

**Cardiff Metropolitan University**  
**and**  
**Cardiff Metropolitan University Students' Union**

**Relationship Agreement**

**Introduction and Context**

This Relationship Agreement aims to provide a clear and concise account of the relationship between Cardiff Metropolitan University and Cardiff Metropolitan University's Students' Union (Cardiff Met SU) and outlines the basis for the relationship between the two parties and the principles under which they both shall operate.

The Relationship Agreement takes account of the legal requirement on the University in the Education Act 1994 to ensure that the Students' Union operates in a fair and democratic manner and the registered charity status of both parties. It draws on the March 2011 *Guide for members of Higher Education Governing Bodies: Supplementary guide regarding the role of university governing bodies in relation to students' unions* and HEFCW Circular W12/09HE *Guidance on good practice in funding of effective, democratic student unions, and student representation issues* dated 28 March 2012 and complements the 2012 Student Charter.

**Principles**

Cardiff Metropolitan University and Cardiff Metropolitan Students' Union agree to adopt the following principles which will underpin and enhance the working relationship between the University and the Students' Union:

a) **Strategic Partnership**

Spirit of partnership between HEI and SU informing the strategic direction of both parties and informing service agreements.

Informed engagement of SU representatives in key university decision-making bodies.

b) **Student Centred**

Shared commitment to developing and improving students' experience of the academic and extra-curricular aspects of their lives whilst at the University.

c) **Respect and Understanding**

Clarity about, and mutual understanding of, the distinct roles of the University and the Students' Union and the value that each party brings to the relationship.

d) **Openness and Trust**

Full, open, regular communication on relevant issues, in particular issues likely to have an impact on the other party, the student population and/or other joint stakeholders.

e) **Mutual Support and Commitment**

Constructive interactions and demonstrable commitment to making the relationship work through investment of time and resources.

f) **Independence**

Recognition of the value of a strong, student-led students' union empowered to determine and manage its own affairs within its resources.

Recognition of the need for the HEI to balance the interests of a range of stakeholders within an increasingly challenging external context.

g) Accountability

Accountability of the Student's Union to the University as supervisor (under the 1994 Education Act) and principal funder, within a mutually agreed framework which is robust, effective, efficient and compatible with the reporting requirements of regulators, including the Funding Council, the Charity Commission and Companies House.

Acknowledgement by the University that the Students' Union is a major stakeholder and primary body representing the student voice.

h) Diversity & Equality

A shared commitment to equality and diversity and the fair treatment of all staff and students.

i) Student voice

Collaborative working to recognise the student voice through a range of methods, to ensure that students are partners at every level of the institution.

j) Funding

The parties will consider and agree the core and additional functions of the Student's Union and agree appropriate funding having due regard to the current Fee Plan

**Working Relationship**

The principles outlined above will apply to all interaction between the parties and are particularly important in relation to the formal meetings held between the parties, primarily the regular meetings between the Vice-Chancellor's Board and Students' Union representatives.

**Review**

This Relationship Agreement will be reviewed on an annual basis at the first meeting in each academic year between the Vice-Chancellor's Board and Students' Union representatives.

Approved Board of Governors 9 July 2012