



BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting 18 March 2020.

Present: Adeyinka Balogun (Chair - AB), Samantha Leahy-Harland – (SLH) CEO, Irfan Zaman (IZ), Charlotte Morris-Davis (CMD), Bonnie Milligan (BM), Ann-Marie Kankam (AMK), Joanna Ann (JA), Georgia Hill (GH), Calvin McKenzie (CM), Toluwa Atilade (TA), Lea Ediale (LE), Lenrick Greaves (LG), Syahirah Syamsul Kairi (SSK), Naomie Lebe (NL), Mohamed Hamad (MH), Whitney Idowu (WI), Ntobeko Sengwayo (NS).

Non-attendance: Chiko Bwalya (CB), Jodi Nwasike (JN), Sarah Chelsea Lawrence (SCL), Abidemi Abiodun (AA), Rowan Bratchell (RB), Tatiana Lutgens (TL).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Adeyinka Balogun (AB) Chair.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes: **Approved.**

Rolling Action Log: **Approved**

Incorporation Project

Samantha Leahy-Harland CEO

The BSM/AGM would have to be postponed. This was originally scheduled for Tuesday 24 March 2020 but is having to be indefinitely postponed due to COVID-19. The Executive Committee gave delegated authority to the FTO team to set a future date. An online BSM is not an option currently as this is not permitted by the by-laws.

Incorporation was initially planned to go to the BSM, however as this is no longer viable the Exec were asked to call a referendum.

1. Background provided by (SLH): There has been a Democracy and Governance review where a consultant looked at democratic functions and organisation. To review if good sector practice was being carried out. Various recommendations were made on the democratic functions and corporate governance. (the Trustee Board and how it governs and leads the organisation, also how it relates to the Executive and how it represents students). A final report has now been produced.

As part of this process a risk was identified concerning the student union. SUBU as part of being a charity, must have a group of trustees of which the FTO's are part of that. CM is a trustee as well as some external trustees. It is a requirement in law for this body to exist.

As we are unincorporated this means that the trustees including the Executive Committee Trustees have personal liability for SUBU.

However, there are lots of mitigations in place including being insured against this happening. A contributory factor for the student union in Bournemouth (as well as lots of other universities) is that we are a member of a Pension Scheme called SUSS which is increasing in instability due to the NUS's ongoing financial difficulties. The worst-case scenario risk that has been identified is that should NUS, or other members of that pension scheme be unable to meet their debt, then this is distributed between the remaining people within the scheme. A paper was taken to the trustees in January, recommending that we move from an unincorporated to an incorporated charity. If incorporated SUBU would become an entity within itself, therefore it is SUBU that is liable for any debts and not the trustees. We would then become a company limited by guarantee. We would still be a charity and retain our core purpose supporting students. All that is happening is the personal liability will be taken away from trustees. As part of these changes other changes would be made to our corporate governance such as composition and quoracy of the board.

The trustees have approved to proceed with incorporation. This means we now need a new constitution as it contains a clause which says that if we want to move to incorporation then we will need to have various approvals, one of which is the student body and the other is Bournemouth University who are supportive in principle.

The Executive approval would allow this issue to be taken to referendum.

Questions were asked and answered.

The resolution used in the referendum will be set by the solicitors and the consultant.

Vote taken: To delegate authority for minor changes/flexibility in the wording of the referendum for the students. **Approved**

Vote taken: Incorporation and referendum: **Approved**

Action: contact information will be provided so that students can call if they have any questions.

CMD: Provided information on the logistics of the referendum: This needs to be open for four weeks during the academic term time. We would be looking to opening it this coming Monday. This would be open throughout Easter and would close 8 May 2020. 5% of SUBU members are needed to take part in the vote. This works out to roughly 650. The results will then be announced, and we will seek to work with BU, and then go ahead with adopting the new articles. These changes would then come into force in the new year 2020/21.

Questions were asked and answered.

When the online platform is open: We will be reaching out to everyone and encouraging all to support this change.

NUS Conference

Lenrick Greaves

LG questioned whether there should be more student consultation as to who our delegates vote for and what policies they vote for. Agreed that this should happen at the Executive Committee and it should be looked at what opportunities there are to add this into our governing documents.

Action: Request from Chair (AB) to (SLH) to try and include this issue in the by-laws.

Communication Waste Management Policy

Alan Dove

Advice given to drop this issue at this time as a new sustainability policy is being developed which will include all printed materials (flyers/equipment etc.,) the recent situation will give plenty of time for this to be worked on. The new policy will sit with the Trustee Board, but Exec involvement was welcomed.

5. HE Policy Updates

Charlotte Morris-Davis

A report on Sexual misconduct on campus is being produced for the (OFS) National Office for Students, which regulates institutions. This is an opportunity to shape national policy. Jane De Vekey (JDV) Head of Student Voice and Policy will be leading this: This report will aim to capture all student experiences/opinions which will be fed into the report. Is anyone interested in contributing to this report. AMK, TA, JA volunteered

FTO Updates

LG gave an update on the TEF

Liberation Officer Updates

Due to the pandemic all future events have now been cancelled. - The Executive Committee will be considering what SUBU can do to help and will have a positive impact on students in these uncertain times.

AOB

AMK – raised the point that SUBU needs to look at what it can do to be more visible to make students aware of what is going on at SUBU.

Chair: Closed the meeting