

Date: Monday, 5th November 2018

Item: Sabbatical Report

Union Senate



Fleur Elizabeth Walsh

Twitter: @SotonVPEngage

Email: vpengage@susu.org

Facebook: /SotonVPEngagement

The details in this report reflect progress made since the last meeting of Union Senate, which took place on N/A.

Minutes of previous meetings can be found on our website here: N/A

Leading the Union

**Goal 1:
Increase access to
low commitment
employment
opportunities for
students.**

Progress: 0

I have started to meet with the Careers and Employability at the university to build a database of brand ambassador opportunities they are aware of, and identify the ones they aren't. The aim of this is to provide a single database where students can search for and find low commitment, brand ambassador opportunities on campus. Brand ambassadorships are typically only a couple of hours a week or month, students can choose their own hours, and work closely with a company they may wish to continue working for in the future. These ambassadorships also benefit other students on campus, as they give them a point of contact to learn more about these companies, and the opportunities they offer. These ambassadors can act as a liaison for societies looking for sponsorship, speakers, and events.

As well as increasing access to employment opportunities, I will be hosting a larger LinkedIn Labs event during the Refreshers period, working with our STRIVE volunteer recognition scheme. This event will provide the opportunity to create and complete your LinkedIn profile, have a professional headshot taken, and sign up to the STRIVE scheme. This event will be perfect for students' looking to apply for Summer internships as well as graduate roles, and all our student volunteers.

We are also looking to host LinkedIn Labs at different sites in Semester 2.

<p>Goal 2: Create an action plan for engaging with the local community.</p>	<p>Since June I have been attending the monthly Southampton City Council Youth Forum as well as residence committee meetings across the city. Youth Forum has provided a fabulous insight into the city’s plans for youth development, and for the Child Friendly City scheme. Whereas residence committees meetings have provided insight into the general opinion residents have of students. Both these have fed into the preliminary stages of this action plan.</p>
<p>Progress: 1</p>	<p>Some residents I have spoken to have identified an ‘us versus them’ dynamic across the city which this action plan sets out to diminish. Working with students and staff across the union, as well as several contacts within the community and at the council, I aim to have the Action Plan written before February 2019, ready to be implemented next year.</p> <p>Although the plan has not be finalised, there have been several efforts already to work with the community in ways we haven’t before. Firstly, as part of Youth Forum, I was voted in by the other members as a permanent SUSU representative, and have been feeding into event ideas. As well as working with the Youth Participation team to identify opportunities to link societies with their projects. I am currently working with them to provide an opportunity for impoverished students across the city to come to one of our PA theatrical performances. Youth Forum has been a great opportunity to network with many people at the council who will help to implement this project.</p> <p>Secondly, we hosted the Volunteering and Community Fayre this year (previously Fundraising and Volunteering), to put an emphasis on our work within the local community. Several local initiatives and organisations took part in the fayre, contributing to its overall success!</p> <p>Moving forward, I will be finalising the action plan with the relevant stakeholders, ready to officially implement from February 2019.</p>
<p>Additional Comments:</p>	

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

Myself and Hayden Collins, Youth Forum Chair, at Civic Centre!



New Ideas	
<p>Goal 1: Create a way to measure hours dedicated to volunteering.</p>	<p>After discussions with students and staff, it was identified that there's a significant gap in the knowledge we have of how many hours our volunteers dedicate to their projects and campaigns. As part of a wider push of volunteer recognition, I am looking into ways we can measure these hours dedicated to volunteering.</p> <p>I am currently completing a spreadsheet that identifies the best practice of all other Students' unions in terms of volunteering, measuring hours, and volunteer recognition, and have started conversations with other sabbatical officers across the country that already run a similar scheme.</p> <p>As part of the wider goal of volunteer recognition, I have started working with the representation team, the Learning and Development Team, and the Director of Operations to introduce a volunteer landing page on susu.org. This landing page will provide a clearer insight into all the volunteer opportunities we offer, as well as link to the STRIVE volunteer scheme, and the Community and Volunteering Officer's Community Spotlight and #VolunteersOfSUSU blog!</p> <p>Whilst the actual interface/matrix is being looked at behind the scenes, I hope the more public we can be about our volunteers and volunteer recognition will be able to feed into the evidence volunteers are able to give about their volunteer work, as well as boost the profile of our volunteer offer.</p>
<p>Progress: 1</p>	
<p>Goal 2: Introduce innovative and continuous training for society committees and student volunteers within the EE Zone.</p>	<p>Myself and External Engagement team have been working together on putting on these training sessions for committee members from External Engagement Societies to attend. These sessions will focus on Charity Law, and other skills we believe are beneficial for running the best society possible. I will be picking this up with a new staff member in the next few weeks, and will be putting these sessions on for EE societies next semester.</p> <p>I have also had the pleasure of working closely with a couple of societies who are looking to raise significant funds this year, namely Human Powered Submarine. As part of increasing their skills, they have been signed on to a Food Safety course, in order to put on their own bake sales! This increased support will help them raise the £12,000 necessary to get them to America to compete!</p>
<p>Progress: 0</p>	
<p>Goal 3: Introduce Halls Office Hours.</p>	<p>The idea of introducing Halls Office Hours is to allow the union to have a presence in halls, and give all students living in halls the opportunity to raise any concerns/give any feedback, as well as providing Block Reps with the opportunity for a casual catch up.</p> <p>So far this year, I've spent so much time at halls because of event such as welcome talks, Freshers', elections, Halls Roadshows, halls elections, block rep recruitment events, and the Monte Boiler House consultation that the union presence in halls has been frequent, without having dedicated hours. Therefore</p>
<p>Progress: 1</p>	

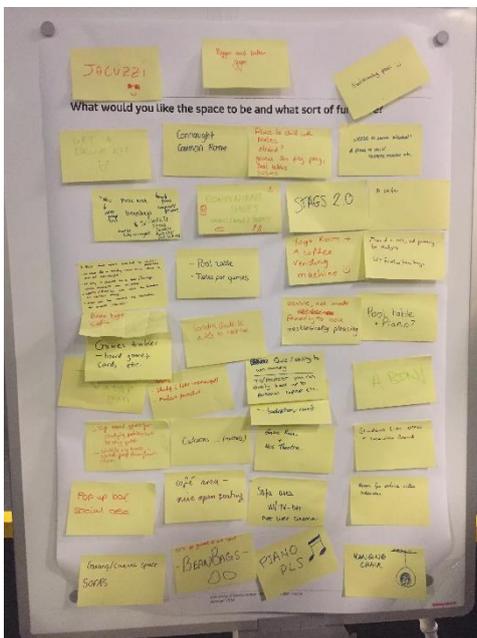
the premise of Halls Office Hours, to have a union presence at halls, has to some extent been fulfilled.

However, with the new committee in place in the new year, we will be planning the Halls Committee and Halls Committee Board Meetings ahead of time and Halls Office Hours will be tagged on to these meetings. This will move the union to having a regular, dedicated presence timetabled to listen to students and engage with them, opposed to simply being present at all the events that have occurred so far.

Additional Comments:

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

Halls Roadshow at Glen Eyre, and Ideas and Pizza at the Monte Boiler House consultation!



Building on the Union's Work

<p>Goal 1: Re-evaluate the role of Freshers' Reps.</p>	<p>This year for Freshers' the entire union took a new approach that focussed on having an offer for both drinkers and non-drinkers, and focussed on a strong Welcome/Welcome Back message. Part of this message meant the role of Freshers' reps changed from promoting nights out, to welcoming students to the university and the union. We saw some interesting changes from previous years, and this new approach had some successes and some failures. Feedback from the official Freshers' survey will feed into plans to change the Freshers' Rep offer.</p> <p>As this project will not need to be looked at until the new year, other projects have been prioritised. A list of Halls Committee and Freshers' Rep feedback from Freshers' has been collated and will be used to inform this project in the new year.</p>
<p>Progress: 0</p>	
<p>Goal 2: Transform susu.org into a hub of student information.</p>	<p>I have been having regular fortnightly meetings with the Director of Operations as part of the website improvement project. I and the insight team have now finalised a student survey that is due to be released on Monday, November 19th. This survey will be shared with both staff and students and will inform the website developments moving forward.</p>
<p>Progress: 1</p>	
<p>Goal 3: Establish and implement the new Block Rep and Halls Committees Structure.</p>	<p>During Freshers' and Halls Roadshows, we made a huge push to promote Block Reps and the new Halls Representation Structure. Over the two weeks, we received over 260 students registering interest. Since then, we have had over 100 official sign ups from students volunteering to be Block Reps, and this number is only increasing.</p> <p>In the two weeks since official sign ups have been live, Block Reps have already started raising issues about cleaning, putting forward event and activity ideas, and volunteering to take part in focus groups for Circuit Laundry and the Freshers' Christmas Ball Working Group. These new lines of communication have enabled both us and the students to share information much more efficiently, and essentially improve the experience for all students in Halls.</p> <p>Halls Elections opened on November 5th. We are looking to elect 20 positions; President and Vice-President for all 9 halls, and the Private Rented Halls Committee. All this week support staff have been in halls promoting the elections, talking to students, and encouraging them to nominate themselves.</p>
<p>Progress: 2</p>	
<p>Goal 4: Increase the scope and reach of Refreshers 2019.</p>	<p>I have started planning Refreshers' with the sabbs and relevant members of staff. We are looking to recreate some of the best bits of Freshers' and make sure our offer is accessible to all students. The theme of Refreshers' will be 'Get Engaged!', and will provide opportunities for students to get involved in the union through a range of activities.</p>
<p>Progress: 1</p>	

Additional Comments:

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

Glen Eyre Block Rep Recruitment (photo courtesy of Sam Dedman), the Halls Representation graphic, and the Block Rep recruitment branding!



Become a Block Rep.

Represent your community within your halls block.

We will be holding sign-ups for Block Reps throughout the Freshers' period.

For more info visit:
www.susu.org/representation

.Representation **SUSU.**
 Our Students' Union

How the Students' Union looks after your community in halls.

The Students' Union Halls Representatives are here to represent all students living in University Halls of Residence and first year students living in private rented accommodation.

Halls Reps pass on any student concerns and suggestions and are trained and supported by the Students' Union.

Find out more at www.susu.org/halls

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 Our Students' Union

Developing the role

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

The past four months have been both challenging and exhilarating. I'm incredibly proud of what we've all accomplished as a team, and everything we'll have done by the end of this year. A huge achievement for us as a Union was our incredible Freshers', which wouldn't have been achieved without the dedication of Halls Committees and Freshers' Reps! I'd like to take the time to thank them for everything they did during Freshers', and by the time of this senate we would have celebrated at the Fresher Rep Awards (16/11/18).

The success of our Freshers' Reps and Halls Committees have fed into the ever-growing success of the new Block Rep structure in halls! This new representation structure will, hopefully in the coming months and years, continue to exponentially increase the experience of students living in halls. I am confident that Block Reps will allow both students and the Union a new means of communication, allowing us to have a better way to inform students of all the opportunities available to them, and allowing students to directly feed into how halls are run and maintained, and the events and activities put on for them and by them.

In the first External Engagement Zone meeting of the year, we voted to have an increased focus on micro-volunteering throughout this year. As part of this, our Community and Volunteering Officer has arranged for a food collection point to be on the concourse. The non-perishable food items will be donated to a local charity. I'm looking forward to working with the External Engagement team moving forward to see how we could weave micro-volunteering into many more events and activities.

	What is the idea?	What do you hope to achieve?	Who will you be working with?	When do you expect to be finished (term)?
Leading the Union	Increase access to low commitment employment opportunities for students	Provide more casual employment options to students, increase employability, build relationship with recruiters	Careers and Employability (uni), Student Services (uni), Employers, Activities Coordinators, Insight team	Before Easter
	Create an (External) Community Engagement Action Plan	The first steps to an evergreen strategy to assist SUSU in liaising with the external community. To give students better access to everything the city has to offer, and provide the city with an accurate snapshot into all the good the union and our members do.	Activities Coordinators, Representation Coordinators, All Sabbs, Local Community, Youth Forum, Council, University, Director of Activities, Student Media Teams	Action Plan to be written Before February 2019, and remaining semesters used to implement
New Ideas	Create a way to measure hours dedicated to volunteering	Increase the profile of our student volunteers, continue to improve volunteer recognition, and give all students the opportunity to volunteer	Activities Coordinators, Representation Coordinators, Community and Volunteering Officer, RAG, Director of Operations	Year Long Project (New Year 2019)
	Introduce innovative and continuous training for society committees and student volunteers within the EE Zone	Increased employability, volunteer recognition, better society union engagement, make society committees union advocates	Activities Coordinators, External Engagement team, Director of Activities, External Engagement Zone, EE Societies	Sesmeter 2
	Introduce halls office hours	Get the union off of highfield, improve communication with students living in halls, support the new Halls representation structure	Residences (uni), Activities Coordinators, Representation Coordinators, Halls committees, Halls officer, Block Reps	Semester 1
Building on the Union's work	Re-evaluate the role of fresher reps	Best' FR offer in the UK. Volunteer recognition, increased employability, better union engagement	Residences (uni), Activities Coordinators, Representation Coordinators, Director of Activities, Insight Team, WSA team, Halls Committees, Halls Officer, Block Reps, Previous Freshers' Reps, Commercial team, Freshers team	Semester 3
	Make susu.org a hub of student information	Increase engagement and union knowledge, remove the 'apathetic factor'	Students, Operations, Societies, union groups	Semester 1
	Establish and implement the new Block Rep and Halls Committees structure	Increased community in halls, overall better student experience across all halls (building on RYC 2018), building on the halls offer (over 100 events) of 2018,	Activities Coordinators, Activites director, Representation Coordinators, Representation director, VP Education, Residences (uni)	Semester 1
	Increase the scope and reach of Refreshers 2019	Increase engagement across the union, push the brand, target students who join in January 2019 to ensure they are given the same welcome as those who join in September 2018, build relationships with societies by giving them opportunities they ask for	All sabbs / All coordinators, All socs, all student leaders, Operations, Commercial Team, Support Staff, Halls committees, Block Reps, Residences (uni)	Jan/Feb 2019