# Formal Trustee Board
# Minutes of meeting held 23 January 2026

| Present | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rory O'Ceallaigh (RO) | President and Chair of Trustee Board | He / Him |
| Amanda Chetwynd (AC) | External Trustee, Safeguarding Lead | She / Her |
| Dave Morris (DM) | External Trustee, Chair of HR & Renumeration Sub-Committee | He / Him |
| Richard Soper (RS) | External Trustee, Vice Chair of Trustee Board and Chair of Governance Sub-Committee | He / Him |
| Leah Buttery (LB) | Wellbeing Officer | She / They |
| Liz Gillet (LG) | Education Officer | She / They |
| Emily Houston-Woods (EW) | Activities Officer | She / Her |
| Shalvi Dogra (SD) | Student Trustee | She / Her |
| Melody Saynor (MS) | Student Trustee | She / Her |
| Harrison Stewart (HS) | Student Trustee | He / Him |
| Liam Wright (LW) | Student Trustee | He / Him |
| **In attendance** | | |
| Misbah Ashraf (MA) | Chief Executive Officer | She / Her |
| Chris Cottam (CC) | Head of Advocacy & Governance (Chair's Aid) | He / Him |
| Philip Jacques (PJ) | Head of Finance & Resources | He / Him |
| Charlotte Barker (CB) | Trustee Board Secretary | She / Her |
| **Apologies** | | |
| Mike Leckie (ML) | External Trustee, Chair of Finance & Risk Sub-Committee | He / Him |

## 1. Opening Business
The Chair welcomed the new student trustees and Head of Finance to the meeting.

**1.1 Apologies** | Received from Mike Leckie.

**1.2 Declarations of Interest** | None received.

**1.3 Register of Attendance** | The Trustee Board noted attending members.

## 2. Matters for Formal Approval
**2.1 Minutes of Meeting** | Last held 31 October 2025 | Approved by Trustee Board.

### 2.2 Social Media Policy
The Head of Advocacy & Governance informed the trustees that the students' union has a social media policy, and the updated policy has been to the societies and sports committees for comment and to GSC Student leaders would receive training on the policy as part of their induction.

The Student Trustee (HS) asked how political societies and how other groups can oppose discrimination in a political sphere. The Head of Advocacy & Governance confirmed that the students' union is fine to question and query party policies if it impacts students and is aligned with our charitable purpose.

The Education Officer requested clarification on section 3.3 personal accounts identifying someone linked to the organisation. The Head of Advocacy & Governance encouraged clearer separation of personal and professional profiles and that people need to be aware of what they post on personal profiles.

The trustees agreed to an annual review.

**Approved by Trustee Board**

## 3. Items for Discussion

### 3.1 Sugarhouse Update

The Vice Chair informed the new trustees of the background of the Sugarhouse and the principle to have a student owned and run nightclub. The trustees discussed the improved performance to date of the Sugarhouse.

### 3.2 LUSU Living

The trustees discussed the performance of LUSU Living during 2025/26 and the challenges that the Renter's Rights Bill will bring.

**Women+ in Leadership Roles**

The Wellbeing Officer informed the trustees that one of our student leaders resigned on Friday 16 January and that this needs to be addressed and that the student leaders need support from the students' union.

The President and Chair of Trustee Board confirmed that they support the outcomes of the Vice Chair and Chief Executive's paper, but the next steps have not yet been publicised to students.

The Chief Executive agreed that the actions/recommendations should be published.

The trustees discussed the need for training on this issue; the need for student leaders to attend and participate in the training and for it to be active and reflective; that student leader training can feel ad hoc and may not be advertised in a timely manner and the consequences of poor behaviour were discussed. The Head of Advocacy & Governance noted that the challenge is significant in terms of time and resources for over 2000 leaders and 250 student groups; that training cannot be standard for all groups as they have different requirements and there is a need for an agreed set of values and behaviours for student activity. They confirmed that if a group wants to affiliate, members must adhere to the rules and regulations.

The Vice Chair commented that the when the work is completed on the code of conduct, it should launch and students encouraged to use it. The FTO team could create a mechanism for women to work together.

### 3.3 Items from Student Trustees

**Financial Transparency of LUSU**

Student Trustee (LW) noted that it takes a long time for the annual report to be produced and financial data should be available on a more regular basis.

The Chief Executive said that it was a good idea, that it would provide an opportunity to explain the data and could commit to termly reporting.

The trustees agreed that the reporting should be accessible and fun e.g. an SU wrapped; how it is communicated to students is important; different parts of the organisation could be reported each time.

## 4. Items for Information – The following items are taken as read

**4.1 Chair's Report**

**4.2 CEO's Report:** Draw attention to advice service casework, external guest speaker booked for 4 February, elections nominations now, PGR Hub Bowland annex, CTP changes to modules.

**4.3 Trustee Board Sub-Committees Chair Update**

**4.4 LUSU Media Coverage:** The Chief Executive would like there to be more positive campaigns.

**4.5 Management Accounts: December 2025:** The Vice Chair congratulated the Chief Executive and their team for the work on Sugarhouse. The Chief Executive thanked everyone and said that the union must demonstrate to the university that we can manage our finances.

**4.6 Freedom of Speech**

**4.7 Risk Registers**

## 5. Electronic Decisions Since Previous Meeting

### 5.1 Sugarhouse Speakers

The Trustee Board has decided to invest in the speakers. The Chief Executive confirmed that due diligence is still being conducted, a weight test has been completed, and further quotes are to be obtained.

## 6. Additional And Future Business

Thank you to Declan Ricketts, whose term as a student trustee ended on 9 January 2026, and their last Trustee Board meeting was in October 2025.

## 7. Meeting Closed: Meeting closed at 17.05.

---

Approved on: 20/03/2026