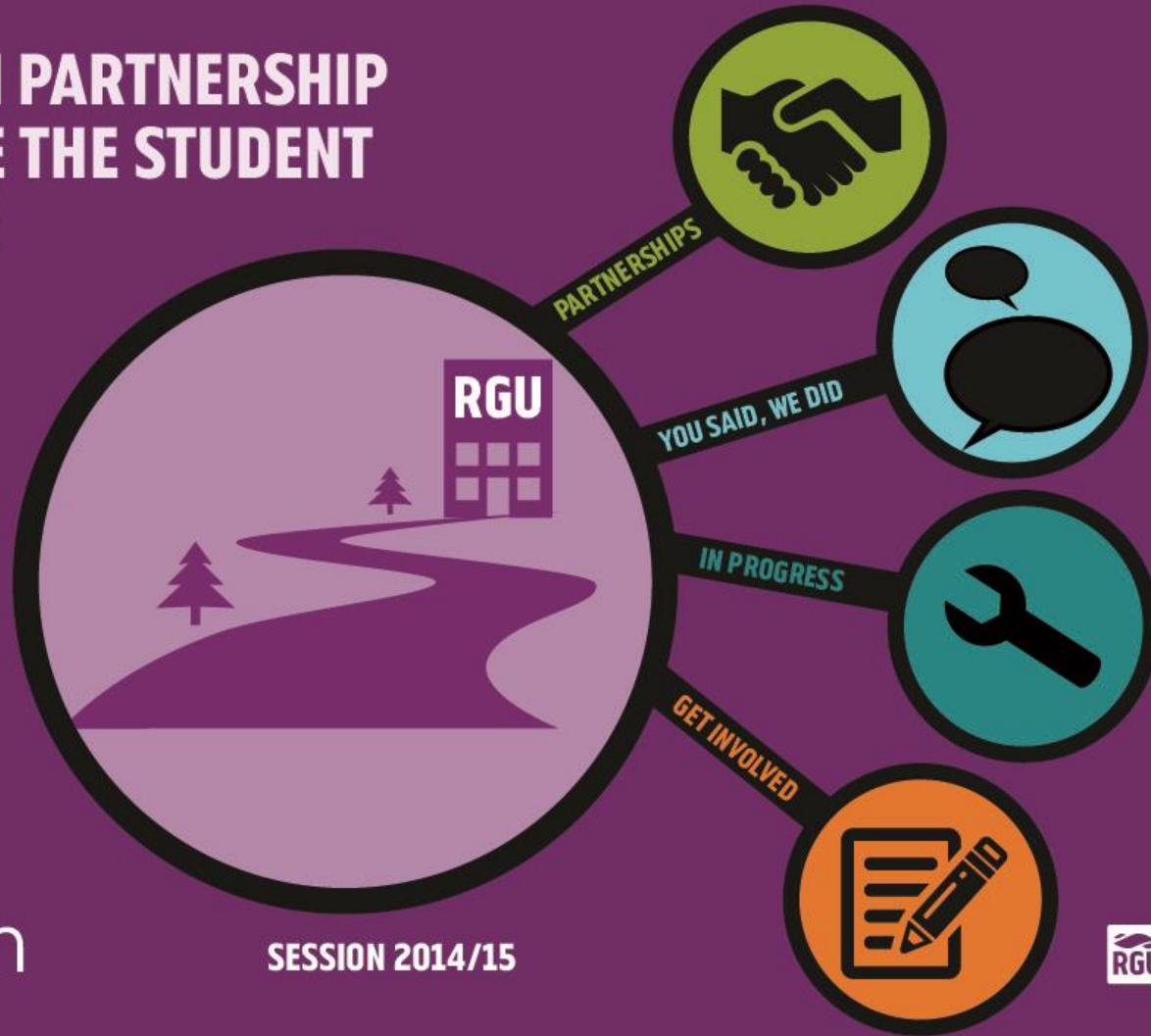


# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



rgu:union

SESSION 2014/15

 **ROBERT GORDON  
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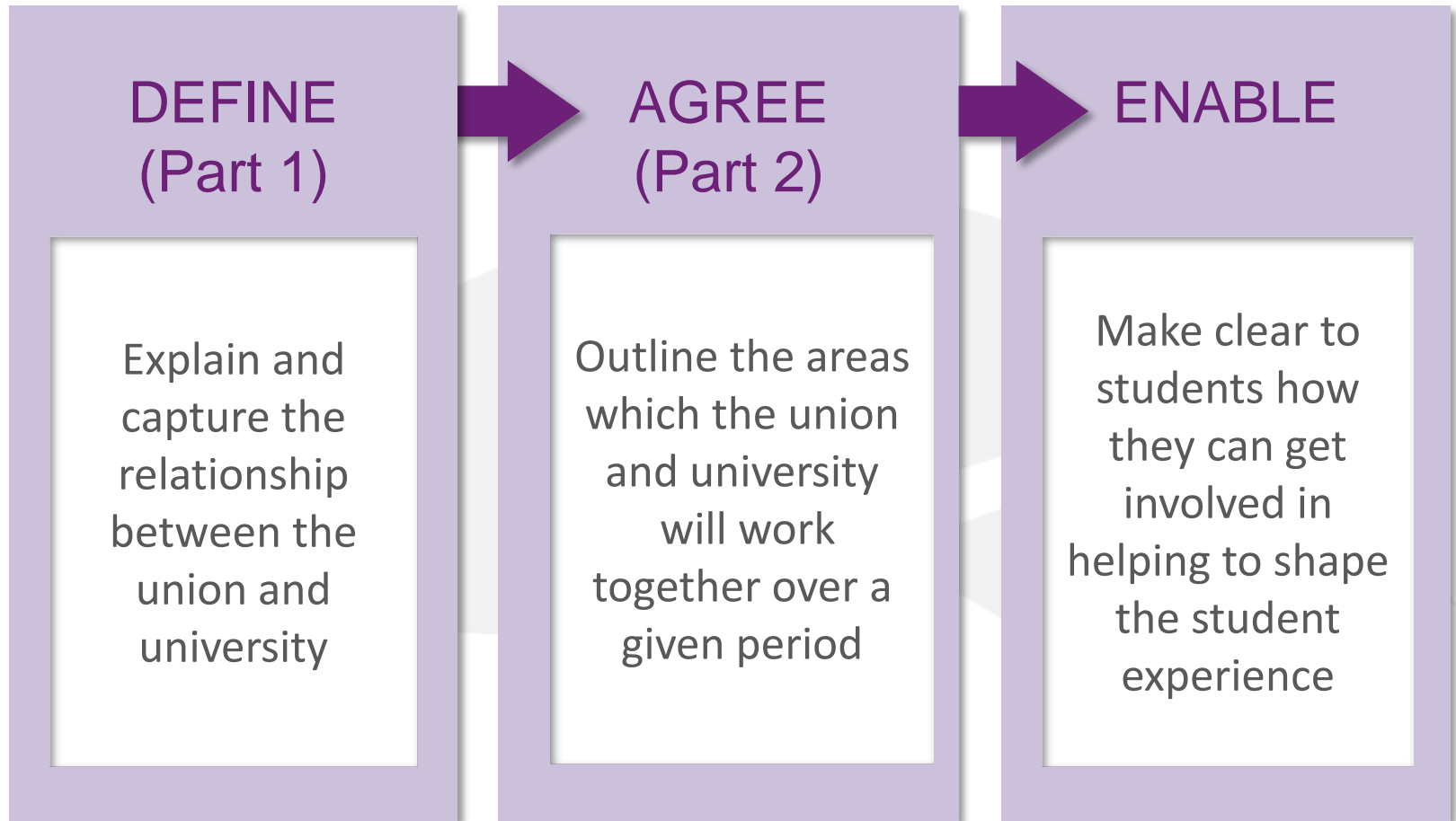
Projects and Quality Coordinator  
President Democracy and Communications

# KEY MESSAGES

- Context of overarching university and union strategies
- Development of RGU's *Student Partnership Agreement (SPA)*
- Journey to date
- Awareness raising
- Further development and next steps...



# AIM of student partnership agreements



# SPA PART 1: ETHOS

- Recognises the desire to create a community, and environment, which stimulates:
  - **participation of students**, by empowering them to proactively provide views and opinions
  - **a supportive learning community** where students and staff engage in meaningful consultation which provides robust awareness of students' views and opinions
  - engagement of students in the **design of solutions**



# SPA PART 2: THEMES

- 2013/14
  - Embedding the Student Faculty Officer role
  - Campus Community
  - Learning Expectations relating to Assessment Feedback
- Evolution in 2014/15 to:
  - Representation at School/Department Level
  - Campus Socialisation and Atmosphere
  - Health and Well-being



# THEME AIMS: REPRESENTATION EXAMPLE

## YEAR 1 - FACULTY

To increase the impact of Student Faculty Officers, key objectives included ensuring:

- Timely appointment
- Appropriate induction and support
- Increased awareness of the role
- Identification of project activities

## YEAR 2 - SCHOOL

To ensure that representational structures, at School level, provide an effective mechanism:

*‘for engaging students, individually and collectively, as partners in the assurance and enhancement of their educational experience’.*



# THEME OUTPUTS:

## Campus community

- Extended opening hours for catering outlets
- Noticeboards / Policy
- WHATSONRGU project
- Initial re-purposing of existing social space

In progress:

- Further development of social spaces, soft seating
- Picnic tables
- Microwaves for student use

## Health and well-being

- Healthy university / Fit for the Future
- Nightline
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Intramural Sports Events
- Rainbow laces campaign
- Future events – e.g. Munro Stair Challenge and Darkness into light walk.





# RGU:Union Perspective

- What does partnership mean? (Student Perspective)
  - Matching Strategic Priorities
  - Two-way street, encouraging input from the institution
- What does partnership do for students?
  - Equal playing field
  - Student Responsibility
- Moving forward in partnership
  - Developing partnership
  - Challenging ourselves / seeing change.



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# AWARENESS RAISING



**PARTNERSHIPS**

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Make sure you **complete** your **Student**

**YOU SAID WE DID**  
DUE TO STUDENT FEEDBACK THE UNIVERSITY HAS

**IMPROVED YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME**  
Provided 120 new additional bed spaces, as well as invested in the ongoing refurbishment of specific sites.

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# Further development...

- Recognition of university-wide focus of themes to date:
  - Encouragement of all students and staff to consider how they can engage – across academic areas as well as support departments
  - Empowering students to take responsibility for their learning:
    - Using reflection as a strategy to enhance students' engagement in their learning
    - Feedback-rich assessment empowering students as active participants in learning activities
  - Student engagement in curriculum design and service delivery:
    - Staff listening to and engaging students; challenging students to play a part in delivering solutions for change
    - Students as co-creators of curriculum: taking responsibility, becoming independent learners



# NEXT STEPS...

- Discussion of possible themes for 2015/16
- Consideration of mechanisms to measure outputs and impact of themes
- Development of cyclical, and on-going, communications to raise awareness and understanding



# Further information

- Web [www.rgu.ac.uk/student-involvement](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/student-involvement)
- Email [studentinvolvement@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:studentinvolvement@rgu.ac.uk)

