

Minutes of the UniSA Student Association Board Meeting

Monday, 20 February 2023 – 6:00pm
Adelaide UniSA City West H5-26 (also via Teams)

Present	Isaac Solomon Riya Bhaizada Rhys Peden* Hayate Yamada Jayce Dimitriadis Oliver Shephard-Bayly* Lucy Fawcett Sam Bhattacharjee Brendan Ritter Alexandra Feilicia Joe Kush Modha Jeel Bhatt Daniel Randell* Tania Kanellos*	President & Meeting Chair Post Graduate Representative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Representative City West Student Representative City West Undergraduate Student Representative Magill Student Representative Magill Undergraduate Student Representative Mawson Lakes Campus Representative UniSA Online Student Representative International Student Representative City East Undergraduate Student Representative Mawson Lakes Undergraduate Student Representative USASA Chief Executive Officer Acting as Registrar and Director SAS
Observers	Cristine Dagnoni Arthur Siow Kaveeta Magandram	Coordinator Governance and Student Leadership Legal Advisor Finance Advisor
Apologies	Brendan Hughes Richard Irons Zahra Bayani	Director SEU Registrar and Director SAS City East Student Representative
Guest	Tiffany Lai	Student Representative Support Officer

* Attendance via Teams

The Chair declared the meeting open at 6:05 pm.

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The USASA Board acknowledges that it meets on the land of the Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains and on the lands of others who are attending from locations beyond this country. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land and acknowledge that these are of continuing importance to Aboriginal People living today.

The Chair extended this welcome to include all areas of Australia.

1.2 Leave Requests

Zahra Bayani – personal leave; will submit a retrospective leave of absence request, and also apologies for not attending Board retreat.

The meeting discussed the process for submitting leave requests either before or after the event. Analiese Spalding did not state her intention to continue being on the Board for the duration of the year.

For reference, if any member intends to resign, the requirement in the first instance is to advise the Board President and not an USASA employee.

Rhys Peden will be joining us later via Teams.

1.3 Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

1.4 Previous Meeting Minutes

1.5.1 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: That the Minutes of the USASA Board Meeting of **18 January 2023** be accepted as an accurate and true record of proceedings with the following amendments:

Pg 2 1.3 Conflict of Interest

- RB advised of her conflict of interest re voting on the NUS Summit funding approval as material benefit is derived from the funding
- IS advised of his conflict of interest re voting on the NUS Summit funding approval as material benefit is derived from the funding
- IS sits on NUS and is therefore ineligible to vote.

Pg 3 Motion: *That the USASA Board established the Club Committee. RP states how USASA committed to a Reconciliation Strategy*
To read: *That the USASA Board established the Reconciliation Committee.*

Note: Record that Alexandra Feilicia Joe also nominated for **Convenor of Clubs Committee**. Change “LF” to “AJ”.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting discussed changes made to the original draft minutes of 18 January covering:

- Reports to be submitted following say interstate event attendance to provide expenditure value for the experience
- Amended the reference to “discretionary budget” to “nonspecific travel budget”
- Formalisation of wording re ensuring correct accountability for the financial statements
- Clarification re AS leave request and a more convenient way to submit a leave request
- Correction to dollar figures – full stops in lieu of commas.

Moved: Sam Bhattacharjee

Seconded: Brendan Ritter

All were in favour and the motion was carried unanimously.

2. MATTERS FOR DECISION

2.1 Whyalla Student Representative By-Election

Taken as read.

The meeting discussed the election communication process – if no specific nominations are received, the Board can approve a selected individual who is eligible for the position.

Motion: That the Board appoint Debra Arnold as Returning Officer for the 2023 Whyalla Student Representative By-Election.

That the Board appoint Cristine Dagnoni as Assistant Returning Officer for the 2023 Whyalla Student Representative By-Election

That the Board approve the By-Election timetable:

- Notice of Election published 9:00am 21 February 2023
- Nominations open from 9:00am 7 March 2023 to 4:00pm 17 March 2023.
- Voting opens at 9:00am 27 March and closes at 4:00pm 31 March 2023.
- Provisional results announced 5:00pm 11 April 2023.

Moved: Hayate Yamada

Seconded: Sam Bhattacharjee

All were in favour and the motion was carried unanimously.

4. MATTERS FOR NOTING

4.1 President's Report

Taken as read.

IS commented on the significant increase in returning international students. This will encourage the University to provide resources for supporting students as they return to Campus – medical and housing are particular issues for international students. Student poverty is at an all-time high and, going forward, the Board needs to be aware of these issues and ensures that the University upholds its commitment.

New furniture at Club house looks great.

Re-introduction of pop-ups affording students the opportunity to engage with IS for information or to discuss other issues.

4.2 CEO's Report

Taken as read.

Main points of discussion:

- **Focus Area 1 – Student Leadership:** Student Voice resources: HY request to provide the Board members with a copy of the resources available at the Presentation. CD to circulate PPT which will also be presented to the Academic Board.

- **Focus Area 3 – Student Community:** request for monthly update on the Club House development project. DR to provide.

- DR to meet with RI re potential student experience grant funding which could be used for that space as well. Club Committee will develop a wish list of what needs to be done in this space, e.g. painting inside, light fittings, new AV etc
- Rest room facilities are also being looked into.
- **Administration/HR** : enquiry re new merchandise release date – DR to refer back.
- Review of discussions held at Staff Planning Retreat held at Hahndorf, e.g. further development of the strategic plan, volunteering and student engagement, wellbeing, etc.

4.3 Finance Reports

Taken as read.

First meeting of the Finance Committee took place on 14 February 2023. The meeting noted USASA is close to budget and discussion also centred on investments and market impact as well as the current portfolio. Focus was also given to the current market volatility due to rising inflation/cost of living and the cash rate rise, the latter usually taking 3-6 months to impact investors. The meeting also looked at amending USASA's investment policy statement re profit increase, greater exposure to capital growth via international and local share investment. The Finance Committee will be reviewing the 2022 financials and audit at its March 2023 meeting.

4.4 Board Members Reports

The following members submitted written reports:

Jayce Dimitriadis	Taken as read
Kush Ketan Modha	Taken as read
Hayate Yamada	Taken as read
Lucy Fawcett	Taken as read
Oliver Shephard-Bayly	Taken as read
Riya Kaur Bhaizada	Taken as read
Alexandra Feilicia Joe	Taken as read
Brendan Ritter	Taken as read
Sam Bhattacharjee	Taken as read
Rhys Peden	Taken as read
Zahra Bayani	IS spoke for - Unable to attend January 2023 Board due to being overseas but excited to be on campus and for Orientation week.
Jeel Bhatt	Looking forward to preparing for role and would like to catch up with SB on how to make University an enjoyable experience. Chatted to students and gained insight into the improvements they would like to see implemented.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Symposium

CD informed the Board on the proposed Symposium for 2023 – the purpose of the event being for Board representatives to meet and engage with USASA staff. This year's symposium will be held in the afternoon of 30 March 2023 and represents an opportunity for each Board member to present to staff setting out

their goals and ideas as well the motivation for wanting to lead USASA. Thirty minutes will be allocated to each member – there is no requirement for PP presentation, etc. That will be carried out by the staff. The meeting Agenda will be distributed and will contain an outline of the day's program. Members are welcome to contact her to discuss the content of their verbal presentation. The symposium is not mandatory but representatives are encouraged to participate.

The UniSA Staff Symposium meeting is tentatively scheduled for 11 April.

5.2 NUS President's Summit

IS and RB briefed on his attendance at the NUS Presidents Summit held at Melbourne University on 1-3 February 2023. The Summit was attended by delegates from nation-wide educational institutions; Some delegates who had not attended previous Summits had connections to organisations such as the Student Experience Network (DR is on the Board).

IS attended the Government training for the NUS National Executive which was a pre-conference arrangement.

IS outlined the program for day two which included the NUS campaign for student poverty elaborating on the focus points of food and accommodation affordability and support payments eligibility as well as raising the age for parental independence. With international students not being eligible for these payments, it means the majority of students at University would be excluded. Discussion also covered the tactics required to connect with different student organisations that normally would not be a key contact. IS continued to brief on the various key points of that day's session including outcomes, activities, what makes a successful event and technology. IS also talked about the media training which is quite different from what is undertaken at UniSA.

Day three saw a wide range of presentations from a variety of organisations and in depth conversations covering new technology, academic integrity and artificial intelligence. There was review of what the new Post Graduates Association will look like and its brief. There was also a presentation from Teachers' National Social Education Union.

5.3 Pop 6

New Pop 6 which provides a forum for Board members to advise what they have done for students this month. This is a DR initiative. This goes back to the core value and principles of members as both student and Board representatives.

Members reported on their activities on behalf students.

SB advised the opportunity afforded to him to sit on the Preclusion Appeals Committee Panel.

Members also discussed engaging with HDR students and advocating on their behalf. A meeting is scheduled for 1st March with HDR students representative from different academic units.

Further discussions have also been held with the Nursing school/Clinical & Health Services Union on the continuing subject of nursing uniforms.

RP reported on his contribution in working collaboratively with Uni SA College on a project which is designed to support students to the completion of their studies and transition to a degree.

6 MEETING CLOSURE

- 6.1** The next USASA Board Meeting will take place on Monday, **20 March 2023** at **6:00pm** at City West Campus J3-16

IS thanked Tanya for her attendance.

The meeting concluded at **7:17 pm** followed by an **In Camera** session.

