

**Communication Report
UNA-UK Board Meeting 18th February 2016**

This report is intended to provide extracts of the Board Meeting in a format that can be treated as open and can be communicated more widely than the confidential board minutes. It is not intended to provide a full record of the meeting.

Updates:

Executive Director's (ED) Report

ED presented her report and explained that the report served two purposes:

- It highlighted successes to date despite the challenges of fundraising, in particularly on the 1 for 7 Billion campaign, but also in securing funding from a broader range of sources
- It underscored the importance of changes agreed by the board at its July meeting in particular the plans to engage with grassroots supporters.

She asked the board to discuss her report, as well as the draft strategic plan.

A thorough discussion was held on the draft plan and proposed changes. It was noted that further clarity needed to be provided on the fact that the changes related to member voting rights at the AGM only, and that no changes were being proposed to the membership programme, local activities or the policy conference. It was also noted that it should be made clear that no changes were being put to the 5 March AGM, but that a discussion would be held.

The Board concluded that a short summary, with FAQs, should be produced ahead of the AGM.

Chair Succession

The Chairman noted that nine approaches had been made, in addition to the public adverts placed in New World, the UNA-UK website and the Guardian. Lord Wood had emerged as a very strong candidate and he and the ED believed that he would make an excellent successor.

The Board approved the appointment of Lord Wood and agreed that he should observe at the next board meeting with a view to chairing the September board meeting.

AGM papers

- It was explained that 2014-15 had been an unusual year for UNA-UK, as £1.7m assets were received from the UNA Trust and this was included in the Financial Summary
- The treasurer explained the audit tendering process and said that the Finance and Governance Committee reviewed the tenders at its recent meeting and was recommending Buzzacott LLP be appointed
- One topic for discussion had been received that asks the Executive to report on the work UNA-UK has done to promote the resolution of conflict in Syria and Israel/Palestine following the Policy Conference 2015.

The board approved putting to the AGM Buzzacott LLP as auditors and also approved the topic for discussion

Board members were advised that an EGM would be required to make the changes the board agreed at its July meeting. A timetable for the changes would be drafted by UNA-UK's pro bono lawyers who have requested that the board set a date for an EGM.

The Board approved that the EGM would be held on Thursday, 28 April 2016 at 5pm.

Formal establishment of the Finance and Governance Committee (F&GC)

- The board considered the terms of reference for the F&GC
- The Chairman reported that the pilot merger was working well
- The treasurer said she was happy to support the formal establishment of the committee as

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- there was little point in having a separate audit committee
- No objections were received

The Board approved the formal establishment of the Finance and Governance Committee

Information Reports

Minutes of the Pilot Finance & Governance Committee meeting

The Board noted the report.

Finance Report and Full Year Forecast

The Board noted the report

Income Generation

Funding bids and resourcing were discussed:

- ED said that the 1 for 7 Billion campaign had secured further funding of \$50k. UNA-UK continued to be approached by big NGOs and movements keen to support the campaign, especially following successes in December, which have resulted in a formal start to the process and candidates' names and CVs published on the UN website.
- Polden Puckham has confirmed that UNA-UK would be able to apply for a multi-year grant to support work on peace operations.
- Trustees were asked to forward recommendations for trusts that the Executive could approach, in particular to support youth outreach.

The Board noted the report.

Operational Plan 2015-16, 6 month review

- ED reported that sickness, maternity leave and loss of one staff member was putting a lot of strain on existing staff.
- ED said that the recent event with the UN Secretary-General had been a huge success, with 2,000 people attending, coverage on the day by four broadcasters, unprecedented levels of Twitter engagement (the hashtag was number 2 in the UK) and nearly 1,000 media articles generated.

The Board noted the report

Policy, communications and outreach report – available from www.una.org.uk

The Board noted the report

Matters relating to UNA Youth and UNA Nations/Areas

A written report was received from UNA Northern Ireland:

- NI representative was delighted on how well the UN Charter presented by local schools and UNA NI members were being received by councils.
- They had made nine presentations to date and the tenth presentation was due soon.
- Only one council declined their invitation for presentations. The council did not provide the reason for its decision.

The Board noted the report

A written report was received from Central and Eastern Region

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- The Executive was delighted with the two new Coventry branches.

The Board noted the report

A written report was received from South and South West

- It was reported that at a branch AGM it was proposed that 50p be charged to its members to cover branch expenses. At the branch AGM the members approved this proposal

The Board noted the report

A written report was received from UNA Youth

- Youth activities in the Aberdeen and Glasgow area were discussed.
- It was reported that many universities were involved in the 1for7bn campaign by hosting events and inviting speakers. It was noted that on 7th March Kings were holding an event, on 8th March event was being held by Kent, Essex was holding an event on 15th March and LSC was holding an event on 22nd March.
- Youth representative suggested an annual essay competition in future on UNA-UK's main campaign would engage students. The board agreed and added that It may be worthwhile getting teachers involved

The Board noted the report

Dates of future meeting

Saturday, 5 March 2016 - AGM

Thursday, 28 April 2016 – EGM

The 2016 Board meeting dates were confirmed as:

Saturday, 25th June 2016 10.00 – 14.00

Thursday, 22nd September 2016 17.00 – 21.00

Saturday, 10th December 2016 10.00 – 14.00