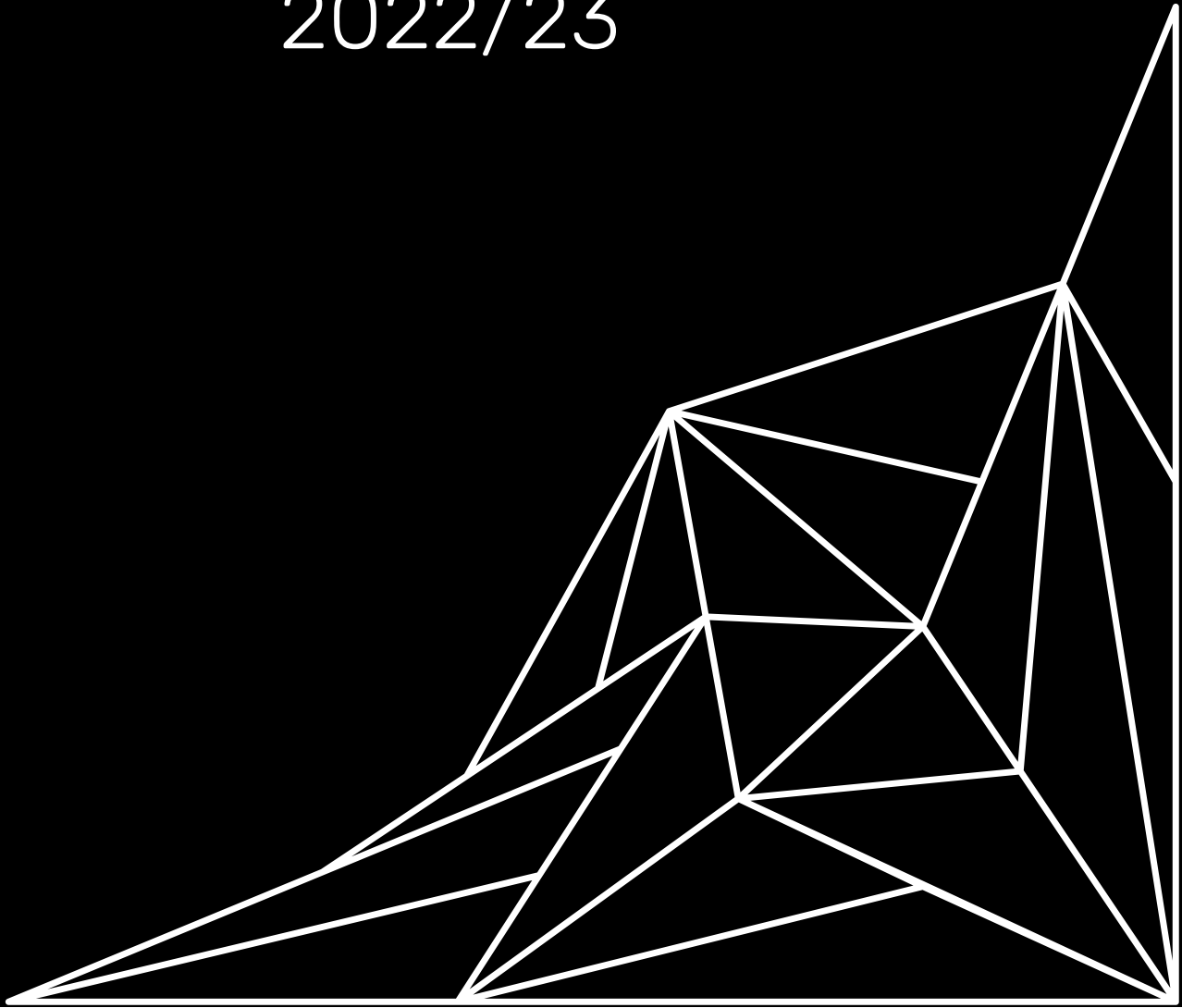




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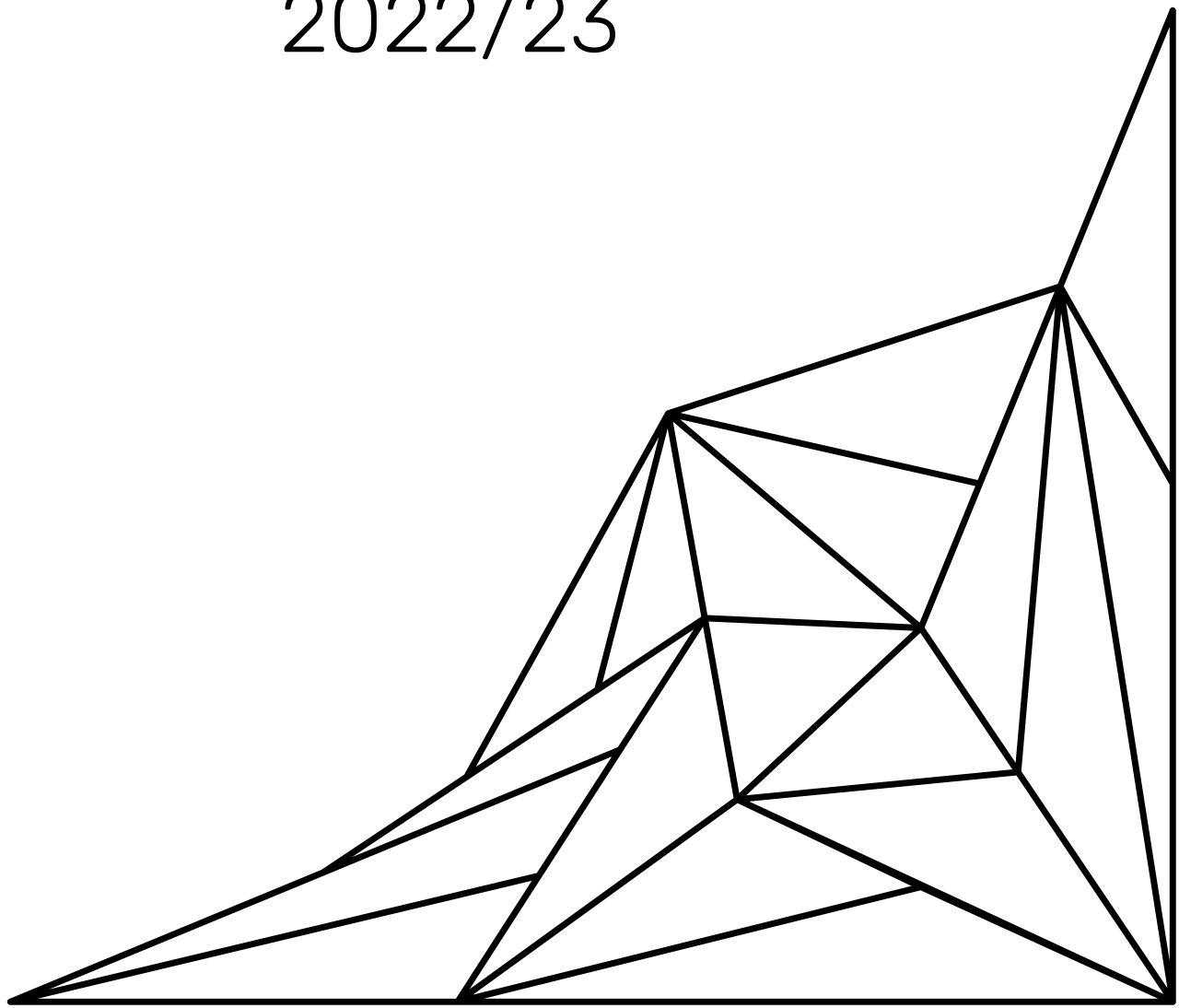
Annual Review

2022/23



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foreword

The academic year 2022-23 has been truly remarkable for St Mary's Students Union.

This year, we've embarked on our new strategy, said hello to yellow, grown our staff team to incorporate new areas of work and deepened our understanding of a new generation of students after the coronavirus pandemic.

Change is never easy for an organisation, but its important to make sure it's fit for purpose for our members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us on our journey over the last few months.

All that's left for me to say is, welcome to our annual review!

James Turnbull
Chief Executive Officer

our values

inclusive

We'll go above and beyond for our diverse membership, rallying to enhance the voices of under-represented and disadvantaged groups.

empowering

We'll be led by our members and enable them to reach their full potential.

informed

We'll have our finger on the pulse of student opinion and use robust and innovative approaches to tackle the issues our students are facing.

collaborative

We'll work closely with our members and stakeholders to build a strong community at St Mary's.

our vision

A university experience where every student gets the best out of their time at St Mary's and beyond.

our mission

SMSU will be at the heart of a growing inclusive, empowering and supportive community at St Mary's.

our priorities

Growing student representation

so that we are on the pulse of student opinion, enabling students to shape their experience whilst realising their full potential

Building our student communities

so that every student can make meaningful connections throughout their university experience

Supporting student wellbeing

so that all students have access to the right support whenever they need it

Being a proactive partner of the University

ensuring that the student experience is always put first by being a critical friend of the University



student life president

I can't believe the time has come to begin my second term. I am so proud of what I have accomplished in my first term and I am excited to continue this work next year.

Highlights include attending the NUS Lead and Change conference, networking with other student union officers, and collaborating with university staff to enhance campus safety.

I prioritized affordability and diversity in our events, reintroduced a weekly schedule of activities, and established Sport Rep roles for student feedback. We conducted surveys to gather student input on various projects, and initiatives like Simmie Safety Week and RAG Week were huge successes.

I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported me this year and I can't wait to show you all what this year has in store for SMSU!

education president

It's been a real honour to serve as your Education President. In March, I was delighted to be re-elected to serve another year in this role alongside Caitlin and our new Vice-Presidents.

Throughout the year, we've been busy running campaigns which have allowed us to raise awareness, encourage students to seek support and to campaign for change.

We've also been collecting feedback through surveys, focus groups and our new Big Rep meetings. The feedback you give us is vital in ensuring we can represent your interests effectively.

There is however still much work to do. Myself and the whole SU team will continue to work hard to build an SU that is more inclusive, representative and effective than ever before.



our year in numbers

we fundraised over £10,000 for charity

10 new societies affiliated with us

414 students joined a society

322 course reps represented their peers

we ran 16 campaigns

students created 17 petitions

1508 responses to our surveys

16 students nominated themselves in our elections

23% of students voted in our elections

23 commercial stalls came to our freshers fayre

2040 students attended our freshers fayre

we ran 25 fundraisers

46 students ran societies

450 award nominations

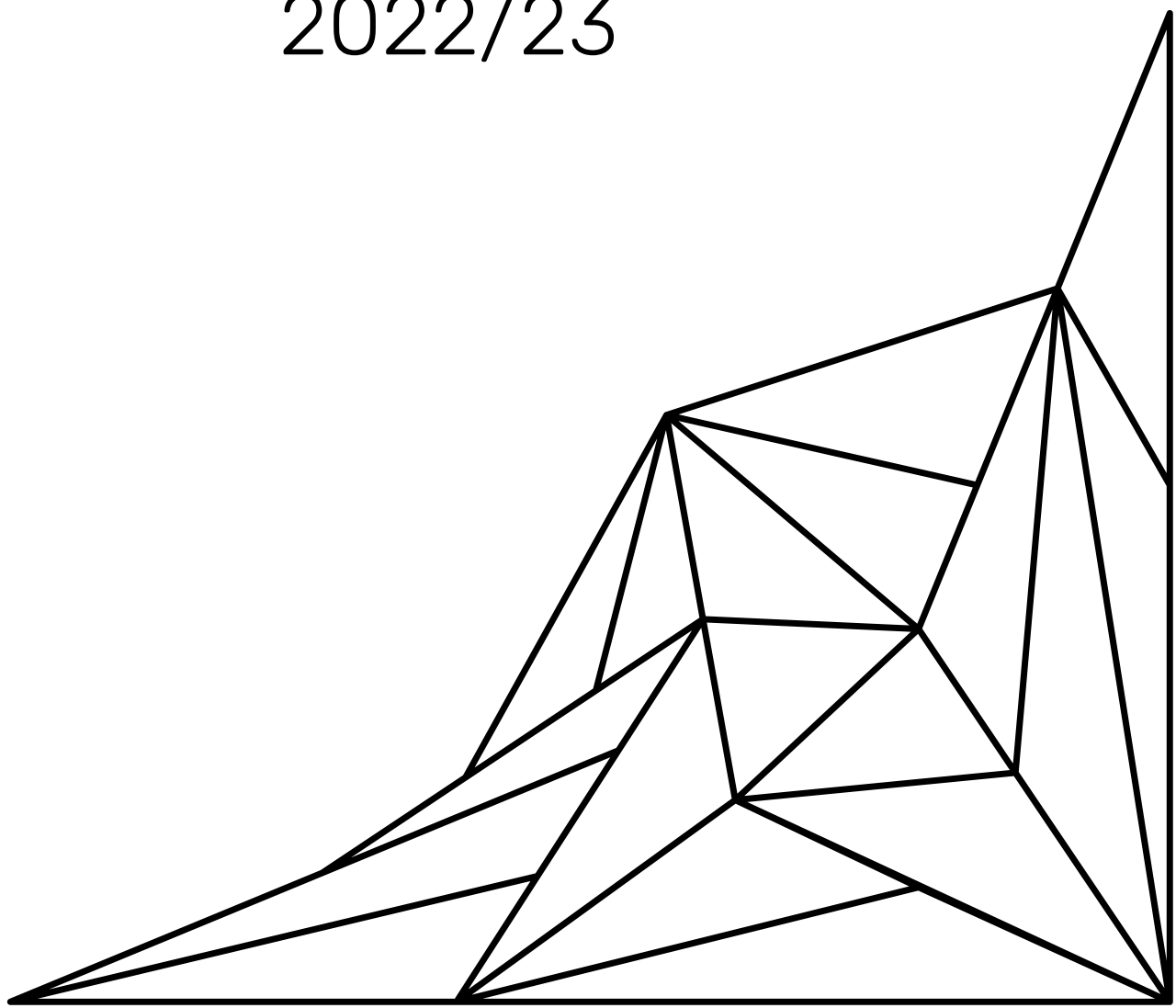
2 new lifetime members

4 new vice-presidents



our year

2022/23



summer

Hello, Yellow!

We completed our rebrand, introducing a new colour, set of logos and brand guidelines.

Launched our advice service

As part of our new strategy, we created a new advice service, enabling students to access professional, confidential and impartial advice on welfare and academic issues.

Lead & Change

Caitlin and George attended NUS Lead and Change Conference at Anglia Ruskin SU where they met other sabbatical officers and networked with other SU's.

Planning to 2025

James, Caitlin and George launched our new 2022-25 strategy at a launch event with key stakeholders.

Grew our team

We welcomed Matt, Emily and Jordan to the SMSU team to enable us to continue to grow and support students in building communities and growing student representation.

Revamped academic representation

We reviewed our academic representation structure and welcomed our brand new Subject Chairs, Phoebe-Jean, Dermot, Isha and Kieran, to help grow the academic feedback loop.



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september

Welcome Fest

We ran 24 events over Welcome Fest from outdoor cinema, to a colour run to specific socials for mature students and international students.

We worked hard to diversify our programme to appeal to new groups of students and we also ran a buddying scheme for new students who felt nervous attending events alone, in collaboration with Widening Participation.

Induction Talks

We welcomed new students to SMSU through a series of induction talks introducing our services and ways students can get involved.

Sport Reps

In collaboration with Sport St Mary's, we created three new Sport Rep roles to support student voice and representation across performance, recreation and sports coaching.

Freshers Fayre

Freshers Fayre returned and saw over 2000 attendances alongside 30 commercial stalls, society stalls and University department signposting stalls.

We also ran a quiet half-hour before the main freshers fayre for students who may feel overwhelmed by the busyness of the venue.





october

Wear Red Day

To mark Dyslexia Awareness Week, we invited students and staff to wear red. We also hosted a focus group with students with dyslexia, and hosted drop-in sessions in collaboration with Student Services. The research conducted went on to inform George's lobbying work on the dyslexia diagnosis fee.

Black Tie Gala

In collaboration with the University, we supported UK:ME to host the annual Black Tie Gala as part of Black History Month. Black students were celebrated for their contributions to the Simmie community.

Course Reps

We inducted over 300 course reps from across the faculties and institutes, strengthening our student voice and academic representation

Student Heart Consultation

We surveyed 300 students and held focus groups for specific student demographics on the next phase of campus development.

Prewriteen

To celebrate Halloween, we hosted a club night in the SU Lounge with prizes for the best costumes.





november

Transgender Day of Remembrance

We raised the transgender flag for the first time at St Mary's on our new SMSU flagpole to mark Transgender Day of Remembrance. We also held a drop-in session for transgender students to speak to us about their experiences and as a result, SMSU now has free pronoun badges on the front desk.

Brew at 2

We brought back Brew at 2 to connect with our students to keep our fingers on the pulse of student opinion whilst giving them free tea, coffee, hot chocolate and biscuits.

Megaphone Meeting

At our first megaphone meeting students passed three petitions including increasing parking, improving Ref food quality and bringing back the SU Bar.

Simmie Safety

George and Caitlin launched their biggest campaign of the year, surveying students about their experiences of safety on campus. Over 400 students responded and the recommendations have fed into lobbying work surrounding the Statement of Expectations and campus development.

Interfaith Week

Caitlin, George, James, Sarah and Emily visited Auschwitz-Birkenau with the Holocaust Education Trust to learn about the Holocaust and contemporary anti-semitism.



Sustainability Week

George led a sustainability week campaign looking at waste, energy and other sustainability principles. We held a Green Forum to hear student feedback on sustainability on campus and a green fayre with catering to hear from suppliers on their work.



World Cup

To celebrate the World Cup, we held screenings in the SU Lounge for students living on campus to watch the games.



december

RAG Week

As part of Caitlin's manifesto, we brought back RAG Week for the first time since 2018.

We brought back Big Brother and the fundraising thermometer, as well as some new events like 'Family Fortunes', where some of our clubs competed against each other with Ladies' Football taking the title and a £25 bar tab! Together we raised over £4,528 for O2E.

An extra special thank you goes to Lacrosse, GAA, Cheer, Ladies' Football, Women's Rugby, Mens' Rugby Union, Dance, and Netball for organising and participating in events, raising an incredible amount of money for this fantastic charity.



Pizza, Poetry & Prosecco

Creative Writing Society hosted a workshop where students experimented with writing haikus.

Law Society go iceskating

Law Society took a trip to an ice skating rink to celebrate the Christmas season.





january

Welcomed SU Crew & Media Crew

We grew our team to welcome student staff – five SU Crew and three Media Crew – to the SMSU team to support us with engagement activity and content creation.

Lighting Survey: Campus Safety

As part of her manifesto pledge on campus safety, Caitlin went along to the annual walkaround of campus at night with the estates team to review the lighting currently in place. As a result, lighting was fixed, and new lighting was installed to help make campus safer.

Culture Week

We supported one of our student leaders, Isha Chaudhry in running a Culture Week campaign, showcasing and celebrating all the different cultures at St Mary's. Activities included cultural crafts, an international cafe, performing arts and a sports and games day. We also worked in collaboration with the catering team to deliver an international inspired menu in the Ref throughout the week.





february

Elections hit record turnout

We elected our student leadership team for 23/24 academic year, achieving a record-breaking turnout of 23% of the student body. 16 students nominated themselves in the election across 7 roles, including our new Vice-President positions.



Election results

Mehakdeep Arora
NUS Delegate

Emily Storr
Wellbeing Vice-President

Christopher Bryde
Postgraduate Vice-President

Beth Kelly
Inclusion Vice-President

Victoria Ludwig
International Vice-President

George Chaplin
Education President

Caitlin Finn
Student Life President

Sexual Harassment Awareness Week

As part of sexual harassment awareness week, we held a healthy relationships workshop, a pizza and consent event, a self-defence class and generated awareness raising posters looking at the frequency of harassment amongst University students.

ACUI

James, Sarah and Jordan headed to Boston to join the ACUI International Conference to learn about the student movement on an international scale. Whilst they were there, they visited three University campuses to learn best practice surrounding venues and membership services delivery.

BRIT Challenge

To raise funds for the British Inspiration Trust to support young adult mental health and fitness, we asked students to cycle for 23 minutes.

Members Meeting

We held our annual members meeting where students voted to approve our affiliations and to review our accounts.

Student Volunteering Week

To mark SVW, we ran a volunteering fayre with local organisations, and a volunteering workshop. Forty students also took on a clean-up of Radnor Gardens in collaboration with the Rugby League and Strawberry Hill Residents Association.





march

Varsity

The West London Varsity returned to St Mary's for the first time since 2018. Simmies competed in 30 sports against Brunel, ultimately achieving victory with a score of 17-13.



Sports Dinner

Sports Dinner recognised the achievements of sports clubs and individuals. 350 nominations were received and 13 students were awarded 'Full Blues', the most prestigious award, recognising outstanding contribution to sport at St Mary's.



NUS National Conference

George and Mehakdeep Arora attended NUS National Conference in Harrogate. Mehakdeep was elected as our NUS Delegate and used her platform to lobby for reduced tuition fees for international students.



Random Acts of Kindness

Caitlin led on a Random Acts of Kindness campaign, where students wrote anonymous compliment cards for their peers and staff. Over 200 compliment cards were received.

Red Nose Day

We invited students and staff to wear PJs to University to mark Red Nose Day and raise funds for Comic Relief.

Ramadan Unity Fast

Ramadan Unity Fast took place for the second year in a row. It was a chance for students to come together in celebration and to break their fast together, whilst fundraising for charity.





april

Strawberry Hill Poetry Prize

Creative Writing Society ran a poetry competition in partnership with the academic department. The winning poet received a prize of £100.

Stalking Awareness Week

We partnered with the Met Police and Alice Ruggles Trust to deliver an information stall and drop-in for students affected by stalking.



Drugs & Alcohol Conference

Some of the team attended SOS-UK's Drugs & Alcohol Conference in Leeds where they discussed making sober-inclusive spaces on campus and the benefits of a harm reduction approach to drug use.

Hit £10,000 of fundraising!

The top three charities for fundraising were Ordinary 2 Extraordinary, Calm and Movember.

Megaphone Meeting

Students passed petitions on introducing free adobe software for creative courses, introducing an outdoor gym and increasing the Senior Resident discount on accommodation.

may

SU Awards

We hosted our first ever SU Awards where we recognised all the outstanding contributions our students have made both at St Mary's and beyond! Over 100 students attended the awards night to celebrate.



Big Student Survey

We launched our first annual survey, asking students for feedback on SMSU activity and a special topic. This year, this was the Cost of Living crisis.

Deaf Awareness Week

Our VP Inclusion-elect, Beth, ran a workshop to mark Deaf Awareness Week where she spoke to students about her experiences.

Summer Ball

We ended the year on our Summer Ball, complete with funfair, an outdoor festival, food stalls, fireworks and a silent disco in the SU Lounge,

Student hardship: write to your MP

As part of his work on the Cost of Living crisis, George launched a campaign to support students in writing to their MP to call for better financial support for students.



our trustees

Sheela Patel
Veronica Fulton
Megan Jones
Ahmed El-Hana

our su crew

Jayne Gates
Ralf Mergenthaler
Will Tyrrell
Khia Plunkett

our media crew

Jack Hobbs
Mary Mannering
Giada Sbaffi

our subject chairs

Phoebe-Jean Grainger
Kieran Edwards
Isha Chaudhry Parveen
Dermot Collon

our team 22/23



James Turnbull
**Chief Executive
Officer**



Sarah Redman
**Membership Services
Manager**



Jack Harrison
Events Coordinator



Emily Alland
**Finance & Admin
Assistant to the CEO**



Jordan Baker
**Student Voice
Coordinator**



Matt Doyle
**Student Opportunities
Coordinator**



Maryam Ahmad
**Marketing & Income
Coordinator**

thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who we've worked with this year, we couldn't have done it without you!

To our new lifetime members, Claire Mcloughlin and Simon Williams, thank you for your continued support to the organisation, and welcome to the team.



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