

A cartoon character with orange hair, wearing a purple shirt with 'GLAS' on it, is holding a red megaphone. It is positioned above the 'AGM' text.

AGM 2026

Papers

Agenda

Officer Reports

- Activities and Opportunities (Freya Rowley) Officer Report
- Education and Community (Bianca Holland) Officer Report
- Welfare and Diversity (Iffat Jahan) Officer Report

Reports from the SU

- Report from the Board of Trustees

Motion Proposals

- Calling on the Students' Union to Support the UNISON Staff Strike at the University of Gloucestershire
- Improve Transparency and Consistency in Assessment Requirements for Research Master's Students

FREYA OFFICER REPORT

This year, I have focused on actively creating and expanding opportunities for students to get involved, develop skills, and feel part of a strong and supportive SU community. Through leading campaigns, launching new initiatives, and building partnerships in the local community, I have worked to ensure students not only take part in activities away from their studies, but gain meaningful and lasting benefits from university life.

Fed Up Campaign

As my priority campaign, I have led the development of 'Fed Up' to tackle student food insecurity while also equipping students with the skills and confidence to better support themselves.

I led the launch of the SU foodbank across Park and Oxstalls campuses, responding directly to student need after seeing over 70 requests for emergency food parcels before Christmas. I worked to ensure this service was not just reactive, but supportive and sustainable, by introducing structured processes and linking students with further support across the university

Alongside this, I developed and delivered a programme of free cooking classes in partnership with both on-campus and local organisations such as Pho and the Coconut Tree. With sessions regularly engaging between 6-14 students, I created opportunities for students to build practical cooking skills, improve confidence, and engage in a relaxed, social environment. Looking ahead to the next academic year I will be working hard to ensure students have the opportunity for one cooking class a month.

I have also built relationships with local charities and partners such as GloucesterFeed the Hungry, FreshHope and Wiggly, creating opportunities for students to engage with the wider community while supporting both student and local food initiatives. Through 'Fed Up', I have combined immediate support with long-term skill development, helping students feel

I more independent and better equipped to manage their finances and wellbeing.

Continuing this campaign into my second officer year, I plan to work more closely with students to look at options and costing across our sites.

TeamGlos Points

I introduced and developed TeamGlos Points to drive greater engagement between student groups, the SU, and the wider community.

Since launching the initiative, I have seen over 250 individual applications for points with clubs and societies achieving bronze, silver and gold status. I designed the scheme to encourage clubs and societies to go beyond their core activities, creating more opportunities for students to take part in volunteering, fundraising, SU events, and community engagement. Some great things have stemmed from the initiative, such as sport and soc collaborations, community outreach into schools and care homes, and, importantly, better engagement in democratic processes such as the EGM and elections.

Through this work, I have helped build a more connected and proactive student culture, while also recognising and rewarding the efforts of student leaders. I have continued to refine the scheme throughout the year to ensure it remains inclusive, accessible, and impactful for all groups.

Student Leader Accreditation

I developed and launched the Student Leader Accreditation programme to ensure students in leadership roles are gaining clear, transferable value from their experiences.

I designed the structure of the programme and secured external partnerships to deliver workshops focused on leadership, employability, and personal development. Working with Add Victor student recruitment and the university careers team, I have created a structured pathway for student leaders to reflect on their experiences and connect them to future opportunities, ensuring their involvement in clubs and societies has a lasting impact beyond university.

While feedback from these sessions has been really positive, im looking to plan a more structured and consistent set of sessions for students looking to participate next academic year.

Varsity

I have played a key role in developing and shaping the varsity campaign 'Own the Moment' to increase engagement, visibility, and student pride in sport. By leading on campaign planning, and supporting with branding, and content, I have helped reposition varsity as a more inclusive and engaging experience. Early content has reached over 12,000 views, demonstrating increased visibility and student interest.

My focus has been on creating opportunities for all students to engage with varsity, not just those competing and therefore helping to build a stronger sense of community and shared experience around sport.

Enhancing the Student Experience

Alongside these core projects, I have worked to enhance the wider student experience through sport, wellbeing, and inclusive opportunities.

I have supported and driven engagement in campaigns such as Movember, creating opportunities for students to come together through fundraising, challenges, and awareness-raising around men's mental health.

Through my role as BUCS Southwest Student Chair, I have extended my impact beyond the university, representing students at a regional and national level while bringing back ideas and initiatives to benefit our own student community. This has also increased the visibility of UoGSU externally.

I am also worked on inclusion-focused work such as Rainbow Laces, with plans to expand this further next year, working alongside other student officers to create more meaningful and visible opportunities for students to engage with inclusion in sport.

In addition, I have used my officer platform to significantly increase awareness of opportunities, with social media gaining over 130,000+ monthly profile views, helping more students access and engage with what the SU offers.

Overall

Over the past year, I have led on a range of initiatives that have directly increased opportunities for students, whether through access to support, skill development, leadership experience, or community engagement.

I have focused not only on delivering new ideas, but also on building sustainable projects that can continue to grow and benefit students in the future. With strong foundations now in place, I am well-positioned to continue developing and expanding these opportunities, ensuring even more students can engage, benefit, and feel part of the SU in the year ahead.



BIANCA OFFICER REPORT

This report covers the months of July 2025 to April 2026, this will cover, Course Rep Accreditation, Priority Campaign:GlosBound and a summary of what I believe is important students are aware of.

Course rep Accreditation

Reasoning behind CRA

- CRA rolled out and its requirements were listed during Course Rep training. [The PDF can be found on the website.](#)
- Several changes will be made to CRA next year, course reps will be consulted for these changes through a Microsoft forum that goes out at the end of April, start of May.

Below are some of the proposed changes

11. Looking to next year below are some changes / changes + variations I can make, please tick all the ones you like AND add any more! *
- Be able to see your progress through a shared **excel** (You would be able to see everyone's progress as well as your own)
 - Be able to see your progress through **ClassDojo** (A little childish with lil monsters and its a point system), so we would change CRA to a point system like 10 points = leader etc)
 - Change CRA to a point system. Many students have done bits and pieces on CRA but not everything in one section, therefore cannot progress further, if its done via points it would look like "Here's a list of task 1 to 3 is 5 points 4 to 6 are 10 points, Emerging is 15 points, leader is 20 points" allowing people to progress through the levels easier
 - TRY to have an online training suite so those who cannot attend Course rep training can do it online, it would be like a mandatory video + questions
 - Get rid of "skill sessions" will have to be replaced with something, unsure yet.
 - The "check in form" to be a drop down of all the requirements , so you don't have to flip between the form and the PDF
 - Having a complete separate version of accreditation for students who are on placement as part of their course
 - Change "Write/Help write a policy paper for student council" to "Contribute via sub-council or email to a policy paper " This encompasses both being able to contribute in the sub-council and over email, it also extends to contributing towards university policies
 - Have a time limit on accreditation. This would split September intake and January intake September:(October -> April) January:(January - June)

GlosBound

GlosBound's origin started with the move of courses to City Campus and the 1000 new international students there are a mass of new students in Gloucester who may feel lonely and isolated.

Data from two surveys proves how prominent loneliness is in our student community.

First my survey from welcomefayre Total participants: 85

- 74.1% of participants felt lonely (Scoring 4 or below)
- 66% of participants want to be invited to community-connecting activities
- 76.47% of those participants are based in Gloucester

Second, tag results from Re-fresh fair

- Total Participants: 48
- Conclusion was young people want to feel more connected to Gloucester and each other, Gloucester as a city want the economic benefits of students.

GlosBound had aims to reduce student loneliness by helping students feel at home in Gloucester. It focused in 3 main strands.

First, integrating students into local life and groups, this was competed in multiple ways.

The GlosBound Passport was a booklet with over 30 community groups, businesses, and organisations, making it easier for students to discover welcoming spaces and opportunities throughout the city. 150 were distributed at the WelcomeFayre. Further 50 were distributed by April 2026.

I developed the Community Access Fund, sponsored by Gloucester City Council, a one-year fund (2025/26) that helps students cover costs to take part in community activities, workshops, sports, and cultural events within the city removing cost as a barrier.

- GlosBound Goes Ghost was a Halloween themed event, delivered to promote the Community Access Fund, a one-year initiative made possible through support from Gloucester City Council. The fund enables students to take part in community activities helping them feel more connected and engaged with the city by removing the cost barrier.

- The uptake on the Community Access Fund has been unsuccessful, investigations into why will go ahead. Currently my thoughts are it was too hidden on the website and the name makes it seem like a 'struggle fund'
- On the national front, I met with Max Wilkinson MP (Cheltenham) to discuss the future development of Cheltenham, including the Golden Valley project, and how course offerings can align with local priorities and enhance the town's appeal to students. I also met with Alex McIntyre MP (Gloucester) to discuss the development of Gloucester, including the University of Gloucestershire's presence, and how he can support student-related initiatives. A meeting is scheduled with Cameron Thomas MP (Tewkesbury) on 23 April with a group of students who study at Oxstalls.

Second, embedding students in decision-making spaces, which allow them to feel a part of shaping the community.

- The creation of the Gloucester Student Forum, hosted by Gloucester City Council in collaboration with UoGSU, Hartpury, and Gloucester College brings student reps and key organisations together to improve student life, address challenges, share updates, and support events
- The Gloucester student forum has met thrice, following the 3 meetings Hartpury's president and I met to develop a revised structure for the Gloucester Student Forum for the upcoming year, to become a more productive space.

Representatives from Hartpury University Students Union (who represent the collage), a representative from University of Gloucestershire Students Union and a representative from GlosCollage

- Police/CIP's/City Safe
- Active Glos
- Sportily
- County Employability and skills group
- City Council representative
- Community liaison provider at County/City/External

Voice in your community was a conference style event that took place on the 18th of February at Oxstalls Su in which 2 longleaven councillors came to talk to students and understand what their needs and priorities are. As well as explaining what their role in local and national government is, to help students understand that they have a voice in their local community and these are the people to ask.

From the example of GlosBound's Gloucester student forum, I had arranged to meet 4 Cheltenham councillors on the 20th of February to begin the formation of a Cheltenham student forum. A forum was not created however there a pockets of activities are going on. Such as, security around Pittville during race week, road crossing across FCH, general race week safety, housing concerns.

Third is building infrastructure for student opportunities so they feel that they have opportunities where they are studying.

I have developed partnerships with local organisations, such as the Canal & River Trust, who are offering placements and volunteering in admin, events, social media, and communications.

While GlosBound will not be a priority campaign next year, it will continue in a reduced capacity to support the development of a community network across Gloucester and Cheltenham. This shift reflects the increasing prominence of cost-of-living concerns among students, which I believe should become the primary focus moving forward.

Wider Representation & Campaign Work

Alongside priority campaigns, significant work has been undertaken responding directly to current issues in the local and national level and student concerns.

Through "You Said, I Did" communications and direct engagement, I have:

- Escalated accommodation concerns and safety issues
- Secured improvements to campus facilities
- Raised academic concerns including assessment and teaching quality
- Begun work on transport and accessibility issues
- Collected student feedback regarding the implementation of feedback tool powered by generative AI. This feedback has been collated and submitted to the AI Special Interest Group (AI SIG) for further consideration.

At a national level, I led work responding to proposals affecting grade discounting. This included policy development, collaboration with other Students' Unions, and engagement with external stakeholders.

At a local level the primary focus at present relates to Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) within Gloucester. There is an ongoing consultation concerning the introduction of an Article 4 Direction, alongside proposed changes to HMO licensing regulations. The Article 4 proposals aim to reduce the density of HMOs in specific areas. However, these areas currently house a significant proportion of the student population, as well as lower-income residents. A likely consequence of these changes is the displacement of students to alternative areas such as Tuffley and Quedgeley. This may alter existing community dynamics and shift housing pressures elsewhere. To support student engagement with the consultation, we facilitated a “Playhouse” activity during Arena Day. Students were invited to share their views on the proposals, and this feedback was subsequently presented as part of the consultation process.

Reflection & Next Steps

This year has focused on building stronger connections between students, their university, and the wider community. Through both strategic campaigns and responsive representation, progress has been made in ensuring students feel heard, supported, and connected.

The work delivered provides a strong foundation for continued development in student voice, community engagement, and representation.





IFFAT OFFICER REPORT

Overview:

As a welfare and diversity officer one of my core aims is to provide an inclusive environment for all the students of UOG no matter whatever their background or religion. So, they can thrive into their university life without any barriers. Not only that I have worked for this whole academic year to provide support and wellbeing according to their needs and amplify their voices according to their concerns towards relevant departments. For that reason, I have planned my whole year's priority campaign month by month tied to heritage events named "Unmask".

July Activities:

- I have received necessary training related to EDI.
- I developed my year-long campaign strategy, centring it around issues that truly matter to students.
- I attended the meeting for the first time with the executive committee of UOG, where we discussed how can we work collaboratively to better support student wellbeing and inclusion across campus.
- I have also started planning for welcome event for the September intake to make sure new students feel at home right from the start.
- I have attended the meeting with the academic board for the first time to represent student voices in key discussions.
- Moreover, I have shortlisted candidates for the SU Student Advisor role to ensure strong and compassionate support for our community.
- Alongside other officers involved in our joint campaign to bring collective change.
- I also had the opportunity to taken part in the interview panels for SU Student Advisor and External Trustee for Finance where people's stories and visions was inspiring.
- At the same time, I have been trying to address timetabling concerns, knowing how much this impacts many of you.

August Activities:

- I attended the NUS Lead and Change workshops with fellow student officers, where I connected with officers from other universities and learned how they approach student representation. Their perspectives helped me navigate ways to improve our support for students.
- Alongside my fellow officers, I visited our new City Campus to familiarise ourselves with the space and connect with the student community there.
- I joined a TEF meeting to share student concerns and promote inclusivity in academics.
- I attended Transitions Day at Park Campus with the Activities and Opportunities officer, engaging with students with disabilities to gather issues for improving accessible services.
- I have begun collaborating with Catherine to explore effective strategies for a career skill development project aimed at supporting international students.
- Started to improving resources for the “Think Before You Ink” housing awareness campaign.
- Met with the Cabinet Member for Housing on student safety, addressed welfare concerns, and worked with support teams.
- I met with Gather and Gather to discuss adding halal choices in the cafeteria and improving student employability through cafeteria.
- Furthermore, met with the Police Community Support Officer to address student safety and well-being concerns, ensuring a safer environment on campus.
- I met with our Money Advice Manager, and together we discussed potential collaborations to help students financially and improve available resources.

September Activities:

- I attended a University Leadership Committee meeting and collaborated with the Education and Community Officer to collect student feedback for the personal page project.
- I have attended the monthly BOT meeting with my fellow officer.
- We updated our office.
- We were thrilled to meet our Hartpury officers, and we enjoyed taking part in lots of activities together.

- I also had a productive meeting with Jeorge from move your way team where we discussed ways to engage more students in swimming.
- I attended the Mature Students' Pre-Induction Services Fair and met many clubs, sports teams, and societies, as well as took part in the Student Leaders Training Programme.
- Alongside this, I was busy preparing for inductions and the upcoming Welcome Fayre.
- I set up my wish tree at the welcome fayre, spoke with students, introduced my Unmask campaign, and discussed its goals and significance.
- We, officers worked hard to organise the first EGM, which received an excellent response.
- I also had the opportunity to share my own journey as an MSc International Business by Research student, which sparked some great conversations.
- Joined Pride in the Park and Rainbow Cuppa and attended a productive meeting with the Student Futures team.

October Activities:

- This month, I spent a lot of time engaging with students to listen to their voices, experiences, and concerns. Many students shared their challenges.
- I attended the University Leadership Team meeting as part of my regular routine, where I raised several important concerns shared by students. By putting student feedback at the heart of university choices, this meeting not only fostered a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all members of the community.
- After a successful EGM I was working hard on planning the upcoming Welfare Rep elections so students can stand and have their voices heard.
- Alongside this, I attended key meetings with the Management Committee to discuss how we can keep improving student support.
- I have launched the Story Sharing Wall, for Black History Month, invites students to share their thoughts on this year's theme (Standing Firm in Pride and Power).

The wall encourages story sharing, celebrates diversity, and promotes understanding across our campus community.

November Activities:

- Earlier this month, I was busy helping with the students' council election in support of democracy. The students took an active part in the process.
- I have relaunched the wish tree at the housing fair to collect expectations and feedback from. This initiative aims to assist landlords in enhancing accommodation experiences by communicating concerns related to housing.
- I have worked with our new Welfare Representatives to understand their views and support them in their roles, and I've been impressed by their enthusiasm and dedication.
- I invited students to submit questions for the Vice Chancellor and appreciate those who participated.
- I organised International Students' Day to foster inclusion within the university community. The event offered students a platform to share both a challenge and a strength related to their experience as international students.
- I was grateful for the chance to deliver a graduation speech and share my experiences.
- Additionally, I worked with the University Income Team to run finance pop-up sessions at Park and Oxstalls campuses, helping students set up direct debits and resolve fee related queries.
- I worked with the University Career Support Team to organise a session which gave international students practical interview tips and boosted their confidence.

December Activities:

- I participated in Student Council training, ensuring our representatives are equipped to serve effectively.
- I participated in the Academic Board meeting, discussing governance and policy, and attended the SLSA Awards to recognize staff achievements.
- I attended the first Welfare and Diversity sub-Council meeting, which was both informative and productive.
- I attended the Student Council meeting as well, where I both shared my own updates and heard reports from all the other councils.

January Activities:

- I have offered support and listened to the concerns of students during the exam period.
- I have attended opening ceremony of city campus and had a chance to meet with HRH Princess ANNE. Which was a milestone experience for me.
- I have also created a Ms form for International Education Day to collect feedback from students to unmask educational challenges in welfare and diversity.
- At the end of the month, I have been invited by the Bangladesh high commissioner along with other Bangladeshi-origin Sabbatical officers from across the UK to discuss how we can work collaboratively to better support our students. I have attended the meeting and raise some key issues on behalf of our students.

February activities:

- I have hosted my Art of Hello event, and the level of student engagement was incredibly encouraging. Students shared how they say hello through art from their own cultures which made the event truly meaningful and inclusive.
- I also attended the BBQ party organised by the ISOC, which was a great opportunity to connect with students in relaxed setting.
- On top of that, I have also raised concerns about the lack of part-time job opportunities in Gloucester area during my discussion with Gloucester MP and ways to improve employment for students.
- With my other fellow officer, I worked to engage students and provide guidance on sexual health and awareness through some fun activities during SHAG week.
- I have also raised concerns with International Students Experience Group related to attendance monitoring through Jisc and the need for improved support for our students.
- Furthermore, I have made a video with our students of UOG from different countries for International Mother Language Day. Which has been shared on social media of both UOG and The Bangladesh High Commission. Later, I have been invited to UK parliament by Bangladeshi committee.

- High Commissioner for my incredible IMLD video and to celebrate The International mother language day with other ambassador from the different parts of the world.
- Moreover, I have also raised concerns related to accessibility for disabled students at the city campus during my meeting with university executive

March Activities:

- I have joined the open day at the city campus to represent our students' union.
- I also attended several meetings, including voice to VC, the Audit and Risk committee, the academic board, and the access & participation committee.
- Alongside these, I have joined events for International Women's Day, where I heard powerful stories from the speakers and reflected on work-life balance as a woman in a leadership role.
- I have also attended the iftar party organised by ISOC which was a wonderful opportunity to come together, share a special moment and celebrate community.
- At the middle of the month to end of the month, I have been busy with the SU full time officer Election.

Ongoing project:

1. Global pop-up Village





BOT REPORT

UoGSU Report of the Year 2024/25

2024/25 has been another important year for the University of Gloucestershire Students' Union as we continued delivering the first year of our 2024-27 strategy: University Life: Unlocked.

At UoGSU, we exist to help students unlock opportunities, overcome challenges and build communities that make university life memorable.

Throughout the year we focused on three key priorities:

- Delivering the core role of the Students' Union
- Developing student communities
- Being a critical partner to the University

This year saw continued growth in student engagement, strong progress in representation and campaigning, and increasing recognition of the value of the SU Advice Service. Alongside this, we continued supporting students through the ongoing cost-of-living challenges facing many of our members.

Student Voice & Representation

Student voice remained at the heart of everything we do during 2024/25.

Our Course Representative and Student Voice schemes continued to support students to influence teaching, learning and the wider student experience. Thousands of pieces of student feedback were gathered through our "Voice It" and "Change It" systems, helping drive improvements across the University.

This year also saw the development of a new approach to student representation. Following a review of the Student Voice Assistant model, plans were introduced to move towards larger campus-based Student Voice Community Organiser roles from 2025/26, enabling broader engagement with both academic and non-academic student issues.

UoGSU also continued to represent students externally through local community groups, partnerships and discussions with local stakeholders.

Advice & Student Support

Our independent Advice Service continued to grow throughout the year. The service supports students with academic appeals, complaints, disciplinary matters and wider university processes. As awareness of the service increased, more students accessed support during some of the most challenging periods of their university experience.

Alongside formal advice, UoGSU continued delivering welfare support and signposting students towards help when needed.

Clubs, Societies & Student Communities

Student communities continued to thrive during 2024/25.

- Over 800 students volunteered in leadership and representative roles
- More than 60 clubs and societies operated across the year
- Students organised events, competitions, campaigns and community activities across campuses

Our sports teams achieved success across BUCS competitions, with several teams securing promotion. Varsity with Worcester Students' Union returned across a full week of fixtures and events, engaging thousands of students across Gloucestershire and Worcester.

The annual SU Awards, held at Cheltenham Town Hall, brought together more than 180 students to celebrate achievement, leadership and contribution across sport, societies, volunteering and representation.

Events & Student Experience

Creating opportunities for students to connect remained a major focus throughout the year.

Welcome events included:

- Quiz nights
- Plant sales
- Drag bingo
- Mocktail masterclasses
- Social and community activities across campuses

Our Welcome Fayre welcomed more than 2,000 attendees, showcasing over 50 clubs and societies alongside external organisations and partners.

Across the year, UoGSU supported more than 70 student-led events within SU spaces, helping students build friendships, communities and memories during their time at university.

Increasingly, our events programme focused on low-cost and accessible activities that supported students facing financial pressures.

Financial Overview

UoGSU remained financially stable throughout 2024/25 while continuing to invest in student services and opportunities.

Key figures:

- Total income: £896,951
- University block grant: £579,700
- Income from charitable and commercial activity: £265,311

Commercial partnerships, branded merchandise and sportswear collaborations continued to provide important additional income which supports wider SU services and activities.

The Union ended the year with healthy unrestricted reserves, helping ensure long-term sustainability and resilience in a challenging higher education environment.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the second year of our 2024-27 strategy, UoGSU remains focused on:

- Strengthening student representation
- Expanding support services
- Building inclusive student communities
- Supporting students through cost-of-living challenges
- Developing new partnerships and funding opportunities

The opening of City Campus and changing patterns of student life continue to shape how we deliver services. During the year, we adapted our staffing and campus presence to ensure students can easily access support and opportunities wherever they study.

We also continue working closely with other Students' Unions and sector partners to share best practice and explore new ways of improving outcomes for students.

MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Title

Calling on the Students' Union to Support the UNISON Staff Strike at the University of Gloucestershire

Proposer

Adam Herrington

Secunder

Andrew Adshead

Motion Summary

This motion proposes that the Students' Union supports the strike currently taking place at University of Gloucestershire, where university staff organised under UNISON are striking for fair pay.

It aims to get the Students' Union to publicly support the strike, as these workers are essential to the running of the university and have been receiving below inflation pay offers for the last seventeen years.

By supporting this strike, the Students' Union can help in the struggle for fair pay on campus.

Union Notes

- Over recent years, UNISON has consistently raised concerns regarding the erosion of staff terms and conditions at the

- the University of Gloucestershire. These concerns relate not only to pay, but also to workload, equality between staff groups, and the University's ability to recruit, retain, and motivate a committed workforce.
- In the context of sustained inflation, increasing sectoral competition for staff, and the ongoing 2025/26 national pay dispute, these issues have become more acute. The nationally proposed 1.4% pay award does not reflect cost-of-living pressures faced by staff, nor does it adequately support workforce stability or morale.
- University had previously budgeted for a 2% pay award for 2025/26, meaning that the 1.4% pay award actually represents a saving, relative to budget

Union Believes

- It is important to remember that staff working conditions affect our learning conditions as students. If we are to receive the best education, we need to make sure that staff are able to make ends meet.
- The cost of living crisis affect us all – yet because all pay offers that the university staff have been offered over the last seventeen years have been below inflation, they have amounted to real-terms pay cuts.
- It is important that we build solidarity between students and staff, as their conditions are both at the behest of the university management.

Union Resolves

- For the Students' Union to publicly support the strike, through all available communication channels (social media, emailing students directly, on the MyGlos app, etc.).

- For the Students' Union to write a letter to the Vice-Chancellor (Clare Marchant) asking for them to take up the demands of the striking workers. This letter should be published for students to see.
- For the Students' Union to organise activity in support of the strike – for Students' Union leaders to attend picket lines in an official capacity, and help organise solidarity demonstrations.



MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Title

Improve Transparency and Consistency in Assessment Requirements for Research Master's Students

Proposer

Graceanna Otobo

Secunder

There is currently no secunder if one is not found, this motion will not be discussed at the AGM.

Motion Summary

This motion calls for clearer, earlier communication of assessment requirements for Research Master's students, so they are not disadvantaged by unexpected changes after enrolment.

Union Notes

- Some Research Master's students have experienced unexpected changes to assessment requirements after enrolment. For example, modules or exams that were not clearly outlined at the point of application have later been introduced, creating confusion and additional pressure.
- Many students applied to research-based programmes based on their strengths in independent research, academic writing, and prior experience.

Union Believes

Sudden changes to assessment structure can create challenges such as:

- Difficulty planning and managing workload effectively
- Increased academic pressure due to unfamiliar assessment formats
- Misalignment between students' expectations and actual course delivery
- Reduced confidence in academic performance due to unclear guidance

Union Resolves

This motion proposes that the Students' Union work with the university to:

- Ensure full transparency of all assessment requirements before and at the point of enrolment
- Avoid introducing significant changes to assessments without clear communication and sufficient notice
- Provide tailored academic support for students transitioning into unfamiliar subject areas

This would promote fairness, improve student experience, and ensure that students can make informed decisions about their studies.



Annual General Meeting 2025



Date: 14/05/2025

Time: 17:00 – 18:30

Chair: Karina Whelan

Voting Members Present

Ness Garratt (NG) – Activities and Opportunities Officer

Kit Boulting-Hodge (KBH) – Education and Community Officer

Bobola Ajibola (BA) - Welfare and Diversity Officer

Karina Whelan (KW) – Chair of Student Council

9 Total Student Members (SM)

Supporting Staff Members Present

Lou Fensome (LF) – Chief Operating Officer

Drew Humphry (DH) – Student Voice and Campaigns Coordinator

Voting Rights

The individuals eligible to vote included 9 students and 3 elected Full Time Officers (FTOs). Each vote resulted in a different count, indicating that all eligible voters did not participate in each voting instance.

Minutes

Agenda Point	Minutes	Owner
<i>General Introductions</i>	<i>General introductions commenced, and voting members were informed of the importance of an AGM and how to cast their votes.</i>	<i>KW</i>
<i>Approval of the Minutes and the Last Meeting</i>	<i>The minutes of the last meeting were approved with the vote being as follows: Approve: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 1</i>	<i>KW</i>
<i>Updating Items – Full-Time Officers Yearly Reports</i>	Ness (Activities and Opportunities Officer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>– Provided spike aware resources in SU spaces and events</i><i>– Carried out the SOSUK Drugs and Alcohol Survey with 162 respondents.</i>	<i>NG</i>

-
- *Implemented the Student Wellbeing project group to review and develop policies on Student Wellbeing, such as the Student Charter, Code of Conduct and Drugs and Alcohol Policy.*
 - *There is now a 5 year University and SU harm reduction plan in it's creation, collaboration and review stage.*
 - *Carried out multiple mocktail events.*
 - *Implemented Drugs and Alcohol training in Student Leaders Training*
 - *Hosted Feel Good Feb and took part in multiple activities. This was well engaged with by Sports Clubs.*
 - *Planned, supported and hosted Varsity series. Emphasised the importance of better marketing and opted for external venues again.*
 - *Re-activated the SU TikTok Page – improving our audience reach.*
 - *Implemented the HopeHouse and GDASS 'Fair Play' Campaign in Student Leaders Training.*
 - *Implemented the Varsity 'Play Your Part' Campaign into the Varsity pledge signing.*

Bobola (Welfare and Diversity Officer)

BA

- *Organised Diversity Night 3.0, promoting inclusivity among home and international students through performances, student showcases, university teams engagement, and SU officer campaigns.*
- *Welcomed MP Max to Park Campus and raised key student concerns, including immigration policy, housing challenges, and employment barriers for international students.*
- *Co-organised the Voice It with the VC event, enabling direct student engagement with the Vice Chancellor to foster transparency and address concerns.*
- *Hosted a Black History Month Movie Night featuring a film on Dr. Martin*

Luther King Jr., promoting reflection on civil rights and social justice.

- Delivered a guest talk to Journalism students about the Students' Union, outlining responsibilities, challenges, and successes.*
- Created a support group for new intake students, offering guidance and directing them to appropriate university services for a smooth transition.*
- Participated in the Undergraduate International Student Forum to understand student challenges and identify areas for improvement.*
- Collaborated with the Careers & Employability Team and stakeholders to plan a major NHS careers fair and expand job opportunities.*
- Participated in the Student-Led Staff Awards, recognising exceptional contributions to student success and wellbeing.*
- Led engagement in the Awarding Gap campaign, collecting impactful student data to support equity in academic outcomes.*
- Organised Diversity Night 4.0, a key social event celebrating cultural diversity and fostering community among students.*
- Participated in SHAG Week (Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance) through the "Sexibition" event to promote student health and well-being.*
- Co-moderated Voice It to VC, facilitating open dialogue between students and the Vice Chancellor.*
- Met with MP Alex to discuss student housing concerns, resulting in regular follow-up meetings to track progress.*
- Contributed to the APPG on student housing, advocating for policy changes around rent, guarantor systems, and housing rights at the Parliament.*
- Partnered with Gloucestershire Police to host an informative session on crime reporting for international students.*

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- *Co-hosted a Job Fair with strong NHS and employer turnout, enhancing student career prospects and local job awareness.*
 - *Organised an international vs university football match to promote sports diversity and student integration.*
 - *Supported the annual Varsity 2025 with the University of Worcester, promoting team spirit and inter-university collaboration.*
 - *Organised the Bridging the Awarding Gap Symposium, presenting student data and recommendations to support institutional change and inclusivity in education.*

Kit (Education and Community Officer)

KBH

- *Completed 3/5 campaign goals; accountability surveys (establishing a framework), free alumni access to libraries and SU space, and ECs for religious observance.*
 - *Promoted the use of learning analytics to identify students falling through the cracks, tailoring assessment and course content. Fed into CTP.*
 - *In all meetings, promoted the idea that students should be more than partners in their education; they should be founders, co-creators and tailoring every student's journey.*
 - *Transitional sessions for international students in UK academic writing are now being discussed/implemented across the board.*
 - *Established a new framework for attracting SVAs, going to academics to see who they think would be best for the role, creating a sense of achievement for students and staff.*
 - *Supported officers in other parts of the country to tackle mental health.*
 - *Raised awareness of canteen costs to both staff (becoming a topic in Speak week) and it became a much-talked-about issue during the year*
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- This led to an SVA campaign by Erika, who collected feedback and delivered a report to the catering board on my behalf, securing a permanent seat.
 - Increased awareness of the Financial Assistance Fund.
 - Organised connectivity events for students who may experience loneliness, and participated in diversity night.
 - Advocated for student interests, defended the participatory fund against attacks, and represented students at various panels and meetings.
 - Contributed to the Nova working group, moulding the final version.
 - Engaged with refugee charities, NHS (Our Future Health), and School House café, personally contributing or running valuable focus groups.
 - Organised SHAG week with the LGBTQIA society and wider partnership, which was the only event and will be repeated.
 - Connected with the ‘third sector’ and attended key connectivity events at the racecourse to embed students.
 - Elected as Vice-Chair of the Gloucestershire VCSE alliance, furthering student interests in employment.
 - Worked with the council to promote Gloucester as a University City my priorities were keeping young talent in Gloucestershire and providing pro-student/student-run events at the BID

Updating Items – The Chief Operating Officer of the SU gave an overview of the accounts from the financial year 2023/24. This was as follows: LF

- Our total income was: £863,680
 - Our total expenditure was: £849,579
 - The amount of income which came from the Block Grant: £588,700
 - If we assume 9,000 students paying £9,250 this
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- *accounts for 0.70% of total UoG tuition fee income*
 - *£65.41 per student*
 - *Where we spent money:*
 - *Biggest spend area was on 'student activities'*
 - *Overall the cost of employing people remains our largest spend - £446,468 (30 staff posts)*
 - *We maintain a healthy charitable reserve of cash, in line with our requirements (3-6 months of expenditure): £311,640*
 - *We continue to pay down an historic pension scheme deficit liability by approximately £30 - £35k per year for the next 14 years*
 - *Our opportunities to self-earn income are limited due to the nature of UoG (multi-campus, large commuter population, slow student number growth)*
 - *We are developing our ability to secure charitable partnerships which involve funding*

Questions from the membership:

Q1: Can the SU invest using their reserves to generate income?

A1: This is something that is already being discussed and looked into by the SU's Board of Trustees. (LF)

Q2: Do we spend more on Clubs than we do Societies?

A2: Yes, but the income they generate is higher, also costs associated are higher such as the cost of a BUCS affiliation and Insurance. However, these are majority covered by the student through their Club and Team Glos Memberships. (LF)

Q3: Was the Activity Fund available this academic year?

A3: Yes it was available to students this year and is funded by a financial kickback from Akuma.

Q4: Why does the overview say 9,000 students rather than an exact figure?

A4: Because we don't have an exact figure given to us so we made an approximate for the financial update. (LF)

Q5: Could we go into more detail about the accounts?

A5: Yes, SU staff showed the members how to access and read the full SU accounts. (DH)

Voting Items –
The Auditors

The auditor's vote yielded no overall agreement with the vote being as follows:

KW

Approve: 2

Against: 2

Abstain: 6

Voting Items –
Approving the
Yearly Accounts

The Annual Accounts were approved, with the vote being as follows:

KW

Approve: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Voting Items –
Honorary Life
Time
Memberships

The vote to give the three outgoing officers an honorary lifetime membership was passed, with the vote being as follows:

KW

Approve: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Voting Items –
The
Participatory
Fund

The participatory fund motion was proposed by KBH, this policy would ensure that as long as the SU is in a surplus Student Council would manage a fund that enables 1 student-led event to receive funding between £1,000 - £1,500.

KBH/KW

The motion was passed and the vote was as follows:

Approve: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Voting Items – Democracy Restructure *The democracy restructure motion was proposed by KBH, this motion restructures the democracy structure at UoG SU in a way that improves accessibility and participation.* KBH/KW
The motion was passed, with the vote being as follows:
Approve: 9
Against: 0
Abstain: 1

Voting Items – Reinstatement of Facilities at Park Campus *The reinstatement of facilities at Park campus motion was proposed by a student member.* JW/KW
This motion requests the SU to lobby the university to bring back library and student facilities to Park Campus.
The motion was passed unanimously, with the vote being:
Approve: 11
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

AOB *A student member brought the following items to Any other Business:* KW

- Food - range of food available, quality, cost and hours available.*
- Access for students to resources for arts and creative activities (we have a lot for sport but little for other interests).*
- Accommodation contracts that end in the middle of placement, so student have to apply for additional weeks and move rooms.*
- Date if AGM should be earlier in the year to allow more students to attend*
- International students sleeping in the library on a regular basis. There are posters up in the library that state that this is not allowed and that student will be disciplined if caught which I personally find shocking. Our approach should be try and understand why these students are in this situation and to help them not to discipline them for potentially having nowhere else to go.*

The university has a duty of care to all students and if they are international student they are potentially paying even more to be here.

Close of AGM

All business was completed, and the meeting was adjourned at 18:35

KW
