

# Ravensbourne Students' Union Advisory Board

Minutes of the RSU Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at 2:30pm on [Zoom](#).

## MINUTES

### Present

Fernando Modino – Chair (FM)  
Jonathan Walmsley (JW)  
Joshua Fakunmoju (JF)  
Lance Bautista (LB)  
Louise Prideaux (LP)  
Phil MacDonald (PM)  
Yousuf Joondan (YJ)  
Sadi Uswatul Ambia – Secretary (SUA)

### In attendance

### Apology

### Actions

Mins	Action	By whom	By when
4	To contact a few other students' union to find out about their activities and student engagement plans since March 2020	SU President	12.11.2020
5	To prioritise the absolute budgeting needs for the Union before the meeting with the interim Director of Finance	SU team	04.09.2020
6	The Union to work closely with LP on the SU activities and events	SU team	Ongoing

### 1 Chair's welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the academic year 2020/21. The Chair noted that the role of a Governor member and the role of the student member are currently vacant. These roles should be filled before the next meeting.

The chair also noted that Phil McDonald, the Interim Director of Finance, has replaced the previous Director of Finance on the RSU Advisory Board. PM briefly introduced himself to the Board.

### 2 Minutes of the last meetings

The Board approved the minutes of the RSU Advisory Board meeting held on 18 May 2020

### 3 Actions/matters arising from the minutes

Mins	Action	Status
4	To send out a survey to students asking what initiatives they would like the SU to undertake during the lockdown period	Actioned

The Chair noted that there was not many students responded to the survey. The Union plans to organise different kind of virtual events to see which ones are preferred by students.

### 4 Ravensbourne Students' Union End of Year Report

SUA briefly scrutinised the activities undertaken by the Union in the past year. Although, the Union was not able to deliver everything that was planned because of the lack of capacity, the Board was largely happy with the Union's accomplishments. The Board members advised the officers to learn from the experience of the past year, be practical about what the team can achieve and decide their priorities according to their resources. The following were also advised to the team:

- Work closely with the event team on the SU activities and events
- Contact a few other unions to find out about their activities in this circumstances
- Use several social media platform to engage with the community
- Promote the benefit of having an NUS card

**Action:** to contact a few other students' union to find out about their activities and student engagement plans since March 2020

## 5 **Management accounts of 2019/20**

The Union budget was underspent by about £13K. The Union officers were advised to be more practical about planning their budget for the next academic year.

It was also noted that the Union, as all other departments of the University, were waiting for their budget.

**Action:** to prioritise the absolute SU needs before the meeting with Interim Director of Finance

## 6 **Students' Union Activities Calendar 2020/21**

The SU President briefly detailed the activities undertaken by the Union in the past couple of months. It was noted that no physical events were possible because of safety reasons. The SU President highlighted the importance of holding both virtual and physical event where possible.

It was advised that the Union should plan all future activities with a time and date and advertise those well.

**Action:** the Union to work closely with Louise on the SU activities

## 7 **Students' Union Strategy 2020-23**

The SU Manager noted that the consultation process of the SU strategy has now completed. The draft strategy will be submitted to the next Board meeting for approval.

The Board members noted the following:

- The SU should not become a fully independent entity in the new near future
- The SU should operate as a department of the University
- The University may consider providing a fixed amount of yearly budget to the SU
- The structure of the SU should be reviewed
- Improving the NSS score for both the University and the SU to be incorporated in the SU strategy

## 8 **Any other business**

There was no other business

*Starred items*

## 9 **Membership of the RSU Advisory Board**

Changes to the membership of the Board was noted without any comment

## 10 **Next meetings**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 14:00  
 Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 15:00  
 Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 15:00