VP Welfare and Community- Savanna Cutts

Area of work: Student Welfare	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	**Details**
Goal 1 Focus on improving awareness and the uptake of mental health support services, especially for hard-to-reach student communities	Work so far: • I have had initial discussions with Jayne Calvert, University Lead for Student Support, about plans to improve communication with international students • Met with the some of the University Wellbeing Team to discuss a partnership and how to raise awareness of the support services • Contacted the International Office with the aim to work with them to help engage international students, including doing a WeChat takeover to reach Chinese Students
	Next steps: 1. Formulate a communication plan- how and who to target 2. Reach out to international/ cultural societies to come and speak with them and/or attend society events to speak about positive mental health and accessing support services (trying to help destigmatise it) 3. Work with the University Wellbeing Team to set up an event, focusing on a 'piece of home', to help them engage with Wellbeing staff and SUSU and again raise awareness of the wellbeing support available 4. Work with the Activities Team to host inclusive and far-reaching You Are More Than events, to promote positive mental health and wellbeing
Goal 2 Tackling rogue landlords and promoting safe and secure student housing	Work so far: • I have been liaising with Marks Out Of Tenancy, student housing review platform, to provide feedback on the Southampton page, in order to improve it for students to use and see which landlords and properties are best to use. I have also been in talks with them on having more direct student union involvement in the platform so as to best utilise it to benefit students as a database for credible reviews on safe, and unsafe, housing • I have met with other Student Unions to discuss what they are doing on promoting safe housing, including Bournemouth SU, Cardiff SU and Winchester SU. This has helped inform my ideas and plans going ahead. • I have participated in SUSU's Rent Right campaign, in which I have done filming on what to look out for when privately renting- speaking about choosing the right housemates; going with reputable landlords; what to look out for in properties; documents that should be provided; and the services in place to help assist students in finding safe housing • I have helped with the planning of the upcoming Home and Health Fair. This is an event that will promote safe housing and lifestyle. I was able to bring the University Disability Team and the University Security Team on board to the event.

	Next steps:
	1. I will be attending the Home and Health Fair and running a stall talking about my renting experience, what to look out for and our Housemate Finder.
	2. Continue to liaise with Marks Out Of Tenancy and hopefully progress our working partnership in order to help inform Southampton students when they are making their housing choices
	3. Sit on and participate in the Rate Your Crib Project Group to further work on supporting students in having safe housing throughout their University experience
Goal 3 Increase opportunities for students to raise any concerns about specific issues	Work so far: • Held two separate drop-in sessions on Teams in which students were able to come speak to me about any concerns or questions • Created a theme plan- decided on themes for future drop ins, to make them more specific and tailored e.g. housing issues
	Next steps: 1. Set a timetable for the themed drop-ins 2. Promote them through various media outlets, including social media
Goal 4 Improve student safety	Work so far: • I researched and pitched the idea for a Strut Safe style volunteer walking scheme, in which DBS-checked volunteer students would meet other students and walk them home, in order to boost safety. This developed into putting in a bid with Hampshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for the Home Office's Safety of Women at Night Fund, which, if successful, will fund the start-up of the volunteer scheme • I have spearheaded and developed a strong working relationship with the Violence Reduction Unit team at Southampton City Council. This was instrumental in the SWAN bid. This has been incredibly beneficial in furthering safety work, with the close OPCC working relationship having developed out of the Council's recommendation to them of working with me. I am currently working with them on safer streets initiatives, with potential funding stemming from this. • I met with a local police constable to discuss county lines and how to help keep students safe from becoming involved • I helped with SUSU's response to spiking, including researching the spiking kits and drink stoppers that we could source and helping out at the Town Hall event. • I have co-created a student safety survey with Hampshire OPCC. The survey's aim is to capture how often, and where, instances of harassment and sexual violence are occurring against the Southampton student population. As well as the main questions on forms of harassment and violence, it includes questions whether they reported to a place of education and any barriers to reporting. It also includes questions on spiking. This is currently open for responses for students. • I have restored and restocked the Wellbeing Cupboard in the Bridge and this now includes personal attack alarms that students can take, free of charge.

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	• I have been working with VP Activities to review the resources on the SUSU website and ensure we have effective signposting to support services, such as Yellow Door. We have fortnightly catch ups to check in our tackling harassment work and plan next steps. • Met with the University security team twice to discuss various safety initiatives and current issues, with quarterly meetings now set up, to have a joined up approach • I have been attending the OPCC Student Voices meetings, representing SUSU and meeting stakeholders to discuss furthering safety work in Hampshire • I represented SUSU at the University's Wellbeing and Safety Day Event in which I was able to spread awareness of SUSU's services • I have set up monthly meetings with University Tackling Harassment Advisor and Sexual Violence and Harassment Practitioner in order to again have a joined-up approach to student safety
	Next steps: 1. Alongside the Womens Officer, review the Report and Support tool and how it is promoted so that students can have better awareness of the reporting mechanism 2. Continue to work with the Council on safer streets work and seeking further funding. This includes looking at safe transport and increased training. 3. Once the survey closes in December, the data will be collated and next steps on safety work planned.

Area of work: Student Communities

Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Goal 1 Continue the development of the buddy system	Work so far: • Planned and reintroduced the buddy system, which is currently open for applications • Introduced the faculty option into the form so that students can more closely be matched to someone of their course/ within their faculty
	Next steps: • Promote it at the Home and Health fair- showing students that it is a way to tackle loneliness, make new friends and potential housemates • Re-running and launching the system in semester 2
Goal 2 Increase engagement with hard-to-reach student communities and amplify all student voices	Work so far: • I have put a big focus and time into the elected liberation officers this year. I have had introductory meetings with all of them, as well as having monthly, hourly catch ups individually. This allows any concerns to be raised but mainly for me to help assist them with their projects. This has created a great working relationship and team between them all. I have also strived for an intersectional approach by getting them involved in other projects, working together on some ideas and planning an officer meet up. An example of one of the projects that has been successful from working closely with the LGBTQ+ Liberation Officer is his proposal for there to be LGBTQ+ exclusive flats in halls of residences.

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	- I held focused discussion groups- one for LGBTQ+ students and one for disabled students, in which we looked at how to support them during Freshers and the 21/22 academic year. This allowed for any concerns to be raised and questions answered. - At the start of my term, I reached out to all of the cultural and religious societies at SUSU. I introduced myself and asked them if they would like to meet. This allowed me to open a dialogue with these key societies. From this, I met with various societies. - I have started work on our student networks- these are forum style entities that allow for students to provide feedback on the issues they are facing as a student with disabilities, etc, and a place to meet other students within their community. The biggest focus is the new student and staff Social Mobility Network, which will be elaborated on in the EDI section below. I am also currently working with the University to set up a Mature Students Network. I am working with the Representation Team to restart the Students with Disabilities Network. These are all outlets where I can engage with certain student communities.
	Next steps: 1. Set up a liberation officer meet up so as to discuss how we can all best work together to create an intersectional and joined up approach across various student communities 2. Continue to work on the networks, specifically starting and solidifying the places and existence of the Social Mobility Network and Mature Students Network. 3. Increase engagement with international students. This will be done through my mental health-based plans in terms of breaking down cultural stigmas and opening up a more active dialogue with them.
Goal 3 Advance opportunities and access for PGR students	Work so far: - I have had discussions with Widening Participation around PG education funding- with the aim to improve access to postgraduate courses - I have carried out research on PG mental health/ wellbeing support, with the long-term aim to improve the welfare support available. I have looked at what support is available at other SU's and any tailored support programmes that exist.
	Next steps: 1. Look further into what other SUs do and if there is any PG specific wellbeing support and resources that we could implement here 2. Look at Newcastle SU external provider- PG Assistance Programme
Goal 4 Facilitate campaigns that are of high quality and whose messages permeate throughout the year	Work so far: - I helped plan Black History Month at SUSU. I helped provide a holistic range of events. In particular, I sought out and planned a Southampton alumnus speaker to come in and speak about 'creating your own legacy'. I also helped liaise with societies and clubs which was key in creating high quality events.
	Next steps: 1. Host online Black Minds Matter workshop- this will help with Black History Month's message permeating throughout the year.

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	2. Continue to work with and support the LGBTQ+ officer and society to plan Trans Awareness Week. Work with the Disabilities officer for Disability History Month. This enables student voice to feed into the event planning and hold in-demand events. 3. Look ahead of the upcoming campaigns to develop relationships and communication with external companies and stakeholders, in hope of then them being involved in our campaigns

Area of work: Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion	

Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Goal 1 Create a community for students from low socio-economic backgrounds	Work so far: • Met with University's EDI team to discuss how to advance this idea and a partnership on this work • Planned launch of a new staff and student network, Social Mobility Network, with the Director of Widening Participation and Social Mobility. The aim is for this to be made up of members who have lived experience coming from low socioeconomic backgrounds and who want to see change at the University that benefits them. This will be the first of its kind in a university setting. The work to date has included drafting the logistics of the network, the terms of reference, and the upcoming launch event. • Spoke to Widening Participation about financial support in place for these students and fed into the criteria decision-making process
	Next steps: 1. Draft the student-facing comms for the Social Mobility Network and put it out for students sign ups. Promote it in various ways in order to get strong engagement 2. Continue to plan and host the Network launch event in November 3. Create a strategic plan for the direction and longevity planning for the Network 4. Plan and host safe listening spaces for students in which they can meet likeminded students and share their experiences and potential difficulties coming from a low-income background
Goal 2 Represent student voice in high level University decision making	Work so far: • Sit on and participated in many University committees- such as EDI Committee, Race Equality Charter SAT, Respect Campaign • Fortnightly meetings with Associate Director of Student Services
	Next steps: 1. Work with the Race Equality Charter Editorial Team to review the student pipeline section 2. Create an external stakeholder list of those who I should meet with to speak with about student EDI issues
Goal 3 Engage in student discussion around EDI issues	Work so far: • I have been planning, alongside the Student Inclusion team, the Widening Participation and Social Mobility Student Advisory Board • Worked closely with the liberation officers and student societies to speak about EDI issues

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	Next steps: 1. Co-chair all of the WPSM Student Advisory Board meetings 2. Engage in discussion in the first Social Mobility Network event in which one of its aims is to hear from students what change they want to see and what issues they are facing. 3. Hold safe listening spaces and drop ins with different EDI themes

Other

- I am attending various different committees and groups, including: Strategic Major Projects Education Board; Education Committee; Enhancing Academic Support and Delivery Project Board; Mental Health Steering Group; Respect Campaign Group; John Hansard Gallery Strategic Board Meeting, Race Equality Charter SAT.
- I have monthly catch ups with the Head of Wellbeing and Head of Disability.
- I am currently starting work on reviewing the Early Years Centre costs for students.

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