

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)**

10 – 12 February 2023

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The Student Leadership Team is asked to:-

- i) **note** this regular report from the Board of Trustees

1. There is a requirement under the Articles of Association for the Board of Trustees (BoT) to provide a report to the SLT at each meeting. This report is intended to provide the following:
 - a) a formal opportunity for SLT members to raise any questions arising from the minutes or other matters relating to the role of the Trustees, and
 - b) the opportunity for Trustees to raise any specific items with the SLT or report on progression of any non-routine matters.
2. The Board met on the 18th October 2022 on Campus and online via Microsoft Teams. The meeting minutes are available to view [here](#).
3. The Acting Chair welcomed Trustees to the first meeting of the 2022-24 term. Newly elected external Trustees, Richard Dobek and Laura Charles, were also in attendance to observe their first Trustees meeting.
4. The Association's auditor was in attendance online to present the end of year accounts and financial statements. Trustees approved the Trustees' Report and Financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2020.
5. Representatives from Civica presented a proposal to the Trustees for a Candidate Advisor App which would be used in the Association's elections. This would be an investment opportunity of £10k for the first 2 years, followed by £10k annual operating fee, which would help increase engagement and voter-turnout in the future. Trustees were unconvinced of the cost vs the benefits of the app so agreed to look into this in greater detail to make an informed decision.
6. The Head of Finance and Resources brought the FRRRC Terms of Reference for review and approval, and gave an update on the business brought forward from the 2020-22 term. Trustees approved the change to quoracy and the

amendments to the schedule of work. Three Trustees are set to join the Committee.

7. A scheme of delegation was presented to the Trustees by the Chief Executive, which outlined some changes to authority. The Board were asked to discuss this scheme and approve it. The following authority changes were discussed and approved:
 - The FRRC to approve the annual review of finance policies and procedures where no material changes have occurred
 - The Chief Executive to make staffing changes below departmental management level within the allocated staffing budget
 - Spends of over £10k outside of already allocated budgets required to be approved by the Board
 - Quarterly report on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion to be presented to the Board
 - The Societies Committee to report to the Trustees as a standing item

The remaining Scheme of Delegation was approved without discussion.

8. The Chief Executive presented the schedule of work which had been created to support the Board to meet all its business aims. The Trustees approved this Schedule of Work.
9. In the Chief Executive's report, she gave an update on the Governance Review recommendations. Whilst none of the resolutions met the 75% threshold at Conference, there were some improvements that were non-constitutional and have since been applied to working processes. These included the introduction of the FRRC, the Central Executive Committee now being referred as the Student Leadership Team, the complaints process had been improved and the Appointments Committee have made changes to their internal process.
10. Trustees received the usual standing items; Societies Report, GDPR working group update, Appointments Committee Terms of Reference, Strategy Performance Report and the Staffing Report.
11. The Officer Trustees on the Board gave an update on current issues facing the Student Leadership Team, workload, vacancies and ongoing projects. The Board were pleased with the changes made within SLT and congratulated them on the new style of reporting.
12. Richard Dobek and Laura Charles were both successfully co-opted to the Board of Trustees in the position of External Trustees.
13. Staffing matters: Since the last meeting in October, we have had some changes within the team. Firstly, we are pleased to report that the Executive Support and Staff Welfare team are now at full capacity. Samantha Smeraglia has settled into the team with ease and alongside Gabby Cull and Leanne Quainton's working arrangements being made permanent, the team are functioning excellently. We are also pleased to say that Gemma Church's contract has been extended until June 2023 to cover Magda Hadry's extended maternity leave. Within the Operations team, Ryan Cragg has been appointed a permanent contract as

Operations Administrator. We are happy to have recently welcomed Chibwe Mushibwe as our second Student Advisor. Following the resignation of Georgia Demopoulou (Projects Officer, Student Community), Hannah Prue will have been successfully appointed in this new role and will be leaving the Digi Comms team end of January. Finally, Sammi Wright will return from Maternity Leave mid January so the EDI & Student Welfare team will also be back up to full capacity. The Chief Executive role is currently being recruited for with the Chair of Trustees leading this recruitment.

14. The next Board of Trustees meeting is being held on Tuesday 31st January 2023.

Beth Metcalf
Chief Executive