

**DURHAM SU BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF 2 November 2022**

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**Members present:** Clare Powne, Graeme Osborn, Hannah Sketchley, Joe McGarry, Jack Ballingham, Laura Curran, Joshua Freestone, Dhillon Shenoy, Deborah Acheampong, Qiandong Zhou, Charles Lawrence

**In attendance:** Gareth Hughes, Rebecca Henderson, Lauren Hodgson (minutes)

**Apologies:** Caragh Aylett-Bullock

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## **Usual business**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

**NOTED:** apologies, conflicts of interests, and any other urgent business requested for the trustees to consider at this meeting.

The Chief Executive noted that Aditya Lathar has resigned as an Officer and Trustee, to undertake a Masters degree, which he was not able to defer.

Lay trustee recruitment campaign is now approved and ready to go live.

The president of NUS has been dismissed from post. If anyone has any questions please pass on to Rebecca Henderson.

### **2. Risk Paper and Policy**

**APPROVED:** the revised Risk Policy.

**NOTED:** the discussion on risk management in the previous year.

The Risk Policy is reviewed annually. The Chief Executive proposed amendments, which were highlighted in the Policy. The Trustees agreed with the framework of the amended policy.

The most significant development in the Policy is in the proposed approach to of student group risk. The vast majority of student groups undertake easily managed activities which present very little risk to Durham SU and participants, but they operate within the same risk management framework as very high-risk student groups, of which there are around 30 groups that require further attention. These groups can be better supported with the implementation of the monitoring framework.

The Risk Policy requires the Chief Executive to report annually to the trustees on Durham SU's record in managing strategic risk, in particular on activity in the previous year.

Risks are far fewer than previously, and the framework implemented is working and having a positive impact.

The Trustees agreed that risks had been dealt with positively.

### 3. Strategic Risk Register

**APPROVED:** the Strategic Risk Register,

The Chief Executive presented the Strategic Risk Register to the trustees.

It was queried how long term the partnership listed in strategic risk 3 was likely to be viewed: will this likely be ended after the end of the 3 years or could there be changes made to the agreement from the partner company? The Chief Executive answered that this would be very unlikely as Native have been very clear that they want to partner with Durham SU, as they see a good market position in Durham which is attractive to advertisers as having money and therefore want to advertise here.

### 4. Call for Referendum

**APPROVED:** a call for

referendum.

89% of students had previously stated they want to be involved in decision making, and the current policy was voted on and approved by 27 people at Assembly which does not represent the thoughts of all student members. It is not up to Assembly or Durham SU to make sure this goes one way or another, it should go whichever way students vote for it to.

Students are able to call a referendum at any time, through a petition, and that would be a yes/no vote. If Durham SU proposes the preferendum, it has a greater ability to share the proposal.

The Trustees added that this widened the scope to get opinions of students rather than just Assembly, which is a small group of students, and industrial action has a big enough impact that this should be discussed with the greatest number of Durham students.

Some of the Trustees were concerned that if vote went against UCU the relationship with Durham SU would be negatively impacted. The Chief Executive did not have this concern, as UCU are well aware of how democracy operates in membership organisations. The trustees asked that care be taken to ensure that the timing did not compromise any other important work, and questions of the preferendum were widely consulted upon.

**The Trustees voted: 2 against, 7 for, 1 abstention.**