

## Minutes of the USASA Board Meeting

Tuesday 18 June 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)
	Arunika Dutta	Magill Campus Undergrad Representative
	Ned Feary	City West Undergraduate Representative
	Julie Ma	City East Campus Representative
	Harsh Rana	International Students Representative
	Wenona Reddaway-Worth	Whyalla Campus Student Representative (by telephone)
	Kate Riggall	Magill Campus Representative
	Puthearothsopor Tan	City East Campus Undergrad Representative
	Nick Anderson	Finance Advisor
	Arthur Siow	Legal Advisor
	Daniel Randell	USASA CEO

In attendance:	Bridget Laffy	Student Representative Support Officer
	Allan Evans	Provost and Chief Academic Officer (until 6.53 pm)
	Penny Payne	Minute Taker

<b>ABSENT</b>	Thanusshan Packiyarajah	Mawson Lakes Undergraduate Representative
	Richard Irons	Director: Student and Academic Services

---

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 6.01 pm.

### 1. MEETING OPENING

#### 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Board of USASA respects the Kaurna Peoples' spiritual relationship with their country and that today we meet on the land of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land and acknowledge that these are of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today.

## 1.2 Guest Speaker – Allan Evans – Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Allan Evans gave a presentation, providing detail to Board Members of the proposed restructure of the Academic Enterprises for UniSA and the discussion paper which is due to be circulated to Academic staff on Thursday 20 June, 2019. Key points from the presentation were:

- The current structure has four divisions, each division having three to four schools under its operation. Overall there are 14 schools, some are large and some small. For example Law is a small school with around 20-30 staff, while Health Sciences has 200+ staff.
- The current model, has two layers of management and duplication of roles. He gave an overview of current workflow approval processes and noted that while once this was appropriate, it is now redundant. IT system solutions are now in place to provide checks and balances
- Looking at having a one layered system, not divisions and schools. This will effectively provide more resource for additional academic staff.
- Under the new model there will be seven Academic Units, which will be created by merging existing schools. There will be 2 x Health, 1 x Business, 1 x Education + Science, 1 x Social Sciences + Law and 1 x Creativity & Design.
- Each will have approx. 200 staff and 3000 students.
- In effect this will mean seven people reporting to Allan and each will be an Executive Dean. More direct control over curriculum. Each Academic Unit will have a GM and there will be Deans of Programs who will be looking after each Academic Program.
- Saving of resources will be able to be put towards growing programs.
- Targeted outcome is to break down silos within the institution, ability to be efficient within this. Professional staff spending time with students. Increase number of Academic staff into institution. Move towards active learning and high quality on-line content and improve rankings.
- Don't feel that they will have the same issues that Flinders University experienced during their restructure. Disruption will be relatively small. Job losses will be relatively small. May be 50-60 jobs that will disappear.
- Has a good understanding of the pitfalls – challenges maybe with staff not wanting to merge.
- Highlighted importance of open communication with students. The restructure is not driven by financial imperative, as such, can reinvest back into staff.
- Thursday – paper will go out to Academic staff. It is a discussion paper, not a managing change plan. Start process of preparing for change with minimal disruption. Not a great time for students – happy to talk about hosting a couple of student forums
- Allan asked Board Members for confidentiality as not yet released to Academic Staff.

Allan Evans opened the discussion up for questions from the Board Members and a general discussion followed. Members identified the importance of students being able to feedback into process and a lively discussion of ramifications of closing other UniSA campuses was also part of the conversation. Allan Evans advised he will speak with Carol around student voice in new structure and how that will look. He emphasised it is easier to build in as part of the structure, than change later on.

*A Evans left the meeting at 6.53 pm.*

**1.3 Leave Requests** – Bridget Laffy advised Richard Irons not coming, Grace Dixon requested that Thanusshan provide a retrospective leave request in next meeting.

**1.4 Conflicts of Interest** – Noah Beckmann, Mawson Lakes Campus Representative, noted his conflict with Item 2.4 as he is part of the NUS National Executive.

## **1.5 Previous Minutes**

### **1.5.1 Confirmation – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 Minutes**

Motion: That the minutes of the Board Meeting of 21 May 2019 be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

### **1.5.2 Action Log** – noted.

## **2. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

### **2.1 Board Election Timeline**

The proposal referred by Bridget Laffy was considered.

It was noted that there was an error on the timeline provided. Corrected dates are:

5 day voting – closing date 25<sup>th</sup>

3 day voting – closing date 24<sup>th</sup>

Motion: to appoint Deb Arnold as Returning Officer for the 2020 USASA Board Election

To appoint Bridget Laffy as Assistant Returning Officer for the 2020 USASA Board Election

Board adopts time line for 5 day voting for 2020 USASA Board Elections

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

### **2.2 Board Retreat Leave Requests**

Bridget Laffy advised that the paper was discussed by last years' Governance Committee, and noted that this is a re-formalising of that discussion for this year. Any questions to Arthur Siow. Arthur Siow spoke to this paper and clarified for those present. Leave requests need to be put in at time of nomination.

Motion: That the Board delegates decision-making authority to the Election Appeals Committee

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

### **2.3 Integrating Internships into Program Structure**

Deferred as Thanusshan Packiyarajah absent.

### **2.4 NUS Affiliation**

Lively discussion by Board Members as to the perceived value of affiliation with NUS. Notable highlights include:

- Disparity in fees paid by various Academic Institutions
- Political agenda of NUS
- Ability to influence NUS future priorities

Board members came to a consensus after lengthy discussion that a sum of \$6,000.00 would be agreeable to pay NUS for affiliation

Motion: That the Board comes to a decision about its 2019 affiliation with the NUS and will pay a fee of \$6,000.00

It was noted that Ned Feary and Noah Beckmann favoured a paying a fee of \$12,000 but the Motion was carried.

### 3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

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

3.2 **CEO's Report** – taken as read.

3.3 **Finance Report** – noted.

3.4 **Board Members' Reports** – Noted and taken as read.

#### 3.5 **Committee Meeting Minutes**

3.5.1 Clubs Committee – 6 May Minutes noted.

3.5.2 Education Committee – 10 May Minutes noted.

3.5.3 Finance Committee – 9 May Minutes noted.

3.5.4 Governance Committee – 21 May Minutes noted.

3.5.5 Welfare Committee – 9 May Minutes noted.

3.6 **Financial Counselling Initial Report** – noted.

### 4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Bridget Laffy highlighted need for Board participation at 22 -25 July events for SP05.

4.2 If anyone is not able to attend the next Diversity, Equity and Access meeting, please let Kate Riggall know.

4.3 Daniel Randell advised members that he will potentially be meeting with Responsible Party. An initiative started in Europe and funded by Pernod Ricard around the responsible use of alcohol by students. Will keep members updated.

### 5. MEETING CLOSE

5.1 **Next meeting** – 16 July 2019 at 6.00 pm

5.2 **Meeting Close** – 8.03 pm