

Board of Governors Report

Students' Union

Recent Overview

NOTE: A DVD version of the Students' Union Annual Report will be shown in the meeting.

Financial Performance

Management accounts for May show the Organisation achieving a surplus of £39,000 against budget year to date.

As mentioned in our last Management report departmental savings have been locked in within departments to ensure savings. It is anticipated that at year end the Union will achieve a surplus of circa £40,000.

Under spends on salaries continue to accrue due to our Welfare officer Will Varnam resigning his post to take up full time employment with the University earlier in the year and a member of our advice and support staff not returning to full time employment following maternity leave. Once again these savings continue to be locked in.

Income for the organisation has remained ahead of target with advertising and sponsorship arrangements.

Charitable status update.

Our project to convert to charitable status continues to gain momentum with a fast approaching deadline of the 1st August 2010. Negotiations for a lease arrangement with the University continue as does our search for suitable external trustees. The Charity commission has approved our application and agrees with our charitable aims.

Trustee recruitment has not proved successful despite a national advertising campaign including The Guardian. Only five applications were received for external trustees and two for student trustee's. Interviews for both positions are due to take place next Tuesday. If the interview process does not produce acceptable candidates we will begin a process of approaching prospective trustee's.

It is our intention to hold board meetings of the existing and new trustee boards during late July to wind down the old company and agree to the formulation of the new incorporated body.

VAT registration

Following a recent VAT consultation from our newly appointed accountants H.C.W the Trustee's have taken the decision to de register from VAT due to a lack of trading activity. This is anticipated to take place on 1st August 2010 in line with our conversion to charity status.

Budget Process

Our 2010-2011 budget process is now nearing completion. The Union aims to ring fence spending on participation elements of activity such as sporting activity, society funding and a development fund for both areas. We are aiming to make further allocations to enhance our student representative system and volunteering activity by streamlining our back office functions and reviewing all contracts and leasing arrangements to ensure best value.

Key areas of participation activity are prioritised in the budget process. Additional funding for Welcome Week and support for the "Best Mates" student volunteers is in place as is a greatly enhanced Welcome Week activity programme to assist with retention rates.

Improvements have been applied to the budget process, departments have been involved in formulating income and expenditure targets and assisting in the profiling process.

The Union is aiming to produce a balanced budget for 2010/2011.

IIP

Following our IIP assessment day in May the organisation has passed its retaining recognition phase of the process. This represents a significant step forward for the Union in improving its management and process development. The IIP report particularly mentions the setting up and implementation of a Staff consultative forum to discuss with staff changes to working practises and policy as a positive and enabling cultural change.

Website

We are now finalising our arrangement and contract with MSL following our termination of the contract for the BAM system. MSL have given us a temporary holding page during which work will start on our new site due to be launched in July.

Building Project Work (City Campus)

With the support of the University we have now started Phase 1 of our summer building project at the city campus. The project will see the Students' Union space refurbished with the aim of focusing its services to students and becoming visible and accessible. Phase 2 will commence in late July with a completion date of the 1st September 2010.

Officer Update

This year's officer team are celebrating a fantastic year. Since the last committee meeting, officers have been concentrating on engaging with students in different ways. Not only did we have a record breaking election week but we also got involved with the General Elections encouraging students to register to vote, sign the pledge against the increase in tuition fees and also invited the local parliamentary candidates so students could ask questions and comment on what each party were planning to do.

The last few months have been very busy – but very rewarding. We are proud to say we have been the officer team who have not only done activities and events for the 18-21 year old students, but who have included and made a range of our diverse students feel part of the Union this year.

The Union would like to thank Jon for his advice and help throughout the year and hope the Union continues in its success throughout the next year.

I would like to thank the University, especially Jane Nelson, Jon Elsmore, Tony Lee, Mark Williams, Ian Oakes and Caroline Gipps for the support they have shown the Union this past year.

Thank you all very much – I wish you all the best and hope me and my team have shown you what the Students' Union is capable – and that we are here to stay.