

SPA

STUDENT PUBLICATION ASSOCIATION CIO
SPA Members' Annual General Meeting
Sunday 29 March 2026

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions and explanation of AGM running
3. Reports to the Membership
 - a. [Chair's Report](#) (Appendix 1)
 - b. [Training and Opportunities Officer Report](#) (Appendix 1)
 - c. [Communications Officer Report](#) (Appendix 1)
 - d. [Sponsorship Officer Report](#) (Appendix 1)
 - e. [Membership Officer Report](#) (Appendix 1)
 - f. [Conference and Events Officer Report](#) (Appendix 1)
 - g. [Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement 2024/25](#) (Appendix 2)
4. Business
 - a. [Motion 1 - Reserves policy](#) (Appendix 3)
 - b. [Motion 2 - Trustee eligibility](#) (Appendix 4)
 - c. [Motion 3 - Introduction of a representation officer](#) (Appendix 5)
 - d. [Motion 4 - Expansion of membership officer responsibilities](#) (Appendix 6)
 - e. [Motion 5 - Communication officer responsibilities](#) (Appendix 7)
 - f. [Motion 6 - Appointment of trustees](#) (Appendix 8)
 - g. [Motion 7: Provide a percentage of income to funding opportunities for members](#) (Appendix 9)
 - h. [Motion 8: Ireland and Northern Ireland Regional Strategy](#) (Appendix 10)
 - i. [Motion 9: Introduction of a volunteer network](#) (Appendix 11)
 - j. [Motion 10: National Conference bidding](#) (Appendix 12)
 - k. [Motion 11: Use of AI in student journalism](#) (Appendix 13)
5. [Lifetime memberships](#) (Appendix 14)
6. Elections
 - a. Election of the Chair
 - b. Election of the Training & Opportunities Officer
 - c. Election of the Conference & Events Officer
 - d. Election of the Communications Officer
 - e. Election of the Sponsorship Officer

- f. Election of the Membership Officer
- g. Election of a Trustee

7. **Any Other Business**

- a. Reminder of further upcoming elected positions

8. **Adjournment**

Appendix 1

Chair and other Executive Officer's 2025/26 reports

Chair report

In June 2025 I set out five strategic priorities that the SPA team would focus on throughout 2025/26. These have all been delivered/are in the process of being delivered successfully. In turn they were:

InHouse Communications Event

- Our 'Building a Career in Political Journalism' event was held in September, in collaboration with InHouse Communications at their offices in Westminster. This project was delivered primarily by the Conference and Events and Training and Opportunities Officers, with the support of the wider team. The panel was recorded for future publication on our Membership Hub.

Membership Hub

- This was a project which had been in the background of the SPA's work for the last few years, originally proposed by trustee Geri Scott, but there was no clear path to project completion and there were varied views on what the finished hub should include. I set out plans to deliver it in my speech at last year's AGM.
- Alongside the Training and Opportunities Officer and the wider Executive Committee, I defined the scope of the project as creating a resource bank on our website, which would be accessed by our members via a login.
- I led the technical development of the Membership Hub site, selecting and installing the membership plugin to our website and refining it for our needs. I also designed and built the pages and, with the Training and Opportunities Officer, designed the site map of the hub across clear resource categories. I also supported the Training and Opportunities Officer with the development of a resource production plan.
- I also developed new branding and marketing resources for the hub.
- We launched the hub in January with a new evergreen awards advice video to coincide with the launch of our National Awards. The hub currently has 55 members and we continue to encourage our members to sign up. It will remain in the Training and Opportunities Officer's portfolio to continue to develop in the coming years, which allows us to shift our focus away from poorly attended online events to evergreen always-on resources.

Regional Conferences and Awards

- During my speech at last year's AGM I set out plans to ensure that all members would have a regional event that they could attend. I am delighted that we were able to achieve this, delivering seven events across the UK and Ireland in January and February, up from four last year. Over 400 tickets were sold to members across these events.
- I oversaw these events which were led by the Conference and Events Officer and Regional Officers, with the support of many other members of the team (particularly the

Representation Officer, the Training and Opportunities Officer, the Membership Officer, the Sponsorship Officer and the Digital Media Officer).

- We enacted my proposal of combining regions with London and the South East, creating an event which was accessible for all publications in those regions.
- I led on the budget monitoring for the conferences, ensuring the finances were managed with more clarity and oversight than they had been for these events in the past.

SPANC Bidding Process Overhaul

- Coming into this role I (along with other members of the team) recognised that our previous bidding process for SPANC was not fit for purpose, as the final bid selected often bore limited resemblance to SPANC as it was delivered.
- Alongside the Conference and Events Officer I developed the following process, which I was supported by trustee Jem Collins to deliver:
 - We started with an expression of interest phase to gather which publications were interested
 - We then held meetings with each publication to talk them through the bidding process
 - After a month the publications submitted their first draft. We then reviewed these and held another meeting with each to give feedback, before they had an additional week to submit their final bid
 - The whole SPA team ranked each bid according to the same criteria, before meeting to discuss each bid and vote on the successful host
- Seven publications began the process, with four final bids being submitted. This was an increase on last year when only two bids were submitted. It also showed us areas we may want to develop our work in the future, such as enhancing our offer in Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- While there have naturally been changes, #SPANC26 has been delivered much closer to the original bid than #SPANC25 was.

#SPANC26

- The SPA team has worked alongside Concrete and UEASU to deliver #SPANC26 in Norwich this year. We are on track to hold an event which has a wide and diverse range of industry speakers, celebrates our members at our National Awards and is delivered in a financially sustainable way.

Miscellaneous

In addition to these strategic priorities, I have also delivered the following projects:

- At the start of the year, I created the new Representation Officer role, which was approved as a one-year trial Project Officer position by the Executive Committee. Having a Representation Officer has been a huge benefit to the team, as she has led on the Financial Assistance Scheme, begun research into representation in our National Awards, and supported the team to ensure our event panels have been diverse. The Representation Officer and I are proposing to add the role to the Bye Laws at the AGM so this work can be continued.

- I led the recruitment process for our new trustee, Temi Alanamu, alongside Jem Collins.
- Towards the end of 2025, I developed updated brand guidelines and a new style guide for the SPA. As part of this work, I set out clear guidelines for how our colours could be used accessibly in our online communications, which was not previously being done. As such all new online communications developed using the guidelines now meet WCAG AA colour contrast accessibility standards.

Training and Opportunities Officer report

As Training & Opportunities Officer, my role has become increasingly important to the charity, as we integrate our long-term strategies, one of which is to provide more resources and opportunities for our members. My role in facilitating this over the past year can be divided into four categories:

1. Building the framework for a Project Grant
2. Establishing the Membership Hub
3. Assisting with Regional Conferences
4. Assisting Speakers/Sessions/Timetabling for #SPANC26

Project Grant

The idea came about early in my term, in the wake of a particularly successful #SPANC25 in Exeter. It seemed to me that the SPA was slowly getting to a place where we didn't just have to spend money to provide for our members, but that we could directly source funding for them. I soon realised that our Sponsorship Officer, Isabella Ankerson, had the same idea, so we decided to work on it together.

The idea would be that members would apply with a specific project in mind, something big that would transform the operations and/or performance of their publication, but that involved spending a bit of money, and we would award one or two applicants with the funding requested, subject to the amount available. We would get funding from bespoke sponsorship packages that would provide sponsors with a single, tangible image of where their funding was going, and could even provide the space for themed sponsorship (for example, funding for advanced media law training from media law specialists, etc.).

As this is a rather big step for the charity, we only laid the groundwork this year. However, as it fits within our long-term strategy and is well within our charitable aims, I hope it is picked up again next year.

Membership Hub

Whereas the Project Grant was a new idea we were planning to pilot another year, the Membership Hub had been an idea for a couple of years, and we felt it was now time to take action. It fit within our long-term strategy, but it also came after I had received requests from several member publications for more specific training and resources in areas that mattered to them.

With the help of our Chair Matthew Stothard, as well as trustees Jem Collins, Geri Scott, and Temi Alanamu, we figured out how this could best be delivered on our website. After some technical manoeuvring—that proved to be a learning experience for all of us—we now have a dedicated, login-protected area on our website just for members, where we upload a range of resources from how-tos to testimonials from professional journalists.

It was important to me to make sure that this resource is a living entity, rather than just a back library of blog posts. That is why I tried to update the space as much as possible, especially with resources that had been requested by members. I hope that whoever takes on this post will continue to do so, as I believe that we have a responsibility as a charity to respond to the rapidly changing journalism environment and provide a space where our members can make sense of it.

Regional Conferences

Once our Conference and Events Officer, Joe McFadden, had set each regional conference in motion, we split oversight responsibilities between the executive committee. I was assigned to London & South East, and was later looped into the Scottish Conference too. In both cases, our Regional Officers were extremely attentive (as were all the ROs throughout this process), so my role was reduced to reassurance and the odd piece of advice.

Despite my involvement being minimal, I am very proud of the great job our ROs did with every regional conference, and hope a good (if very high!) standard has been set for future years.

#SPANC26

Early in the planning process, Joe and I met to discuss a new approach to the speaker bidding process that would introduce specific ideas for panels, as well as panel leaders with expertise in that specific area, earlier in the process, so that bidding could be more targeted.

Somewhat inevitably, this was taken over by the sheer volume of bids; however, we did introduce some specific areas within journalism that we were keen to have sessions on at the national conference, based on the current climate in the profession (the inclusion of royal reporting), but also based on feedback from members (such as more sessions on varying areas of equality, diversity and inclusion).

As with the regionals, I feel my job was just a part of a greater whole that every member of the team committed a lot of their time and energy to, for which I am extremely proud.

Communications Officer report

- I oversaw the sending of clear consistent newsletters before and after events to keep members up-to-date and to encourage engagement
- Sometimes assisted ROs with communications regarding regional events

- In cooperation with our Membership Officer I've kept our mailing list updated
- I've worked with our Digital Media Officer, Sophie, to ensure our social media output has been regular, well designed and informative, especially in the run up to SPANC.
- I've also made sure emails/newsletters have gone out alongside social media content where necessary.
- I drove the creation of interview series for Instagram reels at some of our regional events, which our DMO edited ahead of publishing. Some of these are still to go out and should provide some reusable/evergreen content for our social media in the lead-up and aftermath of SPANC.
- Helped plan comms ahead of/during SPANC, including more 'evergreen' content as described above
- Kept minutes/attendance up-to-date
- I helped out with some of the content for the Membership Hub when it first launched & I'm presently planning a guide to choosing your route into journalism if you're from a marginalised/underrepresented background

Sponsorship Officer Report

- With the support of the Chair and DMO, I redesigned and updated the sponsorship packs for our regional events and our national conference - making key amendments to pricing, package deliverables and key details about the SPA.
- I reached out to more than 70 potential sponsors for our regional conferences and managed to secure sponsorship for our South West, North and joint South East/London events. I also successfully coordinated a host university (City St George's) and venue space for the latter conference. Our partnership with City also led to an early sign-up for SPANC26 Gold sponsorship in Nov/Dec 2025.
- I, with the support of the Trustees and a few POs, surpassed the sponsorship target of £16k by securing a total of £19.6k with just under a month to go until SPANC26, and with some more sponsorship money yet to come in from a handful of others (at the time of writing this report). This included two Headline conference sponsors and our first Headline FAS sponsor, as well as several Gold, Silver and Awards sponsors. I was very proud to achieve this, as not only was I able to get a variety of organisations - both old and new - on board, but I was able to do so whilst juggling my SPA work alongside my full-time job. Over 130 contacts were approached between December 2025 and February 2026.

- In honour of one of the promises I made in my manifesto, I worked with the Training and Opportunities Officer to build the foundations of a Project Grant scheme and application to support our member publications with their creative projects, which we hope to pass on to the next Exec Committee in the handover process. We would've loved to launch this formally in Q1 2026 had we had more time, but unfortunately other commitments took precedence. To help support the future of this initiative after we leave the committee, we hope to present a motion at the 2026 AGM which will ensure that up to 5% of the SPA's reserves are allocated to the grant every year.

Membership Officer Report

This year I served as the Membership Officer and onboarded a total of **101 members (56 individual members, 45 publication members)**. The role of MO is still relatively new and I would encourage the next membership officer to explore new ways to keep members involved and engaged. I would have liked to do some onboarding video calls for new members, but I did not get a chance to do this. However, I think it would be useful to do next year. I did some outreach in my role via LinkedIn and X to get student journalists to sign up for a membership with the SPA, but I feel this could be done more perhaps with RO involvement as well. I have really enjoyed this role and I feel that the role of MO is really critical as the SPA is nothing without its members!

One of my favourite parts of my role was judging SPARC and running a panel on freelancing and pitching at the Northern regional conference in York. It was great fun and also a really good way to get members to buy a ticket for SPANC. I also completed an audit of our membership to check that details were up to date with the help of ROs. Our total membership for publications is now at **266 publications**. Our total number of individual members is **147**.

Conference and Events Officer Report

Upon my election at the AGM in April 2025, I had three main priorities for the SPA's events offerings. The first, and most pressing, was to reform the SPANC bidding process. The second was to expand our programme of regional conferences and the third was to hold more events outside of our well-established conferences. I am pleased to report I have achieved the first two, and partially achieved the third.

iNHouse Communications:

- Following our induction period in late Spring 2025, myself, the chair and training & opportunities officer were approached by one of our #SPANC25 sponsors iNHouse Communications with an offer to hold a political journalism event at their Westminster offices in return for the SPA promoting their political podcast awards

- Myself and the training & opportunities officer met with iNHouse at their offices to discuss the scope of the event, deciding to hold a 'Building a Career in Political Journalism' panel made-up of lobby journalists and MPs during the first week of September to give students an insight into the world of Westminster
- The planning for this event was mainly done over the summer, which proved challenging at times because student publications are largely inactive or in a handover period during the summer months and Westminster is similarly on recess
- I led the organisation of this event, working with trustee Aubrey Allegretti to book the panel, liaise with the comms team on promoting the event, and working with iNHouse's events leads to ensure the evening ran smoothly and was a success for all parties
- However, despite some last minute challenges in the face of a tube strike, we ran a highly successful event with over 60 tickets sold
- It is my hope that we can use this model to partner with future sponsors to expand the SPA's in-person offerings outside of SPANC
- I would encourage next year's committee to explore the possibility of hosting a similar event with iNHouse again as it set the tone for the year and meant people were engaged with the SPA from the moment the academic year began in September

Christmas fundraiser:

- During my election speech at the AGM in 2025, I set out plans to hold an SPA fundraising event with the goal of raising money for our reserves
- My initial plan was to hold this in September but, once the iNHouse Communications event was being underway, I moved this to December to act as a Christmas fundraiser to tie into the seasonal spirit of giving and goodwill
- After discussions with trustees Jem Collins and James Mole, we decided that directly targeting a fundraiser as being for the financial assistance scheme would be effective
- However the planning for regional conferences and overhaul of the SPANC bidding process took priority and meant the committee was unable to devote enough time to plan such a fundraiser
- I would strongly encourage next year's committee to revive plans as I believe this will be an effective method to help the SPA achieve its long term goals and financial security

Regional Conferences and Awards:

- During my tenure as training & opportunities officer in 2024/25 I led the organisation of that year's regional conference offerings, managing to run four events of varying size in the Midlands, Scotland, London and Wales
- At this year's induction day I set out plans to hold an event in all regions of the SPA, with the caveat of combining London & the South East into one event
- I led the organisation of these conferences, frequently meeting with regional officers and host publications to set out plans for each events, including the sessions, awards and catering; approving and booking speakers; liaising with the comms team on promoting the events; working with the chair and sponsorship officer to keep the conferences within budget; discussing sponsorship opportunities and running some of the events in-person

- I am incredibly pleased to announce that the SPA achieved these plans, running seven regional conferences across January and February 2026
- These were:
 - Ireland & Northern Ireland in Dublin with *The University Observer*
 - Wales in Cardiff with Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Culture
 - North in York with *Nouse* and sponsored by the NUJ's York branch
 - Midlands in Warwick with *The Boar* and the University of Warwick Students' Union
 - London & South East in London with City St George's Department of Journalism
 - South West in Bristol with *That's What She Said* and the NUJ's South West branch
 - Scotland in Stirling with *Brig*
- Overall, we sold over 400 tickets across seven events, generating over £2000 of income, which, when combined with the £1500 we made in sponsorship, meant the events made a total of profit of approximately £1000 after accounting for all costs
- We hosted 47 speakers and 450 attendees over the course of six weeks - record numbers for the SPA
- Working with the chair, I oversaw the organisation of each conference, which was led by each region's respective regional officer, with assistance from other committee members including the training & opportunities officer, communications officer, sponsorship officer, membership officer, digital media officer, alumni officer and representation officer
- Trustees Jem Collins, Aubrey Allegretti's assistance and support with this programme of events was invaluable
- The next steps will be to formalise our regional conference programmes so they are clearly integrated into the academic year, as well as improving our workflows on the SPA side to avoid pinch points we reached this year
- I would strongly encourage next year's committee to continue regional conferences as this is the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic that the SPA has achieved a full programme of regional conference and awards

SPANC bidding process overhaul:

- My primary focus in my election speech in 2025 was to overhaul the SPANC bidding process as, after being apart of it for two years in 2023/24 and 2024/25, I had concluded it was not fit for purpose
- Prospective hosts bidding for SPANC were overwhelmed, reported unhappiness, and the process lacked transparency while, above all else, the final conferences often bore little resemblance to the original bid
- Working with the chair and trustee Jem Collins, we introduced phases to the bidding process, most notably introducing an expression of interest (EOI) period, which attracted seven responses - another SPA record
 - Following the EOI period, we held meetings with each publication to talk them through the bidding pack and answer any questions they may have had

- After a month the publications submitted their first draft which were then reviewed and given another meeting to hear feedback, before they had an additional week to submit their final bid
- The whole SPA team ranked each bid according to the same criteria, before meeting to discuss each bid and vote on the successful host
- Four final bids were submitted, with the winner being the University of East Anglia's *Concrete*, with #SPANC26 resembling their final bid much more than in previous years

#SPANC26 planning:

- As the SPA's lead on the national conference, I am happy to report planning is well underway as we enter the final weeks before the national conference
- I wanted to reform the speaker bidding process though, with a shortened timetable, there was little appetite for this amongst the committee; I would encourage my predecessor to rethink this with more time
- I worked with the training and opportunities officer to develop plans for sessions and workshops so the team could bid more directly
- I worked with the sponsorship officer, meeting with sponsors to discuss their plans for sponsored sessions and communicating with them on what the weekend would look like
- Alongside the rest of the committee, I also participated in shortlisting and worked with the chair to tweak our awards criteria, altering some language in the awards guide to make sure there was a focus on quality of written communication as well as the newsgathering skills demonstrated
- I have been across most major parts of the national conference planning, ranging from the Friday night entertainment offering, to the catering and goody bag selections
- Overall, the national conference is shaping up to be a huge success

Miscellaneous:

Alongside my work within the events brief I have also supported various members of the team with other projects and fed into important discussions like the use of AI in award submissions; trustee recruitment; contributing to a membership hub guide; improving our offer to the nations and regions to make the SPA less southern-centric, like the development of an Irish strategy; and discussing developing a volunteer network to ease pressures on the executive committee.

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement 2024/25

Appendix 2

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Student Publication Association CIO is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England and Wales (number 1187383). The charity also operates using the working names “The Student Publication Association” and “The SPA”.

During the period of this report, it was registered at 46 St Olaves Road, London, E6 2PA

This report covers the accounting period from 01/05/2024 to 30/04/2025.

The trustees who served during the reporting period are:

- Jack Patrick Wash (Chair — trustee ex officio. Left post April 6, 2025)
- Matthew Stothard (Chair — trustee ex officio. Elected April 6, 2025)
- Joseph Stephen McFadden (Second financial officer — trustee ex officio. Left post April 6 2025)
- Isabella Ankerson (Second financial officer — trustee ex officio. Elected April 6 2025)
- Jemma Louise Collins (Elected Trustee)
- Aubrey Edward Lewis Allegretti (Elected Trustee)
- Geraldine Scott (Elected Trustee)
- Ollie Colle (Elected Trustee)
- Anttoni James Numminen (Appointed Trustee)
- Emma Penney (Appointed Trustee — Appointed 21 August 2024)
- James Mole (Appointed Trustee — Appointed 21 August 2024).
- Richard Lewis Brooks (Appointed Trustee - Left post April 6, 2025)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The SPA is governed by a written constitution. The charity is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation. The SPA's trustees are selected via three methods:

- Ex officio: The Chair and Second Financial Officer of the SPA serve as trustees ex officio.
- Elected: Up to four trustees are elected by the SPA's membership, serving a term of up to four years.
- Appointed: Up to four trustees are nominated by vote of the executive officers and ratified by a majority vote of the sitting trustees, serving a term of up to three years.

During this period, the charity held one AGM in April 2025, allowing members to vote on policy and direction. The [minutes for this are available online](#). A total of five motions were voted on and passed by members:

- [Constitutional Changes](#): A number of administrative changes to the constitution, including the adoption of gender neutral pronouns, clarification of what a poll is, that it should always be a student leader who decides in the case of a tiebreak, the appointment of ex-officio trustees, adding different press standard codes to reflect those in Ireland, clarifying the handover period, clarifying the term limits for regional and executive officers, adding that all officers at all levels can vote on SPANC, and mandating bank account access.
- [Decision Making Process For SPANC \(With Amendment\)](#): This motion looks to ensure the movement of SPANC across all of the SPA's region's is considered as part of the bidding and decision making process.
- [Trustee Term Lengths](#): To clarify when trustees are due to stand down.
- [Reserves Policy](#): To continue the organisation's commitment to holding £10,000 in reserves by 2027. It sets out that the organisation will hold £3,600 by the conclusion of #SPANC25, and aims to add a further £3,000 by the end of #SPANC26.
- [Focus On Visual Journalism](#): To introduce speakers and awards within this area to ensure the organisation prioritises visual journalism more.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Clause 3 of the SPA's Constitution sets out that "the object of the SPA is to advance the education of student journalists in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland."

The SPA has carried out this object by:

- Hosting more than 20 informational training resources that are freely available on the SPA website. The SPA has also created further training resources and updated existing ones during this period.
- Facilitating collaboration and peer learning between student journalists from across the UK and the Republic of Ireland by providing social media platforms to host discussions. Currently, the charity works across LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter/X. Further communication between student journalists is facilitated through the work of the SPA's team of volunteer Regional Officers and Project Officers.
- Providing individual guidance to student journalists on request, including supporting them in defending their right to practice journalism.

The SPA has further carried out this object by:

- Organising the SPA National Conference in Exeter, the first time the event has been held in Devon, providing extensive vocational training for more than 200 student journalists over the course of a weekend. In addition:
 - To ensure this conference was accessible to the widest range of people possible, we ran a Financial Assistance Scheme, covering tickets, travel and accommodation for those who would be otherwise unable to attend. In total, five students made use of the fund.
 - The SPA also worked to secure £17,350 of sponsorship for the event, which was used to subsidise the sale of all tickets, and the highest figure to date.
 - Running a series of practical one-to-one sessions at the annual conference, including copy clinics, design drop-ins, and CV advice. These were used by dozens of student journalists across the weekend, allowing them to gain more personalised advice and journalistic education.
 - The SPA also collaborated with the external publisher Journo Resources to offer paid work and training for two student journalists, who reported from the event.
- Organising a national awards scheme, with 26 categories, offering student journalists the chance to get feedback on their work from professional journalists, as well as recognition. The SPA received more than 1,300 entries in 2023/24, the highest number received to date.
 - The SPA also ran a series of regional awards, offering further feedback and recognition to student journalists across all eight regions.
- Hosting a total of four regional conferences, free one day events hosted in Nottingham, Glasgow, London, and Cardiff to offer vocational training to students in a more accessible format.
 - In total almost 200 students registered for tickets, benefiting from the insights of some 30 expert speakers.
- Hosting a series of virtual workshops online and provided free of charge by external journalism experts and focused on skills relevant to student journalists, including [a breaking news workshop](#), a [media law masterclass](#), and a session on [ethics and editorial decision making](#).
- The launch of the Student Publication Association Podcast '[SPA Spotlight](#)', providing additional learning and on-demand insights for members in a new, audio format, across some six episodes.

Of the five projects listed directly above, all have been completed. In addition, work continued on the development of a membership hub for the charity's website, to create a more dynamic learning experience for members.

The Trustees are satisfied that, due to the freely accessible nature of resources produced and shared by the SPA this year, the SPA meets the statutory requirement to act for the public benefit. The Trustees have, through the course of the reporting period, referred to guidance

published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales relating to the public benefit requirement when making decisions.

During the reporting period, the SPA ran a Financial Assistance grant-issuing scheme. These grants were intended to cover the cost of attendance at the SPA's 2025 Annual Conference and were to be funded by a combination of restricted fund donations and through the SPA's general funds. The Trustees are satisfied that the grants would be issued in keeping with the SPA's object and public benefit, as they were specifically targeted at student journalists who would either be financially prohibited from attending the event or who face other barriers to journalistic education. The Trustees are also satisfied that grant money would be spent solely in support of these aims, as applications were reviewed by a sub-committee of the Trustees, and spending of the grant money is carried out directly by the SPA, or reimbursed on production of a receipt detailing approved expenses.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In keeping with the SPA's objectives, the Trustees identified four major goals relating to the organisation of events:

- To host a vocational conference focused on journalistic education, at a cost lower than comparable conferences.
- To run a bursary scheme to widen access to the conference, covering the costs of attendance.
- To host smaller-scale vocational conferences at locations across the country, at a free or nominal cost, to increase participation in training and education.
- To disseminate and promote the use of free-to-access resources hosted on our website.

All of these goals were completed within the reporting period.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of this reporting period, the SPA held a total of £5,761.87 in accounts managed by it. No funds of the SPA are materially in deficit.

Overall, the trustees were pleased with the significant progress made towards financial stability within the past 12 months, leaving the charity on track for its target of £10,000 in reserves by 2027. This can largely be attributed to the following changes, commissioned as part of a review into cash flow and procedures last year:

- A new digital expense reporting system and cashflow reporting was introduced, virtually eliminating missing receipts and payments on personal cards. The system also included expense codes, allowing the charity to compare spending against projections in real time, virtually eliminating unagreed overspend.

- A new speaker booking policy, including a points-based system, travel booking roles, and a booking procedure, allowed us to cut spend on this budget line by a third.
- A ticket levy was added to #SPANC25 tickets, as well as the option to add a suggested donation. This has raised some £428 for the charity in the reporting period.
- The organisation also registered for an employer charitable giving scheme, which significantly increased donations to the charity, from £364.76 in the previous reporting period to £1,456.60 in this period.
- The organisation also set up a second bank account for savings, to ensure reserved funds were held separately and have the opportunity to earn interest.

While the trustees are satisfied that the above measures constitute significant progress, they view financial resilience as an ongoing process, commissioning the following further measures for the next financial year, to further strengthen systems and stability:

- The creation of a long-term (10 year) strategy for the organisation, including exploring additional funding opportunities, such as grant funding, donor events, and alumni networks, as well as additional marketing and reputational enhancement activities.
- To explore further banking opportunities outside of the current Co-Operative account, to find a higher rate of interest for reserves.
- A new payment tracker column to the #SPANC26 budget to account for and track part-payments and deposits. In addition, a weekly role has been created to report back on all payments and finances to the wider team each week.
- The creation of a new budget tracker for regional conferences.
- To continue the investigations into GiftAid and VAT relief.

On the basis of the measures set out above, the trustees are satisfied that the SPA can continue to operate as a going concern, with a review of the above measures in the next reporting period.

EXEMPTIONS FROM DISCLOSURE

The SPA has not sought any exemptions from disclosure in accordance with applicable law.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The SPA has not acted as a custodian trustee on behalf of others during the reporting period.

Motion 1 - Reserves policy
Appendix 3

Proposed By: Jem Collins | Seconded By: Matthew Stothard

The Student Publication Association notes:

- At the 2024 AGM, members passed a new reserves policy. This was as follows:
 - The SPA aims to hold £10,000 in reserves by 2027, to ensure the long-term stability of the organisation;
 - At the conclusion of #SPANC25, the SPA held £3,648.98 in reserves as part of the work towards this goal.
 - Reserves must be held in a separate bank account.
- After the conclusion of #SPANC26, the SPA projects to add a further £3,000 to the reserved funding, through company time-matching donations. This will leave the organisation with some £6,600 held in reserves.

The Student Publication Association resolves:

- That the organisation has made progress in growing reserves and should continue with its goal of holding £10,000 in reserves by 2027.
- The organisation should aim to add a further £3,400 to reserves by the conclusion of #SPANC27 to further this goal.

Motion 2 - Trustee eligibility

Appendix 4

Proposed By: Ollie Cole | Seconded By: Jem Collins

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The following motion updates Clause 16 of the SPA constitution to ensure a twelve-month break between a person's role as either with the SPA, as an ex-officio trustee, member of the executive committee or holding of an officer role, or holding a role at a member publication, before any appointment or re-appointment as a trustee.

This clause was previously present in the SPA's constitution until 2020, when it was removed in error.

MOTION

Members of the Student Publication Association resolve to:

- Remove clause 16 (4) and (5) and (5) (a) and (5) (b)
- Replace with:

(4) No ex-officio trustee, member of the executive committee, holder of an officer role, or a holder of an active role at a member publication shall be eligible to be an elected trustee or appointed trustee until 12 months have passed since the end of their term as an ex-officio trustee, member of the executive committee or holding of an officer role or an active role at a member publication.

(5) For the purposes of sub-clauses 16(2), 16(3) and 16(4), a period in office shall only be considered a term so long as it lasts for a minimum of:

- (a) 24 months for an elected trustee;
- (b) 6 months for a trustee ex-officio trustee, member of the executive committee or holding of an officer role

Motion 3 - Introduction of a representation officer
Appendix 5

Proposed By: Emily Jordan | Seconded By: Matthew Stothard

The Student Publication Association notes:

Journalism is a field that struggles with diversity, equality and inclusion, as evidenced by the 2025 NCTJ Journalists at Work report.¹ With only 23% of journalists coming from a non-white background and 61% having a parent in one of the three highest occupational groups, the workforce has not always represented the communities it is meant to serve.

It is important for journalists to strive for diversity within the workforce to ensure that marginalised voices are heard, and their stories are told.

In line with the goals of the Student Publication Association (SPA), it is important for student journalists to feel represented and empowered by our work.

This year, the SPA has trialled having an appointed Representation Officer to monitor the organisation's approach to diversity, equality and inclusion, and to look for ways to improve opportunities for those underrepresented in journalism.

As the SPA's first Representation Officer, I have begun initial research into the proportion of Russell Group publications nominated and awarded at SPANC. I have also helped to lead this year's Financial Assistance Scheme efforts, something vitally important to ringfence funding to support getting people from underrepresented communities to SPANC - further improving the charity's equality efforts.

The Student Publication Association resolves:

To introduce the role of a Representation Project Officer to monitor the diversity, equality and inclusion of the SPA's work.

Bye-law 2: Officers, Project Officers

Add: "(e) Representation Officer

The Representation Officer's duties shall include:

- i. Monitor diversity, equality and inclusion across the SPAs work;
- ii. Be the team's lead on efforts related to the Financial Assistance Scheme; and
- iii. Assist members with any matters relating to diversity and inclusion"

[1]: <https://www.nctj.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Diversity-in-Journalism-2025.pdf>

Motion 4 - Expansion of responsibilities for the membership officer
Appendix 6

Proposed by: Joe McFadden | Seconded by: Heather Gosling

The Student Publication Association notes:

That there is currently an imbalance between responsibilities for executive committee officers. Currently, the regional conferences are overseen by the conference & events officer. This imbalance led to a pinch point during the SPANC bidding process in 2025/26 where the chair and conference & events officer were overwhelmed with regional conference planning alongside their other duties to the charity.

The Student Publication resolves:

To address this imbalance by amending bye-law four, section f to include a point widening responsibility for the regional conferences to the membership officer.

This amendment creates a mandate for the membership officer to support with the organisation and delivery of regional conferences in the hopes of avoiding a similar pinch point in future years, as well as further clarifying the role of membership officer for any prospective candidates.

Current text:

(f) Membership Officer

The Membership Officer's responsibilities include:

- (i) Onboarding new members of the SPA;
- (ii) Processing membership applications;
- (iii) Maintaining public and private lists of SPA member publications;
- (iv) Supporting member publications which require assistance from the SPA;
- (v) Supporting the work of the SPA's Regional Officers.

Proposed new text (addition shown in green):

(f) Membership Officer

The Membership Officer's responsibilities include:

- (i) Onboarding new members of the SPA;
- (ii) Processing membership applications;
- (iii) Maintaining public and private lists of SPA member publications;
- (iv) Supporting member publications which require assistance from the SPA;
- (v) Supporting the work of the SPA's Regional Officers.
- (vi) Supporting the organisation and delivery of regional conferences alongside the conference & events officer

Motion 5 - Communication officer responsibilities
Appendix 7

Proposed By: Geri Scott | Seconded By: Ollie Cole

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The following motion updates the role specification for both Communications Officer and Digital Media Officer to reflect the SPA's new online presence, and a renewed delegation of oversight and implementation between the two.

MOTION

Members of the Student Publication Association resolve to:

- Remove bye-law 2: Officers, Executive Officers, (c) Communications Officer and the inclusive numbered points, currently as follows:

(c) Communications Officer

The Communications Officer's responsibilities include:

- (i) Maintaining communication with the SPA's members
- (ii) Creating newsletters to be sent to SPA members
- (iii) Overseeing the management of the SPA's social media and website
- (iv) Taking and sharing minutes of all SPA meetings

- Replace with:

(c) Communications Officer

The Communications Officer's responsibilities include:

- (i) Maintaining communication with the SPA's members
- (iii) Overseeing the management of the SPA's social media and website
- (iii) Developing and maintaining a communications strategy for the SPA to interact with its members and stakeholders for the year ahead, and for the sprint strategy for the SPA's next national conference and awards
- (iv) Creating newsletters to be sent to SPA members
- (v) Taking and sharing minutes of all SPA meetings

Members of the Student Publication Association also resolve to:

- Remove bye-law 2: Officers, Project Officers, (a) Digital Media Officer and the inclusive numbered points, currently as follows:

(a) Digital Media Officer

The Digital Media Officer's duties shall include:

- (i) Maintaining the website of the SPA;

- (ii) Assisting the Executive Committee with the digitisation of projects; and
- (iii) Managing the SPA's social media.

The Digital Media Officer shall report to the Communications Officer.

- Replace with:

- (a) Digital Media Officer

- The Digital Media Officer's duties shall include:

- (i) Helping to maintain the website of the SPA;
 - (ii) Assisting the Executive Committee and Trustee Board with the digitisation of projects; and
 - (iii) Helping manage the SPA's social media and digital tools in implementing the SPA's communications plans

- The Digital Media Officer shall report to the Communications Officer.

Motion 6 - Appointment of trustees

Appendix 8

Proposed by: Joe McFadden | Seconded by: Matthew Stothard

The Student Publication Association notes:

The current process for recruiting an appointed trustee lacks clarity. This made the recruitment process for 2025/26 longer than necessary, to the detriment of both the existing SPA team and prospective trustee candidates. The following changes aim to clarify the process, giving the executive committee and trustee board clear steps to follow with the aim of reaching a consensus point earlier, thereby avoiding lengthy debate and disputes arising during the appointment process.

The Student Publication Association resolves:

To add the following wording into clause 13, section (3) of the SPA's constitution, alongside reordering the letters used as bullets for ease of reading.

Clause 13: Appointment of charity trustees, section (3) - Appointed Trustees:

Original text:

- (a) The Executive Committee, as defined in the Bye-Laws, ("the appointing body") may appoint four charity trustees.
- (b) Any appointment must be made at a meeting held according to the ordinary practice of the appointing body.
- (c) Each appointment must be ratified by a simple majority of existing charity trustees.
- (d) Annually, on a date specified in the ByeLaws and not less than 15 months since the last such date, one of the nominated charity trustees shall retire from office.
- (e) The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day the order of those to retire shall be determined by resolution confirming appointment. Absent such a resolution, those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;
 - (i) For the purpose of sub-clause (3)(e) of this clause, the date of appointment for a trustee who is appointed in accordance with sub-clause (3)(g) of this clause to replace a trustee who had previously retired or been removed in accordance with clause 15 shall be the date of appointment of the charity trustee that was replaced.
- (f) The appointment will be effective from the latter of:

(i) The date of vacancy; or

(ii) The date on which the charity trustees ratify the appointment.

(g) The appointing body may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause 15, or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified in clause 12(3) on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;

(h) The person appointed may not be a member of the appointing body;

(i) A trustee appointed by the appointing body has the same duty under clause 12(1) as the other charity trustees to act in the way they decide in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the SPA.

(j) The standard term length for an appointed trustee is three years.

Proposed new text (additions shown in green):

(a) The Executive Committee, as defined in the Bye-Laws, (“the appointing body”) may appoint four charity trustees.

(b) When a vacancy for an appointed trustee arises, the executive committee and trustee board must meet as soon as is conveniently possible to discuss the appointment of a new trustee. At said meeting, the executive committee and trustee board must agree upon a list of criteria - in line with advancing the SPA’s charitable objectives as stated in clause 3 - to judge applications for recruitment of a new appointed trustee against. The criteria should be agreed upon by a simple majority of all persons present, including any proxy votes. The chair, in conjunction with other members of the executive committee and trustee board, must lead the recruitment process through methods including, but not limited to:

(i) The completion of an application form to join the trustee board

(ii) Submissions of CVs

(iii) Recorded interviews of shortlisted candidates

If no candidate is deemed suitable by the executive committee and trustee board, then a vote to reopen applications must be passed with a simple majority.

(c) Any appointment must be made at a meeting held according to the ordinary practice of the appointing body.

(d) Each appointment must be ratified by a simple majority of existing charity trustees.

(e) Annually, on a date specified in the ByeLaws and not less than 15 months since the

last such date, one of the nominated charity trustees shall retire from office.

(f) The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day the order of those to retire shall be determined by resolution confirming appointment. Absent such a resolution, those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;

(i) For the purpose of sub-clause (3)(e) of this clause, the date of appointment for a trustee who is appointed in accordance with sub-clause (3)(g) of this clause to replace a trustee who had previously retired or been removed in accordance with clause 15 shall be the date of appointment of the charity trustee that was replaced.

(g) The appointment will be effective from the latter of:

(i) The date of vacancy; or

(ii) The date on which the charity trustees ratify the appointment.

(h) The appointing body may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause 15, or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified in clause 12(3) on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;

(i) The person appointed may not be a member of the appointing body;

(i) A trustee appointed by the appointing body has the same duty under clause 12(1) as the other charity trustees to act in the way they decide in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the SPA.

(j) The standard term length for an appointed trustee is three years.

Motion 7: provide a percentage of income to funding opportunities for members

Appendix 9

Proposed by: Oisín McGilloway | Seconded by: Isabella Ankersen

The Student Publication Association (SPA) notes that:

- The seventh bye-law (the “Reserves Policy”) of the Governing Documents states that the SPA must aim “to hold £10,000 in reserves, within three years of this bye-law’s enactment (FY27).”
- Members voted to renew the fourth bye-law (the “Reserves Policy”) at the 2024/25 annual general meeting (AGM), adding a further £3,000 to the reserves at the conclusion of SPANC25.
- As per the Trustees’ Annual Report, we are still on track to meet this aim, with a surplus.
- Many of our member publications are currently facing cuts to their funding, which is negatively impacting the operation and success of their publications.

The SPA resolves that:

- As much as 5% of the total money intended to be placed in reserves upon the conclusion of SPANC26 should be ringfenced to fund project grants for members.
- 5% would require an additional £260 (per year, approx.) for these projects.
- Members can apply for this funding for specific projects. This could include (but is not limited to):
 - Purchasing or renting equipment for multimedia reporting and/or content;
 - Paying for software that will diversify a member publication’s digital presence (such as an app);
 - Printing costs that aren’t subsidised by student unions or universities;
 - Paying for specialist training in specific areas of journalism.
- While it isn’t a requirement, the SPA should aim to ringfence 5% of income intended for reserves at the conclusion of each AGM until the fulfilment of the Reserves Policy, though this is subject to the funds available.
- This money should come from the money proposed for *general reserves* as outlined in the Reserves Policy (as opposed to targeted sponsorship and/or fundraising).

Contingency

- As this motion is conditional, we assign the ability of the trustees to override the addendum if:
 - (a) The Reserves Policy is not renewed by a vote at the AGM before the stated deadline (FY27).
 - (b) The aim of the Reserves Policy has not been achieved by FY27.

(c) The total income proposed for reserves is projected to be above £10,000 by FY27, but not enough to warrant this allocation.

- In the event of (c), the trustees must provide adequate reasoning for this decision, as it is reflected in the annual report of the reserves position, mandated at each annual general meeting by the Reserves Policy.
- If the Reserves Policy is rejected at an AGM, as per the Governing Documents, “the reserves policy shall not be immediately amended or discarded, but the trustees must propose an amended motion no less than 30 days after the rejection. This process shall be repeated until a motion on the SPA’s reserves policy is approved by its members.” It is then within the power of the trustees to decide whether an amended motion should add the addendum (if it is removed from the original motion to renew) or remove the addendum (if it is included in the original motion to renew).

Motion 8: Ireland and Northern Ireland Regional Strategy

Proposed By: Jack Walsh | Seconded By: Jem Collins

The Student Publication Association notes:

- The SPA formally voted to expand its provision to the Republic of Ireland (ROI) in 2015. A single SPA region was created covering the whole island of Ireland and combined two jurisdictions — the ROI and Northern Ireland, which is one of the four nations of the United Kingdom (UK). This is a unique situation.
- The region is physically separated from the other seven SPA regions.
- Since 2022, the region's membership has increased by 26 publications, from 16 to 42 as of February 2026. This has corresponded to higher levels of engagement with the SPA by the region's members.
- While the media landscape in Northern Ireland is intrinsically linked with the other nations of the UK, the media landscape in the ROI differs at both a student and national level.

The Student Publication Association resolves:

- To commit to the creation of a strategy for the growth and support of Irish members and to report back to the conference on progress in 2027.
- To hold a consultation with the region's members as part of this process, which will be led by the Executive Committee in conjunction with the Ireland and Northern Ireland Regional Officer and include other relevant members of the wider team, notably the Trustee Board.

** The process of creating this strategy should take account of the unique configuration of the region and focus on ways to further integrate it with the other seven SPA regions, as well as looking at how to increase and facilitate better engagement between members of the region's two jurisdictions.*

*** This strategy could include, but is not limited or bound to, organising a larger regional conference or additional events to reflect the difficulty for members in travelling to SPANC, recruiting trustees based in the region, and making efforts to secure sponsors from the region.*

Motion 9: Introduction of a volunteer network

Proposed by: Joe McFadden | Seconded by: Matthew Stothard

The Student Publication notes:

That the SPA is undertaking increasingly ambitious projects at a higher frequency than ever before - stretching the limits of how much a small team of 28 volunteers can achieve. As a charity, the SPA can call upon volunteers who are not members of the trustee board, executive committee or regional and project officer groups to assist with the delivery of its core goal; namely to advance the education of student journalists in the UK and Ireland, as set out in clause 3 of the constitution.

This was informally piloted to great effect during the 2025/26 year when the national awards shortlisting period needed to be unexpectedly truncated due to logistical matters outside the SPA's control. A group of alumni - formerly of both the SPA executive committee and its member publications - stepped up to assist with shortlisting so the SPA could stay on track with its organisation for SPANC. Alongside this, external experts, acting in a capacity as volunteers, can also be called upon for their specialist knowledge - for example areas like law, campaigning and finances - to assist with specific projects the SPA is undertaking or advise upon matters requiring technical expertise. This means that within a wider volunteer network either a singular or multiple advisory boards could also be established to help advance the stated goals of the SPA, providing the executive committee and trustee board with independent advice.

The Student Publication Association resolves:

The SPA's trustee board should set up a volunteer network made up of graduated members, former trustees and other industry professionals to assist with the delivery of projects as guided by the executive committee. Within this, the trustee board should also investigate establishing an advisory board with the specific goal of providing advice and expertise on important matters that may arise, in addition to the standard delivery of projects such as training resources and events.

The trustee board should report back to the membership at the 2026/27 annual general meeting to outline the steps they have taken to establish such a network, with information provided on the types of projects it has assisted with and any measurements of success applicable.

Motion 10: National Conference bidding

Proposed by: Ali Rees | Seconded by: Jem Collins

The Student Publication Association notes:

- SPANC and the AGM have historically been held in England most often; it was last held in Scotland in 2023 and in Wales in 2018. It has never been held in Ireland or Northern Ireland. This can create financial barriers to access for those from these locations.
- Last year, a motion was passed at the AGM to ensure, where practicable, the conference moves between the eight regions of the SPA each year, but stops short of taking into account region's location compared to one another.
- During the previous year, the SPA has implemented some changes to increase the diversity and accessibility of bidding, by adding an expression of interest stage. This has led to more bids than in previous years.

The SPA resolves:

- To update Bye-Law four to give specific consideration to the countries that make up the SPA.
 - **Old Text:** The charity executive and trustee board will follow agreed guidance to ensure that the host, where possible, moves between regions and publications each year to ensure equal participation and opportunity for all members and their publications, as laid out in the decision-making process policy (2025).
 - **New Text:** The charity executive and trustee board will follow agreed guidance to ensure that the host, where possible, moves between regions, **countries**, and publications each year to ensure equal participation and opportunity for all members and their publications.
- To add to Bye-Law four to make sure the criteria are made public.
 - **The SPA shall publicly publish a list of criteria bids will be judged against each year. They shall also publish reasoning for their decisions each year.**
- The executive committee and trustee board shall report back at the next AGM as to what actions are being taken to encourage and improve bids from a larger number of hosts.

Motion 11: Use of AI in student journalism

Proposed By: Sophie Layton | Seconded By: Joe McFadden

The Student Publication Association notes:

- The rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is an inevitable development in scientific discovery, bringing with it a tranche of new opportunities & challenges for its users & for wider society.
- The use of AI is currently being explored by a range of industries & professional bodies, including individual journalists, publications & institutions for a variety of purposes.
- Generative AI (GenAI) technologies are an example of one such technology, allowing a simple prompt to generate responses in a variety of mediums, including text, image, video & multimedia.
- The accuracy of AI & GenAI technologies, whilst improving, is significantly flawed in many respects, often producing inaccurate, artificial or fabricated information, requiring human oversight to ascertain.
- AI & GenAI technologies are a significant drain on natural resources.
- Detection of AI technology is an inexact practice & cannot be deduced with certainty.
- It is currently unknown how student publications are engaging with AI technologies & what impact or influence this is having on their journalist output, or engagement with the Student Publication Association.
- Transparency is essential when using AI & GenAI technologies to avoid the spread of mis- or disinformation.

The Student Publication Association resolves:

- To proactively & continually work to understand how its members & contributors are using AI technologies in their work & journalistic output.
- To proactively & continually work to understand how the wider journalism industry is using AI technologies in its work & journalistic output.
- To explore the possibility of including training & guidance on the responsible use of AI technologies in future Student Publication Association training opportunities, including sessions, workshops & conference programmes.
- To include checks during submissions to Student Publication Association projects, including SPA Spotlight, Regional Awards, National Awards, & other relevant projects, for the disclosure of the use of AI technologies in its production.
 - For Regional Award & National Award nominations, this should include one disclosure regarding AI use in the production of the piece, project, content or other material itself, as well as a separate disclosure detailing the use of AI in producing the application.

Lifetime memberships

Appendix 14

Proposed by: Joe McFadden | Seconded by: Jem Collins

The Student Publication Association notes:

- Lifetime membership is a ceremonial honour that can be bestowed upon someone members believe “had a significant impact on the wider student media community”.
- Jack Walsh, formerly the Deputy-Editor of Polity, has been an integral member of the SPA team for three years now.
- Serving two terms as the Ireland & Northern Ireland Officer in 2023/24 and 2025/26, he organised two Irish regional conferences for over 70 delegates, with the former being the first SPA regional conference held since the Covid-19 pandemic.
- He has also significantly expanded the SPA’s Irish membership, doubling the number of registered publications across his tenure.
- Jack Walsh has also established the makings of an SPA Ireland & Northern Ireland strategy (a plan to improve the charity’s offerings for members across the Irish sea) after running the inaugural Irish event in SPA history.
- Jack also served one-term as chair in 2024/25, expanding the SPA’s regional conference programme to include events in the Midlands, London, Scotland and Wales, and running the hugely successful SPANC25 in Exeter.

The Student Publication Association resolves:

- To award lifetime membership of the SPA to Jack Walsh.