

Minutes of the USASA Board Meeting

Thursday 11 April 2019

Jeffery Smart Building JS6-13

PRESENT

Board:	Grace Dixon	President & Meeting Chair
	Nida Baig	Post Graduate Representative
	Bridget Barletta	City West Campus Representative
	Noah Beckmann	Mawson Lakes Campus Representative
	Laurena Byers	Mount Gambier Campus Representative (by telephone)
	Christine Doolan	Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Student Representative
	Arunika Dutta	Magill Campus Co-Representative
	Ned Feary	City West Undergraduate Representative
	Julie Ma	City East Campus Co-Representative
	Thanusshan Packiyarajah	Mawson Lakes Undergraduate Representative
	Harsh Rana	International Students Representative
	Daniel Randell	USASA CEO
	Wenona Reddaway-Worth	Whyalla Campus Student Representative (by telephone)
	Kate Riggall	Magill Campus Co-Representative
	Puthearothsopor Tan	City East Campus Co-Representative
In attendance:	Nick Anderson	Finance Advisor
	Richard Irons	Director Student and Academic Services
	Bridget Laffy	Student Representative Support Officer
	Sandy Davis	Minute Taker
APOLOGIES	Arthur Siow	Legal Advisor

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 6.04 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 the Kurna people living today.

1.2 Leave Requests – There were none, given the change in meeting date.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

Noah Beckmann's role on the Executive of the NUS was noted in relation to item 2.2. There were no other conflicts of interest.

1.4 Previous Minutes

1.4.1 Confirmation

Motion: That the minutes of the Board Meeting of 19 March 2019 be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

1.4.2 Action Log – N/A

2. MATTERS FOR DECISION

2.1 AGM Date

Motion: to hold the AGM on 21 May 2019 on the City West Campus. **BL**

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

2.2 NUS National Day of Action (NDA)

Ned Feary spoke to his paper, advising that FUSA and the University of Adelaide have agreed to support the NDA, which is a non-political lead up to the federal election. It was noted that with an election now called, the electoral roll will close in a week.

Discussion covered the following points:

- encouraging students to enrol to vote is important in terms of engaging them in democracy;
- the NUS' NDA website is clearly aligned against the incumbent government;
- USASA should not endorse one party over another; and
- sources of independent information about parties' attitudes to student issues could be promoted to students.

Motion: That the USASA Board arranges social media to encourage UniSA Students to enrol to vote, and to make informed votes; but does not endorse the NUS National Day of Action, nor its promotion to students. **BL**

It was noted that individuals are able to attend NUS events independently, but not under the auspices of USASA.

3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

3.1 **President's Report** – taken as read.

3.2 **CEO's Report** – taken as read.

3.2.1 Sexual Assault and Gender Violence Policy

USASA is concerned that while the university has made good ground on this, it does not yet have a broad, strategic approach, particularly to prevention. It is currently the responsibility of the sexual assault counsellor, but without an overlying strategy or any additional support.

Learnings from Daniel Randell's recent US visit were noted. Richard Irons cautioned against one person being responsible, as they can become isolated. His experience is that a strategy endorsed at the top level works best, so that it can be fully embedded, with shared responsibility and accountability.

Kate Riggall, Grace Dixon, Bridget Laffy and Daniel Randell are working to encourage an effectively resourced working group, ideally supported by the VC. Richard Irons volunteered to be involved in this.

3.2.2 Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Student Representative

Christine Doolan was welcomed to the Board as the newly elected Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Student Representative.

3.3 Finance Report – noted.

The Finance Committee had reviewed the report earlier in the day.

3.4 Board Members' Reports – Reports which had been received were taken as read.

The President stressed the importance of Board members submitting reports as part of their role as student representatives, and encouraged them to achieve timely and appropriate reporting by writing reports at month end.

3.5 Committee Meeting Minutes

3.5.1 Clubs Committee – 14 March Minutes noted. Terms of reference will be submitted to next Board Meeting.

NB

3.5.2 Education Committee – 15 March Minutes noted.

Harsh Rana reported that a website is to be developed under USASA's for confidential submission of issues. Board members are asked to include a link to this in their email signatures and to publicise it more broadly as needed. Bridget Laffy will advise when website is live.

BL, All

Contract cheating – The government summary of comments has been received. It acknowledged USASA's contribution but did not include the recommendation to consult with student representative bodies. Arthur Siow is to review the draft bill. The next step may be for USASA to lobby TEQSA to include student representatives in their implementation process.

Thanussh Packiyarajah suggested posters to educate international students about contract cheating. Richard Irons has organised someone from academic integrity to work with USASA on this.

3.5.3 Finance Committee – 14 March Minutes noted.

3.5.4 Governance Committee – 19 March Minutes noted.

3.5.5 Welfare Committee – 14 March Minutes noted.

Arunika Dutta reported that USASA has joined Foodbank. The Financial Counsellor will issue vouchers and the Committee will liaise with them on how to manage free food distribution.

It was noted that the new Financial Counsellor has commenced.

No other committee reports had been submitted.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Sexual Assault training

Kate Riggall is trying to organise Yarrow Place training on recognising and responding to sexual assault. She encourages this for all Board members, as it is useful for dealing with disclosure from students and also gives context to advocacy within the university.

4.2 Mental Health First Aid Training – Harsh Rana endorsed mental health first aid training, which is similarly useful. The next session is scheduled for July at City West.

4.3 E25 sessions are being held next week and Board members are encouraged to participate.

4.4 Committee Membership

Thanussh Packiyarajah advised that he will rejoin the Education and Governance Committees. He will advise whether he is also able to rejoin the Finance Committee.

TP

4.5 Student Placements

Thanussh Packiyarajah has discussed the difficulty of obtaining placements with the Program Co-ordinator. Broad representations, such as from USASA Board members, are needed to justify resources to improve this. Input from the various international student committees was also suggested. Bridget Laffy will assist Thanussh to prepare a paper on this for consideration by the Education Committee.

TP, BL

5. MEETING CLOSE

5.1 Next meeting – 21 May 2019 at 6.00 pm at JS6-13.

5.2 Meeting Close – 6.59 pm