

Students' Union ⇄ University of Southampton

Relationship Agreement.

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

SUSU.
Our Students'
Union

Relationship Agreement

At the University of Southampton our students are central to all of our work. The strong relationship between the University and the Union is crucial to ensure we collectively support our student body to the highest level. Together, we are engaged in important process of educating and transforming the lives of our students.

Context

Both the Union and the University have clear strategies to deliver their missions and visions. This agreement is drafted within the context of the University Strategy and the Union Vision for the next five years. Fundamentally it ensures that students are placed at the centre of all actions to facilitate the university experience.

Our Missions

The Students' Union

Unlocking the potential and enriching the life of every student.

University of Southampton

To change the world for the better.

The Relationship Agreement

The University has established that there will be a recognised Union of Students in its Statutes. The Union has fulfilled that role since before the University Charter was established. The two parties have always enjoyed positive and respectful relationships. Moving forward we wish to strengthen those relationships at all levels of

both organisations and see this agreement as an outline of what that means. There is a separate acknowledgement of the expectations between students and the University which exists in the form of the Student Charter. This has also been developed by both parties.

Strategic Partnership

Together we ensure a spirit of partnership between the University and the Union informing the strategic direction of both parties and informing service agreements. We ensure informed engagement of the Union

representatives in institutional decision-making bodies as equals; this will be illustrated by Union representation on all relevant University decision making bodies.

Student Centred

We have a shared commitment to developing and improving our students' experience of academia and the full range of extra-curricular aspects of their lives. We will place this interest in students at the heart of everything we do.

Consultations

The Union and the University consult each other in a timely fashion, at the inception of ideas and before decisions are made about students ensuring sufficient time is allowed in planning and decision making processes to achieve this.

We will work together to agree appropriate consultation processes at the outset of each occasion.

Mutual Support & Commitment

All of our interactions are constructive. There is demonstrable commitment to making the relationship work through investment of time and resources. Both parties ensure good relationships are secured and access is given to the right people and information.

Accountability

The Union will be held accountable to the University as supervisor under the 1994 Education Act. The University is also the principal funder of the Union. This will operate within a mutually agreed framework which is robust, effective, efficient and compatible with the reporting requirements of other regulators (where relevant), such as The Charity Commission and Companies House.

The University acknowledges that the Union is a major stakeholder and the primary body representing the student voice and as such will ensure that the Union have membership at Council and Senate, the most senior decision making committees, where they can influence the direction, strategy and operations of the university.

Professor Sir Christopher Snowden

*President and Vice Chancellor
University of Southampton*

Openness & Trust

There is consistent full, open, regular communication on relevant issues, in particular issues likely to have an impact on the other party, the student population and/or other joint stakeholders.

Respect & Understanding

We have clarity about, and a mutual understanding of, the distinct roles of the University and the Union and the value that each party brings to the relationship.

We see benefits in the disagreement and tension which opposing views can create; the appreciative enquiry of our work together on these matters strengthens the outcomes.

Independence

We recognise the value of a strong, student-led students' union empowered to determine and manage its own affairs. This aligns with recognition of the need for the University to balance the interests of a range of stakeholders within an increasingly challenging external context.

Diversity & Equality

We have a shared commitment to equality and diversity and we check the impact of changes to existing practice to ensure the fair treatment of all staff and students.

In signing this Relationship Agreement, both the University's President/Vice Chancellor and the Union's President acknowledge that we will work together to embed the principles across both organisations. This agreement will be reviewed annually (and amended if necessary) and signed by each President.

Emily Dawes

*President 2018-19
University of Southampton Students' Union*

Practical Application

The Union provides:

Representation of student opinion or input to inform plans and decisions throughout the University

Support to the myriad of student groups which our students create

An independent advice service for our students

Support to all different cohorts of students

Advice, guidance and campaigns to improve students' living arrangements

A communication channel with the students

Together, we deliver:

Development of education

Enhanced student experience

Employability support

The University provides:

An annual block grant

Use and occupation of various facilities and physical spaces

Additional expertise and resource, for example Health & Safety

Student membership of all relevant University formal committees

An agreement for student membership of all relevant informal University committees

Student Development opportunities

Welfare support

Developing student focussed facilities

Review, Monitoring & Development

In the late summer the Director of Student Services will meet with the Union's Full-Time Officers and senior leadership team to establish how the relationship agreement will be brought to life in the coming year.

During the course of every year we will ensure a series of meetings take place to allow all

officers and the Vice Chancellor to meet with appropriate colleagues and discuss progress at the highest level.

At the end of each year, this relationship agreement will be jointly reviewed by both parties to identify whether any changes or improvements should be made.

The Union Sabbaticals & Senior Leaders 2018-19:

Emily Dawes *President*

Evie Reilly *VP Democracy & Creative Industries*

Samuel Dedman *VP Education*

Fleur Elizabeth Walsh *VP Engagement*

Stephen Gore *VP Sports Development*

Emily Harrison *VP Student Communities*

Isabella Camilleri *VP Welfare*

Scott McCarthy *Chief Executive*

Tony Addison *Director of Union Services*

Paul Davie *Director of Operations*

Sonia Cottrell *Director of Advice & Representation*

Chris Small *Director of Activities*