

SU OFFICER UPDATES – DECEMBER 2024

SU President

Update/Working on:

Standpoint from a previous year:

The SU believes that all students, regardless of their year of study should have access to high quality, affordable accommodation at an accessible distance from campus.

Continuing with the work around renters' reform bill, I have collaborated with a couple of Summit members to reach out to the wider student community to gather evidence for the renters' reform bill. This issue was also addressed at the student forum we held on the 26th of November with local council and the Student Community Partnership.

Attended WonkHE's conference 'The festival of Higher Education' in London on the 12 and 13 of November. It was a great opportunity to engage with other officers and stakeholders of the HE sector in general. We brought back a lot of things to look at, especially around the new government and its implications for HEIs.

Attended Council and Senate meetings, where the new cap in tuition fees came up. We were in the uncomfortable position of not having received any notice that the new fees would be approved at the council meeting, so we put it in the minutes that we were not supportive of the decision being made without student feedback.

Presented the Top 10 to Council, and agreed on the KPIs and measures of success with the University, as well as next steps for the Top 10 as a whole.

Met the University's new head of public affairs and started conversations on possible common areas of work. We'll particularly follow up on the approach of jointly gathering evidence for bills going through the house of commons, once the call for evidence for them has been done. This, of course, will only be done in cases where we have a joint approach with the University.

Lobbying the University on their digital accessibility policy, to make sure it meets OfS B conditions, especially condition B2 (which talks about access to Wi-Fi, and devices that are needed to succeed in your studies).

Attended the University's second strategic away day. The University priorities have been decided as: laying foundations for the future; and improving our global reputation. More to be done on influencing this plan so it represents students in the best possible way.

Upcoming work

Recruitment for the new deputy vice-chancellor: the interviews are on December 4.

Concerns

The new government guidance on tuition fees and how that might affect students at Bath. Would appreciate SUMMIT's input on this.

Education Officer**Update/Working on:**

- Finishing the IMC phrasebank (it is so so near the end right now as I write this, and I hope it is done by Dec 2nd), and finding a permanent place for it to live
- Finalising our University Challenge application
- Trans policy for graduation - consulted with LGBT+ group trans rep, passed on to registry alongside data concerns. Being tracked in enquiries tracker.
- Academic rep feedback tool testing (watch this space for the launch!)
- Speaking at WonkHE
- Even more faculty forums, and introducing catch-ups independently with faculty reps
- DAG x VC meet to talk about all things disability
- Course-level survey workshopping with reps

Just as a fun aside - I got my level 1 in Cheese and celebrated by going to Pick n Cheese which is all you can eat conveyer belt cheese - it was glorious. Also applying for GBBO !

Upcoming work:

- Making a "all you need to know about engagement monitoring" info piece
- Student voice session for engagement monitoring with Ben Goose
- Academic Rep review consultation with current academic reps
- VC breakfast for UG academic reps!

Concerns/wish for input:

- What do you currently know your academic rights are? How would this best be disseminated
- Increased tuition fees
- Degree outcomes awarding gaps - if you are a WP student, where have you found support most useful?

Activities Officer**Working on:**

- Training the new PG society committees so they are up to speed and can start doing events.
- Adjusting society affiliation times to make for an easier workload for staff.
- Working on applying for the Green Impact Sustainability award.
- Engaging with Wera Hobhouse MP on joining the All Party Parliamentary Group for Students.
- Finalising what an ideal version of academic communities looks like.
- Changing how we do general committee work shops to create a more flexible approach. We will now be hosting drop in sessions for the majority of societies.

Upcoming Work:

- Opening the Hindu Prayer space on the 1st week of December.
- Planning the next Freedom challenge- which brought in £10,000 last year.
- Working to create more exhibition space for non-performing arts groups.
- Santa dash
- Masquerade ball
- Planning Refresh Week

Concerns:

N/A

Community Officer**Update/Working on:**

- Organising a Local Councillor forum so that students can ask their representatives about local issues, helping integrate students into the Community
- Organising a housing mixer before the release of Student Pad
- Facilitated 24 students in the early arrivals scheme
- Discussing the Housing Survey results with the relevant stakeholders
- Liaising with Hall Reps in order to assist them in resolving issues with their accommodations

- Represented the SU at Multiple events with key stakeholders from the City

Upcoming work:

- On the interview panel for key staff positions for both the SU and the University
- Birthday Bus pass Marketing Campaign
- Implementing a University Housing Strategy
- Inputting into the University's new Travel Action Plan
- Inputting into the creation of a new Bus Route (watch this space)

Concerns/wish for input:

- Concerned over the Placement split between Business and Architecture students
- Concerned about the impact of the Renters Reform Bill on the housing market

Sport Officer

Updates:

Athletics forum: Have had meetings with TeamBath correspondence in order to get this started, have had approval for this to go ahead so have made a proposal for this in Semester 2

Town Vs Gown: Have sent out initial interest form to sport clubs. Have had a few responses so next step is messaging the local clubs for those sports.

Committee Networking: Have decided on a date and booked the Tub for the start of Semester 2. Will create a pub quiz tailored to committees, and a few icebreakers where necessary with Angus.

Sport Inclusion week: Not much to update on, have a first draft to send out to clubs and hopefully will have this out to clubs by Summit.

TOP 10: Good progress on both of my top 10. The SU now shows preferred names over legal names, and there are actions in place for the digital systems to communicate better, and manual staff training to regularly update their own mailing systems in their respective departments. The SULIS club renovation has had quotes from contractors, with fair pricing so should be put out to tender soon. We want 6 changing rooms but may only get 4- only concern at the moment.

Welfare: Will update this more in third Summit meeting, after next Sport Exec meeting.

Playground games: Has been refined to Hide and Seek, proposal written up, need to check a few things but should be ready to find a date and promote.

Trans swimming sessions: Am waiting for the SU transgender rep to get back for any progress here.

Previous standpoint: ENGAGEMENT MONITORING

No concerns from me, am happy with it!

Postgraduate Officer

Update/Working on:

The results from the PTES are concerning, and we need a plan of action to identify gaps and opportunities moving forward. The new curriculum transformation, along with potential pilot buddying schemes, should help address the specific areas where Bath is falling behind. This issue has been discussed in several university meetings and is a high priority this year.

The incredible work and time our representatives dedicate to enhancing the student voice is essential. Recognising and rewarding these representatives not only boosts their motivation but also reinforces the importance of their contributions. Since postgraduate representatives are still new to their roles, we are ensuring they have more opportunities to engage, such as attending VC Breakfasts, executive meetings, and SSLCs where they feel valued and heard.

Regarding the postgraduate strategy and skills development—my two main focus areas from the TOP 10—progress is ongoing. We are committed to pushing the university to address the gaps highlighted in the feedback we receive from representatives during faculty forums. It's important that we establish achievable KPIs to accomplish this year's objectives.

Upcoming Work:

Recruitment of new PVC Global: I am involved in the entire process, including serving on the interview panel. This new position at the university aims to ensure we have a diverse student community and hopefully address several key issues.

Recruitment of PGT Careers Consultant: I am engaged in the full process and on the interview panel. This position is one of my deliverables, focused on enhancing the skills development and career opportunities for Postgraduate Taught (PGT) students.

Winter Graduation Ceremony: I am excited about this event, as it marks my own graduation ceremony while also serving as a point of contact between the Students' Union and the university.

Analysis of Advice and Support from previous years, particularly regarding Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs).

Concerns:

PTES submission rates and poor numbers in overall satisfaction.

Most of the work upcoming and in progress might not actually benefit the current cohort, and its always dicey because of the nature of how PG programs work and their stay here at the university only for a year.