

Update for Senate

Since last Senate meeting:

- I had a further meeting with Sports and Wellbeing about what information should be passed on to Enabling Services to be given during a transition day. After feedback from the forum held last semester, it was brought up that giving information to students about accessible sports facilities might better help them realise what they can actually do whilst here. This is in conjunction with revisions to the website to better explain accessible features of Sports and Wellbeing facilities.
- Myself and Laura organised SUSU's first Disabilities Awareness Campaign which spread over the last week of exams and into the first week of February. As part of this, we organised a number of events. We got Board in the City CIC to come in to showcase their accessible volunteering opportunities as a Disability Confident employer. We also held a Disability in Sport panel event. Unfortunately, the turn out for this event was quite low but this meant that we instead moved towards a more in-depth personal discussion with our speakers, who also seemed to get a lot from the evening. We held a Disability Awareness special Rainbow Night where attendees played various board games and talked over drinks. During the two weeks, we also had two coffee mornings to try to cater to students who can't stay out late to attend evening events. Lastly, myself and Laura also delivered a session on WIDE training specifically focussing on including society members with disabilities. The slides that I created for this session were posted on the Facebook event as a resource for those who couldn't make it.
- I took the early access tour around Refreshers Fayre. Unfortunately, just as with early access to Freshers events, most stall holders didn't seem aware that early access was a thing and therefore practically no stalls were ready. This was a shame as, although it is understandable that less students will be there during that time, it meant that the experience of any student coming on an early access tour would be lesser than a student able to attend at the usual time.
- During the planning for LGBT History Month, I suggested some changes to the pride route as the previous one used paths that are difficult to navigate for mobility aid users.
- Facilities have been told about the red cords in accessible toilets. This is still an ongoing issue as people are still tying up the red cords, which could result in someone not being able to reach one and being in a severe medical emergency. Signs do not seem to be working. Students have reported to me that they have seen cleaning staff tying the cords up (not in SUSU but in the University) and not untying them.
- I met with the Disability and Employability Team within the Careers Service. It was mainly to organise how to organise future events and what students want to see more of from them.
- The Southampton Hub asked me to hold a Q&A session for their committee on how to making their volunteering opportunities more accessible to students. We were able to have meaningful discussions about how to adapt and promote activities.
- Before the Disabilities Awareness Campaign, I did some research into alternatives to menus in SUSU venues for those who are visually impaired or otherwise cannot read the menus. There is an app that reads out menus. This should soon be rolled out.

- I have submitted news items about our accessible events to TABOU, a magazine run by disabled students for disabled students. I received several copies that I had ordered through NDSoc to be a resource for all members to enjoy.
- I am working on the creation of an essay competition through the local group of a Law Student Association that I sit on the Board of. This is relevant because the theme will be diversity and inclusion and the question will surround disability rights.