DURHAM SU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

Members present: Graeme Osborn, Deborah Acheampong, Freddy Fossey-Warren, Clare Powne, Dan Lonsdale, Skye Carroll, Will Brown, Anna Robinson, Dylan Jones, Haf Serajee, Ben Thomas

In attendance: Gareth Hughes, Liam Isaac, Ron Drury

Apologies: Hannah Sketchley

Usual business

1. Opening of the meeting

NOTED: no apologies, conflicts of interest, or any other urgent business

The trustees heard that Rachel Taylor had, with regret, resigned as a trustee due to a change in her employment. She had asked that her thanks be passed on Durham SU for the opportunity to serve and her apologies for needing to prioritise other activity. The trustees were grateful to Rachel for her contribution and wished her well.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting, and actions

Minutes of the last meeting will follow to the meeting in November 2023.

3. Appointments

RESOLVED: the trustees appointed Liam Isaac and Rob Drury as trustees.

Liam Isaac will begin a three-year term of office immediately. Rob Drury will succeed Clare Powne.

RESOLVED: the trustees appointed Peter Robertson as Returning Officer.

Action point: the Chief Executive will submit the appointments to Assembly for ratification.

4. Committees of the Board

The trustees considered the implications of the resignation of Rachel Taylor, and the recent appointment of Liam Isaac. There was a broad agreement that Sustainability and Risk Committee lacked appropriate experience, and, on that basis, it would not be appropriate to appoint members to the Committee as had been originally proposed in the papers circulated in advance of the meeting.

The trustee also noted that there would be, in the year ahead, two significant reviews which had implications for the composition of the Board of Trustees, in the review of the Articles of Association, and the review of the Officer portfolios. It would therefore be premature to open recruitment when, in a few months time, there would be greater clarity as to what and how new trustee roles would be necessary for Durham SU.

There was, however, work which the trustees would need to have the opportunity to consider in some detail before a paper was presented to the full Board for resolution, such as ongoing work by the People and Governance Committee led by Clare Powne which had been considering development of terms and conditions for employed staff.

The trustees agreed that there would be no appointments made to Committees at this time, and that they would not open recruitment for a new last trustee at this time. The trustees asked the Chair and the Chief Executive to consult on task and finish groups which could be established at the November meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: to not appoint to Committees of the Board, and to stand down Committees of the Board at the present time.

Action point: the Chair and the Chief Executive to consult of business which would have gone to Committees for development, for assignment to trustee task and finish groups.

5. Delegation Statement

The trustees noted that the Delegation Statement, proposed for review and adoption at this meeting, would be inaccurate if Committees of the Board had been stood down. The Chair and Vice-Chair had a broad delegated authority to act on behalf of the Board in emergencies, but there was a low risk of significant need for the exercise of delegated authority in the period before the next meeting of the trustees on 29 November 2023. The Chief Executive retained delegated authority to manage the day-to-day business of Durham SU.

Action point: the Delegation Statement be deferred to the next meeting of the trustees, and the Chair, Vice-Chair and Chief Executive to review the Delegation Statement considering decisions made at this meeting.

End of meeting