

In the interests of trying to keep an open dialogue between Union Council and Trustee Board the Council Chair is to present a report of any matters of interest discussed at one to the other. In addition to attending Trustee Board meetings I sit on the Governance Sub-Committee and in the interest of trying to be more useful at answering the most frequently queried points of Trustee Board I also attend Finance and Risk Committee as an observer.

The minutes of Trustee Board meetings can be found online and I will always try to answer any queries you may have about matters discussed if anything comes up over the year that any Council member would like more information on. Particular points of interest arising from the most recent Trustee Board include:

Reserves Policy

A component of the Trustee's Annual Report is to review the Reserves Policy to check that this is still relevant to the needs of the Charity. The key point here is that the Trustee's have decided that a goal of free reserves within a range of two to four months average unrestricted expenditure would be appropriate. This equates to between £800k and £1.5 million. The reserves policy should be able to be found online, and I am more than happy to discuss its contents with any interested members.

Strategic Risk Register

The paper for this can be found [here](#) and highlights the issues Trustee Board has identified as key strategic risks. This is a living document that is reviewed at each meeting. Current issues discussed that are particularly relevant to Council include point 4 regarding the Union's electoral and democratic processes – work is being done here on the Union's democratic processes, much of which is likely to come through a pending democracy review paper to Council.

Another issue of interest is point 8 relating to issues with ongoing staffing challenges. The discussion here included work on the potential development of staff turnover challenge mitigation, to ensure that issues particularly relating to staff restructures do not have ongoing negative impact on student volunteers, or indeed members of union staff.

Another major point here is point 3, facing the issues of the geographically disparate College environment and how we can overcome this – this is an issue that has already been highlighted as an issue directly relevant to Council with regards to problems actually having a physical presence at meetings (due to the location of the meetings on the South Kensington campus). This is a point I will be looking in to over the next few weeks with a variety of potential solutions including skype, google hangouts, proxy voting and more.

Annual Accounts

These are to be presented to the next meeting of Council for scrutiny and as such I shall leave the conversation until then. All of the Trustees received training from the Head of Finance and Resources to ensure we would be able to fully understand the format of the Union's management accounts and so should be able to disseminate the most important information within to you.