

# Meeting Minutes

Meeting	Trustee Board	
	Management Board	
	Executive Committee	[X]
	Finance & Commercial Development	
	Appointments & Remuneration	
	Compliance, Governance & Risk	
	Other:	

Meeting Date	25/07/2023
Meeting Time	12:00-13:00
<b>Attendance</b>	
Present	William Campbell (WC) (President), Sophie-Ann Bain (SAB) (North Highland Depute President), Joseph Sweeny (JS) (Inverness Depute President (Activities and Welfare), Ahren Armstrong (AA) (Argyll Depute), Holly Pearce Kayes (HPK) (Inverness Depute President Education), Carolyn MacPherson (CM) (Assistant Voice Manager), Fiona Smith (FS) (Perth President), Colina Wright (CM) (Interim Voice Manager), Elizabeth Keegan (EK) (Inverness President), Rebecca Bond (RB) (Perth Depute President (Activities and Welfare)), Hannah Laycock (HL) (Executive Assistant), Antony Blackshaw (AB) (Interim CEO).
Apologies	Kian MacDonald (SAMS Depute President), Hannah Soutar (Perth Depute President (Education)), Melissa Carr (Moray Depute President (Education), Shannon MacCallum (West Highland Depute President).
Non-Attendance	

Section	Minutes
1.1 Welcome	WC welcomed Committee to the meeting.
1.2 What is Executive Committee?	<p>WC outlined what Executive Committee is, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets to discuss the importance of issues that students face across the UHI Academic Partners, and from these sets the priority for Regional agenda.</li> <li>A space for Local officers to get support on the campaigns they are running.</li> <li>It is led by the President</li> <li>A collective space to share ideas.</li> <li>A space where strategies, plans, and policies can be developed. These are then brought to Regional Student Council for approval.</li> <li>Regional Student Council holds Executive Committee to account for Executive Committee performance, and actions taken.</li> </ul> <p>AB added several additional points to the list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Committee can request Your Students' Association, Senior Managers to attend meetings.</li> <li>Senior Managers can, and will, ask to attend meetings addressing the Committee with any advice or support on any issues.</li> <li>The CEO or Director of Membership Services attends each meeting. Historically, it was felt that there was too much presence from staff. This is not intended to be the case; staff are there as advisors to the Committee. The Director of Membership Services is about implementing activities across the organisation in terms of staff. The attendance of these two key staff needed to be shared.</li> </ul>

1.3 Regional Officers Restructure	<p>WC summarised the current structure of the Regional Officers, which includes three Regional Officers and Deputes from each of the Academic Partners. Committee noted that prior to this term, Aaron Wappler gave his resignation as Vice President (Communities) (VPC), which highlighted what should be done next. The plan for 2023/24 was to keep two Regional Officer posts.</p> <p>JS queried why this was a benefit to the Executive Committee. WC responded that it would save the organisation £20,000 salary and £8,000 travel costs, which could be fed back into local projects. JS asked if the two Regional Officers could do the job of three. WC responded that it was possible through delegation in relation to activities which related more to staff and local activities.</p> <p>AA reflected that decisions could be made more democratically between three people, but with only two people there could be issues with decision making. WC responded that this was what Committee was for. AB responded that the former was the model in which Your Students' Association was trying to move away from, in which Regional Officers are perceived to be at a higher level than Deputes; it is Committee that come to a decision not Regional Officers.</p> <p>HPK queried what would happen in the event of Committee not being able to come to a decision. WC responded that not all decisions would be collective. Collaboration was important in decision making.</p> <p>AA queried what would happen if roles were not filled for Local Officer posts, and decision could not be made. WC responded that this would go to Regional Student Council. AB responded that if this happened Committee would take a recess or day out to then come back to a decision.</p> <p>AA queried the capacity for only two officers taking on the role of what was three Regional Officers roles. CM responded with summarised background for the changes to the Regional Officer roles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Originally Vice President of Further Education, and Vice President of Higher Education, alongside the President role.</li> <li>• This format wasn't fit for purpose.</li> <li>• The format segregated students</li> </ul> <p>WC responded that the new format gave Local Officers and teams more autonomy in their activities.</p> <p>There were further discussions about the Regional Officer restructure at the end of the meeting. AB clarified what the options were for Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They were being asked to defer the option for a by-election for the VPC role.</li> <li>• A decision on the abolition of the role would come in December 2023. This would allow Committee to take time to decide if this new format was sustainable.</li> </ul> <p>WC assured Committee that he and GS had worked well together in the initial stages. They had worked out what their strengths and weaknesses are. It was believed they wouldn't have increased workload because the roles were being streamlined.</p> <p><b>DECISIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Committee support the restructure of the Regional Officer roles and agreed to defer the option for a by-election for the VPC role.</li> </ul>
1.4 Liberation Events Calendar	<p>CM provided the background of the VPC role, which was to focus on clubs and societies, and liberation awareness. The AVMs have since discussed how they could better support local teams. It was then decided that there were huge gaps in the liberation clubs and societies. If there are no students available to take on at club and society, they don't happen. Students who come forward about liberation groups don't necessarily want to run the group. This meant that these students are lost because there's no to run the group. For this reason, AVMs</p>

	<p>decided staff should keep the key liberation groups running until a student comes forward to run the group.</p> <p>A liberation calendar of events was to be created to ensure that awareness is raised and the work for liberation groups is continued. The calendar will enable SVAs and AVMs to run similar events across the partnership.</p> <p>For these reasons, the VPC role is not required because the work from this role will be brought back to local teams.</p> <p>AB responded that the calendar makes sure that staff are doing their job alongside officers.</p> <p>JS noted to Committee that there had been students from Plumbing and Painting courses asking why UHI Inverness events were focused on liberation groups. They felt everything was focused on liberation instead of events for all. JS advised that events were for all, not just liberation groups.</p> <p>WC noted the Standing Groups idea, which enables clubs to keep running in the absence of student members with the interim support of local staff SVAs or AVMs. The aim would also be to remove responsibility from Local Officers to run a club.</p> <p>AB advised that there would be eight or nine Standing Groups.</p> <p>RB asked if there was an information booklet explaining how students can set up a group. WC responded that there will be a poster with six steps on how to start a group, including a QR code taking students to a page explaining how to do this.</p>
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