

YOUR STUDENT GOVERNORS

STUDENT GOVERNORS

All about the role and how YOU can get involved in talking to the College Corporation

WHAT IS A STUDENT GOVERNOR?

- The Governors are a group of people who are volunteers. Together they are known as 'The Board' and have special responsibilities for making sure the College is run properly. The Board is responsible for setting the College's direction, Budget and ensuring that the College provides the best quality teaching and learning.
- The Board is made up of 19 governors from across the community. Student Governors use their experiences as students when helping the Board to make decisions. They work closely with governors to make sure students are at the heart of the decision-making process.
- There are 2 student governors on the Corporation - one from the 16-19 student cohort and one from the 19+ student cohort - usually a Higher Education student.

WHAT DOES BEING A STUDENT GOVERNOR INVOLVE?

- Student Governors are highly valued - as first-hand users of the College, they have been able to give our views on important decisions being made. They have the opportunity to contribute to important College decisions, such as what the College is planning to do over the next few years.
- Student Governors get to understand how the College really works and have had the chance to meet and work with the Principal and other senior managers to develop the College. They are currently looking to develop the way the College listens to students.
- Student Governors gain experience and understanding of what comes after College - like how meetings run, how to develop professional relationships and speak at meetings. Being a student governor will look good on a C.V. and develops further their skill base.
- Student Governors have the opportunity to work with lots of different people for the benefit for the College and seeing their hard work pay off to improve things from the student perspective is a real confidence booster.

If you would like more information on being a Student Governors or any information on how you could get involved with the Board then you can contact the Clerk to the Board, Tracy Cottee on tracyc@shrewsbury.ac.uk

Want to find out more? WATCH OUT FOR INFORMATION ON MOODLE, FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND THROUGH YOUR TUTORIALS. THIS IS A REALLY WORTHWHILE ROLE—SO GET INVOLVED!!

As Student Governors we're expected to -

- Attend our Induction and other Student Governor support sessions – we can have a meeting with the Clerk that takes about an hour every other week but we can go at my own pace;
- Read committee papers and reports, treating them as confidential – this can take a while, especially if the report is complicated. We've asked for papers to be made simpler, so we can understand them and the other governors have agreed to this. Governors use a lot of 'traffic light' reports, anything in 'green' means 'good or better' and anything 'red' needs looking at. This is a good way of understanding how the College is doing quickly;
- Attend meetings and develop meeting skills – we've gained a lot more confidence in speaking at the meetings and really appreciated that, at the beginning when we were nervous, the other governors welcomed us and asked us direct questions on things.
- Participate, contribute, be positive, constructive and willing to consider new ideas – you get to hear a lot! The governors all work very well together and understand how important their role is. They talk through things carefully and make sure they understand how the decisions they make impact on us students.
- Ensure we're not distracted from our studies. We've had support from our tutors in attending meetings and events – although we do have to catch up on homework and assignments – you can't get out of that!
- share responsibility for decisions that are taken by us at formal meetings. We've had to sign that we agree to the Corporation's Code of Conduct, which sets out how governors should behave and places a lot of importance of governors acting in the best interests of the College and its students.
- Ask if we need help! We've had a lot of support from the Clerk and other governors to help us in our role. Governors have to keep their knowledge up-to-date, just like students do, so they do training and learning as well.

The responsibilities of the Corporation are to:

- decide what the College 'is' and 'does'
- keep an eye on how the College is performing
- Ensure the College is solvent and its assets safeguarded
- Approve annual budgets
- Oversee the employment of the senior staff and Clerk and set the framework for the pay and conditions of service for all other staff.

The College exists for its students; so the views of us students are important to ensure that our best interests are reflected in the decision making processes that take place by governors.

Becoming a Student Governor has been a very valuable experience so far which also enhances any university application or employment CV.