

# The Student Voice in Academic Governance

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UWE Bristol and The Students' Union at UWE

## Introduction

Student voice is a crucial part of UWE Bristol’s Academic Governance structure. Student voice is captured, actioned and responded to at all levels of the university’s formal [structure](#), with student representatives active members of the committee structure.

The below table outlines how the student voice and student representation is integrated within our Academic Governance structures (with student representative members highlighted in bold).

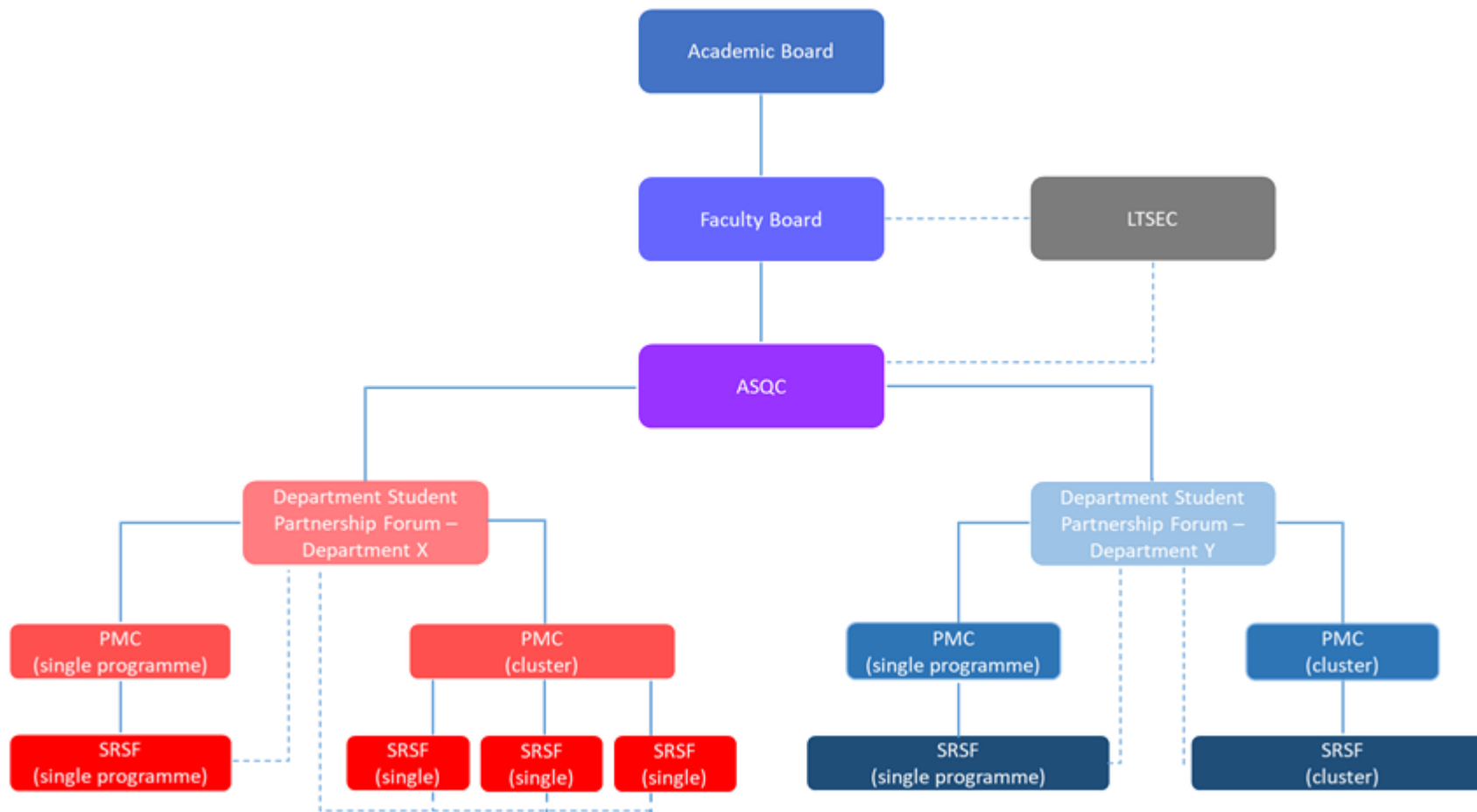
Committee	Purpose	Contribution to amplifying student voice	Core membership	Frequency	Reporting Chain (from local level matters upwards)
<b>Student Rep and Staff Forum (SRSF)</b>	<p>To facilitate dialogue between staff and students about the student experience on the programme and identify opportunities for enhancement</p> <p>Focus on frequent interaction between students and staff about immediate issues/ concerns/ enhancements to the programme/ cluster.</p>	Forum for student-staff problem-solving. Discussion should be generative, focussed on rapid resolution of issues through partnership working and co-creation of solutions/ enhancements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>All student reps (of whom one per year to be identified as Programme Year Rep)</b></li> <li>Programme/ cluster leaders</li> </ul>	A minimum of one per teaching block	<p>SRSF notes taken, uploaded to Blackboard and published to students</p> <p>Programme Leaders and Programme Year Reps take forward issues to PMC.</p>
<b>Programme Management Committee (PMC)</b>	<p>To oversee the academic quality of the programme/ programme cluster.</p> <p>Focus on programme performance, continuous improvement, forward planning and strategic alignment.</p>	Enables students to scrutinise programme performance data, influence action-planning and shape future development of programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>All Programme Year Reps</b></li> <li>All Programme staff</li> </ul>	A minimum of one per teaching block	<p>Full notes (reserved and unreserved) are uploaded to PMC SharePoint site (staff only) by Officer.</p> <p>Student facing notes to be published on Blackboard.</p>

<p><b>Department Student Partnership Forum</b></p>	<p>To consider cross-programme/ department-wide matters, engage in joint problem-solving and identify any issues for escalation to ASQC or to other bodies as appropriate (e.g. could be an operational matter for ITS or something that needs budget so Faculty Exec?).</p> <p>Focus on department/ subject-wide or broader matters concerning the student experience.</p>	<p>Ensures matters of concern to students that can be addressed within the department are identified and actioned.</p> <p>Ensures HoDs are briefed for Faculty Board on relevant matters and that LDRs and departmental ASQC reps are briefed on relevant matters for ASQC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lead Department Reps</b></li> <li>• Head of Department or nominee</li> </ul>	<p>At least one per teaching block</p>	<p>Department Report written for ASQC in partnership between LDR &amp; HoD or nominee.</p>
<p><b>Academic Standards and Quality Committee (ASQC)</b></p>	<p>To oversee the implementation of quality and standards for learning and teaching by academic departments within the Faculty and the student experience within the Faculty.</p> <p>Focus on Learning and Teaching (L&amp;T) strategy delivery across Faculty and scrutiny of departmental activity.</p>	<p>Point of escalation for matters that cannot be resolved at department level.</p> <p>Opportunity for senior student representatives to provide challenge to Faculty leadership on development of student academic and wider experience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lead Department Reps</b></li> <li>• Associate Dean for L&amp;T</li> <li>• Faculty staff with L&amp;T responsibilities</li> <li>• 1 Programme Leader and 1 module leader per department</li> </ul>	<p>At least five per year, of which typically three will have student reps present</p>	<p>Unresolved matters escalated to faculty board or LTSEC for consideration.</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representation from professional services</li> </ul>		
<b>Faculty Board</b>	<p>Oversight of development, implementation and enhancement of University strategy within the Faculty.</p> <p>Focus on shaping Faculty contribution to University-wide initiatives and providing a forum for representatives of wider Faculty to advise Faculty Executive on Faculty performance.</p>	<p>Ensures there is a student at the table in the development and implementation of significant Faculty initiatives that will impact current and future students.</p> <p>Opportunity for a student representative to provide both challenge and insight to Faculty leadership on Faculty activity and direction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A SU President or nominee</b></li> <li>Faculty Executive</li> <li>Elected staff representatives</li> <li>Faculty Business Manager</li> </ul>	At least three per year	Unresolved matters from ASQCs actioned or further escalated as appropriate.
<b>Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee (LTSEC)</b>	<p>Oversight of development, implementation and enhancement of University's strategy and approach to learning, teaching, assessment and the student experience. Responsible for the maintenance of UWE Bristol's academic standards.</p>	<p>Ensures there are students at the table in the development and implementation of significant University-wide L&amp;T initiatives that will impact current and future students.</p> <p>Opportunity for student representatives to provide both challenge and insight to senior leadership on nature and delivery of strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2x SU Presidents (usually including VP Education)</b></li> <li><b>6 x Student representatives (usually identified from LDRs)</b></li> <li>Associate Deans L&amp;T</li> </ul>	At least five per year	Unresolved matters from Faculty Boards (or ASQCs) actioned or further escalated as appropriate.

		addressing student experience broadly defined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty staff nominees</li> <li>• Elected staff reps</li> <li>• Various PS staff</li> </ul>		
<b>Academic Board</b>	Senior academic authority. Advises Vice-Chancellor and Board of Governors on strategic direction of University's academic activities, academic risks and overall effectiveness of services in support of the academic endeavour. Responsible for providing assurance to Board of Governors on effectiveness of the University's academic governance arrangements, student experience, and setting and maintaining standards.	Ensures students are part of the body that oversees the academic governance structure, academic strategy and academic quality and standards and contribute as full members to the scrutiny of the university's academic activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SU President, plus one other President (usually VP Education)</b></li> <li>• <b>4 Students representatives (usually identified from Lead Department Reps)</b></li> <li>• Vice-Chancellor, DVC and PVCs</li> <li>• Faculty staff nominees</li> <li>• Elected staff reps</li> <li>• Various professional services staff</li> </ul>	At least five per year	Unresolved matters from Faculty Boards or LTSEC actioned or further escalated to Board of Governors if appropriate.

*Please note: There is also student representation within the research strand of the Academic Governance structure which is not listed within this document.*



*(SRSFs and/or PMCs can be clustered together where appropriate. This diagram reflects these options)*