

Date: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Item: Sabbatical Report

Union Senate



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*The details in this report reflect progress made since the last meeting of Union Senate, which took place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018.*

*Minutes of previous meetings can be found on our website here:*

*<https://www.susu.org/representation/minutes/committees/1745>*

### Leading the Union

**Goal 1:** To increase awareness raising relating to healthy wellbeing and support services available.

Progress: 0/1/2/3

#### **24/7 Support Service Information received by 6,000+ Students**

I lobbied the University to give out wristband keyrings with the 24/7 support service, Student Life's, contact information on every Fresher in Halls key! In addition, for those in Private Rented – and again for students in Halls- when they came to collect IDs the IDs were on lanyards with the Student Life contact information on too. As a result of this idea, Student Life has received many more students using the service already and this initiative has spread widespread awareness to 6,000+ students. Every Fresher Rep also got wristband keyrings for themselves and to hand out. Finally, in every University/ Faculty/ SUSU welcome talk we have promoted the Advice Centre, Nightline, Student Life, Enabling and Safety Bus services!

#### **#StayFresh and Halls Roadshows**

I'm really proud of this event! We had great attendance and engagement with the range of activities taking place. Stay Fresh was a Fresher event, developed by Sustainability and Student Life Coordinator and I, to promote health and wellbeing during Freshers' and in University Life but in a fun, relatable and engaging way! We engaged with 400-500 students.

Many SUSU societies were involved: LGBT+ Society, SCA Society, First Aid Society, Mind Society and Surge who all led engaging activities to improve health and wellbeing awareness.

With many activities: 'Drunk' obstacle race, free smoothies, free mocktails, free condoms and dental dams and lube, condom application practise on a variety of fruit and veg (students loved the fact that ejaculate travels at the same speed as the EuroStar and this helped them to learn/ remember to pinch and leave a gap at the top of the condom), healthy recipe and mocktail cards, free fruit, face masks, a chill out area with garden games, an STI awareness game called 'Hook Up', a drug true or false activity and a bingo card 'make friend' competition which entered students into a draw to win a meal for 4 and drinks in the Bridge!

At Stay Fresh, we advertised the Safety Bus, Radio Taxis, Student Life and Nightline on business cards that can easily fit in a purse or wallet! These were given out at different stalls and everyone who got a smoothie, mocktail or did the 'drunk' obstacle course received one! This was an effective way of increasing awareness of the support services on offer.

We also did a mini version of #StayFresh at different Halls and gave out the safety service business cards again in addition to a noise game (to raise awareness of noise in Halls), the 'drunk' obstacle course and sexual health and consent activities.

### **Welfare Representatives in Sports Guidance Page**

Steve and I are admins of this page- containing many of the welfare officer committee members for sports clubs. In this page, we post about welfare campaigns, support services and ask clubs to share relevant, informative posts into their sports groups.

### **#WelfareWednesday Podcast**

Each week, I record a podcast with MarComms and student guests! We use the podcast to discuss awareness days, campaigns and society events in addition to using this platform to signpost students to the support services available.

### **World Mental Health Day**

On WMHD, we shared informative posts and encouraged students to use the #HumansofSoton to share their experiences. We also supported and attended Enabling's Tea and Talk event. In addition, we launched our first podcast and World Mental Health Day was the topic- we plugged the support services in this.

<p><b>Goal 2:</b> To be a SU that leads on sustainable initiatives.</p>	<p><b><u>TAW- #SUSUTransAwareness</u></b></p> <p>12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November we are celebrating Trans Awareness Week. 20<sup>th</sup> November we are engaged in Trans Day of Remembrance. I have organised- alongside LGBT+ Soc, FemSoc, Equality Diversity and Inclusion Team and Chrysalis- a week of celebration and awareness of our trans students and staff.</p>
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	<p>For this we have many things taking place. The trans flag will be flown from Highfield flag pole 12<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> November. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, it will be flown at half mast to remember trans people who have passed.</p> <p>In addition, SUSU concourse will be decorated with bunting and flags, we have a photobooth to take selfies in and get printed pics- with a trans background and we are giving out pronoun badges to students and staff throughout the week. We are asking staff to wear them throughout the week, and continuously after.</p> <p>We are hosting two events:</p> <p>Trans Awareness Fayre. Stalls of LGBT+, FemSoc, Chrysalis, SUSU. Fundraising for Chrysalis and engaging students in the topics of trans identity and community at University.</p> <p>Trans Discussion Panel, topic; “Trans Identity and Transitioning at University”. Featuring trans students, LGBT+Soc and FemSoc Representatives and a Chrysalis representative.</p> <p>And supporting the events put on by Southampton Pride, Chrysalis and the Council on Trans Day of Remembrance:</p> <p><b><u>GNTS</u></b></p> <p>We have put up respect posters in bathrooms on Highfield and Avenue campuses and are giving out posters to students to take with them and put up in bathrooms at different sites.</p> <p>I lobbied the University to change the signage of the self-contained cubicles on Highfield to non- gendered and we are looking to continue this to other sites. In addition, we are working to get GNTs marked on the campus maps.</p> <p>Furthermore, I am working closely with Estates and Facilities to rewrite University buildings standard specification to ensure that gender neutral toilets are included in all of our buildings. I met with a representative from the South Gower/ Centenary Learning Centre building team to discuss space uses, accessibility and GNTs in this new build.</p>

	<p><b><u>Asylum Seeker and Refugee Support and Scholarship Proposal</u></b></p> <p>I created a policy brief, which has been sent to the University, highlighting why we should offer transitional, social and financial support to asylum seekers and refugees in Southampton to study here. I met with VP International and Widening Access and Participation Team who were in support of this and am awaiting a reply to my proposal.</p>
<p><b>Goal 3:</b> To ensure that SUSU and the University offer quality support services and consider student wellbeing at the heart of their operation.</p>	<p><b><u>University/ SUSU Regular Communication</u></b></p> <p>Ilona and I regularly meet with representatives from Enabling, Student Life and The Faith and Reflection Centre. We feedback student interest at these meetings and they ask us for input into their activities- and vice versa.</p> <p><b><u>UEB/ Mental Health Framework Working Group</u></b></p> <p>I was invited to attend a University Executive Board meeting regarding the Universities mental health strategy in response to a letter sent to all higher education institutions by the father of a student who committed suicide at Bristol. Here, I ensured the student voice was heard and it was very well received. Following this, I have been invited to sit on the University Mental Health Working Group- which has been created to re-evaluate existing University policy and to develop our services and support.</p> <p><b><u>Student Minds Mental Health Charter</u></b></p> <p>I am also representing the voice of students in the development of the University Mental Health Charter, being developed by Student Minds, and will be working alongside the University Student Services in this! Will are awaiting information from Student Minds.</p>
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	<p><b><u>You Are More Than (YAMT)</u></b></p> <p>I have been planning for Winter YAMT, alongside Sam Dedman. We have currently organised free meditations (with Meditation Society), yoga and stretch classes, soup and other activities.</p>
<p><b>Additional Comments:</b></p> <p>We have been improving the awareness of support services through events and marketing techniques- this has been evident as the number of students contacting Student Life has dramatically increased after Freshers'. Although, our work surrounding mental health hasn't been via campaigns, we have been working with the University to improve provision and support at a higher, more strategic level that hopefully will have long-term positive impact.</p>	

Pictures/links to blog posts relating to the work in this section:



Image 1 and 2- The different SUSU pronoun badges we have created and the SUSU reception decorated with Trans flag bunting.

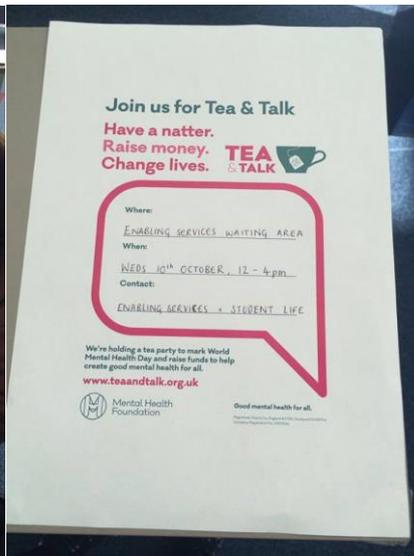


Image 3 and 4 – Decorating cupcakes at Enabling’s Tea and Talk WMHD event.



Image 5 and 6- The Trans flag flying from Highfield campus flagpole and pronoun badges that we are giving out.



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Image 6, 7 and 8- Mocktails and mocktail recipe card and the business card – all handed out for free at the #StayFresh event!

New Ideas	
<p><b>Goal 1:</b> Improve offering and impact of Union safety initiatives and the student awareness of these</p>	<p><b><u>Southampton Common Forum (SCF) Safety and Transport Working Group</u></b></p> <p>President and I sit on the SCF safety and transport working group and we are looking at ways to improve areas of the Common, notably Lovers Walk. We are looking to increase lighting and visibility on the Common by clearing thick foliage around entrances to increase natural light and possibly build more artificial lighting.</p>
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	<p><b><u>Ask for Angela</u></b></p> <p>During Freshers' we had the Ask for Angela posters put up around our buildings. Bars staff were trained as to what to do if someone "asked for Angela" and I also led part of the Fresher Rep training where reps were taught about ask for Angela, how to signpost, the support services available and our SUSU values.</p> <p><b><u>University-wide Harassment Reporting Tool</u></b></p> <p>We are reviewing our SUSU Harassment Reporting Tool to see how we can make it more accessible and known. In addition, we are having regular meetings with ED&amp;I about the #UosRespect campaign they are hoping to launch and have been meeting regularly with the multiple stakeholders that have interest in creating a university-wide, holistic reporting tool (security, enabling, SUSU, ED&amp;I).</p> <p><b><u>#SafeSesh- Drug Harm Reduction</u></b></p> <p>Steve and I have met with our University Police liaison officer, local charity No Limits, Solent and Portsmouth sabs, Student Life Team. In addition, we released</p>

	<p>a survey, in partnership with Wessex Scene, results to be released next week. These results will be used to shape our campaign that we are looking to release in January. We are also looking to get drug testing kits at Common People and hopefully SUSU.</p> <p><b><u>Campus Security</u></b></p> <p>Met with campus security, talked about trying to challenge any perception of them as scary but as there to support students. Looking at training, they have had sexual assault training but would expand...</p> <p>I led a welfare anti-hazing/ signposting section of the Fresher Rep training and handed out student life keyrings to all the Fresher Reps.</p>
<p><b>Goal 2:</b> To introduce a compulsory welfare module for new students</p>	<p><b><u>Planning/ A to B Project Management Skills</u></b></p> <p>I have started looking at stakeholders and timings of the project, in addition to developing project management skills in A to B training. Next steps are to start researching existing similar modules/ courses.</p>
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	
<p><b>Goal 3:</b> Continue to improve student housing experience</p>	<p><b><u>Cluttr</u></b></p> <p>We are looking to partner with the App, Cluttr, to be part of the SUSU Lettings offer. Cluttr offers a platform for housemates to organise bills, communal shopping, rent etc. in one place and is designed to make students' lives easier.</p> <p><b><u>Don't Rush to Rent</u></b></p> <p>We have started the marketing of our DR2R campaign- we have released our Halloween and Christmas marketing and our New Years marketing is to come. We are looking to improve the messaging of Don't Rush to Rent in our Halls.</p>
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	
	<p><b><u>"How to Adult"</u></b></p> <p>We have begun planning for our housing fayre, with a new look as, "How to Adult". The aim of the rebrand is to be more engaging and supply a wider awareness raising opportunity of all the things you need to know in order to "adult".</p>
<p><b>Additional Comments:</b></p> <p>I had really informative training on sexual assault and rape with local charity Yellow Door and training with other local charity, Chrysalis, on gender identification and trans awareness.</p>	

Pictures/links to blog posts relating to the work in this section:



Image 9 and 10 - The Christmas and Halloween Don't Rush to Rent marketing

Building on the Union's Work	
<p><b>Goal 1:</b> Continue to promote culture of welfare in sports clubs and look to expand to all clubs and socs</p>	<p><b><u>SUSU Values Pledge</u></b></p> <p>Steve and I created a SUSU Values pledge, of which we asked every SUSU affiliated club and society to sign. We launched this at the Freshers' event Bunfight, and all our clubs and societies signed it (300+)! Each club/society received a small pledge card that they signed and some shared photos online with it. Signatures will be collated and displayed in public place. We are currently searching for a space to affix the physical pledge permanently.</p>
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	<p><b><u>LAYM and CHANGES Training</u></b></p> <p>#ExpectRespect wristbands given out to all who attended. We offered Look After Your Mate training and CHANGES training to our sports clubs. Both had very good attendance- over 60 clubs at CHANGES and 70 at LAYM. Look After Your Mate is designed to teach committee members how to signpost students, respond to and look after themselves if a student asks for support. CHANGES training got committee members to think about behaviour and to encourage them to challenge any behaviour that could be hazing.</p> <p><b><u>Welfare Representatives in Sport FB Page</u></b></p> <p>We asked all sports clubs to nominate a welfare committee officer and have created a Facebook group as a support network for all the welfare representatives. We post in this group about campaigns/ events/ support services and ask clubs to share these in their club pages to their members.</p> <p><b><u>Reports/ Communication with Clubs</u></b></p> <p>Since this increase of focus for Welfare in Sports Clubs, Steve and I have had an increase in students coming to us reporting negative behaviour in addition to clubs putting on more inclusive socials. This is a really great indicator and</p>

	<p>response to the welfare in sport initiative that we have pushed, as it shows that the message has got across to clubs and students really are challenging negative behaviour.</p> <p>Quote from student about how LAYM helped them in a crisis:</p> <p><i>"LAYM more generally has helped... in that particular incident was just a case of keeping everyone positive and calm... [the training] mentioned praising specific things which we did... reassuring it wasn't [their] fault and praising the fact[s]... focusing on a positive definitely helped."</i></p>
<p><b>Goal 2:</b> Continue to actively consider and implement environmentally sustainable initiatives at SUSU</p>	<p><b><u>Waste Management and Recycling</u></b></p> <p>I have met with the waste management team from estates and facilities. We are working with student leaders to improve the messaging and signage of bins and what to put in them. In addition, I am trying to lobby the University for more general waste bins alongside the recycling ones to reduce contamination. Also, suggested about getting water butts for open days to reduce plastic usage and it happened!</p> <p><b><u>Sustainability Webpage</u></b></p>
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	<p>I am going to be working with the student leaders and University Sustainability manager to create a sustainability webpage, that shows all the great things that we are doing (as there are lots, but the message isn't clear enough for students!)</p> <p><b><u>Pack for Good</u></b></p> <p>We met with the British Heart Foundation, University and City Council to discuss this year's P4G- a scheme to reduce wastage when students move out of their accommodations. We have a follow up meeting to discuss the best locations for the collection points.</p> <p><b><u>Sustainable Innovation Competition</u></b></p> <p>Started initial idea talks with relevant parties about running sustainable innovative idea competition/ dragons den style event.</p>
<p><b>Goal 3:</b> To work closely with student leaders in the Sustainability and Student Life Zones</p>	<p><b><u>Annual Planning Day</u></b></p> <p>Brainstormed ideas for the year, identified overlaps in interests. We have had really engaged Zone meetings so far.</p> <p><b><u>Increasing Awareness and Profile of the Student Leaders</u></b></p>
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	

In order to increase the awareness of what we are doing and the profiles of the student leaders, we have created Facebook pages for the student leaders to post about their updates and any campaigns they're interested in:

**Sustainability Student Leaders' FB Page:**

[www.facebook.com/SUSUSustainability](http://www.facebook.com/SUSUSustainability)

**Student Life Students Leaders' FB Page:**

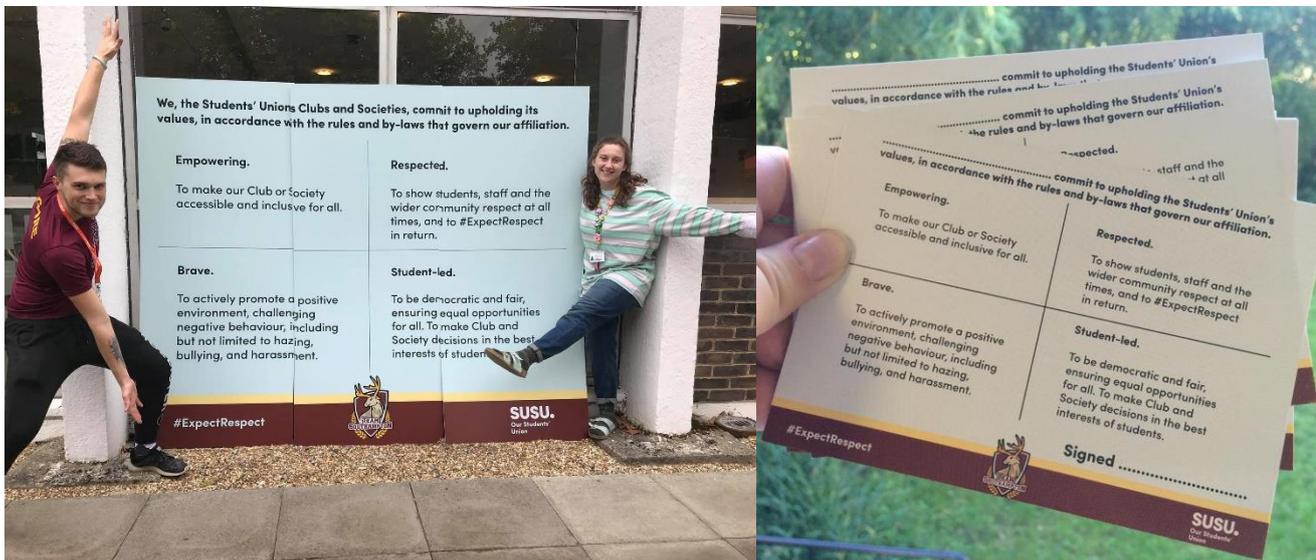
[www.facebook.com/SUSUStudentLife](http://www.facebook.com/SUSUStudentLife)

**Implementing Student Leaders' Ideas**

The student leaders have already begun to work on their projects, such as recycling signage, free environmental film showings, a housing survey on PGs and International Students and accessibility features on social media. The full report will accompany this Senate meeting!

**Additional Comments:**

*Pictures/links to blog posts relating to the work in this section:*



*Image 11 and 12- Steve and I with the SUSU values pledge and copies of the handout pledge cards.*

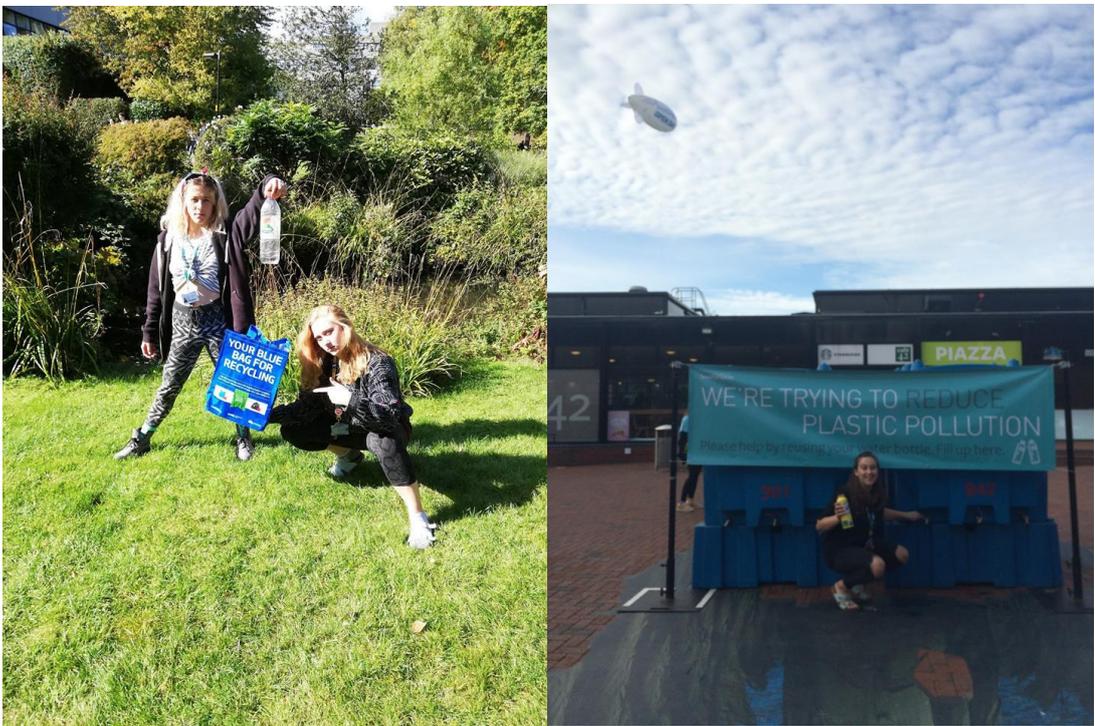


Image 13 and 14- Emily and I with the recycling bags that SUSU and the University are giving out to students and the water but that replaced giving out water bottles on the Open Days!



Image 15- One of the cohorts of students who attended the CHANGES anti-hazing training.

Developing the role	
Goal 1:	n/a
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
Goal 2:	n/a
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
Goal 3:	n/a
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

This role has been a whirlwind so far, I cannot believe we are already 5 months in! However, I'm really happy to have achieved so much already and am excited to continue this good work and passion for the rest of my term.

The first couple of months took time to transition from student life to being a Sabb, this included: understanding the structure and ways that the Union and University work, networking with members of staff, training in A to Lead and A to B Project Management, touring the campuses, touring the Halls, attending University meetings (where we are asked to share our opinions about initiatives, student communications etc.).

I now feel more confident and comfortable in this role to represent and campaign for student interests and create sustainable positive change for students.

Other things we've been up to: Open Days, Union Review, Graduations, Trustee Boards, Finance and Staffing Boards, Student Group Grant Application Processing, signing of the University and SUSU Relationship Agreement, Freshers' (particularly Bunfight and Union Fayre), Fresher Faculty Welcome Talks with the University, Welfare Sabbatical South Coast meet up, Southern Unions conference, society tasters/events (I'm trying to attend as many as possible! So far thank you: FemSoc, Meditation Soc, Amnesty Soc, IslamicSoc for having me!), interviewing for new staff, University events, You Make Changes, filming with MarComms (sabb intros, Halls giveaways).

If you would like to be involved in changes, opinion sharing, having a voice about Sustainability and Student Life things going on, please come to our next Zone meetings! (They are open for all to attend).

**Student Life:** 6<sup>th</sup> December 3pm-5pm

**Sustainability:** 26<sup>th</sup> November 1pm-3pm

Or, as always, please get in contact with me via email if you have any questions- [vpwelfare@susu.org](mailto:vpwelfare@susu.org)



*Image- Sam and I at an Open Day and the Sabbaticals, SUSU CEO, Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Presidents of the University at the Uos/SUSU Relationship Agreement signing.*