

Meeting details			
Meeting name	Open Meeting		
Date	Wednesday 15 th October 2024	Time	18:00 – 19:00
Location	The Hive, Students' Union, Plymouth Campus		

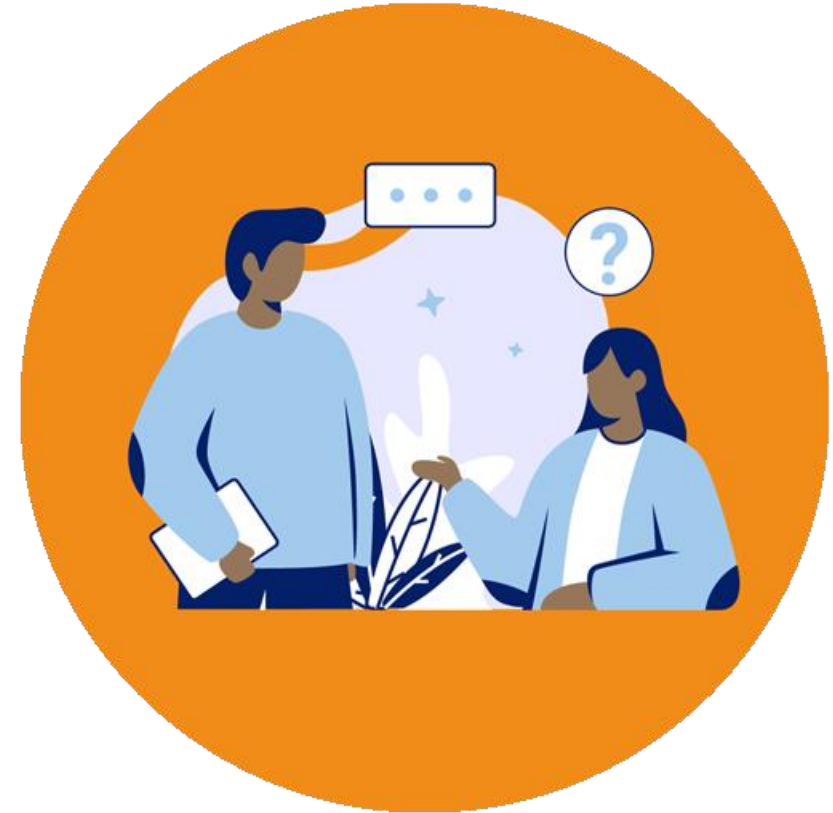
Minutes	
1. Welcome	Dindu Okechukwu – SU President opened the meeting
2. Attendance / Apologies	<p>Darcie Jones – VP Education Krupa Naik – VP Wellbeing and Diversity Joshua Frost – VP Activities Tracy Priestman – Representation and Democracy Manager Oli Horne – Director of Student Experience (Advocacy) Charlie Atkinson, Representation and Engagement Co-ordinator (minutes)</p> <p>11 Students, including: Emily Akister – School Rep for Peninsula Dental School Maria Stefan – School Rep for Engineering, Computing and Maths Amy Ferrary – School Rep for Plymouth Business School Kate Inman – School Rep for Biological and Marine Sciences Adam Holt -School Rep for Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences</p>
3. Minutes of last meeting	Inaugural meeting, no prior minutes for review.
Bye-law Refresh	<p>Presentation</p> <p>TP introduced the Byelaws of the SU. Explained what they are, and what the M&As are.</p> <p>TP explained that the proposal is to update and simplify the Byelaws.</p>

	<p>Next steps if passed would be to create how-to guides for policy and Byelaws.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>LA – How would students propose changes/amendments? TP – This has already passed from UPSU’s Trustee Board, any detailed changes would go back to the Trustee Board. Minor changes would be done in spaces like the Open Meetings.</p> <p>Voting: For - Unanimous</p> <p>Passed</p>
<p>UPSU Priorities</p>	<p>The Sabbatical Officer team shared a presentation around the priorities for UPSU for the Academic Year.</p> <p>These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Representation and Support • Cost of Learning • Mental Health and Wellbeing • Community and Friendship <p>There were no questions from attendees.</p>
<p>Sabbatical Officer Role Changes</p>	<p>OH introduced the changes to the roles and delivered a presentation on the data guiding the changes.</p> <p>Higher Education and SU landscapes have changed a lot over the years. The University is undergoing a lot of change. Current model not as effective in supporting students and the new model strengthen the student voice.</p> <p>Q – Change to Graduations – Change of location from Plymouth Hoe to Guildhall, and changes to graduation dates. Lose the experience of graduation on the Hoe. Originally moved due to Mayflower400.</p> <p>Q- Where is graduation? Next year Theatre Royal, long-term Guildhall. SU asked students what representatives should do. Academic support came out highest as a group.</p> <p>7000 students engaged in Club or Society, minority overall of around 19,000 students studying at UoP. Informed thinking around key responsibilities. Voter turnout circa 10% of students, members of clubs have a low turnout for elections.</p> <p>OH shared current officer team structure, explained at peak there was six officers. Outdated from smaller or historical structures in SUs. Education role has high levels of pressure. New roles spread responsibilities across faculties. Ideally, be viewed as a key contact for students within the faculty. SU President to focus on Wellbeing and Lifestyle. Keep paid SRs and voluntary CRs. Networks, Forums and Socs and Clubs outside of Ac Rep.</p>

	<p>Oli explained the benefits of the changes.</p> <p>Questions- Do students still vote to decide Sabbatical Officers? Yes, voting not defined yet. Faculty or cross-campus? Dean input coming.</p> <p>AHB student – wouldn't feel informed to vote on other Faculties. AH – SU President to deal with Clubs and Socs, best judges would be within their own Faculty.</p> <p>LA – SU election last year, met a student who only voted for their friends. OH – Data shows that student voice engagement is going down. Two Sabbatical Officers are Governors, all team meet regularly with VC. Students don't understand the power of the role. Elections still come down to popularity contest.</p> <p>AH – How will Governors be decided? DJ – Governors decided at the start of the year. TP – Previously election for second governor.</p> <p>LA – New model could be positive to be a level playing field.</p> <p>OH – Moving from VPs hopefully gets rid of the hierarchy in the team. UTLQC opened to all the VPs attending this year. Positive change. Potentially due to change upcoming in role.</p> <p>DO – Potential to strengthen SV. Hopefully increased number of students getting involved. OH – Promotion will come from Deans and faculties. Adopt and promote within the faculties. OH – Hopefully move away from endorsements.</p> <p>LA- Why two governors? OH- Unsure, not all unis have officers as Governors.</p> <p>OH – Website live for feedback, none so far. Expected concerns from Clubs or Socs, but none so far.</p>
<p>10. Dates for the diary</p>	<p>Next Open Meeting to be on 5th December.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">End of meeting</p>

Open Meeting

15th Oct 2024



Agenda

- Introduction
- Byelaws
- Student Priorities - Officers
- New Sabbatical Officer roles

Bye laws

What?

The students' union bye-laws are a set of rules and regulations that govern the operations, activities, and administration of the union.

The bye-laws are in place to ensure that the union functions democratically, transparently, and effectively, representing the interests of the student body.



Why?

- The current byelaws are:
- Outdated
- Difficult to use / navigate
- Not in a consistent ease of access format
- Overly complicated

Bye laws

Proposal:

- Simplify each Bye-law to cover essential points but allow for flexibility
- Use simpler, less legal language where possible.
- Remove any unnecessary bureaucracy.

Next steps:

- Ensure that all information relating to Bye-laws is updated (guidance and policies)
- Expand on current guidance documents to make sure students have all the information they need to fully understand and participate in union activities.
- Ensure guidance is consistently reviewed and updated when needed.

Bye laws

Voting:

- Voting will be by show of hands
- Votes For the proposal or Against the proposal will be counted
- Please raise your hand at the appropriate time.

Student Priorities

Mental Health

**Cost of
learning**

**Community
Friendship**

**Academic
representation**

Mental Health

- Focused activities for men Mindful Men
- Here If You Need
- Holistic Wellbeing
- Develop networks
- Student Wellbeing Group
- Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy



Cost of learning

- Support to manage money – education
- Awareness of student scams - navigating misinformation
- Create more work experience opportunities for students.
- Raising awareness of funding support



Community / Friendship

- Develop networks
- Develop the Buddy Scheme
- Help the introverted be introverts while building communities
- Promotion of civic benefit of students – improving community outlook of students within the city
- Culture and diversity



Academic representation & support

- Strengthening students voices in programme / school / faculty / university
- Focused and amplified support for students during times of high academic stress

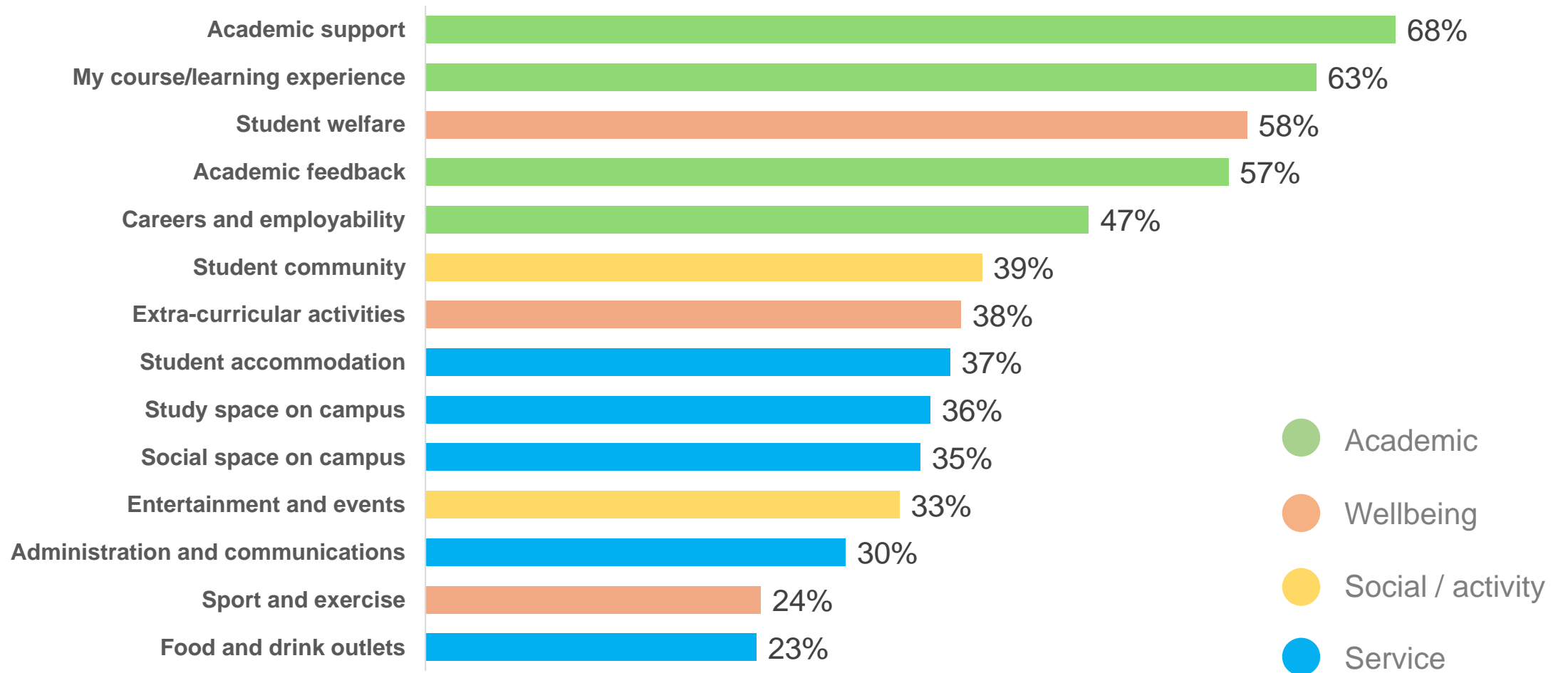


Changes to roles

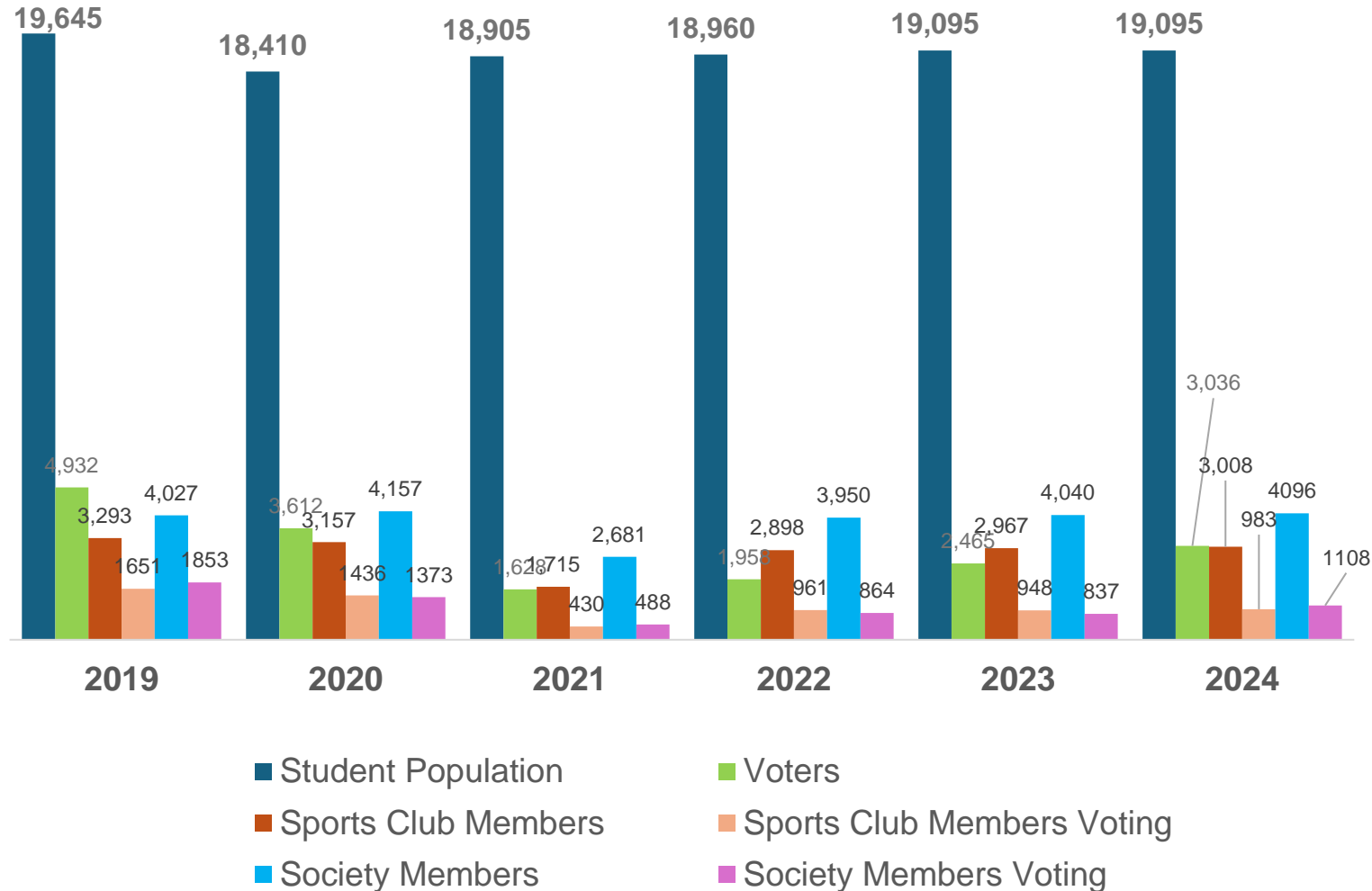
Strengthening your voice



Where would you focus representation at university to have the greatest impact on your university experience?



Officer Elections Voters

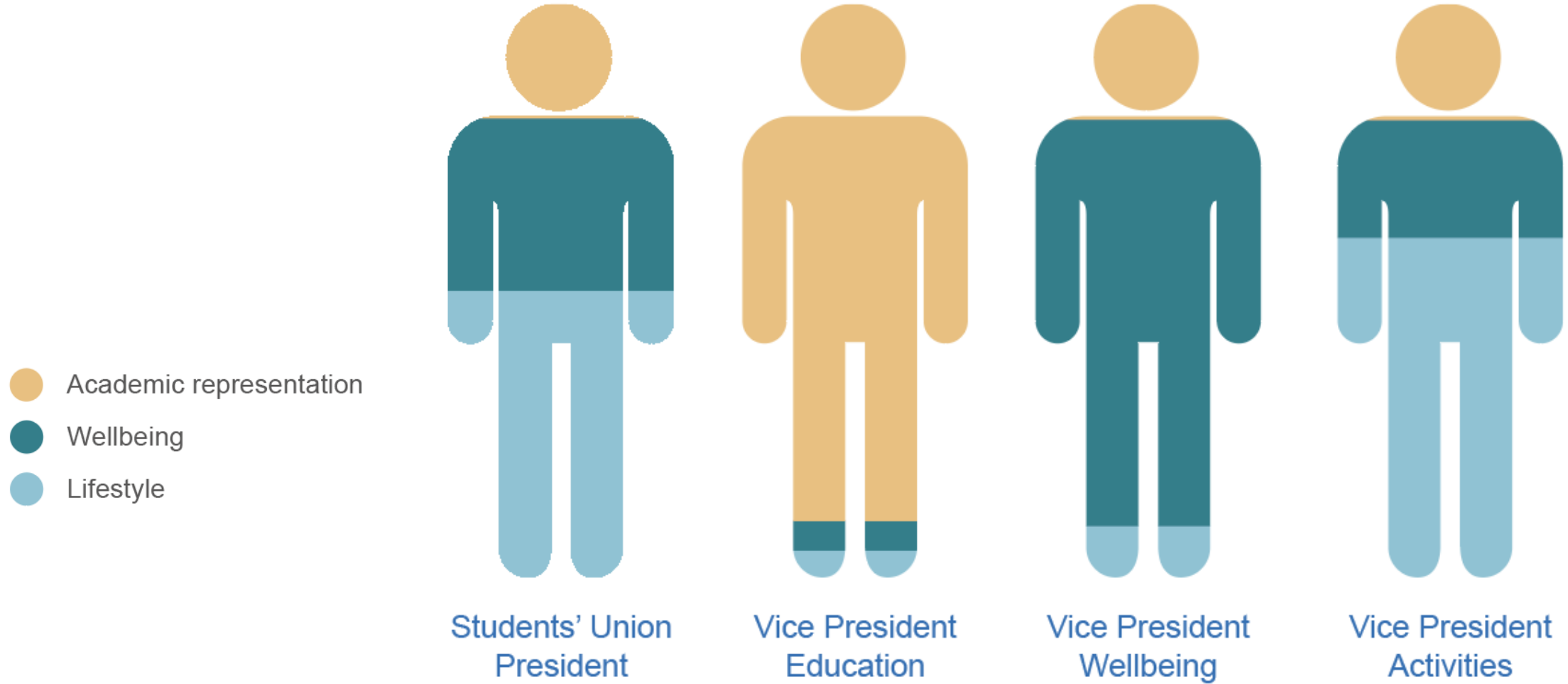


32% of sports club members voted
 32% of voters
 5% of student population.

27% of society members voted
 36% of voters
 6% of population

52% of voters were from a club or society
 8% of the student population

Current model (2024)



Future model (2025)

- Academic representation
- Wellbeing
- Lifestyle



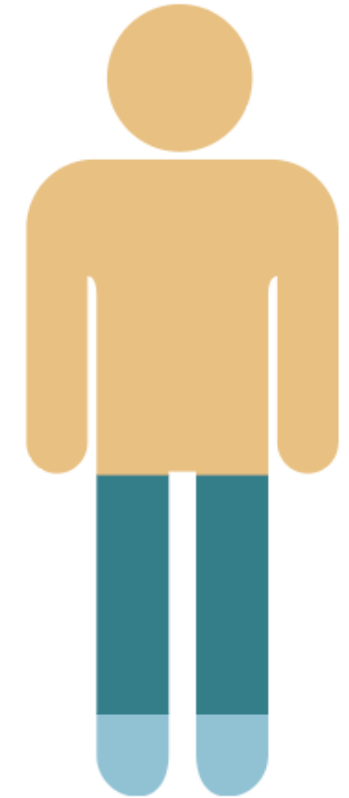
President
Students' Union



President
Faculty of Health



President
Faculty of Arts,
Humanities &
Business



President
Faculty of Science
& Engineering

Future model (2025)

Type	£	Faculty based	Quant'
Sabbatical	Paid	President Students' Union	x1
		President Faculty Science and Engineering	x1
		President Faculty of Health	x1
		President Faculty of Arts Humanities & Business	x1
Students		School Representatives	x12
Students	Volunteer	Course Representatives	x300

Outside of academic structures

Student Networks

Forums

Societies + Clubs

Benefits

- Greater focus on the academic experience
- Greater unity of student views, as all faculties will be represented
- Shared representative views on various subjects as opposed to one
- Greater influence into university systems by faculties
- Greater connection to the academic representation structures – closer linking to school and course representatives
- Less individualist views from representatives
- Move away from operational representative roles
- Less expectation on the Officers being the specialist in the portfolio.
- Addressing the imbalance of work load within the roles
- We will create a increased investment in the representation system from Uni
- Addresses issues of the SU being siloed away from the Uni and will help create a more cohesive institution – stronger voice of students

Voice > Ears

Students



University

Questions?