

MOTION: Honorary Memberships 2025/2026

At the AGM in February 2020, the Union passed policy to automatically confer Honorary Life Membership to our valued staff, Trustees and Sabbatical Officers if they had completed either a full term in office, or over 5 years as a staff member. This year we are conferring honorary life membership onto the following individuals:

Chris Hepworth – Served 10 years as a Staff member

Chris has been an outstanding member of the Union for 10 years, making a lasting impact across student sport, activities, and the wider student experience. He first joined the Union as a Sports Administrator before progressing to Sports Coordinator and later Student Activities Manager, consistently bringing dedication to every role and a sense of fun.

During his time with us, Chris has been at the heart of some of our most important recent developments. He played a key role in the implementation of Team Brunel and our Free Club Membership initiative, helping remove barriers to participation and widening access to student opportunities. He helped transform our club transport system, moving from one-off hires to long-term vehicle arrangements, and has had a big influence on our playing kit and leisurewear, ensuring Team Brunel looks and feels like a unified community.

Chris has worked on the digitalisation of our processes, including the introduction of our online expenses system. He has also been instrumental in delivering major sporting events, having led the hosting of BUCS Cross Country twice, a significant achievement for both the Union and the University.

Chris helped launch Active@Brunel, our participation sport programme, which was shortlisted for BUCS Participation Sport Programme of the Year. He has also played a major part in growing our end-of-year celebrations, helping shape the Team Brunel Ball and Societies Ball into the flagship events they are today.

Across everything he has done, Chris has always put students first. His hard work and commitment to improving the student experience make him truly deserving of Honorary Life Membership.

Peter Smallwood – Served as Vice President Academic Representation (12/13) and Independent Trustee (19/25)

He first served as a Trustee of the Union of Brunel Students from 2011 to 2013, during which time he was elected Vice President for Academic Representation (2012–2013). In this role, he championed key initiatives that left a lasting impact on students' academic experiences. Most notably, he piloted the introduction of lecture capture technology, a system that later became instrumental in supporting remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During a university review of library opening hours, Peter led efforts to ensure that 24-hour access remained in place, recognising its crucial role in student success. He also secured multi-

year grant funding from Hillingdon Council to establish a dedicated Community Officer focused on strengthening community cohesion. This role, in place between 2012 and 2016, fostered a long-term partnership between the University and the local authority, helping to integrate Brunel students more closely with the surrounding area.

Additionally, he was elected to the National Union of Students' (NUS) governing body and trustee board, further amplifying Brunel students' voices on the national stage. Peter returned to the Union of Brunel Students in 2019 as an independent trustee. His commitment to student representation and governance has helped strengthen the Union's ability to advocate effectively for its members.

Beyond Brunel, Peter has been an influential figure in public life. He is an elected councillor in Ruislip, Hillingdon, where he works tirelessly for his local community. Peter's longstanding dedication to Brunel University and the Union, combined with his service to the wider community, makes him an outstanding candidate for an Honorary Life Membership.