



## Steve Gore

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*The details in this report reflect progress made since the last meeting of Union Senate, which took place on 17/05/18.*

*Minutes of previous meetings can be found on our website here:  
[susu.org/representation/senate](http://susu.org/representation/senate)*

Leading the Union	
<b>Goal 1: Lobbying Sport &amp; Wellbeing for better value Sports Pass and split membership payments</b>	Changes in Sport and Wellbeing membership policy in summer 2017 resulted in more membership options in a split tier system. The lowest tier of membership (Sports Pass) costs £110 and for the last academic year only granted access to AU club sessions and intramural fixtures and training (one session a week at specific times). This option represented a welcome change for AU members who weren't interested in paying extra to use the gym, however intramural players found it very restrictive for the price of £110 resulting in many complaints and calls for refunds. I have consistently lobbied S&W over the last year to add more value to this membership option, which was eventually agreed and carried out in July 2018. From August 01 2018, all S&W members with Sports Pass can now book any casual sports sessions they like at Off-Peak times and attend any session that they are invited to (even during Peak times). Frequent Fitness members can also now attend casual sport sessions during Peak times, and intramural training is no longer allocated by SUSU which caused unnecessary admin hold ups and frustration to students over the last year.
Progress: 0/1/2/3	

# Improved Sport & Wellbeing access!

Thanks to your VP Sports, The Union has successfully lobbied Sport and Wellbeing to review the access they allow for their members to play casual sport. As of August 01 2018, access for members has been increased **at no extra cost!**

For full list of casual sports activities, visit [susu.org](http://susu.org)

Membership type	Booking casual sports sessions		Access to casual sports sessions	
	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
Peak Performer	Any time	Any time	Unlimited	Unlimited
Frequent Fitness	Off-peak	Off-peak	Off-peak only	Unlimited
Sports Pass	No ability to book	Off-peak	One IM training session per week	Unlimited

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Contact your VP Sports for more info:  
[cupres@soton.ac.uk](mailto:cupres@soton.ac.uk)



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One other common concern among students is the prohibitive cost of Sport and Wellbeing membership that is required to be paid for the whole year up front in one lump sum. In order to address this I have also lobbied S&W to allow students to split up the cost of membership over the course of the year on a semesterly basis to coincide with student loan payments. S&W and Student Services have agreed to implement this policy as well, however delays and uncertainty in the provider of their booking system have meant that this policy will not be acted upon until the next academic year (2019/20) at the earliest. I fully expect this to be carried out at this point however there is nothing more that SUSU can do to further progress at the moment.

**Goal 2:**  
**Promotion of welfare for members taking part in sports clubs**

Progress: 0/1/2/3

This year I have decided to place a renewed focus on the welfare of members in sports clubs.

In addition to the mandatory appointment of welfare officers in every sports club introduced last year, we (myself and VP Welfare) organised mandatory training sessions for these officers in September/October. The training included "Look After Your Mate" training provided by the SUSU Advice Centre and "CHANGES-Intervention" training (Challenging Hazing And Negative Group Events in Sports) provided by Professor Moira Lafferty whom is an expert in sports psychology at the University of Chester. The purpose of this training was to give welfare officers the tools to identify when members are withdrawn/showing signs of stress and empower them to have constructive conversations; educate clubs about what hazing and initiations are, as well as the dangers and negative effects of hazing; inform welfare officers about what support is available to clubs and students in the local area so that they can signpost concerned members; and finally to introduce a culture of welfare across all 92 sports club committees and give them awareness of who they can come to for help.

All 314 affiliated clubs and societies have been encouraged to sign a new SUSU charter. It lists our four values (Brave, Empowering, Respected, Student Led) and highlights how clubs and societies can work towards these values. This was launched at bunfight, and all 88 sports clubs present signed up to the charter. The clubs were given their own version to keep and we are now looking to

display their signatures alongside a giant version of the charter in the SUSU building. This charter is designed to serve as a constant reminder to clubs about the behavioural expectations we have for them.



Finally, Welfare Officers have been added to a Facebook group where we can discuss issues and update them on welfare initiatives happening throughout the year. The challenge facing us now is to keep up this momentum for the entire year.

VP Welfare and I have seen a significant increase in behavioural infractions reported to the sabbatical team and SUSU over the last month, which we believe to be a successful result of our focus on welfare encouraging students to highlight issues they otherwise wouldn't have rather than being indicative of an increase in poor behaviour. I have ensured that all of these issues have been addressed fairly but firmly wherever they have appeared.

**Goal 3:**  
**Formal representation for casual users in sports facilities**

Progress: 0/1/2/3

Too often the conversations regarding improvements to Sport and Wellbeing are focussed around the Athletic Union clubs. I believe the ~6000 members of S&W who aren't part of AU clubs are the silent majority but they currently don't have a formal route to communicate their concerns to management (except through me). I propose we create an elected position to represent these individuals who will meet regularly with management to present any issues with facilities that might have arisen. S&W have already given the go ahead promote SUSU's sporting representation in their facilities, I am now tasked with working out a way to fit the role into our existing committee structure and filling it.

**Additional Comments:**

New Ideas	
<p><b>Goal 1:</b>  <b>Promote a culture of sporting excellence and align sports strategy with the University through the Sport Experience Board</b></p>	<p>I have sat on the Sport Experience Board as a major stakeholder over the last year. The goal of this board is to holistically reassess every facet of sport at the University (S&amp;W, SUSU, Estates + Facilities, etc.) in order to create a unified strategy moving forward recognising the importance of sport as a recruitment tool and as a key part of student experience. The strategy proposal will be submitted to the University Executive in December, and we are hoping to pitch for and attract a significant investment in sport to cover expanded running costs and to upgrade facilities.</p> <p>Once the proposal is fully formed I will be carrying out wider student consultation and continuing to work with the SEB to work through the details of the project. SUSU's priority in this project is to ensure that there is no loss of student voice/power from students, as well as ensuring that we are ambitious and don't have any loss of functionality in any aspect of sport administration.</p>
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	
<p><b>Goal 2:</b>  <b>An awareness campaign around recreational drug use among students</b></p>	<p>Drugs are an endemic issue in society and University is no different. A recent <i>Tab</i> survey highlighted that 76% of Southampton students have taken illegal drugs, with 60% saying they had taken MDMA, 38% taken cocaine and 30% taken ketamine at some point. In May, two young people aged 17 and 20 tragically lost their lives at Mutiny Festival in Portsmouth due to a super strength batch of MDMA pills being sold on site.</p> <p>Despite this, our University and Students' Union have remained silent over the issue of drug use up until now. One of our values is to be brave and I feel that the time is right for us to begin having difficult conversations surrounding drugs and introducing a harm reduction approach to drug use among students.</p>
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	<p>I have set up a working group that has been working over summer to identify the extent of the issue at Southampton. We have had support from UoS Student Life team, Solent SU, Hampshire Constabulary, No Limits, and the Southampton Common Forum to begin carrying out a project to reduce the risk of drug harm to students. This will be achieved by educating students on what drug taking activities can potentially put them in danger and what the implications of mixing drugs are, as well as looking into the possibility of providing drug testing kits from SUSU to indicate purity/strength of recreational drugs, and finally by teaming up with Solent SU to lobby the organisers of Common People festival to introduce "front of house" drug testing facilities provided by The Loop. This project has been widely supported by students and a group of students have already come to us to offer their support for the project.</p>
<p><b>Goal 3:</b>  <b>Create a regular free sports programme for students to casually attend</b></p>	<p>Southampton has a lot of sport on offer however none of it is currently offered for free, which creates a barrier to participation and discourages some students from being physically active. I intend to introduce a programme similar to the "GetActive" programme at the University of Winchester, which will offer regular opportunities for students to take part in sport and physical activity at a casual level for no cost.</p>

Progress: 0/1/2/3	
<b>Additional Comments:</b>	

<b>Building on the Union's Work</b>	
<b>Goal 1:</b> <b>Better information on nutritional and alcohol content of products sold in our outlets</b>	In order to encourage students to have a healthier diet, we need to empower them to make healthy choices. This can be partly achieved by making the nutritional information clearer in our outlets such as the Bridge, Café and Stag's. Simple information such as Calorie content and ABV percentage can help guide students to healthier choices, so I will be pushing to see this adopted across our outlets by the end of the year. The Director of Union Services has already pledged to introduce Calorie content in our menus next semester.
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
<b>Goal 2:</b> <b>Introduce a lunchtime meal deal in the shop</b>	Students have been crying out for a good value lunchtime meal deal in the shop. One of my most popular manifesto policies was to introduce this over the course of this academic year. Previous attempts (H <sub>2</sub> O to go) have failed to gather significant interest and buy in from students, and I believe this was due to lack of choice available. Students regularly complain about the high cost of food in the shop even though the individual items are very cheap when they are compared like for like. I believe the difference in opinion is down to perception, and the lack of deals. Having had some preliminary discussion with the Director of Union Services, I believe that it is very possible to introduce a good value deal for students with only a minimal impact on profit.
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
<b>Goal 3:</b> <b>Improved intramural programme</b>	The Intramural Fayre returned for its second year bigger and better than ever. This year we hosted the event as part of the main freshers' week programme and football was massively increased, particularly as it coincided with the VP Welfare "Stay Fresh" event on the redbrick.  The changes to Sports Pass and IM training booking that I had successfully lobbied for have been received well by students in the IM leagues, providing many more opportunities for teams to play together than last year at no extra cost.  Poor weather and lenient booking policies meant that many fixtures were unplayed at the end of last season. SUSU has now tightened up our rules on rescheduling matches and will only do so in the event of poor weather – with extra weeks built into schedule for this eventuality.  Hampshire FA have approached SUSU about affiliating our IM football leagues with them. This will be at no cost to us but will hopefully attract support for the league in the form of a referee familiarisation course and equipment.
Progress: 0/1/2/3	

One KPI (Key Performance Indicator) is the amount of students signed up to the IM leagues in an academic year:

2016/17 – 885

2017/18 – 1218

2018/19 – 1293

This shows an upward trend in students participating in the IM leagues, hopefully due to our work promoting the leagues, removal of admin fees, adding in extra value to Sports Pass, and improving the booking process.

**IM SPORTS TASTERS SESSIONS**

**Wednesday 03**

**Wide Lane (4G)**

Football  
Monte F/Ball 14:00 - 16:00

**Sunday 07**

**Jubilee Hall**

Netball  
BioSoc 10:00 - 11:30  
HistSoc 11:30 - 13:00  
Glen Eyre N/B 13:00 - 14:30

Badminton  
LawSoc 10:00 - 11:00  
HistSoc Bad 11:00 - 12:00

Basketball  
Economics 15:00 - 16:30

**Wide Lane**

Netball  
Economics 10:00 - 11:30  
Connaught N/B 10:00 - 11:30  
Noc Mermaids 10:00 - 11:30  
LawSoc N/B 10:00 - 11:30  
Chamberlain N/B 11:30 - 13:00  
EngSoc N/B 11:30 - 13:00  
Monte N/B 11:30 - 13:00  
GeogSoc 11:30 - 13:30

**Wide Lane (Astro)**

Hockey  
SUENS Hockey 13:00 - 14:30

**Wide Lane (Grass Pitch)**

Football  
BioSoc Football 13:00 - 15:00  
GeogSoc 14:00 - 16:00  
BuSSoc 14:00 - 16:00

Rugby  
SUES 14:00 - 16:00

Find out more about Southampton Intra-Mural on Facebook

Team Southampton IM

#SotonFreshers  
More info at [www.susu.org/sports](http://www.susu.org/sports)

Opportunities  
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Additional Comments:

**Developing the role**

<b>Goal 1:</b>	
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
<b>Goal 2:</b>	
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
<b>Goal 3:</b>	
Progress: 0/1/2/3	

Additional Comments:

*Due to recent events, the Sabbatical Team has been unable to meet and agree upon a set of common goals for the “Developing the Role” section. However, some areas of focus have already started to appear naturally (including the Union Review) and it is therefore our intention to have a full set of goals complete for scrutiny by the second meeting of Union Senate*

## **Conclusion/AOB**

I am hopeful that my year of previous experience and groundwork has allowed me to hit the ground running this year, and I was fortunate to have a massive breakthrough regarding Sports Pass membership happening on my first day with the new sabbatical team. Summer and the early parts of this term are traditionally very frantic for my role, and there is an easing of workload heading into winter which I’m looking forward to using to get a better start on my projects.

In the Union President’s absence I have temporarily stepped up to fill in the essential parts of her role, this includes sitting on the Vice Chancellor Joint Selection Committee (responsible for recruiting a new VC), responding to Stage 3 academic appeals, and line managing the sabbatical team.

Much of the sabbatical team’s recent work has made me reflect on the heavy administrative burden of our roles and what we should be focussing on. Much of this work has built up organically over many years and in an ideal world most of this will be covered by core staff, leaving us to focus more on campaigns and awareness and lobbying on issues that affect students. Between our VP DCI’s Union Review work and the Sport Experience Board, I think there are multiple opportunities present this year to redefine these roles into something more useful and more in line with the principles behind having elected sabbatical officers. I believe SUSU needs to speak up and take a stronger stance on national political issues, as well as internal ones, and the sabbatical officers need to lead this movement.