



University of Stirling Students' Union

Report for AGM | 2022-23

REPRESENTING THE VIEWS AND RIGHTS OF STUDENTS TO THE UNIVERSITY AND BEYOND

- 19 Faculty Officers across both Undergraduate and Postgraduate
- ~500 Module Reps and ~100 Programme Reps
- Union Elections – 14 out of 18 positions filled, 1496 voters (91% increase 21/22) with 14,119 votes cast
- Equalities Volunteer Officers – 2 out of 4 positions filled
- RATE Awards – over 500 nominations
- Online and Hybrid Zones, Executive Committees and General Meetings
- Multiple student surveys, consultations, policies and reviews as well as a review on Personal Tutors as part of the Enhancement Theme.
- Organised Ask the Chancellor, with multiple students attending and asking questions relating to the Gender Recognition Reform Act, Cost-of-Living and the Vision of Education.



ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE THROUGH CAMPAIGNING FOR POSITIVE CHANGE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Union passed a motion at the start of the year to support the Buffer Zones Bill and to oppose any anti-abortion activities around the country or on campus.
- 16 Days of Action – over 100 students taking part in 6 different workshops on health relationships and seeking support, over 15,000 students viewed our 16 Days of Action video series on Instagram around consent, seeking support and getting involved in 16 Days of Action.
- The Union passed a motion to support student sex workers and to make it a priority for NUS Scotland to campaign in support of sex workers' rights and to work with sex worker support organizations on these campaigns. NUS Scotland passed this motion and will be campaigning in support of sex workers.
- Cost-of-Living Crisis – Stirling Students' Union has campaigned in support of students during the Cost-of-Living crisis through our Community Food Initiative and contributing to the Cost-of-Living Crisis All-Party Parliamentary Group's report on student experiences in the crisis.
- Inspirational Women Awards – 158% increase in nominations from 2022, and the highest number of nominations over the past 5 years.
- Sabbatical Officers and Stirling students attended STUC Cost-of-Living Rally (Sept), NUS Fight for Students Rally (Feb), and Stirling Solidarity Rally for Better Housing (April), as well as UCU Picket Lines.



EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO DEVELOP THEIR RESILIENCE & WELLBEING THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Opened our Sensory Room in the University's Wellbeing Suite in September.
- Followed through with our commitment to provide students with free drug testing kits, with over 250+ students been provided with a kit.
- Community Food Initiative – opened our Community Fridge & Pantry providing food to over 200+ students. In semester two we launched our free breakfasts scheme and have provided over 1400+ breakfasts to students and have begun piloting our first Heat & Eat Station.
- Tackling Student Loneliness campaign launched in semester one which saw regular, free activities (including crafting sessions, free dance workshops, gardening sessions, pizza and games night) and peer support sessions as part of the STEER mentorship program.
- Clubs and Socs ball, an evening to encourage all clubs and societies to come together and celebrate the joint successes they have had throughout the year.





FACILITATING STUDENTS TO POSITIVELY ENGAGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL, ETHICAL & SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

- Green and Blue Space has been open and continued to develop to best meet the demands of students
- Installed cycling shelters on campus and at John Forties Court to improve access to active travel
- Completed an active travel and climate survey to make sure we are working on projects that will have the greatest impact for students and staff
- Helping draft a University biodiversity plan, with the key aims of improving habitat quality and habitat connectivity.
- Continued sessions at the garden, including the donation of 20 home grown trees for a planting project.
- Supported students engaging with the University on their investments and will help draft a new investment plan, along with involvement in tendering for a new broker.
- Helped organize Green Week and ran a series of events engaging students with the climate crisis
- 3.8 tonnes of goods collected through the Unions recycling program last summer, including 800 kg of food taken to the local food bank

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES AT STIRLING STUDENTS' UNION

- We've finished the year with 78 societies, the Communities Zone Executive Committee has approved 10 new societies this year and 5 dormant societies becoming active again.
- We have 1499 society members, a 9% increase in members from last year, having had one of our larger societies moving over to the Sports Zone.
- Our societies have had a very successful year taking part in regular fundraising activities, collaborations, social events, international trips, conferences and competitions.
- Thousands of pounds and much awareness raised for various charities including. E.G. over £2,000 raised by MENA for Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief Effort.
- Multiple award-winning Clubs & Societies.



SPORTS CLUBS AT STIRLING SPORTS UNION

- Currently we have 2300 Sports Union members.
- We participated in Varsity again this year across multiple sports with St Andrews, and over 500 students were involved.
- Our Men's Football 1st team retained their BUCS Premier League North title.
- Our Men's Football 1st team won the SSS Queen's Park Shield.
- We had athletes selected to represent SSS National Squads.
- Had several teams reach the SSS Conference Finals.



PROVIDING SECURE & ATTRACTIVE SPACES FOR STUDENTS TO STUDY, SOCIALISE & RELAX

- Having a range of activity in a range of spaces throughout Freshers and Refreshers week to suit all students, having availability of Union spaces such as Venue and Studio so clubs, societies and individual students can use to their benefit.
- Worked in collaboration with the University regarding the Learning Spaces Upgrade
- Supporting clubs, societies, elected officers, and academic representative training in hybrid way
- Use of Venue by clubs, socs and sports teams
- Union shortlisted for NUS Scotland Award for Students' Union of the Year



Financial Report

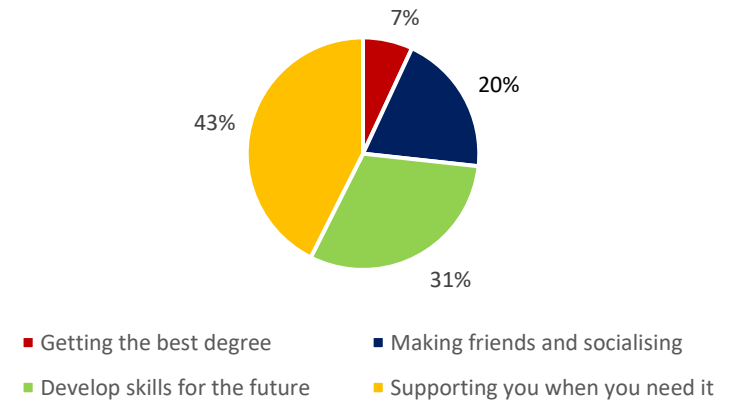
Union accounts for 2021/22 available on the Union website



CREATING A STUDENTS' UNION FIT FOR ALL, WE ARE CURRENTLY BUILDING OUR NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

- Hosted a Strategy Day with current and new Sabbaticals, union Trustees, career staff and University Secretary
- We discussed what the students' union is now and how we wanted it to be to support you and future students at Stirling University
- We have started to test these ideas with you, and you told us you wanted us to prioritise **Support, Skills Development** and **Building Friendships**
- You told us that you wanted us to be **student centred, supportive** and **value equality**
- You have told us how we should describe ourselves as your students' union
- We will refine our plans with you at our heart
- We will aim to publish our new strategic plan in September 2023

What do you want the Union to help you with most at Stirling?



WE'RE WORKING ON OUR DRAFT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ALIGNING OUR VALUES, THESE WILL HELP SHAPE WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS

Draft Strategic Priorities

STUDENT SPIRIT <i>Make lifeling memories</i>	STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES <i>Build skills for your future</i>	STUDENT SUPPORT <i>Help you be your best</i>	STUDENT VOICE <i>Influence your own learning</i>	UNION HEALTH <i>Foundations of change</i>
SOCIETIES & SPORTS CLUBS		ADVICE & WELLBEING	REPRESENTATION	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
ARRIVALS & WELCOME CULTURAL SOCIETIES & EVENTS NON-COMMERCIAL SOCIAL SPACES GIVE IT A GO CAMPUS COMMUNITIES	VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES STUDENT NETWORKS STUDENT SKILLS WORKSHOPS CAREERS IDEAS ALUMNI TALKS	MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT WELFARE ADVICE ACADEMIC ADVICE SEXUAL HEALTH ADVICE HOUSING SUPPORT	ELECTED OFFICERS ELECTIONS DEMOCRACY ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS BUILDING STUDENT REPS	STABLE FINANCE GOOD GOVERNANCE WEB & SOCIAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Draft Organisation Values

EQUALITY | SUPPORTIVE | STUDENT CENTRED | INCLUSIVE | SUSTAINABLE | ENJOYABLE

You are helping us explain who we are and what we do

We gave you a choice of sentences of how we should talk about ourselves, your favourites were:

Stirling Students' Union supports, develops and represents students throughout your journey; breaking down barriers and creating change for students whilst supports you to raise your voice

Stirling Students' Union is an independent organisation, and we exist to represent, reflect and service the needs of Stirling Students

Stirling Students' Union is a student collective that powers campus vibrancy and champions your student experience



your
student
union



The Future

- Keep on Making Students' Lives Better
- New Sabbatical team elected for 2023/24
- New Strategic Plan and Democracy Review