



OFFICER REPORTS – STUDENT COUNCIL

President's Report

October 2019 Student Council

Gemma Lovegrove

Summary

Summer was busy with training the new Officers, receiving training myself and handing over to the new Sabbaticals, as well as planning for Freshers 2019 and Welcome and Induction Week. Went through committee structures in order to make them more student owned spaces, taking out staff so that students feel in control of them. Welcome weekend was a busy couple of days spreading the word of the Union and handing out Wristbands, we had hundreds of students through the door, but still not as many as were at Union Day. Thanks to the collaboration of Union Staff, University Staff, Officers and Students, Union Day was a massive success with thousands of students making enquiries and signing up to sports and societies.

Key Talking Points:

Created a working group for updating the bye-laws and reviewing the structures of committees that feed into Student Council. Met with Kathryn Kendon, the academic registrar to address a few issues and ideas before the start of term, including student voice on disciplinary panels and the issues of an opt in membership. We have had a few teething issues again, despite being reassured that the data transfer would not be an issue. Helped to fill the gap left when our Academic Advisor left and helped to settle new position once appointed. Along with Cameron, we have been working hard on Open Days and our presence and impact on the day. Created a new presentation for Open Days, VIP days, lecture shout outs and for the International Students Event that we held in order to increase engagement and be more integral to more students. Created a visual traffic light system so that students can clearly see how close Sabbaticals are to achieving their manifesto points that they were elected on. Secured some free sanitary products which are now available in the Students' Union to students.

Report

Manifesto Pledges

Support- IN PROGRESS Working on building links with community providers to secure some training, in particular, the India Protocol, who can teach things such as bystander intervention and keeping each other safe. Completed an anti-spiking event on Fresher's biggest Weds evening in which Katy and I made sure students were conscious of their drinks, handed out anti-spiking drinks toppers and

spoke to students about staying together and using the safe route home. Identified vulnerable students and ensured they were home safely without incidence on three occasions at the Platform alongside security. Working to a closer relationship with Campus Police to ensure that we know what issues our students are facing. Working closer with Head of Student Services to ensure that our students know where to go when they need extra support, including meeting with them regarding the new Financial Support forms. Working alongside the previous Sports Coordinator to ensure that Wednesday Sports are secured for students and that students are aware that they can attend so long as they liaise with their lecturers. Sharing posters about creating new Academic societies and speaking to new students about the benefits of doing so.

Voice – IN PROGRESS Transparency in Officers, new online traffic light system to see progress of elected officers. Blogs to ensure that there is something every week from one of your Officers which can be found on the website. Held Tea and Talks with students such as commuter, mature etc, to discover what the SU can do to support them in their student journey, did not get many attend, so have been on social media to try and reach out to those students, will hold more in the future when timetables are a little less hectic.

Facilities – IN PROGRESS Timetabling and access for our student groups has been difficult, I am trying to speak with the relevant people to ensure that students have a reason to stay after studying on campus. This will be an ongoing task. Continuing to look for more campaigns to deliver on campus including Consent, safe sex and safety on campus.

Other Activities

Free Sanitary products available, will be looking for out of hours provisions such as with Res Life. Hall Talks delivered to residents on Waterside, although poorly attended (they are supposed to be compulsory) it is still a valuable opportunity to communicate the SU and its offerings to new students. Community forums to listen to local resident's concerns and share in the good work of our students.

I would like to congratulate our Disability Officer, Catriona Doyle on securing a place on the Student Leadership Programme whereby she can help to develop her peers as well as her own skills and contribute to the future of Podiatry, we are certain you will go on to achieve great things!

Mandates

[As an Officer, if you have been mandated to do some work, provide a brief summary of what you have done to achieve the results required in the mandate.]

None yet received

Declarations

[Here is where you declare any gifts or benefits received]

None