

University of Stirling Students' Union

Annual General Meeting | 2023-24

**This meeting
will start at
5:15pm.**



Welcome to the Annual General Meeting

- The Annual General Meeting will be hosted by Leen Ali, Union President, and invite Tom McLaughlin, Student Representative Trustee for Stirling Students' Union, to present the Financial Report.
- Joined by the 2023/24 Sabbatical Officers:
 - Leen Ali, Union President
 - Murray Bushell, Sports President
 - Zoë Crosher, Vice President Communities
 - Katie Gethings, Vice President Education

Housekeeping

- **Online attendees should make sure your microphone is muted** unless you have been invited to speak by the Chair. **In-person attendees will be asked to speak in front of the microphone when speaking**, or a handheld microphone will be provided.
- **Keep the use of the online chat to a minimum** once the meeting has started.
- **Recordings of this meeting are not allowed.** This meeting will only be recorded by the Students' Union for the use of minuting purposes only, and will not be shared more widely.
- Online attendees can **turn on captioning by clicking the three dots** (more actions) and then turn on live captions.
- **Safe Space Policy:** zero tolerance towards discrimination and/or harassment; be respectful; make sure everyone can make their voice heard.

Agenda

- Sabbatical Officer Annual Reports
 - Leen Ali, Union President
 - Murray Bushell, Sports President
 - Zoë Crosher, Vice President Communities
 - Katie Gethings, Vice President Education
- Annual Report, including Financial Report and Specifics
- Plans for 2024/25
- Questions



Union President

- Attended NUS Education Rally alongside other Sabbatical Officers.
- Attended University Court and multiple other University Committees campaigned against the Rent Increase.
- Organised different events for Black History Month, including Decolonise the Curriculum.
- Launched Inspirational Women Awards, and planning for the informal ceremony later in March.
- Facilitated Go Out and Talk Sessions to speak to students about their University experience, and gain insight into issues affecting students.
- Worked with the University Communications & Marketing team on the Digital screens policy
- Working with INTO and University to support International Students, and integrate the INTO community into the broader campus community.
- Co-organised the International Festival.
- Continue to work with the University to incorporate interculturalism awareness training, and to find new ways to showcase students.



Sports President

- Joined BUCS Advisory Board, SSS Executive and became Chair of the Scottish Sabbatical Forum.
- 2300 Sports Union Members and 54 Sports Clubs.
- 30 Sports Union Members undertook 'Look After Your Mate' workshop.
- 20 Sports Union Members undertook 'Beyond Equality' course.
- 11 Sports Clubs qualified for SSS Conference Finals with 8 winning.
- Men's Football 1st team retained their BUCS Premier League North title.
- Handball Men & Women won Gold and Silver at BUCS Championships.
- Multiple athletes selected to represent SSS National Squads.
- Participated in Varsity again this year across multiple sports with St Andrews, and over 500 students were involved.
- Created a Club Mark system that will support Clubs to develop over the years.
- Worked on a Cost-of-Living survey with all 14 Sport Sabbatical Officers across Scotland, with the hope of campaigning for change in the future with the results.
- Planning the 2024 Sports Awards Ball, an evening to bring together over 50 Clubs to celebrate the sporting successes from the past year. Over 700 students are expected to attend.



Vice President Communities

- Campaigned on Housing, Cost of Living and Travel, as well as produced a report on Support for Parents and Carers.
- Rejuvenated Community Fridge, which benefited hundreds of students.
- Tackling Student Loneliness Campaign with BeConnected, including monthly workshops with over 100 students attending in the Autumn Semester.
- Societies have done lots of work raising money for charity, including MENA raising £20,000 for Islamic Relief.
- Societies have been incredibly active, including taking international trips, and attending conferences and competitions.
- CZEC approved 8 new Societies.
- Created the SV & GBV Awareness award, which encourages society committee members to complete GBV & SV training. 59 Societies have undergone First Responder Training so far.
- Planning for the Societies Awards Ball, an evening to encourage all Societies to come together and celebrate the join successes they have had throughout the year.



Vice President Education

- Supported 28 Faculty Officers, and over 630 Academic Reps with online and in-person training, as well as monthly support and development opportunities. Introduced Academic Rep Conferences, and planning for the first ever Rep Symposium!
- Collaborated with the University to update the Student Partnership Agreement, and introduce new guidance for Artificial Intelligence and Student Staff Feedback Conversations.
- Supporting RATE Awards, which currently has received over 660 nominations.
- Supported 16 Days of Activism Campaign, including Reclaim the Night.
- Introduced Life Skills Workshops, and organised a Finance Fayre to support students to take control and learn about their personal finance.



Plans for 2024/25



- 2024/25 Sabbatical Officers
 - Leen Ali, Union President
 - Laura Shaw, Sports President
 - Justine Pedussel, Vice President Communities
 - Adelayo Adebayo, Vice President Education
- Unfilled positions will be elected in the Autumn Elections (October 2024).

Annual Report

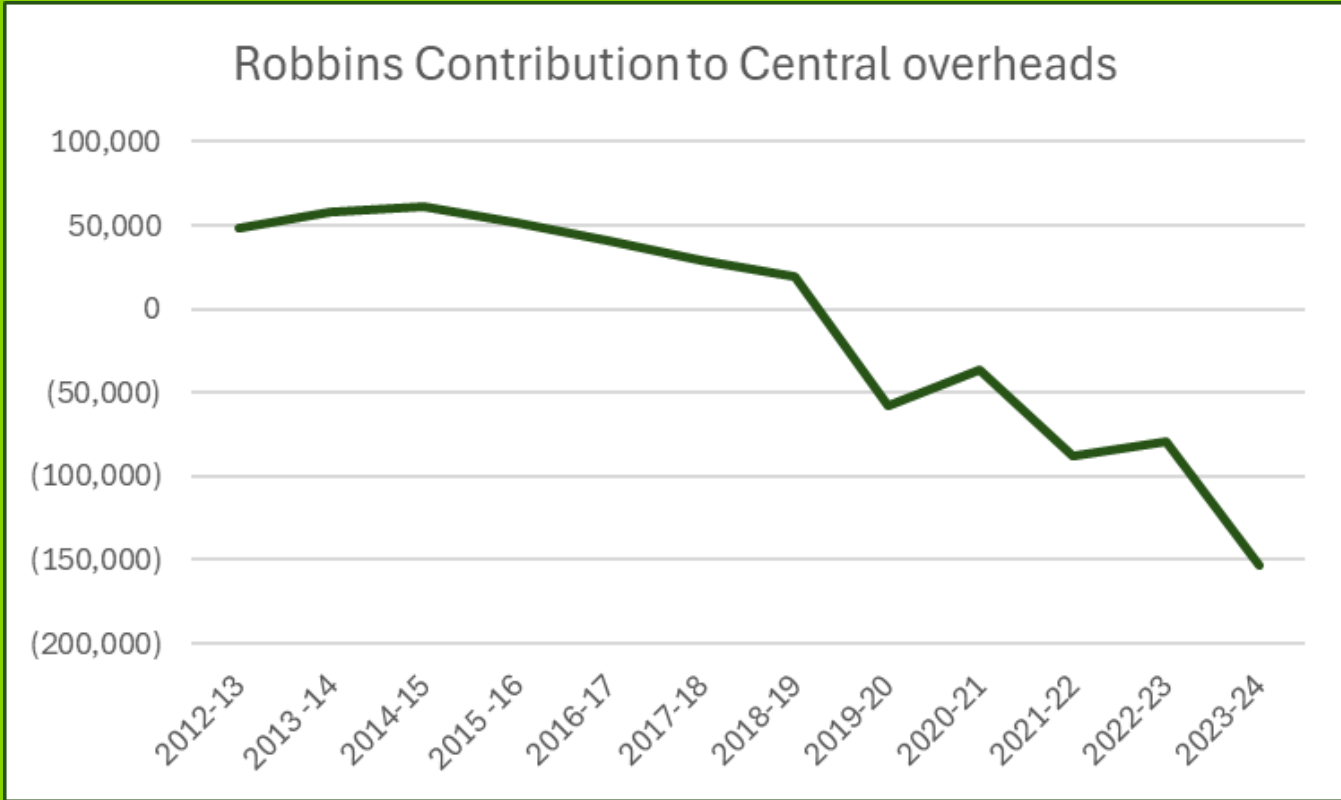
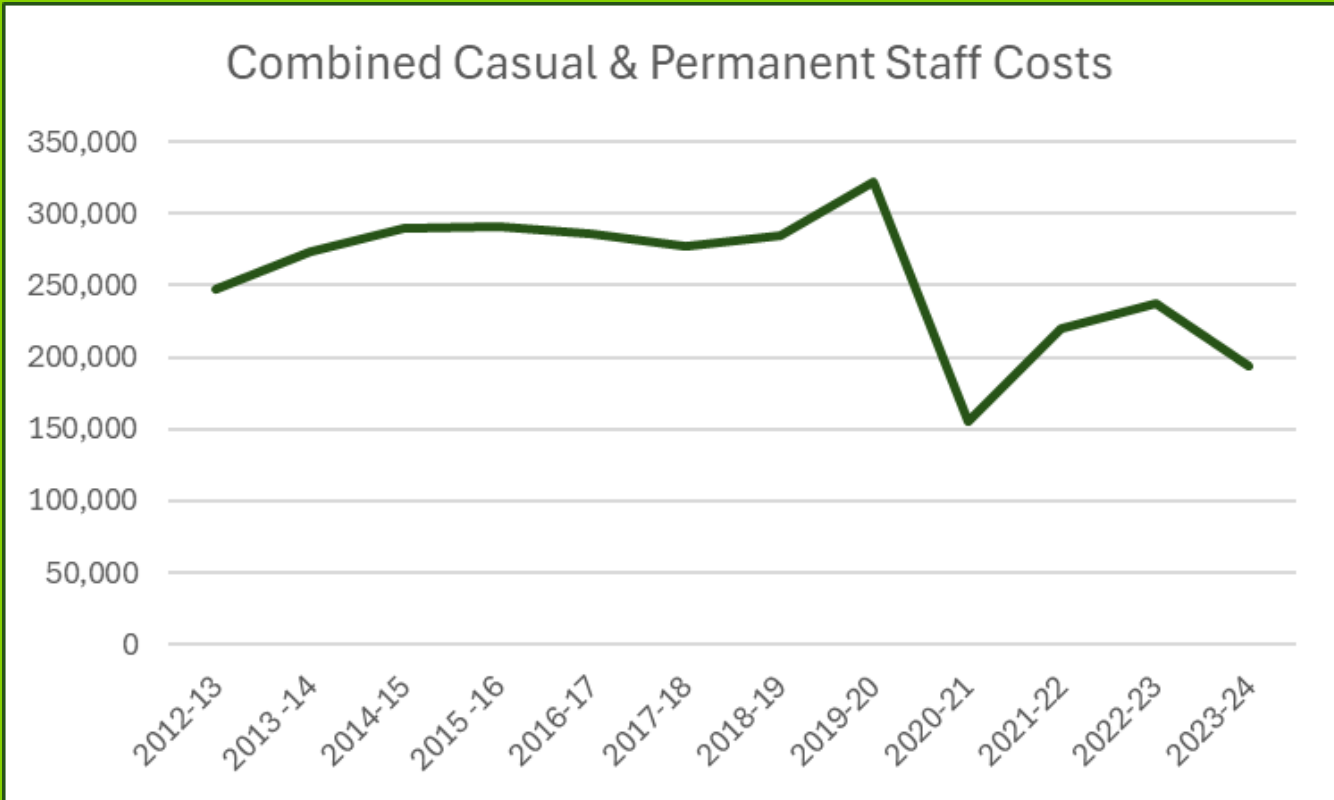
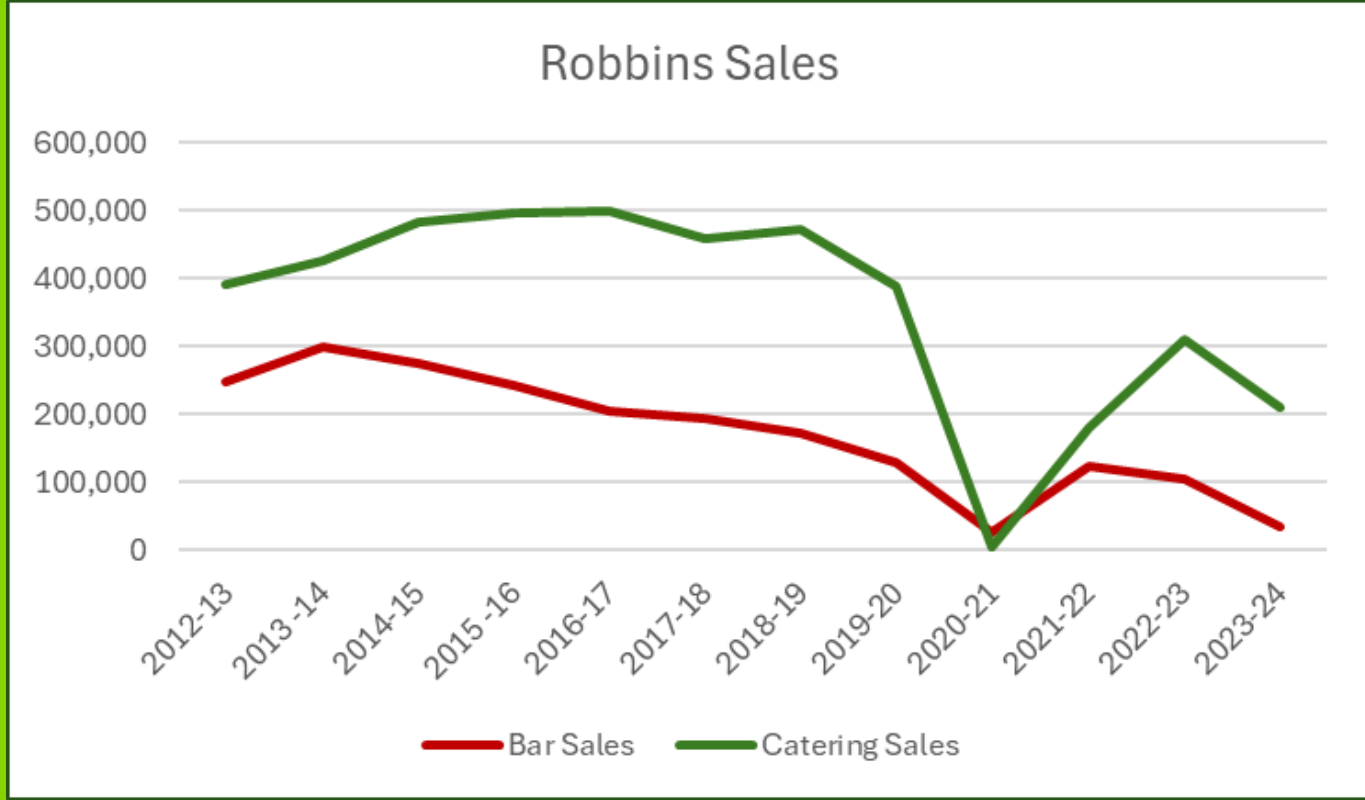
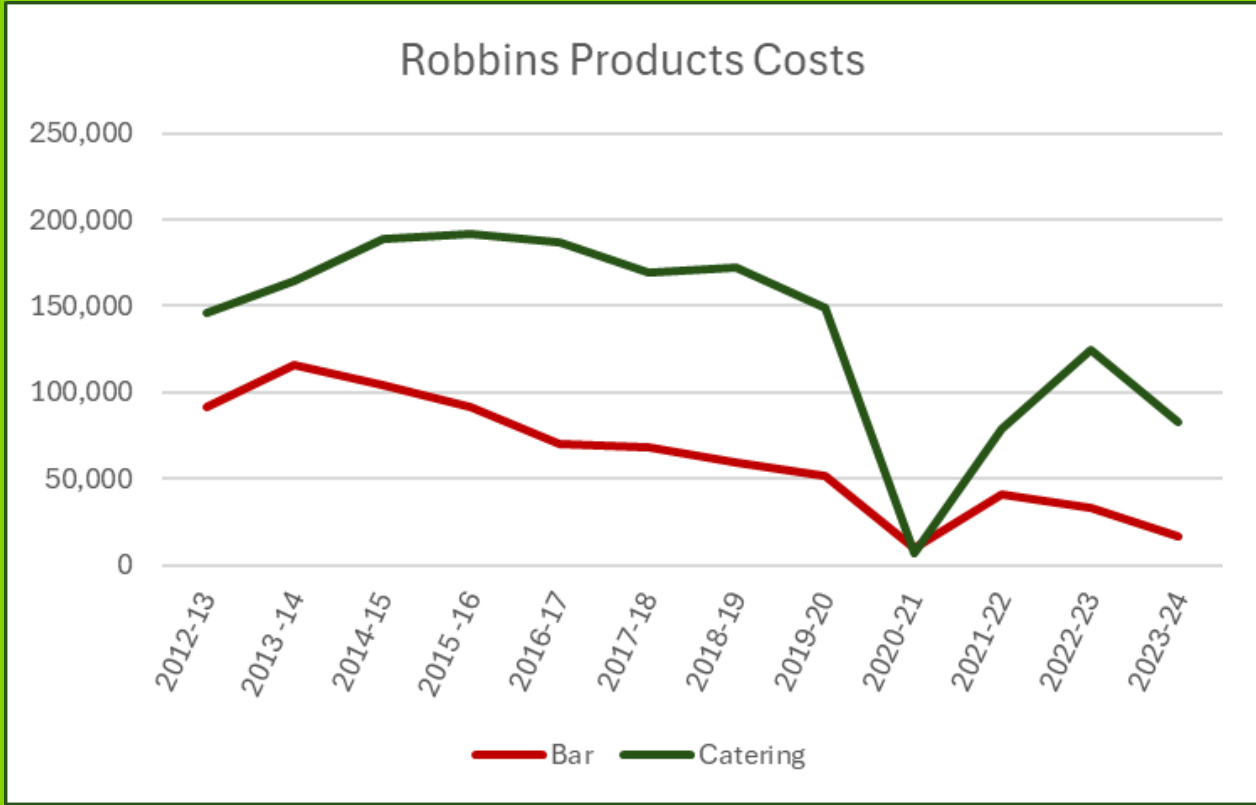
- RAAC was found in the Students' Union building, which as a result has impacted the Union's activities this academic year.
- Over 2330 students attended the Evening events in the Students' Union during Welcome Week 2023, and over 1000 Freebie boxes were distributed during Welcome Week.
- New Union website and new Events platform (Native) was launched.
- Increase in social media engagement, with Union posts having a reach of 13.2k.
- Supported LGBTQ+ History Month activity, Islamophobia Awareness Month Pop-Up Exhibition and Workshop, and had a display as part of Holocaust Memorial Day.
- Hosted 12 Sustainability Themed Workshops, and 24 Weekly Community Gardening Sessions.
- Developed an information leaflet to education students on Harm Reduction and signpost them to appropriate resources.
- Trained 16 students in Scotland's Mental Health First Aid. There is funding available for an additional 16 students to receive this training next academic year.
- Rebranded the Steer programme to Steer Peer Mentoring with a new logo and academic focus.
- Implementing a volunteering module to support our thousands of student volunteers (sports club and society committees, peer mentors, zone executives, academic reps, etc.) in logging their hours and experiences and downloading achievement records to show future employers.
- Introduced the Volunteer Agreement and process to better record Union volunteer achievements.
- In the Union Elections, 11 out of 18 positions were filled. There was 2388 individual voters (17% voter turnout and 60% increase 22/23) with 19,494 votes cast.

Financial Report

Union accounts for 2022/23 available on the Union website

Financial Specifics

- An additional £36k was required from the University to finish 22/23 with a small surplus of £1,106 in addition to the £557,051 Annual Block Grant.
- Along with the above, a letter of comfort from the University was required to allow the accounts to be signed off which commits them to supporting the charity financially and otherwise for FY 2024/25.
- A letter of comfort from the University has been required 3 of the last 5 years to allow the accounts to be signed off.
- Robbins deficit for 2022/23 was £78,829.
- The Forecast at the end of January 2024 was for the Robbins to have a projected deficit of £153,523 with the Students Union finishing the year with a deficit of £17,737.
- In previous years to allow the organisation to have a reduced organisational deficit – all budget of other areas within the Students Union were pulled back at the end of March (meaning they were unable to spend anything that had not been previously approved) to help fund Robbins deficit and reduce the organisational end of year deficit.
- In 2023/24 The University has funded £110k of Robbins deficit in advance, with a projection as of January 2024 of a deficit of £153,523, this is a shortfall £43,523 which the University have agreed to cover in their letter of comfort.



Going Forward

- Under the new agreement, there will be a new Robbins Partnership Forum created with the University which will see Students' Union representation positioned to shape and influence the service. The Students' Union will continue to shape and guide the service.
- The Robbins will be maintained as a space that students, societies and the Union can book to run events.
- Welcome Week events are planned to go ahead as has been done previously.

Questions?

5 MINUTE BREAK

The General Meeting will start in a few minutes.