Your Students' Union

STRATEGIC PLAN
2013-2017

uwe students' union
making a difference to students' lives
Our strategy sets out a challenging, but positive future for UWE Students’ Union. Based on extensive feedback from our members, this strategy identifies three core aims and key strategic foundations which will enable us to successfully achieve our vision.

As UWE Students’ Union and its members move forward, we want to make sure that students get the most out of their time at The University of the West of England. We want to represent the student voice, give exciting opportunities and build a community that our members are proud of. This plan shows how we will develop to support our ambition, whilst supporting, maintaining and improving the strong services we currently provide.

Our strategy is intended to be a flexible, evolving and developing plan to reflect what our members want and need. We will consult our members annually to confirm we are on the right journey and we are having a positive impact on the student experience. There is real drive, excitement and commitment at UWE Students’ Union to maximise all that we do for our members. We are proud to lead this proactive union with confidence for a positive future.

Charlie Roper
President & Chair of the Board of Trustees

Hugh Boyes
General Manager

Introduction

We consulted with you our members and other stakeholders by some surveys run in October and November 2012.

We had responses from 2,278 Students and 50 other stakeholders. Some of the key findings are on this page, the full results are at: www.uwesu.org/studentsurvey12

Using those results and workshops involving both students and staff we have developed this plan.

Our Consultation

Your top 6 priorities for us were;

- Listening & responding to what students want from their union;
- Providing help & advice to students;
- Representing the views of students to the university;
- Supporting sports clubs, networks & societies;
- Putting on more events & live entertainment;
- Providing employment & volunteer opportunities;

Introduction

Top 6 priorities
Our Vision: We will be recognised as a leading students’ union that all our students are proud of.

Our Mission: Making a difference to students’ lives
Key Strategic Aims
Strategic Plan 2013 - 17

- Giving You Opportunities
- Representing Your Voice
- Building Your Community
Representing Your Voice

Ensuring that we are listening to you, taking action and effecting change

Goals:

- To ensure your elected representatives are recognised as the voice for students;
- To have an outstanding academic student representative structure;
- To be the first port of call for evidence based student feedback;
- To demonstrate the impact your student voice has made;

What is Success?

- Evidence of change that has benefited students;
- Highly valued by the university;
- NSS score over 72%;
- All Student elections contested
- Students are aware of what the SU does and how to get involved

“75% of students said: Representing students’ needs and opinions was the main purpose of a Students’ Union”
Giving You Opportunities

Creating opportunities for you to maximise your experiences & development whilst at university

Goals:
- Increase opportunities for you to participate in a wide range of activities
- Nurture your enthusiasm, making it easier for you to participate in and enjoy new experiences
- Develop your skills & leadership to enhance your employability

What Success is?
- Increased recognition by HEAR of SU based activities
- Students having fun;
- Increased participation in SU activities;
- Increased recognition of student successes;

64% of students said: It was important that the SU provided extra-curricular opportunities for them
Building Your Community
Supporting & creating a diverse range of communities both on and off campus

Goals:
- We will bring people together, embracing and encouraging a wide range of communities on campus and actively celebrate unity & diversity;
- We will work with local communities to ensure student partnerships are active and recognised;
- We will focus on improving our offer to international students;
- We will create a fun environment and sense of community in your new building;

What Success is?
- Social engagement & events
- Thriving memberships of networks
- Increased volunteer numbers
- Active community partnerships
- Equally high satisfaction levels across all campuses

“50% of you said: The SU should provide a safe, comfortable place to relax and socialise.”
Key Strategic Foundations
Strategic Plan 2013 - 17

In order for UWESU to be a successful organisation the following foundations are essential to make it happen.
Key Strategic Foundations

Strategic Plan 2013 - 17

**Sustainability**
- To minimise the impact we have on the environment
- To be flexible, not afraid of change, willing to take risks

**Resources**
- Ensuring we have enough money, both now & for the next 3 years
- To adopt to changes in technology
- To ensure the new SU building is welcoming & fun

**Democracy & Governance**
- To ensure the governance structures support our democratic principles and is relevant to students
- To have a constitution that is alive and works
- For all trustee positions to be filled and for trustees to be actively engaged

**People**
- To invest in all our staff, volunteers and partners to help them develop
- To ensure that our staff feel valued and rewarded

**Communication**
- We will communicate clearly, regularly and consistently;
- We will listen, hearing the views of students and stakeholders is vital to our work;

**Partnerships**
- Working in partnerships is key to our success
  - Key Partners:
    - UWE
    - The local community
    - University of Bristol Union

**Outstanding Learning**
The SU will ensure that academic student reps are well trained and engaged to give the feedback to inform decisions around academic issues.
Ensure that other representative structures ensure feedback around services, so issues are raised and resolved.

**Ready & Able Graduates**
The SU will provide a range of opportunities for the development of key nonacademic skills through participation.
We will provide real work experience within the SU ranging from part-time jobs to year long placements.

**Strategic Partnerships**
We will enable students to take up volunteering opportunities or projects within the local community, building bridges with local schools

**Recognised & Celebrate Student Contributions**
In conjunction with the University we will celebrate the contributions of students to university life at a number of events throughout the year.
Key Objectives & Achievements at 2017

Strategic Plan 2013 -17

1. We will build on the current academic representation and drive forward national best practice to ensure we are empowering students to give increasing feedback to the university on their experiences.

We will have a new building that will provide us with a unique and exciting opportunity to celebrate student diversity and create a physical community.

2. We will achieve an NSS score of 72% or higher.

3. We will continue to drive and increase student participation in all that we do.

4. We will ensure that we are engaging with the local community so they see the value that students and the university add to Bristol.

5. We will continue to drive and increase student participation in all that we do.
Making a difference to Students' lives.

Trustees

Students’ Union President: Charlie Roper
Vice President Education: Megan Edmunds
Vice President Sport & Health: Chris White
Vice President Community & Welfare: Tom Renhard
Vice President Societies & Communications: Hannah Khan

External Trustees

James Clune
Peter Brasted
Craig Pocock

Student Trustees

Holly Manners
Chris Nicholls / Anthony Harding

Communicating with you

www.uwesu.org
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Contact us:

0117 32 82577  union@uwe.ac.uk
UWESU Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol. BS16 1QY

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1143067 and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no. 7675253.

Produced By: Hugh Boyes & Charlie Roper
Designed By: Laurie Jackson