

Minutes of the USASA Board Meeting

Tuesday 19 March 2019

Jeffery Smart Building JS6-13

PRESENT

Board:	Grace Dixon Nida Baig Bridget Barletta Noah Beckmann Laurena Byers Arunika Dutta Ned Feary Julie Ma Thanusshan Packiyarajah Harsh Rana Wenona Reddaway-Worth Puthearothsopor Tan	President & Meeting Chair Post Graduate Representative City West Campus Representative Mawson Lakes Campus Representative Mount Gambier Campus Representative (by telephone) Magill Campus Co-Representative City West Undergraduate Representative City East Campus Co-Representative Mawson Lakes Undergraduate Representative International Students Representative Whyalla Campus Student Representative (by telephone) City East Campus Co-Representative (from 6.33 pm)
In attendance:	Nick Anderson Carol Grech Brendan Hughes Richard Irons Bridget Laffy Sandy Davis	Finance Advisor Pro Vice Chancellor: Student Engagement and Equity (until 6.50 pm) Director: Student Engagement Unit (until 6.50 pm) Director Student and Academic Services Student Representative Support Officer Minute Taker
APOLOGIES	Daniel Randell Kate Riggall	USASA CEO Magill Campus Co-Representative

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 5.59 pm.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Board of USASA respects the Kurna 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 of 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.

1.1.1 Introductory Activity

All attendees briefly introduced themselves, using the traditional Aboriginal themes of family, country and languages.

1.2 Guest Speakers

1.2.1 Carol Grech – Pro Vice Chancellor: Student Engagement & Equity (PVC:SEE)

The PVC:SEE introduced herself and her role. Her background is as an academic, having worked principally in the School of Nursing and Midwifery. The PVC:SEE's responsibilities include the student engagement unit, accommodation, the Student Ombud and regional campuses, and her goal is to strengthen student voice.

1.2.2 Brendan Hughes – Director: Student Engagement Unit (SEU)

Brendan Hughes began by encouraging the Board to rotate responsibility for acknowledgement of country, so that all members become practiced at it.

He then gave a presentation on the SEU, beginning with the vision statement, "We strive to empower students to achieve their personal and professional goals. We do this by supporting and engaging students through a culture of excellence, inclusivity and collaboration."

Puthearothsopor Tan joined the meeting at 6.33 pm.

The unit's remit covers student life (orientation, leadership, UniSA+, communications, volunteering); student support (learning and student advisors, residential life, mentoring); Wurringka Student Services (support for Aboriginal students); access and inclusion (supporting LGBTI* and students with disability); counselling service; UniSA sport (teams, clubs and recreation activities) and career services.

2019 priorities are work integrated learning; student transition and success; expansion of UniSA+; student satisfaction with services and contributing to graduate employment through career development learning.

He concluded by showing the student-produced video, *Experience Uni SA*. This link and the presentation will be circulated to Board members. **B Hughes**

Questions were asked about employability and integrated learning. A prime focus is helping international students work in the Australian workplace environment. A number of modules are available, which have been integrated into 10% of courses, with this ongoing process to be completed by 2020/21. Co-curricular modules can be done on-line, independently of course work. Work experience was also discussed, with reference made to Career Services and UniSA+.

In relation to the USASA/SEU relationship, he believes there is a clear, but flexible line between the two, with USASA's principal interests being advocacy, events and social activations (which can be supported by SEE), while SEE focuses on orientation and the student life / support services covered above (supported where appropriate by USASA). He sees the SEU's role as empowering USASA decision making. Keeping each other informed is an important part of this. Sometimes there are overlaps, such as in financial counselling, where different needs have been identified, but the important thing here is to remain aware and cross-promote each other's services.

B Hughes and C Grech left the meeting at 6.50 pm.

Nick Anderson encouraged Board members to foster relationships with SEE and SEU and to use their services.

1.3 Apologies/Leave Request

Motion: to excuse Kate Riggall from attending the Board meeting on 19 March due to personal and study commitments.

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

1.4 Conflicts of Interest – None declared.

1.5 Previous Minutes

1.5.1 Confirmation

Motion: That the minutes of the Board Meeting of 19 February 2019 be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, subject to the following amendments being made:

- the location of the meeting be changed to the Hawke Building H6-10 (not Jeffery Smart Building JS6-13), and
- the items “Any Other Business” and “Meeting Close” on p 6 be numbered 5 and 6 respectively (not 4 and 5).

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

2. MATTERS FOR DECISION

2.1 Academic Board Appointments

A formal election was held for the five Academic Board positions, given that Ned Feary had been precluded from the previous process by his late appointment to the Board. Bridget Laffy and Nick Anderson were appointed the returning officers.

Nominations were received from: Nida Baig, Bridget Barletta, Noah Beckman, Grace Dixon, Ned Feary and Harsh Rana.

The first round of voting elected Bridget Barletta, Noah Beckman, Grace Dixon, and Harsh Rana.

Ned Feary and Nida Baig each spoke to their nominations, left the room while a second vote was taken by a show of hands, and then rejoined the meeting.

Nida Baig, Bridget Barletta, Noah Beckman, Grace Dixon and Harsh Rana were declared elected as the USASA representatives on the Academic Board.

3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Board Charter

The Board Charter had been updated, as agreed at the last meeting, and it was signed by those Board members who were in the room. Those attending by telephone will do so when they are in Adelaide.

4. MATTERS FOR NOTING

4.1 President's Report

Grade Dixon's report was taken as read.

4.1.1 NUS 2018 National Conference Report – noted. Grace Dixon advised that of the \$1500 grant for attendance was spent as \$1,050 for the registration fee, and \$450 on flights.

4.1.2 Richard Irons referred to his recent attendance at the Universities Australia conference, querying what feedback there is to the NUS or USASA. This will be investigated. **GD, BL**

4.2 CEO's Report – taken as read.

4.2.1 PVC Memo – University Wide Approach to Sexual Assault and Harassment – noted, in particular Kate Riggall and Daniel Randell's involvement, and the emphasis on changing culture from the top down.

4.3 Finance Report – noted.

4.4 Board Members' Reports

The reports of Board members were taken as read, with the following additional issues being reported:

- Ongoing parking issues at Mawson Lakes – feedback invited to Noah Beckman.
- Problem with the Mawson Lakes app being addressed with the vendor – feedback invited to Noah Beckman.
- Student query re milk pricing at the cafe – Bridget Laffy confirmed that this is not a matter for USASA.
- Student concern at the binder being moved without notice to students from the City East and Mawson Lakes libraries.

4.5 Committee Meeting Minutes

4.5.1 Diversity, Equity & Access Committee – minutes noted.

No other committee reports had been submitted.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 **Mental health first aid training** has been offered to Board members in their capacity as student leaders. Bridget Laffy reminded Board members to register with the training organiser (as per her email on the subject). Travel can be arranged for regional representatives.

5.2 Committees

5.2.1 **Appointments of secretaries** were noted:

Clubs Committee – Ned Feary
Finance Committee – Ned Feary
Welfare Committee – Julie Ma
Diversity, Equity & Access Committee – Harsh Rana
Education Committee – Ned Feary
Governance Committee – Nida Baig

5.2.2 Committee memberships

5.2.2.1 Ned Feary and Sopor Tan have joined the Welfare Committee.

5.2.2.2 Thanusshan Packiyarajah has resigned from all committees. Issues around his present work experience commitments were noted. Concern was expressed about his ongoing ability to fulfil his role as a Board member. It was agreed that this matter be referred to the CEO, in consultation with Thanusshan Packiyarajah, the President and Noah Beckman (as the other Mawson Lakes representative). **DR, TP, GD, NB**

6. MEETING CLOSE

6.1 **Next meeting** – 16 April 2019 at 6.00 pm at JS6-13.

6.2 **Meeting Close**

The Chair thanked all participants for their contributions and the meeting closed at 7.46 pm.