

WARWICK SU

Strategic Plan

2008-2011

JANUARY 2009



OUR ASPIRATIONS

■ WHAT WILL THE UNION LOOK LIKE IN THREE YEARS TIME?

It will be fit for the twenty-first century.

We will have benefitted from an £11m investment in a redevelopment project to become the most modern Students' Union building in the country. There will be new facilities and more flexible spaces. There will be longer opening hours, including during vacations. It means a more accessible frontage opening out onto the Piazza. It will enable us to continue to develop and provide its myriad services to students. We will also have set out a vision for redevelopment of our SU HQ, making a central hub for all student involvement, welcoming and easy to use.

We will have revitalised democracy, to ensure our Union is led by students and truly representative of what its members want. We will be more accessible and more responsive. We will have a greater impact in making visible change, direct benefits and tangible outcomes for students.

The Union will be best placed to integrate and include all students at Warwick, home and international, undergraduate and postgraduate, those on and off campus, into the activities and opportunities of the organisation. It will be a global centre of social interaction located at the heart of campus.

Most importantly, in three years time the Union will have been shaped by you.

OUR ASPIRATIONS

■ STUDENT-LED

Our not-for-profit organisation is led by students for students, and is accountable to our members.

■ INNOVATIVE

We foster enterprise and support dynamic ideas. We are forward thinking.

■ INCLUSIVE

We believe in creating a culture with equal access to opportunities in a friendly and fun, supportive and welcoming environment.

■ ETHICAL

We commit to act with integrity and transparency, managing our business practices and service provision in an ethical and responsible way.



2. PROVIDING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

To maximise the social interaction, cultural opportunities, sporting participation, and volunteering contribution of students.

AIMS

- i.** Encourage student and staff participation and membership diversity in 'sport for all' by improving and developing the Warwick Sport partnership.
- ii.** Continually monitor trends within societies to ensure students are achieving the greatest benefits. Encourage wider participation through simplifying the operations of clubs and societies.
- iii.** Ensure societies and clubs are effectively run. Ensure Club and society Executives are adequately supported in running their clubs and societies.
- iv.** Support the growth and delivery of major student led events such as One World Week (OWW), Warwick Student Arts Festival (WSAF), Warwick international Development Summit and the Economics Summit. Ensure best practice is shared.
- v.** Promote the Warwick Advantage Award supporting student development in extra curricular activities.
- vi.** Promote and encourage partnerships between clubs, societies and Warwick Volunteers.
- vii.** Build and develop a well equipped media centre for the use of media societies and the wider student body and encourage development opportunities to students.

TARGETS

- i.** *Increased membership of Warwick Sport activities. Ensure implementation of Warwick Sport strategy and influence facilities development through Warwick Sport.*
- ii.** *Review costs of joining. Communicate what fees are spent on. Review processes and clearly communicate how the SU can help.*
- iii.** *Evaluate training to develop skills of club and society executives. Provide specific support for tours and events. Improve handover processes.*
- iv.** *Maximise numbers of volunteers, attendees. Higher event profile across campus and in the local community. Greater diversity of members' involvement.*
- v.** *Diverse cross section of students achieving Warwick Advantage Award. Highlight development opportunities available through student activities and the SU.*
- vi.** *Increased numbers of students involved in community and charitable volunteering initiatives. Increased funding for initiatives from sponsorship and trusts and grants.*
- vii.** *Funding secured by 2009-10 and work completed by 2010-11.*

4. REPRESENTING STUDENTS TO WIN CHANGE

To promote the interests of our members at institutional, local and national levels to achieve direct benefits for students.

AIMS

- i. Implement the Union education strategy ensuring that it fully represents the student learning experience. Lead the development of the SSLC system in partnership with the University.
- ii. Ensure Union democracy is relevant, engaging and accessible to our diverse membership. Clearly explain the purpose of democracy in the SU.
- iii. Provide opportunities for members to engage in debate on key issues regardless of method.
- iv. Be an effective voice in all issues that affect students at local, regional and national level.
- v. Continuously improve the internal briefing system to ensure that Union Officers on University Committees represent students effectively and raise awareness of this service.
- vi. Celebrate the diversity of our members and support ‘Liberation Campaigns’.

TARGETS

- i. Lobby for improved quality of feedback, and variety of assessment in academic work. Encourage further investment and development, while continuing to lobby for more books, greater online resources and enhanced facilities. Constantly review and redevelop the SSLC System to continue to win change for students.
- ii. Achieve quorate Union meetings and referenda and increased votes in primary elections. Involve previously non engaged groups in Union democracy and representation including Officer positions.
- iii. Quorate Union meetings and referenda: increased votes in primary elections. Involve previously non engaged groups in Union democracy and representation including Officer positions.
- iv. Increased effectiveness and attendance with regional and national bodies to effect change.
- v. Ensure effective University representation through consistent committee attendance – benefits tangible from student input. Ensure all officer positions that involve University representation are filled. Communicate resultant decisions where appropriate.
- vi. Contested Liberation Campaign Officer elections and Liberation Campaign conference delegations. Full delegations sent to all conferences.

6. WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Raise the profile and the contribution of the Students' Union and the University through engaging with communities and partners at a local, regional and national level.

AIMS

- i. Raise the profile of students and the SU's contribution to the Community.
- ii. Support the University's widening participation agenda to ensure that barriers to attending University are addressed. Increase the Union's work with sixth forms and local colleges, its mentoring and volunteering placements to involve larger numbers of pre-FE/HE students and young people.
- iii. To continue in our work with under privileged sections of the community to open up opportunities in otherwise inaccessible cultural, musical and media activities. Form relationships with local organisations such as the Herbert Art Gallery and Media Centre, the Belgrade theatre, BBC Coventry and Warwickshire and the Council.
- iv. Increase our project development work with Warwick Volunteers to ensure that students are afforded the widest opportunities in volunteering through our contacts in the region.
- v. To create a state of the art media centre that can support the needs and aspirations of our membership and the local community and offer development opportunities.

TARGETS

- i. Increased media interest in Students' Union activities, raised profile as a regional business force, community project supporter and employer of choice. Create positive perceptions of students in the community. Widen partnerships that have a community impact.
- ii. Develop mentoring scheme at King Edward Sixth Form College. Improved links with sixth form and FE colleges. Provide access to facilities and expertise, e.g. media centre. Consider international opportunities for widening participation.
- iii. Third successful Music festival (Coventry in the Mix) for Coventry Youth groups. Examine the feasibility of funding for a Community Engagement member of staff. Successful bid for funding for the post. Develop the media space utilised by community groups for young persons' development. Encourage Student Societies to be involved in training initiatives.
- iv. New community projects successfully identified and externally funded. Improve community networks. Increase in awareness amongst students of opportunities available. Uptake of Warwick Advantage Award increases.
- v. Funding secured by 2009-10 and work completed by 2010-11. Local community partners identified and secured.



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