

# SU Officer Updates – March 2025

## SU President

### Working on:

- Organising a second student-councillors forum, considering the feedback from the last one – including from SUMmit members about not having had a notetaker there. This is likely to happen on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March at Guildhall, but I will confirm this as soon as possible.
- In response to question from SUMmit members about collaboration with the SU at Bath Spa, I have started having regular one-to-ones with the president of Bath Spa. We've discussed potential work together around buses and campaigning for more affordable tickets, as well as joint lobbying to parliament for future bills that will impact students.
- Training for the vice-chair and other new open space members of SUMmit.
- Working on potential suggestions for a new set of terms of reference to amend SUMmit at the end of this academic year.
- Organising elections, supporting candidates, and working with the rest of the democratic procedures team to respond to all complaints and comments.
- Together We Shape Tomorrow work – launching the report to university staff, students, and the wider Higher Education sector.

### Upcoming work:

- Attending the Wonkhe conference 'Secret Life of Students' as a speaker to present Together We Shape Tomorrow.
- Speaking at a national QAA conference about effective quality and enhancement in action – will also take the chance to talk about TWST and the possibility of changing the sector's approach to innovation in teaching and student experience.
- Attending a board meeting for the Quality Assurance Agency in London.
- Participating in the visit of three members of parliament (separately – Brian Mathew MP, Claire Hazelgrove MP, and Dan Norris MP) to campus, to talk about student issues and how they can best support us. This is organised by the university's public affairs team, and I was invited to meet them.
- Interviewing candidates for our external trustee vacancy in the SU board.
- Meeting the new deputy vice-chancellor to talk about SU priorities, but especially how we are looking at how there can be more consistency in the offer between faculties to their students.

- Shortlisting for SU Group Awards.
- Working at Varsity!

#### Concerns

- Making sure we give our incoming officers the best possible handover in a way that provision of representation isn't interrupted and our top 10s and priorities aren't lost once we leave.
- Making sure we make the right amends to the terms of reference for SUMmit, so we continue to improve the committee and the work that we do.

### Education Officer

#### Working on:

- Graduation guides for disabled and trans students following the new graduation policies. Currently being checked by Registry
- Promotion of the Officer roles – including Q&A sessions, demographic procedures etc
- Quizzes for a range of info across general support services and assessment issues
- Applying what Jiji, Charlie and I learnt from our Wonkhe Visegrad trip across new SU ventures
- A whole host of hiring – such as for the new Head of Voice in the SU, and Student Success Programme Manager (for the new Claverton Scholarship!!)
- The TWST launch!

#### Upcoming work:

- DAPs at a glance work – currently scoping what is currently viewable to staff and how they access it to inform comms
- Promoting TWST across the University – currently specifically working with the Library, but looking towards HoDs/ADEs/Deans and the Disability Team as this also ties in with current Top 10 work

#### Concerns:

- The exams department in Academic Registry are currently experiencing a lot of sick staff off – so I am concerned that this may affect how quickly we will hear back about some issues raised about exams (e.g., being seated in tiered lecture theatres)
- Slight concern, but also very excited for the new Education Awards. We have moved to the Guildhall and changed the catering etc to fit in more students due to student feedback. We have already scoped out physical and sensory accessibility (the latter of which has previously been an

issue at the Apex), but as this is all new I obviously have a bit of nerves about it ! :)

## Activities Officer

Working on:

- Promoting SU officer elections.
- Winter graduations.
- Opened Prayer Hindu Prayer Space on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- Reforming the Arts Performance calendar to be fairer by introducing a bidding process. This ensures not just Arts groups can put on shows.
- Wrote a blog for Higher Education Policy Institute about widening participation.
- Put on Lunar New Year arts and crafts event.
- Started promotion of Freedom challenge.
- Launched Together We Shape Tomorrow- our sector leading research on what students want out of their experience in Bath.
- Attended University Court.
- Had the Vice Chancellor at Happy Hour.

Upcoming work:

- Freedom challenge actually happening!
- Beginning preparations for handing over to the next Activities Officer
- Submission of Green Impact – a sustainability award.
- SU Group awards shortlisting.
- Arts Scholars Showcase
- Meeting John Blake, Director for Fair Access and Participation.

Concerns:

N/A

## Community Officer

Working on:

- Preparing for Be Well Week
- The Future of Nightline
- Expanding Low-Sensory hours across the University
- 0% interest free loans for Bus Passes
- Together We Shape Tomorrow Launch
- Winter Graduation Ceremonies
- Being on the Interview Panel for the SU Democracy and Change Manager
- R7 Accommodation Project plans

Upcoming work:

- SU Groups Award Shortlist
- Sensory friendly study space push with senior University staff

## Postgraduate Officer

Working on:

- Postgraduate Summers – Planning to start a year-on-year postgraduate event to give them a sense of belonging and student experience when the undergraduates are not here and get back the campus buzzing.
- Employability Map for PGs. Drafting and consultation from students.

- Interviewing PG Career Consultant to develop a plan for postgraduates and enhance their career development.
- Engagement with Reps through plans and effective ways of getting feedback from PGs.
- Action Plans from different departments and faculties are coming up to figure out a way to improve numbers in PRES and PTES, especially in the areas where the bath is lacking from other universities.
- Recreational sports offer for PGs.
- Academic appeals and resits affecting International PG students around their stay in the UK. The current structure is inconsistent across universities and some students face a huge impact due to this.

#### Upcoming Work:

- Academic representation Review - The current rep structure doesn't work well enough and there are still pockets where we fail to deliver. Acknowledging the fact that one size doesn't fit all and need to figure out a way to fulfil the demand way the main motivation. The current stage is consulting and getting feedback from students in the PG council and mixer events.
- Communication and awareness plans for upcoming PRES and PTES surveys and making sure students understand the need for this evaluation survey.
- Doctoral festival of ideas and paper presentation event plans.
- Working in Varsity and BUCS finals.

#### Concerns:

What and when to offer is the biggest concern. Engagement with the PG students is a huge task.