

SU OFFICER UPDATES – NOVEMBER 2024

SU President

Update/Working on

- The University should provide in-depth* and tailored* feedback on all types of assessment for all students from under-represented groups*: working alongside Amber and Zuber to raise this issue with senate members and continue to be involved in department specific work to address NSS low results on this element of the student experience at Bath.
- Course attendance monitoring of optional sessions should only be used for wellbeing purposes: part of the ongoing conversations with the university on what this is going to look like going forward. Monitoring potential legislation on this subject as well as student finance requirements for universities. Addressed in today's statement of issue by Amber.
- 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: ongoing conversations on the university's transport plan; as well as provision of housing in the private sector. Closely following and trying to influence the renters' reform bill so it best supports student tenants and addresses the local issues around private housing.

Upcoming work

- Participating in the university's design of future accommodation on campus as well as the nominations made in the city for more university managed accommodation.
- Organising a student-councillors forum at the end of November (26th) where councillors will have to answer student questions. All Summit members are more than encouraged to attend! This should be a good space to push more on the student agenda in things like housing, transport, and cost-of-living.
- Will start my new role as the chair of the Student Strategic Advisory Committee (SSAC) for the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, as well as a non-executive director for this body's board.

This is a fantastic opportunity for us to have more insight and influence over the sector in the national stage, as well as the international stage.

- Recruitment for the new deputy vice-chancellor (I'm involved in the whole process, including the interview).

Concerns

- The effect of the renters' reform bill on the housing provision in Bath. It would be really helpful if SUMmit members could assist in collecting more feedback of the effects of this bill on students, so we can present to our Mp as well as to the local council as soon as possible.

Education Officer

Update/Working on:

- Engagement Monitoring
- University Challenge
- Education Awards
- Academic Rep Review
- Bursary campaign

Upcoming work:

- Student leader roles on degree transcripts (supporting David's Top 10)
- Top 10s (inclusive teaching policy and educational rights)
- Continuing getting through the IMC phrasebank (it is a true labour of love) and collaborating with the SU Advice & Support service on plain language guides etc.

Concerns/wish for input:

- Engagement monitoring
- What do you currently know your academic rights are? How would this best be disseminated?

Last year's standpoints:

Alongside Academic Exec:

The SU believes that exam procedures should be continuously reviewed to reflect current provision

- Currently in continuous discussions with Registry
- Exam procedures have been altered following the Economics exam which prompted this standpoint

The SU believes that the University should provide model solutions, annotated examples, and official mark schemes for all past exam papers available

- Integrating into inclusive teaching policy Top 10

The SU believes in reasonable and justified tuition fees for international students on placement

- Came about as students wanted more information on how their placement fees are being used. This was devolved back to the student to request personally within their department/as a FOI request

Alongside DAG:

The SU believes that the University should provide more financial assistance to students in the form of bursaries and scholarships, in accordance with the APP

- Integrated into bursary work with BULU

The SU believes that the University should open more safe and quiet spaces on campus and in the city for use by students

- Brought up breastfeeding room situation to Jane White
- Polden Commons opened for study
- Virgil Building refurbished
- Quiet hours and spaces now available in lime tree etc.

Activities Officer**Working on:**

Picked up 2 top 10 items

- Formalise an institutional policy regarding recognition of student leadership roles through providing credit and recognition on transcripts.

- Ensure students feel they belong by establishing and monitoring a comprehensive range of extracurricular opportunities which are financially accessible to all students.

Postgraduate society affiliation pilot promotion – currently we are running a postgraduate exclusive affiliation programme so PG students can set up societies that are focused around their interests and needs. This is part of a larger strategic goal of involving more PG students in SU activities.

Prayer space – we are very close to the opening of a Hindu prayer space as a result of many months of work with the university.

Academic communities – a large project that aims to marry departmental societies, academic representation and lecturers into one coherent place to better increase the sense of belonging in cohorts.

Race 2 Paris - a charity hitch hiking event that took place in October which raised £20,500. We are looking forward to the next one and making plans for the next location and the UK based one.

Alumni engagement- I am now part of working group that aims to engage alumni better. The university struggles to engage recent graduates and wants to know how best to utilise our societies and clubs.

Housing rights and the Renters' Rights Bill – working with NUS and other SUs to lobby for stronger housing rights for students in the new Renters' Rights bill.

Upcoming work:

Postgraduate society affiliation pilot training of committee members

Festival of higher education volunteering

Household pantry – making a longer year long pilot of the food pantry we trialled in the Summer but putting up some smaller barriers so only students who really need it get the household essentials.

Sustainability – working on what sustainability looks like within the new SU strategy and how we can deliver it operationally.

Nothing to be concerned about.

Community Officer

Update/Working on:

- Successfully brought back double the 1.50 pound meal options to campus
- Reaffiliated 2 Diversity and Support Groups, The Bath Exchange Network and Mature Students
- Facilitated 24 students in the early arrivals scheme

- Been working closely with First Bus in order to increase efficiency of the Bus Routes
- Successfully implemented low sensory hours across commercial venues on Campus
- Hosted a range of Forums that then got inputted back into the University
- Implementing more live music into the SU
- Creating a regular space for Men to talk about their mental health over pizza making

Upcoming work:

- Birthday Bus pass Marketing Campaign
- Implementing a University Housing Strategy
- Inputting into the Universities new Travel Action Plan
- Housing rights awareness campaign

Concerns/wish for input:

- Will First Bus fulfil on its pledge to not raise Bus prices this academic year
- Concerned about the impact of the Renters Reform Bill on the housing market

Last year's Standpoints:**The SU believes that the University should open more safe and quiet spaces on campus and in the city for use by students**

I have successfully implemented low sensory hours across commercial outlets and still lobby for an expansion on existing times

The SU believes that the University should address maintenance issues in their accommodation efficiently, even when such issues occur during non-working hours and on weekends.**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.**

By creating a housing strategy with the University issues I will lobby for both of these standpoints to be addressed

The SU believes that the University should provide more financial assistance to students in the form of bursaries and scholarships, in accordance with the Access and Participation Plan

Brought back half of the affordable meal options on campus which will heavily benefit bursary holders with eat and drink credit

Sport Officer

Update/Working on:

- TOP 10: Sulis Club changing rooms and climbing centre
- New position in Sports department
- Chairing People and Engagement
- Sports Inclusion week
- Welfare in Sport
- Player of the Week
- Tennis sessions
- BUCS Student Networking

Upcoming work:

- Town Vs Gown (tentative)
- Athletics Forum (personal fave)
- Playground games sports day
- Transgender swimming sessions (tentative)
- TOP 10: Digital Systems
- Restoring the volunteer recognition scheme for sporting person, with Emily
- Committee Networking events, with Angus

Concerns:

- Welfare in Sport

Last years standpoints:

The University should provide a range of clean, accessible, safe and fit-for-use sports facilities.

The SULIS club has been picked up re top 10, and has an action plan attached to it agreed upon by me, Stephen Baddeley and Jo Dixon. Can discuss this further in Summit.

The new 3G has also finally been completed, along with the 3G strip, which will be ready for club use hopefully when this meeting is taking place.

The SU believes that all students at every level of study should have Wednesday afternoons off to partake in sports.

Am pretty sure postgrads do not get Wednesday afternoons necessarily off? May need some follow ups!

Postgraduate Officer

Update/Working on:

- Engagement Monitoring
- Academic Rep Review
- PRES/PTES/PDES evaluation
- PG Employability
- Reps and Execs Training

Upcoming Work:

- PG Buddying programs
- Building the gap between PG & UG
- Term-time and Non-term-time student experience
- TOP 10

Concerns:

- PRES/PDES/PTES submission rates and poor numbers in overall satisfaction

Last Years Standpoints:

The university must require that all lectures are recorded.

Already mentioned it in the EAB meetings but still got feedback from reps on this issue. Picked up as a TOP 10 point which Amber is leading on.

Every department should offer a reading week to their students.

Students have already started to compare this other departments which affects difference in their overall satisfaction and student experience across faculties.