

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

England & Wales · Charity number 1142614

Details

Other names BIRKBECK STUDENTS' UNION AND BCSU

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [06661477](#)

Registered 2011-06-28

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Birkbeck College Students' Union
Malet Street
London
WC1E 7HX

Phone 02076316335

Email studentsunion@bbk.ac.uk

Website www.birkbeckunion.org

Activities

Objects: ObjectsThe objects of the Union are the advancement of education of Students at Birkbeck, University of London for the public benefit by:promoting the interests and welfare of Students at Birkbeck, University of London during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising Students;being the recognised representative channel between Students and Birkbeck, University of London and any other external bodies; andproviding social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its Students.

Activities: Students' Union - membership organisation, representation, advice, advocacy, counselling services, educational support activity, co-curricular workshops, peer groups, employability, social intercourse, promotion of research, surveying, policy development and advocacy & campaigning.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£499,598	£482,696	-	-
2024-07-31	£452,016	£452,146	-	-
2023-07-31	£449,319	£463,305	-	-
2022-07-31	£390,913	£386,520	-	-
2021-07-31	£345,890	£333,102	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bhoomi Narula		2026-07-01
ELLEN MARIE ORR		2024-09-01
Emilie Tapping		2025-11-27
Min Song		2026-04-01
Paddy Reilly		2026-04-01
Priyanuj Choudhury		2026-07-01
Suna Brockford		2026-07-01
Zainab Abdul-Obitayo		2026-07-01

Accounts



REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06661477 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1142614

**Report of the Trustees and
Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025
For
BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION**



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Contents of the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 July 2025

	Page
Report of the Trustees	3 - 18
Report of the Independent Auditors	19 - 22
Statement of Financial Activities	23
Balance Sheet	24
Notes to the Financial Statements	25 - 33



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the incorporated charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

06661477 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1142614 (England and Wales)

Registered Address

Birkbeck, University of London

Malet Street London

WC1E 7HX

Trustees

Chief Executive

Y Joondan (to 31st October 2025)

Trustee	Date appointed	Date resigned	Class of appointment
A Prestage	1st August 2018	31st December 2024	Non-executive
A Thompson	1st August 2021		Non-executive
M Dhesi	1st August 2021	30th June 2025	Non-executive
W Sarenden	1st July 2023	30th June 2025	Executive
G Hope	1st August 2021	31st January 2025	Non-executive
V Pirani	1st July 2024	30th June 2025	Executive
F Ferdous	1st July 2024	30th June 2025	Executive
Z Han	1st July 2024	30th June 2025	Executive
E Orr	1st September 2024		Non-Executive
J Swo	1st January 2025		Non- Executive
S Okere	1st July 2025		Executive
O Eche	1st July 2025		Executive
H Brock	1st July 2025		Executive



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC

Solicitors

DAC Beachcroft LLP



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The company was incorporated on 31 July 2008 and commenced its activities on 1 August 2008 when assets and liabilities of Birkbeck College Students' Union, an unincorporated entity, were transferred in.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TO DATE

Overview

The Union was granted a subvention of £471,000 from Birkbeck University to support staff costs and core activities, as agreed between the Trustees and University management, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding for the financial year 2024-25.

Reserves and Restricted Funds

Reserves are classified as restricted or unrestricted. Within unrestricted funds there are designated funds where the trustees have committed the Union to future expenditure, such as on projects that have received match-funding. Restricted reserves comprise balances on subventions, restricted donations plus clubs & societies where funds have been received for a specific purpose and the Union is restricted in its use of these funds.

The Trustees encourage students who run clubs and societies to ensure that there is financial activity within their remits and, where possible, to develop plans to apply these restricted funds for student benefit in accordance with the constitutional objects and mission of their club or society, engaging their membership widely in how the funds are used.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Union is controlled by its governing documents; a Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 31 July 2008 (amended 1 August 2009), and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consist of no more than fourteen persons and is made up as follows:

- not more than eight officer trustees, elected annually by secret ballot of the Union membership for a 12-month term;
- not more than two student trustees, appointed for a term of one year; and
- not more than five lay trustees, appointed for a term of three years.



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the Union's activities and believe that the Union is adequately insured and with new financial management, monitoring and control processes now agreed with University and considers it has an appropriate risk management policy in place.

During the year, the Union's insurance policies and schedules were fully reviewed by management, the insurance broker and the underwriters, and this review was considered and approved by the Trustees. The Trustees also considered and noted the implications of the Union's safeguarding responsibilities, the appropriateness of checks on individuals holding elected or paid office or posts within the charity in relation to information held by the Disclosure and Barring Service, and the Union's wider corporate duties under the Bribery Act 2011 and the Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Constitutional Aims and Objects

The objects of the Union are the advancement of education of students at Birkbeck, University of London for the public benefit by:

- 1 - promoting the interests and welfare of students at Birkbeck, University of London during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising students;
- 2 - being the recognised representative channel between students and Birkbeck, University of London and any other external bodies; and
- 3 - providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its students.

The Trustees have considered the effect of the Charity Commission's statement on public benefit on the operations and constitution of the Union.

The Union is a democratically run organisation, led by Birkbeck students and supported by a small and effective staffing structure. Each year, the Union runs Spring and Autumn elections to elect the Sabbatical Officers, who lead and direct the Union's work and serve as members of the Board of Trustees. Student Parliament, comprising a wider group of student representatives, holds the Sabbatical Officers to account and helps to shape the Union's policies.



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Strategy

Birkbeck Students' Union Strategy outlines the plans for three years from 2022-25, with a focus on four main areas of work:

- Supporting student wellbeing
- Enhancing students' social experience
- Representing the views of students
- Representing academic interests

In each of these four areas the Union has set itself a number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure its success in achieving these objectives. The performance against the KPIs in 2024-25 was as follows:

Supporting Student Wellbeing

1. **Developing relationships with different partners to support and enhance students' academic experience and their welfare.** During the 2024-25 academic year, **four new partnerships** both internal and external were developed to enhance support for students.
2. **Increasing and signposting wellbeing opportunities throughout all Students' Union activities.** The Students' Union continues to prioritise the integration and visibility of wellbeing opportunities across all areas of its activity. By embedding wellbeing support within Union initiatives, services, and communications, the Union seeks to ensure that students are both aware of and able to access appropriate support as required.

Recent survey findings indicate that 56% of students reported being aware of the Students' Union's support services, while 43.7% agreed that the Union has had a positive impact on their wellbeing. These results demonstrate an encouraging upward trend in awareness and perceived impact, while also identifying a continued need to strengthen engagement and communication to maximise the reach and effectiveness of wellbeing-related activities across the student community.

3. **Increasing participation in the Union's activities by ensuring that the opportunities consider barriers to students.** Recent survey data indicates that 28.7% of students feel that the Students' Union provides useful advice and support, while 32.8% have accessed one or more of the Union's advice services and reported satisfaction with the support received. The Students' Union Support team provides advice and guidance to students on a range of academic matters, including academic misconduct, appeals and complaints, extenuating circumstances, disciplinary procedures, and academic appeals.



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Enhancing Students' Social Experience

1. Increasing engagement and satisfaction with the SU Events programme.
The attendance, quality and satisfaction rate for each event has increased. In 2024-25, 2154 tickets sold (2023-24, 2830 tickets sold).
2. Increasing student group membership numbers and satisfaction.
In 2024-2025, we have less student groups – 29 Societies, 4 Sports clubs, but more memberships sold – 475 (2023-24, 59 student groups, with a total of 416 memberships sold.). This indicates that there is higher engagement with less student groups.
3. Increasing awareness of the Activities section. 76% of students were aware of clubs and societies in 2023, with 116 students holding memberships to societies.

Representing the View of Students

1. 14.5% of students currently know how to influence change within the Union, showing we need to improve communication and raise awareness of the ways students can share feedback and get involved.
2. In 2024, 61% of Student Parliament roles were contested, showing growing interest in leadership positions. Most officer roles for 2024-25 were also contested, except the Postgraduate Officer role. However, voter turnout in the 2025 Spring Elections fell to 3.5%. The SU also faced some voting issues, but additional measures were put in place to ensure a free and fair election.
3. Introducing a new representative system. In 2024, the SU replaced the course rep system with a new structure that better aligns with university frameworks and student demographics, while removing barriers such as elections. This change resulted in a 41% growth in the number of student reps.
4. Rewarding and recognising our student representatives. All representatives are eligible for a certificate and award for their contributions at the SU awards, fostering a culture of appreciation and encouragement for student leadership.

Representing Academic Interests

In 2024, The SU saw a rise to 46.3% of students agreeing that the Students' Union effectively represents their academic interests (2023, 32%).

1. Lobbying the University for greater consistency across departments. After the University restructured in 2023 from five schools to three faculties, the SU has worked with the University to build consistency within the new framework. This included designing the new Academic Rep system, which ensures the same structure is used across all faculties so that every student voice is heard and represented fairly.
2. Transforming the Course Rep scheme into an effective change-making system. The new Academic Rep scheme has been successful which has seen a growth of 41% more academic reps, and additional Student Head of Faculty roles to align with the university's structures.



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

OFFICERS & BOARD

The Board have opted not to have the post of Company Secretary

DEMOCRACY and REPRESENTATION

SABBATICAL OFFICERS

The four Sabbatical Officers serve as the leaders of the Students' Union, representing student interests to the University and holding positions on both the Trustee Board and Executive Committee. This was the first academic year with the new system in place, following a reduction from eight officers. They guide the Union's direction and spearhead its initiatives each year. Elections for these officers take place every Spring, giving students the opportunity to vote and ensure their voices are heard.

For the Spring elections, four sabbatical officer positions were available, majority was contested. This year the voter turnout was at 3.5%.

STUDENT PARLIAMENT

Student Parliament is an elected group of representatives who pass policy, debate student issues, and hold the Student Leaders to account. There are 31 positions in Student Parliament.

In 2024-25, 61% of roles were contested and 13 motions were submitted. Student Parliament held five meetings (once every two months), where they discussed topics including the SU Code of Conduct, racism on campus, elected officer accountability, and student job opportunities. They also created a new role focused on Student Mental Health.

ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVES

Academic Representatives are an essential part of elevating the student voice and keeping the University and Union informed with student feedback.

Academic Representatives are selected at the start of term, with students also able to nominate themselves.

In 2024-25, 394 Academic Representatives were recruited, with 86% trained across the three faculties following the Universities restructure. The SU also introduced six new Student Head of Faculty roles—one undergraduate and one postgraduate per faculty—to further strengthen representation.

The table below shows how many course representatives sit in each faculty. The school for LAW and Science have less representation but this is due to a small population of students.



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Undergraduate (trained) 253

Faculty	Academic Representatives
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences	121
Faculty of Law and Business	84
Faculty of Science	48

Postgraduate (trained) 83

Faculty	Academic Representatives
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences	54
Faculty of Law and Business	4
Faculty of Science	25

Elections (Autumn)

Nominations:	54
Method of Election:	Online/Website
Unique Voters:	38
Individual Votes Cast:	71
Turnout (student population):	0.45%

Elections (Spring)

Elections for Officer Trustees

Candidate Withdrawals:	12
Number of Candidates:	21
Number of Positions:	4
Number of Positions with Candidates:	4
Method of Election:	Online/Website
Unique Voters:	323
Individual Votes Cast:	958
Turnout (student population):	3.8% (8500)

STUDENT LED TEACHING AWARDS (2025)

There were 42 nominations, and the followings categories were awarded;

1. Nabil Yahya – Outstanding Contribution to Birkbeck



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

2. Palestine Society Fundraisers – Student Group Event of the Year
3. Talisa DU-Pont and Mailen Farias (Short Filmmaking Society) – Committee Member of the Year (joint win)
4. Kshitijh Sharma – Course Rep of the Year
5. Football Club – Team of the Year
6. Anime and Gaming Society – Student Group of the Year
7. Chloe Hennigar – Best Professional Services staff member
8. Luke Williams – Lecturer of the Year
9. Keith Mannock – Dissertation Supervisor of the Year
10. Santosh Lall – Colleague of the Year
11. Dean Ismay – Parliament Member of the Year

OFFICER PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS

The Union's Student Officers lead campaigns and initiatives that positively impact students' wellbeing, studies, and overall experience at Birkbeck. For the 2024-25 academic year, four of the officer's hold portfolios focused on Education, Postgraduate, EDI and Welfare:

Wobble Week

Led by the Welfare Officer, this campaign supported student wellbeing and saw increased engagement by creating safe spaces and activities during key points in the year.

Student Spaces

New Student Spaces were opened across campus, giving students areas to connect with each other and with SU Officers. These spaces built on the legacy of previous officer campaigns and saw strong levels of student footfall.

Exam Stress Campaign

Officers ran a campaign during assessment periods to help students manage stress, with wellbeing activities and resources to encourage healthy study-life balance.

ACTIVITIES

Events Programme

Birkbeck Students' Union's activities have continued to thrive in the 2024-25 academic year, building on last year's success and fostering increased engagement. Due to cuts in the event budget in February, March, April, we had a redirection in event activities, but we continued to operate with lower-budget events. This year kicked off with three weeks of Welcome Week. The events programme is expanding even further, with a focus on quality of events over quantity. Our clubs, societies and networks are also continuing their excellent work. Some key statistics are below



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Events Programme

Total events: 209

Society and Sports club events: 151

SU organised events: 58

1. Welcome Week 2024: 27
2. Wobble Week: 5
3. Movember: 4
4. Christmas and New year events: 3
5. Welcome Back: 5
6. Central Events: 2
7. Welcome week 2025: 12

Free Events: 80%

Tickets sold: 2155+

Student Groups (Clubs, Societies & Networks)

Groups (Total): 40

Groups (Sport): 4

Groups (Societies): 29

Groups (Networks): 7

Matches (Sport): 42+

The past year was successful for the Union's student groups. Membership of existing sports clubs and societies increased despite a reduction in the overall number of groups, enabling the Union to focus its support on those demonstrating sustained activity and engagement. Notable examples of performance during the year included:

- Dancesport and Judo Clubs, which maintained a rigorous programme of activity, meeting up to five times per week;
- The Mountaineering Club, which organised more than 50 events during the year, including trips abroad;
- The Football Club, which experienced significant growth in engagement and now operates two teams, Team Birkbeck 1 and Team Birkbeck 2; and
- The Pop Culture Society, which delivered a wide programme of events and training and was recognised with the Students' Union award for Best Society.



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

STUDENTS' UNION SUPPORT SERVICE

The Students' Union Support Service offers free, confidential, and independent advice to Birkbeck students.

Over the past academic year, the service has supported 410 individual cases, with the largest proportion relating to academic appeals.

Advice Categories

Sub Matter Category	Number of Cases	Percentages
Appeal	119	29.0%
Academic Offence	102	24.9%
Progression	62	15.1%
Complaint	53	12.9%
Welfare	29	7.1%
Other	45	11.0%
Total	410	

Report on the Activities of the Student Union Support Team

Academic Year 2024–2025

The Student Union Support Team undertook a wide range of initiatives throughout the academic year to strengthen student engagement, wellbeing, and access to support services. Their work focused on building partnerships, improving visibility of key services, and ensuring students received timely and inclusive support.

1. Development of Internal and External Partnerships

The team successfully established and strengthened four significant partnerships within and outside the university, aimed at enhancing the student experience and promoting wellbeing:

- **Aila Money** – A new collaboration with Aila Money, a digital financial platform, was launched to support students in budgeting and financial management. The partnership included a joint financial literacy stall and plans for a continued presence during *Money Week* in March 2025.
- **University of London Housing Service** – Collaboration focused on raising awareness of housing rights and signposting students to the Advice Service for issues such as contract disputes, disrepair, and eviction.
- **Academic Quality and Standards Team** – Regular meetings were held to discuss challenges identified through the Advice Service and advocate for student needs. These discussions informed the development of improved processes and support mechanisms.



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

- **Student Wellbeing Services** – Joint initiatives, including *Mental Health Week*, promoted awareness of wellbeing resources and encouraged open conversations about mental health across the student community.

2. Clued-Up Outreach Stall Activities

To improve accessibility and visibility of academic support, the team delivered *Clued-Up Outreach Stalls* three times per term. These interactive sessions engaged 310 students across the year, providing one-to-one advice and guidance on academic matters such as academic misconduct, appeals and complaints, extenuating circumstances, and disciplinary procedures. The initiative helped break down barriers by bringing support directly to students and increasing awareness of available services.

3. Student Union Support and Promotion

The team delivered presentations during faculty induction sessions to introduce new students to the Student Union and its support services. More than 430 students were reached through these sessions, significantly improving awareness and early engagement with SU resources.

4. Collaboration with EDI and Disability Teams

Working in partnership with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Officer, Welfare Officer, and Disability Services Team, the Support Team helped address the unique needs of diverse student groups.

This collaborative approach ensured that support was inclusive, intersectional, and responsive to individual circumstances.

5. Support for the University Safeguarding Team

The team actively participated in initiatives led by the University Safeguarding Team, reinforcing a shared commitment to ensure student safety and wellbeing across the institution. Their involvement helped strengthen safeguarding responses and case co-ordination.

6. Designation as Safeguarding Lead

A member of the team was appointed as the Designated Safeguarding Lead, contributing to the development of safeguarding policies, risk assessments, and procedures. Their participation in the University Safeguarding Panel ensured effective case management and timely resolutions for student welfare concerns.

7. Food Pantry Initiative

In response to growing concerns about food insecurity, the Support Team organised three Food Pantry sessions throughout the year. These events provided essential supplies to 306 students, directly alleviating immediate hardship and fostering a sense of community care.

8. Campaigns and Project Support

The Support Team worked closely with elected Officers to deliver a series of impactful campaigns and student-facing projects, including:



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

- **AI Awareness Project** – Educating students on responsible use of artificial intelligence in assessments and coursework.
- **Assessment Guide** – A comprehensive “Guide to Assessments” offering advice on wellbeing, time management, revision techniques, and stress management during assessment periods.
- **Wobble Week** – A supportive campaign designed to help students manage stress and maintain wellbeing during high-pressure times in the academic calendar.

Conclusion

Through proactive outreach, collaborative partnerships, and responsive student support, the Student Union Support Team has made significant contributions to enhancing student wellbeing, engagement, and access to advice services.

Their work continues to strengthen the Union’s role as a central, trusted hub for student support and advocacy.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter

The proportion of emails opened increased to just over 50%, representing a slight improvement on the previous year. This increase reflects changes made in response to student feedback that newsletters were too long; content has therefore been significantly reduced and redesigned to be more visually engaging.

The newsletter is issued twice monthly, typically on Fridays at around 11.00am, which has been identified as the time delivering the highest open rates. The layout of the newsletter varies depending on the relative importance of events. While upcoming events for the week and Students’ Union merchandise are always featured, priority is sometimes given to specific campaigns, such as the Students’ Union survey.

In addition, one-off emails are sent to promote key activities, including elections. These typically achieve a slightly lower average open rate of around 40% but remain an important channel for raising awareness. Overall, the newsletter continues to achieve the highest student satisfaction rating of all communication channels, exceeding the second-highest channel, Instagram, by approximately five percentage points, largely due to the ease with which students can access links and information.

Instagram

Between July 2024 and July 2025, the Union’s Instagram account achieved a total reach of 25.5k, representing an increase of 109.7% over the same period in the previous year. During the year, the account also gained approximately 400 followers, bringing the total number of followers to 2,981.

The post with the highest organic reach related to Lesbian Awareness Week. This post went viral, receiving approximately 12k views, with around 90% of views coming from accounts that did not already



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

follow the Union. The second most successful post was the Welcome schedule, which generated strong engagement with around 5k views.

While the Union has sought to increase the use of reels, which typically generate higher engagement, the two highest-performing posts were static carousel posts. This highlights continued interest in infographic-style content alongside short-form video. The next ten highest-performing posts were predominantly reels, using trends to promote Students' Union news, including the Festive Selfie Competition (4k views), Welcome Back schedule (4k views) and LGBTQ+ History Month content (3k views).

Audience demographics remained broadly consistent with previous years. The largest age group was 25–34, accounting for 48.4% of users. Women represented 59% of the audience, and approximately 40% of users were based in London.

Facebook

During the year, the Union's use of Facebook resulted in a total reach of approximately 9k, representing a decrease of around 20% compared with the previous year. In contrast, page visits increased significantly to approximately 22k, a rise of around 70% year on year. This indicates that while users continue to access the Union's Facebook page, engagement with individual posts is lower. This trend is consistent with student feedback, which suggests that Facebook is steadily declining in popularity and effectiveness as a communications channel.

The most popular posts during the year related to the Food Pantry (2.3k views), Birkbeck Ambassadors (1.3k views) and Lesbian Visibility Week (1k views).

Audience demographics were broadly consistent with other platforms. The largest proportion of visitors fell within the 25–34 age group, accounting for approximately 30% of users. This represents a reduction from around 40% in the previous year, further indicating a shift among younger audiences towards alternative social media platforms.

X/Twitter

During the year, the number of followers on the Union's X (formerly Twitter) account decreased from 4,375 to 4,132. This decline reflects broader changes to the platform in recent years, which have contributed to a general reduction in user engagement. External reporting indicates that usage of X has fallen significantly, reinforcing this trend.

Engagement data from the final three months of the year indicates that posts generating the highest levels of interaction were those providing clear and practical information for students, such as updates on the Welcome Schedule and the appointment of new Sabbatical Officers. This suggests that the primary function of the Union's X account is to disseminate key information, with students engaging with more informal or social content primarily via Instagram or the Union's website.



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Average impressions during the year were approximately 150, representing a slight decrease compared with the previous year and further evidencing the declining popularity of the platform. The most successful post related to society elections, achieving 352 impressions and four retweets.

Website

Following extensive work with the University and the Union's website provider, MSL, issues relating to student logins and data access were resolved towards the end of the academic year. This has improved student engagement with, and confidence in, the website, which is expected to be reflected in improved participation during the Spring elections, including higher voter turnout.

The Union continues to publish regular news content to support search engine optimisation and increase engagement. The article achieving the highest level of engagement during the year was the Welcome Week schedule, which received 1,155 views.

AFFILIATIONS

During the year, the Union was affiliated to the following groups or bodies, and in compliance with Section 22 of the Education Act 1994, lists them here. Pursuant to Section 22 of the Education Act 1994, the Trustees declare that no donations have been made to any other organisation.

Affiliations are notified formally to members at the Annual General Meeting held on 10th July 2025:

- National Union of Students (NUS) Charity
- Advice UK
- Archery GB
- British Mountaineering Council
- Inter Varsity Dance Association
- Basketball England
- The Football Association
- British Universities and Sports (associate)



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Birkbeck College Students' Union for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity company and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The external auditors, Knox Cropper, will be proposed for re-appointment at a forthcoming Finance and Audit Committee Meeting.

DECLARATION

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

Signed by:

 976EB8182D63405...

5/03/2026

Oluwakemi (Joy) Eche – Chair of Trustees



**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Birkbeck College Students' Union (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.



**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.



**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charitable Company is required to comply with both company law and charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charitable company's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.



**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Stephen Anderson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
153-155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

Date:.....

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Notes					
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations and Legacies					
Grant income	2	471,500	-	471,500	416,500
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Clubs and societies	3	-	7,551	7,551	14,188
Birkbeck SU branded clothing		527	-	527	1,214
Other incoming resources					
Other income		20,020	-	20,020	20,114
Total incoming resources		492,047	7,551	499,598	452,016
Charitable activities - Application of resources					
SU Student events & activities (central)	4	99,366	-	99,366	108,027
SU Advice		93,700	-	93,700	79,139
SU Communications		104,167	-	104,167	83,446
SU Voice		107,435	-	107,435	124,951
Clubs and societies		62,743	15,285	78,028	56,583
Total resources expended		467,411	15,285	482,696	452,146
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR		24,636	(7,734)	16,902	(130)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
	15				
Total funds brought forward		(65,260)	22,720	(42,540)	(42,410)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		(40,624)	14,986	(25,638)	(42,540)

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION 0666147

Balance Sheet
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	1,978	3,960
		<u>1,978</u>	<u>3,960</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	-	441,938
Prepayments and accrued income		-	5,616
Cash at bank and in hand		56,755	41,867
		<u>56,755</u>	<u>489,421</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(84,371)	(535,921)
		<u>(27,616)</u>	<u>(46,500)</u>
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>(25,638)</u>	<u>(42,540)</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
		<u>(25,638)</u>	<u>(42,540)</u>
NET LIABILITIES			
FUNDS	15		
General funds		(40,624)	(65,260)
Restricted funds		14,986	22,720
		<u>(25,638)</u>	<u>(42,540)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 05/03/2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

Oluwakemi Joy Eche

976EB8182D63405...

Oluwakemi Joy Eche
Chair of Trustees

The notes form part of these financial statements

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Birkbeck Students' Union Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements are prepared in Sterling, the functional currency of the charity, and rounded to the nearest £.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The Charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- The requirements of Section 7 - Statement of Cash Flows.

Going Concern

The Students' Union receives a block grant from Birkbeck University and occupies part of the University building. Although the Students' Union continues to generate funds from various activities it will always be dependent on University support. The Union has no reason to believe that the ongoing financial support of Birkbeck University will not continue.

Due to historic financial challenges faced by the Union, the University agreed to provide a loan of £175,000 in 2018. The loan supports the Union whilst it seeks to return to a financially sustainable position. The loan was fully paid on 1st July 2025.

The Union made a surplus this year after incurring a deficit in the previous 2 financial years, due to overspends in some areas.

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Union has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fund accounting

General Funds consist of funds freely available which may be applied by the Trustees at their discretion in furtherance of the Union's charitable objects.

Designated Funds represent general funds earmarked by the Trustees for specific purposes. Restricted Funds are those funds which are subject to donor imposed restrictions and may only be applied in accordance with those restrictions.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised in the period in which the Union becomes entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income comprises donations, grants received in the University, income generated from commercial activities and investment income.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Support costs have been allocated to Charitable Activities on the following basis:

SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	10.0%
SU Advice	25.0%
SU Communications	24.0%
SU Voice	24.0%
Clubs and societies	17.0%

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at deemed cost less accumulated depreciation. Indicative useful lives are as follows:

	Life:
Plant and machinery	5 years
Fixtures and fittings	5 years
Computer equipment	3 years

Stock

Stock comprises of physical stock of TOTUM cards (NUS Extra) cards held for resale.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where there is a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party, and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Taxation

The Union is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The Union participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL) through Birkbeck University, which are funded, defined benefit schemes. The schemes are contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P). The schemes are valued formally every three years by professionally qualified independent actuaries using the projected unit method. Informal reviews of the schemes' position are carried out in the period between formal valuations.

The Union has agreed with Birkbeck University that any deficit funding liability is recognised in the University's accounts. The charge to the income and expenditure account is the contribution payable to the schemes for the accounting period, which is the same as it would be if these were defined contribution schemes.

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Grant	471,500	390,000
Strike funds	-	26,500
	<u>471,500</u>	<u>416,500</u>

3 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Activity	2025	2024
	£	£
Clubs and societies		
Academic & Careers Societies	175	390
Campaigning Societies	5	-
Culture & Faith Societies	30	63
Hobby & Interest Societies	273	322
Political Societies	8	-
Sports Clubs	7,060	13,413
Total Clubs & Societies	<u>7,551</u>	<u>14,188</u>
Other incoming resources		
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	527	1,214
Clubs & societies	7,551	14,188
Other income	20,020	20,114
	<u>28,098</u>	<u>35,516</u>

4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs	Support costs	Support costs	Totals
		Staff costs	Other costs	2025
	£	£	£	£
SU Student events & activities (central)	62,459	34,145	2,762	99,366
SU Advice	1,430	85,363	6,907	93,700
SU Communications	15,590	81,948	6,629	104,167
SU Voice	18,858	81,948	6,629	107,435
Clubs and societies	15,285	58,047	4,696	78,028
	<u>113,622</u>	<u>341,451</u>	<u>27,623</u>	<u>482,696</u>

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025****5 SUPPORT COSTS**

	Allocation	Staff Costs	Other Costs	2025 Total
	%	£	£	£
SU Student events & activities (central)	10.0%	34,145	2,762	36,907
SU Advice	25.0%	85,363	6,907	92,270
SU Communications	24.0%	81,948	6,629	88,577
SU Voice	24.0%	81,948	6,629	88,577
Clubs and societies	17.0%	58,047	4,696	62,743
	100.0%	341,451	27,623	369,074

6 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Governance office	1,906	6,150
Auditors' remuneration	6,634	6,600
	8,540	12,750

7 NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	6,634	6,600
Depreciation - owned assets	1,982	2,185

8 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**Trustees' expenses**

Sabbatical officers are paid as authorised in the Union's governing document, for the representation, campaigning and support work they undertake as distinct from their trustee responsibilities. During the year trustees received expenses of £150 in connection with the performance of their duties (2024: £87). The expenses are reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs in connection with their duties, and the costs of refreshments for Union events.

9 STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	309,143	293,015
Social security	30,377	22,069
Pension costs	46,911	43,541
	386,431	358,625

No employees earned more than £60,000 per annum. (2024: nil)

Average staff FTE

	2025	2024
	FTE	FTE
Management and administrative staff	8.0	7.4
Sabbaticals	4.2	2.2
	12.2	9.6

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

10 COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations and legacies				
Grant income	390,000	-	390,000	375,000
Unrestricted alumni donation	-	26,500	26,500	16,952
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Clubs and societies	-	14,188	14,188	29,341
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)	-	-	-	621
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	1,214	-	1,214	1,314
Other incoming resources				
Other income	20,114	-	20,114	26,091
Total incoming resources	411,328	40,688	452,016	449,319
 Charitable activities - Application of resources				
SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	81,527	26,500	108,027	89,495
SU Advice	79,139	-	79,139	72,292
SU Communications	83,446	-	83,446	81,501
SU Voice	124,951	-	124,951	137,134
Clubs and societies	50,889	5,694	56,583	77,003
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)	-	-	-	2,940
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	-	-	-	2,940
Total resources expended	419,952	32,194	452,146	463,305
NET (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	(8,624)	8,494	(130)	(13,986)
 Total funds brought forward	(56,636)	14,226	(42,410)	(28,424)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	(65,260)	22,720	(42,540)	(42,410)

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant & Machinery	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Totals
COST				
At 1 August 2024	9,773	5,219	19,218	34,210
Disposals	(8,462)	(4,794)	(5,840)	(19,096)
At 31 July 2025	<u>1,311</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>13,378</u>	<u>15,114</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 August 2024	9,773	5,219	15,258	30,250
Charge for year	-	-	1,982	1,982
Disposals	(8,462)	(4,794)	(5,840)	(19,096)
At 31 July 2025	<u>1,311</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>11,400</u>	<u>13,136</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 July 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,978</u>	<u>1,978</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,960</u>	<u>3,960</u>

12 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Birkbeck University	-	441,938
	<u>-</u>	<u>441,938</u>

13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	66,882	499,321
Accrued expenses	17,489	6,600
Birkbeck University general loan	-	30,000
	<u>84,371</u>	<u>535,921</u>

In 2018/19 a loan of £175,000 was issued to the Birkbeck Students' Union. The loan was issued to support their return to a position of financial sustainability. The loan was repayable over seven years and no interest was charged. The loan was fully repaid prior to 31 July 2025.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025****14 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1,978	-	1,978	3,960
Current assets	41,769	14,986	56,755	489,421
Current liabilities	(84,371)	-	(84,371)	(535,921)
	<u>(40,624)</u>	<u>14,986</u>	<u>(25,638)</u>	<u>(42,540)</u>

15 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 31 July 2024 £	Net Movement in funds £	At 31 July 2025 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(65,260)	24,636	(40,624)
	<u>(65,260)</u>	<u>24,636</u>	<u>(40,624)</u>
Restricted funds			
Clubs and societies	22,720	(7,734)	14,986
	<u>22,720</u>	<u>(7,734)</u>	<u>14,986</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(42,540)</u>	<u>16,902</u>	<u>(25,638)</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	492,047	(467,411)	24,636
	<u>492,047</u>	<u>(467,411)</u>	<u>24,636</u>
Restricted funds			
Clubs and societies	7,551	(15,285)	(7,734)
	<u>7,551</u>	<u>(15,285)</u>	<u>(7,734)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>499,598</u>	<u>(482,696)</u>	<u>16,902</u>

Clubs and societies: These funds represent income received from the Union's various clubs and societies and are restricted to expenditure on the club or society to which they relate.

There was no requirement to transfer funds from the unrestricted funds to the restricted funds to cover the expenditure on behalf of clubs and societies (2024: Nil).

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025****16****RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS****Birkbeck University**

The Union's relationship with Birkbeck University is defined in the Trustees Report. The Union received a grant from Birkbeck University, as detailed in note 2 to the accounts.

Sabbatical Officers

The Union's sabbatical officers acted as trustees during their appointment (see note 8).

The table below shows the officers who served during the year ended 31 July 2025 together with the salaries and expenses paid to them for their services as sabbatical officers.

Sabbatical post	Post-holder	Term of Office	Salary & On-costs	Expenses
Education Sabbatical Officer	William Sarenden	01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2025	21,821	66
Postgraduate Sabbatical Officer	Fahmida Ferdous	01 Jul 2024 - 30 Jun 2025	3,613	-
Welfare Sabbatical Officer	Vajayanti Inara Pirani	01 Jul 2024 - 30 Jun 2025	18,942	-
EDI Sabbatical Officer	Zhuoxin Han	01 Jul 2024 - 30 Jun 2025	19,954	84
			<u>64,330</u>	<u>150</u>

17**PENSION SCHEMES****a) Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)**

Birkbeck Students' Union participates in Universities Superannuation Scheme through the University. The scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits (for all members), as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the University therefore, accounts for the scheme as if it were a wholly defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the scheme.

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2023 (the valuation date) which was carried out using the projected unit method. This was the seventh valuation for USS under the new scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to adopt a statutory funding objective to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions.

At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £73.1 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £65.7 billion indicating a surplus of £7.4 billion and a funding ratio of 111%.

Following UK government legislation, from 2011 statutory pensions increases or revaluations are based on the Consumer Prices Index measure of price inflation. Historically these increases had been based on the Retail Prices Index measure of price inflation.

The University participates in the salary sacrifice pension scheme. The staff costs note (note 9) shows the pensionable salary which includes the employee salary sacrifice element.

Employer and employee contribution rates for the scheme during the last three years were:

	Employer	Employee
From January 2024	14.5%	6.1%
From April 2022	21.6%	9.8%
From October 2021	21.4%	9.8%

As at 31 July 2025, the charity had one active member participating in the scheme. The employer contribution for the year was £7,736 (2024: £9,577).

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

17

**PENSION SCHEMES (continued)
b) Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL)**

The Charity participates in the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London ("SAUL") through the University. SAUL is a centralised defined benefit scheme within the United Kingdom and was contracted out of the Second State Pension (prior to April 2016). SAUL is an independently-managed pension scheme for non-academic staff of over 50 colleges and institutions with links to higher education. Pension benefits accrued within SAUL currently build up on a Career Average Revalued Earnings ("CARE") basis.

Individuals joining SAUL from 1 April 2023 are automatically enrolled into SAUL Start, a defined contribution scheme, for the first three years of membership. SAUL start is managed by Legal & General. After three years of membership members are transferred to SAUL Care.

The Charity is not expected to be liable to SAUL for any other current participating employer's obligations under the Rules of SAUL but in the event of an insolvency of any participating employer within SAUL, an amount of any pension shortfall (which cannot otherwise be recovered) in respect of that employer, may be spread across the remaining participating employers and reflected in the next actuarial valuation.

Funding Policy

SAUL's statutory funding objective is to have sufficient and appropriate assets to meet the costs incurred by the Trustee in paying SAUL's benefits as they fall due (the "Technical Provisions"). The Trustee adopts assumptions which, taken as a whole, are intended to be sufficiently prudent for pensions and benefits already in payment to continue to be paid and for the commitments which arise from Members' accrued pension rights to be met.

The Technical Provisions assumptions include appropriate margins to allow for the possibility of events turning out worse than expected. However, the funding method and assumptions do not completely remove the risk that the Technical Provisions could be insufficient to provide benefits in the future.

The Charity is a Participating member in SAUL. A formal actuarial valuation of SAUL is carried out every three years by a professionally qualified and independent actuary. The last actuarial valuation was carried out with an effective date of 31 March 2023. The actuarial valuation applies to SAUL as a whole and does not identify surpluses or deficits applicable to individual employers. As a whole, the market value of SAUL's assets as at 31 March 2023 was £3,096 million representing 105% of the liabilities. Informal reviews of SAUL's position, reflecting changes in market conditions, cash flow information and new accrual of benefits, are carried out between formal valuations.

The funding principles were agreed by the Trustee and employers in June 2023 and will be reviewed again at SAUL's next formal valuation in 2026.

At 31 March 2023 valuation SAUL was 105% funded on its Technical Provisions basis (31 March 2020: 94%). As SAUL was in surplus on its Technical Provisions basis at that date, no deficit contributions were required and there is no defined benefit liability to be recognised. The Trustee and the Employers have agreed that the ongoing Employers' contributions will reduce from a rate of 21% of CARE Salaries to 19% of CARE salaries from 1 September 2024. Employer contribution rates for SAUL Start are set at 16%.

It is not possible to identify an individual Employer's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of SAUL. The Charity accounts for its participation in SAUL as if it were a defined contribution scheme and pension costs are based on the amounts actually paid (i.e cash amounts) in accordance with paragraphs 28.11 of FRS102.

The employer contribution for the year was £39,175 (2024: £33,963).

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

England & Wales - Charity number 1142614

Accounts



REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06661477 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1142614

**Report of the Trustees and
Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024
For
BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION**



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Contents of the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 July 2024

	Page
Report of the Trustees	3 - 17
Report of the Independent Auditors	18 - 21
Statement of Financial Activities	22
Balance Sheet	23
Notes to the Financial Statements	24 - 36



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the incorporated charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

06661477 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1142614 (England and Wales)

Registered Address

Birkbeck, University of London
Malet Street London
WC1E 7HX

Trustees

Trustee	Date appointed	Date resigned	Class of appointment
C Danielsson	01-Aug-22	31-Jul-23	Non-executive
Z Frediani	01-Aug-18	30-June-24	Non-executive
A Prestage	01-Aug-18	31-Dec-24	Non-executive
T Moralez	01-Jul-22	25-Jul-23	Executive
C Stehwein	01-Aug-22	31-Jul-23	Non-executive
A Thompson	01-Aug-21		Non-executive
M Dhesi	01-Aug-21		Non-executive
A Falzon	01-Nov-22	03-Jun-24	Executive
W Sarenden	01-Jul-23		Executive
G Hope	01-Aug-21	31-Dec-24	Non-executive
T Rivera	01-Jul-23	30-Jun-24	Executive



M Swan	01-Jul-23	30-Jun-24	Executive
L Boodhoo	01-Jul-23	30-Jun-24	Executive
E Edwin	01-Jul-23	30-Jun-24	Executive
K Beermann Guerra	01-Jul-23	09-Oct-23	Executive
Han Han	01-Jul-24		Executive
V Pirani	01-Jul-24		Executive
F Ferdous	01-Jul-24		Executive
Ellen Orr	8-Sept-24		Non-Executive
Jo Swo	1-Jan-25		Non-Executive

Chief Executive

Y Joondan

Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC

Solicitors

DAC Beachcroft LLP



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Company was incorporated on 31 July 2008 and commenced its activities on 1 August 2008 when assets and liabilities of Birkbeck College Students' Union, an unincorporated entity, were transferred in.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TO DATE

Overview

The Union was granted a subvention of £390,000 from the University to support staff costs and 'core activities,' as agreed between the Trustees and University management, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding for the financial year 2023-24. Additionally, the Students' Union received £26,500 in funding as a result of university staff strikes. This additional funding was used to extend staff contracts and support certain officer campaigns.

Reserves and Restricted Funds

Reserves are classified as restricted or unrestricted. Within unrestricted funds there are designated funds where the trustees have committed the union to future expenditure, such as on projects that have received match-funding. Restricted reserves comprise balances on grants, restricted donations and on clubs & societies where funds have been received for a specific purpose and the Union is restricted in its use of these funds.

The Trustees encourage students running clubs and societies to ensure they can generate additional income. They are also encouraged to develop plans to apply these restricted funds for the benefit of students, within the constitutional objects and mission of their club or society and engaging their membership widely in its application.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Union is controlled by its governing documents; a Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 31 July 2008 (amended 1 August 2009), and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consist of no more than fourteen persons and is made up as follows: Not more than eight officer trustees elected annually by secret ballot of the Union membership for a 12-month term; not more than two student trustees appointed for a term of one year; not more than five lay trustees appointed for a term of three years.



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the Union's activities and believe it is adequately insured and with new financial management, monitoring and control process now agreed with the University. The Trustees also consider that the Union has an appropriate risk management policy in place.

During the year, the insurance policies and schedules were reviewed fully by both the Union's management, the insurance broker and underwriters and this work considered and approved by the Trustees. The Trustees have considered and noted the implications of the organisational duties of safeguarding and the appropriateness and needs of checks on individuals holding elected or paid office or posts in the Charity in relation to the information held by the Disclosure & Barring Service and wider corporate duties under the provisions of the Bribery Act 2011 and the Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning & Trade Union Administration Act 2014.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Constitutional Aims and Objects

The objects of the Union are the advancement of education of students at Birkbeck, University of London for the public benefit by:

- promoting the interests and welfare of students at Birkbeck, University of London during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising students.
- being the recognised representative channel between students and Birkbeck, University of London and any other external bodies; and
- providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its students.

The Trustees have considered the effect of the Charity Commission's statement on public benefit on the operations and constitution of the Union.

The Union is a democratically run organisation, which is led by Birkbeck students and supported by a small but effective staff team. Each year the Union run the Spring and Autumn Elections, to elect the Sabbatical Officers who lead and direct the work and are members of the Board of Trustees, and Student Parliament which is made up of even more student representatives who hold the Officers to account and help shape the Union's policy.



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Strategy

Birkbeck Students' Union Strategy outlines the plans for three years from 2022-25, with a focus on four main areas of work:

- Supporting Student Wellbeing
- Enhancing Students' Social Experience
- Representing the Views of Students
- Representing Academic Interests

In each of these four areas the Union has set itself a number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in order to measure its success in achieving these objectives. The performance against the KPIs in 2023-24 was as follows:

Supporting Student Wellbeing

1. Developing relationships with different partners to support and enhance students' academic experience and their welfare. Two new partnerships with the University Wellbeing Team and Brooke have been established, aimed at providing tailored support and resources to students.
2. Increasing and signposting wellbeing opportunities throughout all Students' Union activities. In 2023-24, 38% of students reported feeling aware of these opportunities, and efforts are ongoing to improve visibility and accessibility.
3. Increasing participation in the Union's activities by ensuring that the opportunities consider barriers to students. This includes targeted outreach initiatives and feedback mechanisms to identify and address specific challenges faced by diverse student groups.

Enhancing Students' Social Experience

1. Increasing engagement and satisfaction with the SU Events programme.
2830 tickets sold in 2023-24.
2. Increasing student group membership numbers and satisfaction.
66 student groups in 2023, 59 in 2024, with a total of 416 memberships sold.
3. Increasing awareness of the Activities section.
76% of students were aware of clubs and societies in 2023, with 116 students holding memberships to societies.

Representing the View of Students

1. Ensuring that our members feel they are represented in our work. Currently, 36% of students know how to influence change within the Union, highlighting the need for enhanced communication and education about available channels for feedback and involvement.
2. Engaging more students in our representation opportunities. In 2023, 56% of student parliament roles were contested, demonstrating growing interest in leadership positions. All elected officer roles are also contested for the 2023-24 academic year. Additionally, the Spring Elections (2024) saw an increase in voter participation, rising to 5.5%, indicating improved engagement among the student body.



3. Centring student voice at the heart of the design and delivery of our work. In the recent referendum consultation regarding elected officer roles, 10% of students participated, underscoring the importance of ongoing efforts to solicit and incorporate student feedback in decision-making processes.
4. Rewarding and recognising our student representatives. All representatives are eligible for a certificate and award for their contributions at the SU awards, fostering a culture of appreciation and encouragement for student leadership.

Representing Academic Interests

Currently 32% of students agree that the Students' Union effectively represents their academic interests.

1. An awareness campaign to improve students' understanding of our services. To strengthen our presence, 72% of students recognize the Students' Union logo, which serves as a foundation for future outreach efforts to educate students about the resources and support available to them.
2. Lobbying the University for greater consistency across departments. Following the college's restructuring in 2023 from five schools to three faculties, the Students' Union has been actively collaborating with the University to establish consistency within the new framework. This includes the development of a revised representation system to ensure that all student voices are heard and adequately represented across faculties.
3. Transforming the Course Rep scheme into an effective change-making system. Currently 39% of students are aware of who their Course Reps is (2024). To address this issue, the rep scheme will be reviewed in the next year.

OFFICERS & BOARD

The Board have opted not to have the post of Company Secretary.

DEMOCRACY & REPRESENTATION

SABBATICAL OFFICERS

The eight Elected Officers serve as the leaders of the Students' Union, representing student interests to the University and holding positions on both the Trustee Board and Executive Committee. They guide the Union's direction and spearhead its initiatives each year. Elections for these officers occur every Spring, and students are encouraged to participate in the voting process to ensure their voices are heard.

A referendum was conducted to gauge student support for a significant change in the officer structure, proposing to reduce the number of elected officers from eight to four, each overseeing different portfolios. The referendum saw a turnout of 3.5% of the student population, and the motion to restructure the officer roles was successfully passed. This change aims to streamline leadership and enhance the effectiveness of representation within the Union.

For the Spring elections, four sabbatical officer positions were available, all of which were contested. This year saw the highest voter turnout at 5.5%, reflecting increased engagement among the student body.



STUDENT PARLIAMENT

Student Parliament is an elected group of representatives who pass policy, debate student issues and hold the Student Leaders to account. There are 31 positions in Student Parliament.

Student Parliament had elected 12 members during Autumn elected and another 9 were co-opted throughout the year 2023-24. They held five meetings (once every two months), discussed 6 motions of which 3 motions passed. They discussed several issues in relation to Artificial Intelligence Policy, Disturbances in classes, worldwide events and created a new role to focus on Student Mental Health.

COURSE REPRESENTATIVES

Course Representatives are an essential part in helping elevate the student voice and keep the University and Union informed with student feedback.

Course Representatives are elected in the classroom at the start of term and students are also able to nominate themselves.

During the year one hundred and sixty-one course representatives were recruited and 78% were trained. The University of Birkbeck underwent a structural change in which five schools changed to three faculties.

The table below shows how many course representatives sit in each faculty. Law and Science have less representation but this is due to a small population of students.

Undergraduate (trained)

Faculty	Course Representatives
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences	39
Faculty of Law and Business	14
Faculty of Science	37

Postgraduate (trained)

Faculty	Course Representatives
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences	21
Faculty of Law and Business	4
Faculty of Science	11



Enhance Training Programme:

Twelve representatives took up the chance this academic year to gain more skills and knowledge that would enhance their education, whether this be time management to sustainability. The Union reduced

offering for this programme due to putting staff efforts into other projects such a referendum. The Union held 8 opportunities for students to gain new skills.

Elections (Autumn)

Nominations:	31
Method of Election:	Online/Website
Unique Voters:	106
Individual Votes Cast:	735
Turnout (student population):	1.2%

Elections (Spring)

Elections for Officer Trustees

Nominations:	51
Candidate Withdrawals:	12
Number of Candidates:	39
Number of Positions:	4
Number of Positions with Candidates:	4
Method of Election:	Online/Website
Unique Voters:	551
Individual Votes Cast:	1445
Turnout (student population):	5.5% (10,000

Elections for NUS Delegates (Online)

NUS Delegate Positions:	3
NUS Delegate Positions Contested:	3
NUS Delegate Positions Filled:	3
Unique Votes Cast:	36

During the year, the Union sent students to attend NUS Conference as delegates (online), the Officers attended 11 panels, and 71 committee meetings were held in the year.



STUDENT LED TEACHING AWARDS (2023-24)

There were 47 nominations, and the followings categories were awarded;

1. William Sarenden – Outstanding Contribution to Birkbeck
2. Latino Society Parties – Student Group Event of the Year
3. Stephen Okere Bundou – Committee Member of the Year
4. Cass Swan and Steph Hewitt – Course Rep of the Year (joint award)
5. Mountaineering Society – Team of the Year
6. Computer Science Society – Student Group of the Year
7. Gayathri Sritharan – Best Professional Services
8. Barry Maydom – Lecturer of the Year
9. Sanjib Bhakta – Dissertation Supervisor of the Year
10. Emily Wildash and Alice Dean – Colleague of the Year (joint award)

OFFICER PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS

The Union's Student Officers lead on liberation networks and campaigns to enact changes that positively impact students' studies and overall experience at Birkbeck. For the 2023-24 academic year, two of the Officers hold portfolios focused on Education and Welfare, while the remaining six officers concentrate on liberation networks and campaigns. Below are some of the highlights:

- **Loneliness Campaign**
Led by the Welfare Officer, this campaign focused on addressing and reducing loneliness on campus for students.
- **Artificial Intelligence Policy**
The Education and Welfare Officers collaborated to tackle the growing confusion surrounding plagiarism, stemming from the use of artificial intelligence tools among students and staff.
- **Food Pantry**
The Food Pantry was reintroduced and has seen increasing engagement, with all officers actively supporting its success.
- **Women's Coffee Mornings**
Organized by the Women's Officer, these events have fostered greater engagement, complemented by popular arts and crafts sessions.
- **BAME Enhancement Groups**
The BAME Liberation Leader concentrated on establishing enhancement groups aimed at improving the experience of BAME students at Birkbeck.

ACTIVITIES

Events Programme

Birkbeck Students' Union activities have continued to thrive in the 2023-24 academic year, building on last year's success and fostering increased engagement. This year kicked off with our largest and most cohesive Welcome period yet, and the events programme is expanding even further. Our clubs, societies, and networks are also continuing their excellent work. See some key statistics below.



Events Programme (continued)

Events (Central): 42

1. Welcome Back: 5 events
2. LGBTQ+ event: 1
3. Loneliness Campaign: 5
4. Central Events: 2
5. Welcome week: 27
6. Charity fair: 1
7. Big Birkbeck Picnic: 1

Free Events: 70%

Total Engagement: 2830+

Events Programme (continued)

Student Groups (Clubs, Societies & Networks)

Groups (Total): 48

Groups (Sport): 6

Groups (Societies): 42

Groups (Networks): 7

Matches (Sport): 24+

The past year has been highly successful for our Student Groups. The Dancesport and Judo Clubs have maintained a rigorous practice schedule, meeting three times a week, while the Swim Club practices once a week. The Mountaineering Club has organized over 60 events throughout the year, including trips to other countries such as France, and has excelled in their training programs. The Football Club has demonstrated significant engagement and enthusiasm this year. Additionally, the Computer Science Society has hosted numerous events and training sessions, earning recognition with the Students' Union award for Best Events.

STUDENT GROUP ELECTIONS

The Student Group Elections were held with elections taking place across two cycles: Autumn and Spring. This approach was supported by the need for consistent delivery. societies were encouraged to co-opt members into roles throughout the year, ensuring smooth and continuous operation of activities. Seventy-Seven student committee members was elected through thirty-four individual voters.

STUDENTS' UNION ADVICE SERVICE/Support Service

Birkbeck Students' Union Support Service offers free, confidential advice which is independent from the University.

The Support Service has health with 358 cases this academic year. The largest volume of cases were related to academic appeals.



Advice Categories

Sub Matter Category	Number of Cases	Percentages
Academic Conduct	69	19.3%
Appeals	92	25.7%
Complaints	94	26.3%
Disciplinary	6	1.6%
Progression/ Assessment	63	17.6%
Other/ Welfare	34	9.5%
Total	358	

Summary of key partnerships and collaborations this year:

1. Collaboration with Brook
 - Services Offered: Brook provides free and confidential sexual health services (e.g., screenings, contraception, pregnancy testing) and wellbeing support for individuals under 25 in Camden and Islington.
 - Campus Engagement: Participated in campus events, sharing information and distributing condoms to students.
2. International Team Collaboration
 - Future Initiatives: Plans for future collaborations with the International Team to create activities and support tailored specifically for international students in the 2024/25 academic year.
3. Partnership with University Counselling and Mental Health Team
 - Awareness Projects: Collaborative projects to promote student mental health and wellbeing throughout the academic year.
4. University of London Housing Advice Team
 - Housing Support: A new partnership provides support for housing-related issues like private accommodation challenges, contract reviews, deposit disputes, and repairs.
 - Collaboration: Plans for joint events and signposting services.
5. Collaboration with Academic Standards and Quality Team
 - Student Advocacy: Partnered with university officials to address student concerns raised through the advice service, including policy discussions on the use of AI.
6. Disability Services Collaboration
 - Support for Disabled Students: Regular termly meetings with the Disability Services team aim to address and resolve issues, ensuring fair treatment for disabled students.

These collaborations illustrate a broad commitment to student support across health, housing, academic, and wellbeing services.



COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter

The number of opened emails remains at 50%, same as the year before. We have been doing the newsletter twice a month, every Thursday around 5pm as this seems to have the best open rates. The layout of the newsletter tends to vary depending on the importance of the events. We always display the events coming up that week, as well advertising our merchandise, but often there will be one thing we need to promote above others, for example our SU survey. We also send one-off emails for key events such as elections, these tend to have a slightly lower open rate (average is 40%) but are still vital for raising awareness.

Instagram

From July 2023 to 2024, we have had a reach of 24.5k, which means an increase of 99.7% in the same period. Likewise, the number of Instagram profile visits has been 21,862, meaning an increase of 279%. In addition, we have gained 1,212 followers, making a total of 2,680. The post with most organic reach was the reel about a student returning as an officer (4K), and in 2nd position was the reel congratulating new students on getting into Birkbeck (2.5K). Reels bring in much more reach than static carousel posts, which is why we are trying to utilise them. The next two top posts were related to SU Campaigns: #BirkbeckCares (2.4K) and Welcome Week (2.2K) specifically. Regarding the rest of the top 10, six posts were also reels and most were about events and other upcoming campaigns. Regarding demographics, the largest age group is among people aged 25-34 (47.2%); 60% are women and 41% of people are based in London.

Facebook

Facebook's reach has been 13.5, which is a decrease of 11.6% from last year. However, the number of visits has been 4.5k, which is a 60% increase from last year. This suggests that people visit our page but the views on actual posts aren't as high. The most popular posts this year have been Welcome to Birkbeck (1.4k), followed by Welcome Fair (998), election results (503) and the SU awards (371). Similar to Facebook, the age range between 25-34 is where the Students' Union page gets most visitors (29%), however this age range made up 54% of our audience last year, showing the migration of young people to other social media platforms.

X/Twitter

The number of followers was 4,401 in 2023 and is now 4,375 – this slight decrease can be explained to the multiple changes to X in the last year or so, which has caused an overall drop in members. According to Forbes, X usage has dropped by 30% in the last year. In the last three months, the Tweets with more engagement were linked to helpful information for students: for example, a tweet on Housing tips and Mental Health awareness. The function of our X account therefore seems to be provided key information to students, they go to our Instagram or website for more 'fun' events. Our average impressions are 325, which is slightly lower than last year, but again reinforces the fact that X is currently decreasing in popularity. Our top tweet was about Welcome Week, with 448 impressions and 3 retweets.



Website

The Union launched its new user-friendly website. Which saw an increase in students logging into their accounts from the previous year.

AFFILIATIONS

During the year, the Union was affiliated to the following groups or bodies, and in compliance with Section 22 of the Education Act 1994, lists them here. Pursuant to Section 22 of the Education Act 1994, the Trustees declare that no donations have been made to any other organisation.

Affiliations are notified formally to members at the AGM:

Archery GB
Dancesport Association (IVDA) committee
British Mountaineering Council (BMC)
NUS
AdviceUK
BUCS



BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Birkbeck College Students' Union for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity company and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The external auditors, Knox Cropper, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

DECLARATION

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.



STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Sarenden', written over a horizontal blue line.

William Sarenden – Chair of Trustees
25/02/2025



**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Birkbeck College Students' Union (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.



**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.



**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charitable Company is required to comply with both company law and charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charitable company's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.



**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Stephen Anderson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
153-155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

Date:.....

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
	Notes				
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations and Legacies					
	2				
Grant income		390,000	26,500	416,500	387,696
Unrestricted alumni donation		-	-	-	4,256
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
	3				
Clubs and societies		-	14,188	14,188	29,341
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)		-	-	-	621
Birkbeck SU branded clothing		1,214	-	1,214	1,314
Other incoming resources					
Other income		20,114	-	20,114	26,091
Total incoming resources		411,328	40,688	452,016	449,319
Charitable activities - Application of resources					
	4				
SU Student events & activities (central)		81,527	26,500	108,027	89,495
SU Advice		79,139	-	79,139	72,292
SU Communications		83,446	-	83,446	81,501
SU Voice		124,951	-	124,951	137,134
Clubs and societies		50,889	5,694	56,583	77,003
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)		-	-	-	2,940
Birkbeck SU branded clothing		-	-	-	2,940
Total resources expended		419,952	32,194	452,146	463,305
NET (EXPENDITURE)/ INCOME FOR THE YEAR		(8,624)	8,494	(130)	(13,986)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
	16				
Total funds brought forward		(56,636)	14,226	(42,410)	(28,424)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		(65,260)	22,720	(42,540)	(42,410)

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Balance Sheet
for the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	<u>3,960</u>	<u>1,398</u>
		3,960	1,398
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	441,938	1,085,487
Prepayments and accrued income		5,616	7,154
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>41,867</u>	<u>24,477</u>
		489,421	1,117,118
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(535,921)	(1,130,926)
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>(46,500)</u>	<u>(13,808)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		(42,540)	(12,410)
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	14	-	(30,000)
NET LIABILITIES		<u>(42,540)</u>	<u>(42,410)</u>
FUNDS	16		
Unrestricted funds			
General funds		(65,260)	(56,636)
Restricted funds		22,720	14,226
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>(42,540)</u>	<u>(42,410)</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 25th February 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



William Sarenden
Chair of Trustees

The notes form part of these financial statements

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Birkbeck Students' Union Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements are prepared in Sterling, the functional currency of the charity, and rounded to the nearest £.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The Charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- The requirements of Section 7 - Statement of Cash Flows.

Going Concern

The Students' Union receives a block grant from Birkbeck University and occupies part of a University building. Although the Students' Union continues to generate funds from various activities it will always be dependent on University support. The Union has no reason to believe that the ongoing financial support of Birkbeck University will not continue.

Due to historic financial challenges faced by the Union, the University agreed to provide a loan of £175,000 in 2018. The loan supports the Union whilst it seeks to return to a financially sustainable position. At the balance sheet date £30,000 of this loan was remaining.

The Union incurred a deficit this year and in the previous financial year due to overspends in some areas. In the coming year the Union will be implementing measures to avoid this.

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised in the period in which the Union becomes entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities.

Income comprises donations, grants received from the University, income generated from commercial activities and investment income.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Support costs have been allocated to Charitable Activities on the following basis:

SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	10.0%
SU Advice	25.0%
SU Communications	24.0%
SU Voice	24.0%
Clubs and societies	17.0%

Governance costs have been merged with other support costs.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at deemed cost less accumulated depreciation. Indicative useful lives are as follows:

	Life:
Plant and machinery	5 years
Fixtures and fittings	5 years
Computer equipment	3 years

Stocks

Stock comprises physical stock of TOTUM cards (NUS Extra) cards held for resale.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where there is a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party, and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Taxation

The Union is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The company participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL) through Birkbeck University, which are funded, defined benefit schemes. The schemes are contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P). The schemes are valued formally every three years by professionally qualified independent actuaries using the projected unit method. Informal reviews of the schemes' position are carried out in the period between formal valuations.

The Union has agreed with Birkbeck University that the deficit funding liability is recognised in the University's accounts. The charge to the income and expenditure account is the contribution payable to the schemes for the accounting period, which is the same as it would be if these were defined contribution schemes.

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Core grant	390,000	340,000
Additional grant for course representatives	-	25,000
Additional one-off grant	-	10,000
Strike funds	26,500	12,696
	<u>416,500</u>	<u>387,696</u>
Unrestricted alumni donation	-	4,256
	<u>416,500</u>	<u>391,952</u>

3 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
Activity	£	£
Academic & Careers Societies	390	-
Culture & Faith Societies	63	-
Hobby & Interest Societies	322	-
Sports Clubs	13,413	29,341
Total Clubs & Societies	<u>14,188</u>	<u>29,341</u>
Other incoming resources		
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra) card	-	621
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	1,214	1,314
Clubs & societies	14,188	29,341
Other income	20,114	26,091
	<u>35,516</u>	<u>57,367</u>

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs	Support costs Staff costs	Support costs Other costs	Totals 2024
	£	£	£	£
SU Student events & activities (central)	78,093	26,955	2,979	108,027
SU Advice	4,303	67,388	7,448	79,139
SU Communications	11,604	64,692	7,150	83,446
SU Voice	53,109	64,692	7,150	124,951
Clubs and societies	5,694	45,824	5,065	56,583
	<u>152,803</u>	<u>269,551</u>	<u>29,792</u>	<u>452,146</u>

5 SUPPORT COSTS

	Allocation %	Staff Costs £	Other Costs £	2024 Total £
SU Student events & activities (central)	10.0%	26,955	2,979	29,934
SU Advice	25.0%	67,388	7,448	74,836
SU Communications	24.0%	64,692	7,150	71,842
SU Voice	24.0%	64,692	7,150	71,842
Clubs and societies	17.0%	45,824	5,065	50,889
	100.0%	<u>269,551</u>	<u>29,792</u>	<u>299,343</u>

6 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Governance office	6,150	3,684
Auditors' remuneration	6,600	6,000
	<u>12,750</u>	<u>9,684</u>

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2024****7 NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES**

Net resources are stated after charging/ (crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	6,600	6,000
Depreciation - owned assets	2,185	667

8 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**Trustees' expenses**

Sabbatical officers are paid as authorised in the Union's governing document, for the representation, campaigning and support work they undertake as distinct from their trustee responsibilities.

During the year trustees received expenses of £87 in connection with the performance of their duties (2023: £231).

The expenses are reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs in connection with their duties, and the costs of refreshments for Union events.

9 STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	293,015	305,012
Social security	22,069	21,438
Pension costs	43,541	48,411
	358,625	374,861

0 employees earned more than £60,000 per annum. (2023: 0)

Average staff Numbers

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Management and administrative staff	7.4	9.8
Sabbaticals	2.2	4.6
	9.6	14.4

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

10

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations and legacies				
Grant income	375,000	-	375,000	365,000
Unrestricted alumni donation	4,256	12,696	16,952	20,000
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Clubs and societies	-	29,341	29,341	-
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)	621	-	621	1,399
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	1,314	-	1,314	945
Other incoming resources				
Other income	26,091	-	26,091	3,569
Total incoming resources	407,282	42,037	449,319	390,913
 Charitable activities - Application of resources				
SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	76,799	12,696	89,495	81,729
SU Advice	72,292	-	72,292	61,615
SU Communications	81,501	-	81,501	74,362
SU Voice	137,134	-	137,134	122,328
Clubs and societies	47,036	29,967	77,003	41,700
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)	2,940	-	2,940	2,393
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	2,940	-	2,940	2,393
Total resources expended	420,642	42,663	463,305	386,520
NET (EXPENDITURE) /INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(13,360)	(626)	(13,986)	4,393
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	(43,276)	14,852	(28,424)	(32,817)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	(56,636)	14,226	(42,410)	(28,424)

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant & Machinery	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Totals
COST				
At 1 August 2023	9,773	5,219	14,472	29,464
Additions	-	-	4,746	4,746
At 31 July 2024	<u>9,773</u>	<u>5,219</u>	<u>19,218</u>	<u>34,210</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 August 2023	9,773	5,219	13,074	28,066
Charge for year	-	-	2,184	2,184
At 31 July 2024	<u>9,773</u>	<u>5,219</u>	<u>15,258</u>	<u>30,250</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 July 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,960</u>	<u>3,960</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,398</u>	<u>1,398</u>

12 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Birkbeck University	441,938	1,085,487
	<u>441,938</u>	<u>1,085,487</u>

13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	499,321	1,075,836
Accrued expenses	6,600	25,090
Birkbeck University general loan	30,000	30,000
	<u>535,921</u>	<u>1,130,926</u>

14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Birkbeck University general loan 1 - 2 years	-	30,000
Birkbeck University general loan - total falling due after one year	<u>-</u>	<u>30,000</u>

In 2018/19 a loan of £175,000 was issued to the Birkbeck Students' Union. The loan was issued to support their return to a position of financial sustainability. The loan is repayable over seven years and no interest is charged. The loan outstanding as at 31 July 2024 was £30,000.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	3,960	-	3,960	1,398
Current assets	466,701	22,720	489,421	1,117,118
Current liabilities	(535,921)	-	(535,921)	(1,130,926)
Long term liabilities	-	-	-	(30,000)
	<u>(65,260)</u>	<u>22,720</u>	<u>(42,540)</u>	<u>(42,410)</u>

16 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 31 July 2023 £	Net Movement in funds £	At 31 July 2024 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(56,636)	(8,624)	(65,260)
	<u>(56,636)</u>	<u>(8,624)</u>	<u>(65,260)</u>
Restricted funds			
Clubs and societies	14,226	8,494	22,720
	<u>14,226</u>	<u>8,494</u>	<u>22,720</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(42,410)</u>	<u>(130)</u>	<u>(42,540)</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Funds Transferred £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	411,328	(419,952)	-	(8,624)
	<u>411,328</u>	<u>(419,952)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,624)</u>
Restricted funds				
Clubs and societies	14,188	(5,694)	-	8,494
Strike funds	26,500	(26,500)	-	-
	<u>40,688</u>	<u>(32,194)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,494</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>452,016</u>	<u>(452,146)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(130)</u>

Clubs and societies - these funds represent income from the various clubs and societies which is to be spent on the club or society to which it relates.

There was no requirement to transfer funds from the unrestricted funds to the restricted funds to cover the the expenditure on behalf of clubs and societies (2023: Nil).

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

17

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Birkbeck University

The Union's relationship with Birkbeck University is defined in the Report of the Trustees. Two grants were received by the Union from Birkbeck University as detailed in note 2 to the accounts.

Sabbatical Officers

The Union's sabbatical officers acted as trustees during their appointment (see note 8).

The table below shows the officers who served during the financial year 2023/24 together with the salaries and expenses paid to them for their services as sabbatical officers.

Sabbatical post	Post-holder	Term of Office	Salary & On-costs	Expenses
BAME Liberation Leader	Boodhoo, Lily	01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2024	5,982	44
Trans Liberation Leader	Falzon, Artemi	01 Nov 2022 - 03 Jun 2024	6,678	-
Welfare Student Leader	Sarenden, William	01 Jul 2023 - current	16,085	43
International Students Leader	Beerman Guerr, Kimberly Karina	01 Jul 2023 - 09 Oct 2023	1,628	-
LGBTQ+ Liberation Leader	Moralez, Tonya	01 Jul 2022 - 25 Jul 2023	377	-
Education Student Leader	Rivera Maidonado, Tatiana	01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2024	16,280	-
Disability Liberation Leader	Edwin, Elahi Ella	01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2024	5,982	-
Womens Liberation Leader	Swan, Miriam	01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2024	5,982	-
			<u>58,994</u>	<u>87</u>

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

18

PENSION SCHEMES

a) Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)

Birkbeck Students' Union participates in Universities Superannuation Scheme through the University. The scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits (for all members), as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the Union therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a wholly defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the scheme.

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2023 (the valuation date) which was carried out using the projected unit method. This was the seventh valuation for USS under the new scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to adopt a statutory funding objective to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions.

At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £73.1 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £65.7 billion indicating a surplus of £7.4 billion and a funding ratio of 111%.

Following UK government legislation, from 2011 statutory pensions increases or revaluations are based on the Consumer Prices Index measure of price inflation. Historically these increases had been based on the Retail Prices Index measure of price inflation.

The Charity participates in the salary sacrifice pension scheme. The staff costs (note 9) shows the pensionable salary which includes the employee salary sacrifice element.

Employer and employee contribution rates for the scheme during the last three years were:

	Employer	Employee
From January 2024	14.5%	6.1%
From April 2022	21.6%	9.8%
From October 2021	21.4%	9.8%

As at 31 July 2024 the charity had one active member participating in the scheme. The employer contribution for the year was £9,577 (2023: £11,207).

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

18

PENSION SCHEMES (continued)

b) Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL)

The Charity participates in the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London ("SAUL") through the University. SAUL is a centralised defined benefit scheme within the United Kingdom and was contracted out of the Second State Pension (prior to April 2016). SAUL is an independently-managed pension scheme for non-academic staff of over 50 colleges and institutions with links to higher education.

Pension benefits accrued within SAUL currently build up on a Career Average Revalued Earnings ("CARE") basis.

On 1 April SAUL introduced SAUL Start, a defined contribution scheme. Individuals joining SAUL from 1 April 2023 are automatically enrolled into SAUL Start for the first three years of membership. SAUL start is managed by Legal & General. After three years of membership members are transferred to SAUL Care.

The Charity is not expected to be liable to SAUL for any other current participating employer's obligations under the Rules of SAUL, but in the event of an insolvency of any participating employer within SAUL, an amount of any pension shortfall (which cannot otherwise be recovered) in respect of that employer, may be spread across the remaining participating employers and reflected in the next actuarial valuation.

Funding Policy

SAUL's statutory funding objective is to have sufficient and appropriate assets to meet the costs incurred by the Trustee in paying SAUL's benefits as they fall due (the "Technical Provisions"). The Trustee adopts assumptions which, taken as a whole, are intended to be sufficiently prudent for pensions and benefits already in payment to continue to be paid and for the commitments which arise from Members' accrued pension rights to be met.

The Technical Provisions assumptions include appropriate margins to allow for the possibility of events turning out worse than expected. However, the funding method and assumptions do not completely remove the risk that the Technical Provisions could be insufficient to provide benefits in the future.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

18

**PENSION SCHEMES (continued)
b) Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL)**

The Charity is a Participating member in SAUL. The actuarial valuation applies to SAUL as a whole and does not identify surpluses or deficits applicable to individual employers. As a whole, the market value of SAUL's assets as at 31 March 2023 was £3,096 million representing 105% of the liabilities.

A formal actuarial valuation of SAUL is carried out every three years by a professionally qualified and independent actuary. The last actuarial valuation was carried out with an effective date of 31 March 2023. Informal reviews of SAUL's position, reflecting changes in market conditions, cash flow information and new accrual of benefits, are carried out between formal valuations.

The funding principles were agreed by the Trustee and employers in June 2023 and will be reviewed again at SAUL's next formal valuation in 2026.

At 31 March 2023 valuation SAUL was 105% funded on its Technical Provisions basis (31 March 2020: 94%). As SAUL was in surplus on its Technical Provisions basis at that date, no deficit contributions were required and there is no defined benefit liability to be recognised. The Trustee and the Employers have agreed that the ongoing Employers' contributions will reduce from a rate of 21% of CARE Salaries to 19% of CARE salaries from 1 September 2024. Employer contribution rates for SAUL Start are set at 16%.

It is not possible to identify an individual Employer's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of SAUL. The Charity accounts for its participation in SAUL as if it were a defined contribution scheme and pension costs are based on the amounts actually paid (i.e cash amounts) in accordance with paragraphs 28.11 of FRS102.

The employer contribution for the year was £33,963 (2023: £37,204).

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06661477 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1142614

**Report of the Trustees and
Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023
for
BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION**

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

	Page
Report of the Trustees	2 to 13
Report of the Independent Auditors	14 to 17
Statement of Financial Activities	18
Balance Sheet	19
Notes to the Financial Statements	20 to 31

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the incorporated charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number 06661477 (England and Wales)
Registered Charity number 1142614 (England and Wales)
Registered Address Birkbeck, University of London
 Malet Street London
 WC1E 7HX

Trustees

<i>Trustee</i>	<i>Date appointed</i>	<i>Date resigned</i>	<i>Class of appointment</i>
C Danielsson	1 August 2022	31 July 2023	Non-executive
Z Frediani	1 August 2018		Non-executive
A Prestage	1 August 2018		Non-executive
S Gibbs	1 July 2022	30 June 2023	Executive
D Jeanrenaud	1 July 2022	30 June 2023	Executive
T Morales	1 July 2022	25 July 2023	Executive
I Okoye-Ahaneku	1 July 2022	30 June 2023	Executive
C Stehwien	1 August 2022	31 July 2023	Non-executive
L Zerain	1 July 2022	6 February 2023	Executive
A Thompson	1 August 2020		Non-executive
M Dhesi	1 August 2021		Non-executive
A Falzon	1 November 2022		Executive
W Sarenden	1 July 2023		Executive
G Hope	1 August 2021		Non-executive
P Malheiro	1 July 2021	30 June 2023	Executive
T Rivera	1 July 2023		Executive
M Swan	1 July 2023		Executive
L Boodhoo	1 July 2023		Executive
I Badmus	1 July 2022	30 June 2023	Executive
E Edwin	1 July 2023		Executive
K Beermann Guerra	1 July 2023		Executive

Chief Executive

Y Joondan

Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC

Solicitors

DAC Beachcroft LLP

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The company was incorporated on 31 July 2008 and commenced its activities on 1 August 2008 when assets and liabilities of Birkbeck College Students' Union, an unincorporated entity, were transferred in.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TO DATE

Overview

The Union received a subvention from the university of £340,000 towards the costs of staff and 'core activities' agreed between the Trustees and the University management in line with the Memorandum of Understanding for the financial year 2022-23. A further £25,000 was awarded in year towards the course representatives staff cost, with an additional one-off grant of £22,696 to cover the overspend in staff costs which was mostly due to pay award and regrading of staff salaries. The Union incurred a deficit of £13,986 which was mainly due to the increase in staff costs, where a proportion of the 2023-24 pay award was paid in 2022-23 and the contract extensions for three graduate assistants to support the SU activities.

The Union have agreed a way forward that should avoid future deficits and contain the 2022-23 overspend as a one-off. For 2023-24 the Union have already made a number of staff cost savings with both the officers and Union staff. In addition, the Union have been exploring further reductions in some areas of non-staff expenditure such as hold referendum with students on the membership of the National Union of Students. Finally, the Union are also looking into additional income generating streams such as shared service agreements with neighbouring student unions and institutions and investigating new ways to increase income from existing sources, such as more on-site presence of the Birkbeck merchandise sales.

The Trustees are grateful for the continued support that the university governors, management and staff provide.

Reserves and Restricted Funds

Reserves are classified as restricted or unrestricted. Within unrestricted funds there are designated funds where the trustees have committed the union to future expenditure, such as on projects that have received match-funding. Restricted reserves comprise of balances on grants, restricted donations and on clubs & societies where funds have been received for a specific purpose and the union is restricted in its use of these funds.

The Trustees encourage students running clubs and societies, to ensure there is financial activity within their remits, and where possible to develop plans to apply these restricted funds for student benefit within the constitutional objects and mission of their club or society and engaging their membership widely in its application.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Union is controlled by its governing documents; a Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 31 July 2008 (amended 1 August 2009), and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consists of no more than fourteen persons and is made up as follows:

Not more than eight Officer Trustees elected annually by secret ballot of the Union membership for a 12-month term; Not more than two Student Trustees appointed for a term of one year; Not more than five Lay Trustees appointed for a term of three years.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the Union's activities and believe that the Union is adequately insured and, with new financial management, monitoring and control process now agreed with the university, and considers it has an appropriate risk management policy in place.

Risk management (continued)

During the year, the insurance policies and schedules were reviewed fully by both the Union's management, the insurance broker and underwriters and this work considered and approved by the Trustees. The Trustees have considered and noted the implications of the organisational duties of safeguarding, the appropriateness and needs of checks on individuals who hold elected or paid office or posts in the charity in relation to the information held by the Disclosure & Barring Service and wider corporate duties under the provisions of the Bribery Act 2011 and the Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning & Trade Union Administration Act 2014.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Constitutional Aims and Objects

The objects of the Union are the advancement of education of Students at Birkbeck, University of London for the public benefit by:

1. promoting the interests and welfare of Students at Birkbeck, University of London during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising Students;
2. being the recognised representative channel between Students and Birkbeck, University of London and any other external bodies; and
3. providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its Students.

The Trustees have considered the effect of the Charity Commission's statement on public benefit on the operations and constitution of the Union.

The Union is a democratically run organisation, which is led by Birkbeck students and supported by a small but effective staff team. Each year the Union run the Spring & Autumn Elections, to elect the Officers who lead and direct the work and are members of the Board of Trustees, and Student Council which is made up of even more student representatives who hold the Officers to account and help shape the Union's policy.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

STRATEGY

Birkbeck Students' Union's new strategy was agreed in June 2022 which outlines the plans for the next three years, with a focus on four main areas of work:

- Supporting Student Wellbeing
- Enhancing Students' Social Experience
- Representing the View of Students
- Representing Academic Interests

In each of these four areas the Union has set its self a number of key performance indicators (KPIs) in order to measure its success in achieving these objectives. The performance against the KPIs in 2022/23 was as follows:

- Students agreed that the Union had a positive impact on their wellbeing 38.4% 2023 (13% in 2022).
- Members were aware about the clubs and societies run by the Union 76% 2023 (60% in 2022).
- 15% of students agreed that they know how to influence change at Birkbeck.
- Students agreed that the Union represents their academic interest 32.8% in 2023 (17% in 2022).
- 39% of students have met their course representative

OFFICERS & BOARD

The Board have decided not to have the post of Company Secretary.

DEMOCRACY & REPRESENTATION

SABBATICAL OFFICERS

The eight Elected Officers are the leaders of the Students' Union who represent the students to the University and sit on both the Trustee Board and Executive committee, directing the Union and lead on the work it does each year. They are elected each Spring; therefore, students are encouraged to vote.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council is an elected group of representatives who pass policy, debate student issues and hold the Student Leaders to account. There are over thirty positions that sit on Council, which are elected in the Autumn Elections – Birkbeck students can run for a position, and all students are encouraged to vote.

The Student Council had twenty-four members and during the year, nineteen were elected during the autumn elections while the others co-opted in the meetings, they held five meetings (once every two months), passed three policies and three motions regarding the UCU strikes, postgraduate support to academic AI integration issues, reviewing and updating the council's byelaws along with feeding into the Union's structure, which also created a new role within the council.

SCHOOL & COURSE REPRESENTATIVES

School and Course Representatives are an essential part in helping elevate the student voice and keep the University and Union informed with student feedback.

School Representatives are a paid position that the Union hire over the summer – Birkbeck students can find out who their School Representatives are by visiting the Student Voice tab on the Union's website.

SCHOOL & COURSE REPRESENTATIVES (continued)

Course Representatives are elected in the classroom at the start of each term and students are also able to nominate themselves.

During the year one hundred and fifty-three course representatives were recruited and seventy-two were trained.

The table below shows how many course representatives sit in each school. The School of Law and Science are currently largely underrepresented, but this is because both the Schools have a smaller population of students so would naturally have lesser course representatives.

Undergraduate (Trained)

Schools	Course Representative Numbers
School of Business, Economics, and Information	13
School of Art	15
School of Law	3
School of Science	7
School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy	7
Number of Total Course Representatives	45

Postgraduate (Trained)

Schools	Course Representative Numbers
School of Business, Economics, and Information	7
School of Art	3
School of Law	1
School of Science	9
School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy	7
Number of Total Course Representatives	27

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Enhanced Training Programme:

Thirty-two course representatives took up the chance this academic year to gain more skills and knowledge that would enhance their education, whether this be time-management to sustainability. The Union has gone from offering six training sessions to nine, which now include accessibility training and EDI training.

Elections (Autumn)

Nominations:	26 (An increase of 44%)
Method of Election:	Online/ Website
Unique Voters	386 (An increase of 21%)
Individual Votes Cast	3342 (An increase of 30%)
Turnout (student population)	3.86%
Average Age of Voter:	33.5

Elections (Spring)

Elections for Officer Trustees

Nominations Received:	41 (an increase of 40%)
Candidate Withdrawals:	6 (an increase of 500%)
Number of Candidates:	35 (an increase of 21%)
Number of Positions:	8
The number of positions with candidates:	8
A number of Unique Voters:	475
Numbers of votes cast:	2682
Voter Turnout (student population):	4.6% (of 10,191) (increase of 29%) Highest voter turnout in 5 years.

Elections for NUS Delegates

NUS Delegate Positions	3
NUS Delegate Positions Contested	3
NUS Delegate Positions Filled	3
Unique Votes Cast:	287

During the year, the Union sent students to three NUS conferences, the officers attended nine panels, and there were a total of sixty-two committee meetings held in the year.

Student Led Teaching Awards

From a total of one hundred and one nominations, the categories and winners were as follows;

Best personal tutor – Ester Ramsay-Jones
Best dissertation or project supervisor – Ori Ossmy
Best non-teaching staff member – Mark Pimm
Best Lecturer/Seminar Teacher-Lois Rollings
Outstanding Contribution to Student Experience- Zita Hentes
Outstanding Contribution to Birkbeck Community- Pedro Malheiro
Colleague of the Year- Aura Rico
Best Course Representative- Louis-Alexandre Lobanov

OFFICER PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS

The Union's Student Officers lead on liberation networks and campaigns to make changes that have a positive impact on students' studies and overall experience while at Birkbeck. Below are some of the highlights from the Officer's Projects & Campaigns in 2022-23:

- Championed the establishment of the food pantry, working with the University to support students during the cost of living crisis.
- Advocated for and played a pivotal role in materializing a dedicated space for students, to be able to warm and eat their home cooked food fostering inclusion and equity, which is materializing in the new Gordon square space.
- Achieved a significant milestone by negotiating a fee waiver for students impacted by war, ensuring their academic continuity despite the turmoil affecting them and their families.
- Pedro Malheiro (student leader) was the first student to submit the teaching excellence framework (TEF) student submission at Birkbeck University, a pioneering step in the institution's academic journey.
- Daisy Kaother Jeanrenaud (women's officer) pushed the university to make a pregnancy and parenthood policy to ensure that new parents at Birkbeck are not placed at a disadvantage. This new policy will come into force in the coming academic year.
- Ikenna Okoye-Ahaneku (black students' officer) created a focus on black history, with an academic year full of interesting events and discussions that showed the contribution and struggle of British BAME people.
- Laura Zerain was the first international student officer, cultivating a vibrant, diverse and supportive environment.

ACTIVITIES

Events

Birkbeck Students' Union's Activities followed up last year with another great year of engagement. All kicked off by our largest and most cohesive Welcome period yet, the events programme continues to grow, whilst our clubs, societies and networks continued the good work – particularly bolstered by the introduction of a number of new sports clubs to the Team Birkbeck family. We also entered into an exclusive kit and merchandise agreement with Akuma for our sports teams and student community, a first for Birkbeck Students' Union, which will help grow the Birkbeck brand for years to come and allow our students to feel a sense of camaraderie and identity when either competing or strolling around campus. See some key statistics below;

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Events (continued)

Events Programme

Events (Total): 208 (76% increase on 21/22)

Events (Central): 74 (6% increase on 21/22)

Events (Welcome): 28 (17% increase on 21/22)

Total Engagement*: 2542 students (21% increase on 21/22)

Highlights included the fantastic SU Awards 23 event, our annual participation in Pride in London, brand new after-hours social experiences such as the Boat Party via our new partnership with Native, and our incredible collaboration with the University to make Welcome the most student focused and experience-centric yet!

*engagement measured by ticket-sales only, and so this is a minimum figure

Student Groups (Clubs, Societies & Networks)

Groups (Total): 66

Groups (Sport): 10

Matches (Sport): 27

Win/Loss (LUSL): 12/15

It was a decent year for the student groups, with a sharp rise in group-organised events and activity, with a steady increase in membership. Consistency in activity was a key positive, with many groups displaying scheduled and regular event and activity plans, seen best with the Film, Indian, Pakistani and Korean Societies, the Dance sport, Archery, Swimming and Climbing Clubs, and the Women's' Network.

Headlines included the Union's Basketball Club's unbeaten league season and league title, as well as the students representing Birkbeck in national competition in Archery and bringing home bags of medals from Blackpool with the Dance sport Club.

STUDENT GROUP ELECTIONS

The Student Group Elections were held in their fully-fledged form first time since 2020, which was rewarded with a bumper turnout. The need for strong directive to return to consistent delivery and the implementation of the student group lifecycle saw a huge increase in election statistics across the board with the mobilisation of engaged students (group members) also provided positive collateral effect on the Spring Election.

Student union Advice/Support Service

Birkbeck Students' Union Support Service offers free, confidential advice which is independent from the university.

1. The Support Service has dealt with 191 cases this academic year. The largest volume of cases were related to issues with 'Complaints', especially Stage 1 Early Resolution and Progression issues. The Service assisted students with Academic Offences, Appeals and Mitigating Circumstances forms.

- There has been an increase in students seeking support with their complaints and some of the key factors that seem to have led to this are:
- delays in responding to students especially from academics,
- the UCU strike,
- Mitigating Circumstances applications being rejected,
- students seeking partial refunds due to other issues and concerns they have regarding their registration at Birkbeck.

There are also key factors which continue to negatively affect student's mental health. The main examples we have seen are: a) How students are treated by members of staff with many students not feeling supported and b) continued lengthy delays with both the appeals and complaints processes.

2. The service has built a partnership with the university's wellbeing service to address the support available for student's mental health. The Students' Union support service took the opportunity to work with the wellbeing service on celebrating University Mental Health Awareness Day and Mental Health Week, by collaborating on events to promote all services and what we have to offer to students (over 250 students engaged).

3. This academic year, SU support was able to promote Studiosity to students and also signpost students to the services, especially where help was needed with academic writing and problem solving.

4. Although the second highest category, progression issues has actually fallen since the previous year by 19.1%. The issues remain the same though as a) delays and roadblocks when dealing with situations such as learning disabilities and physical and mental health conditions as well as also having to cope with employment and other family responsibilities; b) a lack of sufficient and readily available information on how and when to access support; c) a general lack of understanding of policies and procedures.

5. The service launched Clued Up online sessions, these consisted of a 15-minute online drop in session via MS Teams. We offered students support with any academic-related issues.

6. The service has improved their response time by 90%, responding to students within 3 working days.

7. SU support organised four outreach stalls on campus this academic year to promote the service and speak to students about academic issues and make them aware of Academic Misconduct and Mitigating Circumstances processes in particular. We engaged with 280 students, which helped to create awareness of the services we provide.

8. The service, alongside the communications team, created the first Students' Union Assessment Guide which will help students during the assessment period moving forward.

9. During the ongoing UCU strikes, SU support provided tailored support to students and helped individuals to file complaints to the university in regard to the impact of the strikes.

10. The service worked with the university to support students with the effects of the rising cost of living, by helping with the delivery of the Food Pantry, where students can access non-perishable goods at no cost, run by the SU and Birkbeck Student Advice Service.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter

The Union's email Newsletter got a revamp at the start of the year, in terms of design and what it focuses on. Emails are sent fortnightly to all students signed up to our communications mailing list (over 12,000 students) and highlights various events and news, as well as give an update for our individual sections: Student Voice, Student Activities and Students' Support Service. We have also tried a new Subject Line, making it clear it is Your SU Newsletter, as well as highlighting a few of the items the newsletter will cover. Those changes have brought positive changes, increasing our opening rate by 10% in comparison to last academic year and a 30% increase in our click through rates.

Instagram

The Union's Instagram has seen an increase in engagement and followers over the past year. This is due to the communications team constantly reviewing the statistics data and trying new things such as incorporating more reels and jumping on social media trends, which have helped the Union reach a wider audience and get better engagement. Our followers have therefore increased by 33% since last year, whilst our engagement has seen an incredible increase of 203%.

Twitter and Facebook

Twitter and Facebook have seen a slower growth compared to Instagram, but this is due to the communications team focusing their time on growing that platform as it was getting the most engagement from students. Both platforms got an increase in roughly 200 followers each, and got a decrease in their reach. However, this is something that has been observed across the sector.

Website

The Union is currently working on launching its brand-new website in August 2023. Similarly to previous years, our most popular pages are our landing page, closely followed by our Groups (Societies and Clubs) page. In the past year (from September 2022), we've had 17k users, which is a slight increase of 3% compared to last year. We are hoping for an increase in our users and engagement following the launch of our new website, which will look more modern and user-friendly.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

During the year, the Union was affiliated to the following groups or bodies, and in compliance with Section 22 of the Education Act 1994, lists them here (along with the affiliation fee paid). Pursuant to Section 22 of the Education Act 1994, the Trustees declare that no donations have been made to any other organisation.

Affiliations are notified formally to members at the AGM:

Body of Affiliation	Fee Paid (£)
Advice UK	384
National Union of Students UK	9,185

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Birkbeck College Students' Union for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and - the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

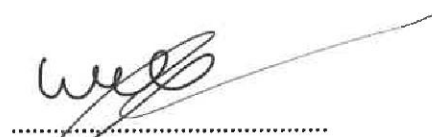
AUDITORS

The auditors, Knox Cropper, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

DECLARATION

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:


.....
William Sarenden – Chair of Trustees

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Birkbeck College Students' Union (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023**

Other information (continued)

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023**

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charitable Company is required to comply with both company law and charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charitable company's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Stephen Anderson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
153-155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

Date: 24/04/2024

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations and Legacies					
Grant income	2	375,000	12,696	387,696	365,000
Unrestricted Alumni Donation		4,256	-	4,256	20,000
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Clubs and Societies	3	-	29,341	29,341	-
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)		621	-	621	1,399
Birkbeck SU branded clothing		1,314	-	1,314	945
Other incoming resources					
Other Income		26,091	-	26,091	3,569
Total incoming resources		407,282	42,037	449,319	390,913
Charitable activities - Application of resources					
SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	4	76,799	12,696	89,495	81,729
SU Advice		72,292	-	72,292	61,615
SU Communications		81,501	-	81,501	74,362
SU Voice		137,134	-	137,134	122,328
Clubs and Societies		47,036	29,967	77,003	41,700
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)		2,940	-	2,940	2,393
Birkbeck SU branded clothing		2,940	-	2,940	2,393
Total resources expended		420,642	42,663	463,305	386,520
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME FOR THE YEAR		(13,360)	(626)	(13,986)	4,393
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
16					
Total funds brought forward		(43,276)	14,852	(28,424)	(32,817)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		(56,636)	14,226	(42,410)	(28,424)

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Balance Sheet
At 31 July 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	1,398	2,065
		<u>1,398</u>	<u>2,065</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	9,651	36,252
Prepayments and accrued income		7,154	7,258
Cash at bank and in hand		24,477	22,519
		<u>41,282</u>	<u>66,029</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(55,090)	(36,518)
		<u>(13,808)</u>	<u>29,511</u>
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS			
		(12,410)	31,576
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(30,000)	(60,000)
		<u>(42,410)</u>	<u>(28,424)</u>
NET LIABILITIES			
FUNDS	16		
Unrestricted funds			
General funds		(56,636)	(43,276)
Restricted funds		14,226	14,852
		<u>(42,410)</u>	<u>(28,424)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 26/01/2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



William Sarenden - Chair of Trustees

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':
The requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Support costs have been allocated to Charitable Activities on the following basis:

SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	10.0%
SU Advice	24.0%
SU Communications	24.0%
SU Voice	24.0%
Clubs and societies	16.0%
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra) Card	1.0%
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	1.0%

Governance costs have been merged with other Support costs.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

	Life:
Plant and machinery	5 years
Fixtures and fittings	5 years
Computer equipment	3 years

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where there is a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party, and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The company participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL), which are funded, defined benefit schemes. The schemes are contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P). The schemes are valued formally every three years by professionally qualified independent actuaries using the projected unit method. Informal reviews of the schemes' position are carried out in the period between formal valuations.

The Union has agreed with its parent institution that the deficit funding liability is recognised in the parent institution's accounts. The charge to the income and expenditure account is the contributions payable to the schemes for the accounting period, which is the same as it would be if these were defined contribution schemes.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, as disclosed in note 17. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Core grant	340,000	340,000
Additional grant for course representatives	25,000	25,000
Additional one-off grant	10,000	-
Strike Funds	12,696	-
	<u>387,696</u>	<u>365,000</u>
Unrestricted Alumni Donation	4,256	20,000
	<u>391,952</u>	<u>385,000</u>

3 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Activity	2023	2022
	£	£
Other incoming resources		
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra) card	621	1,399
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	1,314	645
Clubs & Societies	29,341	-
Other income	26,091	3,569
	<u>57,367</u>	<u>5,613</u>

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs	Support costs	Support costs	Totals
		Staff Costs	Other Costs	2023
	£	£	£	£
SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	60,097	26,588	2,810	89,495
SU Advice	1,738	63,811	6,743	72,292
SU Communications	10,947	63,811	6,743	81,501
SU Voice	66,580	63,811	6,743	137,134
Clubs and Societies	29,967	42,541	4,495	77,003
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra) Card	-	2,659	281	2,940
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	-	2,659	281	2,940
	<u>169,329</u>	<u>265,880</u>	<u>28,096</u>	<u>463,305</u>

5 SUPPORT COSTS

	Allocation	Staff Costs	Other Costs	2023
	%	£	£	Total
				£
SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	10.0%	26,588	2,810	29,398
SU Advice	24.0%	63,811	6,743	70,554
SU Communications	24.0%	63,811	6,743	70,554
SU Voice	24.0%	63,811	6,743	70,554
Clubs and Societies	16.0%	42,541	4,495	47,036
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra) Card	1.0%	2,659	281	2,940
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	1.0%	2,659	281	2,940
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>265,880</u>	<u>28,096</u>	<u>293,976</u>

Activity

Management, Finance & Governance (Note 6)

6 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Governance office	3,684	4,683
Auditors' remuneration	6,000	5,400
	<u>9,684</u>	<u>10,083</u>

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

7 NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	6,000	5,400
Depreciation - owned assets	667	3,896

8 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Trustees' expenses

Trustees received expenses in connection with the performance of their duties £231 (2022: £226).

The expenses are the reimbursed costs of travel and subsistence on behalf of the Union, and the costs of refreshments for Union events.

9 STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	305,012	244,437
Social security	21,438	18,263
Pension costs	48,411	39,242
	374,861	301,942

Average staff Numbers

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Management and administrative staff	9.8	10.0
Sabbaticals	4.6	3.8
	14.4	13.8

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

10 COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations and legacies				
Grant income	365,000	-	365,000	340,000
Unrestricted Alumni Donation	20,000	-	20,000	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)	1,399	-	1,399	2,470
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	945	-	945	1,026
Other incoming resources				
Other Income	3,569	-	3,569	2,394
Total incoming resources	<u>390,913</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>390,913</u>	<u>345,890</u>
 Charitable activities - Application of resources				
SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	81,729	-	81,729	57,396
SU Advice	61,615	-	61,615	68,604
SU Communications	74,362	-	74,362	75,474
SU Voice	122,328	-	122,328	88,158
Clubs and Societies	33,755	7,945	41,700	38,088
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)	2,393	-	2,393	2,691
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	2,393	-	2,393	2,691
Total resources expended	<u>378,575</u>	<u>7,945</u>	<u>386,520</u>	<u>333,102</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	<u>12,338</u>	<u>(7,945)</u>	<u>4,393</u>	<u>12,788</u>
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	(55,614)	22,797	(32,817)	(45,605)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>(43,276)</u>	<u>14,852</u>	<u>(28,424)</u>	<u>(32,817)</u>

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant & Machinery	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Totals
COST				
At 1 August 2022	9,773	5,219	14,472	29,464
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 July 2023	<u>9,773</u>	<u>5,219</u>	<u>14,472</u>	<u>29,464</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 August 2022	9,773	5,219	12,407	27,399
Charge for year	-	-	667	667
At 31 July 2023	<u>9,773</u>	<u>5,219</u>	<u>13,074</u>	<u>28,066</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 July 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,398</u>	<u>1,398</u>
At 31 July 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,065</u>	<u>2,065</u>

12 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Birkbeck University of London	9,651	36,252
	<u>9,651</u>	<u>36,252</u>

13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Accrued expenses	25,090	6,518
Birkbeck University general loan	30,000	30,000
	<u>55,090</u>	<u>36,518</u>

14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Birkbeck University general loan 1 - 2 years	30,000	30,000
3 - 5 years	-	30,000
Birkbeck University general loan - total falling due after one year	<u>30,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>

The Birkbeck University general loan forms part of the support for the Union provided by the university. Under the loan agreement of 13 August 2018, specified sums fall due each year, £30,000 is due in the financial year 2022-23.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1,398	-	1,398	2,065
Current assets	27,056	14,226	41,282	66,029
Current liabilities	(55,090)	-	(55,090)	(36,518)
Long term liabilities	(30,000)	-	(30,000)	(60,000)
	<u>(56,636)</u>	<u>14,226</u>	<u>(42,410)</u>	<u>(28,424)</u>

16 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 31 July'22	Net Movement in funds	At 31 July'23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(43,276)	(13,360)	(56,636)
	<u>(43,276)</u>	<u>(13,360)</u>	<u>(56,636)</u>
Restricted funds			
Clubs and Societies	14,852	(626)	14,226
	<u>14,852</u>	<u>(626)</u>	<u>14,226</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(28,424)</u>	<u>(13,986)</u>	<u>(42,410)</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Funds Transferred	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	407,282	(420,642)	-	(13,360)
	<u>407,282</u>	<u>(420,642)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(13,360)</u>
Restricted funds				
Clubs and Societies	29,341	(29,967)	-	(626)
Strike Funds	12,696	(12,696)	-	-
	<u>42,037</u>	<u>(42,663)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(626)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>449,319</u>	<u>(463,305)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(13,986)</u>

There was no requirement to transfer funds from the unrestricted funds to the restricted funds to cover the the expenditure on behalf of Clubs and Societies (2022: Nil).

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

17 GOING CONCERN

Due to historic financial challenges faced by the Union, the university agreed to provide a loan of £175k to the Union in 2018. The loan supports the Union whilst it seeks to return to a financially sustainable position. Although the Union has incurred a deficit this year it has been making good progress by delivering surpluses for each of the previous four years. The university committed to continue supporting the Union and as a consequence these accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

18 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Birkbeck University

The Union's relationship with Birkbeck University is defined in the Report of the Trustees. Various grants were received by the Union from Birkbeck University as detailed in Note 2 to the Accounts.

Sabbatical Officers

The Union's sabbatical officers acted as trustees during their appointment (see Note 8).

The table below shows the officers who served during the financial year 2022-23, together with the salaries and expenses paid to them for their services as sabbatical officers.

Sabbatical post	Post-holder	Term of Office	Salary & On-costs	Expenses
Liberation Officer	Boodhoo, Lily	01-Jul 2023 - current	660	-
Student Leader	Ruao Nunes, Jose Pedro	01 Jul 2021 - current	16,148	180
Liberation Officer	Falzon, Artemi	01 Nov 2022 - current	4,717	-
Student Officer	Durrant, Nicole	01 Jul 2021 - current	709	-
Student Officer	Sarenden, William	01 Jul 2023 - current	1,221	-
Liberation Officer	Jeanrenaud, Daisy	01 Jul 2022 - current	5,402	36
Liberation Officer	Okoye-Ahaneku, Paul Ikechukwu	01 Jul 2022 - current	5,402	-
Student Leader	Badmus, Ibrahim	01 Jul 2022 - current	13,247	-
Liberation Officer	Beerman Guerr, Kimberly Karina	01 Jul 2023 - current	523	-
Liberation Officer	Moralez, Tonya	01 Jul 2022 - current	5,824	15
Liberation Officer	Gibbs, Sarah	01 Jul 2022 - current	5,402	-
Student Leader	Zeraín Mercado, Maria Laura	01 Jul 2022 - current	4,969	-
Liberation Officer	Rivera Maidonado, Tatiana	01 Jul 2023 - current	1,221	-
Liberation Officer	Edwin, Elahi Ella	01 Jul 2023 - current	523	-
Liberation Officer	Swan, Miriam	01 Jul 2023 - current	523	-
			66,491	231

19 PENSION SCHEMES

a) Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)

The Charity participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme. The scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits (for all members), as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administrated fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The charity is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis.

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2020 (the valuation date) which was carried out using the projected unit method. This was the sixth valuation for USS under the new scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to adopt a statutory funding objective to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions.

At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £66.5 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £80.6 billion indicating a shortfall of £14.1 billion and a funding ratio of 83%.

Following UK government legislation, from 2011 statutory pensions increases or revaluations are based on the Consumer Prices Index measure of price inflation. Historically these increases had been based on the Retail Prices Index measure of price inflation.

The Charity participates in the salary sacrifice pension scheme. The staff costs (note 9) shows the pensionable salary which includes the employee salary sacrifice element. The charity contribution rate payable from 1 April to 30 September 2019 was 19.5%, it then increased to 21.1% from October 2019 to September 2021, with a further increase to 21.4% until March 2022, and since April 2022 the rate has been 21.6%.

As at 31 July 2023 the charity had 1 active member participating in the scheme. The total pension cost (excluding the salary sacrifice pension element) for the company was £11,207 (2022: £9,633).

19 PENSION SCHEMES (continued)

b) Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL)

The Charity participates in the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London ("SAUL"), which is a centralised defined benefit scheme within the United Kingdom and was contracted out of the Second State Pension (prior to April 2016). SAUL is an independently-managed pension scheme for non-academic staff of over 50 colleges and institutions with links to higher education

Pension benefits accrued within SAUL currently build up on a Career Average Revalued Earnings ("CARE") basis.

On 1 April SAUL introduced SAUL Start, a defined contribution scheme. Individuals joining SAUL from 1 April 2023 are automatically enrolled into SAUL Start for the first three years of membership. SAUL start is managed by Legal & General. After three years of membership members are transferred to SAUL Care.

The Charity is not expected to be liable to SAUL for any other current participating employer's obligations under the Rules of SAUL, but in the event of an insolvency of any participating employer within SAUL, an amount of any pension shortfall (which cannot otherwise be recovered) in respect of that employer, may be spread across the remaining participating employers and reflected in the next actuarial valuation.

Funding Policy

SAUL's statutory funding objective is to have sufficient and appropriate assets to meet the costs incurred by the Trustee in paying SAUL's benefits as they fall due (the "Technical Provisions"). The Trustee adopts assumptions which, taken as a whole, are intended to be sufficiently prudent for pensions and benefits already in payment to continue to be paid and for the commitments which arise from Members' accrued pension rights to be met.

The Technical Provisions assumptions include appropriate margins to allow for the possibility of events turning out worse than expected. However, the funding method and assumptions do not completely remove the risk that the Technical Provisions could be insufficient to provide benefits in the future.

19 PENSION SCHEMES (continued)

b) Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL)

A formal actuarial valuation of SAUL is carried out every three years by a professionally qualified and independent actuary. The last actuarial valuation was carried out with an effective date of 31 March 2020. Informal reviews of SAUL's position, reflecting changes in market conditions, cash flow information and new accrual of benefits, are carried out between formal valuations.

The funding principles were agreed by the Trustee and employers in June 2021 and are due to be reviewed at SAUL's next formal valuation in 2023.

At the 31 March 2020 valuation SAUL was 94% funded on its Technical Provisions basis. However, market movements following the valuation date were positive and the Trustees and Employers agreed to allow for post-valuation experience up to 30 April 2021. As SAUL was in surplus on its Technical Provisions basis at that date, no deficit contributions were required. However, the Trustee and the Employers have agreed that the ongoing Employers' contributions will increase from a rate of 16% of CARE Salaries to 19% of CARE salaries from 1 April 2022 and to 21% of CARE salaries from 1 January 2023. Employer contribution rates for SAUL Start are set at 16%

The charity is a Participating member in SAUL. The actuarial valuation applies to SAUL as a whole and does not identify surpluses or deficits applicable to individual employers. As a whole, the market value of SAUL's assets as at 31 March 2020 was £3,612 million representing 94% of the liabilities. The market value of SAUL's assets at 30 April 2021 was £4,369 million representing 109% of the estimated liabilities.

It is not possible to identify an individual Employer's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of SAUL. The Charity accounts for its participation in SAUL as if it were a defined contribution scheme and pension costs are based on the amounts actually paid (i.e. cash amounts) in accordance with paragraphs 28.11 of FRS102

The total pension cost for the charity (excluding the salary sacrifice element) was £37,204 (2022: £29,608).

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06661477 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1142614

**Report of the Trustees and
Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022
for
BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION**

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

	Page
Report of the Trustees	2 to 11
Report of the Independent Auditors	12 to 15
Statement of Financial Activities	16
Balance Sheet	17
Notes to the Financial Statements	18 to 25

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022****Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the incorporated charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number	06661477 (England and Wales)
Registered Charity number	1142614 (England and Wales)
Registered Address	Birkbeck, University of London Malet Street London WC1E 7HX

Trustees

<i>Trustee</i>	<i>Date appointed</i>	<i>Date resigned</i>	<i>Class of appointment</i>
C Danielsson	1 August 2022		Non-executive
Z Frediani	1 August 2018		Non-executive
A Prestage	1 August 2018		Non-executive
S Gibbs	1 July 2022		Executive
D Jeanrenaud	1 July 2022		Executive
T Morales	1 July 2022		Executive
I Okoye-Ahaneku	1 July 2022		Executive
C Stehwien	1 August 2022		Non-executive
L Zerain	1 July 2022		Executive
N Smith	1 July 2020	30 June 2022	Executive
A Thompson	1 August 2020		Non-executive
M Dhesi	1 August 2021		Non-executive
N Durrant	1 July 2021	26 August 2022	Executive
E Gichoni	1 August 2021	31 July 2022	Non-executive
G Hope	1 August 2021		Non-executive
P Malheiro	1 July 2021		Executive
M Massey	1 July 2021	30 June 2022	Executive
K Wilcher	1 July 2021	30 June 2022	Executive
S Augustine	1 August 2021	24 October 2021	Non-Executive
I Badmus	1 July 2022		Executive
R Thorpe	8 April 2022	31 July 2022	Non-executive

Chief Executive

Y Joondan

Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC

Solicitors

DAC Beachcroft LLP

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The company was incorporated on 31 July 2008 and commenced its activities on 1 August 2008 when assets and liabilities of Birkbeck College Students' Union, an unincorporated entity, were transferred in.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TO DATE

Overview

The Union received a subvention from the College of £340,000 towards the costs of staff and 'core activities' agreed between the Trustees and the College management in line with the Memorandum of Understanding. The Union generated a surplus of £4,393 which was mainly formed from stall rental income at the welcome fair and donation received from an alumnus.

The Trustees are grateful for the continued support that the College governors, management and staff provide.

Reserves and Restricted Funds

Reserves are classified as restricted or unrestricted. Within Unrestricted Funds are Designated funds where the trustees have committed the union to future expenditure, such as on projects that have received match-funding. Restricted reserves comprise of balances on Grants, Restricted Donations and on Clubs & Societies where funds have been received for a specific purpose and the union is restricted in its use of these funds.

The Trustees encourage students running clubs and societies, to ensure there is financial activity within their remits, and where possible to develop plans to apply these restricted funds for student benefit within the constitutional objects and mission of their club or society and engaging their membership widely in its application.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Union is controlled by its governing documents; a Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 31 July 2008 (amended 1 August 2009), and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consists of no more than fourteen persons and is made up as follows:

Not more than eight Officer Trustees elected annually by secret ballot of the Union membership for a 12-month term; Not more than two Student Trustees appointed for a term of one year; Not more than five Lay Trustees appointed for a term of three years.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the Union's activities and believe that the Union is adequately insured and, with new financial management, monitoring and control process now agreed with the College, and considers it has an appropriate risk management policy in place.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

During the year, the insurance policies and schedules were reviewed fully by both the Union's management, the insurance broker and underwriters and this work considered and approved by the Trustees. The Trustees have considered and noted the implications of the organisational duties of safeguarding, the appropriateness and needs of checks on individuals who hold elected or paid office or posts in the charity in relation to the information held by the Disclosure & Barring Service and wider corporate duties under the provisions of the Bribery Act 2011 and the Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning & Trade Union Administration Act 2014.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Constitutional Aims and Objects

The objects of the Union are the advancement of education of Students at Birkbeck, University of London for the public benefit by:

1. promoting the interests and welfare of Students at Birkbeck, University of London during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising Students;
2. being the recognised representative channel between Students and Birkbeck, University of London and any other external bodies; and
3. providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its Students.

The Trustees have considered the effect of the Charity Commission's statement on public benefit on the operations and constitution of the Union.

The Union is a democratically run organisation, which is led by Birkbeck students and supported by a small but effective staff team. Each year the Union run the Spring & Autumn Elections, to elect the Officers who lead and direct the work and are members of the Board of Trustees, and Student Council which is made up of even more student representatives who hold the Officers to account and help shape the Union's policy.

NEW STRATEGY

Birkbeck Students' Union's new strategy was agreed in June 2022 which outlines the plans for the next three years, with a focus on four main areas of work:

1. Supporting Student Wellbeing
 - a. Developing relationships with different partners to support and enhance students' academic experience and their welfare.
 - b. Increasing and signposting wellbeing opportunities throughout all Students' Union activities.
 - c. Increasing participation in the Union's activities by ensuring that the opportunities consider barriers to students.
2. Enhancing Students' Social Experience
 - a. Increasing engagement and satisfaction with the SU Events programme.
 - b. Increasing student group membership numbers and satisfaction.
 - c. Increasing awareness of the Activities section.

3. Representing the View of Students
 - a. Ensuring that our members feel they are represented in our work.
 - b. Engaging more students in our representation opportunities.
 - c. Centring student voice at the heart of the design and delivery of our work.
 - d. Rewarding and recognising our student representatives.
4. Representing Academic Interests
 - a. An awareness campaign to improve students' understanding of our services.
 - b. Lobbying the College for greater consistency across departments.
 - c. Transforming the Course Rep scheme into an effective change-making system.

OFFICERS & BOARD

The Board have decided not to have the post of Company Secretary

DEMOCRACY & REPRESENTATION

SABBATICAL OFFICERS

The eight Elected Officers are the leaders of the Students' Union who represent the students to the College and sit on both the Trustee Board and Executive committee, directing the Union and lead on the work it does each year. They are elected each Spring; therefore, students are encouraged to vote.

For the spring elections, there were eight positions available, and thirty-three candidates applied, all eight positions were filled, five of which were contested, eight NUS delegates were also appointed, from votes cast by four hundred and ten voters.

Officers attended at least fifteen panel meeting and fifteen committee meetings in the year.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council is an elected group of representatives who pass policy, debate student issues and hold the Student Leaders to account. There are over thirty positions that sit on Council, which are elected in the Autumn Elections – Birkbeck students can run for a position, and all students are encouraged to vote.

In the autumn election this year there were eighteen positions vacant with eighteen candidates, and three hundred and nineteen voters.

The Student Council had thirteen members and during the year they held four meetings, passed seven policies and completed four campaigns with five still in progress.

SCHOOL & COURSE REPRESENTATIVES

School and Course Representatives are an essential part in helping elevate the student voice and keep the College and Union informed with student feedback.

School Representatives are a paid position that the Union hire over the summer – Birkbeck students can find out who their School Representatives are by visiting the Student Voice tab on the Union's website.

Course Representatives are elected in the classroom at the start of each term and students are also able to nominate themselves.

During the year two hundred and two course representatives were recruited and fifty were trained.

STUDENT LED TEACHING AWARDS

There were fifty-eight nominations, and the followings categories were awarded;

Best personal tutor – Rhys Jones

Best dissertation or project supervisor – Dr Bary Maydom

Best non-teaching staff member – Beverly Moles

Best Lecturer/Seminar teacher – Dr Felix Reidl and Dr Simon Green

Outstanding contribution to student experience – Gillian Woods

Outstanding contribution to Birkbeck Community – Yingjie Jenkins

Colleague of the year – Uracha Chatrakul Na Ayudhya

OFFICER PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS

The Union's Student Officers lead on liberation networks and campaigns to make changes that have a positive impact on students' studies and overall experience while at Birkbeck. Below are some of the highlights from Officer's Projects & Campaigns in 2021-22:

- Language change in the Dignity and Work and Study Policy to provide better protection for students
- Secured the reopening of services like the prayer room and extended hours of the upstairs canteen after lockdown was lifted.
- Last year's changes to covid-19 related mitigating circumstances being kept on for this year.
- Coordinate meetings between the college and the anti-racist student and the climate change networks
- Securing commitment from the college to provide anonymous reporting and review in regards to the complaints process, and allowing it to be more transparent and inclusive especially at the first stage of the process.
- Agreed with the library to introduce automatic renewals for the borrowed items during lockdown and beyond.
- Improved the two-way collaborative relationship between the college and the Union
- Successfully secured space in Birkbeck Central for the Union and students.

ACTIVITIES

Events

Birkbeck Students' Union's Activities Section had a bumper year returning to Bloomsbury, reinvigorating the student groups, executing events and implementing new programmes and policy. Below are some of the key statistics;

Events Programme

Events (Total): 118+

Events (Central): 70+

Events (Welcome): 24

Total Engagement (Central): 2099 students

Highlights included the fantastic Pride in London event, bringing the SU Awards back in-person, the Ukraine Donation Drive, and running our first outdoor, COVID-compliant Welcome Fayre.

Clubs and Societies

Student Groups (Clubs, Societies & Networks)

Groups (Total): 48

Groups (Sport): 7

Matches (Sport): 22

Win/Loss (LUSL): 11/3/8

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

It was a great year for our Student Groups, as many recovered from the dormant 2020 and 2021 period. Societies had a greater and more consistent output of activity, with highlights such as the Film Society and Pakistani Society having their membership flourish; whilst Clubs largely built on slow growing foundations to perform and attend trainings and matches consistently – particular credit goes to the Badminton Club, who went unbeaten in the league all year and represented the University on the national stage at BUCS Nationals in Sheffield.

STUDENT GROUP ELECTIONS

The Student Group Elections were held in their fully-fledged form first time since 2020, which was rewarded with a bumper turnout. The need for strong directive to return to consistent delivery and the implementation of the student group lifecycle saw a huge increase in election statistics across the board with the mobilisation of engaged students (group members) also provided positive collateral effect on the Spring Election.

Student Group Elections

Votes Cast: 527 (260% increase)

Voters: 149 (120% increase)

Turnout: 9% (from total numbers of student group members)

Candidates: 52 (373% increase)

Student union Advice Service

1. The Advice Service has dealt with 321 cases year 2021- 2022 and last year 2020 – 2021 was 216 cases.
2. This year there was an increase of student's cases 48.6% compare to last year figures
3. The following table shows the range of categories in which students are using the advice data.

Sub Matter Category	Number of Cases 21-22	Number of Cases 20-21	Increase/ (Decrease)
Academic Conduct 12.7%	41	18	127.7%
Appeals 28.7%	92	51	80.4%
Complaints 27.4%	88	81	8.6%
Disciplinaries 1.9%	6	15	(60.0%)
Progression/ Assessment 7.8%	25	4	525%
Other 21.5%	69	51	35.3%

BBKSU Advice Service offers free confidential advice which is independent of the university. The Union contributed to students obtaining outcomes related to student retention and progression such as:

1. Assisted students with academic appeals and Mitigating Circumstances forms resulting in students gaining additional assessment opportunities and not being withdrawn
2. Helped students respond to allegations of misconduct and avoid the most severe penalties being applied such as expulsion
3. Helped students respond to fitness to study concerns and avoid being withdrawn
4. Helped students resolve complaints about the University, improving their experience
5. Directed students requiring specialist support to university services such as Disability services and the Student Counselling and Mental Health Service.
6. Respond to students within less than 3 working days
7. Working with the university to review part of the regulations.
8. We Organise Six outreach stalls on campus this academic year to promote the service and speak to spoken about academic issues and especially making student aware of Academic misconduct and Mitigating Circumstances we engaged with 140 students
9. We were able to promote the service and put out regularly advice information to the BBKSU Newsletter to all students, sports, and societies to promote amongst their members.
10. Currently meeting the target- We have Improve the advice service response time to 80%, to response to student within 3 working days and offer appointment
11. Monthly meeting with Director of Academic Standards and Quality & Deputy Academic Registrar Registry Services to raise issues affecting students who use the advice service.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter

The Newsletter has been consistent in the last few years. Whereas in 2019 the number of opened emails were roughly 50%, currently the number oscillates between 50% and 51%. We have been doing the newsletter twice a month, every Thursday around 5pm (In June we released it on the 9th and the 24th), however for 2022-23 we are going to explore how often and which days we will send the Newsletter.

The layout of the Newsletter tends to vary depending on the importance of the events. For example, in June we displayed two main events on the top header Pride in both editions as it was the main event of the month, plus the Cat Café and the Bowling, which was the last event of the international team.

Instagram

From July 2021 to July of 2022, we have had a reach of 9,192, which means an increase of 90.9%, in the same period, the number of Instagram profile visits has been 5,763, meaning an increase of 94.2%.

In addition, we have gained 442 followers, making a total of 1,468. This is quite an impressive ongoing growth. For instance, in September 2018 we had 148 followers, in September 2019 we reached 504 followers, and have now almost tripled the number of followers!

The post with more organic reach was the Students' Union article about the PCSC Bill (2,453), and in 4th position was the post about the NUS Strike for Education (642). It might be safe to assume that Instagram visitors are engaged in social causes. Moreover, the 2nd and 3rd post had more reach where two events were organised by the SU, the Ice Skating (672) and the University Challenge (656). The rest of the top-10 were mostly events and posts about demonstrations. Regarding demographics, the Instagram is most popular between people aged 25-34 (53.8%).

Twitter

The number of followers is 4,401. In the last three months, the Tweets with more engagement were the petition to Demand Fossil Free Careers (5,652), the Teach-in for Climate Justice at Birkbeck (1,285) and the Pride in London (973). Similarly, as in Instagram, this shows that posts with social commitment have more appeal among the followers. In this case, the first two relate to the ecological movements and the LGBTQ+ Community. In the fourth position there is the Mental Health Awareness Week (944), an illustration of the audience concern about a problem which has been exacerbated during the pandemic.

In June 2022, the number of Twitter impressions was 22,1K. To establish a comparison with previous years, we had 18,5k in June 2017 and 21,7k impressions in June 2018. This number is significantly lower than in 2020 (35K) and 2021 (36,8K). One of the explanations might be that in those periods, the restrictions about Covid-19 were more rigid and many people spent more time at home, hence using more social media for communication, furthermore, the engagement rate in June 2022 increased by 2.3%, 3 retweets per day and 5 likes per day.

Facebook

The Facebook page has had a less steady growth in comparison to all the other social media platforms. From June 2021 to June 2022, the reach had been of 15,303, which means a decrease of 30.9% comparing with the year before. At the same time, the number of visits has been 1,784, 26.8% less than the previous year. Continuing with this trend, the number of likes has been 168, 46.8% less than in 2021.

The most popular posts this year have been the SU Awards 2022 (533), followed by the Banner Making Workshop (479) for the NUS Student Strike for Education, and the Job Opportunity to work as a Telephone Fundraiser (417), and closely followed up was the article at the Students' Union website written by the Communications team about the Graduation ceremony 2022 (372).

Similar to Facebook, the gap between 25-34 is where the Students' Union page get more visitors (52.6%).

AFFILIATIONS

During the year, the Union was affiliated to the following groups or bodies, and in compliance with Section 22 of the Education Act 1994, lists them here (along with the affiliation fee paid). Pursuant to Section 22 of the Education Act 1994, the Trustees declare that no donations have been made to any other organisation.

Affiliations are notified formally to members at the AGM:

Body of Affiliation	Fee Paid (£)
Advice UK	263
National Union of Students (UK)	5,766

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Birkbeck College Students' Union for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the

Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and - the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Knox Cropper, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Declaration

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



.....
Pedro Malheiro– Chair of Trustees

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Birkbeck College Students' Union (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students' Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charitable Company is required to comply with both company law and charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charitable company's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Birkbeck College Students’ Union
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Stephen Anderson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
153-155 London Road
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9SQ

Date:.....

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations and legacies					
	2				
Grant income		365,000	-	365,000	340,000
Unrestricted Alumni Donation		20,000		20,000	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
	3				
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)		1,399	-	1,399	2,470
Birkbeck SU branded clothing		945		945	1,026
Other incoming resources					
Other Income		3,569	-	3,569	2,394
Total incoming resources		390,913	-	390,913	345,890
 Charitable activities - Application of resources					
	4				
SU Student Events & Activities (Central)		81,729	-	81,729	57,396
SU Advice		61,615	-	61,615	68,604
SU Communications		74,362	-	74,362	75,474
SU Voice		122,328	-	122,328	88,158
Clubs and societies		33,755	7,945	41,700	38,088
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)		2,393	-	2,393	2,691
Birkbeck SU branded clothing		2,393	-	2,393	2,691
Total resources expended		378,575	7,945	386,520	333,102
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR		 12,338	 (7,945)	 4,393	 12,788
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
	16				
Total funds brought forward		(55,614)	22,797	(32,817)	(45,605)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		(43,276)	14,852	(28,424)	(32,817)

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION**Balance Sheet****At 31 July 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	2,065	4,104
		<u>2,065</u>	<u>4,104</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	36,252	60,984
Prepayments and accrued income		7,258	6,279
Cash at bank and in hand		22,519	20,219
		<u>66,029</u>	<u>87,482</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(36,518)	(34,403)
		<u>29,511</u>	<u>53,079</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)			
		31,576	57,183
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(60,000)	(90,000)
		<u>(28,424)</u>	<u>(32,817)</u>
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)			
FUNDS	16		
Unrestricted funds			
General funds		(43,276)	(55,614)
Designated funds			-
Restricted funds		14,852	22,797
		<u>(28,424)</u>	<u>(32,817)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 14.02.23 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Pedro Malheiro - Chair of Trustees

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

The requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Support costs have been allocated to Charitable Activities on the following basis:

SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	9.0%
SU Advice	25.0%
SU Communications	25.0%
SU Voice	25.0%
Clubs and societies	14.0%
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra) Card	1.0%
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	1.0%

Governance costs have been merged with other Support costs.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

	Life:
Plant and machinery	5 years
Fixtures and fittings	5 years
Computer equipment	3 years

Stocks

Stock comprises physical stock of TOTUM cards (NUS Extra) cards held for resale.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where there is a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party, and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The company participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL), which are funded, defined benefit schemes. The schemes are contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P). The schemes are valued formally every three years by professionally qualified independent actuaries using the projected unit method. Informal reviews of the schemes' position are carried out in the period between formal valuations.

The Union has agreed with its parent institution that the deficit funding liability is recognised in the parent institution's accounts. The charge to the income and expenditure account is the contributions payable to the schemes for the accounting period, which is the same as it would be if these were defined contribution schemes.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, as disclosed in note 17. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Core Grant	340,000	340,000
Additional Grant for Course Representatives	25,000	-
	<u>365,000</u>	<u>340,000</u>
Unrestricted Alumni Donation	20,000	-
	<u>385,000</u>	<u>340,000</u>

3 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Activity	2022	2021
	£	£
Other incoming resources		
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra) card	1,399	2,470
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	945	1,026
Other income	3,569	2,394
	<u>5,913</u>	<u>5,890</u>

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs	Support costs Staff Costs	Support costs Other Costs	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£
SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	60,188	19,048	2,493	81,729
SU Advice	1,781	52,910	6,924	61,615
SU Communications	14,528	52,910	6,924	74,362
SU Voice	62,494	52,910	6,924	122,328
Clubs and societies	8,191	29,630	3,878	41,700
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra) Card	-	2,116	277	2,393
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	-	2,116	277	2,393
	<u>147,182</u>	<u>211,640</u>	<u>27,697</u>	<u>386,520</u>

5 SUPPORT COSTS

		Staff Costs	Other Costs	2022 Total
		£	£	£
SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	9.0%	19,048	2,493	21,541
SU Advice	25.0%	52,910	6,924	59,834
SU Communications	25.0%	52,910	6,924	59,834
SU Voice	25.0%	52,910	6,924	59,834
Clubs and societies	14.0%	29,630	3,878	33,508
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra) Card	1.0%	2,116	277	2,393
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	1.0%	2,116	277	2,393
	100.0%	<u>211,640</u>	<u>27,697</u>	<u>239,337</u>

Activity

Management, Finance & Governance (Note 6)

Basis of allocation

Support cost allocation %

6 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Governance office	4,683	14,590
Auditors' remuneration	5,400	5,300
	<u>10,083</u>	<u>19,890</u>

7 NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	5,400	5,300
Depreciation - owned assets	3,896	433

8 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Trustees' expenses

Trustees received expenses in connection with the performance of their duties £226 (2021: Nil).

The expenses are the reimbursed costs of travel and subsistence on behalf of the union, and the cost of refreshments for union events.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

9 STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	244,437	237,765
Social security	18,263	17,325
Pension costs	39,242	26,857
	<u>301,942</u>	<u>281,947</u>

No employee earned over £60,000 per annum.

	2022	2021
Average staffing	10.0	6.6
Management and administrative staff	3.8	3.8
Sabbaticals	<u>13.8</u>	<u>10.4</u>

10 COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2021 Total funds	2020 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations and legacies				
Grant income	340,000	-	340,000	345,000
Incoming resources from charitable activities			-	
Clubs and societies	-	-	-	10,477
Events (Freshers' Fayre, etc)	-	-	-	162
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)	2,470	-	2,470	14,517
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	1,025	-	1,025	1,705
Other incoming resources			-	
Other Income	2,394	-	2,394	1,316
Total incoming resources	<u>345,890</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>345,890</u>	<u>381,737</u>
Net incoming resources available				
Net incoming resources available for charitable application	345,890	-	345,890	381,737
Charitable activities - Application of resources				
SU Student Events & Activities (Central)	57,396	-	57,396	71,386
SU Advice	68,604	-	68,604	61,278
SU Communications	75,474	-	75,474	72,763
SU Voice	88,158	-	88,158	93,265
Clubs and societies	37,719	369	38,088	39,813
TOTUM cards (NUS Extra)	2,691	-	2,691	14,941
Birkbeck SU branded clothing	2,691	-	2,691	2,588
Total resources expended	<u>332,733</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>333,102</u>	<u>356,034</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	<u>13,157</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>12,788</u>	<u>25,703</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	<u>(68,771)</u>	<u>23,166</u>	<u>(45,605)</u>	<u>71,308</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>(55,614)</u>	<u>22,797</u>	<u>(32,817)</u>	<u>(45,605)</u>

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022**

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant & Machinery	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Totals
COST				
At 1 August 2021	9,773	5,219	12,614	27,606
Additions		-	1,858	1,858
At 31 July 2022	<u>9,773</u>	<u>5,219</u>	<u>14,472</u>	<u>29,464</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 August 2021	9,730	5,219	8,553	23,502
Charge for year	43	-	3,854	3,897
At 31 July 2022	<u>9,773</u>	<u>5,219</u>	<u>12,407</u>	<u>27,399</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 July 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,065</u>	<u>2,065</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>43</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,061</u>	<u>4,104</u>

12 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Birkbeck College	36,252	60,984
	<u>36,252</u>	<u>60,984</u>

13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Accrued expenses	6,518	9,403
Birkbeck College General loan	30,000	25,000
	<u>36,518</u>	<u>34,403</u>

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

		2022	2021
		£	£
Birkbeck College General loan	1 - 2 years	30,000	60,000
	3 - 5 years	30,000	30,000
Birkbeck College General loan - Total falling due after one year		<u>60,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>

The Birkbeck College General loan forms part of the support for the Union provided by the College.
Under the new loan agreement of 13 August 2018, specified sums fall due each year .
£30,000 is due in the financial year 2022-23.

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total funds	2021 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	2,065	-	2,065	4,101
Current assets	51,177	14,852	66,029	87,482
Current liabilities	(36,518)	-	(36,518)	(34,403)
Long term liabilities	(60,000)	-	(60,000)	(90,000)
	<u>(43,276)</u>	<u>14,852</u>	<u>(28,424)</u>	<u>(32,820)</u>

16 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 31 July'21	Net Movement in funds	At 31 July'22
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(55,614)	12,338	(43,276)
Designated funds			-
	<u>(55,614)</u>	<u>12,338</u>	<u>(43,276)</u>
Restricted funds			
Clubs and societies	22,797	(7,945)	14,852
Restricted Donation			-
	<u>22,797</u>	<u>(7,945)</u>	<u>14,852</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(32,817)</u>	<u>4,393</u>	<u>(28,424)</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Funds Transferred	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	390,913	(378,575)	-	12,338
	<u>390,913</u>	<u>(378,575)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,338</u>
Restricted funds				
Clubs and societies	-	(7,945)	-	(7,945)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,945)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,945)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>390,913</u>	<u>(386,520)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,393</u>

There was no requirement to transfer funds from the unrestricted funds to the restricted funds to cover the the expenditure on behalf of Clubs and Societies (2021: Nil)

BIRKBECK COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

17 GOING CONCERN

Due to historic financial challenges faced by the union, the College agreed to provide a loan of £175k to the union in 2018. The loan supports the union whilst it seeks to return to a financially sustainable position. The union is making good progress delivering surpluses for each of the last four years. The College has committed to continue supporting the union and as a consequence these accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

18 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Birkbeck College

The Union's relationship with Birkbeck College is defined in the Report of the Trustees. Various grants were received by the Union from Birkbeck College as detailed in Note 2 to the Accounts.

Sabbatical Officers

The charity's sabbatical officers acted as trustees during their appointment (see Note 8).

The table below shows the officers who served during the financial year 2021-22, together with the salaries and expenses paid to them for their services as sabbatical officers.

Sabbatical post	Post-holder	Term of Office	Salary & On-costs	Expenses
Liberation Officer	Massey, Megan	01-Jul 2021 - current	5,315	
Student Leader	Ruao Nunes, Jose Pedro	01 Jul 2021 - current	15,560	-
Liberation Officer	Wilcher, Katherine	01 Jul 2021 - current	5,315	-
Student Officer	Durrant, Nicole	01 Jul 2021 - current	5,940	-
Student Officer	Michael O'Brien	01 Jul 2021 - current	5,315	-
Liberation Officer	Jeanrenaud, Daisy	01 Jul 2022 - current	99	-
Liberation Officer	Okoye-Ahaneku, Paul Ikechukwu	01 Jul 2022 - current	118	-
Student Leader	Badmus, Ibrahim	01 Jul 2022 - current	118	-
Liberation Officer	Turner, Capres	01 Jul 2021 - current	3,548	-
Liberation Officer	Moralez, Tonya	01 Jul 2022 - current	118	10
Liberation Officer	Gibbs, Sarah	01 Jul 2022 - current	118	-
Student Leader	Zerain Mercado, Maria Laura	01 Jul 2022 - current	99	-
Liberation Officer	Smith, Naomi	01 Jul 2020 - current	12,552	-
			<u>54,215</u>	<u>10</u>

19 PENSION SCHEMES

a) Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)

The charity participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme. The scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits (for all members), as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administrated fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The charity is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis.

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2020 (the valuation date) which was carried out using the projected unit method. This was the sixth valuation for USS under the new scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to adopt a statutory funding objective to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions.

At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £66.5 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £80.6 billion indicating a shortfall of £14.1 billion and a funding ratio of 83%.

Following UK government legislation, from 2011 statutory pensions increases or revaluations are based on the Consumer Prices Index measure of price inflation. Historically these increases had been based on the Retail Prices Index measure of price inflation.

The charity participates in the salary sacrifice pension scheme. The staff costs (note 9) shows the pensionable salary which includes the employee salary sacrifice element. The charity contribution rate payable was 18% of pensionable salaries until 31 March 2019. From 1 April to 30 September 2019 the contribution rate payable rose to 19.5%, increased to 21.1% from October 2019, then increased to 21.4% until March 2022, and since April 2022 the rate has been 21.6%.

19 PENSION SCHEMES (continued)

b) Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL)

The charity participates in the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London ("SAUL"), which is a centralised defined benefit scheme within the United Kingdom and was contracted out of the Second State Pension (prior to April 2016).

SAUL is an independently-managed pension scheme for the non-academic staff of over 50 colleges and institutions with links to higher education.

Pension benefits accrued within SAUL currently build up on a Career Average Revalued Earnings ("CARE") basis.

The charity is not expected to be liable to SAUL for any other current participating employer's obligations under the Rules of SAUL, but in the event of an insolvency of any participating employer within SAUL, an amount of any pension shortfall (which cannot otherwise be recovered) in respect of that employer, may be spread across the remaining participating employers and reflected in the next actuarial valuation.

Funding Policy

SAUL's statutory funding objective is to have sufficient and appropriate assets to meet the costs incurred by the Trustee in paying SAUL's benefits as they fall due (the "Technical Provisions"). The Trustee adopts assumptions which, taken as a whole, are intended to be sufficiently prudent for pensions and benefits already in payment to continue to be paid and for the commitments which arise from Members' accrued pension rights to be met.

The Technical Provisions assumptions include appropriate margins to allow for the possibility of events turning out worse than expected. However, the funding method and assumptions do not completely remove the risk that the Technical Provisions could be insufficient to provide benefits in the future.

A formal actuarial valuation of SAUL is carried out every three years by a professionally qualified and independent actuary. The last actuarial valuation was carried out with an effective date of 31 March 2020. Informal reviews of SAUL's position, reflecting changes in market conditions, cash flow information and new accrual of benefits, are carried out between formal valuations.

The funding principles were agreed by the Trustee and employers in June 2021 and are due to be reviewed at SAUL's next formal valuation in 2023.

At the 31 March 2020 valuation SAUL was 94% funded on its Technical Provisions basis. However, market movements following the valuation date were positive and the Trustees and Employers agreed to allow for post-valuation experience up to 30 April 2021. As SAUL was in surplus on its Technical Provisions basis at that date, no deficit contributions were required. However, the Trustee and the Employers have agreed that the ongoing Employers' contributions will increase from a rate of 16% of CARE Salaries to 19% of CARE salaries from 1 April 2022 and to 21% of CARE salaries from 1 January 2023.

The charity is a Participating member in SAUL. The actuarial valuation applies to SAUL as a whole and does not identify surpluses or deficits applicable to individual employers. As a whole, the market value of SAUL's assets as at 31 March 2020 was £3,612 million representing 94% of the liabilities. The market value of SAUL's assets at 30 April 2021 was £4,369 million representing 109% of the estimated liabilities.

It is not possible to identify an individual Employer's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of SAUL. The Charity accounts for its participation in SAUL as if it were a defined contribution scheme and pension costs are based on the amounts actually paid (i.e. cash amounts) in accordance with paragraphs 28.11 of FRS102

Although there was a Technical Provision deficit at 31 March 2020, allowing for post valuation experience to 30 April 2021, SAUL has a Technical Provisions surplus. Therefore no deficit contributions were required following the 2020 valuation and there is no defined benefit liability (i.e. the present value of any deficit contribution due to SAUL) to be recognised by the Charity

The total pension cost for the charity (excluding the salary sacrifice element) was £29,608.27 (2021: £17,550).

