MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE UELSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD ON 23 APRIL 2013 IN THE EB.1.39 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

1. Present: Sabuj Mohammad (Chair), Ali Akgunes, Friday Obodo, Imran Hossain, Sarah Adams, Ray Wilkinson, Hani Assi and James Walker.

In attendance: Yousuf Joondan, Beverly Crawford, Mark Grayling (Clerk to the Board).

It was ANNOUNCED that Ray Wilkinson would be standing down from the Board at the end of the Academic Year. A new UEL nomination would be made that stage.

1. Apologies for absence: Stacy Hall, Lee Rogers, Ray Wilkinson (for early departure).
2. Declarations of interest

Members present DECLARED no pecuniary interests or conflicts of interest in relation to any of the agenda items.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 February were APPROVED and signed as a true and correct record.

1. Matters Arising from the Minutes

20/12:10(c) The Chair made a commitment that the problems arising from the UEL attendance policy and the outsourcing of UEL catering would be the FTO priorities for the remainder of their terms of office.

20/12:10(f) It was NOTED that MSL had been awarded a three-year contract to provide a website and membership system, for the Union, after a decision taken by the Leadership Team on 18 April. Price had been the deciding factor as the services on offer from MSL and Union Cloud (NUS) had been very similar.

15/1:8 It was NOTED that the FTOs have NOW discussed the NUS Diagnostic Report and viewed it as largely helpful and would welcome greater involvement from the External Trustees. The Chair did express some disappointment that not all he had said, during the review, had been included in the document, however.

1. Committees of the Board
2. The notes from Leadership Team meeting held on 7 March 2013 were RECEIVED. Under 21/3:6, it was AGREED that External Trustees would assist in developing implementation of the strategic plan.
3. The notes from Leadership Team meeting held on 21 March 2013 were RECEIVED.
4. The Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 21 March were RECEIVED.
5. The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 21 March were RECEIVED. Under 21/3:6(a) it was NOTED that the grant bid had been agreed and a £103K (16/17%) uplift in funding had been achieved for 2013/14. The Board AGREED that this was a measure in how far the Union had travelled in the past year.

Ray Wilkinson left the meeting at this point.

1. Management Accounts

The March management accounts were RECEIVED.

1. Union elections

Yousuf Joondan made a presentation about the Semester B elections and highlighted that 22 candidates had been nominated for the FTO posts and that the election turn-out had been 15%. The improvement was attributed to the quality of the campaigning by candidates/slates and the simplification of the on-line voting process using a single sign-on system. There remain problems with attracting FTO candidates from the School of Education, both hustings events had been cancelled and ten complaints had been received by the Returning Officer. The Board congratulated Yousuf and his team on the significant progress made and the massive increase in participation levels.

Sarah Adams left the meeting at this point.

1. Chief Executive Officer’s report
2. The CEO’s report was RECEIVED. The signs that working relationships between members of the Full Time Officer team were improving, the arrangements for the Summer Ball and the good response to the Student Lifestyle Service were highlighted.
3. Sabuj tabled a report which was RECEIVED. James Walker commented that to secure development for the organisation there would be conflict from time-to-time. Such conflict was a healthy sign. With this being his last meeting as Chair of the Board, Sabuj expressed his thanks to the Board and to the permanent staff of the Union. He asked his successors to make good their improved mandate from the membership. In response Friday Obodo said that the incoming team would do their utmost to continue developing the organisation.
4. The date for the next regular meeting was PROVISIONALLY CONFIRMED as 25 July 2013

Signed as a true and correct record……………………………………………………….

Date…………………………………………………………………………………………….

MG/BoT/mg

30 April 2013