



Date: Thursday 5 December 2024
 Time: 18:00-21:00
 Venue: South Wing G12 Council Room

Board of Trustees Minutes

Chair: Goksu Danaci, President

Members:	P	AP	AB
Angela Brown, Student Trustee	✓		
Ana Boikova, Activities & Engagement Officer (Sabbatical)	✓		
Beth Beasant, External Trustee (UCL Staff)		✓	
Clare Bracey, External Trustee (Non-UCL), Vice-Chair (External)	✓		
Darcy Lan, Postgraduate Officer (Sabbatical)	✓		
Eda Yildirimkaya, Equity & Inclusion Officer (Sabbatical), Vice-Chair (Sabbatical)	✓		
Farida Ibrahim, Student Trustee (FI)	✓		
Goksu Danaci, President (Sabbatical), Chair	✓		
Ken Sio, Student Trustee (KS)	✓		
Rachel Lim, Welfare & Community Officer (Sabbatical)	✓		
Seth Harris, Student Trustee	✓		
Shaban Chaudhary, Education Officer (Sabbatical)	✓		

In Attendance:
Carl Salton-Brookes, Director of Student Experience
Deb Nichols, Director of Operations
Dorota Dominiczak, Director of Finance
John Dubber, Chief Executive
Joshua Scarlett, Governance & Compliance Manager - minutes
Shachi Blakemore, External Auditor (Buzzacott)
Simon To, Director of Policy, Governance & Advocacy, Secretary

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Trustees to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interest

No additional conflicts of interest were raised.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising from the meeting on 17 September 2024

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

APPROVED

4. Ratification of decisions taken outside of meeting

The Board ratified the decisions taken outside of Board meeting on 6 November 2024 in accordance with Article 40.

APPROVED

5. Ratification of Chair's Action for appointments to Committees of the Board

The appointments were approved.

APPROVED

6. Appointment of Supervising Trustee

The Board resolved to reappoint the External Trustee (Non-UCL) as Supervising Trustee and the External Trustee (UCL Staff) as Deputy Supervising Trustee, in accordance with the Sabbatical Officers' Employment Policy and Procedures.

APPROVED

7. Sabbatical Officer's Report

The Vice-Chair (Sabbatical) presented highlights from the work undertaken towards the Sabbatical Officer team's aims for 2024-2025.

RECEIVED

8. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive provided an overview of the Union's work and achievements since September. It was noted that Welcome Period saw a record number of events and overall student engagement is higher than last year, with club and society memberships, and overall participation, seeing increases. Work as part of the Student Life Strategy has seen the Union expand its Arts and Intercultural Engagement offerings. The Chief Executive also noted the recent, positive financial performance of the Union during the start of the year.

RECEIVED

9. Financial Statements & Post-Audit Management Report 2023-24 (Auditor Present)

The External Auditor joined the meeting for this item and noted that they were satisfied to report a clean opinion, and there was agreement that the financial statements for 2023-24 give a true and fair view of the Union's position.

The Board approved the Annual Report for 2023-24, received the Post-Audit Management Report and its recommendations, and also approved for the Letter of Representation to be signed by the Chair and submitted.

RESOLVED

10. Management Accounts (Quarter 1)

The Director of Finance presented the Management Accounts for Quarter 1, which demonstrate a strong financial performance against budget in the year-to-date. There has been a positive performance with a cumulative surplus from unrestricted activities of £314k. The Director of Finance outlined some of the reasons for this which include timing, and other factors such as the Bloomsbury Fitness Centre remaining open when it was budgeted to close for refurbishment.

The Board considered how the recent Budget and changes to National Insurance contributions will impact the Union. It was confirmed that discussions with UCL are in place about this. The Board also considered the changes to the London Living Wage and it was confirmed that there are no plans to change the numbers of student staff as a consequence of these changes. The Board noted the report.

RECEIVED**11. Schedule of Delegated Authority (Annual Update)**

The Director of Policy, Governance & Advocacy outlined the proposed changes to the financial limits in the Schedule of Delegated Authority. The Board resolved to approve the updated Schedule of Delegated Authority.

RESOLVED

The External Trustee (Non-UCL) left the meeting.

12. Capital Spending Update

The Director of Operations updated on recent capital spending projects and the impact these have had on student communities.

RECEIVED

The External Trustee (Non-UCL) rejoined the meeting.

13. Commercial Strategy

The Director of Operations presented a draft Commercial Strategy that Finance Committee considered in November. The Commercial Strategy's aim is to assist the Union in working towards its ambition of delivering more for our members. It outlines our vision of the future and confirms our purpose and values. The strategy is divided into seven key themes and there are KPIs underpinning each. There are a set of aspirational short, medium and long-term objectives for each theme. Trustees commended the draft strategy. There were questions about the KPI around changing customer habits, and the Director of Operations confirmed the intention is to proactively anticipate changing customer habits instead of being reactive.

The Board resolved to approve the Commercial Strategy.

RESOLVED

The External Trustee (Non-UCL) left the meeting.

14. Bloomsbury Theatre

The Director of Student Experience updated on engagement with UCL on opportunities for the Union to work more closely with the Bloomsbury Theatre.

RECEIVED**15. Banking Arrangements**

Student Trustee Seth Harris raised the issue of banking, which was discussed at Finance Committee. The decision to move banking arrangements from Metro to Barclays in 2024 was taken due to financial risk to the Union when Metro faced market volatility. External advice was sought on what banking arrangements were suitable for a charity such as the Union. Out of these options, some of the banks were not accepting new charities as customers, and Barclays was proposed.

There were comments regarding sections of the student membership opposing the use of Barclays. It was confirmed there is no live policy in place currently regarding banking arrangements. There were also questions about how this matter could be better communicated to students. The risks of making public statements about decisions that are the matter for the Board were noted by the Director of Student Experience.

ACTION: The Education Officer as Chair of the Finance Committee will explore with the Head of Engagement & Communications if and how the Union’s banking arrangements should be communicated to members.

The Board resolved to agree for Finance Committee to revisit the matter as the Committee requested at its November meeting.

RESOLVED

16. External Speakers

The Director of Student Experience outlined some of the recent work around our regulatory freedom of speech obligations. A new role is being created to increase resourcing in this area. The Board resolved to agree with the proposal to update the Board with an annual report on External Speakers and free speech matters.

RESOLVED

ACTION: The Secretary will propose an annual report on External Speakers is added to the Business Cycle for 2025-26.

17. Risk Register Monitoring Report (Quarter 1 & Annual Update)

RECEIVED

18. Compliance Register (Annual Update)

RECEIVED

19. Health & Safety Report

RECEIVED

20. Register of Interests (November 2024)

RECEIVED

21. Safeguarding Policy (Annual Update)

RECEIVED

22. Critical Incident Plan

RECEIVED

23. Report from the meeting of Risk & Audit Committee on 19 November 2024

RECEIVED

24. Report from the meeting of Governance Committee on 19 November 2024

RECEIVED

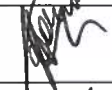
25. Report from the meeting of Finance Committee on 26 November 2024

RECEIVED

26. Any Other Business

The Chief Executive outlined the differences between NUS UK and the NUS Charity at the request of a Trustee.

No further business was raised.

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	GOKSU Danaci
Signature:	
Date:	25/03/25