



Report on the business of the Board of Trustees for the Annual Members Meeting 24 April 2024

Aims, objectives and activities

The Union is governed by Articles of Association and the object of the Union is the advancement of education of students at London Metropolitan University for the public benefit by:

- Promoting the interests and welfare of students at London Metropolitan University during their period of study and representing, supporting and advising students
- Being the recognised representative channel between students and London Metropolitan University and any other external bodies
- Providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities

The Board of Trustees meets at least four times each academic year. Since the last Annual Members Meeting on 20 April 2023, the Board met in June 2023, October 2023 and February 2024. The Board was due to meet in early April, but due to illness of a number of Board members it was agreed to rearrange to the earliest convenience.

The Board is accountable for a wide range of business to ensure the Union remains sustainable, legally compliant and delivering our charitable objectives. This year's activity is outlined below:

Finance and Risk Management

The Board reviewed and approved the Union's operating budget for the new financial year and received regular management accounts. The Board was satisfied with the financial position for the Union as we have progressed through the year.

The Board received and approved the Annual Audited Accounts for the financial year 2022-2023. [These are available publicly through the Charity Commission](#). Thanks are extended to our auditors Knox Cropper for their support throughout the audit.

The Board also reviewed and approved the annual update to the risk register. The Union identified the following top 10 risks to the SU this year: staff workload and organisational capacity; evidencing level of student engagement and participation; block grant level; external factors risking future grant level; Cost of Living rise - student participation and

other costs; staff welfare; single staff member having responsibility for areas, resulting in a single point of failure; lack of meaningful access to student data; university relationship; staff turnover and continuity. The Board received a report at each meeting outlining how risks were being appropriately managed and any notable changes to the risk assessment.

Governance

Following the resignation of the Chief Executive, Andy Morwood, in June the Board conducted a recruitment process. In October the Board approved the appointment of Bethan Dudas as new Chief Executive of London Met Students' Union. Bethan started in post at the end of November 2023.

In January, our two student trustees resigned from the Board, following the identification of a conflict of interest due to their employment at the SU. The Board extended their thanks to Andy Rumbos and Margarita Damai for their commitment and contributions to the work of the Board. Recruitment for two new student trustees is currently ongoing.

The Union conducted a successful Leaders Election in late Feb – early March this year. We are proud to report a successful turnout of 19.3%, a significant increase from previous years.

Employee Engagement

The Board received and celebrated a series of excellent results from the Staff Engagement Survey held in Feb 2023. Our staff survey for 2023 on the question “I would recommend this organisation as a good place to work” has reached 81% agreement, up from 67% last year and 58% in 2021.

Strategy

The Board approved the annual operating plan and receives regular updates on progress against objectives. This year our aims were to:

Promise 1 - We promise to help you feel part of a community at London Met

- Track all of our events and activities through our website event ticketing system
- Have 60 groups in place and active
- Hold 10 events at both campuses that help students feel part of a community at London Met

Promise 2 - We promise to help you be more employable

- 730 students actively taking part in leadership roles

Promise 3 - We promise to support your wellbeing

- Equity and Welfare Officer will run 3 campaigns or events on welfare issues affecting students, including liberation events
- 60% of students will agree that the Students' Union acts on the welfare issues affecting the student body.

Promise 4 - We promise to give you a strong voice at London Met

- 12% turnout in our Leaders Elections
- 3 SMART priority goals for each officer, with staff support to achieve them
- 40 student representatives on university and school level committees

The Union is progressing well towards achieving these objectives by the end of the academic year, and we are proud to have delivered some outstanding projects already. This includes both September and January Welcome Fairs, a wide range of student community events – including MetTalks, Alumni Talks, a fantastic Iftar Party and a variety of student celebrations. We are also incredibly proud of our student leaders, and our students' engagement in democracy. With nearly all our positions contested and a record turnout of 19.3% for our Leaders Election LMSU is looking forward to a successful year ahead.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Simon To

Chair of the Board of Trustees

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President and Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees

April 2024