

AGM

5th June 2025

Minutes

Quorum was not present within fifteen minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, namely 29th May 2025 so the Chair of the Meeting adjourned the meeting to 5th June 2025.

The adjourned meeting was not quorum within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting so those present and entitled to vote shall be a quorum.

Covered some business on 29th May 2025 such as Impact report and incoming officers. This meeting was to cover the corporate business of the organisation.

Considering changing the time of year AGM takes place, hoping to move AGM to December or late November and then when we are going through the corporate business it will be fresh. It will be more challenging to present budget 6 months in advance.

1. **Members present, attendees present, Apologies for Absence.**
2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – Approved by show of hands.
3. **Honorary Membership** – Document 6. – Motion approved by show of hands.
 - a) MOTION: Proposal to Grant Lifetime Membership to Vishal Parihar - Document 5.

CL provided some context on what the honorary role entails; it's a form of recognition. A list of people that automatically get granted Lifetime Membership such as FT officers that have completed term of office and staff members that have been in the organisation for 5 years.

VP was an officer but resigned before Christmas so did not complete his term of office. A student has presented this motion to ask members whether VP service given as an officer warrants recognition of Lifetime Membership.

4. **Union Accounts Ratification (Annual General Meeting only) – CL** - Document 4.

30–40-page document, statement of financial activities delivered under the charities commission.

- CL briefly talked through, documents circulated and assumed as read.
- 23/24 academic year accounts (last year).
- £3.1 million includes commercial business, income from nightclub and merchandise.
- Includes £1.9 million from the University.
- Also covers other grants such as grants from the Rugby Union.
- Expenditure – operating loss of around £38,000 which has come off of reserves.

- - £258,000 is not real money, difference in pension liability that was closed in 2011. It was £3 million, will be paid off in 12 years' time. Gets revalued every year.
- Declared net loss of £313,000.
- Reserves of £700,000. Reserves are a requirement of the charities commission.
- Much of loss was drop in income in commercial business areas.

Accounts ratified by a show of hands.

5. Upcoming budget - CL

The budget is part of our requirements of the Constitution is that we put the upcoming budget to the general meeting.

This budget is draft. At this moment in time, it has yet to be fully approved. Board has already considered this as deemed appropriate. It's currently with the university being considered.

Hopefully it will be approved either by their Finance Committee, which sits next week, or it will be approved by the University Council, which will sit in the first week of July, but we can't say if this is what our budget is 100% until that's been approved, however, we are in a position and we are pretty confident about the incoming we get from the university.

- Demonstrates where we were 2 years go - £140,000 loss.
- 2 months of the year to go, fairly confident with £2,000 surplus. Break even this year.
- Budgeting for a loss next year of £25,000 in 25/26. Wouldn't normally budget for a loss.
- In a challenging situation with the University financial situation.
- Board will authorise a negative budget next year to help transition.
- Significant drop in income University grant. University is in deep financial trouble. Restructuring going on to reduce further losses, so every area is going to see cuts, not immune to that. Savings everywhere. Conversations ongoing about grant income, likely to reduce by £90,000.
- Other income from other grants and activity.
- £1.86 Million and will go down to £1.78million potentially.
- Key changes need to make with sport, have a very good offer for students with our sports packages. We will have to pass the cost on.
- Hoping our commercial business will do better, we weren't operating efficiently, and a lot of work has been done to improve the steady decline. Rebuild that business and create some growth.
- A reduction in expenditure, some in external contracts.
- Overall income reduced. Net loss as we transition on focusing on having less money.

Budget ratified by a show of hands:

- Our commercial business will have to make us money.
- The University do not have to give us grant funding.

- Staff costs have gone up considerably, an increase in £30,000.
- A real tough time so we can continue to deliver the service we need to deliver. This budget does not compliment what we are currently providing.
- The University gift us money when they don't have to.
- They have no obligation to fund us, many Unions do not get much funding.
- We have value and that is the most important thing, that value also transfers to what the University expect from us.
- Unusual relationship, our value to the University is providing student representation.
- Reality of the situation is the University are not obligated to gift us, there is no set formula across Unions. Every union has different relationships with their university.
- The reason we are on this situation as the University are in a funding crisis. Hit hard by a drop in international students around 12%, they pay more money, so the impact is much greater. That has happened nationally but as Brunel is so diverse it has been hit very hard.
- The University have loans, not declaring 3 years of losses. They have to save significant money.
- Recruitment freeze, the University does not have the money to facilitate a new building as planned. That is the gravity of the situation.
- Costs of competitive clubs are huge.
- Funding model is the same across the board, comes from research grants and tuition fees. Vastly dependant on the number of students. Influx of PG students are only here for a year.
- If it was a reduction in UG the impact wouldn't be so large.
- Worth noting that although they upped tuition fees the increase didn't put money in the University pocket due to national insurance.

6. Affiliations – MT

We pay to external organisations that support our activity. Aligning ourselves with an organisation which enables us to run activities:

British Universities and Colleges Sport	12,449.75
English Universities Sport	£317.00
American Football	£1,452.00
Middlesex Football Association	£200.00
Rugby Football League	£200.00
British University Sailing Association	£230.00
Basketball England	£100.00
England Lacrosse	£217.50

England Boxing	£220.00
Volleyball England	£74.80
Archery GB	£200.00
Middlesex County Archery Affiliation	£36.00
NRSA (Target Shooting)	£140.00
British Young Shooters Association	£25.00
Middlesex RFU	£60.00
NUS UK	£29,285
NUS Charity	£7,231

The reason this is brought to AGM is to ensure students are content with who we are affiliating with.

The NUS do multiple of things, the supporting student element that helps with legal advice on things that come up, so for example. The decision that was made by the courts in relation to what defines as a woman. Democracy, the charity lobbying body of NUS. They often hold conferences to discuss policy debate policy.

NUS do a lot of lobbying of the government in particular. National conference, for example, is part of that. Recently they helped with the renter's bill.

Affiliations ratified by a show of hands.

7. Honorary Membership

At the AGM in February 2020, the Union passed policy to automatically confer Honorary Life Membership to our valued staff, Trustees and Sabbatical Officers if they had completed either a full term in office, or over 5 years as a staff member. This year we are conferring honorary life membership onto the following individuals:

- Suraj Shaw – Served two full terms as a Sabbatical Officer
- Ana Mónica Pereira – Served one full term as a Sabbatical Officer
- Naveed Sabugar – Served one full term as a Sabbatical Officer
- Shashank Manjunatha – Served one full term as a Sabbatical Officer
- Julie Baker – Served two full terms as an Independent Trustee (6 years in total)
- Ravina Jignesh – Served two full terms as Student Trustee (4 years in total)

Honorary Memberships ratified by a show of hands.