



Zoe Booth

Senator Zone Representative

Zone: Sustainability Zone

The details in this report reflect progress made within the Zone since the last meeting of Union Senate, which took place on 12th November 2018

Minutes of previous meetings can be found on our website here: <https://www.susu.org/meetings/1275>

Attendance Summary	
Absence with Apologies:	Absence without Apologies:
26/11/18 Yanna Fidai, Zoe Booth, Laura Jeffers, Lucy Stephenson, Ned Williams	
7/2/19 Yanna Fidai, Lucy Stephenson, Laura Jeffers	

Progress Report	
Progress towards the Zone's Goal 1: Reducing overall waste and recycling contamination	Library Bin Collections Lucy Stephenson organised an increased number of bins collections in the library to help prevent contamination issues, which was noted to have improved issues in this area during the January exam period. Zoe Gough also noticed plastic coffee cup lids in the library self-service area which may be unnecessary. IC to mention this to library catering.
Progress: 1.5	Recycling/General Waste Bin Trials Quantitative recycling trial results weren't provided by Mike Travers (University). Qualitative assessment from him showed that whilst there is contamination within the current recycling bin system, this system is still more effective than having more general waste bins. It was decided that further improvements to the system should be focussed around improving signage and providing greater information to students to help reduce the current contamination. Within the zone meeting on the 7 th February, it was noted that even among students with a clear interest in the topic were unaware that the university recycling system is not the same as the Southampton City Council system. Similarly, many students are unaware of

what happens to the waste and therefore the implications of contamination. This is something that the zone will be trying to address at upcoming events such as the Sustainability mini-bunfight and using the sustainability page (potentially a how-to video) and SUSU screens. Current ideas for potential signage improvements include the use of simple imagery of do's and don'ts (similar to current signage used at WSA). This reduces time for students to read and helps remove language barriers and misunderstanding signage.

Reducing Plastic Use

Butterfly cups have shown not to leak so far, the current plan is for these to be rolled out to union outlets after Vegware stock has been used. These eliminate the need for the plastic lid as the cup itself folds in on itself. Although, it was noted that they didn't protect hands from heat as well as advertised so this may need to be considered before taking this forward.

The issue with the eco-range of soap in the shop being packaged in plastic bags was raised with Hollie who had already mentioned this to the supplier. This has now changed and no longer comes in plastic.

Additionally, the zone discussed potential for alternative eco-friendly packaging to replace current plastic packaging for sandwiches and wraps. Research into this shows that it's important for customers to still be able to see the food they're buying though. Zoe Booth will look into potential viable alternatives and Isabella Camilleri will discuss with Luke.

Reducing Food Waste

Leftover food from the SUSU shop is now being given to students (currently as a trial) who receive food vouchers on the hardship fund provided by the university. This has only very recently begun (January) with only one voucher given out so far (which was used) but this has been attributed to exams and early days and the trial will continue. Isabella will be attending a meeting next week to see how this may be improved. Currently this is only provided to those who receive food vouchers using the hardship fund, not all students who use it as there needs to be a balance of numbers.

Reducing Paper Waste in SUSU Shop

Specifically targeted the till receipt system in the shop which automatically printed customer and merchant receipts which were 9/10 times thrown in the bin. After discussion, the company were contacted and initially we were told that this was an issue that couldn't be resolved. However, the company has since decided to change this system and now receipts are only printed upon request at the till. This has helped to reduce both waste and costs.

Overall good progress for this goal but would like to see some more of the projects wrapped up by the next senate meeting

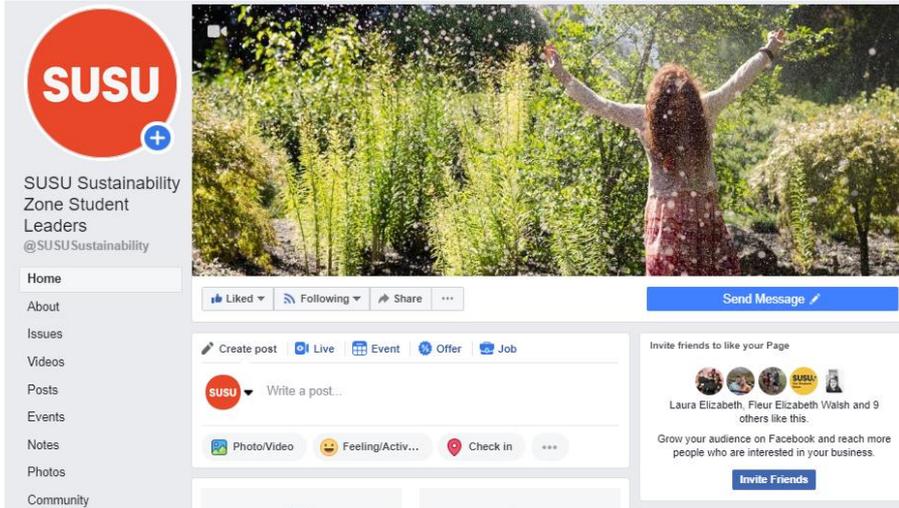
<p>Progress towards the Zone’s Goal 2: Scholarships/support for asylum seekers and refugees</p>	<p>Fleur McInnes has been in initial conversation with Wessex Scene regarding media coverage in support of scholarships for refugees and asylum seekers. Due to the exam period this died down a bit and Fleur will be reconnecting with them soon with more information on how to approach the topic.</p> <p>The zones current plans are to get in touch with WAM, STAR and Amnesty to help support this plan. Isabella has also been working with the Widening Access to Participation team to try to work out a scholarship scheme.</p>
<p>Progress: 0</p>	<p>Not much progress in this goal yet, although this can be partially attributed to the exam period for student leaders.</p>
<p>Progress towards the Zone’s Goal 3: Improve non-gendered toilets and amenities</p>	<p>Self-contained gender-neutral toilets are now available to see on Southampton maps for Highfield campus. The ones currently mapped all have sanitary bins. The data for this was provided by Estates and Facilities but the zone members will be working to improve this log (there are some not included at the moment) so that signage can be changed in other areas (including other campuses) where there are gender neutral toilets, ensuring they all have sanitary bins too. Estates have not included disabled toilets with specific facilities with the idea that we wouldn’t want to overshadow the needs of those with disabilities by reducing their access to specialist facilities within disabled toilets. The zone is also working to get this map layer added to the My Southampton App version of the map as it’s currently only available on the browser version.</p>
<p>Progress: 2</p>	<p>Overall good progress within this goal with more data needing to be added to complete.</p>
<p>Progress towards the Zone’s Goal 4: Improving inclusivity</p>	<p>Trans Week</p> <p>Trans week was a successful in raising awareness and inclusivity, with many students asking about the trans flag raised in conjunction with the university. Gender pronoun badges were available in the sabbs office and reception and proved to be quite popular. The events that were undertaken had trans students show up with many saying they were glad to be included within the union events. There were also some great discussions during events between both trans and non-trans students, helping to improve awareness. The zone have decided for future it would be good to have an impartial mediator for these events to ensure slip-up comments are addressed in an appropriate way. SUSU staff also now have their preferred pronouns within their email signatures.</p>
<p>Progress: 2</p>	<p>Accessibility Video Guide for Societies</p> <p>Fleur MacInnes has now finished the script for the accessibility video which will be sent out to all clubs and societies informing them of different accessibility features on social media, and how we can make social media content more accessible if there aren’t any features to utilise. This includes things such as how to add alternative text (for people with screen readers</p>

	<p>who are visually impaired) or captions (for people who may have hearing disabilities) to photos on twitter, Instagram etc.</p> <p>LGBT+ History Month This has been organised in collaboration with SUSU LGBT+ society, University of Southampton and Student Life. This is looking like a really positive month of events so far with many things happening surrounding the themes Love, Reconciliation, Activism and Celebration (one theme per week) including: Raising the flag, Cake and Condoms event touring the different halls (Archers Road, Mayflower, Erasmus Park, Chamberlain and City Gateway). Rapid HIV testing, film screening at Highfield and WSA, Annual Stonewall Lecture, Student Pride Parade and Party and the Rainbow cocktails at the Bridge. The month has been pushed through advertisement on the SUSU calendar as well as through social media channels and has so far had good interest (rainbow cocktails have even sold out!). It's also been good to see a lot of collaboration with LGBT+ soc, the university, as well as SCA (also in collaboration with others such as MindSoc) who are running various sexual consent awareness events throughout the month and external charities such as Yellow Door and Chrysalis who are receiving a 50p donation for every rainbow cocktail bought. Isabella will also be posting about inspirational figures on social media to promote this further.</p> <p>Good progress so far</p>
<p>Progress towards the Zone's Goal 5: Increasing awareness of sustainability, the zone and its societies</p>	<p>Air Quality Event The air quality event was successful with a good turnout and discussion.</p> <p>Webpage A sustainability page on the new website has been approved and student leaders + sabbs are working to write the content for this page at the moment. There should be more to update by the next Senate meeting!</p>
<p>Progress: 1</p>	<p>Social Media Presence The student officers now have FB pages which are currently doing well with engagement. The general sustainability page on FB and Instagram have also been created for all zone members to be able to post. Less was posted during the exam period on the general pages but this should pick up again now that that's over.</p> <p>Showcasing There is currently a sustainability zone collaborative event planned. This will essentially be a mini-bunfight to showcase the zone's achievements, it's societies and what they have achieved. There will also be relevant external groups there and we are hoping to use this opportunity to spread awareness of how the waste and recycling system works too. We also aim to promote our media channels here so that students can keep in touch with all things sustainability at SUSU.</p>

Sustainability Screenings

Sustainability free screenings have begun with one a month planned so far. We are waiting to hear what the final figure turnout was but we know at least 15 people went. Isabella will be contacting Union Films to see if the screenings can be added to their list of films on their website as this may improve the turnout. Considering this is fairly new this has seen some good progress so far.

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



12 - 18 NOVEMBER
Trans Awareness Week

Tuesday 13 November, 11:00 – 15:00, Redbrick Trans Awareness Fayre led by LGBTQ+ Soc, FemSoc, Chrysalis, MindSoc and Enabling. Come along to learn more and get your own pronoun badge.

Thursday 15 November, 17:00 – 19:00, Bar 2 "Transgender Identity and Transitioning" - Open panel discussion. Our VP Welfare will chair a panel including students, University representatives and Chrysalis.

Trans Day of Remembrance Tuesday 20 November.
 The SUSU Safety Bus will be available to take students from campus to events in town, 17:00 – 18:00.
Gathering at The Art House from 17:00 "Listen to tunes from Hunting Hearts, have a piece of cake and a drink, and collect your vigil candle"
Candlelit vigil at Guildhall Square 18:30 – 19:00. Reading of the names of all those lost to violence in the last year.
Remembrance and Pride at The Stage Door 19:00 – 21:00. £5 advance tickets, £8 on door. All profits to Chrysalis and Southampton Pride.
The Art House open until 22:00 // The London House open until 23:00 // The Edge open until 02:00

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 www.susu.org In association with

SUSU Sustainability Zone Student Leaders
 Published by Zoe Booth [?] · 13 November 2018 · 🌐

Don't forget to pick up your pronoun badge this week from SUSU reception in support of transgender awareness! 🌈

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<https://www.facebook.com/susuvpelfare/videos/2084342648562271/UzpfSTUzODE4Nzq5MzMxMDczODo1NTq4NTMzNjc5MTA4NTc/>

<https://blogs.susu.org/blog/2019/02/04/its-lgbt-history-month-and-heres-how-to-get-involved/>

Future Plans/AOB

National Unplugging Day

This has been planned for the 1st March. The day supports a 24 hour ban on phones and laptops to allow people to reconnect with people and hobbies. Events in the Cube during the day and live music in the Bridge in the evening. MindSoc will have a stand throughout the day (hopefully with refreshments, tbc) for people to have a chat and collaboration with Wessex Scene will hopefully result in an article surrounding mental health and social media. All event slots will be filled with society activities so lots of collaboration here.

Paperclip

The paperclip app that SUSU are currently in collaboration with for buying and selling used items has had a lot of bugs up until now. Now that these seem to be fixed we are hoping to promote this to reduce waste and provide a platform for students. We aim to target 3rd years with this, as well as incoming 1st years. This year the university didn't provide halls information to students until the day they moved in, this increases issues with overbuying items that could be shared such as kettles etc. so we aim to discuss this with them so that incoming 1st years can find their flatmates and discuss before buying.

Pack for good (with British Heart Foundation)

Previous events with Shift Your Stuff have shown a large amount of interest with students donating but has caused issues with space and organisation within SUSU. This year we will be collaborating with the British Heart Foundation who already have an established programme for this and will be able to help with organisation and storage of donations to make this much more practical and successful. We hope to promote this particularly to international students through channels such as WeChat who tend to throw stuff away if they can't sell it because it's easier than paying to transport it to other countries.

David Henry (Faculty Officer for Medicine)

Has secured financial support from the faculty to implement his plan for sexual consent training sessions as part of the introduction to medicine week during Freshers for a cohort of approx. 250. Once this has been done, we hope the success of this will enable further investment from other faculties to roll this out across the university. Kerry from the sexual violence working group has shown support for this and may also be able to help implement within other faculties. David also shared his ideas on how SUSU events could be more inclusive to medics, ensuring welfare events tour to the Hospital with the Foyer being the best place. This is particularly important due to the isolation in 3rd year for medics who are on placement etc.

Additional Comments:

Originally we had planned to celebrate Disability History Month with a range of events throughout December. Unfortunately, due to the timing of zone member elections and student leader elections, the planning for this was too last-minute and we were unable to secure any bookings during the busy Christmas period. However, we hope to take this information forward and begin planning for this much further in advance for the current year to ensure bookings are made early and society involvement can be organised. The zone feel that this could be a successful event with more time (similar amount to the planning for LGBT+) and this is something student leaders plan to work on ready for the handover.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask!