

**Emily Harrison,
Union President**

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Area of work: University Liaison

**Sabbatical Plan
Goals**

Student Union refurb 10 year plan project:

The University are embarking on a 10 year plan, a strategy to upgrade their estate and improve the student experience. Since the new VC started, Sport has now become an immediate priority so plans are underway for a new Sports Hub.

The Heart of Campus group has reconvened and recently seen the new plans from the architects. Debate is ongoing about what to do with the Nuffield Theatre (whether it stays as a professional theatre or is turned into multi-use lecture space). SUSU is involved in this and campaigning for it to be kept as theatre space (but refurbished to bring it up to date).

Progress stage:

*Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - **On track** - Completed*

Create better links with our academic community:

Completed- for full details, please see my previous Senate.

The only update here is that in my strategy consultation meeting with one of the Deans, they suggested setting up handover meetings between the incoming and outgoing senior reps and relevant University staff member (E.G. Schools President plus Head of School) to ensure a proper handover and discussion of key priorities for the year ahead. I have fed this back to our representation team and they are working on getting this in place.

Progress stage:

*Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - **On track** - **Completed***

Additional work

- **Block grant**

In February, we concluded our block grant negotiations. I was delighted to have secured an additional £65,900 to expand the resources within the SUSU Advice Centre to support the growth of academic integrity and appeal cases. However, due to Coronavirus, it has not been possible to hire someone into this role so we are postponing recruitment for this.

Comments/AOB

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

Area of work: Sustainability**Sabbatical Plan Goals**

Work with the University to implement a Sustainability Strategy:

We have now set up a Sustainability strategy groups which consists of senior University executives.

There are further exciting updates on this which I cannot write but can give verbally.

Progress stage:

*Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - **Completed***

Improve food waste reduction

The University catering manager and I had planned to run a trial of a community fridge (where students and staff could drop off/ pick up unwanted food items) over the summer, with the view to implementing it full time next academic year if it was successful. However, COVID-19 completely scuppered that so unfortunately this has not been able to go ahead and is unlikely to anytime soon.

Progress stage:

*Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - **Completed***

Additional work**Comments/AOB**

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

Area of work: Union Services**Sabbatical Plan Goals**

Set up and develop a Zero Waste shop:

In my last report, I updated that we had done our first round of consultation on the zero waste shop. The focus group we held raised some really interesting things which we are working on. We were looking to get the zero waste shop items on an app for people to be able to order remotely and collect. We were also looking to develop recipe cards to help people know how to use the products. However, COVID-19 also now made this impossible for obvious reasons so this is on hold.

Progress stage:

*Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - **Completed***

Language badges for core and support staff:

No updates from last time. For previous information please see my November

	Senate report.
	Progress stage: <i>Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - Completed</i>
Additional work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshers' <p>We are currently in the process of re-planning Freshers' 2020 with the staff team. This will likely be delivered almost solely via digital means however we are trying to find ways to ensure opportunities for networking/ mingling/ students to meet other people.</p>
Comments/AOB	

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

Area of work: Sites	
Sabbatical Plan Goals	<p><i>Increase Union presence at all sites:</i></p> <p>No updates since my previous Senate report.</p> <p>Progress stage: <i>Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - Completed</i></p> <p><i>Improve support of and communication with MedSoc and students studying at the hospital:</i></p> <p>For full details, please see my previous Senate report.</p> <p>Progress stage: <i>Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - Completed</i></p>
Additional work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harbin <p>The University are entering into a partnership with Harbin Engineering University to open a Joint Education Institute. I have been working as part of the Harbin Operational Sub-Board committee to sort out the regulations and get this up and running. The business case has been officially approved at the validation. Unfortunately, the joint education provision trip to visit the campus could not be carried out. However, it is looking the partnership will still go ahead from September.</p>
Comments/AOB	

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

Area of work: Halls	
Sabbatical Plan Goals	<p><i>Improve laundry facilities in halls:</i></p> <p>No updates from last time. For previous information please see my November Senate report.</p> <p>Progress stage:</p>

	<p><i>Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - Completed</i></p> <p><i>Review and improve meal times in catered halls:</i></p> <p>No updates from last time. For previous information please see my November Senate report.</p> <p>Progress stage: <i>Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - Completed</i></p>
Additional work	
Comments/AOB	

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

Conclusion/AOB

Coronavirus

Since the outbreak of the Coronavirus, I have been working very closely with the University.

1. Discrimination issues

At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, we had issues with our Chinese and Asian student experiencing discrimination in the external community. In response to this:

- We put out a letter of solidarity with our Chinese students and community You can read this year: <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/blog/sussed-news/2020/02/19/open-letter-on-solidarity-with-our-chinese-community/?fbclid=IwAR2HZ0GHjEMQ6sRWj85whNIZuyCBtOshBhrQm5p9MS2bEDGm9IAens9XhNg>
- We worked with CSSA to run a week long campaign in the concourse against discrimination
- At CSSA's request, graphics have been created to educate people about why some Asian students are wearing masks and the fact that it is not specifically linked to the Coronavirus. These are now up on the digital screens on the UniLink buses.

2. Halls contracts and fees

We secured an agreement from the University Residences team for students to be released from their Halls contracts for the rest of the year and will not have to pay the third installment of rent fees.

3. No detriment policy

Jo (VP Education and Democracy) and I have been doing a lot of work with the University around exams and assessment. They agreed that they would be adopting a 'no detriment' policy which essentially means that the marks of any future assessments for this year will not negatively affect a students' final grade but can positively affect it. However, this was not what ended up being put forward. Following the student backlash to the original announcement of detail about the no detriment policy a few weeks ago, we collated student feedback to share with the University and

pushed for the review which resulted in positive changes.

4. Fees

It was decided that the University would not be giving refunds, reductions of tuition fees or any kind of compensation to students.

I took this issue to University Council for discussion and it was agreed that I would have a follow up meeting with the Deans of each faculty to discuss this further. At this meeting, it was determined that no compensation of any kind would be given medical students or international students. However, there was some good reasoning for this in the case of medical students and we have some much clearer explanation about how the fees work for these students which will be sent out to students once it is approved by legal services.

For students on practice based courses at WSA, it was agreed that there was a case for some form of compensation and the Head of School is working on proposals for non-financial mitigation. At the time of writing I am still waiting for further detail on this.

I have also proposed the idea of the University paying for gown hire for this year's finalist for whenever they get to do a physical graduation which has been positively received and I will be discussing this at the next University Council to get approval.

5. Financial impact and furlough

We are currently in a relatively strong financial situation and do not require any financial support from the University at this time, however we may require this in the Autumn/ Winter term after the drop in student numbers, which we have made senior stakeholders at the University aware of.

We are taking advantage of the Government's job retention scheme (Known as Furlough) in order to protect our finances in the future. As part of this, our current VP Sports and President- elect, Olivia, was on leave until 1st June and is now back. We also have a large number of full time core staff on furlough.

6. Graduations

The University have said that they are looking to do a virtual celebration/ graduation style event for finalists this Summer. However, they have also said they would like to do a physical celebration as well whenever that is next possible. At the moment, it is unclear when this will be and will be guided by guidelines on events and gatherings.

7. Next academic year

The University have announced their intention to open the campus as much as possible next academic year and offer some face to face education. However, the level of this will differ for each course and programme and will be small group work rather than large lectures, which will be supplemented with digital provision. I am currently involved in conversations about how this will be delivered and am pushing to ensure health and safety genuinely is the number one focus, with

stringent measures in place.

Chief Executive Recruitment

Having gone through initial applications and put together the shortlist, we took the decision to extend the deadline by at least 6 weeks. In these chaotic and unprecedented times, we recognised that many people may not currently be in a position to move employer and potentially home and will instead be focused on dealing with the current Coronavirus crisis both professionally and personally. An extension allowed everyone a little bit of breathing space and time.

This extension period has now come to an end and we received a large number of additional quality applications. We have since long-listed, conducted first stage telephone interviews with the candidates and on Friday we shortlisted the final four. Each of these will be meeting with University stakeholder group comprised of the Executive Director of Estates and Facilities, Executive Director of Finance, the Vice President Education and chaired by the Executive Director of Student Experience. The final interviews will be on 19th June and the Dean of Environmental and Life Sciences will be sitting on the recruitment panel as the University representative.

SUSU Strategy

Our current Student Union strategy document, Vision 2020, is due to run out this year. I am have been working with the Senior Leadership Team to begin work on creating our new strategy. However, this has been massively sidetracked by COVID-19. It has been decided we will now be creating a 'bridging' strategy to focus on the next 12-18 months as opposed to the next 5 years and are now starting the consultation for this.

Handover

The new team is due to take over on 1st July, so I have been working with our Learning and Development coordinator to organise handover.

I'd like to thank all of the senators for their work this year and every student who has engaged with us. It has been a tough year but it has been a genuine privilege to lead the Union as your President. I, and the whole Sabbatical and staff team at SUSU, couldn't do what we do without the help of all of our fantastic elected student representatives so thank you very much for everything you have done in your roles, this year.

You Make Change Update (*submissions since the start of term*)

Stats	Number received		Number Open		Number Completed	
Timeline	No reply: past 10 days		No update: past 15 days		Past 25 days open	
Summary of submission/Link		Key actions taken			Relation to role/remit	

