

Training of Trustees
A paper by the Council Chair

Background

With impending Charity registration the role of the Trustee Board will take on greater significance in relation to how it interacts with the rest of the Union and within the required legal and financial frameworks. With this, we as a Union could hope to develop a greater understanding of what the role of being a Trustee entails. However, as the majority of the members of this Board are only in place for 1 academic year, it can be challenging to develop a high quality of understanding and delivery through the 4 meetings alone which suggests a need for some more focussed training.

Furthermore, in the ICU Constitution, Regulation One (Trustee Board), point 16 & 17 it reads:

Induction

16. A new Trustee shall be required within six months of being appointed to office (the time running from date of appointment, not date of taking office) to undertake training commensurate with an appointment as Trustee.

17. The Trustee Board shall determine the nature of such training, any exemptions or extensions thereof, and may provide for the withdrawal of voting privileges from a Trustee considered not to have satisfactorily completed it.

In addition to this, it was recently highlighted by a member of the Board that the company Farrer & Co offer a service of training for Trustees:

Trustees and governance

Guiding and training trustees on their responsibilities and liabilities, on good governance practice, policies and structures.

Notes

1. The Union has a comprehensive system for training Club officers, and has been rapidly developing the training for Welfare and Representation officers.
2. As far as I am aware for the past 2 years (if not more), no formal training of any kind has taken place, certainly for Student Trustees, for members of the Trustee Board.
3. Training the officers/members of the highest Board of the Union is a worthwhile endeavour, and that if necessary, this endeavour should be funded (most probably through the existing training budget).

Decisions

1. To set up a working party regarding the training of the members of the Trustee Board.
 - a. The purpose of the working party would be to:
 - i. Review and define the training needs of the Trustee Board, particularly in relation to membership status.
 - ii. For it to collate, or nominate a suitable individual/organisation to collate content for the training.
 - iii. Arrange for the delivery of the training to members of the Trustee Board before the next meeting of the Trustee Board.
 - iv. Report to the next meeting of the Trustee Board, on the process and outcome as well as identify recommendations for the future.

Or

2. To identify another method for implementing the training of Trustees as per the Constitution.