

## AGENDA

The meeting will be held at 09:30 in G05 Old Broadcasting House, City Campus

PRELIMINARY ITEMS		Item	Led by
1	Apologies	Verbal	I Cornish
2	Declarations of interest	Verbal	I Cornish
3	Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 July 2023	<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> HEC-2324-001	I Cornish
4	Matters arising – <i>none from the previous meeting</i>	Verbal	K Harvey
5	Chair's Action – <i>nothing to report</i>		
STRATEGIC MATTERS		Item	Led by
6	Chair's Report	Verbal	I Cornish
7	Vice Chancellor's Report	<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> HEC-2324-002	Professor P Slee
8	Students' Union Report	HEC-2324-003	D Dev / H Bhatia
EXCELLENT ACADEMIC OUTCOMES, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION		Item	Led by
9	Report of the Academic Board – 08 November 2023	<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> HEC-2324-004	Professor P Slee
9.1	Academic Assurance Report	HEC-2324-005	Professor P Cardew
9.2	Research Strategy Update	HEC-2324-006	Professor S Machold
REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES		Item	Led by
10	Report of the Governance and Nominations Committee – 13 October 2023	<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> HEC-2324-007	Dr A West
10.1	Annual Review & Remuneration of the Chair of the Board and the Committee Chairs	HEC-2324-008	I Cornish & N Whitaker
10.2	OfS Regulatory Update	HEC-2324-009	A Bolshaw
11	Report of the Finance, Staffing & Resources Committee – 27 October 2023	<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> HEC-2324-010	A Gay

11.1	Student Enrolment Update	HEC-2324-011	Dr D Ashton
11.2	Financial and Capital Expenditure Update	HEC-2324-012	C De Arostegui
11.3	Financial Forecasts to 2026/27	HEC-2324-013	
11.4	Financial Statements - Year Ended 31 July 2023	HEC-2324-014	
11.5	Safety, Health & Wellbeing Update	HEC-2324-015	T Lancaster
<b>12</b>	Report of the Audit Committee – 10 November 2023	<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> HEC-2324-016	N Whitaker
12.1	Audit Committee Annual Report and Opinion 2022/23	HEC-2324-017	
12.2	Internal Audit Annual Report & Opinion 2022/23	HEC-2324-018	
12.3	External Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 July 2023	HEC-2324-019	
12.4	External Audit Letter of Representation	HEC-2324-020	C De Arostegui
12.5	Prevent Duty Accountability and Data Report 2023	HEC-2324-021	A Bolshaw
<b>13</b>	Report of the Senior Staff Remuneration Committee – 13 October 2023	<b>RESERVED</b> HEC-2324-022	C Cartwright
<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b>		<b>Item</b>	<b>Led by</b>
<b>14</b>	Meeting Feedback from Governors	Verbal	I Cornish
<b>15</b>	Schedule of Business 2023/24	HEC-2324-023	K Harvey
<b>16</b>	Any Other Business	Verbal	I Cornish

**Details of next meeting:**

The next meeting of the Board will be held at 09:30 on Friday 26 April 2024 in G05 Old Broadcasting House, City Campus

*Shaded items indicate that the Board is being asked to make a decision.*

*\*Starred items will be taken without discussion unless a member notifies the Chair or Secretary in advance that she or he wishes the item to be open for debate.*



## Students' Union Report

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### **Purpose of Report**

This report is to summarise the work undertaken by the Students' Union and inform the Board of key issues and developments.

### **Action Requested**

The report is **for information and to note**

### **Key Issues**

In particular the Governors are asked to consider the points raised in relation to cost of living pressures and the provision of faith spaces across campus

### **Legal / Regulatory Implications**

This report makes reference to developments in regulation under new freedom of speech legislation that will bring Students' Unions within the purview of the OfS

### **Author**

Name: Neil Mackenzie, SU Chief Executive & Dhruv Dev, SU President

Date: 16 November 2023

### **Approval Route**

Name: Dhruv Dev, SU President

Date: 16 November 2023

# Students' Union Report

## Introduction

1. The Students' Union has had a busy start to the academic year, continuing to build our levels of student engagement and progressing with key projects to ensure our relevance in experience of all students at Leeds Beckett.

## Conflict in the Middle East

2. As Governors will be aware the conflict in Israel & Gaza has been a focus for student activism across the UK, including at Leeds Beckett Students' Union. The SU has been proactive in engaging with our Jewish student community, through the Leeds JSoc (a joint society with the University of Leeds & Leeds Arts University), with the aim of providing reassurance around campus safety and reiterating our zero-tolerance approach to antisemitism and any other form of racism.
3. As a result of a complaint from a student regarding the activities of the Marxist Society an investigation was undertaken resulting in disciplinary action and a notice that the society has been deregistered for a breach of the societies' code of conduct.
4. We continue to work closely with student groups and in partnership with key staff across the University, with a focus on ensuring that all students feel safe and secure accessing campus and continuing their studies.

## Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023

5. At the start of October the OfS held a roundtable with the new Director of Free Speech, Arif Ahmed, regarding the implementation of the new free speech legislation and development of guidance for students' unions on this issue, that sees SUs come under the regulatory purview of the OfS for the first time.
6. This was an encouraging conversation where there did appear to be a genuine attempt to understand the Students' Union sector and the complexities of the new legislation that have been brought into sharp contrast given current events in the middle east. We expect the next stage of the consultant on the implementation of the Act to come early in the new year.

## Activities & Societies

7. Following a very successful and busy freshers' period we have seen significant increases in engagement across student activities. We estimate that at least 9,000 students attended our freshers' fairs.
8. Memberships of societies are comfortably double that against the same time last year, with over 2,500 unique students joining societies (with a number of students joining a

number of groups). This provides a strong base for engagement and we hope will contribute to ongoing efforts across the institution around progression and continuation.

### **Course Representation**

9. 987 course reps have been registered so far this year, with 620 fully trained. This is a higher proportion of training than last year and provides a strong base for course representation through school forums. These reps are supported by the team of Student Academic Representation Assistants (SARAs) who are paid student staff

### **Cultural Celebrations**

10. A key priority of the elected student officers this year has been ensuring that the Students' Union marks key cultural celebrations across our community. So far this year the SU has hosted events and celebrations to mark:
  - Indian Independence Day
  - Nigerian Independence Day
  - A Navratri Special Garba Night
  - Diwali
11. These events have brought together hundreds of students to share and celebrate their culture within the SU's spaces and have been key in helping our international community feel at home in Leeds.
12. A particular thanks to the VC for attending the recent Diwali celebrations and giving a speech as part of the proceedings. This was hugely appreciated by all involved.

### **Assessing impact**

13. The SU has been working with the information governance and legal teams in the University to amend the existing data sharing agreement. The aim of this work is to allow the Students' Union to share data relating to student engagement with the University in order to assess if there appears to be any relationship between engagement in SU activities and continuation & progression. It is hoped that this will provide a key impact measure for the Students' Union in the future. This revised agreement has now been approved and it is planned that this will generate data twice a year, beginning in December of 2023.

### **Democracy & Engagement Review**

14. This project is progressing positively and we have recently provided a more detailed update to the Governance & Nominations Committee.
15. Fifty-nine students have been trained in community organising in order to lead the student engagement phase of the work which is currently underway. It is this group that

will then come together at the end of term to collaborate in reimagining the way that our democracy and engagement works.

16. Implementation of this project will take place from January 2024 and will take around eighteen months to complete, allowing time for Governors to approve changes to the SU constitution that will be required.

### **Key issues for consideration**

#### **17. Cost of living**

- This continues to be the overriding concern that is raised by students in interactions with SU staff and elected officers.
- The package of support from the University is greatly welcomed and still stands as one of the most comprehensive packages in the sector, that said, it is of course only a significant intervention by government to increase student support that could fundamentally make a difference.
- Issues are now manifesting in more indirect ways, potentially suggesting that the issue is embedding into the student experience. This is most clearly seen in large numbers of requests for significant amendments to timetabling, to allow for fewer days on campus to minimise travel costs and maximise earning potential.
- The Students' Union is working positively with the University on considering how the challenging economic situation of students impacts on learning and teaching and what developments in our approach could have a significant impact. There is particular interest from the elected student officers in the innovations around 'block' teaching, with the recent work at De Montfort University (for example) appearing to show significant improvements in student satisfaction.

#### **18. Faith provision**

- Facilities for students of faith across campus have frequently been raised in conversations with officers and reps since the start of term.
- We know that University leadership are aware of these issues and welcome the implementation of a temporary solution to increase capacity at City Campus for Jumma prayers which had become a particular problem.
- It is important that Governors ensure that faith provision is fully considered and addressed in future plans for the estate at City Campus, and that this takes into account the changes in demography in recent years and how this is impacting demand on space.



## **Schedule of Business 2023/24**

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### **Purpose of Report**

The report presents the Board's schedule of business for 2023/24 and will be considered at each meeting across the academic year and updated accordingly.

For this and future meetings members of the Board will be invited to contribute to the agenda, with items for future meetings added to the schedule.

### **Action Requested**

The report is **for information and to note**

### **Author**

Name: Kate Harvey, Governance Services Manager

Date: November 2023

## Board of Governors – Schedule of Business 2023/24

06 October 2023 Away Day Deadline: 28 September 2023	24 November 2023 Deadline: 16 November 2023	26 April 2024 Deadline: 18 April 2024	17 May 2024 Away Day Deadline: 09 May 2024	12 July 2024 Deadline: 04 July 2024
October away day – possible student experience session incl student reps?	Audit Committee Annual Report and Opinion	Annual Review of Financial Regulations	SSRC Annual Report and Operating Framework for Remuneration Reviews 2023/24	Approval of Annual revenue & capital budgets 2024/25 (including SU block grant)
	Internal Audit Annual Report & Opinion 2022/23	Draft Schedule of Meetings 2024/25	Approval of non-regulated tuition fees 2025/26	Board and Committee Memberships 2024/25
	External Auditors’ Report for the year ended 31 July 2023			Corporate Risk Register – Annual Review (appended to the AUD Cttee report)
	Financial Statements - Year Ended 31 July 2023			Draft Schedule of Business For 2024/25
	Annual review & remuneration of Committee Chairs			Unregulated Tuition Fees 2025/26
	Annual review & remuneration of the Chair of the Board			Anchor: Annual Report
	Prevent Duty Accountability and Data Report 2023			
	Financial forecast to 2026/27			
	Approval of risk management policy (appended to the Audit Committee report)			
	Board Effectiveness Review			
	External Audit Letter of Representation			

### Standing Items

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| 1. Minutes of last meeting   | 9. Academic Assurance Report   |
| 2. Matters arising   | 10. Research Strategy Update   |
| 3. Chair’s Action (note “Nothing to report” on agenda if no updates) | 11. Health & Safety update   |
| 4. Chair’s Report  | 12. OfS Regulatory Update  |
| 5. Vice Chancellor’s Report  | 13. Update reports from Academic Board, Finance, Staffing and Resources, Audit, Governance & Nominations, Chair’s and Senior Staff Remuneration Committees |
| 6. SU Report   | 14. Schedule of Business 2023/24   |
| 7. <u>Financial and capital expenditure update report</u>            |  |
| 8. Student recruitment update  |  |



Longer Term Items	
1. <u>Health &amp; Safety Policy (annual, March/May 2024)</u>	
2. <u>Annual Health &amp; Safety Audit report (May 2024)</u>	

■ Shaded items indicate that the Board is being asked to make a decision

\* Starred items will be taken without discussion

Underlined items indicate reports that require UET scrutiny