

**RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
WREXHAM GLYNDŴR UNIVERSITY  
AND  
WREXHAM GLYNDŴR STUDENTS' UNION**

<b>Department</b>	-	<b>Approval Committee:</b>	SU Nominations & Governance Board of Governors
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## RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN WREXHAM GLYNDŴR UNIVERSITY AND WREXHAM GLYNDŴR STUDENTS' UNION

### 1. Introduction and Context

- 1.1 This relationship agreement aims to provide a clear reference for both the University and the Students' Union, and outlines the basis for the relationship between the two and the principles under which they both shall operate.
- 1.2 The relationship agreement takes into account the Governing Body's legal requirement under the Education Act 1994 to ensure that a Students' Union should be established that '*operates in a fair and democratic matter and is accountable for its finances*'. It draws upon the March 2011 NUS 'Good Governance' project which identified key principles that underpin excellent working relationships between students' unions and higher education institutions which were endorsed by Universities UK, the Committee of University Chairs and GuildHE; and HEFCW Circular W14/06HE *Revised guidance on good practice in funding of effective, democratic student union, and student representation*.
- 1.3 The University recognises that the Students' Union is an important partner and plays a key role in enhancing the student experience.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 Wrexham Glyndŵr Students' Union was incorporated on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 establishing a new charitable body whose objects are the advancement of education of students at Wrexham Glyndŵr University for the public benefit by:
  - i. promoting the interests and welfare of Students at Glyndŵr University during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising Students;
  - ii. being the recognised representative channel between Students and Glyndŵr University and any other external bodies; and
  - iii. providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its Students.
- 2.2 This relationship agreement is supported by the following:
  - i. a Student Union Constitution which is to be reviewed by them at least every five years and endorsed by the Board of Governors;
  - ii. a code of practice, issued by the Board of Governors, which sets out the manner in which the requirements of the Education Act are to be carried into effect in relation to the SU's operation, financial matters, affiliations and complaints;
  - iii. a memorandum of agreement between the University and the SU setting out the responsibilities and commitments of each of the Students' Union and the University, the financial relationship and channels of communication;
  - iv. a Student Charter which is written and reviewed jointly between the University and the Students' Union on an annual basis and shared with the Board of Governors.

### **3. PRINCIPLES**

- 3.1 Wrexham Glyndŵr University and Wrexham Glyndŵr Students' Union both agree to adopt the following principles which underpin and enhance the working relationship between the two bodies:

#### **3.1.1 Strategic Partnership**

A spirit of partnership between the University and the Students' Union informing the strategic direction of both parties and informing service agreements.

Informed engagement of the Students' Union representatives in key institutional decision making bodies.

#### **3.1.2 Student Centred**

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

#### **3.1.3 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.

#### **3.1.4 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.

#### **3.1.5 Mutual Support and Commitment**

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

#### **3.1.6 Independence**

Recognition of the value of a strong, student-led Students' Union empowered to determine and manage its own affairs. Recognition of the need for the University to balance the interests of a range of stakeholders within an increasingly challenging external context.

#### **3.1.7 Accountability**

Accountability of the Students' Union to the University as a supervisor (under the 1994 Higher Education Act) and principal funder, within a mutually agreed framework which is robust, effective, efficient and compatible with the reporting requirements of other regulators, such as the Charity Commission and /or companies house.

#### **3.1.8 Diversity and Equality**

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

### 3.1.9 Student Voice

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

The University and the Students' Union will work collaboratively to recognise the student voice through a range of methods, to ensure that students are partners at every level of the University.

### 3.1.10 Funding

The University and the Students' Union will consider the core and additional functions of the Students' Union and agree appropriate funding.

## 4. Working Relationship


The principles outlined above will apply to all interactions between the parties and are particularly important where there are formal meetings held between both bodies, with the principle interaction being the regular meetings of the Vice Chancellor's Board of which the Students' Union President is a member.

## 5. Review


This Relationship Agreement will be reviewed on an annual basis jointly with the Students' Union and presented to the Board of Governors at the final meeting in each academic year.

### Endorsed by:


#### 5.1 Board of Governors

Signed:   
Date: 2021/22  
Maxine Penlington OBE  
Chair of the Board of Governors

#### 5.2 Vice Chancellor's Board

Signed:   
Date: 2021/22  
Professor Maxja Hinfelaar  
Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive

#### 5.3 Wrexham Glyndŵr University Students' Union

Signed:   
Date: 2021/22  
Lauren Hole  
President of Wrexham Glyndŵr Students' Union 2021/22