

Students' Union

University of the Arts London

EXTERNAL TRUSTEE: INFORMATION PACK



Thank you for your interest in becoming an external trustee of the Students' Union at University of the Arts London (SUARTS). I hope that you will find this pack a useful source of information for both understanding the organisation a little better and a tool for helping you apply. If you do need any further information, please feel free to contact me by email president@su.arts.ac.uk, or phone 020 7514 6270.

I look forward to hearing from you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads 'Helen Gimber'.

Helen Gimber | Students' Union President & Chair of the Trustee Board

ABOUT US

SUARTS is a relatively young Union but one that has been developing rapidly in recent years. We represent and serve around 21,000 students at University of the Arts London; which with its 17 sites across London is Europe's largest university for art, design, fashion, communication and the performing arts. It's a vibrant world centre for innovation, comprising of six renowned colleges: Camberwell College of Arts, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, Chelsea College of Art and Design, London College of Communication, London College of Fashion and Wimbledon College of Art.

Last year SUARTS entered into a ground-breaking collaboration with LSE Students' Union, because although we serve two very different student bodies, we recognised there is much mutual benefit in coming together. We now share a number of management level and specialist staff, which has enabled us to focus saved resources on the services we offer students. The collaboration is an innovative and exciting project, and is one of the first in the student movement, but displays the most recognisable values of collectivism and shared development which embody activity in our sector across the world. We pride ourselves on harnessing and nurturing our students' creative talents in all that we do. We are a youthful, friendly, vibrant organization.

OUR MISSION

To provide effective representation and a range of high quality student focused services that enhance the student experience and build the student community at University of the Arts London.

OUR VALUES

Creativity. Democracy. Diversity. Equality. Fun. Responsibility.

SO WHY 'EXTERNAL TRUSTEES'?

Due to the Charities Act of 2004, Students' Union will have to register with the Charities Commission in the very near future. With this in mind we recently took the opportunity to review how the Union is governed to make sure we meet the requirements. To ensure the Trustee Board is diverse and has an appropriate mix of skills we made the decision to appoint two Trustees externally (outside of the University community) to serve alongside the four elected Full-Time Sabbatical Officers & the three directly elected Student Trustees.



THE ROLE OF EXTERNAL TRUSTEES

Being an External Trustee provides you an exciting opportunity to use your skills, knowledge and experience to make a positive difference to the lives of students at UAL.

The Trustee Board has ultimate responsibility for the strategic direction and financial well-being of the Union, ensuring that it is solvent, well-governed and delivering on the objectives for which it exists.

External Trustees will work with and support elected student trustees as a member of a nine strong board committed to the successful future the UK's leading creative Students' Union.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The individuals appointed as External Trustees must be committed to the role of Students' Unions and support our values of student leadership, democracy and our not for profit approach. Ideally we are seeking to appoint individuals with knowledge or experience of one or more of the following areas although all applications will be considered.

- Charity law
- Financial regulation and oversight
- Human resources development
- A campaigning organisation
- The creative industries
- Policy formation

Such experience may have been gained in the workplace or while volunteering in the public, private or third sectors. Ideally you may have had recent experience of higher/further education or Students' Unions but this is not essential.

WHAT WE WILL GIVE YOU ...

- This is an unpaid volunteer opportunity, but we will provide a range of training and continued support to ensure you can fulfil the role to the best of your ability.
- The opportunity to make a positive contribution to the lives of students in the creative industries, in the University, in London and beyond.
- An opportunity to serve as a trustee and either develop or improve your skills and knowledge as a trustee.
- All reasonable out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.



WHAT WE WILL EXPECT FROM EXTERNAL TRUSTEES....

- **A long term Commitment:** External Trustees are to be appointed for a period of four years, after which they may be appointed for a further period of four years by the Board.
- **Attendance at Board Meetings:** That you will attend six board meetings per year and the Union's Annual General Meeting.
- **Support elected Trustees:** That outside of board meetings there will be occasions when the elected Trustees will turn to you for your experience and knowledge.
- **Attendance at Training:** That you attend an occasional training events on relevant issues approx two or three times a year.
- **An involvement with the Union:** That you will take an active interest in the union, occasionally attend social or work events and undertake the necessary reading and preparation for meetings.



WHEN WOULD I START AS A TRUSTEE?

With the deadline for applications the Monday 26th April 2010, we hope to complete the process of appointing our second External Trustee by the end of May 2010.



HOW DO I APPLY?

Please send a copy of your CV with a covering letter explaining your motivations to Helen Gimber, Students' Union President, The Student Hub, University of the Arts London, 272 High Holborn, London WC1V 7EY or email to president@su.arts.ac.uk. Deadline for applications is Monday 26th April 2010.



HOW WILL EXTERNAL TRUSTEES BE APPOINTED?

All applications received will be considered by the Union and a shortlist of candidates will be invited to an informal interview and to meet current Trustees. All candidates will be informed of the outcome and feedback will be provided.



MORE INFORMATION

For more information and a discussion about becoming a Trustee please contact Andrea Strachan, SUARTS' General Manager by calling 020 7514 6270 or emailing a.m.strachan@su.arts.ac.uk.

Interested candidates are welcome to visit the Students' Union Head Office at The Student Hub, University of the Arts London, 272 High Holborn, London WC1V 7EY and should contact Andrea Strachan, SUARTS' General Manager as above to arrange such a visit.

