

Minutes of the USASA Board Meeting

Tuesday 17 September 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 Daniel Randell Wenona Reddaway-Worth Kate Riggall 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 USASA CEO Whyalla Campus Student Representative (by telephone) Magill Campus Co-Representative City East Campus Co-Representative
In attendance:	Carol Grech Richard Irons Bridget Laffy Kaveeta Magandram Sandy Davis	PVC: Student Engagement and Equity (SEE) Director Student and Academic Services Student Representative Support Officer for Nick Anderson Minute Taker
APOLOGIES	Nick Anderson Christine Doolan Arthur Siow	Finance Advisor Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Student Representative Legal Advisor

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 6.01 pm.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Board of USASA acknowledges that it meets on the land of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to their elders past and present. 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 Leave Requests** – Arthur Siow and Nick Anderson's apologies were noted, Kaveeta Magandram was welcomed in Nick Anderson's place and Christine Doolan's leave request was accepted.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest – nil.

1.4 Previous Minutes

1.4.1 Confirmation

Motion: That the minutes of the Board Meeting of 20 August 2019 be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

1.4.2 Action Log – noted. Board members who have not done so are requested to complete the Unmet Needs survey as soon as possible.

ALL

CAROL GRECH – E25 ACADEMIC RESTRUCTURE

Carol Grech gave an update on the process of the academic restructure under E25. The rationale for the change from schools to academic units is to enhance the quality of teaching and learning for students, with better student teacher ratios. A change proposal paper was issued to all staff on 16 September, following consultations with students and staff. USASA Board members will have received a summary paper by email from the Provost, Professor Allan Evans. A three week consultation period now follows, during which student participation is strongly encouraged. The proposal is intended to impact a minimum number of people, who hold management rather than teaching positions. There should be no impact on students (apart from HDR students, who are being addressed separately), and SEE want to know if there is any.

Discussion covered the following points:

- There will be no impact on academic integrity, but the Academic Policy & Procedures Manual (APPM) will be updated to reflect staffing / program changes.
- Simplification of academic integrity language is being addressed in a separate policy framework review. Richard Irons advised that in addition to updating the APPM as part of E25, a minor review is being conducted of the manual, with a more thorough review next year. Student feedback is sought on both of these.
- Variation in implementation of academic integrity across schools was identified as an issue of concern to Board members.
- How the restructure fits into broader E25 goals and particularly the impact on student engagement - this stage of E25 addresses programs, people and precincts, with people including investment in 100 additional academic position (whereas the last strategic plan invested in research staff). The next stage will examine the Student Engagement Unit and Student Academic Services to achieve a better alignment of the two.
- Carol Grech is also addressing the student complaint process (for which there are now seven optional routes). Her goal is to streamline complaints to one point, from which they will be triaged to the appropriate person, with appropriate documentation and monitoring.
- Staff numbers across disciplines – There will be more program deans where there are more students and staff, such as in Clinical and Health Sciences, and staff may move to different programs, but there will be no change in staff numbers or locations.
- The importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in research is acknowledged and appropriate leadership and cultural change capabilities are being developed for the new culture.

- Communication about the changes to students are the responsibility of the Provost, however the intention is that students will not be greatly impacted by or aware of changes. It is intended that the new Executive Deans will work closely together to avoid operating as seven different silos.

Any concerns should be raised as soon as they arise, either through the E25 portal or directly with the PVC:SEE if they relate to engagement and equity; but it is hoped that the majority of students will not be affected.

C Grech left the meeting at 6.32 pm.

2. MATTERS FOR DECISION

2.1 Proposal to Integrate Internships into Engineering Degree

Thanusshan Packiyarajah spoke to his paper about the difficulty of obtaining internships to complete course requirements, the problem of zero unit subjects, and the inability of students who cannot obtain internships to graduate, and discussion followed. An internship office is planned for Mawson Lakes, but the timing of this is unknown. It was suggested that any Board action on this would be most effectively pursued separately to E25, with relevant data collected, appropriate consultation, and clarity as to whether to address Engineering alone, or the broader issue of work integrated learning and placements. (In this context it was noted that the university does have a broad project to embed work integrated learning consistently into the majority of courses.)

The Board agreed that a working party of Grace Dixon, Harsh Rana and Thanusshan Packiyarajah should address this issue, focussing on Engineering in the first instance, and working in conjunction with Daniel Randell and Bridget Laffey.

GD, HR, TP, DR, BL

3. MATTERS FOR NOTING

3.1 CEO's Report – taken as read.

Daniel Randell reported that since his report, funding had been confirmed for next year, including additional resources for the Clubs Grants Program and an FTE Financial Counsellor / Advocate for 12 months, which position will probably be advertised shortly.

3.2 Finance Report – taken as read.

3.3 Board Members' Reports – Each report was noted and taken as read. Grace Dixon apologised for the absence of her report. Noah Beckman added that the Mawson Lakes library is to be redeveloped and he has arranged for student input on this.

3.4 Committee Meeting Minutes

3.4.1 Club Committee – 5 August Minutes noted.

3.4.2 Diversity, Equity & Access Committee – 1 August Minutes noted. Kate Riggall reported that 100 Unmet Needs survey responses have been received so far, with the closing date extended to 1 October. Board

members were asked to promote the survey (via social media and flyers, which were distributed at the meeting) to help achieve a more representative sample.

ALL

3.4.3 Finance Committee – 8 August Minutes noted.

3.4.4 Governance Committee – 17 August Minutes noted.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Nil.

5. MEETING CLOSE

5.1 Next meeting – 15 October 2019 at 6.00 pm

5.2 Meeting Close – 7.09 pm