

**TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Management**  
**MINUTES**

For the meeting of the TUSA Board of Management to be held on  
**25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 5:30pm**  
at the TUSA Building Boardroom, Sandy Bay TAS [with zoom access].

**Chair:** D Sutton

**Purpose:** To address matters of management, strategy and direction of the Association, and of property, income and funding.

**Meeting opened:** 5.33pm

#	ITEM LISTING	APPENDIX	TIMING
1.	<b>INTRODUCTORY ITEMS</b>		5 mins
	<b>1.1 In-Camera Session (as needed)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil required</li> </ul>		
	<b>1.2 Acknowledgement of Country</b> Alec Lamont <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Today I come to you from Padaway country in Lutruwita. As someone exploring their First Nations heritage from country far away from here, I find it strange to talk about country that I was born in, that is not my own country from my heritage. This highlights the historical displacement that has occurred since colonial time and the struggle of those of First Nations descent to find place in Australia to call their own, and thus it's important that we pay our respect to our elders past and present, to the many Aboriginal people who didn't make elder status, and to the Tasmanian and broader Australian Aboriginal population that continue to care for country. We recognise a history of truth which acknowledges the impact of invasion and colonisation on Aboriginal people resulting in the genocide and forceful removal from their lands. Our island is deeply unique, with spectacular landscapes with our cities and towns surrounded by bushlands, wilderness, mountain ranges and beaches. We stand for a future that profoundly respects and acknowledges Aboriginal</li> </ul>		

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	perspectives, culture, language and history, and a continued effort to fight for Aboriginal justice and rights, paving the way for a strong future.		
	<b>1.3 Welcome</b> Chair – D Sutton		
	<b>1.4 Present</b> D Sutton L McLaren J Newman B Williams (Online) T Wienker (Online) A Lamont (Online)		
	<b>1.5 Apologies</b> S Crothers, R Mawad, R Meredith		
	<b>1.6 Absent</b>		
	<b>1.7 Staff, guests &amp; observers</b> TUSA Staff: S Gorringer, SL Ward, E Knuckey		
	<b>1.8 Conflicts of interest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any COIs for noting in register: <a href="#">COI Register.docx</a></li> </ul>		
<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING</b>		
	<b>2.1 Amendments to previous minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Space for noting any amendments</li> </ul>		<b>2 min</b>

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<p><b>2.2 Minute approvals</b></p> <p><b><u>2.2.1 TUSA Board of Management Meeting Minutes Amendments</u></b></p> <p>A discussion of items redacted from previous minutes prior to publishing.</p> <p><b><u>2.2.2 TUSA Board of Management Meeting Minutes Approval</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> That the minutes of the TUSA Board of Management Meeting held on <b>27<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b> be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting pending above correction.</p> <p><b><i>MOVED: L McLaren    SECONDED: A Lamont</i></b></p> <p><b><u>2.2.3 TUSA Board of Management Meeting Minutes Online Upload</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> That the minutes of the TUSA Board of Management Meeting held on <b>27<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b> are approved to go online, withholding appendices and any sensitive discussions, following any amendments noted above.</p> <p><b><i>MOVED: J Newman    SECONDED: A Lamont</i></b></p>	<b>APPENDIX A</b>	<b>2 min</b>
<p><b>2.3 Matters arising from previous minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per action table.</li> </ul>		<b>5 min</b>
<b>3. CORRESPONDENCE</b>		
<p><b>3.1 Inward correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VC Letter to TUSA Chair (July 28 2023)</li> <li>• DVCA letter to Chair (June 22 2023)</li> </ul> <p>D Sutton to meet with VC R Black on Wednesday to present a 2024 UTAS partnership proposal.</p> <p>Correspondence accepted by Board as read.</p>	<b>APPENDIX B &amp; C</b>	

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	<p><b>3.2 Outward correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TUSA Chair response to DVCA letter (4 August 2023)</li> <li>• TUSA Chair response to VC Letter (22 July 2023)</li> <li>• TUSA Accord Submission</li> </ul> <p>Correspondence accepted by Board as read.</p>	<p><b>APPENDIX D, E &amp; F</b></p>	
<p><b>4, MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION</b></p>			
	<p><b>4.1 UTAS Partnership Discussions</b>  Sam Gorringe/Danny Sutton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The TUSA team have been developing a strategic proposal document for presentation to the University, which aligns with the below strategic options paper. Discussion of this paper will inform the preferred strategic recommendation presented to the university.</li> <li>• D Sutton to share this document with R Black if board in agreement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>VERBAL ONLY</b></p>	
	<p><b>4.2 TUSA Strategic Options Discussion</b>  Sam Gorringe/Danny Sutton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper accepted by Board as read.</li> </ul> <p>S Gorringe presented three strategic options for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Option 1: Deepening university relations around the current operating model, with a focus on improving the student experience.</li> <li>2. Option 2: Continuing with the present model.</li> <li>3. Option 3: Pursuing an independent model.</li> <li>4. Option 4: Blend elements of 1 and 3</li> </ol> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The discussion centered on the need for financial support identified in Option 1. TUSA currently receives \$1 million in funding from SSAF, with an additional \$1-1.5 million supplement from its own funds. To establish Option 1, an estimated \$2 million</li> </ul>	<p><b>CIRCULATED SEPARATELY FOLLOWING STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE CONSULTATION</b></p>	

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in funding from UTAS would be required, along with supplementary funding from TUSA to maintain non UTAS student operations.

- The Board noted that multiple attempts have been made to progress the UTAS/TUSA Partnership Model (and associated funding) throughout 2023, but due to factors relating to the University management changes, the team are now approaching urgency to confirm financials for 2024.
- The Board also acknowledged that the TUSA has the capacity to support broader cultural change and community building, and this is a selling point to the University.
- Concerns were raised about potential challenges associated with Option 1 (leading to Option 2), particularly if financial circumstances remained unchanged. A Lamont raised concern that this may potentially limit campus presence in the North and North West with a primary focus on Sandy Bay/Hobart which was acknowledged.
- Board highlighted the need to obtain financial certainty for 2024.
- It was resolved that TUSA-led initiatives should be presented such as the students as partners initiative as part of the conversations with the University.
- It was acknowledged that a broader remit for TUSA than its traditional University student focus may require constitutional changes, specifically as it relates to the limited membership of the organisation constitutionally.
- S Crothers provided prior input that she in support of Option 4 and secondarily Option 1.
- The Board thanked S Gorringer, S-L Ward and the TUSA team for this piece of work.

**MOTION:**

The Board agreed for the Chair to present Option 1 to the Vice Chancellor, requesting a response several weeks prior to

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<p>the November meeting of the Board of Management to allow for enough time to reassess strategy in response to the Universities' decision.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> B Williams, <b>Seconded:</b> J Newman.  Passed with nil opposition.</p> <p><b>ACTION ITEM:</b> D Sutton to present strategic recommendation with requested timeline to Vice Chancellor for consideration.</p>		
<p><b>4.3 Governance Framework Program Update</b>  Sam Gorringe, Jen Newman</p> <p><b>Recommended Terms of Reference (For Approval):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L McLaren proposed removing the 'by invitation' clause to allow non-members to attend as observers, with the same applying to the FRAC ToR.</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion:</b>  That the TUSA Governance subcommittee Terms of Reference be approved by the TUSA Board of Management inclusive of above alterations.</p> <p><b>MOVED:</b> J Newman <b>SECONDED:</b> A Lamont</p> <p><b>Recommended Delegations Manual (For Approval):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J Newman moved for board approval of the Delegations Manual, subject to regular review based on feedback.</li> <li>• Section 1.15 was discussed – Board identified that it implied State Council can determine their own honoraria, requiring amendment.</li> <li>• Section 7.2 was discussed, concerning requests and other contributions, particularly donations received through food hub and the food resilience program. It currently states that two approvers are needed to receive donations, and there was a proposal to strike off the requirement for approval by both delegates,</li> </ul>	<p><b>APPENDIX G</b></p> <p><b>Attachment 1</b></p> <p><b>Attachment 2</b></p>	

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	<p>possibly requiring a check of the constitution for notes about gifts. Alteration needed.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> That the TUSA Delegations Manual be approved by the TUSA Board of Management inclusive of above alterations.</p> <p><b>MOVED:</b> J Newman <b>SECONDED:</b> T Wienker</p> <p><b>Recommended Approach for Establishment of Board Charter (For Discussion):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The approach for establishing the Board Charter was discussed. It was proposed that this process should be led by the board with a half-day workshop.</li> <li>• The document in the pack was noted as a framework, and it was mentioned that the governance committee would come back with recommendations for a workshop and a way the document can be reviewed, aiming to have it done for early next year.</li> <li>• The Governance Committee agreed to follow the Board of Management calendar, looking at documents that are up for review over the year.</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u> That the Board of Management accept the recommendation by the governance subcommittee to review Board Charter as a whole, likely through a workshop.</p> <p><b>MOVED:</b> J Newman <b>SECONDED:</b> T Wienker</p>	<p><b>Attachment 3</b></p>	
	<p><b>4.4 FRAC Update</b>  <b>Recommended Terms of Reference (For Approval)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L McLaren proposed removing the 'by invitation' clause in 3.1 to allow non-members to attend as observers, with the same applying to the Gov &amp; Nom ToR.</li> </ul>	<p><b>APPENDIX H</b>  <b>ROB PROVIDING</b>  <b>SEPARATELY</b></p>	

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	<p><u>Motion:</u> That the TUSA FRAC subcommittee Terms of Reference be approved by the TUSA Board of Management inclusive of above alterations.</p> <p><b>MOVED:</b> <i>B Williams</i> <b>SECONDED:</b> <i>A Lamont</i></p> <p><b>Recommended Changes to current Investment Strategy (For Approval)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tas Ethical recommendation, made 3-4 months ago, suggested a change in the investment strategy due to the possibility of shorter timelines without new funding. The proposed shift was from the current 70% growth assets and 30% defensive assets to a 30% growth and 70% defensive asset allocation.</li> <li>• The discussion at FRAC emphasised the advantages of adopting a 100% defensive investment strategy, especially when taking into account the reasonably stable returns of around 4-5% from assets like term deposits. The primary goal of this strategy is to reduce the risk and safeguard investments in case there is a decline in the market in the near future. Additionally, it aims to strengthen partnerships and ensure long-term financial stability</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u> That the TUSA Board of Management agree to move to a 100% defensive asset allocation, with consultation of Tas Ethical required to identify how best to do this. For review by FRAC to provide input on how to implement the policy.</p> <p>TUSA Delegations Manual be approved by the TUSA Board of Management inclusive of above alterations.</p> <p><b>MOVED:</b> <i>T Wienker</i> <b>SECONDED:</b> <i>B Williams</i></p>		
5.	<b>MATTERS FOR NOTING</b>		



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<p><b>5.1 CEO Report</b>  S Gorringe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board accepted report as read</li> <li>• Review of election survey feedback indicated a decrease in voter turnout compared to the previous year.</li> <li>• Highlighted that 83% of the 18 nominees had prior involvement in TUSA clubs and societies, while 78% had participated in TUSA events.</li> <li>• Discussed Value of Student Experience Research project currently taking place by SEN Board and how this could be used in context of TUSA.</li> </ul>	<b>APPENDIX K</b>	<b>5 mins</b>
<p><b>5.2 Election Update</b>  S L Ward</p> <p><b>Election Approvals (FOR NOTING)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both motions were passed via circular motion on August 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 to enable progression of the State Council elections process.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b>  That the Board appoints Shauna-Lee Ward to the position of Returning Officer for the 2023 State Council Elections.</p> <p><i>Approved via circular motion with majority approval and no objections.</i></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b>  That the Board approves the amended TUSA Election Policy.  I approve/oppose (delete as appropriate) the motion.</p> <p><i>Approved via circular motion with majority approval and no objections.</i></p>	<b>APPENDIX L</b>	<b>5 mins</b>

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<p><b>5.3 Monthly Finance and Investment Report</b>  (P&amp;L/Balance Sheet/Cashflow Estimates; Investment Reports)  S L Ward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board noted the report as read.</li> <li>• Reviewed by FRAC.</li> <li>• Board noted that the TUSA are below budget spending and above budget on investment performance, indicating that the TUSA can manage finances well, while also delivering operationally as demonstrated in CEO report.</li> </ul>	<b>APPENDIX M</b>	<b>5 mins</b>
<p><b>5.4 Key Messaging Update</b>  L McLaren</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed inquiry into Australian universities' handling of sexual assault and sexual harassment cases. Numerous recommendations were proposed for universities in response to this issue. Ian Anderson has announced an independent audit specifically focused on how the University of Tasmania manages these cases.</li> <li>• The State Council is currently working on creating key messaging surrounding this inquiry.</li> </ul>	<b>VERBAL ONLY</b>	<b>5 mins</b>
<p><b>5.5 Governance &amp; Nomination Sub Committee Minutes</b>  J Newman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting Minutes from August</li> <li>• Board note the minutes as read.</li> <li>• Board agreed that if the minutes reflect something of note this will be captured above in discussion.</li> </ul>	<b>APPENDIX N</b>	<b>1 min</b>
<p><b>5.6 FRAC Sub Committee Minutes</b>  Rob Meredith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting Minutes from August</li> <li>• Board note the minutes as read.</li> <li>• Board agreed that if the minutes reflect something of note this will be captured above in discussion.</li> <li>• Discussed whether Board would like to publish subcommittee minutes on the TUSA website. Agreed to add a note to the TUSA Board Minutes page to</li> </ul>	<b>APPENDIX O</b>	<b>1 min</b>

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	<p>allow requests for subcommittee minutes for additional context if people would like them, acknowledging that most decisions are made at the Board level so provision of all minutes likely unnecessary.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> Board of Management agree for requests for subcommittee minutes to be made accessible on the Board of Management Minutes page on the TUSA website.</p> <p><b>ACTION ITEM:</b> E Knuckey to update website for FRAC/Govcomm minute requests</p>		
	<p><b>5.7 Meeting Feedback</b> D Sutton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The chair acknowledged the progress of the subcommittees.</li> <li>• Identified Board timing may need to shift to allow S Crothers to attend. Agreed to shift November board to Tuesday.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION ITEM:</b> Shift November Board meeting date.</p>	<b>VERBAL ONLY</b>	<b>5 mins</b>

**Meeting Closed: 7.08pm.**

**Next Meeting: November 2023**