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

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

Leading the Union	
Goal 1: Improve communication both within the zone and across zones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Communities Zone Facebook Page: I have set up a Facebook group page for the Student Communities zone and, in an introductory email I sent to societies in my zone at the start of my term, I encouraged them all to join it. It has seen a good amount of uptake with 54 people currently opting to be members of the group. The aim of this group was to gather everyone together to have one place where communication about upcoming events, ongoing projects and opportunities could be posted and easily accessed by everyone. The idea was to have not only posts from me about Union events but to encourage students to also post about their society events and even to ask questions and get feedback and advice from each other, thereby creating more of a community.• Student Communities Zone Facebook Group Chat: The page has seen very limited engagement with posts and so last week I created a group chat from this page which has seen much better engagement, with more people reading and replying to messages. Thanks to this, we had one of the most well attended Student Communities zone meetings in the past year, proving that this has worked in increasing our reach and improving communication. I hope to continue this further and develop more student ownership over these platforms.
Progress: 2	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MedSoc: In the past, MedSoc have been seen almost as a separate Union and have either been distant from or at loggerheads with the Union. I doing a lot of work to try and change this to create more of a partnership. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To start this, I met with this year’s MedSoc President, Kunal, and we spoke at length about our respective plans for the year and how we can work together to ensure that we are on the same page and know each other’s expectations. 2. The SUSU logo is now included on their website, where it was not previously. 3. I have also introduced Kunal and the presidents of the three healthcare societies who are not affiliated to MedSoc (NurSoc, Midwifery Society and Physiotherapy Society) to each other over email to help facilitate collaboration and inclusion of all SGH and healthcare students in MedSoc activities. 4. A lot of the events and projects that I and the Union are doing are now being included in the MedSoc bulletin which is sent from the society to all of their members which increases the reach and awareness of our activities. 5. We held the MedSoc bunfight in the Union building. This went very well, with a high turnout of students attending and very positive feedback from the society committees. 6. Following a conversation I had with the Widening Access to Medicine Society at the MedSoc bunfight, they subsequently put on a ‘Being a BME Doctor’ event for Black History Month.
<p>Goal 2:</p> <p>Lobby the University to put a consistent and clear policy concerning paying Postgraduate students for preparation time.</p>	<p>This goal came out of an email that I received from a PhD student who was unsure about the official University policy on being paid for preparation time of demonstrations as they were being refused pay, whereas a friend on another module had no problems receiving pay. Upon consultation, the new <i>PGRs who Teach</i> policy brought in for this Semester by the University makes no clear and explicit stipulation about being paid for prep time but instead is deliberately vague in order to leave it up to faculty discretion. So far, I have raised this at the first Doctoral College board and as a result have a meeting with the head of Quality Standards and Teaching team at the University to look at including some clarity on the issue within the policy.</p>
<p>Progress: 1</p>	
<p>Goal 3:</p> <p>Work with the University to better signpost support services and structures to Postgraduate students.</p>	<p>At the first Student Communities Zone meeting of the year, it was brought to my attention by one of the new PGR reps that there is a lack of support for PhD students who go on leave due to mental health reasons and a general unawareness of the support services available. I have raised this both with the Doctoral College and with our Advice and Representation team at SUSU. There a couple of things I plan to do to tackle this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the University to get emails sent out to ALL students detailing all of the support services on offer by both the Union and the University and the process of reporting issues at key times. (E.G. For

Progress: 0/1/2/3	<p>Undergraduates this would be sent out around exams and for Postgraduates around thesis deadlines and over University vacation period when Postgraduates are still here and usually forgotten about.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Liase with the University about including information about Union support services such as the Advice Centre, SUSU Lettings Agency and Nightline in tours given by University Student Ambassadors throughout the year. 3. One idea I had was also to talk to have some sort of permanent item such as a keyring, lanyard, fridge magnet ect. with reminders about support services which could be given out to students on campus and put in student rooms in halls.
Additional Comments:	

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

1. Link to Student Communities Zone Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1764449350258555/>

New Ideas	
Goal 1: Create an International Forum	<p>Currently, there is only one International Officer to represent the interests of over 6,500 international students, all of who have very different needs and so I am doing some work to increase international student representation. I brought this project up at the first Student Communities Zone meeting to discuss. It was suggested that we invite the existing presidents of the International societies to a kind of forum where they could raise any issues and suggest any ideas for how to better represent international students. At my next monthly catch up with the International Officer, I will be confirming details on what we want this to look like and to set a date and will then contact the presidents to invite them to the first meeting.</p>
Progress: 1	
Goal 2: Create a dedicated social space for Postgraduates	<p>I have been working alongside the Union President and our CEO to submit a position paper to the University Estates and Facilities team to secure funding for increasing Union presence at various sites other than Highfield. Part of this, includes a proposal to turn a disused University space at SGH into a dedicated Postgraduate social and study area. I have also been working with the faculty manager at Avenue to extend the Mature Student and Student Parent room at Avenue into a space that can also be used by Postgraduates. Following a final meeting next week, I hope to have this confirmed so we can then promote this to students.</p>
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
Goal 3: Create and roll out a Sites survey to	<p>I have worked with our SUSU Insights team to put together a survey to invite feedback from students about their experiences studying at all of our different campuses. The aim of this was to gain data on issues ranging from availability of transport links and catering options to accessibility of buildings and ideas for</p>

students at all other campuses.	events. This data will inform our sites strategy going forward to make sure that, as we increase our offer and presence at sites, everything is being informed by students. This survey is due to close on Friday 16 th November. As well as sending out an all student email, I also travelled to lots of our other sites including WSA, Avenue, Boldrewood, NOCS, Monte and Connaught halls to chat to students and promote the survey. At the date of writing we have had 288 responses to the survey.
Progress: 2	
Additional Comments:	

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



Me at The NOCS promoting the Sites Survey and giving out free high vis back pack covers!

Building on the Union's Work	
Goal 1: Introduce a Kids club at Union Films	One of the ideas that I had to increase Student Parent engagement with the Union was to set up a Kids Club at Union Films which would show child friendly films at discounted prices for children. Following meetings with Union Films, we have agreed that all children under the age of 18 will be admitted free with a paying adult ticket. We also agreed a schedule and the first lot of films to be shown. I am pleased to say that this is now up and running and our first two Kids Club screenings have taken place very successfully! The first, The Lion King, was made free for everybody and was attended by 100 people. The second, Hotel Transylvania 3, was attended by 57 people, 13 of which were free child entries.
Progress: 3	
Goal 2: Bunfights at Sites	With the huge success of the Union's Bunfight event during Fresher's week, I want to bring smaller tailored offshoots of the main bunfight to different sites during refreshers with societies that are to that campus. (E.G. At the Avenue bunfight we will invite the education societies for the courses which are based there such as HistSoc and EngSoc as well as the intramural sports teams for each.) This will provide more exposure for our societies whilst also increasing
Progress: 1	

	<p>Union presence outside of Highfield campus and hopefully engage with a new audience. I am currently in the preliminary stages of planning, so far having discussed the idea with the Sabbatical team and Director of Activities and had the go ahead to include them in the official refreshers programme. My next steps will be to involve the Student Communities Zone Clubs and Societies Rep and recruit societies to take part.</p>
<p>Goal 3:</p> <p>Expand the International Buddy System</p>	<p>Further to the work I am doing to increase representation and support for international students, I plan to work with Erasmus Network Society to expand their International buddy system to include ALL international students. I have not yet started this project as I have been focusing on other projects first, however I plan to help promote it so it is more well-known and increase student engagement with it. I also want to formalise the process so that we can keep track of everyone that takes part so that no one is forgotten about provide formal training to those who sign up to be buddies to ensure they are properly equipped to provide support.</p>
<p>Progress: 0</p>	
<p>Additional Comments:</p>	

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

Kids Club



The Lion King

Wednesday 24 October
17:00 - 19:00

Free entry for all

Free for all students. Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. Students must present their student ID.



Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation

Sunday 04 November
15:00 - 17:00

Adults £3 advanced booking or £4 on the door

Free for under 18s who are accompanied by an adult. Students must present their student ID.



More info at www.susu.org





First Kids Club Poster!

Developing the role	
<p>Goal 1:</p>	

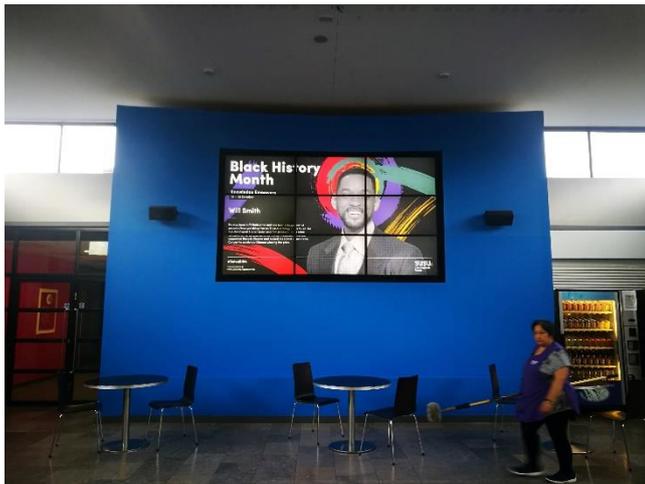
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
Goal 2:	
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
Goal 3:	
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
<p>Additional Comments: Due to recent events, the Sabbatical Team has been unable to meet and agree upon a set of common goals for the “Developing the Role” section. However, some areas of focus have already started to appear 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.</p>	

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

Conclusion/AOB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black History Month: One of the main things that has taken over my workload for the past couple of months has been Black History Month! I had lots of feedback from various people both within and outside of the Union who said that this year was the most the Union had done for Black History Month although there were a few learning curves there was also lots and lots of positives! Here’s everything that we did: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Heritage Maps Project:</i> Throughout October, we had a World, UK and London map stationed in the concourse with three coloured stickers for people to plot their heritage. There was a red sticker for where the student was from, a blue sticker for where their parents were from and a yellow for where their grandparents were from. This was very successful and received a lot of student engagement making the maps look wonderfully colourful! It was a great way to celebrate the diverse heritage of our student population. It went so well, that we now have a large scale World and UK map up on the walls of the tunnel between building 40 and 42 for students to continue plotting throughout the year!



2. *'Our Curriculum: Is it Diverse?'* Debate Event: We held a joint debate event with the University Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team which invited people to listen to a panel debate if there was enough diversity in the University curriculum and then share their own thoughts and experiences. The event was very successful, with over 80 people turning up!
3. *Black History Month Figure of the Day:* I asked staff and students to nominate their favourite figures from black history and popular culture which were then posted from the official SUSU Facebook and Twitter pages every day in October. These also appeared on screens both within the Union and around the University! We had some fantastic nominations, from Sojourner Truth to Gil Scott-Heron!



4. *ACS Open Mic Night:* I provided funding for ACS to hold a 'Voices of Colour' open mic night. This happened in Bar 2 and was very well attended, with lots of students sharing their experiences and issues faced as a black student through songs, poems and spoken word performances.
5. *ACS and Ghanaian Society 'All Things Black' Debate event:* I provided funding for ACS and Ghanaian Society to hold a joint debate event which discussed some key issues faced by the black community. This featured a panel including special guest, Youtuber Nissy Tee. This was another extremely well attended event that provoked lively conversation. I have since spoken to the Ghanaian Society about holding more of these throughout the year rather than just in Black History Month.
6. *Widening Access to Medicine Society 'Being a BME Doctor' Event*

7. *BME figures in Lectures:* I also asked lecturers to talk about a BME figure relevant to their area of study throughout the month. We provided them with a template slide to use which was promoted by our course reps!
8. *East African Mythology Exhibition:* We had an exhibition in the concourse with posters and leaflets about various parts of East African mythology and folklore, courtesy of the East African Society.



9. *Audience with Shakira Martin:* After a lot of miscommunication and delayed email responses, I managed to secure Shakira Martin to come to the University for a talk and Q&A hosted by the Politics Society. Unfortunately, the event was only attended by 7 students as it ended up happening very last minute. However, all who did attend were very positive and I hope to be able to do this again next year with better organisation.
10. *Magic Mirror:* We had the Magic Mirror stationed in the concourse throughout the month for people to take pictures with a commemorative Black History Month frame.

