



The details in

the last meeting of Union Senate, which took place on _____.

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

Leading the Union	
<p>Goal 1:</p> <p>Improve communication between students both within the zone and across zones.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Culture Festival: Back in March, we held our annual Culture Festival. This consists of two weeks celebrating art, dance, drama, music and international culture. Our Global Village event had over 20 different societies involved and was very positively received. ● MedSoc: I recently met with all of MedSoc committee to get feedback about the previous year, things that went well and things that could have gone better. We have identified actions for next year to make the relationship smoother. We will also be writing a Service Level Agreement, something which we are looking to do with all Union groups, to iron out any areas of tension and set expectations on both sides for the year ahead. ● PG Newsletter: We are continuing to send out our PG Newsletter every month. This has seen positive engagement with Postgraduate students and a more joined up approach with the Doctoral College.
<p>Progress: 2</p>	
<p>Goal 2:</p> <p>Lobby the University to put a consistent and clear policy concerning paying Postgraduate students for preparation time.</p>	<p>We now have an explicit reference to the inclusion of preparation time when paying PGR students in the new PGRs Who teach policy! Although this has not gone as far as I would like in terms of creating the same policy on prep time for all PGRs it is a good first step to tackling the inconsistencies. The problem we faced is that there are different levels and kinds of prep time needed for demonstrations depending on what faculty and discipline you are. It is therefore impossible at the moment to make it policy that all PGRs do the same amount of prep time. This initial policy however, will ensure that at least preparation time has to be factored into the offer of work by a supervisor or University staff member.</p>
<p>Progress: 3</p>	
<p>Goal 3:</p>	<p>I am pleased to report that there has been a lot of progress with this.</p>

<p>Work with the University to better signpost support services and structures to Postgraduate students.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We ran our first PG specific Look After Your Mate training which was signed up to by 24 students and very positively received! We will be looking to run more of these from now on. We are also developing additional training sessions to support PG students. In particular, we will be focusing on the relationship between a PGR student and their supervisor, as this is often very problematic. 2. There is now details of all the support services available at the Union and the University detailed in all suspension letter sent to students from the University. 3. I have been working alongside Isabella (VP Welfare) on reforming the Fitness to Study policy. I have met with the head of Enabling at the University to discuss how to go about creating a PGR specific policy. Currently, any PGR students that go off on leave and come back are kept a record of by their faculty. I am now working to ensure that those records are passed on to the Fitness to Study team as a formality so that we are aware of those students who may need more support and can chase up to check they have had a back to study meeting upon their return.
<p>Progress: 2</p>	
<p>Additional Comments:</p>	

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/>

<p>New Ideas</p>	
<p>Goal 1:</p> <p>Create an International Forum</p> <p>Progress: 3 (Completed)</p>	<p>As per my last report, this has been completed.</p>
<p>Goal 2:</p> <p>Create a dedicated social space for Postgraduates</p> <p>Progress: 1</p>	<p>We ran into problems in securing the space at SGH, which we planned to turn into a Postgraduate space, as this space is co-owned by the Trust. We are still looking to get this space however the process is much more long-term than we first thought.</p> <p>However, there is a dedicated Postgraduate space at Avenue and we are working with the faculty to promote this better to students so more people are aware of it.</p> <p>There is a general lack of space which is a problem across the University and Union which has been a barrier to getting further space, particularly as it would be limited to one group of students. However, with the 10 year building plan which the University is undergoing, there is the opportunity to progress with this project in the future when more space becomes available.</p>

	In Jan/Feb, I also started the new PG Breakfast Club. This happens once a month and is a chance for PG students to come together and get a free breakfast and hot drink. This has been rotating around different campuses every month to ensure engagement with PGs in all faculties. We are also just beginning with our monthly BBQs for PGs as well. Therefore, although we haven't yet been able to make progress with the physical space for PGs, there has been much more development of activities and social opportunities for them.
Goal 3: Create and roll out a Sites survey to students at all other campuses.	As per my last report, this has been completed.
Progress: 3 (Completed)	
Additional Comments:	

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

Building on the Union's Work	
Goal 1: Introduce a Kids club at Union Films	As per my last report, this has been completed.
Progress: 3 (Completed)	
Goal 2: Bunfights at Sites	As per my last report, this has been completed. They were so successful that we will be looking to build them into our Freshers 2019 programme.
Progress: 3 (Completed)	
Goal 3: Expand the International Buddy System	For various reasons, myself and the society were not able to work on this at the beginning of the year. Continued workload on both sides and focus on other things has prevented us from making progress and as it is now May it is not realistic for this to happen this academic year. It is, however, something both parties would be interested in picking up next year. Although this specific project with the Erasmus Student Network has not happened, I have been working with them on various projects including supporting them in hosting their National Platform, an important conference for all UK Erasmus Student Networks, which will be held here at Southampton.
Progress: 0	
Additional Comments:	

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

Conclusion/AOB

- **Student Immigration Issue:** Most pressingly, I have been assisting one of our final year international students who has been facing significant VISA issues, which threatened his ability to stay in the UK to complete his degree. I wrote a letter to the Home Office regarding this issue, which was joint-signed by VP International, Winnie Eley and the MP for Southampton Test, Alan Whitehead. The Home Office has since replied giving the student leave to stay until June to complete his exams. This afternoon, as I write this, we have just received confirmation from the Home Office that the student has been given a VISA to stay until they finish their exams. This is incredibly positive news and I am thrilled to have been able to assist in their situation!
- **APP:** The Office for Students, the independent regulator of higher education in England, has recently required the University to submit an Access and participation plan. This will set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education. These groups are those who live in areas of low higher education participation, low household income and low socioeconomic status groups, those from BAME groups, mature students, those with disability status and care leavers. As I sit on the Widening Participation Subcommittee at the University, I have been working with Sam (VP Education) in helping to form the plan that will be submitted to the OfS on 24th May.
- **Diversity in the Curriculum Project:** Back in February, I set up a student-working group as part of the University Programme Validation process. The aim of this is to create equality, diversity and inclusion criteria that becomes imbedded in the programme validation process to ensure that the University's curriculum is properly diverse and inclusive going forward. We have since had two meetings and have drafted a list of ideal things to include. The next step will be to consult with the wider student about their thoughts on this before creating a final version to write up and submit to the University.
- **Union Presence at Sites:** We now have SUSU branding behind the desk at Avenue, which is permanently staffed by the Union 11-2 every weekday. We are continuing to run Advice drop ins at Avenue on Fridays 1-4pm which have seen lots of positive engagement.

I have also submitted a Sites Strategy proposal paper to University Estates and Facilities, which outlines our aims for Union engagement and permanent presence at all campuses. These objectives have been informed by the data from the Sites Survey, which we ran in October. I am working with them to try to obtain a permanent space at the hospital, however this is proving difficult as space at the hospital is joint owned by the Trust. In the near future, I will be looking to set up student working groups for each sites to inform about how they want the Union to be engaging at their campus.

In the meantime, we are continuing to proactively reach out to sites in all of the events and activities we run. For example, the PG Breakfast Club I have set up this year has been rotating between campuses every month and has been held at Highfield, WSA, NOC and is looking to be held at SGH next month.

- **WSA Shuttle Bus Weekend Service Trial:** This has now been running since January and is very successful! We consistently have between 40-50 people every weekend. We have recently re-

shuffled the operating times post-Easter to it runs later on a Saturday. This was following consultation with students about the service at WSA.

- **WUN Conference:** In a few weeks, I will be heading to Dublin for the Worldwide Universities Conference. This is an important meeting of over 20 different Universities from around the world to discuss some of the big topics in higher education. This includes internationalising of the curriculum, equal opportunities, mental health and consent. I will be going as a representative of SUSU with key representatives of from the University.
- **PG Representation:** As part of our Sabbatical restructure, Postgraduates will be moving out of the remit of the new VP Welfare and Communities and into the new VP Education and Democracy. As such, I have been working with Sam (VP Education) on looking at the future of PG representation at SUSU. This includes re-evaluating our PGR reps and looking to create a mirroring PGT rep system. We have also been reviewing the current Postgraduate page on the SUSU website and are re-designing it so that it will be more useful and effective in future.
- **UN Women UK:** I am incredibly excited to report that I was asked by UN Women UK (A charity which works to promote campaigns and awareness around gender inequality and facilitate social change) to join their new University Champion network which they have set up. This will include ambassadors from University's across the UK and we will be working to share campaigns and projects around gender inequality.
- **Bubble Tea:** Throughout my time as VP Student Communities, I have had many requests through email, Facebook and You Make Change for Bubble Tea. I originally spoke with our Union Service Director, who is in charge of all of our catering outlets, and we agreed the need for further student consultation. I then put the idea as a poll out on my work facebook and it received around 250 responses, which were completely 50/50. We were also a little nervous as we have previously had Bubble Tea but had a lot of issues with the external company who was brought in which is the reason we then got rid of it and we could not find other viable companies to bring in. Our Union Services Director then left just before Christmas and the position remained unfilled and so Bubble Tea dropped off the agenda as it was believed not possible for us to do. In January, I went with the rest of the Sabbatical team, on some visits to various Student Unions' and was interested to find that many of them had Bubble Tea. After discussions with several of their commercial directors, I resurrected the idea with our team at SUSU. Since then, our team has been out consulting with various different companies and looking at possible space for us to put them in the Union. We are now seriously consulting with a provider and hope to have something in place for the next academic year.
- **Black History Month:** Last year, I definitely found that starting to plan Black History Month July when you first come into the role into not early enough. Upon consultation with students, we agreed that it would be better to begin planning in May, after the new society AGMs. I have met with the newly elected BAME Officer for next year in preparation for this, to discuss their vision for the month. We will jointly be beginning planning soon.
- **Taking on Halls and Freshers:** Since our last Senate, our VP Engagement resigned from office. In her absence, the Sabbatical team have divided her workload. As a result, I have taken on Halls from a representation perspective. As part of this, I have been working with the Halls committee to investigate into the signage around food specifically in Connaught halls to ensure students know what is Halal and not. I have also taken on Freshers and have been involved with planning our Freshers programme for 2019.