

Pro-Chancellor,

Alan James has helped thousands of students to make the most of their university experience as General Manager of SUBU* – BU's Students' Union – for the past 25 years. Over this time, he has become known for his empowering approach to leadership, as well as his ability to co-ordinate the energies and interests of the union's staff and full-time elected officers.

Alan was born and raised in Liverpool. His parents were strong believers in the power of education and Alan recalls his father – who was originally a joiner – attending night classes to retrain as a teacher. This change of vocation enabled the family to move out to the suburbs and Alan obtained a place at a grammar school, before becoming the first in his family to attend university. He completed a degree in hotel and catering management at the University of Surrey,