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The details in this report reflect progress made since the last meeting of Union Senate, which took place on 20/11/18.

*Minutes of previous meetings can be found on our website here:
susu.org/representation/senate*

Leading the Union																												
<p>Goal 1: Lobbying Sport & Wellbeing for better value Sports Pass and split membership payments</p>	<p>The first aspect of this project (better value in Sports Pass) was marked as complete at the previous meeting of senate.</p>																											
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	<div style="background-color: #4a7c9c; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Improved Sport & Wellbeing access!</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 5px 0;">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!</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 5px 0;">For full list of casual sports activities, visit susu.org</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="2">Booking casual sports sessions</th> <th colspan="2">Access to casual sports sessions</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2017 - 2018</th> <th>2018 - 2019</th> <th>2017 - 2018</th> <th>2018 - 2019</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Peak Performer</td> <td>Any time</td> <td>Any time</td> <td>Unlimited</td> <td>Unlimited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frequent Fitness</td> <td>Off-peak</td> <td>Off-peak</td> <td>Off-peak only</td> <td>Unlimited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sports Pass</td> <td>No ability to book</td> <td>Off-peak</td> <td>One IM training session per week</td> <td>Unlimited</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin-top: 10px;"> Follow the Union on Facebook University of Southampton Students' Union Contact your VP Sports for more info: aupres@soton.ac.uk </p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">SUSU. Our Students' Union</p> </div> </div>					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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	<p>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 this at the moment.</p>
<p>Goal 2: Promotion of welfare for members taking part in sports clubs</p>	<p>There has been no progress on this project since the last meeting of senate.</p> <p>VP Welfare and I have seen a significant increase in behavioural infractions reported to the sabbatical team and SUSU over the last few months, 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.</p>
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	
<p>Goal 3: Formal representation for casual users in sports facilities</p>	<p>There has been no progress on this project since the last meeting of senate.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Progress: 0/1/2/3</p>	
<p>Additional Comments:</p>	

New Ideas	
<p>Goal 1: Promote a culture of sporting excellence and align sports strategy with the University through the Sport Experience Board</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&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>Progress: 0/1/2/3</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>The strategy is currently almost completed. Once Emma Rowsell (Associate Dir. Student Services) has completed the document we will be presenting to the Athletic Union Committee and Sports Zone clubs for feedback, as well as a slimmed down version to distribute on social media for informal feedback from the wider student population.</p>
<p>Goal 2: An awareness campaign around recreational drug use among students</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% of those 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>I am part of the way through constructing an information pack to be hosted on the SUSU website. The framework has been approved by the working group and I have reached out to South Central Ambulance Service for some medical advice on first responses to possible overdoses.</p> <p>Common People has been gone into administration and is therefore cancelled, however once the project is off the ground we will still begin talking to local clubs and venues to point towards our campaign.</p>
<p>Goal 3: Create a regular free sports</p>	<p>There has been no progress on this project since the last meeting of senate.</p>

programme for students to casually attend	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.
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
Additional Comments:	

Building on the Union’s Work	
Goal 1: Better information on nutritional and alcohol content of products sold in our outlets	There has been no progress on this project since the last meeting of senate. 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	
Goal 2: Introduce a lunchtime meal deal in the shop	I have spoken to our Retail Manager regarding this and she has ruled out the possibility of introducing this offer in the near future. Unfortunately meal deals make financial losses in order to drive footfall, and SUSU’s budgets are being squeezed between a reduction in student numbers and a difficult trading environment.
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
Goal 3: Improved intramural programme	This project was marked as complete at the previous meeting of senate.
Progress: 0/1/2/3	
Additional Comments:	

Conclusion/AOB

January has seen the team out and about up and down England! At the start of the month I travelled to Sheffield/Leeds/Leicester with most of the team to visit other Students' Unions and share best practice. The team also spent a few days at PGL in Swindon to undergo more coaching, reassess our sabbatical plans and to take part in some team building activities. We have just finished a week of Refreshers' activity with bunfights at sites, humans versus zombies, careers cube and more!

The sabbatical team has undergone a difficult time over the last few months, however I believe they have handled themselves well and become more resilient for it. Since the last meeting of senate I have taken on the role of Acting President for the remainder of the academic year so the line management of the sabbatical team now falls to me, alongside the majority of Emily's duties such as University Council and Senate, the Vice Chancellor Joint Selection Committee, regular meetings with the Vice Chancellor, block grant negotiations, Grad Ball planning, and chairing the SUSU board of trustees. These extra duties, alongside the business as usual sports zone workload such as Varsity have meant that unfortunately I haven't made a great deal of progress towards a majority of my projects since the last meeting of senate. My biggest pieces of work upcoming are finishing the drug harm reduction information as well as redrafting the SEB strategy.

Additionally to the aforementioned, I have decided to spend some time on drafting up a "Terms of Reference" to define the relationship between sabbatical officers and core staff in SUSU moving forwards. Sabbatical officers have always struggled to find their place in the organisation and this sometimes causes friction between our team and others. Hopefully with a written terms of reference, there will be an agreed set of expectations to which all members of staff can refer moving forwards. This would allow the sabbatical officers to perform their duties more efficiently and help define boundaries and work remits.

As always, I'm reachable at aupres@soton.ac.uk if anyone would like to follow up on anything!

Democratic regards,
Steve.