proposed merger.

It was also noted that the majority of students surveyed chose to study at UniSA for a particular reason, for example, courses offered, culture, financial reasons.

There are short-term and long-term recommendations that can be made.

The Board wanted to put the following to the University:

- Improved communication to students is vital:
 - Accessibility is an issue; a short YouTube video is preferable to a 28-page discussion paper in business language. This needs to be impactful and informative.
 - There is a need for clarity regarding how a merger will affect students, present and future.
- The survey highlights that a significant proportion of survey respondents are concerned that a merger will decrease the quality of their education.
- It is important to embed positive student experiences in the cultural practice of the University, and there is a concern that corporate aspect will swamp the student voice.

USASA has developed an abridged version of the discussion paper, and the option of doing a series of short YouTube videos to help clarify and communicate information was discussed. The full report can also be made available.

The President requested that Board members consider what is it that USASA wants in terms of student representation, and what students want the student body and the student voice to look like in a merged institution. Non-negotiable items should

be discussed and agreed upon. This will be an agenda item on the next USASA Board meeting as well as the Education Committee.

The Board commended the efforts of all involved in developing the survey, promoting the survey on-campus and the collation and presentation of the data.

Recommendation: That USASA supports this report to be submitted to the University.

Moved: Jordan Mumford

No dissent.

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

4. Matters for Noting

4.1 President's Report

Taken as read.

Jordan thanked members who assisted with the USASA Merger Listening Sessions on campus.

The Board noted that St Mark's has appointed a new Chair, Linda Matthews, who previously was the Equal Opportunities Commissioner. It is important to note that St Mark's has taken steps to improve the culture and USASA will continue to work closely with them.

4.2 General Manager's Report

4.2.1. Clubs Report

4.2.2 Events Report

The reports were taken as read.

The Board noted that funding has been secured for 2019.

It was noted that the Yoga Club is in debt, and it was discussed that USASA holds that debt. A meeting with the club to resolve the situation has been offered and is awaiting response.

Club membership has increased by 1,516 members in the last year.

4.3 Finance Report

Taken as read.

4.4 Board Members' Reports

Taken as read.

The President reiterated the importance of submitting a report for each Board meeting. It is the obligation of members to the student body to take note of their activities month-to-month.

4.5 Committee Meeting Minutes

4.5.1 Clubs Committee 29 August

4.5.2 Education Committee 24 August

Taken as read.

The President noted that only three committee meetings had occurred in the month. It was noted that if members are unable to be convenors, they should resign. It is also of utmost importance that convenors chase secretaries for minutes as a matter of urgency.

The Board noted that the Welfare Committee did not have a meeting as no agenda items were received. However, an item received in the suggestion box requested replacing the Styrofoam cups with biodegradable ones. The Committee agreed that a small increase in price was acceptable and biodegradable cups are now available at all campuses.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Meeting with David Lloyd, UniSA Vice-Chancellor

The Board agreed to meet with David Lloyd on Friday 21 September at 4pm. Any members who are unable to come in person may phone in or submit their questions/concerns to Jordan via email.

5.2 Education Committee

Tom Gilchrist requested to join the Education Committee.

6. Meeting Closure

6.1 Next meeting 6pm 16 October 2018

6.2 Meeting Closed 7.24pm