

## About volunteering with SUSU:

Our vision for the future is that every student loves their time at Southampton. We are here to represent the voice of students at every level and ultimately make their university experience unforgettable. Independent from the University, we're run by students, for students!

As a student-led organisation, the hard work and dedication of our student volunteers is vital to our mission.

Our Union Senate is the committee that holds the Sabbatical Officers and their student officers accountable to their plans for the year. This also includes reviewing the actions of the Sabbatical Officers to ensure they are representing students effectively. We have 16 Elected Senators and a Chair of Senate who sit on this committee alongside studying for their degree.

As Senator your focus is primarily on accountability and transparency.

We provide full training at the beginning of the year as well as advice and support as you continue in your role. You will gain a wealth of experience through your voluntary role with SUSU, experience that you can use to improve your future employability while receiving recognition for the work you accomplish.

## Main purpose of the role:

- 1) Scrutinising the work of Sabbatical Officers
- 2) Making decisions on high-level or wide-reaching issues

## Main responsibilities of the role

### Scrutinising the work of Sabbatical Officers

- *Receive and approve the Sabbatical Officers' yearly plans in the first Senate meeting of the year*
- *Ensure that Sabbatical Officers' are making sufficient progress against these plans, reading the relevant reports which update on this progress*
- *Attend meetings of Senate, and any relevant meetings as advised by the Representation team*
- *Ensure that Sabbatical Officers are taking necessary action on relevant 'You Make Change's*

## **Making decisions on high-level or wide-reaching issues**

- *Make decisions on issues or topics brought to Senate*
- *Take the lead on the Union's political decision making*
- *Take appropriate action where officers are underperforming or making decisions beyond their remit*

## **Ensuring process is followed in line with SUSU's democratic values**

- *Circulate information regarding Senate to the student population in good time*
- *Ensure the smooth running of SUSU's highest accountability body*
- *Promote engagement in senate and ensure all students are able to contribute to issues affecting the student body*

## **Where can you find guidance?**

- *Sabbatical Officer: [vpeddem@soton.ac.uk](mailto:vpeddem@soton.ac.uk)*
- *Representation Team: [representation@soton.ac.uk](mailto:representation@soton.ac.uk)*

## **How to nominate for the role:**

In order to stand as a candidate, you will need to submit a short statement letting everyone know why they should vote for you. You don't need to have any previous experience so simply focus on what you will achieve if elected.

Log in to our website at [www.susu.org/elections](http://www.susu.org/elections) and fill out the nominations form. There is no need to create a new account, just use your University credentials.

For any queries about the election, please contact us at [representation@soton.ac.uk](mailto:representation@soton.ac.uk).

## **Time Commitment and Expectations:**

The key times that you will need to be available are the three Union Senate meetings, these happen once each term. You will be invited and expected to attend additional meetings such as our Annual General Meeting, where you can keep up to date on all things SUSU.

If at any point you find that you are struggling to balance voluntary work with your studies, we understand that your degree must come first. Please come and speak to us and we will always try our best to make things easier.

## Our Values

As an organisation, our values underpin our work and guide what we live by in order to achieve our mission:



### Stand Strong

We stand up for students and make sure their voices are heard.

We stand strong when facing challenges and are not afraid to be different. We think big and work to achieve great things.



### Join Together

We are an inclusive and diverse community of students and staff.

We join together with each other, the University, and the local community to make a positive difference.



### Take Responsibility

We take action on the issues that matter to students and act with integrity.

We continually work to be more sustainable, challenging discrimination and prejudice. We strive to be a force for good for students and wider society.