

Dear Student Members,

At our last AGM, I don't think any of us anticipated that we would be spending another twelve months in the grip of Covid-19 and dealing with the ongoing challenges that it would bring. As it turned out, Union facilities remained closed until the start of this academic year, but that didn't mean that support wasn't being provided. I would like to thank the previous and new full-time Officers, Student Councillors, Student Voice Reps and Course Reps for their dedication and perseverance during the shutdown; they really did adapt to provide you with the level of representation you have come to expect.

When our spaces re-opened in September, it wasn't quite business as usual, but we worked within the regulations to provide night-time activities, restart sport and societies and get back into the general rhythm of Students' Union business. It hasn't always been easy, but if nothing else, the pandemic has taught us that we need to be even more flexible than we already thought we were.

The Board of Trustees has met numerous times in the last year, discussing mainly Covid-related issues; deciding how best to take the Union forward in an uncertain time. I am pleased that we now seem to be coming out the other side with the business still intact and financially stable. The work carried out by Board often goes unseen, but is fundamental to the operation of the organisation. Decisions are informed, in part, by the student voice and it is vital that this element is considered. Board still has vacancies for Student Trustees and I would urge you all to consider putting yourself forward for a role in the Leadership Elections. Not only will these posts strengthen the top-level oversight of the Union, but the experience and skills that you gain will be invaluable in future careers.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of the meeting. I know that it is quite a short agenda, but your constructive input on all items will be welcomed.

Kind regards,

Anna Morgan PgDipPDET BA (Hons) PGCE

Chair – USWSU Trustee Board