

SU Elections.

STAND • VOTE • LEAD

4 hats of the officer



INTRODUCTION

As an elected Sabbatical Officer, it's important for you to be aware of the many parts to the role you would be expected to carry out. While you will probably expect to spend your entire time as an activist in the role and represent students, there will be times where you would be required to have a different way of thinking which is why we refer to this as the 'four hats' you wear.

This guide aims to help you to have a better understanding of the key roles of the Sabbatical Officer and how they interrelate with each other and to learn about some of the key challenges Sabbatical Officers may face while wearing these multiple 'hats'.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REPRESENT STUDENTS?

- Take opinions into consideration and make decisions and act based on majority.
- The challenge is what do we do when half of students think one thing and the other half think something else.

'Student Voice':

It's what students want and what they're shouting about

'Student Insight':

Reaching out to students and asking for their opinions on certain issues. Understanding what students want and what they think.

'Student Interest':

What's best for students and what they need. You need student voice and student insight to be able to figure this bit out.

THE FOUR HATS OF THE SABBATICAL OFFICER:

- **ACTIVIST**
- **REPRESENTATIVE**
- **STAFF**
- **TRUSTEE**

ACTIVIST HAT:

Purpose – to fight for the things you care about

Accountable to – your conscience

When things go wrong – disappointment

The 5 values of the Students' Union:

- Student focused
- Honest
- Inclusive
- Trustworthy
- Brave

How might a sabbatical role impact the values?

Think about your manifesto, experiences with former officers and services on campus. How could these values be reflected in your work as an officer?

REPRESENTATIVE HAT:

Purpose – To fight for the things students care about

Accountable to – your members (students)

When things go wrong – Petition and vote of no confidence

STAFF HAT:

Purpose – To undertake work for the organisation

Accountable to – T&Cs through the CEO

When things go wrong – Disciplinary procedure and dismissal

What does it mean to be staff?

- Subject to employment law
- Employment contract with T&Cs
- Fixed term
- Paid a monthly salary
- Annual leave entitlement
- Regular office hours but with lots of occasional working

TRUSTEE HAT:

Purpose – To ensure the long-term future of the charity

Accountable to – Other Trustees / Full Board / Charity Commission

When things go wrong – Code of Conduct investigation and removal from board

The Representative, Staff and Trustee roles all have legal status but the activist does not.