

OPEN MEETING

1. Student Representation
2. Cost of Living



Access code:
8440 7303

Representation

We want to strengthen the voice of students at the University. It is already good, with positive NSS scores and student feedback, but we want to make it great. This will take partnership with the University.

Student representation is important because it promotes a sense of ownership and engagement among students. It fosters a collaborative environment where students and the university work together to create a positive and effective learning experience.

Our core charitable objective and the primary reason students are at the University of Plymouth is to gain a world class academic and educational experience. We will create a meaningful collaboration with the University that clearly acknowledges students as partners in their education.

Student Charter: Representation

Students

Be a positive ambassador of the University and UPSU

Give constructive and honest feedback

Bring forward initiatives and contribute to positive local and national change

Be a critical friend to the University and hold your student representatives to account.

Fully engage with UPSU's democratic process

Take part in student consultations

University

Embed students as active partners in programme development, management and the academic life of the University.

Encourage your participation in elections for student representatives through whom your views can be communicated.

Value and act on the comments you give relating to your experience

Ensure student representation in programme-, school- and University-level committees that influence strategic decisions and shape their academic programmes and experience.

Enable informal and formal opportunities to give programme feedback.

Inform you and consult with you on, significant University plans.

Union

Embed students as active partners in programme development, management and the academic life of the University.

Empower representatives to challenge + work in partnership with the Uni to ensure student views inform the development and improvement of provision and the wider student experience.

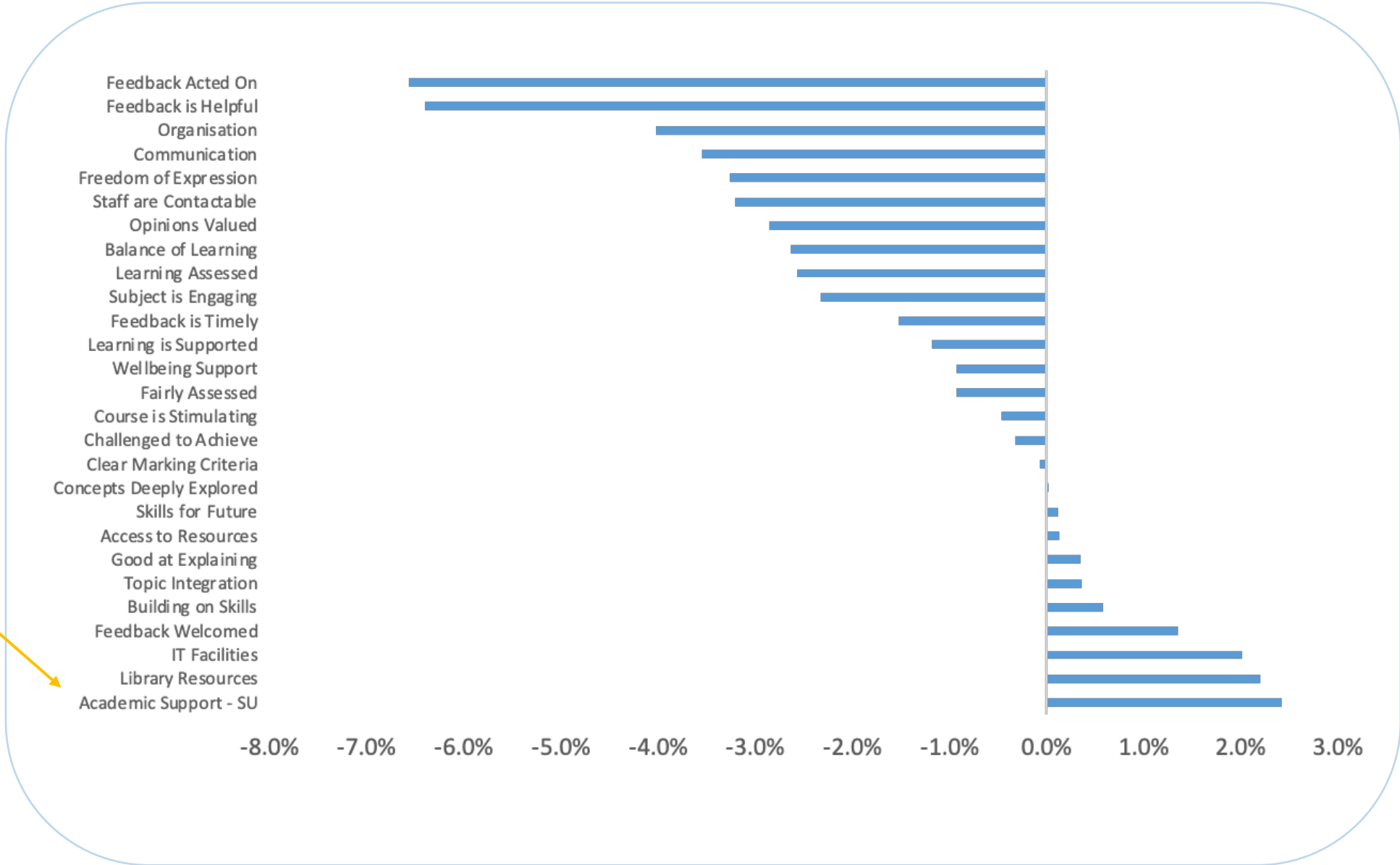
Ensure that student representatives have access to training in order to effectively fulfil their role.

Provide accessible, democratic decision-making processes

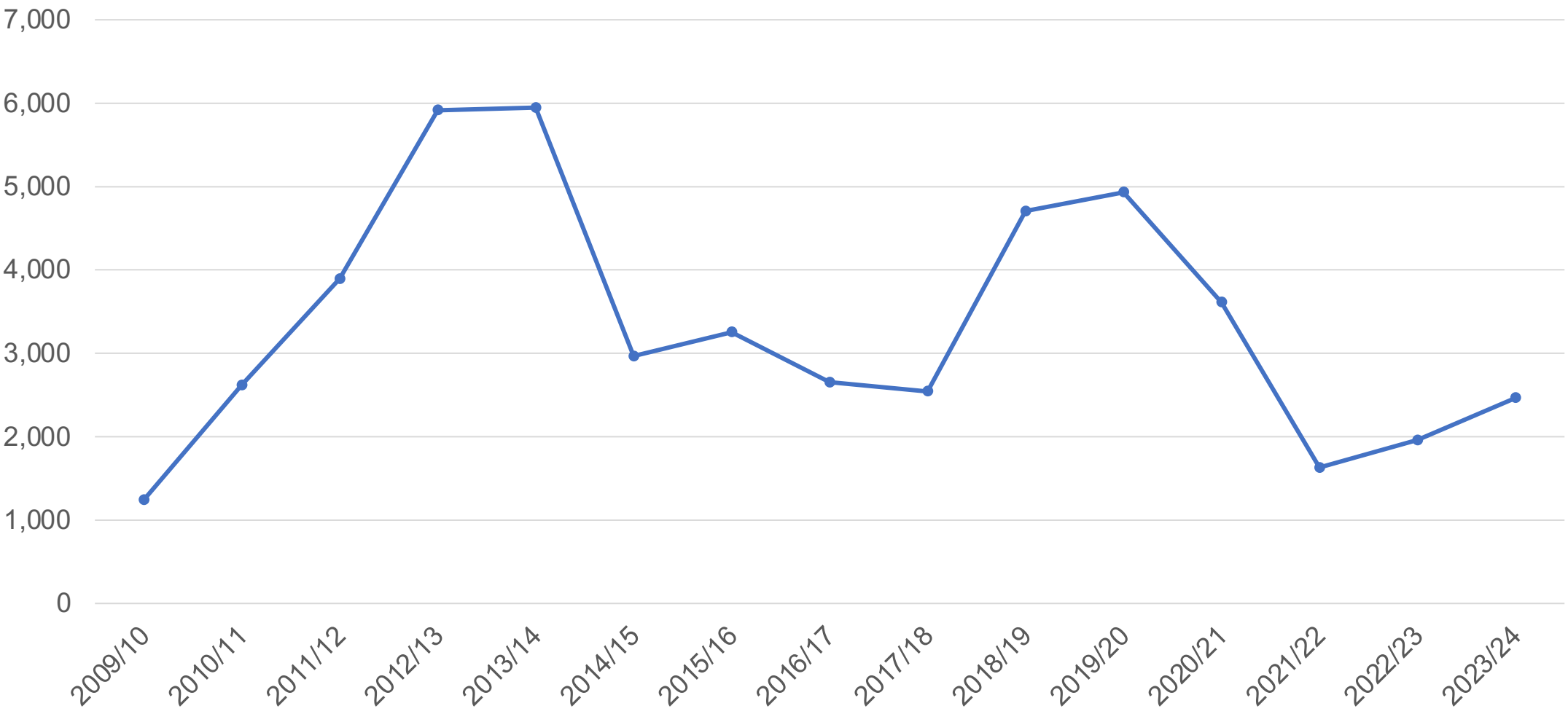
Hold transparent, fair and democratic elections to select student reps

National Student Survey Benchmarking across the university

How well does the students' union (association or guild) represent students' academic interests?



Unique voters each year for sabbatical officer elections:



Historical sabbatical officers by faculty

	President	VP Education	VP Wellbeing	VP Activities	VP Sport	VP Communities
2023/24	Faculty of Health	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business
2022/23	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Health	Faculty of Health	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business
2021/20	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business
2020/2021	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business
2019/2020	Faculty of Health	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business
2019/2018	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Health	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Health	Faculty of Science & Engineering
2018/17	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business	Faculty of Science & Engineering
2017/16	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business
2016/15	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business
2015/14	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business
2014/13	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Science & Engineering

Faculty of Health	Faculty of Science & Engineering	Faculty of Art, Humanities & Business
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Findings



1,292 responses

80% of students said that they felt that the representation of student views is very important

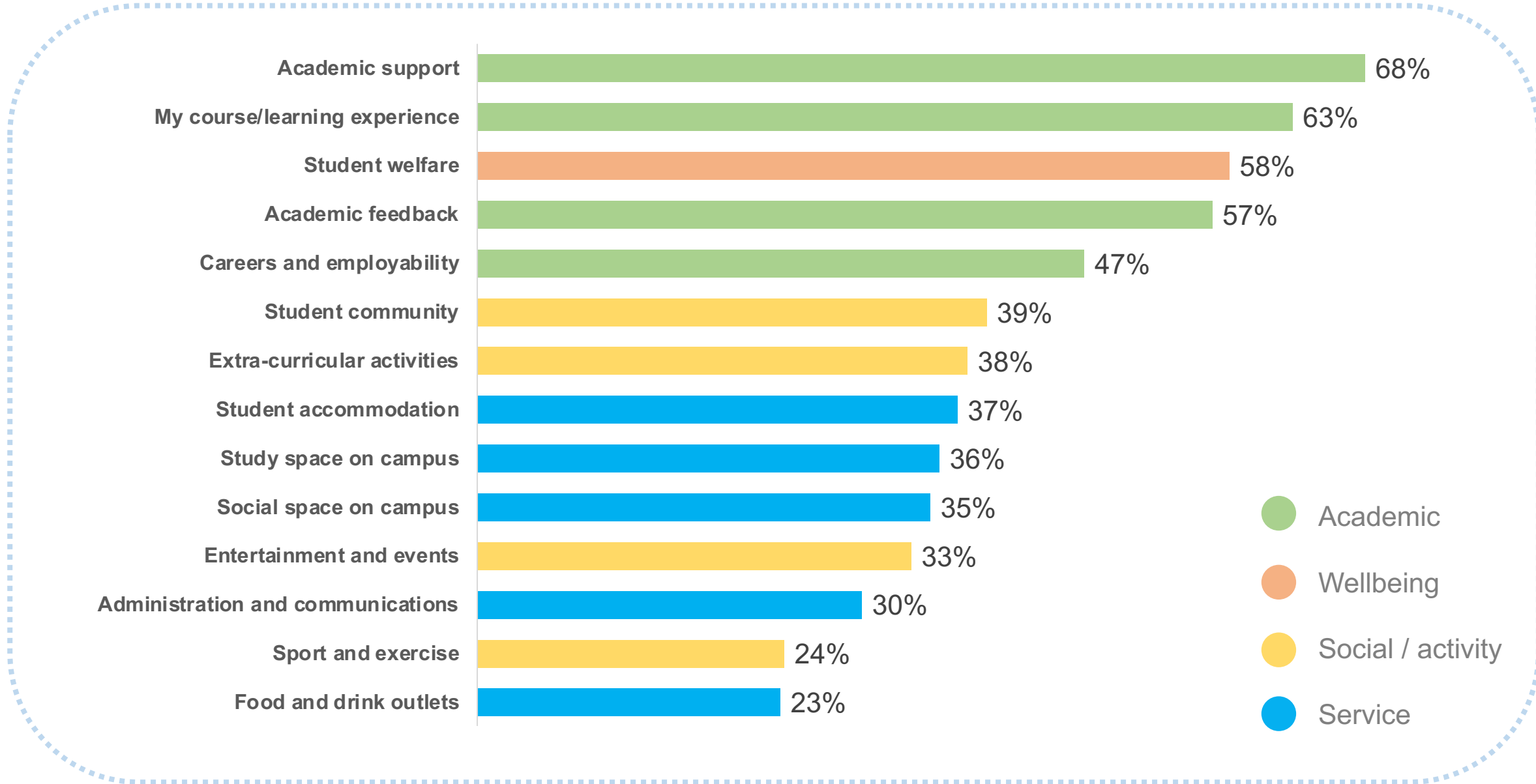
58% of students said that they had some awareness of how representatives currently work on their behalf

77% said that representatives had a medium to high impact on making the university a better place

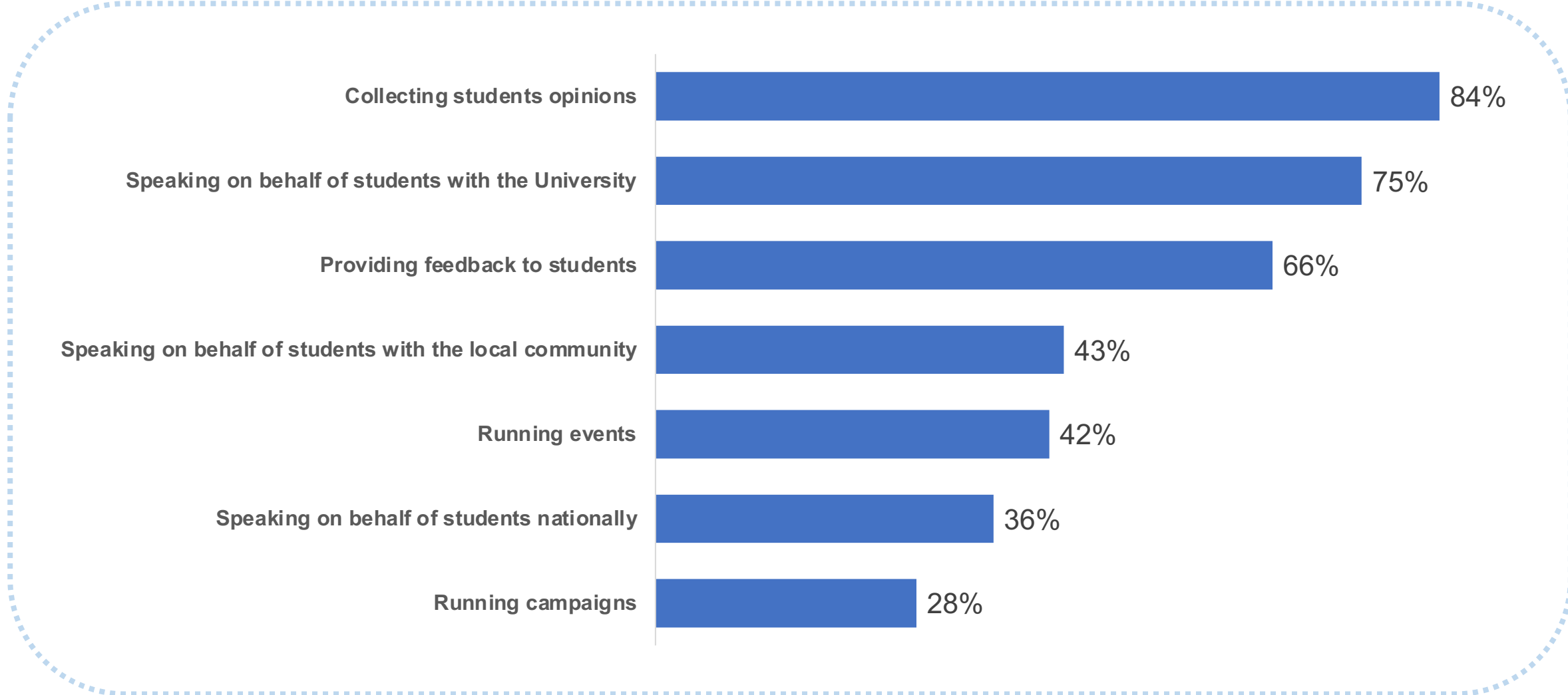
72% said they are confident that representatives can make improvements at university

76% said that they felt most / all university staff values student representation

Where would you focus representation at university to have the greatest impact on your university experience?



What type of activities do you feel are important for representatives to undertake?



Current model

Type	£	Portfolio based	Quantity	Faculty
Sabbatical Officers	Paid	President	x1	None
		Vice President Activities	x1	Science and Engineering
		Vice President Wellbeing & Diversity	x1	Health
		Vice President of Education	x1	Arts Humanities Business
Students	Volunteer	School Representatives	x12	Per Faculty
		Course Representatives	x300	Per Faculty

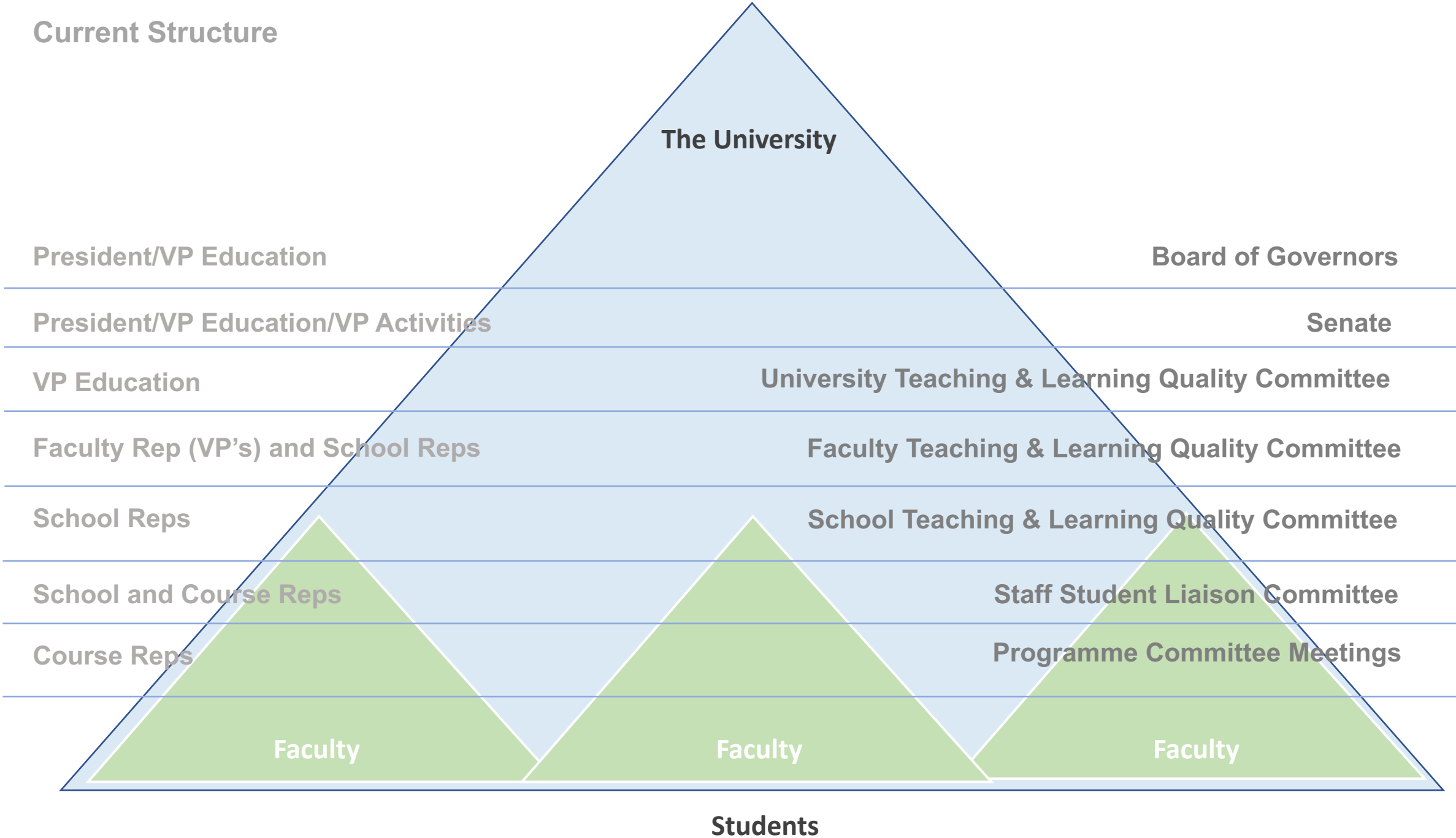
Outside of academic structures

Student Networks

Forums

Societies + Clubs

Current Structure





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Your views on current approach

Potential structure:

Type	£	Faculty based	Quant'
Sabbatical	Paid	President	x1
		Faculty Science and Engineering President	x1
		Faculty of Health President	x1
		Faculty of Arts Humanities & Business	x1
Students		School Representatives	x12
Students	Volunteer	Course Representatives	x300

Outside of academic structures

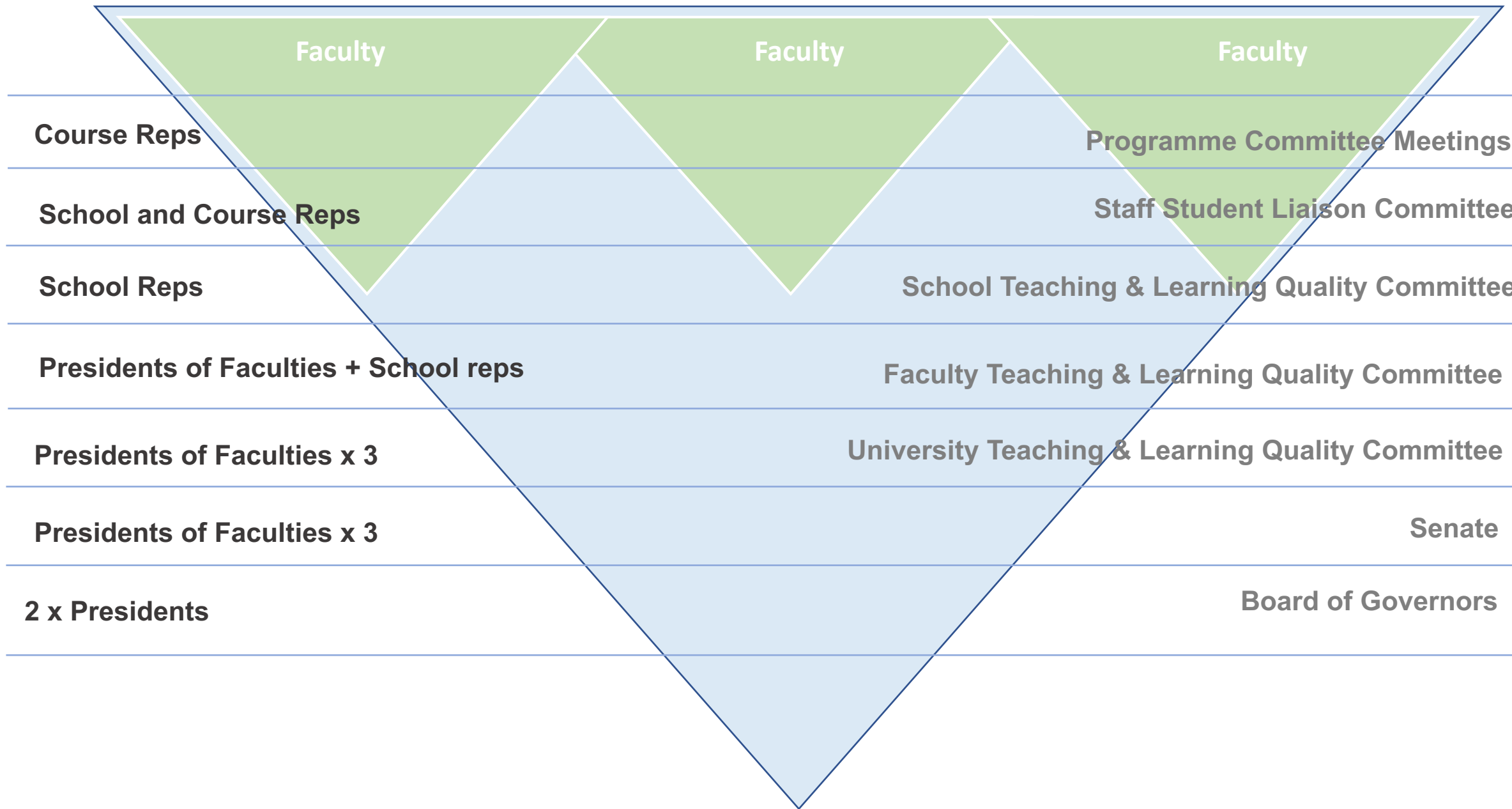
Student Networks

Forums

Societies + Clubs

Potential Structure

Students



Benefits:

- Greater focus on the academic experience
- Greater unity of student views as all faculties will be represented
- A united student voice from a 1 team approach, without portfolio focuses
- Shared representative views on various subjects as opposed to one
- Greater influence into university systems by faculties investing in supporting their president
- Greater connection to the academic representation structures – linking school and course representatives
- Less individualist views from representatives and broader collective
- Move away from operational representative roles
- Less expectation on the Officers being the specialist in the portfolio, for example VP Wellbeing & Diversity and student expectation that they are experienced in a specialise field.
- Addressing the imbalance of work load within the roles – Vice President of Education
- We will create a increased investment in the representation system from the Faculties and in turn their schools.
- Addresses issues of the SU being siloed away from the University and a more cohesive institution

Risks:

- The perceived loss of representative support for wellbeing, diversity and activities.
- Change from a long term system to some believe is representing students
- Potential pressure of expected breadth of knowledge within the role
- Less portfolio focus, so not a single point of contact for student concerns about a specific issue
- The scale of the Health Faculty, location and levels of engagement
- How students in academic partnerships are represented (very little at the moment)



Your views on proposed approach



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Cost of Living

What we have done so far



UPSU Cost of Living Hub – upsu.com

SU Advice – Free, Independent advice. They have information online about money and budgeting, as well as support around Student Finance.

The Lounge – Access to warm spaces 8:30am-11pm Monday to Friday, and 12pm-11pm Saturday and Sunday. Space to charge devices for free, and access to free microwaves.

Weekly Fruit and Veg boxes, Meet & Eat events and cost-price range in the SU shop – Cheaper options for food for students.

Cost of Living

Community Larder



The ongoing success of this initiative will rely on donations from staff, students and local businesses.

How to access support from the Larder:

- To make sure that those in need are made aware of all support available to them we ask that you visit the **Student Hub**, located in the Library, in order to be referred to the Larder.
- Once we have received your referral from Hub, we will get in contact with you to arrange the most mutually convenient time to pick up a food parcel.
- Contents of the food parcels will vary dependent on what donations we have received. We will always try to accommodate any dietary requirements.



What else can we do to support students financially?



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