

Candidate Statement for Graham Wright BA (Hons) FCA DchA

I am the Director of Finance & Services at UCLAN Students' Union. I am a qualified Chartered Accountant holding the ICAEW Diploma in Charity Accounting and, prior to my existing role, was a Director of Finance for almost 20 years in a large charity based in Liverpool where I developed my interest and experience in both multi-employer pension schemes and monitoring of investment management. The charity held over £30 million of investment funds for grant making purpose and I was instrumental in supporting the Trustees on our Investment Committee. We also participated in a pension scheme with a significant Section 75 deficit and therefore closely monitored its management, reviewed actuarial reports and dealt with auditors on appropriate accounting treatment.

I believe that many of the skills developed in my previous role would be transferable to my role as a Trustee in the SUSS; in particular I have a passion for governance which I believe would also be useful in this role, having acted as Company Secretary for a number of charities and Industrial & Provident Societies.

I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the oversight of the SUSS to ensure it continues to efficiently support the needs of its members and their organisations, both now and in the future.

Candidate Statement for John Valerkou

I, John Valerkou in my role as CEO at Anglia Ruskin Students Union wish to be considered for the role of Trustee of SUSS for the following reasons;

- Ensure that funds are properly invested and reported back in a transparent manner.
- I believe that it is essential that the retirement of staff on the Scheme is correctly covered and I want to contribute towards that.
- This represents an opportunity for me to expand my own knowledge base in regards to pensions and SUSS.
- My own skills of communication, governance and financial acumen will be of benefit to fellow Trustees and the Scheme as a whole.
- I want to play my part in ensuring that the Scheme is professionally administered.
- I am prepared to give the time to be of benefit to all.

Candidate Statement for Andy Squire

Leaders of students' unions paying into SUSS are acutely aware of the impact on their budgets by meeting the Scheme's plan to close its deficit. While recognising the importance of closing the deficit, these are funds many wish they could put towards current activities and objectives. I am one of those leaders.

To be a Trustee of the Scheme is to be legally responsible for ensuring funds are properly invested and administered to provide retirement and other benefits for its members. I will entirely accept and take on this responsibility to members, while keeping front of mind the effect these contributions have on participating unions.

Trustees of the Scheme have committed to allowing options to help individual unions manage risk within SUSS, so long as it doesn't endanger the security of members' benefits or create a situation which seems unfair on other unions. I will also commit to this attitude, which provides the option of a bulk transfer, enhanced transfer values, paying the 'Section 75' debt, and upfront deficit payments.

My career in students' unions spans 16 years and five very different organisations, with more than half of my service in senior leadership or trustee roles. Two former unions, and my current union, (University of Central Lancashire Students' Union, Southampton Solent Students' Union and the Students' Union at Bournemouth University – SUBU – respectively), are constituent unions of the Scheme.