



The University of Plymouth Students' Union

Annual Student Meeting

Thursday 7th December – 6pm





Agenda

Welcome and Introduction

Notification of any other business

Matters to Discuss

- No items submitted

Accounts and Finance Report Presentation

Affiliations

Reports

- Report from the Board of Trustees
- Open meeting and Elected Representatives Report
- Report from the Sabbatical Officers

Any Other Business

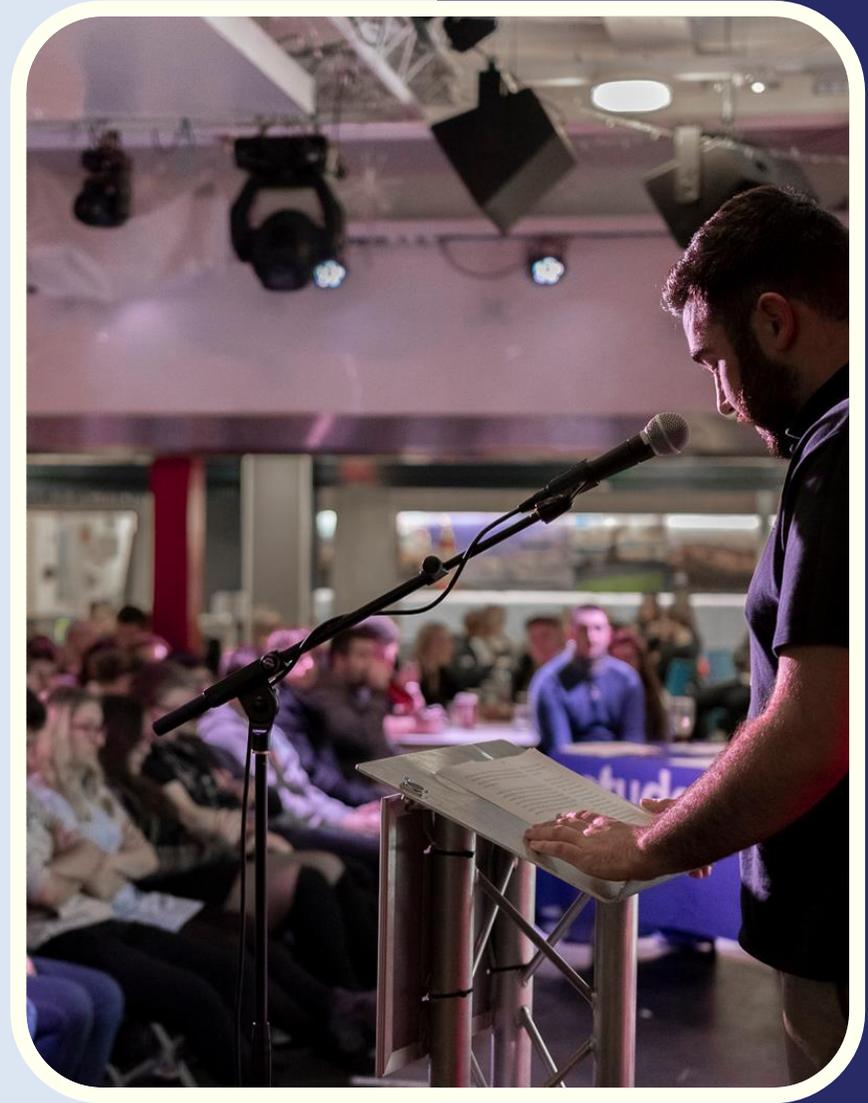


Welcome

Annual Student Meeting Chair

General Information

- Please respect the opinions of other people and their right to speak, if you do get involved in debate, question the issue and don't get personal. Any inappropriate language or behaviour will not be tolerated and anyone being inappropriate or offensive will be removed from the meeting.
- All full members of UPSU can speak and vote on any issue. Other people present may speak but cannot vote. All students currently registered on a UoP course are full members of the union unless they have opted out in writing.
- This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the UPSU Memorandum and Articles, its by-laws and other UPSU policies as relevant.



Notification of AOB

We have not received notice of any items of other business prior to this meeting.

If anyone has any items they would like to discuss, please raise your hand. Items requiring a vote cannot be raised as AOB.

Matters to Discuss

Students were given the opportunity to ask a question through the website, these will be addressed after the Finance Report and Affiliations have been presented.



UPSU Financial Report 2022/23

Nicky Goldthorpe
UPSU Chief Executive

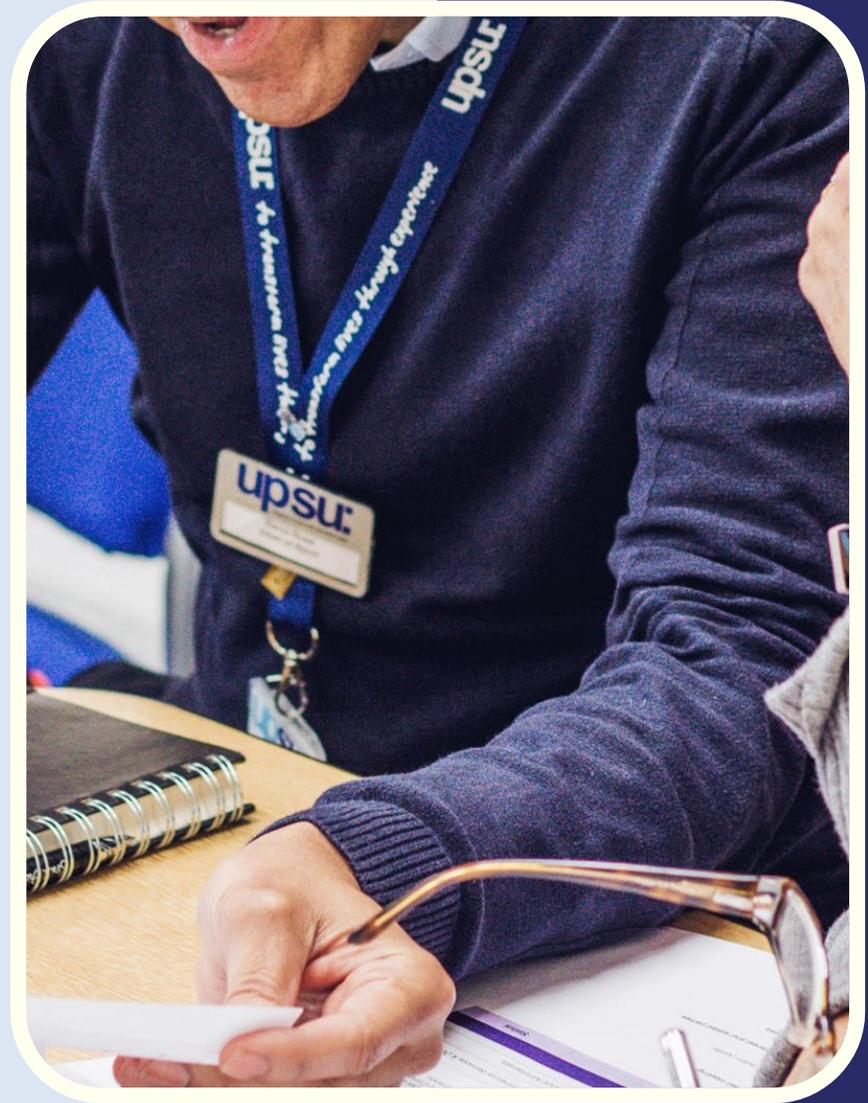


Introduction

- Part of the purpose of the ASM each year is to report on the financial affairs of the Union to our members.
- We became a registered Charity on 31st August 2011. We became a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) on 1st August 2017. Our Charity Commission number is 1172830 and our Companies House number is 106760710.
- The four elected Sabbatical Officers are Trustees of UPSU and together with our four External Trustees and four Student Trustees form our Trustee Board
- The information shown in these slides is taken from our Trustee's report & Financial Statements for the 2022/23 financial year, which are available on our website

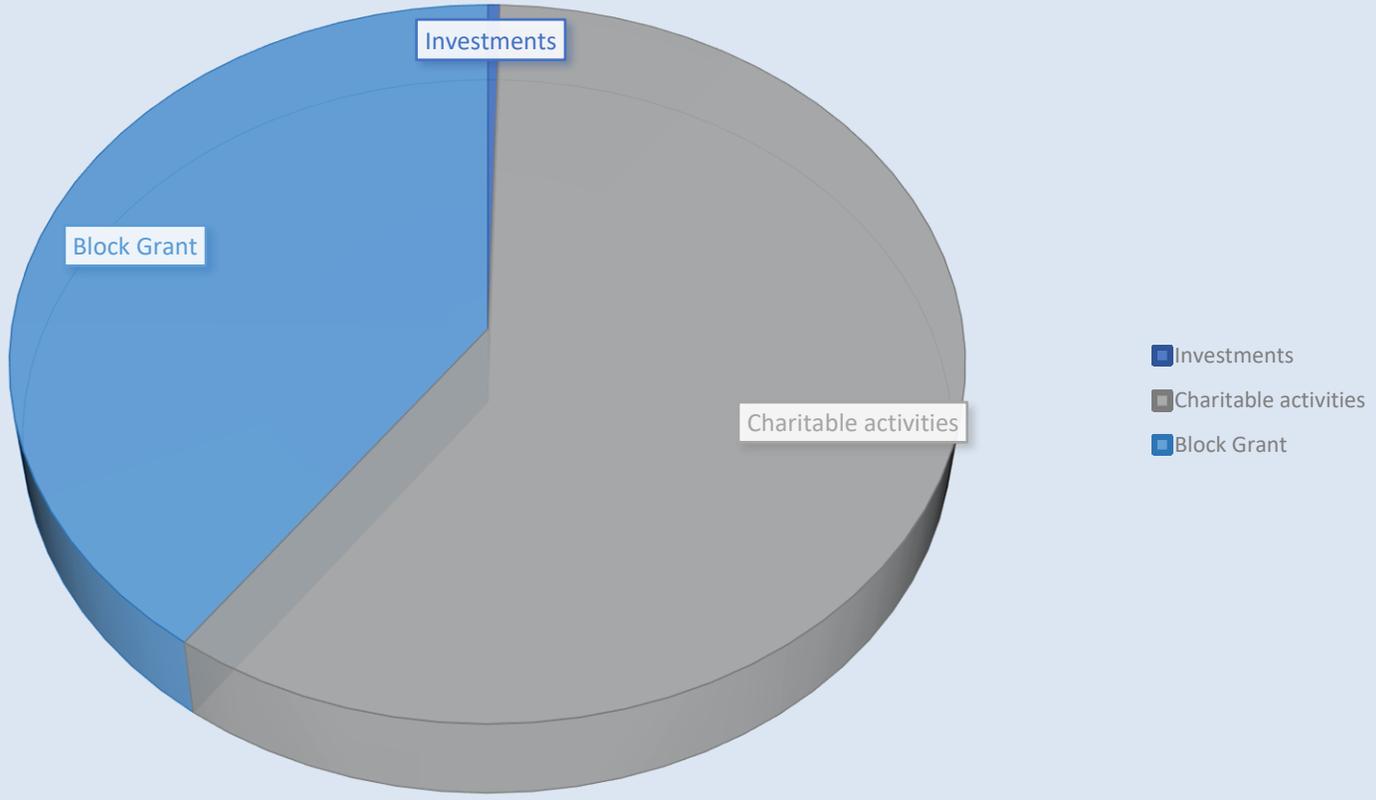
Financial Review 2022/2023

- Total income from all sources **£5.25M** (2021/22 £4.95M)
- Total expenditure **£5.35M** (2021/22 £4.62M)
- We generated an operating deficit of **£109K**
(2021/22 Surplus 321.2K)



Where does our income come from?

UPSU Income 2022/23 total of £5,255,866





Summary of income since 2012

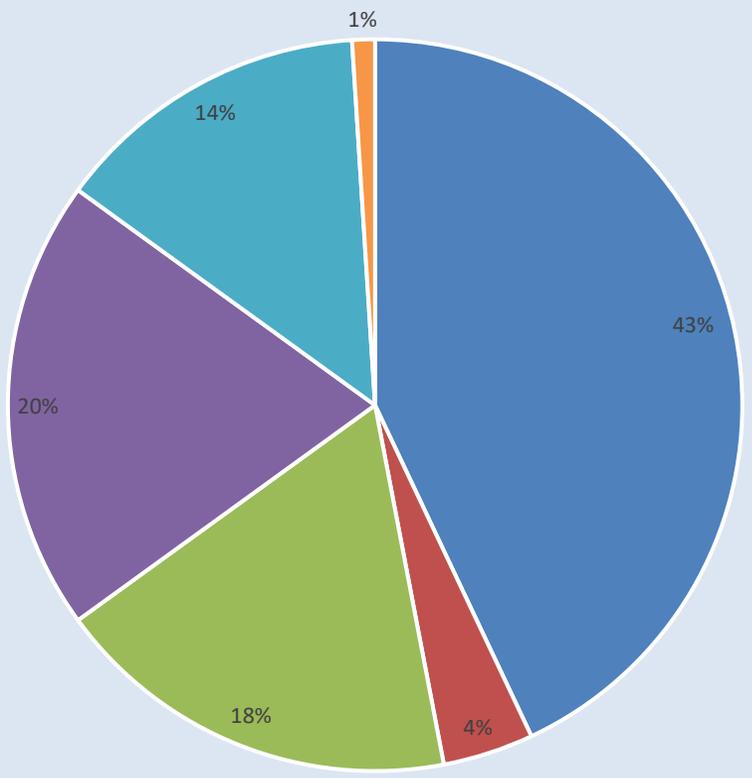
UPSU Income 2012 to 2023 (£000's)



What do we spend our money on?

UPSU Expenditure – total £5,357,763

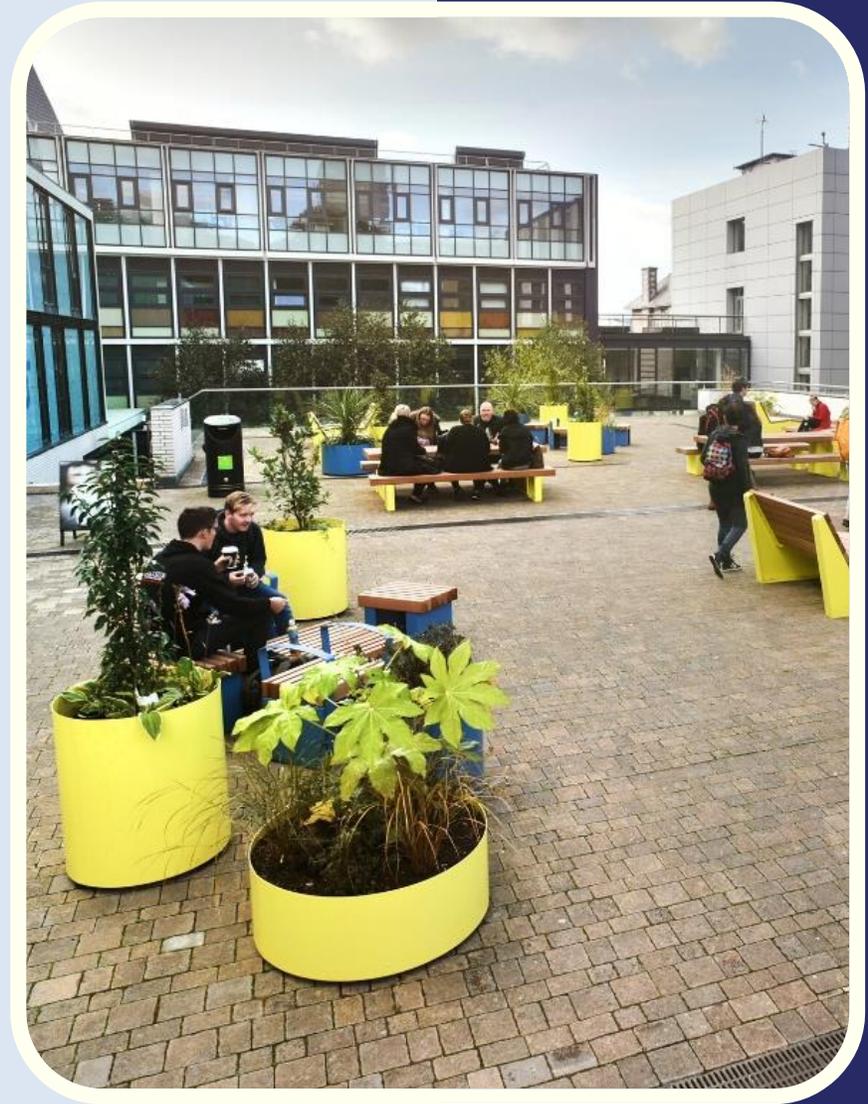
Chart Title



- Retail and other trade
- Welfare
- Representation
- Sports and recreation
- Clubs and societies
- Governance

Summary

- The 2022/23 assumed there would be no further impact from Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns but recognised there may not be a return to pre covid trading levels.
- Overall, commercial performance fell below budgeted but improved from the prior year. This was offset by effective management around holding vacancies and controlling costs.
- We ended the year with a £109K deficit.
- And we finished with a negative balance sheet position of £18K at the year end, however held strong reserves in line with our policies.
- Note both deficit and negative balance sheet position were mainly due to the movement on the deficit pension liability reserve.)





Any questions?



Affiliations

Will Jones

Annual Student Meeting Chair



Affiliations

Education Act 1994

- (k) where the union is affiliated to any external organisations, a report should be published annually or more frequently containing-
 - (i) a list of the external organisations to which the union is currently affiliated, and
 - (ii) details of subscriptions or similar fees paid, or donations made, to such organisations in the past year (or since the last report),
 - and such reports should be made available to the governing body and to all students;

Affiliation in 2022/23

UPSU, on behalf of the generality of the students, is currently affiliated to, and paid affiliation fees and memberships during the year to the following external organisations:

	2023	2022
	£	£
National Union of Students	7,500	7,225
NUS Services Membership	380	380
Advice UK	267	263
British Universities and Colleges Sports	11,610	10,760
NASMA membership	350	420
WonkHE	3,936	3,770
	24,052	22,818



Any questions?

Questions

Most international students are complaining of their lecture hall been cold, what can the SU body do for school to fix central heater

Faults can be reported at estateshelp@plymouth.ac.uk

The various course representatives, are they been paid?

What is the possibility of splitting sports into a separate union like at many other unis. Surely this would allow teams to be represented in a more beneficial way, as objectives are different to socs

Questions

Only 4% was spent on welfare (same as last year, and SU said it was mainly salaries). How can the SU be more transparent with where the finances for wellbeing activities are coming from?

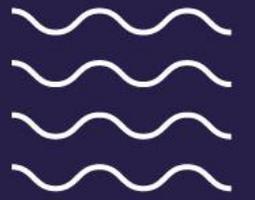
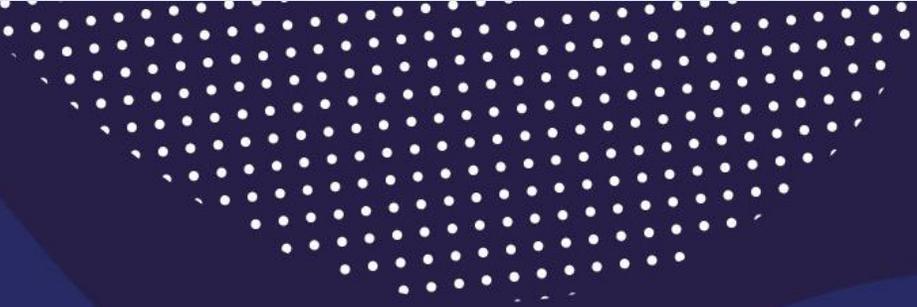
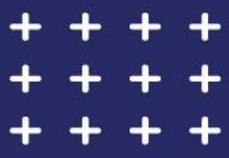
Is there a way to have a reduced price in societies if one only wants to take part in social events and will pay for their own gear.

In previous years suicide/mental health awareness training was offered to course reps. Is it possible to have mandatory suicide awareness training for course reps and school reps.

Questions

Some course reps have not been given training since they were elected after. How can the SU help make this process flow better next year ensuring everyone has proper training?

A lot of people are disappointed about the proposed changes to graduation, how have the SU voiced students concerns / what is there response??



Reports



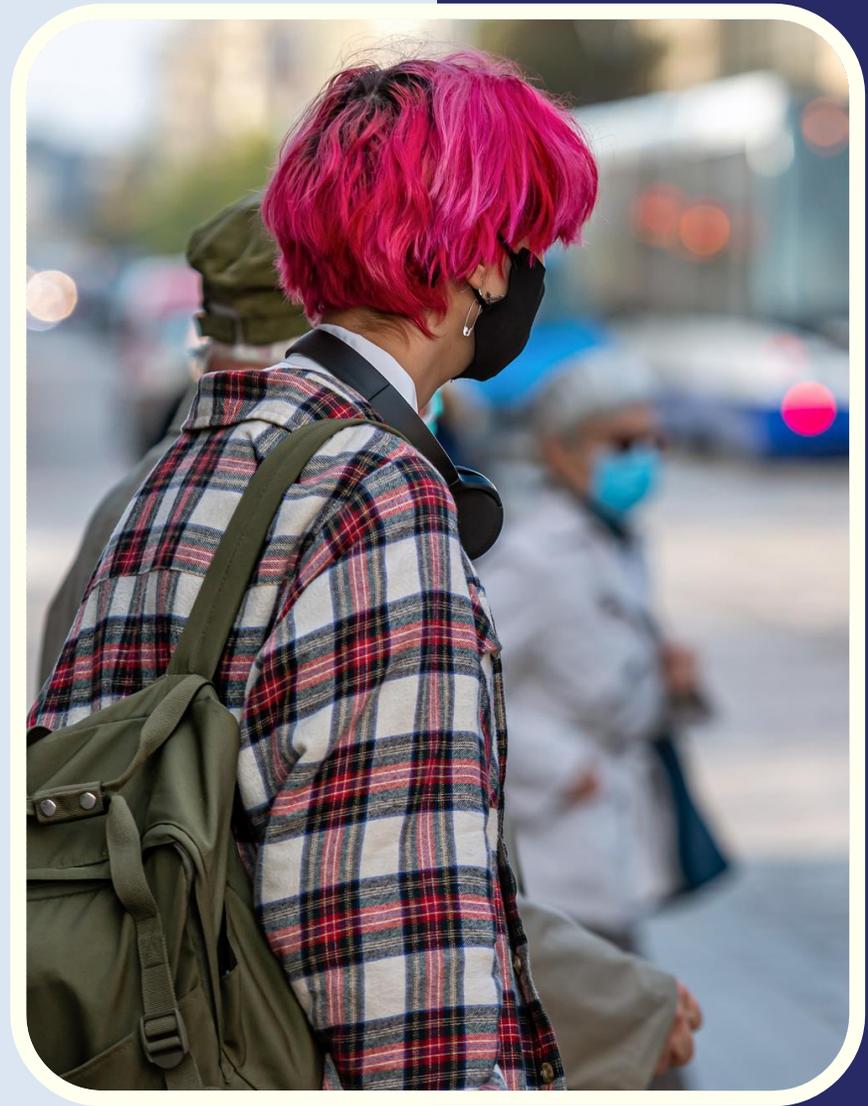


Board of Trustees Report

Tonari Ariekpar
UPSU President

Board of Trustees Report

- The year 2022/23 year has been one of embedding the strategic plan which was agreed last year. An infographic of the Strategic Plan follows this report.
- Two new External Trustees and four new Student Trustees were appointed in 2023 in addition to the elected Sabbatical Officer Team and two continuing External Trustees.
- UPSU began 2022/23 with a budget deficit of £118k, this assumed there would be no further impacts as with previous Covid restrictions. Unfortunately, the period of national mourning for the Queen did have an impact on scheduled Freshers events. However, the university did support the Union with an additional £25,000 in funding to cover the shortfall.
- UPSU ended the year with a deficit of £109k, which does include £98.6k loss on the SUSS pension liability reserve. Excluding this pension amount, a deficit of £10.4k was positive against the overall budget deficit.





- The Advice Service supported more than 2,215 students with a wide range of advice issues through the year, many of which were complex.
- The SU offered students a choice of 50 clubs and 122 societies, with 7,007 students signing up for memberships. In addition to this, the “Give it a Go” programme provided a number of opportunities to participate in taster sessions for sports, social activities and trips out.
- UPSU worked with dedicated student volunteers and partners within the community to offer a wide range of volunteering opportunities for students and student groups raised just under £35,000 across Varsity, RAG and student group fundraising activities
- Voter turnout increased to 13%, up from 11% the previous year. Developmental work on the Academic Representation system was started and continues this academic year.



The 2023/24 Academic Year

- The Union delivered Freshers Week in September including very successful Sports, Societies, Volunteering and Commercial Fairs and engagement in student groups has increased this year.
- Development work regarding a Democratic Review, including the Academic Representation structure continues and this is the first year all School Rep roles have been filled and all Reps have been active.
- The landscape remains challenging within our commercial areas, as shifting student behaviours and the cost of living have had an impact on performance. Whilst performance fell below budgeted expectations we have worked hard to manage costs and exercise cost savings where needed.

UPSU STRATEGY 2022-2025

Our Values

The things that are important to us and shape our behaviours

Student-led

We place students at the heart of everything that we do, so that decisions are made for the benefit of our members.

Innovative

We look to the future, seeking new opportunities and partnerships. We are progressive, creative and happy to work in collaboration with others.

Supportive

We provide opportunities for our students and staff to develop their life skills, to use their initiative and make a positive difference to their lives and communities.

Inclusive

We foster a sense of understanding and mutual respect amongst the whole student body, making our opportunities, activities and services accessible for all students.

Fun

We are committed to making sure all students enjoy their time at the University of Plymouth and that all our staff enjoy working for the SU.

Our Vision

Supporting your Plymouth student experience

Our Strategic Themes

What we'll be focussing on

To help create a sense of belonging in our student community

A key element of a positive student experience at Plymouth involves building connections with others around shared interests, experience and identities. Our spaces, services and activities should support students to come together, and we should be clear and proactive in our approach to ensuring they do so in an inclusive manner.

To effectively represent the student voice

Our core charitable objective and the primary reason students are at the University of Plymouth is to gain a world class academic and educational experience. We will create a meaningful collaboration with the University that clearly acknowledges students as partners in their education.

To develop students mental and physical wellbeing

Students face a wide range of wellbeing challenges during their time at University and it is crucial that the Union plays a role supporting them to tackle these. Physical and mental health, private housing and student accommodation are all areas where the SU will have a positive impact on the lives of our students.

To enable students to have fun

The academic programme at Plymouth is rigorous and there are high expectations placed on students by both the University and by themselves. A good work life balance is essential. Students should enjoy interacting with the Union, and we should provide opportunities for students to create great memories and enable them to enjoy their time at University.

Our Enablers

The strategies we will put in place to help us achieve our strategic themes

Great people and culture

Sustainable resources and infrastructure

Effective governance and strong democracy

Engaging communication

Comprehensive research, evidence and insight

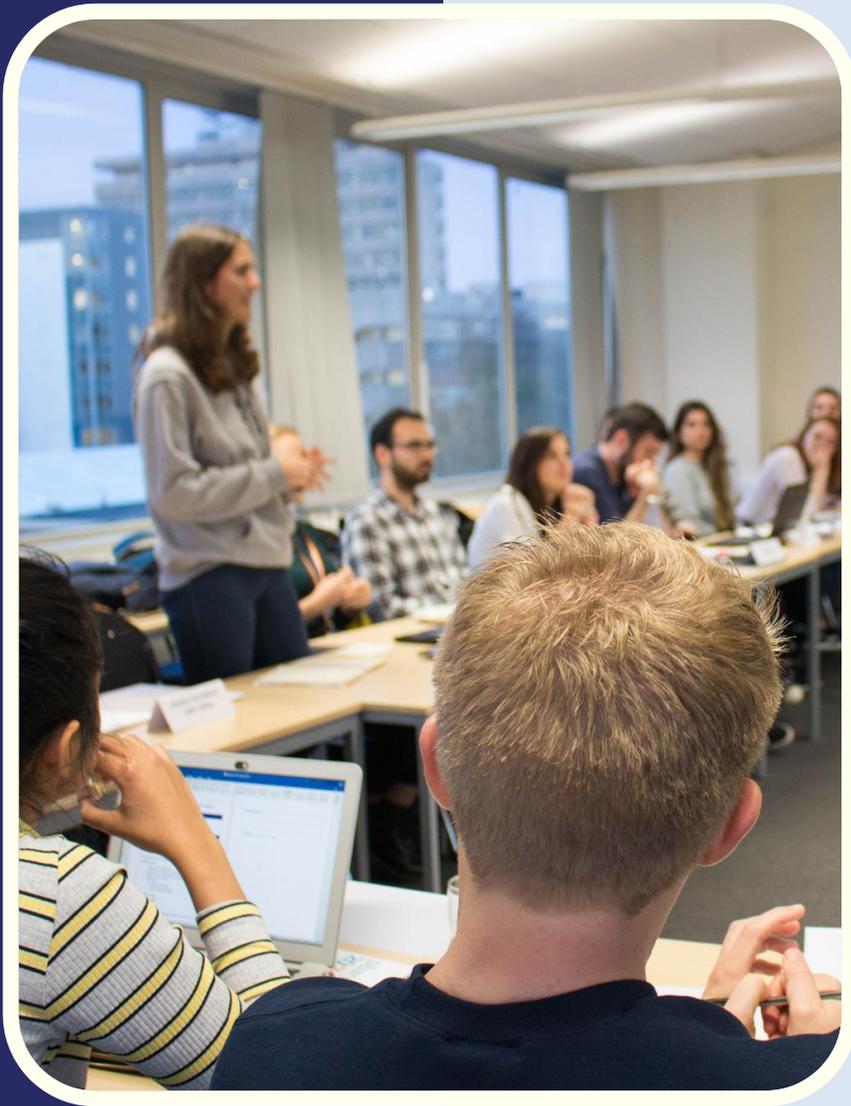
A constructive relationship with the University and wider sector



Any questions?



Open Meetings and Elected Representatives Report



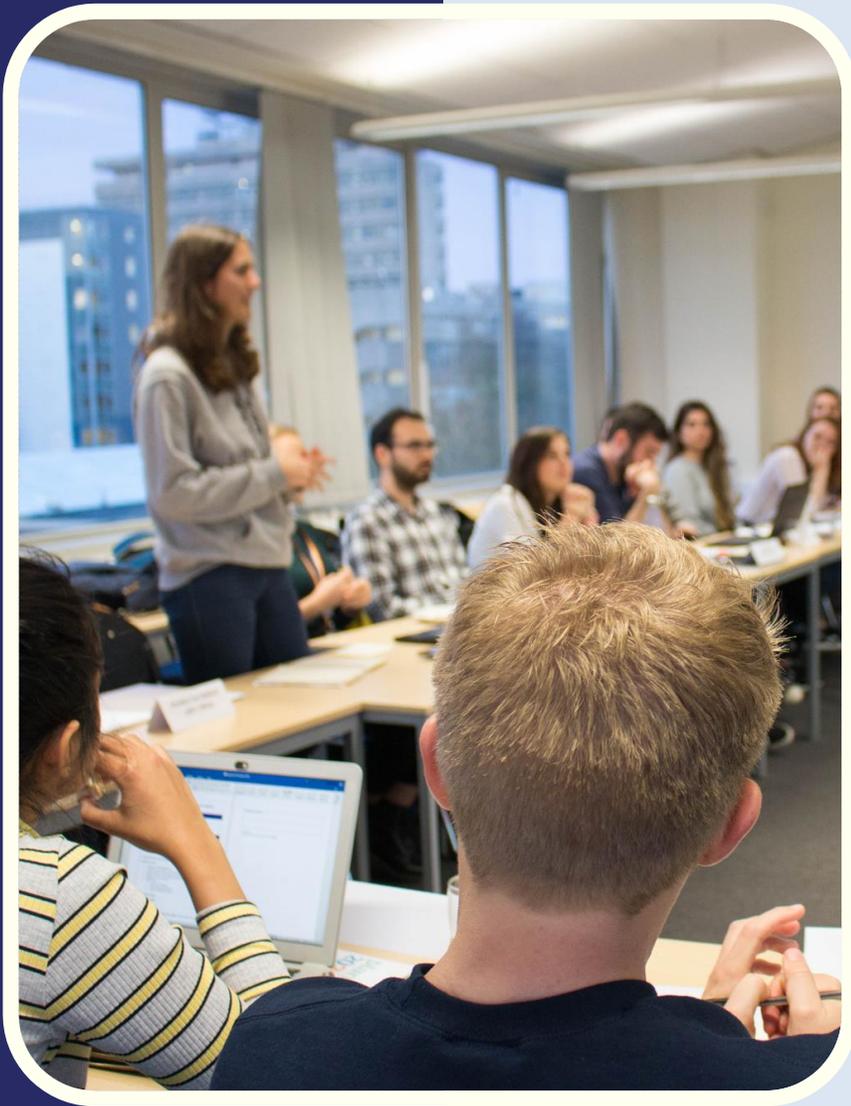
Open Meetings

What are Open Meetings?

Open meetings take place to make important decisions that affect the student body and ensure that the wide diversity of the student body is fairly represented in these decisions.

Formerly called Union Council, Open meetings are the space for any student to raise issues that are impacting students. Attended by your elected representatives, it is also the place to hear about the work they have been doing on your behalf. SU and University staff may attend to give updates or seek feedback.

Any student can request an item to be added to the agenda by emailing studentvoice@su.plymouth.ac.uk

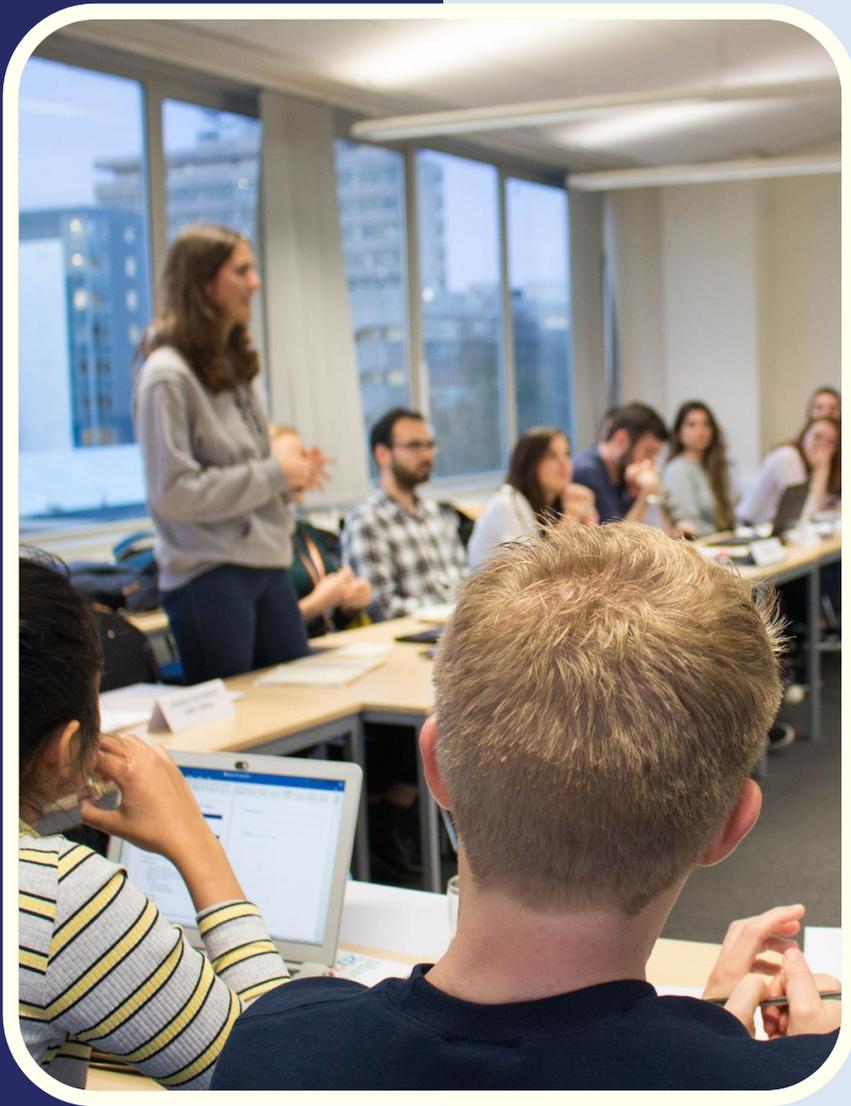


Open Meetings

What happens at Open Meetings?

- Elected representatives can give updates and feedback about the things they are working on.
- Students can query the work of their elected representatives.
- Students representing Networks can feedback about their activity and seek feedback from the wider student body.
- Students can discuss, organise, and support campaigns, events and projects.
- Students debate policy proposals, and vote on whether to approve them to become the political policy of the union.

The next open meeting will take place on Thursday 1st February 2024 in the Little Room



School Reps

At the centre of the academic representation system within their respective school, School Reps support the Course Reps and assist in progressing feedback from programme to school level.

School Reps meet with their Faculty Lead and the VP Education, to progress any feedback from students to the Faculty or University through the appropriate channels.

A full list of all School Reps, their contact details and their updates can be found on the School Rep page

<https://www.upsu.com/studentvoice/representatives/schoolreps/>



Networks

In recognition of the increasing demands on students time, both due to academic workload and financial pressures, UPSU have introduced Networks as a space where students can come together around the things that matter to them.

Whilst previously part-time officers enjoyed a lot of freedom within their role, some found it was a lot of responsibility and commitment to take on alongside their studies as an individual student.

Networks will allow varying levels of engagement. If a student cares about an issue, has ideas they want to share, or feedback they want to give, they are able to play an active role in the network.

If a student wants to take the lead on certain plans or projects, they can develop leadership skills much like our part-time officers could.

However, if a student wants to take a backseat and stay in the loop about matters they care about, the network can be their go to place for all updates!



Networks

Currently, we have 11 Networks:

- Apprenticeships
- BAME
- Environment & Sustainability
- First Gen
- International Students
- LGBTQ+
- Mature Students
- Men's
- Postgraduate Students
- Students with Disabilities
- Women's

For more information or to sign up, visit www.upsu.com/studentvoice/networks/.



Any questions?



Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

Tonari Arikekpar
President of UPSU

Darcie Jones
Vice President Education

Isla Symons
Vice President Activities

Daniella Marley
Vice President for Wellbeing and Diversity



Sabbatical Officer Report

Tonari Arikekpar
UPSU President



Any questions?



Sabbatical Officer Report

Darcie Jones

UPSU Vice President Education

Sabbatical Officer Report

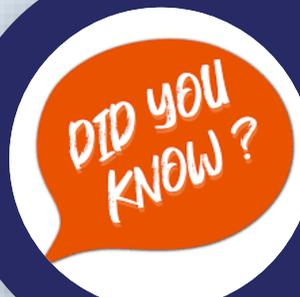
Darcie Jones

UPSU Vice Education



Commuter Students:

Conducting studies and reviews on how both UPSU and the university can support students that commute to campus. Including the assessment of barriers that commuter students face socially and academically.



Did You Know?

Promoting the correct usage of academic policies and highlighting the need for policy language to be accessible and digestible to students.



Promoting university transparency:

establishing relationships within the university to promote transparent communications to students from the university, with the aim of creating an open dialogue, for example the open forum with John Curnow in November.



Supporting Postgraduate communities:

Supporting events such as the Postgrad meet up and network events to support postgraduate students in creating a sense of community and belonging.



Any questions?



Sabbatical Officer Report

Isla Symons

UPSU Vice President Activities

Sabbatical Officer Report

Isla Symons

UPSU Vice President Activities



University relationships:

Ensuring we can have constructive conversations to improve student experience. This has meant the university have been more receptive in making changes in collaboration with UPSU.



Support Campaigns: Creating 'Here If You Need' and 'Mindful Men'. Both gender based campaigns around mental health, well-being and safety. Still looking for student ambassadors who are passionate about the campaigns and centre them around what students want.



Faculty of Science and Engineering Rep: Looking at what is meant by 'academic feedback' and how this is perceived by students and staff. From this establish clear expectations regarding communication to students.



Promotion around sport within the university: Keeping sport on the agenda of the university, developing conversations around this are positive. Continuing to work on making comms a more streamlined process.



Any questions?



Sabbatical Officer Report

Daniella Marley

UPSU Vice President Wellbeing and Diversity

Sabbatical Officer Report

Daniella Marley

UPSU Vice President Wellbeing & Diversity



Student Safety: Attended the police community reference group and city council safer communities group, spoke on BBC Radio about night time safety, met with key organisations, and led a Safety Event on Campus.



Faculty of Health: As Faculty Rep - supporting School Reps, Course Reps and students to get the most out of their course. Attending key meetings within the faculty.

**WELLBEING
WEDNESDAY**



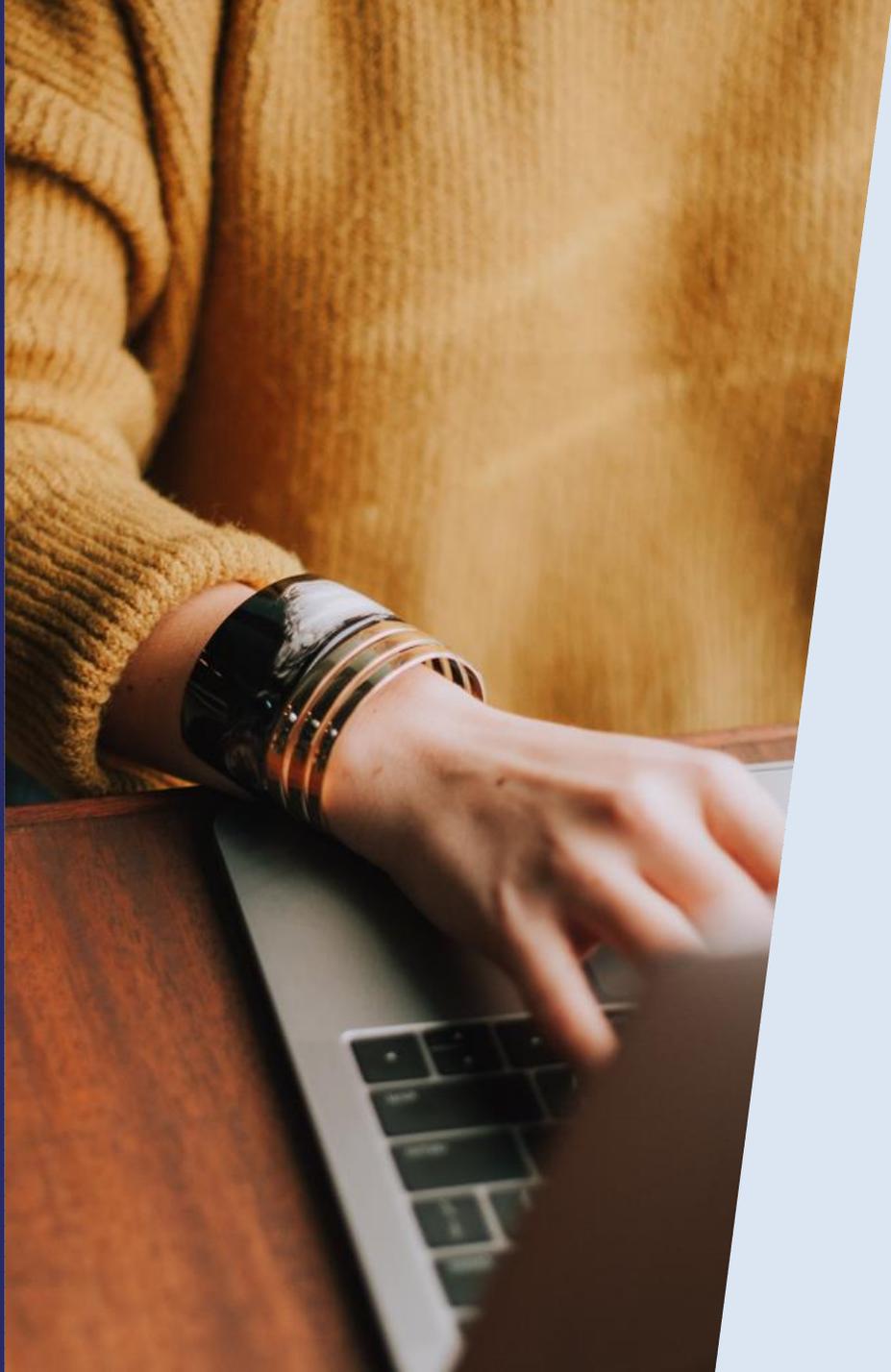
Wellbeing Wednesdays: Leading the Wellbeing Wednesday's Campaign with weekly video and infographic content on wellbeing themes such as safe sex, mental health, racism, and disability.



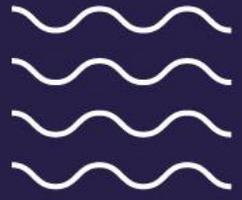
Diversity: Co-ordinated an events calendar during Black History Month, attended events such as the Transgender Day of Remembrance Service and Langar on campus, and wrote articles of resources for our website.



Any questions?



Any Other Business



Thank you for attending

If you have any further questions the Sabbatical Officers and Trustees will be in the Hive after the meeting

Minutes of the meeting and copies of the presentation and reports will be available on the UPSU website or email studentvoice@su.plymouth.ac.uk

