

Date: 03/03/20

Item: Sabbatical Report

Union Senate



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Area of work: Developing sporting performance

Sabbatical Plan Goals

Work with the university to look at long term strategy with regards to sporting facilities and club governance:

Improve our sporting success, participation, and accessibility to sport through more funding and long term planning under a joint sports dept.

- Sat and fed into the university sports experience board, sports facilities board discussion group and Heart of Campus project.
- In recent UEB the University committed to investing in Sports Facilities to be the Top 10 in the country.
- Led in conversations with Sport and Wellbeing around the future of Team Southampton branding – started sift over to Team Southampton branding
- Visited other universities with sport and wellbeing and SUSU to look at comparisons and good practise on club governance, including Bath, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Warwick, UCU, LSE, and Royal Holloway
- Helped identify means for student consultation and carried out consultation on new facilities by carrying out in person and online feedback (<http://bit.ly/2KXmb8r-990399>)
- Worked to identify a measure of student active levels.
- Discussed plans for potential sports move from union to university, including what this practically evolves as well as risks. Carried out initial consultation but looking at rolling out wider once university have confirmed with their legal department. – process is now being re reviewed under wider union strategic review.

Progress stage:

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

Work with Sport and Wellbeing to improve sporting performance and elite sport at Southampton:

Improve our sporting success, notably BUCS ranking but taking account of other leagues.

- Worked with the university to continue focus sport program despite financial barriers.
- Discussed with sports Experience Board what more can be done for sporting excellence including exploring permeant coaches and better equipment.

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: Encouraging participation in sport	
Sabbatical Plan Goals	<p>Explore the option of Union sponsorship of Clubs and Societies, as well as sponsorship for Team Southampton overall:</p> <p><i>Explore a kit, varsity sponsor to reduce the cost of kit to students and build the Team Southampton. Set up a formal way to apply to union for sponsorship after grants process, which will also align with union services.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helped union services put together sport sponsorship package for applications for major event and kit sponsorship and seen offers from companies such as Aldi and Fotspot. - Worked with various SUSU staff and pushed for SUSU discount card reimplantation but as a fairer system and saw introduction of volunteer discount cards . - Working closely with kit provider Masuri to bring down costs and put on exclusive offers, such as Varsity and Graduation customisation. – this has been delayed due to covid-19 crisis and will be picked up again once the situation has more certainty. - Met to discuss sponsorship options for clubs an exploring setting up a way for clubs to ask for advice as well as a sponsorship event once new club committees are elected. – Incorporating fundraising training to clubs and socs handover to help them become more financially stable without union aid.
<p>Progress stage: <i>Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - Completed</i></p>	
<p>Making more information available around club management and having specific training for committee members:</p> <p><i>Develop 'mandatory' online training for specific roles as well as optional training with transferable skill, notably treasurer, president and welfare rep.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivered AU captains meeting, Tour meeting and Intra Mural conference to students. In all of these- highlighted unions stance on expected behaviour from Team Southampton members and begun working on a SUSU Initiations Policy and code of conduct - Delivered a compiled powerpoint on Southampton Behaviour & Conduct Presentation to Athletic Union committee ahead of the WIDE module being released. - Shared and promote the WIDE module, produced by Laura (VP Welfare and communities) and expressed to all clubs its importance and compulsory nature. - Discussed with other unions how they delivered training and looked though the sector for examples of good practise. - Begun planning with Fiona (VP Activities) ways to help support committee members, particularly club presidents and treasurers, as well as giving them 	

	<p>transferable skills and examples to help them in later life. The aim is to have training in place for when new committees start their role.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listed out desired training needed to be given and in the process of planning and implementing with the activities team. - On going work being done with Fiona, VP Activities and other union staff.
	<p>Progress stage: <i>Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - Completed</i></p>
	<p>Restructure grant guidelines:</p> <p>Develop a more logical and sustainable grant system to be useful for the Union and the Societies applying with increased accountability on allocation and spending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed with Fiona and the actives directorate alternate ways which the union could distribute grants. - Researched other grant process' to compare to our own and look for something that would well for Southampton. - Ran student consultation in the form of sessions and online feedback. - Collated student and staff feedback and decided on course of action involving 1 large 'budget' allocation as opposed to termly grants. - Budget plan for grants rolled out however due to significant financial hit of covid 19 it is likely 2020/21 grant process will be severally limited in its scope and thus budget rewards may not prove the best at this time. Decision to be made by next years team. -
	<p>Progress stage: <i>Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - Completed</i></p>
	<p>Increasing publicity of Team Southampton success' and upcoming fixtures to share clubs achievements and events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Started publishing BUCS results through weekly podcasts - Given AUC social media wraps training on social media and tried to increase team Southampton social media presence. - Encouraged all clubs to share content through requests in grants and messages to clubs and presidents. - Ensured events such as Varsity exist on the website not just on Facebook. - Regularly maintained and updates Team Southampton page and seen growth of over 1000 likes as well as regular engagement. - Beginning to see better uptake of club engaging by sending updates and results.
	<p>Progress stage: <i>Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - Completed</i></p>
<p>Additional work</p>	
<p>Comments/AOB</p>	

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

Area of work: Improving student experience	
Sabbatical Plan Goals	<p>Run a series of sports participation campaigns:</p> <p>Increase disability in sport offer or highlight options available to ensure all students are catered for, Use Women in Sport Week to promote female participation and form a long-lasting measure to tackle barrier to women participating. Set a positive image of the union and let SUSU as leading union on Sports inclusion.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ran a successful woman in sport week campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 redbrick demonstrations • 6 videos highlighting female athletes and clubs, • 1 livestream of BUCS fixture • 18 Taster Sessions • Free Fitness Classes • 5 other promotion and inclusion events • 50 free packs with 17 items in tying the weeks events together • Launched weekly drop in to help give a communication platform 2) Had conversation with Sports Participation Committee on how to best support LGBT athletes and create an inclusive environment including visible support at Varsity. 3) Worked with Laura Barr (VP Welfare) with her to hosted sport focused events inside Disability Awareness week (20th Jan -2nd Feb) and LGBT+ History Month (February). Events in these weeks included guidance sessions of participation led by students, and sport focused talks from two Southampton alumni GB disabled athletes. 4) Helped consultation around Sports and Wellbeing's recently developed transgender policy, to complement their new unisex changing facility which was received very positively.
	<p>Progress stage:</p> <p><i>Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - Completed</i></p>
	<p>Oversee the strategy of the Intra-mural league and promoting student participation in Intramural sports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ran Intra-mural conference and elected IM committee - Discussed with IM officer and committee how we can best organise the League in the future. - Looked to run better training sessions for netball referees, shared captains' information and increased involvement at welcome weekend. - Discussed with IM committee what can be better be done to promote IM in freshers including renaming of IM fare. - Begun exploring the option of hosting IM teams on the SUSU website on groups hub, and have added full list of team and information about what IM is. - Allocated money for an IM budget for IM teams to apply for some funding.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met with all Rugby captains, several Football captains and IM officer to discuss discontent over card checks and IM cost. Facilitated conversation with sport and Wellbeing to discuss IM cost with IM officer and answer open letter from IM football. - Lobbied university for cheaper IM cost and secured agreement for sports pass to be lowered to £50 next year. Working with university to look at their overall membership pricing model and make changes for next year. - Worked with university to explore even cheaper model for IM in 2020/21 however due to covid-19 financial pressures this may face difficulties.
	<p>Progress stage: <i>Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - Completed</i></p>
	<p>Create a regular free sports programme that students can attend casually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explored several options of how Southampton could best host a free sports program - Compared our offer to other universities and examined how other unions helped to encourage cheap participation in sport - Begun launching the team Southampton active brand by introducing one free sport session a week. – this had very low turnout and has now been postponed. In conversations with S&W through weekly meetings to discuss putting together a full comprehensive timetable for Freshers 2020 onwards. - Put together a comprehensive survey into what types of activity wanted by students for 2020/21. This work has slowed due to university around budget and scope of university life in 2020/21 but will still help to guide planning around free sports.
	<p>Progress stage: Not yet started - Consultation - Planning/Next steps - On track - Completed</p>
Additional work	
Comments/AOB	

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

- <https://www.facebook.com/events/2134803706620682/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/events/2654121874648271/>

Conclusion/AOB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tour – Picked tour venue and time, hosted initial interest tour meeting, worked with tour officer to sign clubs up who expressed interest in AU tour. Seen sign ups of 300 students on AU Tour (highest sign up for a few years) with majority travelling to Croatia this April. Worked with the tours officer to contact all groups, allocate additional tickets and with ILoveTour to put on safety and information talks for participants. - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdw6q8WQrJBuBneHeHOJlvcwuGKqeVNXhdwwRyfT5LdNN2b_Q/viewform - Grants – Allocated out £160,000 of club grants, wrote extensive feedback on grants to help clubs understand decisions. Given advice and guidance http://bit.ly/2MKG2dv , http://bit.ly/sportgrants19

- Quiet Hour – Successfully lobbied Sport and Wellbeing to have a quiet hour in the gym, met with neurodiversity society and sport and wellbeing staff to discuss that and other ways to make sport more inclusive.
- AU Ball Planning – Had several meetings to discuss AU Ball and decided on cheaper venue to significantly reduce ticket cost (£35 from £50) . Liaised with Sport and Wellbeing, AUC, Union services, Activities and Events Teams to plan event. – Would have taken place in Jubilee Sports Hall on May 1st but due to Coronavirus pandemic occurred virtually online with thanks to Fiona, VP Activities, AUC, + SUSU marketing and activities teams. This event was free.
- Disciplinarys - Oversaw 5 disciplinarys, see senate reports.
- Club Behaviour – Carried out club training at captain’s conference and wrote club behaviour policy that is currently under review.
- Kit - Worked with Masuri to support new online shop for Team Southampton kit <http://bit.ly/TeamSotonKit> and reduce kit price.
- Code of Conduct. - Begun writing a code of conduct for sports team members to sign when they opt into club membership.
- Liaised with MA committee to support them and create positive facility changes
- Promoted BUCS Active Students Survey seeing 700+ completions. We have now secured agreement to gain this data.
- Set up with Laura Barr, VP Welfare the SUSU online community and encouraged clubs to post online.
- Level 1 facilities – exploring union site and level 1 future use, access and maintenance; as well as storage space and access for clubs. Tried to push university for staff provision to keep the building floor open in the union closure days over the summer.
- Liaised with university graduation team, prospectus team and media team to showcase students.
- Started working once a week at sites and collating and acting on student feedback
- Presented plans for the year to key University and union stakeholders
- Supported clubs and individuals with range of sports issues and inquiries
- **Sports Forum**
 - o Hosted the unions first sports forum in January. This consisted of an open platform where a two-way dialogue could be had between SUSU + Sport and Wellbeing management; and students. Questions were pre-submitted and a presentation of answers drawn together by myself and S&W. There were then also questions taken on the day. The event received very positive feedback from students and staff and acted as a communication line for all parties. We are now exploring how this can be continued to a more regular series event. At the forum a price membership drop was announced for Athletic Union and Intramural players, starting next September. This drop is due to student feedback and lobbying, SUSU and sport and wellbeing collaboration, and to try to reduce the cost of sport to students and increase participation following the Sports Experience Board strategy.
- **Varsity**
 - o Working, alongside SUSU staff, towards the delivery of the big sporting events in second semester. This year’s Varsity would have taken place on the **15th of March** and will see the competition of hundreds of Southampton students against the University of Portsmouth. This year the competition would have been hosted at Southampton sports grounds with 83 total fixtures occurring. The promotion for the event has focussed on the student chosen theme of Ancient Greece, to tie into this year’s Olympic games. - <http://bit.ly/VarsityFb> The planning of the event evolved , multiple planning sessions with Varsity Officer as well as Activities; Operations and Union Services Teams. Focused on event publicity and assisted macomms team in video filming and promotion. This year the Union Services team are significantly increasing their catering and drinks offer at the event, and would have been using the unions newly partnered round app - a table service app which is currently being trialled in the Stags. Record tickets were sold from both universities and attendance was predicted to be around 4000-5000 students. This in itself is a fantastic show of Team Southampton passion. For the first year to encourage turnout spectator tickets will be on sale before the event and marketing has focused on bringing in spectators. - <http://bit.ly/SotonVarsity> Unfortunately the event could not go ahead due to the dangerous

posed in the spreading of the covid-19 virus. Up to the day of cancellation, due to withdrawal from Portsmouth, Southampton was in the lead with points. We hope that next year this planning can be rebuilt upon, and if safe to do so Southampton can host the next Varsity competition.

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Note: Since the last Senate meeting Olivia has been on furloughed and annual leave from 8th April – 1st June