

Minutes of the USASA Board Meeting

Tuesday 21 August 2018

6.00pm Jeffery Smart Building JS6-13

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

The President declared the meeting open at 6.00pm.

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 Apologies/Leave Requests

The Board noted the absences of Arthur Siow and Alan Tabor.

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 – 17 July 2018 Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the July 2018 Board meeting conducted on 17 July 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

In progress.

2.2 UATSIS National Indigenous Student Conference

The Board noted that Pamela Spek attended the UATSIS National Indigenous Student Conference and that it was a great success.

5. Any Other Business

In progress. The Board noted that the Vice-Chancellor will attend September Board meeting for discussion and questions.

2.2 Election Timeline

In progress.

2.3 Sexual Assault Policy – Steering Group

The Board noted meeting a recent meeting between the Steering Group and Jordan Mumford and Kate Riggall.

2. Matters for Decision

2.1 Club Rules of Governance

Taken as read.

Recommendation: That the Board approve the attached Club Rules as a requirement for all USASA Clubs from 2019.

Moved: Jordan Mumford.

No dissent.

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

2.2 Election Regulations

Recommendation: That the Board adopts the proposed changes to the Election Regulations.

Moved: Jordan Mumford

No dissent.

Recommendation: That the Board delegates decision-making authority to the Election Appeals Committee for excusing attendance to the 2019 USASA Board Retreat (to be conducted according to process in Election Regulations).

Moved: Jordan Mumford

No dissent.

All were in favour and the Motions were carried.

3. Matters for Noting

3.1 President's Report

Taken as read.

The Board noted a meeting of the President with the administration at St Mark's. It was noted that the administration had made updates to student handbooks, and that further feedback was provided.

Jordan further spoke to his paper.

On 19th of June the university announced they would be exploring the possibility of a merger. During the Board meeting on the night of the announcement we discussed our initial response and on the 20th of June, USASA issued a press release which stated that our immediate focus was on ensuring that the student voice was at the heart of the process, as well as laying out USASA's plans for both in-person campus visits and a student survey to collect feedback independently of the university. On the 27th of July the merger was discussed by UniSA students, including regional students at the USASA Education Committee which was used in developing the survey. On the 2nd of August, Bridget Laffy and I discussed the merger with students in the student lounge at City West and their feedback was taken on board. From the student feedback received, the survey was built which was designed to capture the messages that students thought it was important to get across. On the 3rd of August the draft survey was sent to the USASA Board via email for feedback, which was taken onboard and built into the survey. On the 10th of August the survey then went to a UniSA Virtual Focus Group of 20 students who filled out the survey and gave their feedback on it. Of those who completed the survey 82% thought that it offered them a chance to express their thoughts on the proposed merger and their feedback

was taken onboard and built into the final survey ready for launch. The survey launched yesterday on the 20th of August through USASA's newsletter and social media channels. We currently have had around 700 responses which will provide us with a rich source of qualitative and quantitative data for analysis.

On the 9th of August the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia released a 28 page discussion paper which they invite responses to through an online portal. An email was sent out to all students and staff and invited responses. From my perspective the submission portal is clearly build primarily for submissions from industry, business, with students and staff feedback secondary. The questions are consultancy speak and are inaccessible to students. In comparison, our survey has been designed in consultation with students and will allow students to have a real say on the topic of a merger of the two institutions.

As soon as we announced our survey I reached out to student leaders at the University of Adelaide and invited collaboration with the survey to create value and build cross campus student consensus. Initially it was my understanding that the SRC would be leading this but unfortunately due to their limited resources, they discussed the AUU supporting them in this process. While the SRC has made public that it has certain demands around the merger, I can not find any public AUU position or comments on the merger. I met with the AUU President Iacavos Digenis and SRC President Matt Boughey on 17th of August to discuss what was happening on their campus regarding the merger. I expressed my concerns about the AUU deferring the issue of a merger to the SRC instead of actually taking a lead on it, at the same time as they've deferred the work around sexual assault and harassment policy development as well as a campaign about trimesters and course restructures. The AUU President indicated to me that it was not their role to take on issues such as these and that they can however 'support' the SRC due to potential for funding implications if they do their job in representing the interests of their student members. The AUU President also indicated to me that they have had several in-camera discussions about the merger but are yet to make any comment publicly. It is also my understanding that the AUU President has not met with the Vice-Chancellor of UoA to discuss the merger. It is also my understanding that at the time of our meeting they had just begun work on developing a survey. I have sent through USASA's survey to him. It also became clear from during my conversations that the AUU determines that the most pressing issue is the continued existence of the Adelaide University Union as a statutory corporation as it is currently written into the University of Adelaide act. This view has been determined without student consultation. They also indicated that they would like USASA's support in their bid to maintain their current student representative structure at Adelaide University. I expressed that I did not think USASA would support this approach, and expressed my personal view that the model of student representation at the University of Adelaide is ineffective, dysfunctional, and bad for students. I think that our approach of being in the room instead of outside of it, and working productively with the university is far more effective, and I think having a board which actually takes positions on matters of importance to students lends ourselves to being a much superior model - although I do think there are bigger questions to ask around student representation in any potential new university and I propose that we discuss this as a Board after our meeting with the Vice Chancellor and President of UniSA David Lloyd in the September Board meeting. It is also important to keep in mind that USASA has been clear and transparent about our response to the merger and every discussion we have had as a Board has been ex-camera and publicly minuted available for all 37,000 students, whereas the AUU has yet to make any public comment or discuss this in a transparent way that is accessible to their members.

On Thursday 17th August University Council met. One of the important items on the agenda was Enterprise 25 which is the Uni's strategic plan taking us through from 2018-2025. This is essentially the plan B if the merger doesn't go ahead. This was approved unanimously by the council. During our discussion of the merger, I reiterated to the Vice Chancellor and council that student voice in a new institution cannot be an afterthought but needs to be front and centre in their discussions with UoA. He along with the rest of council agreed with my comments and indicated that he was looking forward to speaking to our Board at the September meeting.

USASA will also be making a submission to the Nous Group submission portal which will be communicated to the Board before submission. I will add an agenda item to the next meeting of the Board to discuss where to next from here.

3.2 General Manager's Report

3.2.1 Clubs Report

3.2.2 Marketing Report

Both were taken as read.

Daniel Randell provided a presentation on Strategic Planning Survey Data 2018 – 2020. The Survey was developed over a long consultation process that began at the Board Retreat. It was noted that there was good support from the Deans, with 124 respondents; of which there were 43 students and 81 staff members.

Overall, students and staff had a good idea of what USASA was, what it represents, and what it promotes. Feedback included a noted improvement in services, focuses on regional campuses, and there was a recognised strong role in academic life of students. However, staff would like to know more of what USASA does and hear more from the Association.

Suggestions for improvement included language support, support for general life skills, representation through every school and program, financial help/scholarships/welfare support, support services specific to UniSA Online students, international student specific services, learning support, specific activities linked to the academic program, wellbeing support and Indigenous cultural learning programs.

Suggestions for USASA to withdraw support included counters/hole in the wall, second-hand book sales, and it was felt that study and work-related activities should be prioritised.

It was specifically noted that the interpretation of what academic life of students is unclear, and what the role USASA has in academic programs.

Moving forward, the Board was asked to specifically think about what specific items they can realistically action, and, concentrate on implementing a strong plan for the future.

3.3 Finance Report

3.3.1 June Financials

3.3.2 July Financials

The Board noted that perpetual money was included in the reports.

3.4 Board Members' Reports

All were taken as read.

3.5 Committee Meeting Minutes

3.5.1 Clubs Committee 25 July

Recommendation: That the Board accepts the minutes of the Clubs Committee from 25 July.

Moved: Jordan Mumford

No dissent.

3.5.2 Education Committee 27 July

Recommendation: That the Board accepts the minutes of Education Committee from 27 July.

Moved: Jordan Mumford

No dissent.

3.5.3 Finance Committee 10 July

Recommendation: That the Board accepts the minutes of the Finance Committee from 10 July.

Moved: Jordan Mumford

No dissent.

3.5.4 Governance Committee 19 June

Recommendation: That the Board accepts the minutes of the Governance Committee from 19 June.

Moved: Jordan Mumford

No dissent.

The Board noted that there were currently no minutes from Diversity, Equity, and Access Committee. It was further noted that the International Student Representative position is still open, with the next meeting being the morning of Tuesday 28 August.

3.6 NUS Education Conference Report – Bridget Barletta

The Board noted the report.

3.7 NUS Education Conference Report – Grace Dixon

The Board noted the report.

3.8 UATSIS NIS Conference Report – Pamela Spek

The Board noted the report. It was further noted that as of 1 September 2018, Pamela will be the UATSIS National Correspondent.

4. Any Other Business

None raised.

5. Meeting Closure

5.1 Next meeting 6pm 18 September 2018

5.2 Meeting Closed 7.16pm