

The University of Plymouth Students' Union

Annual Student Meeting

Wednesday 18th February – 6pm



Agenda

Welcome and Introduction

Notification of any other business

Matters to Discuss

- Resolution to amend the Articles of Association

Accounts and Finance Report Presentation

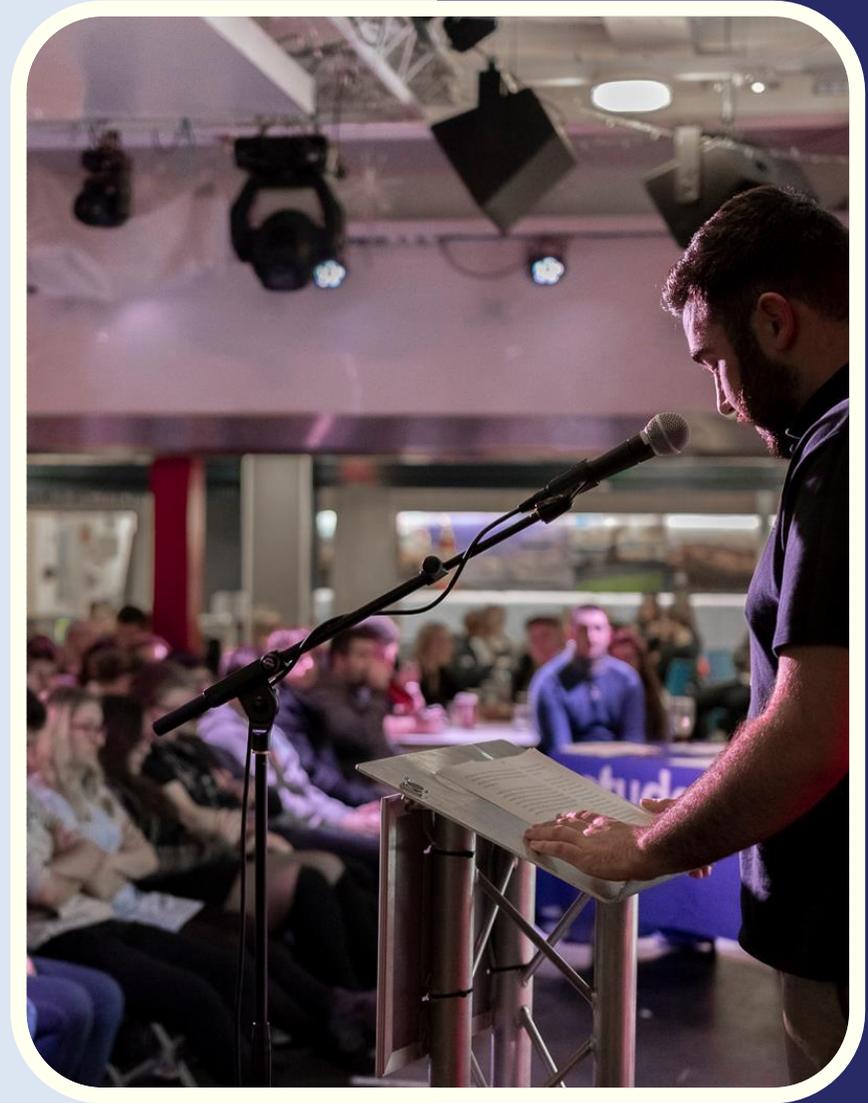
Affiliations

Reports

Any Other Business

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 Articles of Association, its by-laws and other UPSU policies, as relevant.



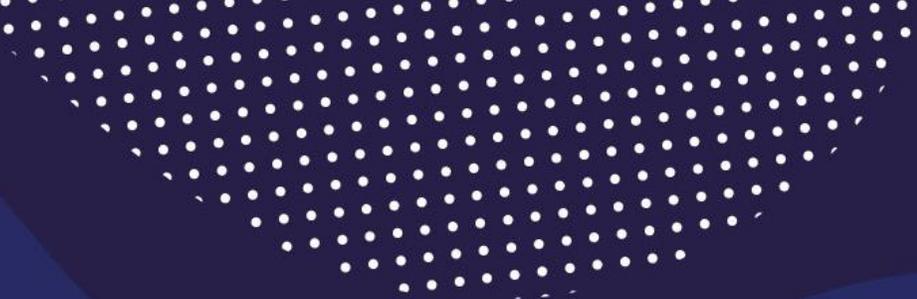
Notification of AOB

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



Proposed Amendments to the UPSU Articles of Association

A proposal submitted by the UPSU Trustee Board





Overview

- Our Articles of Association are the governing document that defines the SU's aims and objectives and sets out the way the organisation undertakes its core functions. They manage how the SU is governed and how students can engage with democratic processes.
- The UPSU Trustee Board are formally proposing changes to the Articles of Association to ensure that our decision-making structures reflect the changes to Trustee roles, whilst supporting effective governance and maintaining operational flexibility.
- The Trustee Board is currently comprised of four External Trustees, four Sabbatical Officer Trustees and two Student Trustees

1

To reduce the required number of Board meetings per year

Amendment to Clause 34.1 – Trustees' Meetings

To reduce the minimum number of meetings held in a year from four to three.

UPSU retains the ability to call an additional meetings as needed.

2

To reduce the number of Trustees needed to make a binding decision

Amendment to Clause 40.2 – Quorum for Trustees' Meetings

The minimum number of Trustees required to make a decision will remain at least five, comprising at least two External Trustees. However, the minimum number of Sabbatical Officer Trustees shall be reduced from three to two.

This reflects the reduction in the number of Sabbatical Officer roles from June 2026 from four to three.



UPSU Financial Report 2024/25

Sarah Davey
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 two Student Trustees form our Trustee Board
- The information shown in these slides is taken from our Trustee's report & Financial Statements for the 2024/25 financial year, which are available on our website

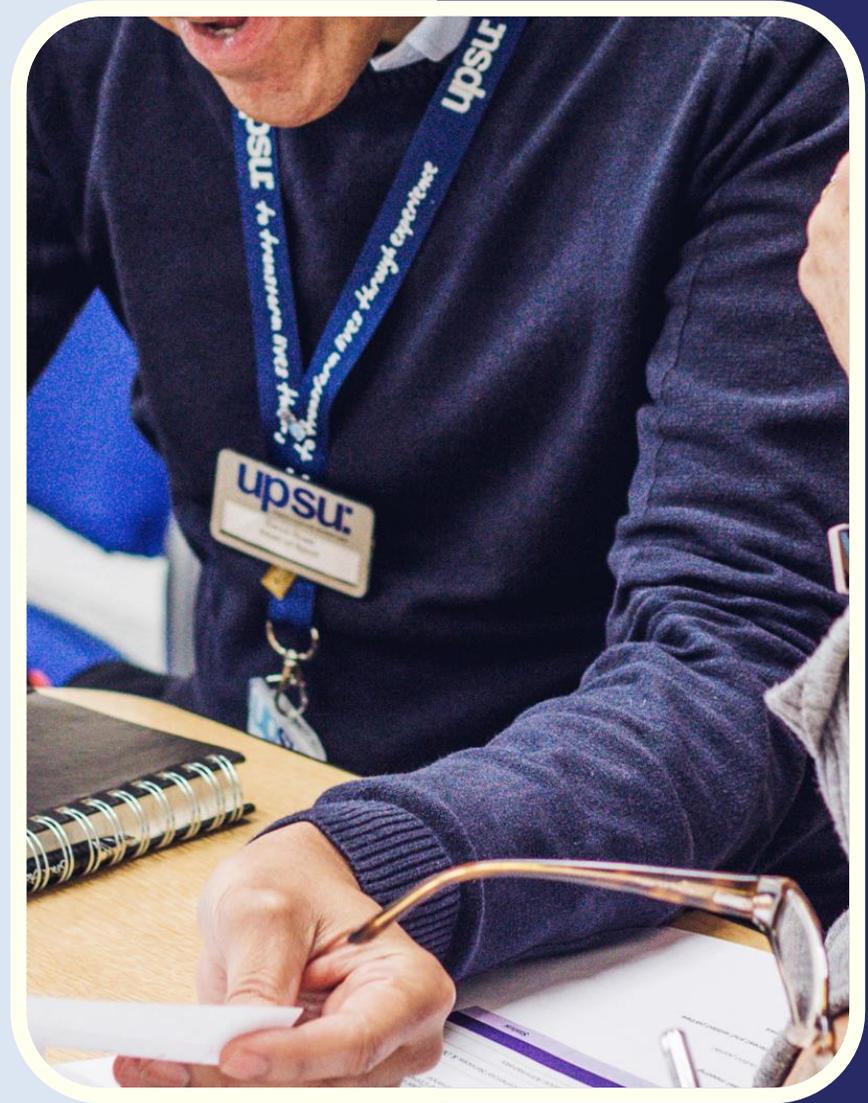
Financial Review 2024/2025

- Total income from all sources **£4.81M** (2023/24 £5.17)
- Total expenditure **£4.66M** (2023/24 £5.33M)
- We generated an operating surplus of **£151K**
(2023/24 deficit £158K)
This surplus is largely due to the SUSS Pension deficit.

The Students' Union Superannuation Scheme (SUSS) is a defined benefit scheme that closed to new members in 2011. However, participating SU's retain significant long-term liabilities for funding the scheme.

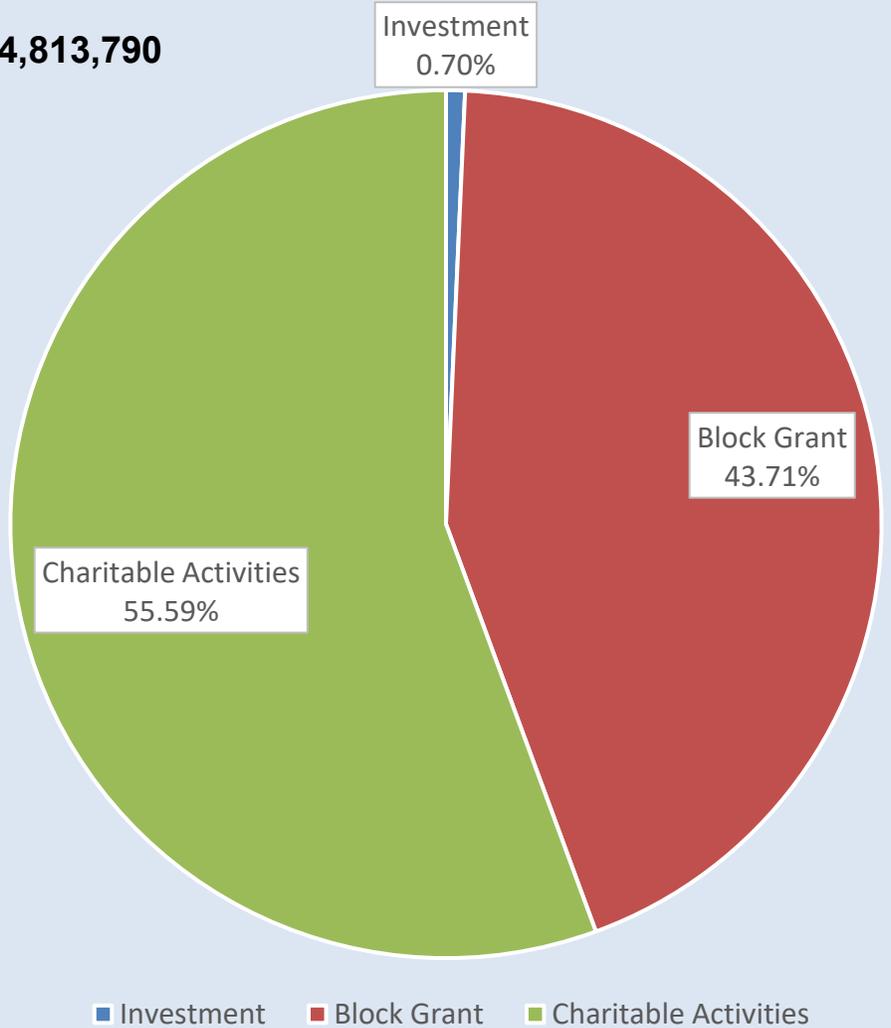
The SU budgets a set amount each year to pay this, but the annual costs are not fixed, they are linked to interest rates and the actual amount varies.

In the 24/25 financial year, interest rates were relatively high thereby decreasing liability. Conversely, falling interest rates increase liability.



Where does our income come from?

UPSU Income 2024/25 total of £4,813,790



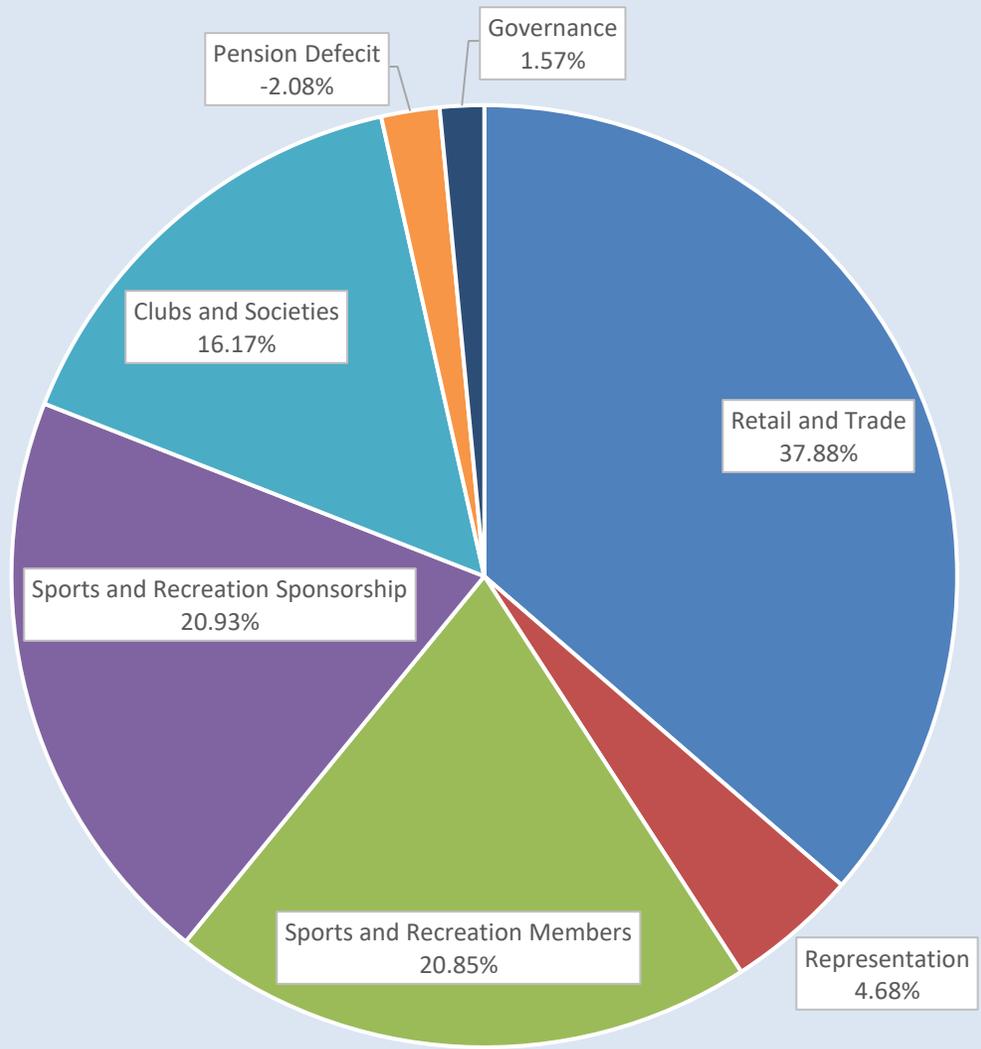
Summary of income since 2013

UPSU Income 2013 to 2025 (£000's)



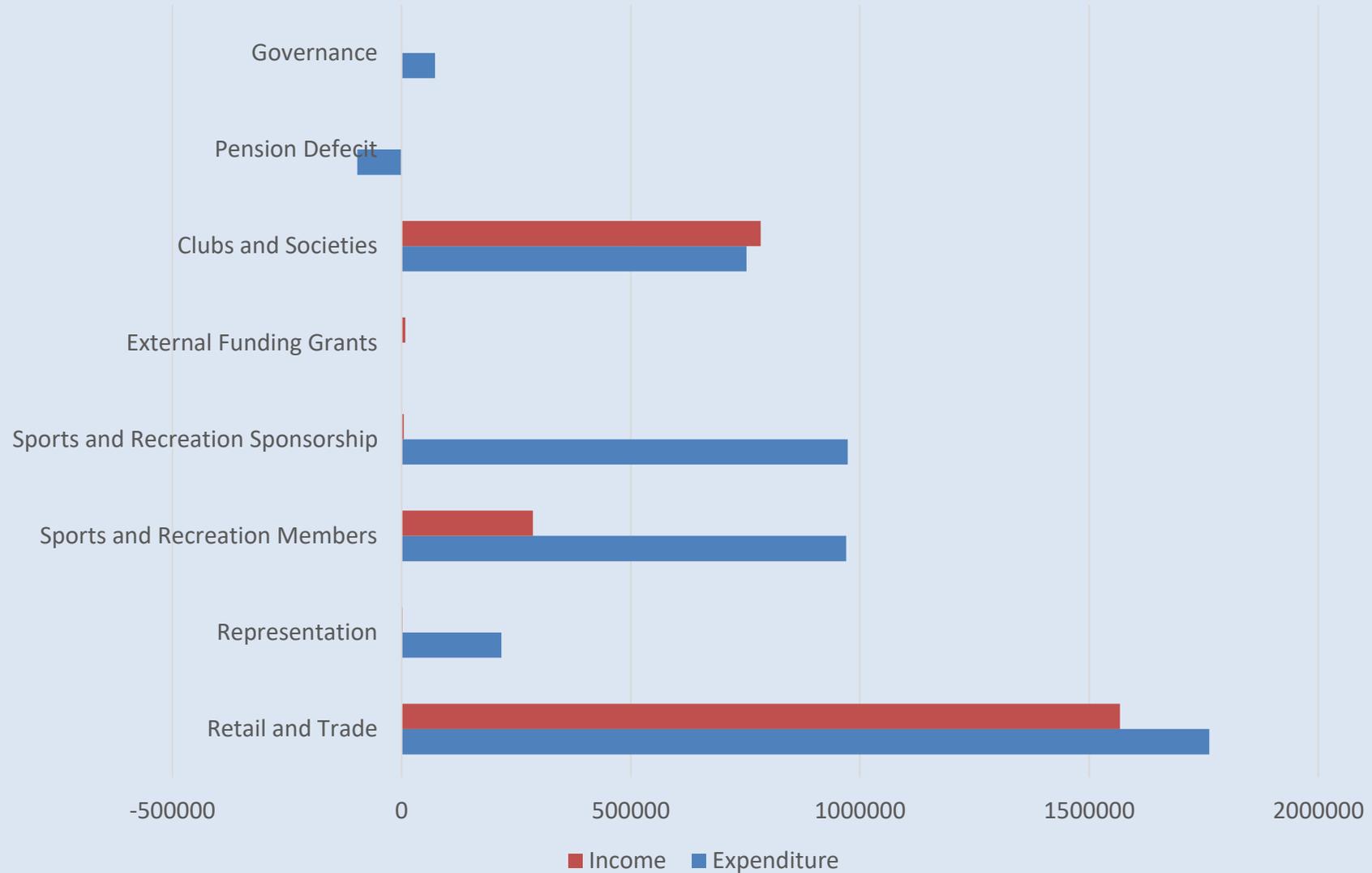
What do we spend our money on?

UPSU Expenditure – total £4,651,751



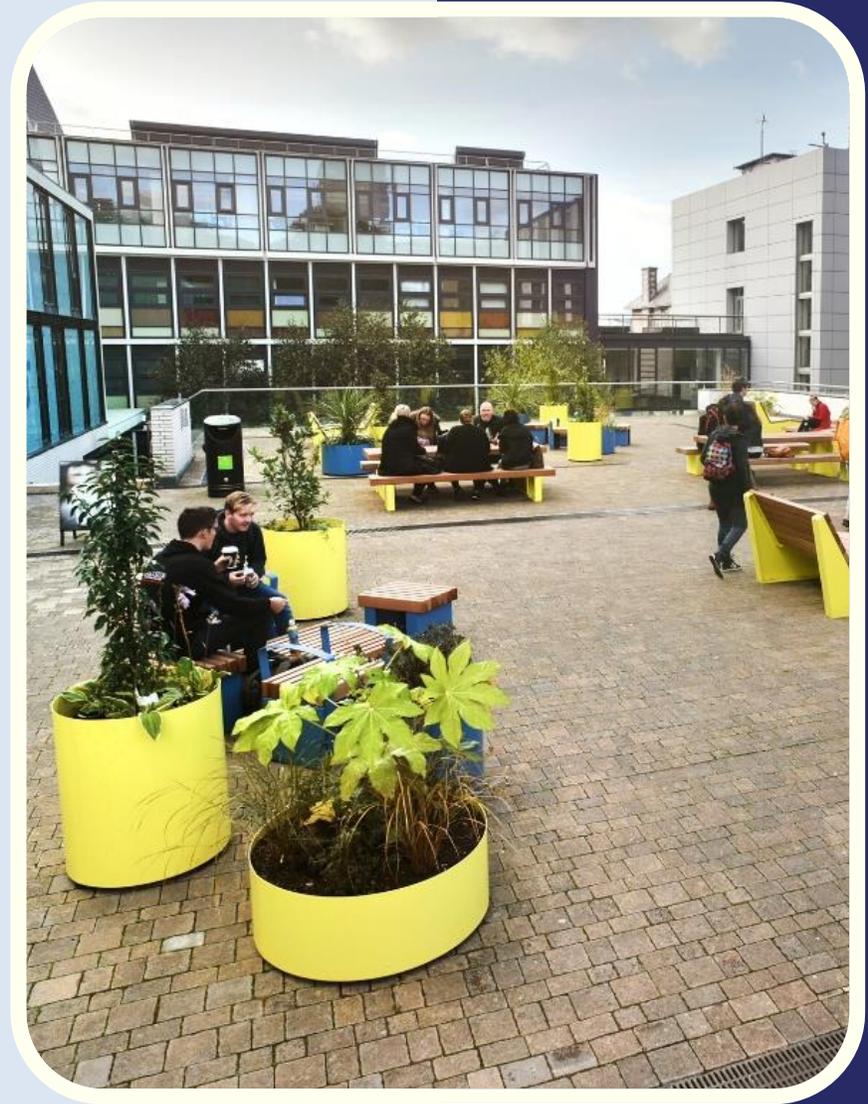
- Retail and Trade
- Representation
- Sports and Recreation Members
- Sports and Recreation Sponsorship
- Clubs and Societies
- Pension Deficit
- Governance

Income v's Expenditure



Summary

- Following a year end deficit of £158K in 2022/23 financial sustainability was a top priority for 2024/25.
- Ongoing increases in operational and staffing costs, coupled with a static block grant for a third year, alongside a below budget commercial performance were a constant challenge throughout the year.
- The 2025 financial year, ending on 31st July, saw a staffing reorganisation, which was implemented from 1st August 2025. This has changed the size and shape of the staff team, especially at a senior level, and has refocused resource back to fulfilling our charitable purpose.
- Following these challenges, to end the financial year with an operating surplus of £151k is positive. However, a significant part of this is down to a decrease in pension liability in 2024/25 (due to how this is calculated as it is linked to interest rates)





Any questions?

Please use the Q&A function



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 2023/24

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:

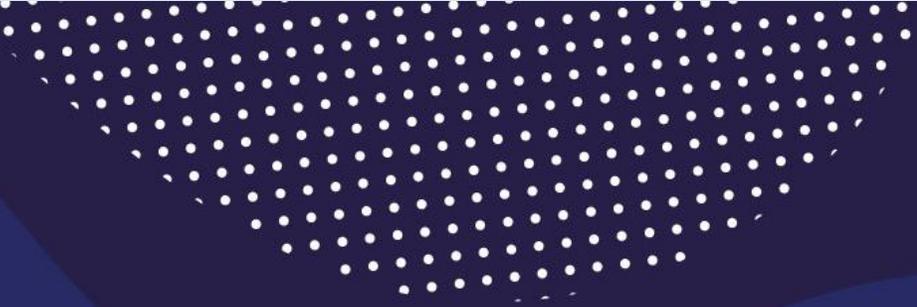
	2025	2024
	£	£
National Union of Students	8,125	7,500
NUS Services Membership	424	424
Advice UK	2,119	1,465
Cronier I	-	184
British Universities and Colleges Sports	12,091	14,192
ACCA membership	-	297
NASMA membership	439	405
WonkHE	4,612	4,100
Plymouth Social Enterprise Network	180	-
ICO	47	-
CIPD Subscription	382	-
	28,419	28,567



Any questions?

SU

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Reports



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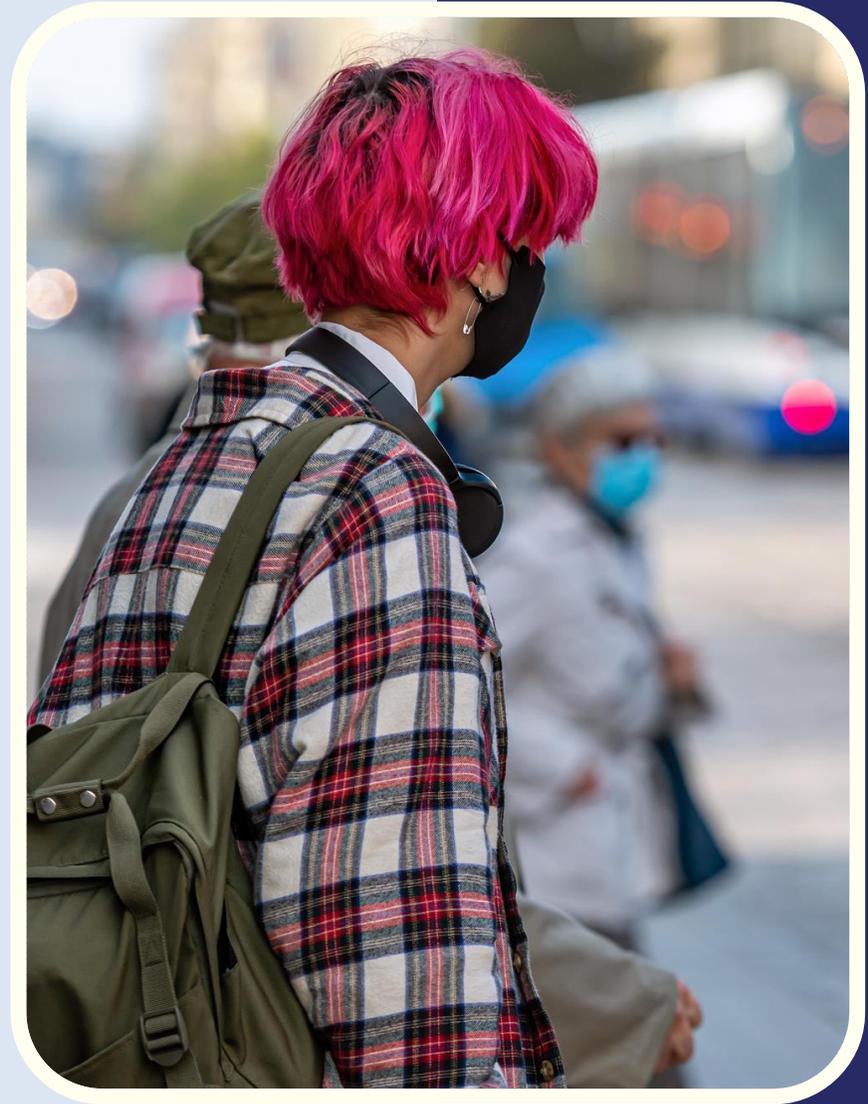
Board of Trustees Report

Dindu Okechukwu

UPSU President and Chair of the Board of Trustees

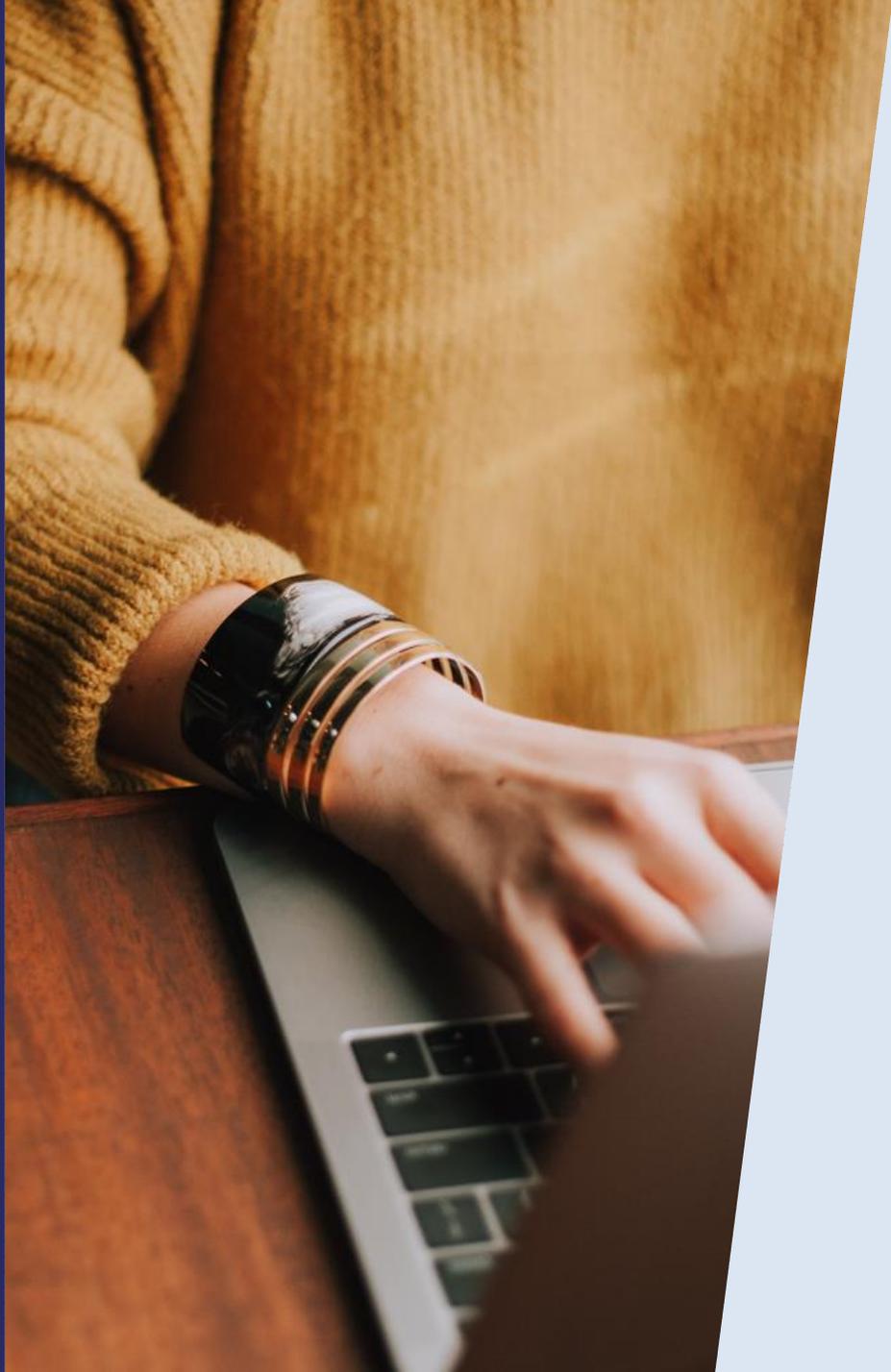
Board of Trustees Report

- The Board of Trustees is responsible for the strategic direction, governance, and sustainability of UPSU.
- The Board met 5 times in the year ending 31 July 2025 and considered amongst other issues;
 - the outcomes of the Board development review,
 - the outcomes of the organisational financial review,
 - the outcomes of the commercial review,
 - the development of representation via the changes to the elected Officer roles,
 - the SUSS Pension Scheme,
 - and organisational change to align with student engagement and financial sustainability.
- The Board also held two development days during the year and stood up two short-term working groups to focus upon organisational change and governance development.
- Financial sustainability was, and continues to be, a significant focus for the Board.

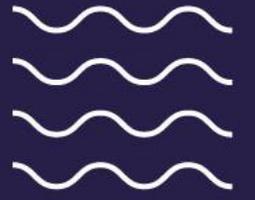
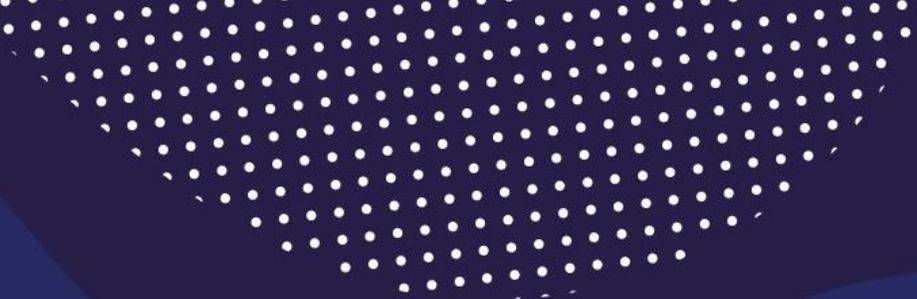




Sabbatical Officer Updates



Any Other Business



Thank you for attending

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

