How to Hand Over to a New Committee

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1. What is a ‘handover’?

To ‘handover’ means to give up your committee position and pass over all the important information and skills to the new committee member who is taking over your role.

2. Why do you need a handover?

A good committee handover can set the new committee off to a flying start ensuring that:

a) Your group develops further, building on the hard work that you’ve put in this year.

b) The great things you did for your society or committee continue and the benefits of these are properly explained so they won’t get dropped by the new committee (and so that the same mistakes aren’t made twice).

c) New committee members feel supported. Lots of new committees come to the Zone because they haven’t been given enough information. If it’s something specific to your group (e.g. how much did you charge for hoodies last year), then the staff won’t know the answer…so make sure YOU tell the new committee! Put yourself in their shoes, do you feel like you had enough support when you started? What would you have liked to know?

A good handover is an investment in your society/committee and it will benefit everyone in the long-run. In a nutshell, a good handover will keep your society/committee AMAZING!

3. When to handover.

- You should start the handover process just after your election (AGM) which should be held between 19 March to 25 March & 16 April to 22 April (the week before & the week after the Easter Vacation).

- It depends on your committee as to how long the ‘handover period’ will be – but it should be anywhere between 2 – 6 weeks where both the outgoing and incoming committee attend all the meetings. That way the new committee members can
‘shadow’ the old ones to see how they do things.

- Arrange specific training sessions and meetings between each outgoing and incoming committee position (e.g. the outgoing Treasurer could bring the incoming Treasurer to the Activities & Sports Zone so they can show them all the forms and introduce them to the staff).

4. What should you tell the new committee?

There is lots of information that you need to hand over to your new committee. Remember: some things might seem obvious to you because you are already experienced in the role, but try to remember what it’s like for a new committee member, who may not know anything about the Students’ Union or running a society or committee! The absolute KEY points you must raise during your handover are:

1. ‘Committee Details’ forms
   First and foremost, the newly elected committee must submit the online Committee Details Forms within one week of the election (AGM) so that your group isn’t de-registered – ideally you should submit these on the day of the election. These are:
     Must be completed once by the President/Chair on behalf of the whole committee
     Must be completed separately by every single committee member (including President/Chair).

2. Training Dates
   You also need to tell the new committee that they must attend Students’ Union training relevant to their role. You should pass on the training dates to them – which you can find out through sheffieldsu.com/societysupport. You could even book the training on their behalf to ensure that they’re definitely booked on.

3. Your Society/Committee Webpage
   All societies and committees have their own webpage on the Students’ Union website – you can find yours here: http://su.sheffield.ac.uk/groups. As a committee member you are already a ‘group administrator’ for your society page which means you can edit your page, sell memberships and events ONLINE (with the money going straight into your society B account). Shortly after submitting their online committee details forms, all newly elected committee members will also automatically become ‘group administrators’ too. Kick start your new committee into using the website by updating your webpage before your election. Visit sheffieldsu.com/societysupport to find out how.
4. **Introductions**

The Activities staff love meeting new committees so be sure to tell them how they can contact us. We’re open term-time on weekdays 10am – 5.30pm (reduced hours in vacation). They can also phone (0114 222 8620) or email (activities@shef.ac.uk).

Tell them about the Activities Officer and their role to help and represent societies. And don’t forget the staff who can help you with trips, large events and health & safety – speak to Tim, your Student Groups Coordinator!

Show them the Society Support Hub (sheffieldsu.com/societysupport) and ask them to read all the relevant guides so that they can get a feel for what their position involves.

If you feel comfortable to, pass on your contact details so that if they need to ask you something important then you can help - it’s good for the odd emergency question!
5. Handover Templates.

A great legacy to your group is to create a handover document. This will help your successor perform their new role confidently and effectively and build on the hard work that you have put in this year. It will also help you to reflect upon how you have contributed to your committee/team and articulate what you have gained from your wider involvement in interviews, on application forms and on your CV. You can use the template below to create a document to pass to your successor.

**HANDOVER DOCUMENT TEMPLATE**

1) **Section One: Practical Information**

*Section One should provide your successor with the essential tools and information that they need in order to fulfill their new role successfully.*

**Large Events**
Do you organise any big events throughout the year? What are they? Where did you book the venue? Who did you contact? What did you charge for ticket prices?

**Fairs**
What did you use at the Activities Fair to publicise your society? Pass on any banners, posters, flyers, films played on laptops, spreadsheets used to collate membership data – the new committee will find all of this really useful! How much did you charge for membership and why? Did you offer any discounts when you attended fairs?

**Classes/Lessons**
Do you have an external coach or teacher? How should the new committee contact them? How much did they charge? How did you pay them? Do you have a rota for who went to your workshops/classes/socials? Who organised these?

**Equipment/merchandise**
Do you use any special equipment? Are you responsible for maintaining/storing any equipment items? Are you responsible for ordering any merchandise/clothing/items?

*(Make sure you do pass on any equipment to your successor! e.g. banners, key)*

**Money and Sponsorship**
How do you manage your accounts? Have you been using a spreadsheet to record membership fees or payments to sessions? – Pass this on! Do you have sponsorship? What are the contact details? Try to introduce new committee members to the venue manager to continue a good working relationship.

**Key Tasks**
What are the main responsibilities and day-to-day tasks of this role?
What should your successor start working on as their first task/project?

**Key Contacts**
Who are your key contacts, what are their details and how did you work with them?

**Key Dates**
Does your role have any particular deadlines or key dates to be aware of?

**Websites/Social Media**
Can you provide any login details for email accounts/social media/websites?
Aside from passing this document over to your new committee, we would also love to have a copy here in the Activities Zone, so please email it to: activities@shef.ac.uk. It can be really useful for us to know more about your society in case people come to the Desk asking for more information, and to help us research student activities.

How to run a Handover Training Session

As well as the Students’ Union training sessions that societies and committees must attend, we’d also advise you to run your own training session for the new committee. Every committee is different so train the committee in how you run your group effectively.

The easiest thing to do is to simply book a room and create a PowerPoint or Google presentation. Remember that this is not only useful for them, but also great CV experience for you (employers often love to see evidence of mentorship and training delivery!)
Below is Women’s Committee training presentation, to give you an idea of what sort of things to tell the new committee:

**Introduction!**

What are we doing today?

1. Understand the role of a Representative committee with the Students’ Union
2. Explore the key responsibilities assigned to your position on Women’s Committee
3. Explain the support system in place to help you throughout your year
4. Understanding the importance of working as a team, and get to working together!
5. An idea session to let you plan making Women’s Committee even better and more successful
6. Plus identifying the skills you will develop!

What are your aims & objectives for the session, i.e. what messages are you going to get across?

Possibly create a team building game for the new committee to get to know a bit about each other, if they don’t already know each other. This is to put them at ease and make them feel like a close group, as they’ll be working closely together for the next year.

What does your society or committee see as its role within the Union? Is it to bring to bring people together (mainly social), is it to educate students, or to campaign? Make sure the new committee are aware of your main aims and objectives.

***Your Role within the Union***

- **What is a Representative Committee?**
  Representative Committees exist to promote the views and interests of, and organise activities for, specific sections of the Students’ Union’s members. There are about 10 representative committees.

***History of the Women’s Committee***

- The Women’s Committee is the oldest committee in the Students’ Union. It was first formed in 1961 to represent the interests of female students in the Students’ Union. The committee was chaired by a female member of the Students’ Union council and had a number of sub-committees, including a campaign committee, a social committee, and a sports committee.
- In 1968, the committee changed its name to the Women’s Liberation Committee to reflect the growth of the women’s liberation movement. The committee continued to support women’s issues, and played a key role in the Students’ Union’s decision to adopt an anti-sexist policy in 1971.
- In 1984, the committee changed its name again to the Women’s Committee to reflect its ongoing commitment to women’s issues. The committee continued to support women’s issues, and played a key role in the Students’ Union’s decision to adopt an anti-sexist policy in 1991.

Do you know any history behind your society or committee? It can be interesting to pass this information on, so people know the roots of the group! Sometimes the Activities Zone Desk will have some information on this.
Team Roles & Responsibilities! What is each committee member responsible for? Make this clear so they know what their tasks are for the year ahead.

Consider asking the new committee whether they have any Team Values or qualities? Do they want to focus on innovation and creativity, fairness and equality, inclusivity? All these things?

Do you have good working practices? E.g. keeping each other informed, sending out minutes after meetings.

What is your society or committee timeline of the year ahead? It’s important to tell the new committee rough dates & deadlines of when you have events/activities, e.g. your annual ball, a trip, a fundraiser.

Ask the new committee to discuss or write down some new ideas while you’re there. You might be able to help and advise them on these.

Finally, tell them where to go for help! The Activities Information Desk is open 10 – 5.30pm every weekday in term time.