MD Update for Governance Committee 10/7/18

Due to what is now long-term sick leave, the Union has been without its primary resource on Governance matters for the majority of the last three months including the entire period since the 17 May Committee.

This has put considerable pressure on progress in this area so this update acts to inform committee of where we currently are with the different work streams.

It is the intention to swiftly put in place an interim solution for the short-medium term to ensure that we are able to make the required progress over summer, before the 18/19 Academic year.

Governance Committee are invited to discuss each area with a focus on risks so that priorities can be agreed and plans put in place.

Election Review wording change

Following discussion at the 17 May Committee, I now propose changing one of the recommendations from:

- There must be clearly communicated objectives regarding the success of the elections with measures beyond turnout alone.

To:

- There must be clearly communicated objectives regarding the success of the elections. Turnout shall remain a key measure and be joined by others including: diversity of candidates; satisfaction of candidates; speed of resolution of complaints; and election training attendance.

Voting System

Earlier in the year, we acknowledged the risk associated with over reliance on one staff member around our elections processes. There are several steps that have been put in place to mitigate the risk. The primary steps taken were:

- Comprehensive testing of the elections system for risks.
- Familiarization and training of a second staff member with regard to technical oversight of elections system.
- Production of a checklist which both reduces the chance of human error and also aids the ability of someone else to pick this up if required.

Management assessment is that, with these mitigations, the risk level becomes tolerably low whilst continuing to acknowledge that a risk does still exist.

Winter Elections - Timeline

Proposed timeline for Governance Committee approval is:

Saturday	12:00	29-Sep-18	AE18 - Opening of nominations
Wednesday	12:00	10-Oct-18	AE18 - Closing of nominations
Wednesday	13:00	10-Oct-18	AE18 - Candidate briefing
Thursday	12:00	11-Oct-18	AE18 - Manifesto deadline
Friday	07:00	12-Oct-18	AE18 - Manifesto publication
Friday	07:00	12-Oct-18	AE18 - Campaigning begins
Monday	12:00	15-Oct-18	AE18 - Opening of voting
Friday	12:00	19-Oct-18	AE18 - Closing of voting

Winter Elections – Metrics

KPIs for the elections have not yet been developed. As referenced in election review, turnout shall remain a key measure and be joined by others including: diversity of candidates; satisfaction of candidates; speed of resolution of complaints; and election training attendance.

Proposal – Governance Committee to discuss and make any specific recommendations to be worked up by the Elections team and finalised at 19 Sept Governance Committee for ALL 18/19 elections.

NUS Charity Code of Governance

It has been agreed that it would be useful to run a comparison exercise of the NUS Code of Governance with the way in which the Union is governed. This has not yet been done and I recommend that it is de-prioritised until we are at full, permanent, capacity within the directorate.

Jarlath O'Hara
Managing Director
July 2018