

2024 - In Action

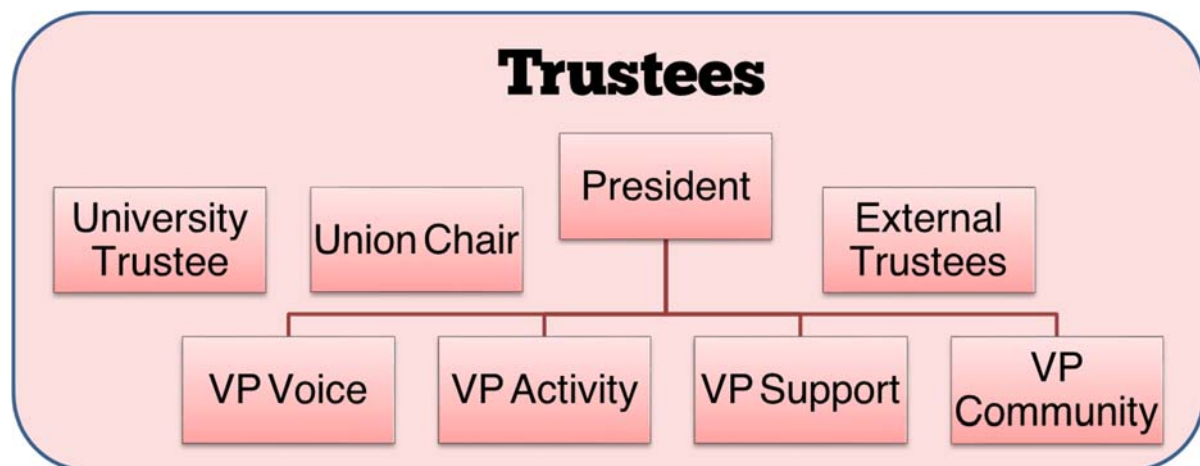
Introduction

Last year, Surrey students voted in favour of the '2024 Experience' a vision to create a leading Union fit for the next decade. Our new structure based around four themes is designed to *build a Union for all of your student life*. The detail we are proposing to put around this structure is designed to:

- Deliver **more** representation for students
- Create more **opportunities** for students to lead their Union and make a difference
- Put more **control** of the Students' Union in the hands of everyday students
- Direct the **resources** of the Union where students need them most
- Build a **flexible** environment able to respond to the ever changing student community

How it will work.

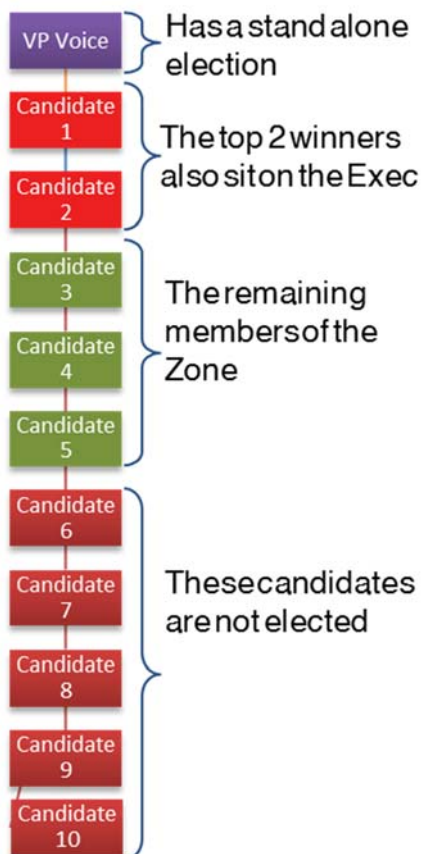
The Union will continue to elect a Student Trustee (the Union Chair) and five sabbatical officers. Combined with our four external trustees and one University trustee, this is our Board of Trustees who are in overall control of the Students' Union. The Board of Trustees continue to report directly to all students.



Zones

Each theme will be led by the respective Vice-President assisted by a committee of five students who are elected together (the five candidates with the highest votes win). Out of these five winners, the two candidates with the highest number of votes will also be members of the Union executive committee. Students running for part time exec roles will choose the zone that they are passionate about, rather than choosing a restricted role.

So, for example, in a 10 candidate election ...



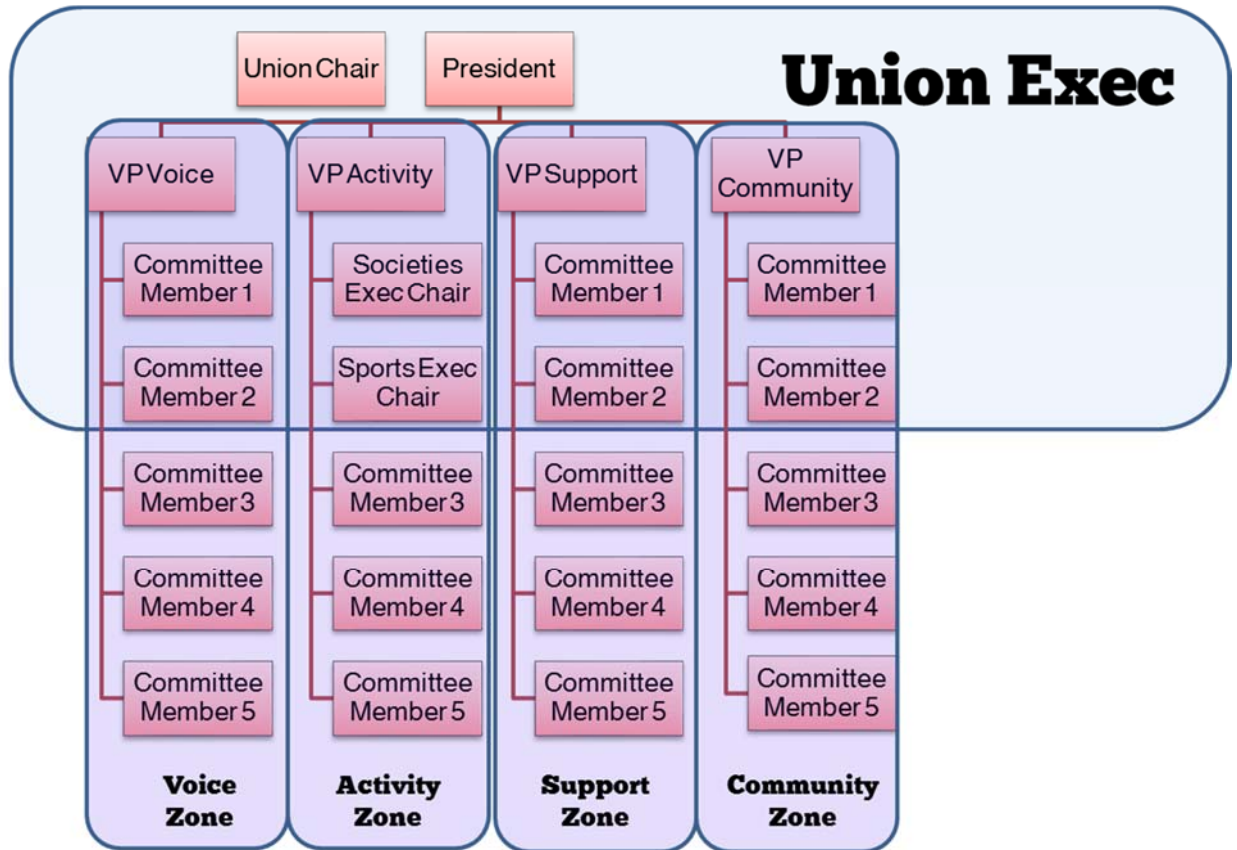
This puts **more students in control** of each zone, rather than a Vice-President on their own. This is an extension of the system which already works for Sports Clubs and Societies with their own executive committees. By extending this over all areas, it now gives **more opportunities** for students to get involved in leading their Union.

Committees that work

A committee is only as good as the work it can do, and following on from the pledge in the 2024 proposal to properly resource our work, each zone committee will have at least one member of staff, to assist and take care of the operational work that the committee needs. Each zone committee will also have a budget, putting the **resources in direct control of students**. The annual budget will no longer be attributed to all areas, after running costs, the financial resources of the Union will be split between the four zone committees and the Union Executive. This will also be the first time some of the core activities of the Union such as advice and elections will have student representatives supporting the work of the VP, making the Union **more representative**.

The Four Zones

Together, the zones are designed to cover all of student life, however some issues transcend one particular zone and for this reason the Union Executive will remain the senior body for student representation. The Exec will have the ability to 'lift' issues from the zones, and each zone will be able to promote an issue for decision to the Exec committee. The Exec committee will also have the ability to 'refer back' to a zone any decision that they feel the zone needs to take another look at. Each zone will have a dedicated member of staff.



Voice

This is the zone for students who have something to say, listening to our members and making their voice heard.

VP Voice - Role Outline

The Vice-President Voice is the officer who takes responsibility for making the student voice heard. This includes

- Elections
Taking responsibility for all annual elections
- Course Rep Elections
Ensuring each cohort has a properly elected course rep, and supporting them through their year
- AGMs & EGMs
The annual general meetings of all student groups, and extraordinary general meetings as they occur through the year
- Surveys & Feedback
The lead officer for 'Shape your Surrey', the NSS and any Union survey or feedback forum
- Feedback to external groups
This VP takes the student voice to external companies and third parties that deal with students such as the NHS, the local Council and more, often working together with VP Community
- NUS Liaison
Keeping abreast of NUS activity, reporting back to Exec and the student body – representing Surrey to the NUS. This position will take the ex-officio position at NUS conference and so will automatically attend.

The Voice Zone

The voice zone operates within the areas as defined in the VP role description as well as broader voice and campaign issues, for example NUS national demonstrations. Students with a passion for **issues, campaigning, speaking up and fighting causes** should consider standing for the Voice Zone

Activity

This is the zone for students doing things, taking part in activities, playing sport, society activity and more

VP Activity

*Many Student Unions have a VP Activities which is an amalgamation of VP Sports and VP Societies, this position is not the same as that definition. The traditional VP Activities is responsible for **all** aspects of sports and societies, this position is only responsible for the actual activity.*

The Vice-President Activity is the officer who leads on students doing things, society activities, playing sport, or a recreational activity, including;

- Team Surrey
This officer takes the Union position on the Team Surrey board
- Society Activity
Helping societies achieve their primary aim of providing activities to students
- Activity Infrastructure
Ensuring that the right tools are in place to help students take part in the activities they want to do
- Campaigning Activity
Along with VP Voice, this VP will assist societies and groups who wish to take part in campaigning activity
- Fundraising
Working alongside VP Community to support fundraising activities
- Volunteering
This will also be in cooperation with VP Community
- Activity Issues
Working with VP Support to help them identify activity specific support issues, e.g. timetabling clashes

The Activity Zone

The activity zone operates in the areas outlined in the VP role as well as allowing students who have a passion for **developing new student activities, increasing participation, keeping active and extra-curricular development** to make a change.

The top two places in the Activity Zone are reserved places, one for the chair of the Sports Executive committee, and one for the chair of the Societies Executive, who then become members of Union Exec. This will require electing these two positions at the same time as the rest of the zone, and therefore they will become stand alone elections.

Support

This is all about helping students, as well as enabling students to help each other. The support zone is there to look out for students during the times when things go wrong and make sure there are resources in place to help.

VP Support

The Vice-President Support is the officer who leads on services which the Union provides to help students, and represents the Union to those who provide support services

- Union Advice
Responsible for the professional advice service provided by the Union to students
- University Support Services
Working with VP Voice, the VP Support represents students to University provided support services
- Wellbeing & Campaigns
Working with VP Community, promote wellbeing throughout the student community
- Training
Providing additional skills to students

The Support Zone

This zone is ideal for students who want to **help other students, create a caring campus, and promote wellbeing.**



Community

This is where students meet, and they become part of the local community as well as the campus community. The community zone is here to bring students together, to socialise and meet others.

VP Community

The Vice-President Community is the lead officer for social and community activities, including

- Entertainment
The social activities of the Union, including Rubix
- Welcoming students
Take charge of welcoming new students
- Showcase events
Colours Ball, Student Awards, International Festival
- Fundraising
RAG reports into the VP Community, and they will work with VP Activity on fundraising activity
- Volunteering
Community and local volunteering including our Investors in Volunteering accreditation as well as working with VP Activity on volunteering activity
- Campaigns
Working with VP Support on cross campus awareness and change campaigns

The Community Zone

This zone operates in the areas outlined above and is ideal for students who want to get involved in **entertainment, community outreach, public relations, fundraising and volunteering**

Communications

In this change process, communication will be at the heart of the process, **telling students** what is happening, **asking students** what they want and **informing students** of our progress.

It is absolutely recognised that many students will be familiar with 'who to go to' about their issue, however for many others they either have nobody to go to or go to who they know. We will put a physical and virtual infrastructure around our interaction with students so we make their experience as smooth as possible

It is important to note that it is not for individual students to have to understand exactly who or where to go, but for the Union to look after their needs **as an individual** and not put them through a pre-defined funnel. The new development on the ground floor of the Union Building will be designed specifically to be the welcoming front of the Union as a physical space to welcome all.

Conclusion

The 2024 detailed structure is designed to ensure that all VPs are encouraged to work and to cooperate together, the zone committees cross over in several areas intentionally.

There are also additional obligations on Union officers, such as a variety of University wide and faculty specific committee places to fill, these shall be allocated annually as appropriate to the incoming team, as well as defined committee places for some roles (e.g. President shall continue to be a member of Council).

It is now up to you to give your feedback on this proposed structure. Can it be improved? Perhaps you can suggest an alternative proposal?

We look forward to reading your feedback.