JMSU TRUSTEE BOARD MEMBER VERSION

These minutes are a member-focused summary of the formal JMSU Trustee Board meeting. They are designed to provide transparent, accessible updates on key decisions and discussions, while removing any confidential or sensitive information not appropriate for wider circulation.

By sharing this version, we aim to:

1. *Keep students informed about how decisions are made at JMSU,*
2. *Highlight how governance supports our student priorities,*
3. *Strengthen engagement with your elected Officer team and the Union's work.*

For any questions or further details, members can contact the JMSU President at president@ljmu.ac.uk.

Board of Trustees Minutes
JMSU CIO Charity Number: 1202881

JMSU Trustee Board Meeting Friday 25th July (10-2pm) – In Person & Teams

Attendees:
Miles Craven, President (MC) CHAIR
Josh Darley, VP Activities (JD)
Erin Gerard, VP Academic Quality (EG)
Etienne Lewis-Jarvis, VP Community and Wellbeing (ELJ)
Sophie Platt, Student Trustee (SP) – ***Agenda 9***
Joeb Hasty-Fowler, Student Trustee (JHF)
Heather Akehurst, External Trustee (HA)
Kofi Ohene Djan, External Trustee (KOD)
Evans Iyamu, External Trustee (EI) – ***Agenda 3***
Mark Humphreys, External Trustee (MH) VICE-CHAIR

In Attendance:
Sarah Latham, Deputy CEO - Membership Engagement (SL)
Paul Chapman, CEO (PC)
Phil Benton, External Director of Finance, Counterculture (PB)
Alex Crowther, Head of Organisational Development (AC)

Apologies:
No Apologises

---

1. Welcome from the Chair, apologies, and introductions

MC extended a warm welcome to all attendees.

MH formally welcomed **MC, JD, ELJ,** and **EG** to the Trustee Board

1.1 Declarations of any other business

No declarations or AOB were declared.

1.2 Notifications of Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interests were declared by PC, SL, and the Executive Officers.

2. Minutes of the Trustee Board and Sub-Committee meetings

Minutes from the previous Trustee Board and sub-committee meetings were **approved.**

3. Executive Officers Goals & Vision 2025-26

Executive officers set out their plans and priorities for the year ahead. Training and support (including from external mentors) have helped the new officer team hit the ground running.

4. Delivery

a. Board of Governors Paper

SL shared the Board of Governors report, highlighting key activity from February to April. Trustees welcomed the update and noted the positive progress being made.

b. Student Voice, Safety & Rights

SL provided an update on student safety and rights. Updates included: new sector guidance, suicide prevention frameworks, freedom of speech changes, and our response to a recent Supreme Court consultation. Trustee Board agreed to continue to use a traffic-light (RAG) system to track risks and progress.

5. Finances

a. Financial Overview - Management Accounts (as of May 2025)

PB presented that the financial year closed better than expected, with a small £6k deficit compared to the much larger £52k originally forecast. This was mainly due to careful spending and some cost savings.

b. 2025/26 Budget

Looking ahead, the Trustee Board approved the 2025/26 budget, which is based on a £1.75m block grant (combining a £100k Block Grant reduction and the removal of pension payments from the pension exit) from the University plus extra income streams such as Liverpool Student Media. The budget is designed to deliver a planned £52k surplus, helping to keep JMSU financially secure and able to reinvest in student priorities.

The Trustee Board **approved** the 2025-26 Budget.

c. SUSS Pension Exit

Trustees also highlighted major progress on two long-term priorities – pensions and the building lease. Exiting the old pension scheme via financial support from the University, is a huge milestone for JMSU, strengthening our long term financial position and freeing up resources to be spent directly on students. Work on the new building lease is also moving forward, which will help secure a stable home for JMSU into the future.

6. Governance

a. Pro Choice Campus Student Motion

A referendum on this student-led motion is planned for November 2025. The work is ongoing with societies and student to ensure the process is fair and safe.

A decision on whether debates will be in-person or online will be made after Freshers' Fair.

b. Officer Support, Committee Structure, & Cycle of Business

Long-standing trustee **MH** and student trustee **SP** are stepping down. Both were thanked for their significant contributions, support and input.

Recruitment for new student and external trustees will begin soon, focusing on making the Board more representative (international, postgrad, mature, commuter).

HA has been appointed as the new Vice Chair of the Board, while **EI** will take on the role of Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Sub-Committee

7. Delivery

a. Board of Governors Paper (April 2025)

SL presented the paper, reflecting on a busy period from January to May with strong activity highlights, including record-breaking student group membership to sold-out events.

b. Elections Report & Returning Officer Report 2025

SL presented a report on the 2025 Officer Elections, including the Returning Officer Report. While the elections were fair and well-contested, there was a reduction in the voter turnout. A summer review is planned to inform a revised student engagement strategy for elections.

8. Health & Safety Annual Report

Our first Health & Safety Report was shared with the Board, marking an important step in strengthening how we look after students and staff. Trustees recognised the progress made so far but also stressed the need to improve reporting of incidents and near misses.

Work is underway to make it clearer that reporting is about support, not blame, and to build a positive culture where students feel confident speaking up. This will include better training, spot checks, and sharing ‘you reported, we acted’ examples so students can see the difference their voices make.

Alongside this, safeguarding remains a top priority. More training and clearer guidance will be rolled out to ensure student groups and committees know how to respond, with stronger communication around where to go for help and support

9. CEO Report

PC presented to the Board on several key areas.

- JMSU performed strongly in the National Student Survey, remaining above the sector average and continuing to deliver a positive student experience.
- Discussions with LJMU are ongoing around the building lease and a new data-sharing agreement, both of which are important for future stability.
- Recruitment has also begun for a new Content & Engagement Manager.
- Sector developments are being monitored.

10. AOB

No AOB.

11. Date and time of next meeting

- Finance, Audit & Risk Committee: 16th October 2025
- HR & Remuneration Committee: 10th September 2025 TBC
- Trustee Board: 20th November 2025
- Governance & Policy Committee: 9th December 2025
- Trustee Board Away Day – TBC

The meeting closed at 2:00pm.