

Being an SU Trustee Board Chair 22

Nick AJ Smith
Consulting

Course Overview & Delivery

This training is focused on the issues faced by SU Trustee Board Chairs who are often student officers. Recruiting and developing the other board members, managing political tensions and leading on ensuring papers are clear and accessible often come under a Chair's role.

This training for officer and student trustee chairs introduces these issues and will provide pragmatic resources and skills for them to use back in their home Unions.

Webinars

Tuesday 13th September 10am - 11.30am - [The SU Trustee Board](#)

- Provides context about the history and creation of the SU Trustee Board as we know it today. Its responsibilities and what the Chair's role is both inside and outside meetings.

Thursday 15th September 10am - 11.30am - [How to engage all Trustees](#)

- Practical advice on engaging with all Trustees including those who may find things difficult and starting to give Chairs a toolkit of tips, tricks and tactics for Board meetings.

Tuesday 20th September 10am - 11.30am - [Keeping Things moving](#)

- We will work on processes and papers. What happens when the Auditors come along, how to ensure the information you have is useful and helping senior staff be the best people they can be.

Thursday 22nd September 10am - 11.30am - [The SU Trustee Board](#)

- Going the extra mile, developing a better and stronger Board that can be high performing for your Union. We will cover governance codes and board development.

Coaching

Delegates will receive **3 hours** of individual coaching with Nick on topics that you want to raise. In recent cohorts the following was discussed by SU leaders.

- Engaging student Trustees
- Supporting an interim CEO
- Improving relationships with Lay Trustees
- Helping Sabbatical Officers understand their role
- Improving risk reporting
- How to approach a governance review

Frequently Asked Questions

Are webinars be recorded?

Yes all webinars are recorded and available to participants.

Do I need to attend them all?

The course is designed to flow through the 4 sessions. You can pop in and out but attending all of them in order will maximise your learning.

Are sessions interactive?

There's plenty of opportunities to engage but I want the option for the sessions to be asynchronous as I appreciate officers are busy!

When will the coaching sessions be?

Up to you! They have to be used before the end of March 2023 but otherwise I can ensure they work for you.

Do I need to have a Trustee induction first?

It is helpful but I'll cover the basics in the course.

Will this help me with chairing other meetings?

Yes! Although we'll be focusing on Trustee Boards the skills you learn are definitely transferable.

Thank you so much for your sessions. I've just got out of a trustee board meeting... We had some really meaningful discussions that I genuinely enjoyed chairing and I feel confident that as a board we're moving toward having a genuine role in moulding the strategic direction of the charity - with the student trustees at the forefront.

I honestly don't think I would have had the skills, confidence or knowledge to help us move towards this without your training.

2020 Delegate

About the Consultant - Nick Smith

Nick has over fifteen years' experience of supporting leaders, volunteers and staff in charities and Higher Education Institutions with a particular expertise in Governance and democratic processes.

Corporate & Democratic Governance

His work developing the model governing documents used by over 100 Students' Unions was used as an example of good practice in the House of Lords. He has an excellent understanding of the challenges facing SUs of all sizes as campaigning, representative and service delivery organisations. While niche, he has specialist knowledge on the interactions between the Companies Act, Charities Acts and Education Act that govern Students' Unions. He was Company Secretary of the National Union of Students in the year it won a Third Sector Award for Trustee Board of the year. He oversaw all aspects of NUS' democracy from the National Executive Council to the 4-day NUS National Conference involving 1,400 participants.

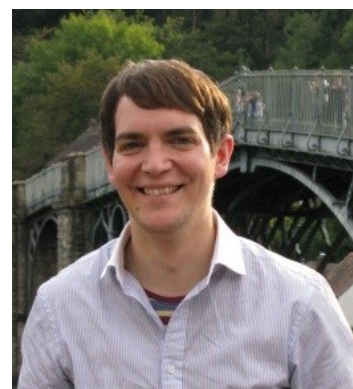
He has been a board member of several charities including City University Students' Union where he was Deputy Chair. He is Company Secretary of five students' unions giving him a pragmatic experience to live issues faced by student representative groups.

A regular contributor to Wonkhe SUs, he is received a Distinction on the charity law & course from the Chartered Institute of Governance

Training Experience

Nick is an accredited trainer and has trained thousands of Students and Student officers on a range of issues but specialising on Trusteeship and Governance. In 2020 he led 17 Trustee Inductions and trained over 120 officers on their role and responsibilities.

With Jacqui Clements he leads a course for SU staff on understanding Governance and supporting Trustees as well as coaching for leaders and board secretaries.



Selected Recent Clients

2019/20

Governance review and incorporation for the Students' Union at Bournemouth Ltd;
Governance review for Royal College of Arts Students' Union.

2020/21

Governance review for Northampton Students' Union, Oxford Brookes Incorporation

2021/22

Democracy Review Aston SU, Micro Union project

Course Costs

Total cost for the training will be **£235** per delegate. This includes:

- Access to webinars at the scheduled times and /or to watch the recordings at the chair's leisure
- 3 hours of follow up work with your chair to be scheduled at a time that suits your Union before the end of March 2023.
- Access to an SU Chair's "WhatsApp" group managed by Nick to share information and experiences with others.

Booking

To book either use the form here <https://forms.gle/yczAyUYCN3vco6R58>
or you can email Nick on nick@nicksmithconsulting.org.uk