

Notes to the Consolidated Accounts of SUBU for year ending 31st July 2011.

Executive Summary

Overall SUBU performed well in 2010/11.

Income was still challenged in the commercial areas, however for every challenge (eg Dylan's) there were also some improved performances.

The timely increase in the block grant helped SUBU to manage the proposed increases in pension liability and also to reorientate its efforts with a specific generalist staff member being employed at the Lansdowne Campus for the first time. The interim Communications manager was also reorientated to focus on our ability to provide the University with evidence from the students on their views on the student experience, especially via the academic representation system.

SUBU retains a good level of reserves, ostensibly to reinvest in its commercial areas and to facilitate new student initiatives. With the help of its trustees, SUBU will be revisiting its prudent and conservative reserve policy in order to maximize its impact on current students.

Income

Commercial surplus

The surplus (pre depreciation) in the commercial areas was £420k down from £436k in 09/10. SUBU has been able in the last five years or so to resist too much decline in its commercial revenues despite significant evidence on the High Street and amongst students' union of significant trading challenges, especially in licensed premises .

This decline was mostly felt by Dylan's Bars with sales declining by 4.9%; an ongoing change from drink to food in this area and the associated increased costs; pressure on student wages (the minimum wage) and the 'obligation' to offer a service to residents on Talbot Campus. For the first time in 17 years, Dylan's produced a deficit (£41k).

Action has been taken in 11/12 to address this with the introduction of Starbucks in the Loft and some shaving of wage costs and opening times. To date (Dec 2011), this has been successful with improved sales and margins.

There was a strong performance from the Old Fire Station (increasing surplus pre depreciation by £5k); and the Shop (increase by £3k) whilst Sales and Marketing lost ground (by £5k).

The Balls (with the most significant contribution being from the Summer Ball) increased by nearly £2k

Overall surplus was helped enormously by an extraordinary increase in 'Other income' due principally to a VAT refund c£35k.

Block Grant

The Block grant from the University was increased from £432 k to £500k.

This was to support an increase in pension deficit costs that the Union was facing as well as to accommodate in the grant the ring fenced volunteering funding and to facilitate the recruitment of an extra member of staff.

Overall income (commercial surplus and block grant)

2009/ 2010 £880k

2010/2011 £920k

Expenditure

Student services

Expenditure in this wide ranging area increased by £6k.

Union support

Expenditure increased in this area by £63.9k.

A detailed breakdown on Union expenditure versus budget and versus the previous year can be found in the attached Excel document

Total non commercial expenditure and overall surplus pre depreciation

2009/10 £741k.....surplus pre depreciation £139k

2010/2011£811k.....surplus pre depreciation £109k