



# Minutes of the USASA Board Meeting

Tuesday 21 July 2020  
Hawke Building H6-03

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## PRESENT

Board:	Noah Beckmann Lauren Baum Jenny Chen Arunika Dutta Ned Feary Melinda Ho Linus Johnston Rhys Peden Tim Pham Daniel Randell Jaisree Ravichandran Lekshmi Shylaja Arthur Siow Joshua Steele Diane Wilkins Emily Williams	President & Meeting Chair Mount Gambier Campus Representative – by phone City East Undergraduate Representative Magill Campus Undergraduate Representative City West Undergraduate Representative International Student Representative City West Campus Representative Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Student Representative City East Campus Representative USASA CEO Mawson Lakes Campus Representative Post Graduate Representative Legal Advisor – by phone Mawson Lakes Campus Undergraduate Representative Whyalla Campus Student Representative – by phone Magill Campus Representative
In attendance:	Nick Anderson Richard Irons Bridget Laffy Sandy Davis	Finance Advisor Director Student and Academic Services Student Representative Support Officer Minute Taker

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 6.01 pm, welcoming everyone back to campus and reinforcing the need for social distancing.

## 1. MEETING OPENING

### 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The USASA Board acknowledges that it meets on the land of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains and on the lands of others who are attending from locations beyond the Adelaide Plains, and pays respect to their elders, past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land and acknowledge that these are of continuing importance to the Kurna and other Aboriginal People living today.

### 1.2 Leave Requests

#### 1.2.1 Melinda Ho

Motion: That Melinda Ho's leave request for the Board meeting on 16 June 2020, received by Bridget Laffy, be accepted.

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

### **1.3 Conflicts of Interest – Nil.**

### **1.4 Previous Minutes**

#### **1.4.1 Confirmation**

Motion: That the minutes of the Board Meeting of 16 June 2020 be accepted as an accurate record, subject to the last sentence of paragraph one of 3.1, President's Report, referring to the "Student and Academic Policy Advisory Group (SAPAG)" not the "Academic Policy Advisory Group (APAG)".

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

## **2. MATTERS FOR DECISION**

### **2.1 Election Timeline**

The meeting discussed the proposed timing of the election and Board Retreat.

Motion: That the Board adopt the following timeline for the 2020 Board elections:

- Notice of election published by 9 am on 7 September
- Nominations open at 9 am on 7 September
- Nominations close at 4 pm on 18 September
- Voting opens at 9 am on 19 October
- Voting closes at 4 pm on 23 October
- Provisional results released at 5 pm on 23 October
- Board Retreat Scheduled for 18 and 19 January 2021.

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

Further, that the Board appoint Debra Arnold as Returning Officer and Bridget Laffy as Assistant Returning Officer for the 2020 Board Elections.

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

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

Arthur Siow spoke to this paper, noting that it is intended to avoid conflicts of interest and is an important issue, as election candidates will either comply or not.

Motion: That the Board delegate decision-making authority to the Election Appeals Committee for excusing attendance at the 2021 USASA Board Retreat (to be conducted according to the process in the Election Regulations and as set out in the Board paper).

All were in favour and the Motion was carried.

### **2.3 Investment Policy**

Daniel Randell reported that at the Finance Committee's request, he had discussed the investment policy recommendation with the UniSA CFO. The CFO does not endorse the proposal to invest in equities, due to the potential for range creep to higher risk investments, and given the current climate of uncertainty for both the university and government. His view was that it would be best to keep

all USASA's assets liquid, although if there was a student learning opportunity, up to \$10,000 might be invested in this way. Nick Anderson and Daniel Randell recommended adopting the CFO's view in relation to equities, noting the value of students being able to learn about equity investment on a small scale.

Motion: That the Board approve the following amended guidelines to the Investment Portfolio Plan:

- increasing the preferred maximum for Fixed Interest to 85%;
- increasing the preferred maximum for Hybrids and Sub investment grade to 10%; and
- allowing a maximum of \$10,000 for equities as a student learning opportunity.

### 3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION – Nil

### 4. MATTERS FOR NOTING

#### 4.1 President's Report

The report was noted and taken as read.

#### 4.2 CEO's Report

The report was taken as read, with Daniel Randell providing the following updates.

An additional \$40,000 has been committed by the PVC:SEE for the Financial Counselling program, which will enable extension of the second counsellor's contract by two months. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will review unspent funds this year, with a view to reallocating sufficient funds to extend the contract to the end of the year.

Approximately \$120,000 has been spent this year, from an initial pool of \$10,000, and USASA is grateful to the University for providing this support to students.

The Events Officer has resigned, and a replacement will be recruited.

USASA is working with the government and PVC:SEE to understand changes to requirements for Working with Children Checks for staff and students, in particular to understand if these will extend to Clubs.

Student Hardship Fund meetings are now being held monthly, rather than every 15 days.

**4.2.1 Mid-Year Marketing Report** – noted.

**4.2.2 UniTopia Online SP2 Post Event Report** – noted.

#### 4.3 Finance Report

Linus Johnson spoke briefly to the report, reiterating that while expenditure remains below budget, this is expected to change in the coming months.

**4.4 Board Members' Reports** – Each report was taken as read and the following updates were provided.

Jenny Chen – Lekshmi Shylaja suggested that this report include Education Committee updates, as a route to the student audience.

Melinda Ho – reported discussions with Oz Harvest about operating on campus, which will be progressed with Facilities Management and international student representatives on other campuses. She also reported concerns about recent racial violence, which Noah Beckmann advised was being addressed by the SEU.

There was some discussion of how the International Student Representative represents USASA to work with the university, noting that this can usefully address broader scale initiatives, in addition to individual activities.

The next Welfare Committee Meeting is being planned, but has been delayed by Melinda's illness, for which she apologised.

Rhys Peden is working through the ISSP with the PVC:SEE on a flexible scholarship model based on student needs to address severe areas of concern. He is also developing a proposal for more financial support beyond ISSP for Warringka to employ more staff and increase student engagement.

There is also concern about, and work underway to reverse the decision to remove ENTEXT from 2021. Richard Irons is gathering information on this.

Jaisree Ravichandran and Noah Beckmann are working out how to make best use of their attendance at SAPAG meetings.

Richard Irons offered an SAS policy briefing (20 policies in 20 minutes) to assist with this. Noah Beckman will liaise with him to arrange a briefing for the whole Board.

NB, RI

Lekshmi Shylaja has been invited to sit on the Student Engagement Advisory Group. She is also working on a Safer & Respectful Communities Group, which will run an international female forum open to other tertiary campuses on 5 August.

Noah Beckmann thanked Daniel Randell for his work on safer spaces.

Josh Steele – has been researching club voting methods and is also working to improve the Clubs Committee agenda and schedule.

USASA is assisting clubs to hold events within COVID guidelines, as set out in the CEO's Report.

Diane Wilkins and Lauren Baum have been progressing a rural activity. Daniel Randell will follow this up with the Events Team.

DR

#### **4.5 Committee Meeting Minutes**

4.5.1 Clubs Committee – 10 June 2020 Minutes noted. A lot of interest in getting back on campus.

4.5.2 Education Committee – 16 June 2020 Minutes noted. An updated version has been uploaded with apologies and the correct date (19 June).

4.5.3 Finance Committee – 11 June 2020 Minutes noted.

4.5.4 Finance Committee – 2 July 2020 Minutes noted.

4.5.5 Governance Committee – 16 June 2020 Minutes noted.

#### **4.6 2021 Budget**

The Budget, as approved by the Finance Committee for submission to the University as part of USASA's 2021 Funding Proposal, was noted. A response is usually received by the end of August. Any requested changes will be considered and reported by the Finance Committee.

**4.7 USASA Clubs COVID-Safe Plan Template** – noted.

**4.8 ASR Partnership Proposal Draft**

This paper is to be submitted next week. Noah Beckmann and Daniel Randell commended Bridget Laffy's excellent work on this paper, which the CEO will consider sharing nationally.

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The People Talent and Culture team are seeking a student representative for the newly established **Safety and Wellbeing Committee**. Nominations to Noah Beckmann.

**Online teaching**

Student concerns were reported about practicals being delivered online. Richard Irons advised that while lectures are staying online, where ever possible everything else will be face to face. Board members are asked to advise him of any discrepancies.

**Mawson Lakes / Magill Campus Connector Service**

The indefinite suspension of this service, without notice or student consultation, has created access problems for many students. Josh Steele and Emily Williams will follow up an email about this, provided by Noah Beckmann.

**Nursing Intensive time reduction**

Concerns have been raised about the two week course being reduced to a two day intensive. Issues with individual courses should be raised in the first instance with the Course Director, and if this is unsuccessful, with the Director of Student & Academic Services and /or the Student Ombud.

**6. MEETING CLOSE**

**6.1 Next meeting** – Tuesday 18 August – location TBA

**6.2 Meeting Close** – 7.07 pm