



**Nicole Akuezumba**

Email: [vpwelfare@susu.org](mailto:vpwelfare@susu.org)

Facebook: [www.fb.com/SUSUVpWelfare](https://www.facebook.com/SUSUVpWelfare)

Teams: [bit.ly/NicoleTeams](https://bit.ly/NicoleTeams)

Area of work: Student Welfare	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Continue to raise awareness of Mental Health, beyond specific campaigns.	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launched campaigns including the Buddy System and Would You Like A Call.</li> <li>- The University launched a range of activities and resources as part of Mental Health Awareness Week. I will encourage the University to do more activities that signpost their support services on campus.</li> <li>- I involved students in our stress awareness campaign events through social media takeovers which were received positively.</li> <li>- I set up a range of activities as part of You Are More Than. This includes offering free wellbeing products on campus during the weeks of 17<sup>th</sup> of May to 28<sup>th</sup> of May.</li> </ul>
Improving WIDE training, following feedback from last academic year.	<p>Work so far:</p> <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 more inclusive for all students.</li> </ul>
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have implemented most of the initial feedback we received on the training. We still hope 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>
Provide an accessible area for students to engage with their wellbeing and make necessary products free for them.	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Wellbeing Cupboard 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.</li> </ul>
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have acquired sustainable period products which we will offer at the SUSU shop and the Wellbeing Cupboard.</li> <li>- I aim to spread this great news and more generally, share the Wellbeing Cupboard with the wider student community.</li> </ul>
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details

<b>Lobby the University to involve Students in high-level discussions.</b>	Work so far: <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’s paid student advisory board is a great example with engaged students. The Tackling Harassment Working Group have set up a paid student advisory board to feed into their work. 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>	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I coordinated Enabling Services Feedback Sessions over Teams and through surveys. These were shared on our channels to all students, I am now working on a report based on this data.</li> <li>- I will take the findings from the feedback sessions and survey to the University’s Mental Health Steering Group as well as Enabling Services to improve their services.</li> </ul>
<b>Area of work: Student Communities</b>	
<b>Sabbatical Plan Goal</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Housing</b>	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launched ‘Rent Right’ campaign with multiple stakeholders in November 2020</li> <li>- Joint stance on private halls and HMOs (with Solent and Winchester SU) to lobby local PBSAs, agents and landlords on behalf of students.</li> <li>- Housemate Meetups in March 2020 which connected students looking for housing or housemates using a platform called Gather.town.</li> </ul> Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Based on feedback from Housemate Meetups, we have set up a ‘Housemate Finder’ on the SUSU website. We are currently trialling this service with students who attended the Housemate Meetups; it will be launched by week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>International Buddy System</b>	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Buddy System has been extremely successful since September 2020. It has had a few renditions including the Lockdown Buddies in November 2020. We also worked with Student Life to foster ‘Support Bubbles’ during the Christmas period based on Buddy framework. We have implemented feedback, where possible.</li> </ul> Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Buddy System is still open, and we continue to see a steady amount of interest.</li> <li>- I recommend the Buddy System remains part of SUSU’s service due to its success.</li> </ul>
<b>Facilitate campaigns that engage with hard-to-reach student groups, where possible.</b>	Work so far: <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> </ul> Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I am working collaboratively with Neurodiversity and Disability Society to set up a Student with Disabilities network. I will ensure my successor is well-informed on my progress.</li> </ul>

## Other

- 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 more.