



**Minutes of a meeting of the University of Sydney Union Board of Directors held on Friday
September 27th in the Cullen Room, Holme Building, University of Sydney**

Present	Connor Wherrett Lachlan Finch Maya Eswaran Decheng Sun Zimeng Ye Yinfeng Shen Zizheng Bai Nick Forbutt Ruolin Ma Caitlin Brown Di Wang Jane Drummond Marie Leech Liliana Tai	President and Chair Vice President Honorary Treasurer Honorary Secretary Director Director Director Director Director Director Director Director Senate Appointed Director Senate Appointed Director Immediate Past President
Staff in attendance	Alistair Cowie Sandra Hardy Jodi Tweed Jess Reed Rebecca Sahn Ashlea Wallington Angela Dwyer	Interim CEO and Company Secretary; Director of Facilities Director of People & Culture Director of Student Programs Director of Operations Director of Finance Director of Entrepreneurship & Innovation Minutes Secretary
1. Meeting Open and acknowledgement of Country		
	The Chair opened the meeting at 1:05pm and delivered the Acknowledgment of Country.	
	1.1 Apologies and Leaves of Absence A request for leave of absence was received from Tania Moroko Liliana Tai joined the meeting via teleconference	
B126/19	Resolved That the Board grants a leave of absence to Tania Moroko. <i>Noted</i>	

	12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain
	1.2 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest There was none
	1.3 Minutes of the previous meeting The Board reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting.
B127/19	Resolved That the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings. <i>Yinfeng Shen / Jane Drummond</i> <i>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</i>
2. Meeting Administration	
	2.1 Business Arising from the Minutes Not Addressed Elsewhere There was none.
	2.2 Open Question Time
	No questions were asked.
3. Matters for Decision	
	3.1 Major Strategic Decision There was none
B128/19	Resolved That there be a suspension of Standing Orders and that the meeting move to Agenda item <i>3.3 Other Decisions: Ramsay Centre</i> . <i>Nick Forbutt / Maya Eswaran</i> <i>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</i> <i>Zizheng Bai entered 1:14pm</i>
	3.3 Ramsay Centre A motion, prepared by Nick Forbutt and Maya Eswaran, regarding the Ramsay Centre had been circulated to the Board. There was discussion, which included

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assertion that USU, as an organisation that values student experience and student consultation, needs to listen to the voices of students and that the Board should encourage the University not to affiliate with the Ramsay Centre in order to preserve academic freedom of thought. • An expression of concern for the wellbeing of students of colour, highlighting that now more than ever students of colour are feeling particularly marginalised and that the Ramsay Centre added to their sense of unease. Two points were stressed in this regard: first, there isn't a lack of teaching in terms of Western Civilisation on the campus; second, it is important to note that racism is not isolated. • Concern that the Ramsay Centre would be damaging to the wellbeing of the International Students population. • A warning that the debate should not be framed in terms of "left v right" noting that there were left wing people on the Ramsay Board. • Concern was expressed about the USU involving itself in University curriculum decisions. • Noting the broad makeup of the Ramsey Board, a concern was expressed that that care should be taken when characterising the board as right wing and suggested that the motion be edited to remove that reference. <p>There was further discussion on this last point and it was agreed that the reference could be omitted without weakening the argument.</p> <p>Finally it was</p>
<p>B129/19</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Board endorse the following statement in regards to the University's relationship with the Ramsay Centre:</p> <p>"As elected representatives of student and staff on this campus, the Board has a responsibility to speak out about issues that affect our members. In particular, the Board is concerned about racism on campus, the rise of white supremacy and academic integrity.</p> <p>"As the largest student organisation in the country, and one that values students' interests, we have a principled obligation to speak out about the reopening of negotiations with the Ramsay Centre. As directors that are acutely aware that many students are subject to racial discrimination, we must work to minimise the potential consequences it has for vulnerable students of colour, international and Indigenous students. Further, the Ramsay Centre has known political figures on its board. This alone perhaps should not impede free teaching on this campus, however, when such a bias is not critically questioned, intervention is warranted. This is enunciated by the Australian National University's rejection of a partnership with the Ramsay Centre over concerns over academic freedom. The Board would deeply regret if University management circumvented normal</p>

	<p>collegial governance processes to force through a Ramsay Centre degree proposal, as has been the case at the University of Wollongong and the University of Queensland.</p> <p>“As such, the Board would urge the Senate of the University of Sydney, to not affiliate with a Ramsay Centre degree if it,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> does not allow for critical, pluralistic perspectives on Western civilisation idolises Western civilisation above other civilisations does not allow for freedom of academic thought and staffing. <p><i>Decheng Sun / Maya Eswaran</i></p> <p>9 For / 1 Against / 2 Abstain</p> <p><i>Against Lachlan Finch, Abstain Jane Drummond and Caitlin Brown</i></p>
B130/19	<p>That standing orders be resumed <i>Lachlan Finch / Yinfeng Shen</i></p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
	<p>2.3 Motions on Notice</p> <p>There was none</p>
	<p>3.2 Confidential Business</p>
B131/19	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the meeting move <i>in camera</i>.</p> <p><i>Jane Drummond / Yinfeng Shen</i></p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
B132/19	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the meeting move out of <i>camera</i>.</p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
	<p>4. Matters for Discussion</p>
	<p>4.1 Interim CEO’s Report</p> <p>The Interim CEO spoke to his report.</p> <p>Alistair drew the Board attention to four points in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership has exceeded 27 000 • The work being undertaken with the University on the Student Experience Working group is providing new opportunities, not least because more and more people are becoming better aware of what the USU does. • The Alcohol policy has been taken to COWP for review. • The death in August of former USU President, Ted Marr

	After discussion it was
B133/19	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Board note the Interim CEO's report and accept the recommendations contained therein,</p> <p><i>Marie Leech / Ruolin Ma</i></p> <p>13 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
B134/19	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Board's notes with sadness the death of Ted Marr and in acknowledging his contribution to the USU, the organisations' condolences be extended to his family.</p> <p><i>Marie Leech / Ruolin Ma</i></p> <p>13 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
B135/19	<p>4.2 Finance Report</p> <p>The Finance Director highlighted the positive position of the USU finances - currently \$190,000 ahead of budget.</p> <p>Rebecca informed the Board that the Audit process would commence in October.</p> <p>Rebecca was asked how, in budget preparation and monthly reporting, the forecast is predicted. Rebecca explained and noted that adhering to the budget for the rest of the year will ensure a positive result.</p> <p>A concern was expressed that the Ethical Investment position did not appear to have moved recently. Rebecca explained that Morgan's, the investment portfolio managers, have not yet sent an update. Usually this is done monthly, but Morgan's was doing it quarterly. Rebecca said she would ask Morgan's to send the updates monthly.</p> <p>The Board requested a total cost figure for the August Board Retreat. Rebecca said she would provide this.</p> <p>After discussion it was</p>
B136/19	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Board notes the Finance report.</p> <p><i>Yinfeng Shen / Caitlin Brown</i></p>

	12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain
	<p>4.3 Sales and Marketing Report</p> <p>In the absence of the Sales and Marketing Director the Interim CEO highlighted the positive work that is happening in the department.</p> <p>The Board requested projected revenue for Access Rewards vs Actuals in this year's budget.</p> <p>The sponsorship position (less than budget) was noted. Alistair explained that budget setting in that area is not an exact science and that variations occur every year. He also noted that the bottom line position of the Sponsorship and Advertising department was better than budget.</p> <p>It was noted that all references to "O-Week" should be corrected to "Welcome Week"</p> <p>After discussion it was</p>
B137/19	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Board note the Sales and Marketing report.</p> <p><i>Lachlan Finch / Jane Drummond</i></p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
	<p>4.4 Operations Report</p> <p>The Director of Operations spoke to her report.</p> <p>Jess noted that Operations and Functions made their budgets, although Bars fell short.</p> <p>The Board congratulated the department on the record sales for USYD Store and the positive contribution from HostCo.</p> <p>After discussion it was</p>
B138/19	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Board note the Operations Report</p> <p><i>Ruolin Ma / Jane Drummond</i></p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
	4.5 Student Programs Report

	<p>The Director of Programs spoke to her report, noting in particular the fact that the high visibility of the Board at events was hugely positive for staff and members.</p> <p>Jodi informed the Board that Programs are tracking ahead of budget and have been delivering costs savings where possible. She added that planning days are being held for 2020.</p> <p>Irene congratulated Liliana Tai and Maya Eswaran on their recent Debating success. She asked about ESL debating and whether the USU could investigate investing more into this aspect of the program. It was agreed to refer this and discussion about Mandarin debating to CCE.</p> <p>There were discussions around C&S events and the procedures around uncivil or dangerous activity. Jodi explained that club executives receive training on this and are encouraged to report directly to the Director of Student Programs.</p> <p>A questions was raised about the School Tutoring Program and whether or not the tutors should be remunerated. It was agreed that the nature of this 40-year old program is voluntary and students participate as a way of giving back to disadvantaged members of their community.</p> <p>After discussions it was</p>
<p>B139/19</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Board note the Programs Report</p> <p><i>Yinfeng Shen / Decheng Sun</i></p> <p>12 Accept/ 0 Against/ 0 Abstain</p>
	<p>4.6 Infrastructure Report</p> <p>The Interim CEO spoke to the report, highlighting the departments’ positive financial position and noting in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Holme AV refurbishment has been progressing, and HostCo negotiated a deal with an external AV provider. • At some point soon, we would need to upgrade the bathroom facilities in the Refectory Wing as customers are beginning to complain about them and they are damaging the HostCo brand. • Wentworth way finding has been finalised and Manning way finding currently underway. • \$4,000 on bin movements was saved in August. This is thanks to better management of waste by the Facilities and Ops teams. • The Cleaning Contract tenders had closed and the review would soon be underway. <p>After discussions it was</p>

<p>B140/19</p>	<p>Resolved That the Board notes the Infrastructure report</p> <p><i>Nick Forbutt / Caitlin Brown</i></p> <p>12 Accept/ 0 Against/ 0 Abstain</p>
	<p>4.7 Innovations and IT Report</p> <p>The Director of Innovations spoke to her report highlighting the arrival of the new Program Manager and announcing that INCUBATE won an award for the best presentation for start-ups!</p> <p>Upon the request of the Board, Ash, said that a breakdown of the insights of the discovery phase of the Bright Ideas Program will be provided.</p> <p>It was</p>
<p>B141/19</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Board notes the Innovation Programs report.</p> <p><i>Yinfeng Shen / Maire Leech</i></p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
	<p>4.8 People and Culture Report</p> <p>The Director of People and Culture spoke to her report.</p> <p>The board formally asked that the process that WeChat Editors not be appointed until the board decides on their 2020 position.</p> <p>It was suggested that multilingual students be appointed to editorial teams. It was also suggested that the Regulations be amended to allow for more than 2 Pulp editors be appointed if desired.</p> <p>It was agreed that these matters would be discussed at CWP and, as appropriate, be brought to the next Board meeting.</p> <p>After discussions it was</p>
<p>B142/19</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Board note the People and Culture Report</p> <p><i>Marie Leech / Decheng Shen</i></p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
	<p>4.9 Honorary Secretary's Report</p>

	<p>The Honorary Secretary's Report spoke to his report. In particular he noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of editorial autonomy • The need for clarification around the regulations concerning the New Club Panel to ensure the best possible outcome for our clubs and USU/University relations. <p>It was agreed that these matters would be discussed further and reported on at the next meeting of the Board.</p> <p>After discussions it was</p>
B143/19	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the report of the Honorary Secretary Board be noted and the recommendations contained therein be endorsed:</p> <p>Recommendation 1 That the Board agrees that the correct interpretation of USU Regulation A2.2.3 is that it concerns the registrations of <i>existing</i> clubs and does not mean the approval of <i>new</i> clubs.</p> <p>Recommendation 2 That the Board, in accordance with USU Regulation A2.2.2 of and Part 9 of C&S Handbook, acknowledges that all new club appeals of semester 2, 2019 are still under the assessment of New Club Panel (NCP).</p> <p><i>Ruolin Ma / Lachlan Finch</i></p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain <i>Liliana left the room 2:53</i></p>
	<p>4.10 Honorary Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The Honorary Treasurer spoke to her report. She noted with satisfaction the great budget sessions held with Finance Director, Rebecca.</p>
B144/19	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the report of the Honorary Treasurer be noted.</p> <p><i>Di Wang / Lachlan Finch</i></p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
	<p>4.11 Vice President's Report</p> <p>The Vice President spoke to his report.</p> <p>In particular Lachlan draw attention to the Bars working party and seeing promising results.</p>

	<p>Marie also commented on it being fantastic to see work happening on the bars.</p>
B145/19	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Board note the Vice President's report.</p> <p><i>Maya Eswaran / Marie Leech</i></p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
B146/19	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Chair be handed to the Vice President.</p> <p><i>Maya Eswaran / Marie Leech</i></p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
	<p>4.12 President's Report</p>
	<p>The President spoke to his report, in particular highlighting the importance of opening the line of communication to students and creating a culture of engagement with the USU Board.</p> <p>Connor also offered his congratulations to Liam Donoghue on being elected as SRC President. He looks forward to great and fruitful collaboration!</p> <p>Connor spoke to the CEO recruitment timeline and noted that the process was on track.</p> <p>After discussion it was</p>
B147/10	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Board note the President's report..</p> <p><i>Jane Drummond / Yinfeng Shen</i></p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>
B148/10	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Chair be returned to the President.</p> <p><i>Nick Forbutt / Caitlin Brown</i></p> <p>12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstain</p>

	5. Matters for Noting
	5.1 Minutes of the Debates Committee
B149/10	Resolved That the Board note the Minutes of the Debates Committee Meeting of 16 th September and accept the recommendations contained therein.
	5.2 Work Health and Safety
B150/10	Resolved That the Board note the Minutes of the Work Health and Safety Committee Meeting and accept the recommendations contained therein.
	5.4 Board and Committee Financials The Board and Committee Financials were noted.
B151/10	Resolved That the September financial position of the Board and Committees be noted.
	5.5 Other Matters for Noting There was none.
	6. Close of Meeting
	6.1 Matters for Disclosure There were no matters for disclosure.
	6.3 Next Meeting Next meeting will be Wednesday 30 th October in the Drawing Room. There being no further business, the board meeting closed 2:56pm.