



## **University of Hull and Hull University Union Relationship Agreement**

**2019-2020**

### **Introduction**

This relationship agreement aims to provide a clear and concise reference for both the University of Hull (UoH) and the Hull University Union (HUU) and outlines the basis for the relationship between the two organisations and the framework under which they shall work together.

### **Background**

Hull University Union was established in 1927 as part of the University of Hull's Royal Charter and subsequent Ordinances (Ordinance 17). "There shall be a Union of Students of the University whose constitution shall be approved by the Council. Ordinances shall prescribe the constitution, function, privileges and other matters relating to the Union of Students."

The objectives of HUU are the advancement of education of Students at the University of Hull for the public benefit by:

- 4.1 promoting the interests and welfare of Students at the University of Hull during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising Students;
- 4.2 being the recognised representative channel between Students and the University of Hull and any other external bodies; and
- 4.3 providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its Students.

The 1994 Education Act placed a legal requirement on the University governing body to ensure that the Students' Union operates in a fair and democratic manner. In 2006, a new Charities Act was introduced which altered the regulatory framework in which charities operate. The changes included the removal from law of students' unions as exempt charities; students' unions across the country were therefore required to review and revise their governance arrangements. As a result, Hull University Union registered as a Company limited by guarantee with charitable status in 2013. Although, the Charity Commission and Companies House became primary regulators, the requirements of the 1994 Education act remained extant.

The University of Hull and Hull University Union are committed to the principles set out in the "Guide for Members of Higher Education Governing Bodies Supplementary guide regarding the role of university governing bodies in relation to student's unions." March 2011.

## Vision

**University of Hull vision:** Motivated by society's challenges and inspired by the power of our global community, we are shaping a fairer, brighter and carbon neutral future for all.

**Hull University Union vision:** Making your time at University count

## Principles

University of Hull and Hull University Union both agree to adopt the following principles as the basis of their working, and ongoing, relationship:

1. **Strategic Partnership:** Spirit of partnership between The University of Hull and Hull University Union informing the strategic direction of both organisations, shaping bilateral service agreements, and ensuring arrangements for proper representation.
2. **Student centred:** Shared commitment to developing and improving students' experience of academic and extra-curricular aspects of their lives.
3. **Respect and Understanding:** Clarity about, and mutual understanding of, the distinct roles of the University of Hull and Hull University Union and the value that each party brings to the relationship.
4. **Openness and Trust:** 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.
5. **Mutual support and commitment:** Constructive interactions. Demonstrable commitment to making the relationship work through investment of time and resources.
6. **Independence:** Recognition of the value of a strong, student-led students' union empowered to determine and manage its own affairs. Recognition of the need for the University of Hull to balance the interests of a range of stakeholders within an increasingly challenging external context.
7. **Accountability:** Accountability of Hull University Union to the University of Hull as supervisor (under the 1994 Education Act) and principal funder, within a mutually agreed framework which is robust, effective, efficient and compatible with the reporting requirements of other regulators, such as the Charity Commission, and Companies House. Acknowledgement by the University of Hull that Hull University Union is a major stakeholder and primary body representing the student voice.
8. **Diversity and Equality:** A shared commitment to equality and diversity and the fair treatment of all staff and students.


### **Working relationship**

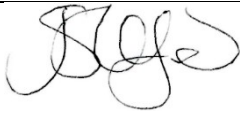
The principles outlined above will apply to all interactions between the parties and will be monitored through the UoH/HUU Relationship Committee. This committee will be responsible for maintaining the strategic relationship between the two organisations and will enable the University to fulfil its responsibilities under the Education Act 1994. Terms of reference for this committee are outlined in Appendix 1.


The operational working relationship between the two organisations will be managed through the UoH/HUU Operations Group, which will facilitate regular engagement on operational matters affecting students. Terms of reference for this group are outlined at Appendix 2.

### **Review**

This relationship agreement will be reviewed on an annual basis at the UoH / HUU Relationship Committee

Name	Kate O'Connell
Signature	
Chair of the UoH / HUU Relationship Committee	
Date	20/02/2020

Name	Jane Stafford
Signature	
CEO of Hull University Union	
Date	20/02/2020

Name	Isobel Hall
Signature	
President of Hull University Union	
Date	20/02/2020

## **UoH / HUU Relationship Committee**

### **Membership**

Chair:	UoH Chief People Officer
Vice-Chair:	CEO of HUU
Secretary:	To be provided by UoH
University Members:	Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Chief Operating Officer
HUU Members:	Presidents of HUU, Nominated Trustee of HUU, Director of Commercial Services, Finance and Resource Manager.

To be quorate, the meeting shall consist of at least three members from the University of Hull and three members from Hull University Union (inclusive of the Chair and Vice-Chair).

### **Purpose**

To foster good relations between the University of Hull and the Hull University Union through ongoing dialogue and positive interactions for the benefit of bettering the student experience, including the exchange and influence of strategic priorities.

### **Responsibilities**

- To develop and agree strategy relating to the provision of services and facilities between the two organisations.
- To receive and consider tri-annual reports from HUU and UoH updating on strategy, performance, finances and future developments.
- To formally review and recommend the Students' Union Articles to the University Council for approval at intervals of not more than five years.
- In relation to the Subvention, to discuss and monitor the University's methodology for the allocation, and oversee the associated performance objectives.
- To regularly review the Code of Practice (Education Act 1994), which sets out how the provisions of the Act are implemented.

### **Schedule**

The Committee will meet at least once each trimester.

## **UoH / HUU Operations Group**

### **Membership**

Chair:	Director of Student Services (UoH)
Vice-Chair:	CEO of HUU
Secretary:	To be provided by UoH
University Members:	Director of Estates, Director of HR&OD, Heads of Service for the Library, Commercial Services, Communications, ICT, Student Welfare, Campus Security, EDI, Doctoral College and Teaching Excellence Academy
HUU Members:	Presidents of HUU, Director of Commercial Services, Marketing Manager, Finance and Resources Manager

Members may nominate suitable deputies, and other attendees may be invited for specific items, in agreement with the Chair.

To be quorate, the meeting shall consist of at least three members from the University of Hull and three members from Hull University Union (inclusive of the Chair and Vice-Chair).

### **Purpose**

To foster good relations between the University of Hull and Hull University Union, collaborating around opportunities and resolving problems for the benefit of the student experience.

### **Responsibilities**

- To monitor and enhance the alignment of effective and efficient provision of services and facilities across both organisations
- To update on key events, campaigns or projects, where both organisations hold an interest, and facilitate opportunities for joint working.
- To raise and resolve any issues or problems of an operational nature affecting student experience.
- To actively support effective communications between staff and students
- To inform the triannual reports to the UoH/HUU Relationship Committee

### **Schedule**

The Group will meet at least once each Trimester