Evie Reilly (VP Democracy & Creative Industries)

Twitter: @sotonvpdci
Email: vpdci@susu.org
Facebook: /suvpdci.southampton

The details in this report reflect progress made since the last meeting of Union Senate, which took place on Tuesday 12 February 2019.
Minutes of previous meetings can be found on our website here:
https://www.susu.org/representation/minutes/committees/1745

Leading the Union	
Goal 1: Strengthening the Student Voice Progress: 2	As stated in my previous report, I was keen to look at how we can use the processes we already have in place to amplify student voice on issues that matter to them, so the sabbatical team decided to run an All Student Vote on whether the Union should support a second referendum on Brexit. We had a turnout of 3,755 (17.9%) in less than 72 hours, with over 80% of the vote in favour of the Union supporting a second referendum (more info here: https://blogs.susu.org/blog/2019/03/22/all-student-vote-the-results/). Since then, three of the team attended the people's vote march in central London, joining hundreds of thousands calling on the government to support this. On a local level, I reached out to the four MPs who represent the main areas our students live in in Southampton and Winchester, before the second round of indicative votes, letting them know of our support for a second referendum, and asking them to mirror our support. We also met with Alan Whitehead, MP for Southampton Test, who is strongly supportive of a second referendum, to ask what students can do, by way of persuading government to do the same. His advice was to get in contact with your MP (both University and home), to ask them to support this, and if they are already supportive, to let them know you support them. As Brexit has now been further delayed, and confusion has only deepened surrounding it, we will be now voting in upcoming European Parliament

	elections, and I am now working with relevant staff, and will soon be reaching out to students, to see what we can do to promote these elections to our students, and get their views.
Goal 2: **Lobby the University for a commitment to creating new Performing Arts space** Progress: 1	This has been one of the hardest points on my plan, as it involves attempting to secure monetary investment from the University, always a challenge when they continually seek to cut the money given to the Union. There are also other factors now to consider, such as the closure of the Nuffield Theatre on campus for renovation. It is not yet clear how this will impact the different spaces in this building, as they are used by PA and non-PA societies alike. Securing answers to these questions have taken some priority, as this has the possibility of both positively and negatively impacting students. Equally in the last two years there appears to have been no actual movement on the University's 10 year building plan. This plan impacts on new builds and current buildings, including questions around potential renovation of the student union building. Until the University make up their mind about this plan, which will presumably also be informed by the new Vice-Chancellor when he takes office later this year. The University has begun to put plans together regarding improvements to library and arts spaces on campus, and I am looking to ensure performance spaces are specifically referenced in this. I will keep students up to date when this goes out to student consultation stage, but I can't say too much at the moment as it is in very early stages. I have been working with members of the University's Learning Spaces Subcommittee to try and improve the understanding about society use of lecture and teaching spaces, to try and formalise this going forward which will hopefully be beneficial to all.
Goal 3: **Review the remits of our Sabbatical Officers** Progress: 3	As Senate will be aware, we have now elected the sabbatical team for next year. We saw a 20% turnout, and had 18 candidates for the 5 new sabbatical roles. The democracy team were happy with the outcome of nominations, and there was a strong focus in the marketing on how to actually nominate and what roles entail. I think the 'why vote for me' statements demonstrated that there is still a lot more work to be done on advertising the new remits of the roles, but my hope is that once the new team is in place and is able to demonstrate the new structure in action, this will improve. Obviously the real test of how successful this is won't be known until the new sabbatical team are in place and we see how the new workloads are managed, but my work on this project is now done.

Additional Comments: I think there is definitely so much more to surrounding strengthening the student voice, especially within the University and getting non-academic University staff to talk to students, and especially ensuring there is something filling the gap left by student forums. I know that this is also something Sam, VP Education was also working on this year, and there has been a definite move in some University departments to take student experience specifically a lot further and a lot more of a focus. Time will tell if this is effective. I am aware that there has been a strong focus from myself around the democracy part of my role, as there have been so many large scale projects going on in this area. It's my hope that the restructured sabbatical roles will allow for more balance in focus than the current roles allow.

New Ideas	
Goal 1: **Rules Review**	Any changes to the Articles of Association have to be approved by University Council, which includes the changes to Trustee Board that were approved at this year's Union AGM. This is therefore being taken to the next Council on 15th May for approval.

Progress: 2	With regards to the main body of the rules, we have restarted meeting of the core working groups, beginning to gather feedback from those who use the rules the most, and also identifying where the current gaps are, and if there are things covered in the rules that needn't be. There are some key parts of Union work that aren't defined currently in the rules – including our course reps!
	 This has resulted in identifying 5 key areas that I think are the most practical and useful for a student reading the rules. These are
	    - Constitution & Governance
	    - Representation
	    - Complaints/discipline
	    - Elections
	    - Clubs & Societies
	 It is at this point that I have to admit that sadly the rules will not be finished before I leave office. There is no point in rushing them, as otherwise we will just end up with rules as confusing as ours currently are. However, I am confident that there will be a strong foundation that myself and the relevant staff will be able to put together in the next two months, where it will be my main focus. I will be reaching out to relevant parties over the next few weeks for some consultation.

Goal 2: **CI Careers at WSA**	The Union held a successful week of events at WSA in February, including our careers fayre on the Wednesday, with over 250 students attending throughout the week (that's 16% of total students). We're looking to build on this next year, including looking at including a role on the WSA committee that oversees careers and creative industries events, to ensure consistent student representation in the planning. We're looking to see what local links we can grow, particularly looking at working with alumni from WSA who still work in the surrounding area and can talk to students about their own experiences of building a career on a degree from WSA, whether that's in fine art or game design. I'd also be keen to see in future more connection with other University departments, such as ECS, Music and English.
Progress: 3	
Goal 3: **Welfare in Elections**	What we tried to do this year was centralise communications with the democracy team; where last year the team struggled to keep on top of multiple, and often duplicate questions from various different platforms, this year we kept these to email and daily drop ins. We also introduced the FAQ Google Doc, to allow us to communicate question answers to all candidates, so that the team were not constantly responding to the same or similar questions.
Progress: 2	

	I think that improving this in future links strongly to the rules review, and the rule around elections. We have already identified that this needs to remain a standalone rule, due to the clarity necessary. Equally, current candidates in Spring elections currently have multiple sources of information that they have to digest; the election rule, by-law, candidate guidance, and the FAQs. We are currently looking at ways that we can condense and clarify this where necessary. Equally, I think that we need to update the rules around elections to reflect how students now engage with and campaign in our elections, with a shift towards more online campaigning, a focus on elements such as sustainability and less flexibility with candidate budgets.
Additional Comments: I'm pleased that the WSA careers events were successful, as we can demonstrate to the University its value, and grow it in future. We're still working on the report of this year's Spring elections, but there will be lots of recommendations for positive change going forward. My focus now until the end of my term will largely be on getting the rules project as far as possible.	

Building on the Union's Work	
Goal 1: **Re-evaluate our Student Leader roles** Progress: 3	The final stage of this process, along with the sabbatical officer review, is looking at how our zones work, as the changes to the elected roles means that a change is necessary in our zone structure. Currently all sabbatical officers (excluding President) have one or two zones that they oversee. Taking away two sabbatical roles obviously increases this workload. Equally, the zones currently reflect the work of the sabbatical officers, however due to the change in what these roles are, the zones no longer make sense as groupings. Therefore what we need to do now is to work out what changes need to be made and approved in order to create a system that is representational and effective. I'm happy to talk at Senate about any thoughts and ideas that Senators may have on this, and the sabbatical team will be consulting on this at their last zone meetings of the year.
Goal 2: **Redefining the relationship between Clubs & Societies and The Union**	Again, to an extent this is tied into the rules review, as we will be keeping a rule solely for clubs and societies, that can serve as a central space for clubs and societies to reference. It is also the time of year where AGMs are happening, and we are working with clubs and societies where there are any issues to ensure these go as smoothly as possible. We are also soon going to have our club and society induction sessions, which again are compulsory for all new committees, to ensure that there is a baseline understanding of the Union and how it runs.
Progress: 2	As I spoke about earlier in this report, one of the other things that I have been working on with regards to defining the relationship with clubs and societies has been around use of CLS spaces, as well as ID card access to buildings, to try and clarify this process for all involved.

Goal 3: **Grow the presence and functionality of 'You Make Change'**	As I was actioned at the last meeting of Senate, I held a You Make Change Working Group meeting. To report back on this, we discussed whether course reps should be able to submit YMCs on behalf of their course, whether You Make Changes should be able to be delegated to student leaders and what the consequences of this would be with regards to timescales and accountability, and whether the up and down voting was a useful function. We spent the most time discussing the ability for sabbatical officers to delegate YMCs to student
Progress: 2	leaders, and concluded that we didn't feel this needed to be a formal step, but could instead be written into the guidance around YMC that this is an option that sabbatical officers should explore. We also talked more widely about the purpose of this delegation, which we agreed was largely for student consultation, and so agreed that there should be more direct reference in the guidance around ensuring appropriate consolation where possible. It was raised that for proper consolation the timelines may need to be extended/altered, and we agreed that, as the YMC process hasn't been updated since its inception, it was time for us to revisit this. With regards to the questions of up/down voting and course reps being able to submit YMCs, we feel that these are largely reliant on the website's capabilities, and this is being looked into separately. I will ensure that it is included in those discussions.

Additional Comments: I found the YMC working group conversation really positive and useful, and as a result of the discussions there will be bringing the YMC platform as a discussion point to the meeting.

Conclusion/AOB

It seems strange that this is my last official update to Senate, as there is so much that I have planned to do over the next two months. I have taken on some projects that are pretty large, and some might argue ~~boring~~ dry, but that I hope prove to be important and make things clearer/more logical for students. I will do my best to ensure that these projects are as close to finished as I can get them over the next two months. This time last year I was gearing up to begin a second term, it feels very strange to now be officially winding down.

As this is my last report, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Senate for the time they put into the role, and challenging the sabbs to be the best they can. I would particularly like to thank the democracy team for the work they put in to making this happen, I have seen Senate improve so much in my time here and I'm sure it will grow even more in future, and I'm sure there'll be an opportunity for you to give your feedback to help the next group of Senators when they are elected.
I would also like to say thanks to all my fellow sabbs (you get a prize if you see this!) for their support and willingness to engage with the democratic procedures, and for just generally being good at and passionate about what you do.

Should the Students' Union support the national campaign for a People's Vote on Brexit?

The Sabbatical team meet with local MP Alan Whitehead

The sabbatical team and The Varsity Cup

Change the world around you.

Every issue you care about is political.

Make sure you **register to vote** to have your say in the upcoming elections.

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

SUSU

Club and Society AGM do's and don'ts

😍 Do:

- Make your AGM well advertised and accessible to all members

- Update your club's constitution where appropriate

- Present an overview of annual club finances to all members at AGM

- Ensure every position runs against RON (Re-Open Nominations)

- Complete your AGM and update your committee on the SUSU website before 03 May

- Email democracy@susu.org for any queries!

😡 Don't:

- Restrict any members from running for any committee position regardless of experience

- Restrict any member from voting on any position (unless it solely relates to another team/squad)

- Accept proxy votes from members ahead of AGM

- Count votes in secret. All vote counts must be made public to members of the club or society

- Forget to change over bank account access between treasurers promptly

- Neglect to take minutes

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