

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of  
British Universities and Colleges Sport Limited  
13:20 Wednesday 9 December 2021  
Held at Holywell Conference Centre, University of Loughborough  
  
Company No. 06483060



No.	Minutes
1.	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>Welcome to all from the Chair, Professor Craig Mahoney.</p>
2.	<p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>Please see attached Annexe 1 for a full list of members who attended this AGM.</p>
3.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Board: Josef Baines Nigel Wallace Cathy Gallagher</p> <p>Members: Please see attached Annexe 1 for a list of those members who did not attend this AGM.</p>
4.	<p><u>Minutes and matters arising (Appendix 1)</u></p> <p>Points of accuracy: There were no points of accuracy.</p> <p>Matters arising: There were no matters arising. There were no further comments on the minutes of the last meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the AGM on 5 December 2020 were therefore approved.</p>
5.	<p><u>Chair's report</u></p> <p>Professor Craig Mahoney, BUCS Chair, presented his report.</p> <p><i>Thanks to sponsors, the BUCS leadership team, BUCS staff and all of you across the higher education systems of the UK for your hard work, dedication and passion over the past 21 months of challenge, complexity, tragedy and uncertainty. There is no doubt that working in and around sport is a privilege, and my life and career has been centred around sport and the importance of sport to the lives of everyone.</i></p> <p><i>Thanks to Loughborough for hosting us again this year. It is always a privilege to come back to the campus event though I am an alum of Birmingham University and Queen's University.</i></p>

	<p><i>Delighted to see representatives of many of my previous employers, Leeds Beckett, Roehampton, Wolverhampton, Northumbria and UWS, but you're all very welcome. I would also like to record my thanks and gratitude to fellow Board members, who give freely of their time to oversee the correct governance of BUCS, and support the organisation directly by working closely with BUCS staff to provide the best possible service to our members. Special thanks to our two student Directors, Maddie and Zoe. There is a current advert out for a BUCS Board vacancy and also please do contribute to the development of the next BUCS Strategy which is in development as Vince mentioned earlier.</i></p> <p><b>LAST YEAR</b></p> <p><i>The last 18 months challenged us to think beyond our regular sport and physical activity offer to deliver our mission to provide the best student sport experience.</i></p> <p><i>So, whilst normal physical sport was unable to take place for a large part of the year, we continued to prioritise physical and mental health, delivering virtual activity and other opportunities for students and staff to engage with BUCS and have a positive higher education experience.</i></p> <p><i>But we were able to witness the return of professional sport, spectator free initially, a delayed Olympics, European football championships and many other sporting milestones that we all love to be embroiled in. Unfortunately the summer and winter World Student Games have not been able to proceed this year, and for that we are truly saddened.</i></p> <p><b>Strategic</b></p> <p><i>We lobbied successfully with Westminster Govt to agree how outdoor sport could continue in England, and created better links with Sport NI, Sport Wales and Sport Scotland (through SSS), in response to covid challenges.</i></p> <p><i>We have established good links with Talent Pathway for Team GB through Talent Team at Sport England into HIPSAG which will create opportunities for "the team behind the team"</i></p> <p><i>This year we have presented to UUK on Value of Sport in post-covid HE and Mentally Healthy Universities.</i></p> <p><i>We also took a stance with EUSA around their Executive Committee and the introduction of a charge to sit on the EC.</i></p> <p><i>Organisationally:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• The organisation is at the beginning of a modernisation journey, to sustain and diversify its financial future. Key to this is digital engagement and generating revenue from outside of members – e.g. funding bodies and corporate partners. The BUCS brand is key to all of this and is an area that will need to evolve alongside the new strategy.</i></li> <li><i>• Launched the 'BUCS Sporting Leaders' series in collaboration with brands such as EY, NatWest, and the investment bank ICG, offering students career-focussed webinars and initiatives.</i></li> <li><i>• Grew our diversity and inclusion initiatives, with campaigns centred around International Women's Day, black heritage students and LGBTQIA+ athletes.</i></li> <li><i>• Through open tender we engaged the University of Wolverhampton to carry out Race and Equality Research. Funded by Sport England, this research will look at the barriers to sport for non-White British participants.</i></li> </ul>
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	<p><b>Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Delivered a better than budget position. £130k deficit, vs budget deficit of nearly £400k.</i></li> <li>• <i>Delivered process efficiencies, adopting new technologies where appropriate.</i></li> <li>• <i>Conducting a thorough review into equality, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism internally, to inform our ability to create an inclusive environment for staff from all backgrounds and deliver the most effective and efficient business.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>International Competition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Over 120 BUCS athletes and alumni took part in the Olympic and Paralympic Games.</i></li> <li>• <i>Those athletes won 88 medals across both Games – if BUCS were a country, it would have been ranked 7th in the Olympic medal table, and 9th in the Paralympic medal table.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>So as we now commence a new calendar year, with continued pandemic uncertainty, I ask once again for your kindness, consideration, patience and support as BUCS tries to navigate an impossible pathway to continue to support our 2.5 million UK university students, many of whom look to BUCS, through your individual universities, to find a way to engage with sport, physical activity or exercise at a level suitable for each individual, but from which we are able to offer a life changing experience. I am proud to be your Chair and continue to want the very best for sport across our university network.</i></p> <p>.</p>
6.	<p><u>CEO report on BUCS activities</u></p> <p>Vince Mayne, CEO, presented his report on the year. Thanks were given to members and students who have stepped up during a challenging time.</p> <p>Thanks were given to Board for their continued support over the year.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual activity – webinars had high levels of engagement, virtual challenges, mental wellbeing workshops, virtual annual awards.</li> <li>• Students across the sector activated in different areas – doing charitable challenges and helping local communities</li> <li>• FISU award for gender equality for FA Women’s Leadership programme. The next generation of leaders are coming through the sector.</li> <li>• Competitions were delivered where possible to do so.</li> <li>• Commercial partners – partnerships continued in this area in spite of limited in person delivery. The value of BUCS is still seen and appreciated.</li> </ul> <p>Vince emphasised that as an organisation and sector we have survived the last 18 months and are still delivering. The next year will be tough but we are ready to take on the challenges.</p>

7.	<p><u>Annual Report and Accounts (Appendix 2)</u></p> <p>Duncan Jones, COO, and Simon Wilson, BUCS Board member and Finance &amp; Audit Committee Chair, presented the annual report and accounts for year ending 31 July 2021 to the meeting.</p> <p>Thanks were given to members for their continued support through the annual affiliations.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The accounts have been reviewed and approved by the Finance &amp; Audit Committee, BUCS Board and auditors.</li> <li>• Income pre-pandemic was around £5m. There has been an impact due to the pandemic with income for 2021 at £2.3m. Expenditure was carefully managed with a reduction from £4.9m in 2019 to £2.5m in 2021. There is a deficit this year which had been forecast but we have managed have a better than forecast deficit. The Statement of Financial Activities in the accounts provides the detail of the figures.</li> <li>• There is a deficit forecast for FY22 which has been approved by the Board and is expected to be the final year of a forecasted deficit as a result of recovery from the pandemic and paying back the digital investment. For FY23 we are planning on a balanced budget.</li> <li>• We will continue raising profile to attract investment.</li> <li>• There will be regular scrutiny from the Board and F&amp;A Committee.</li> </ul> <p>Simon Wilson provided a Board perspective and noted that in the context of the wider sector of NGBs, of 17 NGBs surveyed over the last year, 14 were due to make significant deficits during the pandemic.</p> <p>As a trustee, the duties are to make sure the organisation is solvent, financially robust and carrying out its charitable aims of delivering to members.</p> <p>The Leadership and management team at BUCS have worked incredibly hard on the finances in what has been a very challenging time.</p> <p>The membership asked how the forecast balanced budget for FY23 will be achieved? It was confirmed that there are no plans to increase affiliation fees (other than by inflation). The return to a balanced budget is forecast on continued savings through process improvements and growth of other income sources such as commercial income and external funding.</p>
8.	<p><u>Member proposal (Appendix 3)</u></p> <p>Dan Tilley, Director of Sport at the University of Nottingham, was invited to present the member proposal:</p> <p>Would the membership support a moratorium on any new sports or new competition strands within sports being added until a comprehensive independent review of the quality of the existing competition offer has been conducted?</p> <p>The proposal consists of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Pauses on adding any more sports to the programme*, until the following two actions have been delivered.</li> <li>ii) Designs and conducts an independent assessment process for the BUCS Competition programme across all sports to assess current standards and levels of delivery.</li> </ol>

	<p>iii) Develops a matrix that allows for sports to be measured and graded against a set of standards, which will ensure a proportionate level of quality assurance (i.e. the expectations for Conference Cup Finals would differ to BUCS Big Wednesday, or a tier 5 rugby match compared to BUCS Super Rugby); greater clarity on the cost of entry vs the quality of delivery for each sport and also the ability for continuous improvement</p> <p>*Note: This would not include the addition of para-disciplines within existing sports, which could still be proposed and adjudged accordingly through the existing processes.</p> <p>Jenny Morris, BUCS Director of Delivery, provided a response. The principle of the proposal is not opposed as the objective of the sport review is to deliver the best sport experience to students. The sport review factors all aspects of requirements and NGB expertise into the process. The decision-making process of the sport review remains member led and member controlled. The principle of reviewing the full programme is scheduled as part of the ongoing sport review. There are criteria and standards in place but it is acknowledged that there have been challenges to the preferred delivery and structure of sports and events related to facility capabilities and officials requirements.</p> <p>Before Cycle 4 of the sport review is opened one of the initial questions will be should BUCS introduce a hold on new sports and review existing sports. The organisation has confidence in the existing review and structures to deliver what is required.</p> <p>Members were invited to comment and ask questions.</p> <p>A number of members provided comment and input to the discussion.</p> <p>Of those members who spoke support was expressed for a review and having a clear way of providing feedback on existing sports, however it was not necessarily seen that a moratorium was required in order to do this.</p> <p>Some student representatives noted that pausing options particularly for new sports e.g. skateboarding, which may benefit from BUCS status, may result in a worse offer for students.</p> <p>It was also mentioned that at some institutions it can be significant if a sport is a BUCS sport, not just for points, but for funding and support, and if there is a pause in the cycles it could impact engagement from students.</p> <p>Some members expressed concern about the capacity of the BUCS office, and institutions, as the mechanism for delivering extra competition.</p> <p>In summary:</p> <p>Dan Tilley emphasised that the concern is around the resources required for new sports, including finances and support. The sensible approach is to pause, consider what we are doing, and get the quality and standards right.</p> <p>Jenny Morris confirmed there is no plan to bring in new sports at this time. There is an awareness that any changes do come with resource implications. The organisation is also aware that how sport is being consumed by students is changing. If there is a pause in Cycle 4, that would mean no new sports could be considered until 2024.</p> <p>The Chair asked members to vote on the proposal. The majority voted against the proposal and the proposal was not approved.</p>
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9.	<p><u>Amends to Articles of Association (Appendix 4)</u></p> <p>Appendix 4 outlines the proposed amends to the Articles of Association.</p> <p>The amendments are the first step in the Articles review to bring them up to date and ensure accurate language and terminology is used.</p> <p>The changes relate to clarity of language as well as updates to reflect more recent operating methods such as the use of electronic communications as a practical tool in current organisations and everyday life.</p> <p>The Chair asked members to vote. The amends were passed with full approval of members present.</p>
10.	<p><u>Applications for membership (Appendix 5)</u></p> <p>Three applications for full membership. The members were asked to vote on each application.</p> <p>The Cornwall College Group - approved University of Buckingham - approved University of London – approved</p>
11.	<p><u>Board appointments (Appendix 6)</u></p> <p>Existing Board member Josef Baines is proposed to stand for a second term of three years on the BUCS Board.</p> <p>The Chair asked members to vote. The appointment was approved.</p>
10.	<p><u>Appointment of the Auditors (Appendix 7)</u></p> <p>The recommendation to appoint Haysmacintyre as the auditors was presented to the membership.</p> <p>The Chair asked members to vote. The appointment was approved.</p>
11.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>The Chair invited any other competent business.</p> <p>No further matters were raised.</p>
12.	<p><u>Close of Meeting</u></p> <p>The Chair gave thanks to the outgoing Board members Andy Westlake and Nigel Wallace for their support and work, whose terms of office come to an end at this meeting.</p> <p>Thanks to the University of Gloucestershire who have provided AV support and livestreaming the AGM.</p> <p>There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 15:00.</p>

# Annexe 1

List of BUCS full members who **attended** BUCS AGM on 9 December 2021.

62 member institutions attended. This represents 40% of member institutions attending.

(Quoracy is 47 institutions (one third of the total membership)).

<b>Legal Member Name</b>
Anglia Ruskin University HEC
Aston University
Bangor University
University of Bath
University of Bedfordshire
Birmingham City University
University of Brighton
University of Bristol
Brunel University
University of Cambridge
Canterbury Christ Church University
Cardiff Metropolitan University
University of Central Lancashire
City, University of London
De Montfort University
University of Derby
Durham University
The University of East Anglia
The University of East London
Edge Hill University
The University of Edinburgh
University of Essex
University of Exeter
University of Gloucestershire
University of Huddersfield
University of Hull
Imperial College London
Lancaster University
Leeds Beckett University (Carnegie)
University of Leicester
University of Lincoln
University of Liverpool
Liverpool John Moores University
London South Bank University
Loughborough University
The University of Manchester

Manchester Metropolitan University
Middlesex University
The University of Newcastle upon Tyne
University of Northumbria at Newcastle
The University of Nottingham
Nottingham Trent University
The University of Oxford
Oxford Brookes University
The Queen's University of Belfast
Regent's University London
The University of Sheffield
Sheffield Hallam University
University of South Wales
University of St Mark & St John
St Mary's University College
University of Strathclyde
University of Sunderland
University of Surrey
Swansea University
University Academy 92
University College London
The University of Warwick
University of the West of Scotland (UWS)
University of Winchester
University of Wolverhampton
The University of York

List of BUCS members who **did not attend** AGM on 9 December 2021

<b>Legal Member Name</b>
University of Aberdeen
Abertay University
Prifysgol Aberystwyth University
AECC University College
Arts University Bournemouth
Askham Bryan College
Bath Spa University
University of Birmingham
Bishop Burton College
Bishop Grosseteste University
Blackburn College
The University of Bolton
Bournemouth University



University of Bradford
Brooksby Melton College
Buckinghamshire New University
University of Cambridge
Cardiff University
University of Chester
University of Chichester
Coventry University
Cranfield University
University of Cumbria
University of Derby
DN Colleges Group
University of Dundee
Edinburgh Napier University
ECSP Europe Business School
Falmouth University
The University of Glasgow Court
Glasgow Caledonian University
Goldsmiths' College
University of Greenwich
Harper Adams University
Hartpury University
Heriot Watt University
University of Hertfordshire
Hult International Business School
University of Keele
The University of Kent
King's College London
Kingston University
The University of Law Limited
The University of Leeds
Leeds City College
Leeds Trinity University
Liverpool Hope University
London Metropolitan University
The London School of Economics & Political Science
The Manchester College
Moulton College
New College of the Humanities at Northeastern Limited
Newman University
The University of Northampton
Norwich University of the Arts
Pearson College London

Plumpton College
University of Plymouth
University of Portsmouth
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
Queen Mary, University of London
University of Reading
Richmond American International University
Robert Gordon University
University of Roehampton
The Royal Agricultural University
Royal Holloway & Bedford New
The Royal Veterinary College
University of Salford
Scotland's Rural University College
The Sheffield College
SOAS, University of London
South Gloucestershire & Stroud College
The University of Southampton
Southampton Solent University
University of St Andrews
St George's Hospital Medical School, University of London
Staffordshire University
University of Stirling
University Campus Suffolk
University of Sussex
Teesside University
UCFB
University of the Highlands & Islands
Ulster University
University Centre South Essex
University College Birmingham
University of The Arts, London
The University of Wales Trinity & St David
Wakefield College
University of West London
The University of the West of England, Bristol
University of Westminster
University of Worcester
Wrexham Glyndwr University
Writtle University College
York St John University