

Strategic Plan

2018 - 2021



**We represent
all students at
UWTSD. We want
you to feel that
we are your SU,
no matter how or
where you study.**

The history of TSDSU is a story of three smaller students' unions in Carmarthen, Lampeter and Swansea coming together to represent all students at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Our students are spread out across South Wales, in London and Birmingham and across the UK, and studying through partners across the world.

We aim to be the Students' Union for all of our members, and this document sets out what we aim to do for you between now and July 2021.



Rob, Josh, Charlie & Becky

TSDSU Sabbatical Team, 2018/19

Reflections

Since our creation in 2014 we have focused on working together to make the most of our campuses and resources. We've asked you about your experience of studying and it's because of your feedback that we've been able to improve things that affect you. Your feedback has guided our system of student reps and the publication of our Academic Quality Reports, as a result we've successfully argued to keep student parking free across our University sites, improved the bursary package available to you, and helped to improve washing facilities in halls. Our officers and staff have also been on hand to help those of you who have needed academic guidance, advice and assistance.

We've also stabilised our finances, improved our structures and decision-making, and opened up our democracy to all of you by taking it online. In Swansea, Lampeter and Carmarthen we've helped you to create and run your own clubs and societies and launched a number of volunteering projects. We've also trialled 'varsity-style' events 'East v West' and Challenge Cup', saved the Lampeter bar from closure and found a new partner to run (and re-fit) the venue in Carmarthen.

Alongside us, your sabbs, our elected part-time officers have been busy. We've seen them run campaigning events such as 'Reclaim the Night' and discussion events like 'Speak Out'. They've fought for causes that you're passionate about, led on student mental health and well-being, and campaigned on issues of involvement and inclusion. They've put on events, created opportunities and raised money for charity. Our officers have attended national conferences, elected national student leaders and set national policy. Along the way our people and projects have won national awards for sustainability, education and representation, diversity, team-working and dedication.

Your SU has been busy but together we can do more.

We need to make it clear that our main purpose is to exist to support and represent all of our students through their academic study; we need to do more for students studying in Cardiff, Birmingham and London; we need to reach out to distance learners, to part-time students, to students who live off campuses; we need to communicate more effectively; we need to support the growth and development of our student activities and help you to develop skills and experiences which will enrich your time at University and beyond; above all we need to be a strong, effective and active voice for your rights, ideas and issues.

We are your students' union and we are excited to be making big plans with you through to July 2021. Let's make your student experience the best it can be.

Rob, Josh, Charlie and Becky.

Mission Statement

We are your Students' Union and we are here to enable you to make the most of your education and your time at University.

We're alongside you for the duration of your University experience, making it fun and helping you out when times are tough. We'll talk to you, stand up for you, and empower you.

You'll challenge us to keep evolving and improving, we'll challenge you to get involved, have your say and create your own experience.

**Together we
will improve the
lives of students
at UWTSD.**

Vision Statement

We want to be the Students' Union that you deserve.

We know that being a student can be a life-changing experience and is also hard work. We want you to know that we are here with you every step of the way.

Between 2018 and 2021 we will:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Strengthen your influence over decisions that affect you |
| 2 | Ensure that you understand your rights and have help when you need it |
| 3 | Invest in activities and opportunities to enable you to develop your skills |
| 4 | Campaign for a fairer and more inclusive society |
| 5 | Make it easy for you to direct our work and resources |

Our Values shape all of the work we do.

We believe:

1	That education should be shaped by students.
2	That a University experience is more than a degree.
3	That University and Students' Union activities and services should be accessible to all.
4	In challenging inequality.
5	In student leadership.

Our Behaviours

In delivering our Vision and Values we will:

1	Act sustainably , with a commitment to reducing our impact on natural resources and inspiring and supporting you to do likewise.
2	Work bilingually , celebrating and promoting the Welsh Language within the University and beyond.
3	Resource responsibly , effectively managing our people and finances; achieving our organisational aims, meeting our statutory reporting requirements, and ensuring the continuation of the Students' Union.
4	Decide transparently , making it easy for you to understand how to become involved in debates and discussions, how they can make and query decisions and hold decision-makers to account.
5	Communicate widely , reaching out to all of you and making you feel part of the Students' Union.
6	Think creatively , embracing opportunities, trying new things and creating a fun, lively and engaging culture.

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a white knit sweater with black trim on the sleeves, is smiling and giving a thumbs up with her right hand. She is wearing a ring on her ring finger. The background is blurred, showing other people and warm lighting.

1.

**Knowing and
reaching our
members**

1. Knowing and reaching our members

We know that you don't all feel connected to your Students' Union, and we know our structure and geography can make it hard for us to communicate or fulfil the traditional role that you might expect of a students' union. Over the next three years we will work hard to:

a	Identify, articulate and consider the differing needs of all of you, our members
b	Develop appropriate methods of effective communication with our different student groups
c	Clarify and publicise our core work, so that you know what we are about and why we exist
d	Build engaging student networks and help them campaign on issues which involve and inspire you
e	Provide regular opportunities for you to set, inform and scrutinise our work



2.

**Growing our
opportunities**

2. Growing Our Opportunities

We're committed to helping you create the best possible student experience for yourselves. We'd love to see more and more students taking part in student-led activities but we know that there's lots of barriers in your way, time, finances, accessibility, responsibilities... Over the next three years we will work hard to reduce some of those barriers. To do this we will:

a	Invest in clubs, societies and volunteering projects, creating proper structures for funding and for longer-term development.
b	Provide specific support for new student-led activities, creating tailored support through their first year
c	Aim to work with academic schools to expand our portfolio of co-curricular activities
d	Expand our activities out from our traditional South Wales campuses to Cardiff, London and Birmingham
e	Invest in our training and development to ensure that your activities, events and equipment are safe and well-managed

A close-up photograph of a woman with brown hair tied in a ponytail, wearing a dark blue jacket with light blue trim. She is shouting into a white and blue megaphone. The background is a blurred green field.

3.

**Amplifying and
strengthening
your voice**

3. Amplifying and Strengthening Your Voice

We are proud of the work we have already done to improve the course and faculty rep scheme and in the general quality of our academic representation. We know that not every student knows who their student reps are though, and we believe that you should. We also want to ensure that you all have the opportunity to get involved in our work, share your thoughts and help to shape our outcomes and results. Over the next three years we will...

a	Make sure that everyone knows who their course and faculty reps are and what impact they have
b	Expand our online decision-making, allowing all of you to suggest ideas and participate in our elections and democracy
c	Create practical campus council student voice activities and campaigns for Cardiff, Birmingham and London
d	Provide meaningful opportunities for UWTSD students to influence decision-makers within the University, local government, the Welsh Assembly and UK Parliament on issues that affect your lives.
e	Support, encourage and enable our part-time liberation officers to challenge inequality and unfairness

A close-up photograph of a woman with long, wavy hair that is dyed with vibrant pink and green colors. Her face is covered in a playful splatter of red, green, and blue paint. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. She is wearing a light-colored shirt with thin, vertical stripes in blue, green, and pink. The background is slightly out of focus, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with wooden beams and a blue wall.

4.

**Making the
most of our
resources**

4. Making the Most of Our Resources

Our resources don't currently match our ambition, but they shouldn't always be our excuse either. We pledge to make sure that we are constantly evaluating our resources to enable us to direct them where you need them most. We'll make sure that you're satisfied with how they are used and confident that the Union is being run in a way that is in line with our values and in your best interests. Over the next three years we will...

a	Invest in training and development for our full and part-time officers and staff to enable them to best deliver this plan
b	Work sustainably, both to make the most of our resources and to ensure that activities and projects improve and grow over time
c	Improve our governance, opening up our decision-making and decision-makers to all of you and providing more opportunity for scrutiny and influence.
d	Invest in our course and faculty reps, helping them to increase their profile and impact.
e	Grow our commercial activity in order to provide relevant, high quality, services and to generate funding to reinvest in our students' experience.

**We are TSDSU,
we are your SU
and this is how
we will work
for you over
the next three
years.**

If you're a registered student at UWTSD then you're already a member of your SU and, believe us, we will be in touch!

If you'd like to join the conversation about this plan, check us out, or get involved in any of our activities right now then you can reach us through our website or our social media. All our details can be found on the reverse page of this booklet.



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