

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Registered charity number: 1173994

Registered company number: 10820498

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

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UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity number 1173994
Company number 10820498

Trustees

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Amar Abbas | appointed 01 July 2018 |
| Craig Bailey | appointed 01 July 2018 |
| Dipika Gokulnath | appointed 01 July 2024 |
| Anbarashan Jagadeesan | appointed 01 July 2024 |
| Sandra McLean | appointed 01 July 2023 |
| Rev. Nicholas Leggett | appointed 15 June 2017 |
| Anthony Mansfield | appointed 11 March 2022 |
| Sai Sampath Ganesh Sangu | appointed 01 July 2024 |
| Martin Young (chair) | appointed 15 June 2017 |
| Archana Baskaradoss | appointed 01 July 2023, resigned 30 June 2024 |
| Aswin Mathew | appointed 01 July 2023, resigned 30 June 2024 |
| Bibin Bobachan | appointed 01 July 2023, resigned 30 June 2024 |
| Syed Sirajudeen | appointed 01 July 2023, resigned 30 June 2024 |

Chief Executive

Patrick Reilly

Principal office

4-6 University Way
London
E16 2RD

Auditors

Knox Cropper LLP
65-68 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Accountants

Blue Spire Limited
Cawley Priory
South Pallant
Chichester
PO19 1SY

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
737 Barking Road
Plaistow
London
E13 9PL

Solicitors

Wrigleys Solicitors LLP
19 Cookridge Street
Leeds
LS2 3AG

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of University of East London Students' Union ("the Students' Union") present their annual report for the period from 01 August 2023 to 31 July 2024, which includes the legal and administrative information set out on page one, together with the audited financial statements for that period.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities in preparing the annual report and financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published in October 2019.

Legal and charitable status

University of East London Students' Union is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (registered number 10820498) and is a charity registered in England and Wales (registered number 1173994). The company was incorporated on 15 June 2017.

Governing documents

The Students' Union is constituted and governed under the memorandum and articles of association, the bye-laws and other regulations approved from time-to-time by the Trustees. Those parts of the above documents relating to the Education Act 1994 which are subject to the approval of the University have been approved by the University. The articles of association are subject to review by the University every five years.

Board of Trustees

The Students' Union is administered by its Board of Trustees. The Trustees are the directors and members of the company for the purposes of company law. In accordance with the articles of association, the Board of Trustees must consist of:

- not more than three Executive Officer Trustees;
- not more than two Student Trustees;
- not more than four Lay Trustees;
- not more than one trustee nominated by the University of East London ("the University").

Three Executive Officer Trustees (student officers) are elected by cross-campus ballot each spring and serve for a term of one year from 01 July 2023; they can serve two such terms. Bibin Bobachan, Aswin Mathew and Syed Sirajudeen served as Executive Officer Trustees for most of the period. Their successors, Dipika Gokulnath, Anbarashan Jagadeesan and Sai Sampath Ganesh Sangu took office on 01 July 2024. After a change in the bye-laws, two further student officers were elected, but did not become trustees: Aswin Mathew and Stuti Sah.

Two Student Trustees are appointed annually by the Trustees. Archana Baskaradoss and Sandra McLean took office on 01 July 2023. Ms McLean was re-appointed for a second term. Ms Baskaradoss resigned on 30 June 2024.

Upon appointment, all Trustees receive a variety of information through their induction relating to their legal and administrative obligations as trustees and directors. Executive Officer Trustees and Student Trustees undertake bespoke trustee training. Additional briefings on specific issues are provided when the need arises from time-to-time.

The Trustees have established several sub-committees to assist them in carrying out their duties. The sub-committees were restructured during the period and there are now three sub-committees:

- appointments committee
- audit, finance and risk committee
- human resources committee

The powers and responsibilities of those sub-committees are outlined in the bye-laws. The sub-committees report on their activities and actions to the Trustees on a regular basis.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Senior management team

The Trustees delegate the day-to-day management, the development of strategy and overall leadership of the Students' Union to the chief executive. The chief executive leads a senior management team to ensure effective management of the Students' Union. These team members are regarded as being the key management personnel outside of the Trustees.

Chief Executive
Head of Policy and Advice

Patrick Reilly
Lisa Thomas

Relationship with University of East London

Under the Education Act 1994, the University must take reasonably practicable steps to ensure the Students' Union is run in a fair and democratic manner and that it is held to account for its finances. The relationship between the Students' Union and the University is established in the articles of associations, the University's regulations, the memorandum of understanding between the organisations, and the code of practice.

The Students' Union receives an annual grant from the University and part-occupies, at no cost, buildings owned by the University. The University covers the cost of some utilities, services and staff support and employs the chief executive, who is seconded to the Students' Union. This non-monetary support is intrinsic to the relationship between the organisations and is detailed elsewhere in this report.

Remuneration

A sub-committee of the Board of Trustees, the human resources committee, is responsible for reviewing the salaries of key staff members. The committee considers relevant data from other students' union and comparable organisations to assist with their decision-making in accordance with the pay policy. The committee makes recommendations to the University on the remuneration of the chief executive.

Aims and objectives

The Students' Union's charitable objects are the advancement of education of students at University of East London for the public benefit by:

- promoting the interests and welfare of students at University of East London during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising students;
- being the recognised representative channel between students and University of East 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.

In 2022, our vision was updated to all our members having an excellent student experience and our mission to us having a positive impact on every member's student experience through strong communities and effective representation.

In pursuit of its aims for the public benefit, the Students' Union ensures the diversity of its membership is recognised, valued and supported and it has established departments and services for use by its members and to support its work with the University and other organisations on behalf of students.

Public benefit

In furtherance of the charity's aims and objectives, the Trustees have complied with their duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general guidance concerning the operation of the public benefit requirement under that Act.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Achievements and performance 2023/24

Democracy and representation

Student Leadership Committee

The student officers and school representatives together form the student leadership committee, the Students' Union's primary policy-making body. This is a student representation committee, rather than a governance committee. None of the members during the year had been involved in the Students' Union prior to their election.

We elected three student officers in spring 2023 to serve during the period, all of whom were new to their roles:

- activities and opportunities officer: Syed Sirajudeen;
- education officer: Aswin Mathew;
- wellbeing and community officer: Bibin Bobachan.

The elections for six school representatives in spring 2023 had mixed success, with two vacancies requiring bye-elections in autumn 2023 (*):

- architecture, computing and engineering*: Joseph Dobisz;
- arts and creative industries: Joanna Fayemi;
- business and law: Jemimah Akinola;
- education and communities: Madeleine Stavrianos;
- health, sport and bioscience*: Jebin Sabikunnahar;
- psychology: Rebecca Ranthe.

The school representative (health, sport and bioscience) resigned during the year, but it was too late in the year to organise a bye-election. The post remained unfilled for the rest of the year, with other student representatives covering the duties.

As in previous years, training involved a mix of internal and external trainers, attendance at external events run by the National Union of Students, Wonkhe and others, and briefings from around 25 University services/teams. For student officers, the training period lasts around two months. For school representatives, it's around two weeks in total.

Student officer action plans

The student officers had individual action plans which included the following successes:

- Organising more events to improve awareness of good wellbeing and mental health, including a focus on men's mental health;
- Lobbying the University to create a sensory room;
- Supporting students to launch/re-launch 35 student groups;
- Organising a festival to celebrate the cultural diversity of the student body, which eventually became the Near and Far Festival;
- Providing more information to the University on students' experience relating to awarding gap and what that looks like in classrooms, exams, etc.
- Lobbying the University to create a functional, well-supported academic adviser system;
- Organising a voter registration campaign to convince more students to register to vote and to get the University to introduce automatic voter registration.

Course representatives

We run a system of course representatives who are central to our representation structure. There are more than 500 students who volunteer an average of five hours per semester to represent their course mates on course-related matters.

This system is operated in conjunction with the University. It is a key solution to the University's Office for Students regulatory obligations to demonstrate that it listens to and acts on student feedback. We train, support and advice course representatives, while the University is expected to support the election process, listen to course representatives' concerns and act on them. It is generally acknowledged in the University that the training and support we provide to course representatives is very good.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

We have a joint plan with the University to elect and train course representatives. More work is needed to ensure consistent application of the process across the schools, which would remove delays in training and engagement. This continues to be one of the key areas for improvement.

Governance

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consists of ten members who are appointed through two different means. The elected student officers automatically become trustees. There were no changes to the external and University staff member trustees.

Two new student trustees were appointed to serve during the period. One was reappointed for a second term which runs until June 2025. The other completed her studies in June 2024 and was not eligible for reappointment.

The board's sub-committees include trustees and University staff including the director of finance, the head of legal services and a human resources business partner.

Changes to election of student representatives

Before the start of the spring 2024 elections, the Board of Trustees made significant changes to the regulations to better cover the range of our student representation work and to try to improve the quality of candidates in elections. This included:

- requiring a minimum membership period before taking office, i.e. two semesters;
- stricter restrictions on those students not in good standing with the University, e.g. failing modules or owing fees;
- introducing a pre-application training programme;
- a presentation task for candidates to assess their knowledge and understanding on the role, which was conducted by an independent external panel;
- increasing the number of student officers from three to five, and updated the portfolios;
- electing all student officers in one election for the role of student officer and assigning responsibilities afterwards;
- introducing a gender quota of at least two women and at least two men among the five positions.

Although similar measures are common in European students' unions and student associations, we believe it is unique in the United Kingdom.

The changes appear to have improved the quality and knowledge of candidates, with the student officers appearing to be better prepared for the role and having a better understanding. A review will be conducted next year when we have more evidence.

In the spring 2024 elections, 3,388 students voted, a 7% increase on 2023. Voters represented 251 courses, 74 nationalities, and 20 different ethnicity classifications, demonstrating the breadth of engagement from students across the student body.

120 students attended our results announcement, which was a tenfold increase on similar events in recent years. These were mostly candidates' campaign team members, demonstrating broader engagement in the elections.

Activities and events

Core events programme

We maintained our focus on events in the welcome periods (September 2023, January 2024, May 2024) and teaching term which have two objectives:

- Creating a greater sense of belonging among students;
- Helping students to quickly make friends.

We organised around 150 events across four weeks in the extended welcome period, all of which were directly relevant to our objectives. For the second time, we organised separate welcome weeks for education and nursing students, as they start their courses earlier. This included around 30 events across two weeks, including availing of local facilities such as the Olympic Park.

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Our welcome fair is usually the biggest event of the year but, unfortunately, it clashed with strikes on public transport. It was too big to reorganise at short notice, so we decided to proceed. However, we still managed to attract more than 1,000 students to visit around 70 stalls about our work, our student groups/societies, University services, sports clubs and some external partners.

During the rest of the year, we organised around another 250 events covering a wide range of activities and interests. This does not include events organised by student groups, which added more than 100 more events of varying shapes and sizes. Our events 'team' is still just one person, who also supports student groups to plan their events; this helps individual students' event management skills.

We organised a new festival – the Near and Far Festival – which focused on showing off our students' cultures. We hosted a fair featuring country/regional societies from all around the world, supplemented by stalls for the UK and East London hosted by student representatives.

Student groups/societies

We supported students to launch or re-launch 30 student groups/societies. Our students' complex lives often leave little time for such activities, and this continues to be a challenge and frustration for students running groups to try to maintain momentum. We are working with the University on a potential timetabling project which will, among other things, seek to improve the time available for such activities.

Policy and regulation

Our focus in this area continues to be on two things:

- Engaging more students in identifying examples of good practice and areas for improvement, and discussing what 'better' looks like;
- Working with University services and schools to implement those changes.

The course representatives were central to a project we undertook to provide much more detailed information to the comprehensive school reviews which were conducted by the University for the first time. Each school-based project was led by the relevant school representative with support from Students' Union staff. The objective was to provide up-to-date school-based context for the many survey responses the University receives. This resulted in a report for each school which addressed the key parts of the review.

Following on from a paper we wrote in the previous year about improving policies to better support students, we engaged with the University to make these changes in policies and regulations and ensure they are implemented.

Fitness to study. We worked with the University to change the focus of the fitness to study policy – affecting students whose health, disability (including mental health) or adverse life events impacts on either their own study, other student's study or staff activity – to providing support to students earlier in the process. The first stage is now 'support to study' and is led by Student Services with involvement from academic staff. We hope to see a reduction in stage two fitness to study processes in the current year.

Student-initiated break, transfer and withdrawal policy. We worked with the University to ensure better implementation of the process, to ensure staff and students are fully informed and understand the implication of decisions taken under the policy, as this was not always been the case previously. Other changes include clarifying what happens when students were simultaneously affected by this policy, the fitness to study policy and the tuition fees policy. The changes to this policy and process have already resulted in better outcomes for students. The University has also agreed to review how it can improve support for students who are on a break and to better facilitate students who are returning to study after a break.

Extenuation policy. Most of the changes we proposed to this policy have been adopted. There are now clearer processes for 'triggers' arising from this policy, e.g. students repeatedly applying for extenuation being referred for additional support to discuss, for example, a break from study. Other changes include fairer processes for students who need up to one week extra to submit due to, for example, evidenced illness. This avoids them having to re-submit the assessment around 10-12 weeks later when they've already completed the work. The handling of 'late claim' appeals has also been adapted, resulting in one fewer step in the process, which should greatly reduce the number of appeals which the appeals team must review.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Attendance and engagement policy. The policy and process have been changed in line with our recommendations. The process for managing non-attendance has been changed to align more closely with reporting requirements for international students, so that attendance is monitored on a rolling basis instead of at fixed checkpoints. This should allow for more timely interventions. An action plan will be required after three weeks of low attendance. Previously, this stage could instead have resulted in withdrawal which then required a student to appeal, going through even more processes.

Appeals policy. Some of our recommendations have been accepted but have not yet been implemented. For example, that the University should no longer require students to submit information to one team when another team already holds that information.

Advice cases

As in recent years, the number of advice cases continue to increase. In the last year, this increased to 710. This number only includes cases where an advice caseworker is assigned; it doesn't include 'basic' queries. Basic queries run into the thousands and are handled by the reception team.

Most advice cases relate to the same five topics as in previous years:

- academic appeals, e.g. challenging a grade;
- progression appeals, e.g. challenging a decision about moving onto the next level/year;
- academic misconduct, e.g. plagiarism;
- withdrawals, e.g. termination due to not attending;
- extenuation, e.g. support due to illness or bereavement.

However, cases involving hearings require much more staff time and greater engagement with students continue to take up more time, e.g. disciplinarys, appeals and suitability. We had a three-fold increase in suitability cases alone. These cases are increasingly complex, sometimes involving hundreds of pages of notes and evidence, and can take months, or even years, to resolve.

We don't always know the outcome from a case as students don't always tell us and we're not formally notified of the outcome by the University. However, for cases where we know the outcome – typically the more complex cases – we have an excellent success rate supporting students.

- For appeals against withdrawals, 85% were upheld or resolved to the students' satisfaction.
- For appeals against progression decisions, 81% had a positive outcome.
- For complaints, 88% had a positive outcome.
- For students involved in suitability hearings which could result in them being removed from the course, 87% had a positive outcome.

Space

We have invested a lot of student representative and staff time working with the University to try to ensure that spaces for students are improved across all campuses and that use of such spaces can be maximised for social and other purposes.

Stratford

During the year, we took over the management of a new space on the ground floor on the Arthur Edwards building. This was delivered in two phases (December 2023 and April 2024). It is a popular space for students (and staff), with a different look and feel to the rest of the University. It provides a warm and welcome 'home' for students and for activities and events.

Docklands

The ground floor of North Building was returned to us in spring 2023 with a commitment to refurbish the space. For various reasons, refurbishment work did not take place during the year, but work finally started in September 2024.

National Student Survey

The National Student Survey is about teaching, learning and support in higher education institutions, but it contains one question about students' unions: "How well does the students' union (association or guild) represent students' academic interests?"

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In 2024, we achieved a positivity score of 78%, ranking us third amongst post-92 institutions in London and 19th nationally (out of 128 participating institutions). This was an improvement from 2023, where our positivity score was 76% and we ranked fifth amongst post-92 institutions in London and 28th nationally.

Financial review

The Union's gross income from all sources during the period totalled £1,249,949, all of which was unrestricted. This includes grants from the University of £1,004,481 and an estimated value of £217,017 for in-kind benefits such as serviced accommodation and the chief executive's remuneration. It also includes income totalling £10,708 generated from charitable activities.

The costs of services provided to the membership including representation, advice and activities and costs associated with generating charitable income was £980,547. This included legal and professional fees and other governance cost totalling £50,441.

Net income of £269,402 and a pension provision of (£122,655) increased overall reserves from a deficit of £137,299 to a surplus of £9,448. At the balance sheet date, free reserves, being unrestricted income funds not represented by fixed assets, amounted to a deficit of £71,219 and a revised fund of £1,247,267 excluding the pension liability.

The Union is affiliated to the National Union of Students, for which the affiliation fee in the period was £19,126. The other affiliation in the period was to AdviceUK (£263).

No donations were made to any external organisations from the Union's own resources.

Reserves

The Students' Union's reserves policy is to maintain cover for 30 days' operating costs to cope with any unexpected downturn in funding or additional calls on our resources without immediately curtailing activities. This new policy reflects that the Students' Union's main source of funding is stable and agreed in advance, with very limited reliance on other fundraising or trading. The current general fund of £1,166,600 comfortably exceeds the policy requirement. The Trustees will continue to maintain reserves in accordance with the reserves policy.

Fundraising

The Students' Union had no fundraising activities which require disclosure under s162A of the Charities Act 2011.

Future plans

The Students' Union has five broad areas of work for 2024/25, which are supported by an operational plan. Responsibility for delivery of the operational plan lies with the senior management team and the student officers.

1. Complete the re-building of the permanent staff team.
2. Continue to develop the range of activities and events available to students to support engagement, retention and belonging, including activities and events organised directly by the Students' Union and through supporting student groups/societies to do so.
3. Support the good governance of the organisation by inducting two new external trustees (including a chair designate) and undertaking a review and refresh of board-level policies and procedures (including reviewing the risk strategy, business continuity plans, etc.)
4. Establish the new subsidiary company, ensuring appropriate governance and legal compliance measures are in place to advance the social enterprise strategy through operations agreed with the University.

Risk management

The major strategic, business and operational risks faced by the Students' Union have been examined and are included in a risk register. This register is periodically scrutinised and updated by the management team and the audit committee. Systems or procedures are established or amended as required to mitigate and manage risks.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Budgetary and internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. These are periodically reviewed by the finance committee. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of all staff, student officers, volunteers and participants in all activities organised by the Students' Union.

In addition to an external audit process, the Students' Union is subject to occasional internal audit review by the University's internal auditors.

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK Accounting Standards).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Students' Union for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, Companies Act 2006 and the provisions of the Students' Union's governing documents. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Provision of Information to Auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed:

- that, so far as that Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Students' Union's auditors are unaware; and
- that Trustees have taken all steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information needed by the Students' Union's auditors in connection with preparing their report and to establish that the Students' Union's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.



Martin Young
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Date: 20 DECEMBER 2024

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of University of East London Students' Union

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of University of East London Students' Union (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31st July 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows 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, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (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 31st July 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Auditor's 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

- the directors' report included within the trustees' report 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 directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which 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; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, 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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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 an auditor's report 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. 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.

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 auditor's report.

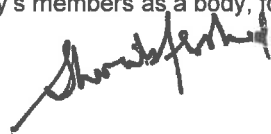
UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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 auditor's 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.



Shoaib Arshad (Partner)

For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP, Statutory Auditor

65 Leadenhall Street

London

EC3A 2AD

Date: 23 January 2025

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

| | | | | Year ended 31 July 2024 Total Funds £ | Year ended 31 July 2023 Total Funds £ |
|------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| | Note | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | | |
| INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM: | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 1 | 1,221,498 | - | 1,221,498 | 1,119,962 |
| Charitable activities | 2 | 10,708 | - | 10,708 | 16,618 |
| Investment Income | 3 | 17,743 | - | 17,743 | 4,701 |
| Total | | <u>1,249,949</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,249,949</u> | <u>1,141,281</u> |
| EXPENDITURE ON: | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 980,547 | - | 980,547 | 894,010 |
| Total | | <u>980,547</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>980,547</u> | <u>894,010</u> |
| Net Income | | 269,402 | - | 269,402 | 247,271 |
| Transfers between funds | 14 | - | - | - | - |
| Pension charges | 13 | (122,655) | - | (122,655) | (301,354) |
| Net movement in funds | | 146,747 | - | 146,747 | (54,083) |
| RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 14 | (150,821) | 13,522 | (137,299) | (83,216) |
| Total funds carried forward | 14 | <u>(4,074)</u> | <u>13,522</u> | <u>9,448</u> | <u>(137,299)</u> |

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those dealt with in the statement of financial activities.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2024

| | | 31 July 2024 | | 31 July 2023 | |
|---|------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Note | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| FIXED ASSETS | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 10 | 67,145 | | 15,609 | |
| Total fixed assets | | | 67,145 | | 15,609 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | | |
| Debtors | 11 | 5,610 | | 6,030 | |
| Cash at hand and in bank | | 1,193,967 | | 1,065,674 | |
| Total current assets | | 1,199,577 | | 1,071,704 | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 12 | 112,213 | | 107,314 | |
| Net current assets/(liabilities) | | | 1,087,364 | | 964,390 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | 1,154,509 | | 979,999 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | 13 | | (1,145,061) | | (1,117,298) |
| Net assets/(liabilities) | | | 9,448 | | (137,299) |
| THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | | | 13,522 | | 13,522 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| Designated pension fund | 14 | (1,237,819) | | (1,205,220) | |
| Designated capital fund | 14 | 67,145 | | 15,609 | |
| General funds | 14 | 1,166,600 | | 1,038,790 | |
| Total unrestricted funds | | | (4,074) | | (150,821) |
| Total charity funds | 14 | | 9,448 | | (137,299) |

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf.



Martin Young
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Date 20-12-24

Registered company number: 10820498

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

| | | Year ended 31 July 2024 | | Year ended 31 July 2023 | |
|---|------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| | Note | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Net cash flow from operating activities (see below) | | | 187,835 | | 163,450 |
| Cash flow from investing activities | | | | | |
| Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets | | (59,542) | | (6,701) | |
| Net cash flow from investing activities | | | (59,542) | | (6,701) |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | | 128,293 | | 156,749 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July 2023 | 16 | | 1,065,674 | | 908,925 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July 2024 | 16 | | 1,193,967 | | 1,065,674 |
| Cash and cash equivalents consist of: | | | | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | | 1,193,967 | | 1,065,674 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July 2024 | 16 | | 1,193,967 | | 1,065,674 |
| Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities | | | | | |
| | | Year ended 31 July 2024 | | Year ended 31 July 2023 | |
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Net income/(expenditure) for the period | | | 269,402 | | 247,271 |
| Adjusted for: | | | | | |
| Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets | | 8,006 | | 5,589 | |
| Decrease/(increase) in debtors | | 420 | | (5,976) | |
| Increase/(decrease) in trade creditors & accruals | | 63 | | 5,093 | |
| Scheduled pension deficit payments | | (90,056) | | (88,527) | |
| | | | (81,567) | | (83,821) |
| | | | 187,835 | | 163,450 |

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General information, scope and basis of the financial statements

University of East London Students' Union is an incorporated charity established under a memorandum and articles of association with the company number 10820498 and with the registered charity number 1173994. The principal address of the charity is given in the charity information page of these financial statements and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are outlined in the trustees' report.

University of East London Students' Union incorporated on 15 June 2017. A transfer agreement was signed by the Board of the previously unincorporated entity on 21 July 2017, transferring all the operations, assets and liabilities of that charity to the newly registered entity on that date.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements and estimates. The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are that of the SUSS pension scheme deficit. A discount rate of 5.4% has been used in line with industry standards.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Having regard to the above, the Trustees believe it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Income from trading activities includes income received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and cash deposits. It includes dividends and interest. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Recognition of expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities; which includes costs in furtherance of the charity's objects and costs to support those activities

Support cost allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity and include audit fees, legal advice (if any) for trustees, costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic as opposed to the day to day management of the charity's assets.

Donated services and facilities

The University of East London provides the charity with office space and the services of the Chief Executive Officer at no charge. As required by SORP 2019, the donation of these facilities and services is included as an incoming resource and a matching outgoing resource within the statement of financial activities at the trustees' estimate of their value to the charity.

Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

Pension Costs

University of East London Students' Union participates in the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme, a defined benefit scheme which is externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension. The fund is valued at least every three years by a professionally qualified independent actuary with the rates of contribution payable being determined by the pension scheme trustees on the advice of the actuary. The Scheme operates as a pooled arrangement, with contributions paid at a centrally agreed rate. As a consequence, no share of the underlying assets and liabilities can be directly attributed to University of East London Students' Union. Under the terms of FRS 102, the discounted present value of future cash flows under a deficit funding arrangement is included as a liability in these accounts and the change in that valuation from year to year is taken to the statement of financial activities.

With effect from 30 September 2011 the scheme was closed to future accrual. Payments to the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme continued after the closure of the scheme in the form of deficit funding and levies.

The Union also operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in sections 521 to 536 Income Tax Act 2007 (ITA 2007), as such no income tax is payable on the charity's activities.

Leases

All leases are operating leases and the annual rentals are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets, costing more than £1,000, are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Clubs' and societies' equipment | - 33.33% reducing balance |
| Computer equipment | - 20% per annum on cost |
| Fixtures and fittings | - 10%-20% reducing balance |

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the trustees to be used at their discretion in furtherance of one or more specific purposes in furtherance of the objects.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund are set out in the notes to the financial statements

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Donations and legacies

| | Year ended 31 July 2024 | | | Year ended 31 July 2023 | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds £ |
| Block grant | 1,004,481 | - | 1,004,481 | 912,025 | - | 912,025 |
| Donated services and facilities | 217,017 | - | 217,017 | 207,937 | - | 207,937 |
| | <u>1,221,498</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,221,498</u> | <u>1,119,962</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,119,962</u> |

Donated services and facilities comprises provision by the University of fully serviced space to the Students' Union at a value to the Union estimated at £300 per square metre and the provision of services for the supply of the Chief Executive Officer. The trustees regard this as an appropriate basis for determining value to the charity.

2. Income from charitable activities

| | Year ended 31 July 2024 | | | Year ended 31 July 2023 | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds £ |
| Balls and events income | 3,339 | - | 3,339 | 2,509 | - | 2,509 |
| Societies income | - | - | - | 2,705 | - | 2,705 |
| Other income | 7,369 | - | 7,369 | 11,404 | - | 11,404 |
| | <u>10,708</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>10,708</u> | <u>16,618</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>16,618</u> |

3. Investment Income

| | Year ended 31 July 2024 | | | Year ended 31 July 2023 | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds £ |
| Bank Interest Received | 17,743 | - | 17,743 | 4,701 | - | 4,701 |
| | <u>17,743</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>17,743</u> | <u>4,701</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>4,701</u> |

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Expenditure on charitable activities

| | Staff costs £ | Other direct costs £ | Support costs (note 5) £ | Year ended 31 July 2024 Total Funds £ |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <u>Charitable activities</u> | | | | |
| Student Advice | 1,410 | 31,312 | 25,479 | 58,201 |
| Shops and Bars | - | - | - | - |
| Campaigns and Comms | - | 12 | 9 | 21 |
| Events and Entertainments | - | 110,152 | 85,770 | 195,922 |
| Clubs, Affiliations | 379,577 | 464 | 295,921 | 675,962 |
| Societies (restricted) | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>380,987</u> | <u>141,940</u> | <u>407,179</u> | <u>930,106</u> |
| <u>Governance</u> | | | | |
| Legal and professional fees | - | 8,460 | - | 8,460 |
| Other governance costs | - | 19,899 | 22,082 | 41,981 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>28,359</u> | <u>22,082</u> | <u>50,441</u> |
| | <u>380,987</u> | <u>170,299</u> | <u>429,261</u> | <u>980,547</u> |
| Unrestricted | 380,987 | 170,299 | 429,261 | 980,547 |
| Restricted | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>380,987</u> | <u>170,299</u> | <u>429,261</u> | <u>980,547</u> |
| | | | | Year ended 31 July 2023 Total Funds £ |
| <u>Charitable activities</u> | | | | |
| Student Advice | - | 24,515 | 26,016 | 50,531 |
| Shops and Bars | - | - | - | - |
| Campaigns and Comms | - | 132 | 140 | 272 |
| Events and Entertainments | - | 85,834 | 91,087 | 176,921 |
| Clubs, Affiliations | 294,957 | 3,165 | 316,370 | 614,492 |
| Societies (restricted) | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>294,957</u> | <u>113,646</u> | <u>433,613</u> | <u>842,216</u> |
| <u>Governance</u> | | | | |
| Legal and professional fees | - | 7,800 | - | 7,800 |
| Other governance costs | - | 17,328 | 26,666 | 43,994 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>25,128</u> | <u>26,666</u> | <u>51,794</u> |
| | <u>294,957</u> | <u>138,774</u> | <u>460,279</u> | <u>894,010</u> |
| Unrestricted | 294,957 | 138,774 | 460,279 | 894,010 |
| Restricted | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>294,957</u> | <u>138,774</u> | <u>460,279</u> | <u>894,010</u> |

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. Support costs

| | | | Year ended 31 July 2024 | | | Year ended 31 July 2023 |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Staff costs £ | Other direct costs £ | Total Funds £ | Staff costs £ | direct costs £ | Total Funds £ |
| <u>Charitable activities</u> | | | | | | |
| Student Advice | - | 25,479 | 25,479 | 355 | 25,661 | 26,016 |
| Retail | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Campaigns and Comms | - | 9 | 9 | 2 | 138 | 140 |
| Democratic Representation | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Events and Entertainments | - | 85,770 | 85,770 | 1,241 | 89,846 | 91,087 |
| Clubs, Affiliations | - | 295,921 | 295,921 | 4,311 | 312,059 | 316,370 |
| Societies (restricted) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | 407,179 | 407,179 | 5,909 | 427,704 | 433,613 |
| <u>Governance</u> | | | | | | |
| Governance | - | 22,082 | 22,082 | 363 | 26,303 | 26,666 |
| | - | 429,261 | 429,261 | 6,272 | 454,007 | 460,279 |

Included in other direct costs above is donated services and facilities of £217,017 (period to 31 July 2023: £207,937) which has been apportioned in line with other support costs as stated in the accounting policy. This relates to the provision by the University of fully serviced space to the Students' Union at a value to the Union estimated at £300 per square metre and the provision of services for the supply of the Chief Executive Officer.

6. Pension charges

| | | | Year ended 31 July 2024 | | | Year ended 31 July 2023 |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds £ |
| Pension charge | 122,655 | - | 122,655 | 301,354 | - | 301,354 |
| | 122,655 | - | 122,655 | 301,354 | - | 301,354 |

Further information on the pension deficit is given in notes 13 and 17.

7. Auditors' remuneration

| | | | Year ended 31 July 2024 | | | Year ended 31 July 2023 |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds £ |
| Current year | 8,460 | - | 8,460 | 7,800 | - | 7,800 |

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8. Wages and salary cost

| | Year ended 31 July 2024 Total Funds £ | Year ended 31 July 2023 Total Funds £ |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Gross wages | 422,297 | 269,747 |
| Employer's national insurance costs | 35,703 | 20,683 |
| Pension costs | 17,659 | 11,595 |
| Pension deficit charge | 122,655 | 301,354 |
| | <u>598,314</u> | <u>603,379</u> |

The average number of employees during the period under review was:

| | Year ended 31 July 2024 | Year ended 31 July 2023 |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Assessed on an average headcount basis | <u>16</u> | <u>11</u> |

There were no employees with emoluments (excluding employer pension costs) above £60,000 in this or the preceding year

The number of staff to whom retirement benefits are accruing under defined contribution schemes:

| | Year ended 31 July 2024 | Year ended 31 July 2023 |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Management | 1 | 1 |
| Student services | 8 | 6 |
| | <u>9</u> | <u>7</u> |

9. Related party transactions

The union's sabbatical officers received employee benefits totalling £95,844 in the period under review, as authorised under the charity's governing document, for the work they undertake in furtherance of the charity's objects rather than for carrying out their responsibilities as trustees as set out below.

| | Salary £ | Employer's NI | Pension £ | Total £ |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| <i>Sabbatical officers to July 2024</i> | | | | |
| Syed Sirajudeen | 25,033 | 2,304 | 1,010 | 28,347 |
| Aswin Mathew | 28,500 | 2,678 | 1,083 | 32,261 |
| Bibin Bobachan | 25,033 | 2,304 | 1,010 | 28,347 |
| <i>Sabbatical officers from July 2024</i> | | | | |
| Dipika Gokulnath | 2,167 | 194 | - | 2,361 |
| Anbaraghan Jagadeesan | 2,167 | - | - | 2,167 |
| Sai Sampath Sangu | 2,167 | 194 | - | 2,361 |
| | <u>85,067</u> | <u>7,674</u> | <u>3,103</u> | <u>95,844</u> |

Sabbatical officers were reimbursed £270 for travel and subsistence expenses during the period under review (period to 31 July 2023: £Nil).

During the year 9 (2023: 1) trustees had expenses paid for by the charity totalling £4,504 (2023: £297) in relation to travel and subsistence.

In addition to the employee benefits received by the union's sabbatical officers the senior management team, which make up the remaining key management personnel, received employee benefits totalling £58,471 inclusive of salary, employer national insurance contributions and employer pension contributions. During the year 1 (2023: 0) member of the senior management team was reimbursed expenses totalling £385 (2023: £Nil) for trustee meeting refreshments.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. Fixed assets

| | Club and societies equipment £ | Computer equipment £ | Fixtures & fittings £ | TOTAL £ |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| <i>Cost</i> | | | | |
| At 31 July 2023 | 2,667 | 43,229 | 4,765 | 50,661 |
| Additions | - | 59,542 | - | 59,542 |
| Disposals | (2,438) | (14,564) | (4,765) | (21,767) |
| At 31 July 2024 | 229 | 88,207 | - | 88,436 |
| <i>Depreciation</i> | | | | |
| Accumulated at 31 July 2023 | 2,498 | 27,789 | 4,765 | 35,052 |
| Charge for the year | 56 | 7,950 | - | 8,006 |
| On disposals | (2,438) | (14,564) | (4,765) | (21,767) |
| At 31 July 2024 | 116 | 21,175 | - | 21,291 |
| Net book value at 31 July 2024 | 113 | 67,032 | - | 67,145 |
| Net book value at 31 July 2023 | 169 | 15,440 | - | 15,609 |

11. Debtors

| | 31 July 2024 Total Funds £ | 31 July 2023 Total Funds £ |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Trade debtors | - | 2,500 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 5,610 | 3,530 |
| Other debtors | - | - |
| | 5,610 | 6,030 |

12. Creditors

| | 31 July 2024 Total Funds £ | 31 July 2023 Total Funds £ |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Trade creditors | 1,650 | 3,913 |
| Accruals | 14,805 | 15,479 |
| Social security | 2,558 | - |
| Other creditors | 442 | - |
| Pension liability (current) | 92,758 | 87,922 |
| | 112,213 | 107,314 |

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

13. Creditors due after more than one year

| | 31 July 2024 Total Funds £ | 31 July 2023 Total Funds £ |
|--|--|--|
| Pension liability | | |
| Balance brought forward | 1,205,220 | 992,393 |
| Scheduled payments made | (90,056) | (88,527) |
| Addition for extended period, change in rate and unwinding of discount | 122,655 | 301,354 |
| Balance carried forward | <u>1,237,819</u> | <u>1,205,220</u> |
| Pension liability (current) | 92,758 | 87,922 |
| Pension liability (non-current) | <u>1,145,061</u> | <u>1,117,298</u> |
| | <u>1,237,819</u> | <u>1,205,220</u> |

14. Analysis of net movement in funds

| | Total funds brought forward £ | Total incoming resources £ | Total resources expended £ | Pension charges £ | Transfers between funds £ | Total funds carried forward £ |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Restricted funds</i> | | | | | | |
| Societies funds | 13,522 | - | - | - | - | 13,522 |
| | <u>13,522</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>13,522</u> |
| <i>Unrestricted funds</i> | | | | | | |
| Pension reserve | (1,205,220) | - | - | (122,655) | 90,056 | (1,237,819) |
| Capital reserve | 15,609 | - | - | - | 51,536 | 67,145 |
| Total designated funds | <u>(1,189,611)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(122,655)</u> | <u>141,592</u> | <u>(1,170,674)</u> |
| General fund | 1,038,790 | 1,249,949 | (980,547) | - | (141,592) | 1,166,600 |
| Total unrestricted funds | <u>(150,821)</u> | <u>1,249,949</u> | <u>(980,547)</u> | <u>(122,655)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(4,074)</u> |
| Total funds | <u>(137,299)</u> | <u>1,249,949</u> | <u>(980,547)</u> | <u>(122,655)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>9,448</u> |

Societies' restricted funds represent monies raised for use in furtherance of the Societies' particular activities.

The pension reserve designated fund represents the net present value of future cash flows from an obligation to fund a deficit.

The capital reserve designated fund represents funds used for the acquisition of tangible fixed assets. Depreciation on those assets is charged against the designated capital reserve fund.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Designated Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | 31 July 2024 Total Funds £ |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Fixed assets | - | 67,145 | - | 67,145 |
| Net current assets | 1,166,600 | (92,758) | 13,522 | 1,087,364 |
| Provisions for liabilities | - | (1,145,061) | - | (1,145,061) |
| | <u>1,166,600</u> | <u>(1,170,674)</u> | <u>13,522</u> | <u>9,448</u> |

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Designated Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | 31 July 2023 Total Funds £ |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Fixed asset | - | 15,609 | - | 15,609 |
| Net current assets | 1,038,790 | (87,922) | 13,522 | 964,390 |
| Provisions for liabilities | - | (1,117,298) | - | (1,117,298) |
| | <u>1,038,790</u> | <u>(1,189,611)</u> | <u>13,522</u> | <u>(137,299)</u> |

16. Analysis of changes in net debt

| | 31 July 2023 | Cashflows | 31 July 2024 |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Cash equivalents | 1,065,674 | 128,293 | 1,193,967 |
| | <u>1,065,674</u> | <u>128,293</u> | <u>1,193,967</u> |

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

17. Pensions

The Union is a Participating Employer in the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme, which is a defined benefit scheme whose membership consists of employees of students' unions and related bodies throughout the United Kingdom. Benefits in respect of service up to 30 September 2003 are accrued on a "final salary" basis, with benefits in respect of service from 1 October 2003 accruing on a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) basis. With effect from 30 September 2011 the Scheme closed to future accrual.

The most recent Triannual Valuation of the Scheme was carried out as at 30 June 2022 and showed that the market value of the Scheme's assets was £106,697,000 (2019: £119,100,000) excluding AVC's and insured pensioners with these assets representing 44% (2019: 46%) of the value of benefits that have accrued to members. The deficit on an ongoing funding basis amounted to £136,645,000, (2019: £140,900,000).

The assumptions used in the valuation are as follows:

| | |
|--|---|
| Discount rate | Gilts curve + 1.5% pa, linearly changing over the term of 13 years to gilts curve + 0.25% pa |
| Price inflation (RPI) | Merrill Lynch swap-implied inflation curve |
| Price inflation (CPI) - pre 2030 | RPI inflation less 0.7% pa |
| Price inflation (CPI) - post 2030 | RPI inflation less 0.1% pa |
| Pension increases | A model of each increase, allowing for insurers' relative pricing of different caps and collars |
| Mortality rates | 95% of S3PXA |
| Allowance for improvements in life expectancy: | |
| Projection tables | CMI_2019 |
| Long- term improvement rate | 1.752% pa |
| Initial addition parameter | 1.00% pa |
| Smoothing parameter | 7.0 |

The 2022 Valuation funding shortfall recovery plan requires a monthly contribution requirement by each Participating Employer up to 1 May 2037 increasing by 5% each year. These contributions also include an allowance for the cost of the ongoing administrative and operational expenses of running the Scheme. These rates apply with effect from 1 October 2020 and will be formally reviewed following completion of the next Valuation due with an effective date of 30 June 2025. Surpluses or deficits which arise at future valuations will also impact on the Union's future contribution commitment. In addition to the above contributions, the Union also pays its share of the Scheme's levy to the Pension Protection Fund.

The total contributions paid into the Scheme by University of East London Students' Union in respect of eligible employees for the period ended 31 July 2024 amounted to £87,921 (period ended 31 July 2023: £88,527).

At the balance sheet date the charity had commitments to pay deficit funding contributions of £7,061 per month. This monthly payment is scheduled to increase by 5% per annum at October each year until 1 May 2037.

Defined Contributions Pension Scheme

Since 1 October 2011, all participating employees have been in a new defined contribution pension scheme with Scottish Equitable. Contributions are at the rate of 7.7% for the employer and the % for the employee differs per member. The Union's cost of contribution in the period amounted to £17,659 (2023: £11,595).

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON STUDENTS' UNION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

18. Comparative figures - Statement of Financial Activities

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Year ended 31 July 2023 Total Funds £ |
|------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM: | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 1 | 1,119,962 | - | 1,119,962 |
| Charitable activities | 2 | 16,618 | - | 16,618 |
| Investment Income | 3 | 4,701 | - | 4,701 |
| Total | | <u>1,141,281</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,141,281</u> |
| EXPENDITURE ON: | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 894,010 | - | 894,010 |
| Total | | <u>894,010</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>894,010</u> |
| Net Income | | 247,271 | - | 247,271 |
| Transfers between funds | 14 | - | - | - |
| Pension charges | 13 | (301,354) | | (301,354) |
| Net movement in funds | | (54,083) | - | (54,083) |
| RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 14 | (96,738) | 13,522 | (83,216) |
| Total funds carried forward | 14 | <u>(150,821)</u> | <u>13,522</u> | <u>(137,299)</u> |