



**Nicole Akuezumba**

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Area of work:	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Continue to raise awareness of Mental Health, beyond specific campaigns.	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launched campaigns including the Buddy System (including the Lockdown and Halls Support Bubbles) and 'Would You Like A Call' which encouraged students who may have been isolated during the Christmas period to reach out and receive a call from the Sabbs. The call would be light-hearted in nature however I trained the Sabbs on how to deal with the calls if needs be.</li> </ul>
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- After feedback from students that were unaware of Enabling Services and the range of wellbeing resources, it has become clear that the University needs to expand its promotion of its services. I am currently working with the University to ensure their mental health services are more widely publicised.</li> </ul>
Review Black History Month (BHM) campaign and ensure wants of students are being met.	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This goal has been achieved so moving forward, I am applying this to other campaigns with cultural significance by involving relevant societies, facilitating safe space discussions, and implementing feedback when I get it.</li> <li>- I worked with the University to create a bid for Black Counsellors through an OfS funding bid. The OfS have not released the outcomes of this bid, however, if the University's bid is unsuccessful, I will continue to lobby for the provision of Black counsellors.</li> </ul>
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to ensure Black students are empowered throughout the academic year, not just Black History Month.</li> <li>- The University is preparing to launch an official Reporting tool for all students to address lack of support and provisions in reporting. I have been heavily involved in the launch of this tool.</li> </ul>
Improving WIDE training, following feedback from last academic year.	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have been working on improving the WIDE training following feedback from last academic year; for instance, we are considering how we can make the training more focused on providing Clubs and Societies with actionable suggestions to make their activities/events more inclusive for all students.</li> </ul>
	Next steps:

Commented [IB1]: Could add about working on the WIDE training

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We plan to host student focus groups before the end of the term to ensure we are gathering more student feedback to help us improve WIDE ahead of September 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Provide an accessible area for students to engage with their wellbeing and make necessary products free for them.</b>	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Wellbeing Cupboard project was halted due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines however the University has been supplying wellbeing packages for students who are self-isolating or in Halls of accommodation. We do plan to relaunch this project once the lockdown restrictions have been lifted.</li> </ul>
<b>Area of work: [redacted], Diversity and Inclusion</b>	
<b>Sabbatical Plan Goal</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>LGBT+ History Month</b>	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked with LGBTQ+ Society to ensure we were promoting the society and its range of activities and events. We collaborated on an event called Lived Experiences of LGBTQ+ people, which was well-received. We have hosted a drag show and are scheduled to host a workshop titled 'Me, My Body and I' with an external organisation.</li> </ul>
<b>Lobby the University to involve Students in high-level discussions.</b>	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Where possible, I have lobbied the University to involve students in their various working groups and boards. Widening Participation have launched a paid student advisory board which was well received. I will continue to push for this at other University boards.</li> </ul>
<b>Continue to lobby the University to ensure Campus is inclusive and accessible for students with physical disabilities, and neurodiverse needs.</b>	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Earlier on in my term, I worked with the Disabilities Officer to ensure online content was accessible for all students.</li> <li>- The Disabilities Officer is currently not available, however, which has halted this work for now. I reach out to individuals or groups of students whenever I need more feedback or support on accessibility-related issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Area of work: Student Communities</b>	
<b>Sabbatical Plan Goal</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Housing</b>	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launched a Housing campaign in November 2020 which focused on raising awareness of renting and renting information.</li> <li>- Worked with various stakeholders (Lettings, Advice Centre, Solent Union and SASSH (Southampton Accreditation Scheme for Student Housing)) to launch a successful housing campaign called 'Rent Right' in November 2020.</li> </ul> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Currently working with Olivia on a joint stance on private halls and HMOs (with Solent and Winchester SU) which will be going live soon. Launch our stance to lobby local PBSAs, agents and landlords on behalf of students.</li> <li>- Set up regular meetings with various stakeholders to ensure a joint up, city-wide campaign.</li> </ul>

**Commented [IB3]:** We are planning to use some of the budget saved to top this up (I think it fell into sustainability....)

**Commented [IB4]:** Add box for LGBT+HM? It's a big bit or work :)

**Commented [IB5]:** and Solent

**Commented [IB6]:** Setting up regular meetings with these stakeholders for a joined up, city-wide approach

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Host another Housing campaign which focuses on supporting students who still need to find accommodations or housemates.</li> </ul>
<b>International Buddy System</b>	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to the success of the Buddy System, it has been expanded to be open to all UoS students. We relaunched the original Buddy system during the November lockdown as 'Lockdown Buddies'. We also worked with Student Life to foster 'Support Bubbles' for students staying in Halls during the Christmas period.</li> <li>- The Buddy System reopened in Jan 2021; it has been extremely well-received. We relaunched after implementing some feedback from the earlier round of applications. For instance, someone suggested we include 'an option on the sign-up form for which accommodation you're staying at' which we implemented before the relaunch this year.</li> </ul>
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will keep the Buddy System open throughout the year as there continues to be a steady amount of applications from international and home students. We have also implemented follow-up emails after we have matched Buddies to ensure people are happy with their pairings.</li> <li>- I would recommend that the Buddy System becomes a core SUSU service as it has been well received but it will also continue to support students beyond the pandemic.</li> </ul>
<b>Facilitate campaigns that engage with hard-to-reach student groups, where possible.</b>	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student Networks aim to promote better representation for hard-to-reach students. The Network gives its members a space to come together and discuss what SUSU and the University could be doing better to support them.</li> <li>- I have spoken with Sabbs from other Unions about their Networks to learn more about the best way to introduce them at SUSU. I will soon begin hosting feedback sessions with various student groups to hear their thoughts on the Networks.</li> </ul>

**Commented [IB7]:** Due to the success of the international buddy system, it has been expanded to be open to any UoS student. There continues to be a lot of takeup from international students, as well as home students. Would recommend that this becomes a core SUSU service as it will help combat isolation beyond the pandemic.....

<b>Other</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outside of my Sabb plan, I am still involved in University Boards and Working Groups including the Race Equality Charter, UoS Respect, Mental Health Steering Group, Tackling Harassment, Equality Charters Programme and others.</li> </ul>