

VP Education – Sabbatical Officer Report for Student Council

Name: Joshie Christian

Role: VP Education

Date: November 2025

Area of work: Exams and Assessments	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Assessment Information	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Consultation has been completed during our Course Rep Training sessions, where we asked students to write a bullet point list of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information you would like on the front of an Exam Paper. The information you would like to have clearly stated when they receive an assignment. Any issues they have faced with poor information in an exam or assessment, and any other improvements or suggestions.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type up the feedback from the written responses collected. Categorise and prioritise the types of feedback received. Produce a report and share with the Advancing Assessment team.
Examination Videos	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced Exam overview videos for the following “High Priority” venues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glen Eyre Hall B32 – First Floor Lecture Theatre B40 – Garden Court B42 – Team Southampton Sports Hall Fed back to UOS Comms team about content of preexisting exam paperwork videos, and pushed for short form versions, translations, and captions.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise the filming of further Exam Hall “Airplane Safety” videos.
AERs Project	<p>Work so far:</p> <p><i>No work so far – awaiting UOS project launch in Nov/Dev 2025.</i></p>
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange consultation session for student feedback once project is launched.
Examination Information	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Consultation has been completed during our Course Rep Training sessions, where we asked students to write a bullet point list of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information they want to know before an exam. What they want to know to feel comfortable and confident when entering an exam room. The ways that they would like to read that information.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type up the written feedback from the written responses collected. Categorise and prioritise the types of feedback received. Produce a report and share with the Advancing Assessment team.

Examination Error Reporting <i>This project was not part of my Sabb Plan, as this arose in Aug 2025 and I have since added it to this area of work accordingly.</i>	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with UOS Associate Vice President Education and Student Experience to discuss the issue of poor handling of Errors on Exam Papers. Requested that AQSS delay on deciding, requesting more student consultation and agreeing to lead student voice for a working group. Student Consultation has been completed during out Course Rep Training sessions, where we asked students to critique and select from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1a) Keep the same process, try and reduce errors and fix things faster. (1b) Keep the same process, only allowing errors to be queried during the first 30mins of the exam, to improve consistency / fairness. (2a) No error reporting in the exam, instead “state your assumptions and continue”, then report the error via a form, after the exam 2b) No error reporting, flag to the invigilator, who reports the error. Discussed with UOS Associate Vice President Education and Student Experience to plan reporting findings from consultation into the working group.
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a write-up of the feedback collected and make suggestions to the UOS Associate Director Hub and Registry for implementation in S1 Exams.

Area of work: Peer and Pastoral Support	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
New Buddy Schemes	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with UOS WPSM Enhancement Manager to discuss plans and agree a joint approach to tackling a mix of areas without a student peer support scheme.
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin drafting content for the modular buddy schemes.
PGR Buddy Schemes	Work so far: <p><i>No work so far – will be worked on after UG Buddy Schemes Project.</i></p>
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Doctoral College Research Culture Lead to discuss suitable trial areas for PGR Buddy Schemes and find out more about current PGR peer support.
Student Discipline	Work so far: <p><i>No work so far – awaiting handover from VP Inclusion in Nov 2025.</i></p>
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with UOS Director of Student Support to discuss taking forward suggestions for improvements throughout the Student Discipline process.

Area of work: Supporting Student Reps	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
New Rep Training	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written training section 8.4 on work-life balance and delegating. Created a one-page poster graphic covering how to prepare for, and what to do during, the next SSLC meeting for a Course Rep.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue drafting content for further sections of the New Rep Training.
Rep Role Reviews	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed a course rep role review for ECS, splitting their generic UG course rep roles by programme type to ensure that all programmes in ECS have elected course reps representing them at their SSLCs. Consulted the Education School President and a group PGCE Students in the School of Education to determine how to better run course representation for PGCE cohorts and begun planning possible changes to the Rep Roles. Began working with the Art School President and WSA DHOSE to plan a new Departmental SSLC structure and move to electing Department Presidents.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan the election process for Course Reps on PGCE courses in Education. Implement a new system of Senior Reps in Education. Implement new Department Presidents and SSLCs in WSA. Meet with SUSU Representation Team about current Rep Role systems, and features needed, and what information is needed to keep rep roles up to date. Meet with UOS Academic Registrar about how programme changes affect rep roles, and plan how we can keep SUSU up to date moving forward.
Student Voice on susu.org	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Began designing new drop-down menus for the susu.org front page and agreed to work on an overhaul of the front page and page navigation structure with the SUSU Digital Team. Made a series of suggestions to update out-of-date info across the Student Voice pages.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue planning the update to the front page, improving organisation of menus, and to the organisation and navigation of the website in general. Collate the Course Rep FAQ for the Student Voice section of the website.
Rep Development	<p>Work so far:</p> <p><i>No work so far – this project is planned for Semester 2.</i></p>
PGR Representation	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested alterations to the Terms of Reference for DCC, PGR AMSG, PGR QME, and PGR PDSC, to allow a PGR Faculty Officer to represent PGRs at each of these high-level meetings.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed a PGR Faculty Officer back onto the UOS Senate. Appointed a PGR Faculty Officer back onto the DCC. Appointed a PGR Faculty Officer onto a PGR PDSC project. Began informal conversations about PGR Representation with PGR Faculty Officers at various catchups.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange meetings with each PGR Faculty Officer and their FDoGS in S2 to discuss and consult on the current PGR Representation Structure. Propose any changes to the PGR Representation Structure.
UG Faculty Officers	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with the UOS VP Education and Student Experience to ask about having extra student representative positions available at ESEC. Appointed two UG Faculty Officers to positions at ESEC, with one of them also joining the student members of the UOS Senate. Met with the UOS Associate Vice President Education and Student Experience to request extra student representative positions at AQSS. Met with the UOS Quality Standards and Accreditation Adviser responsible for AQSS to talk about student representative positions at AMSG and EESG. Appointed two UG Faculty Officers to positions at AQSS, with one of them joining AMSG and one of them joining EESG. Arranged for there to be two student representative positions available at EPSC for Faculty Officers or other Senior Reps, each also extending to a position on either EPAMSG or NREPP. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with each UG Faculty Officer in S2 to discuss the meetings and projects they have been involved in so far and consult them about their experience. Propose any changes to the future Faculty Officer Roles and ensure the opportunities explored this year are offered to future teams of Faculty Officers.

Area of work: Student Comms and Finding Information	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Information & Digital Comms Project	<p>Work so far:</p> <p><i>No work so far – this project is planned for Semester 2.</i></p>
Mass Emailing	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated information and guidance around using the all.soton system presented through Senior Rep and Course Rep training sessions. Collected information around cases where the all.soton service is rejecting email or moderation is not allowing Academic Reps to email through the service and passed this information on through catchups with the UOS Associate Director Student Communities <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiting for a chance to continue feeding into UOS mass emailing guidance, once a draft set of the proposed rules has been finished.

Prerequisite Flowcharting	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pushed discussions around the value of module prerequisite flowcharting during high-level education meetings, and early consultations for the Education in Focus project.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to lobby for this to become a minimum requirement for all programmes, mainly feeding back through the Education in Focus project.

Other work:

Alumni Emails

This project was handed over form the Previous VP Education.

- Continued to lobby the university to reverse the decision to close Alumni Email accounts for students.
- Ran two consultation sessions for PGRs to find solutions and understand student needs.
- Pushed for the desired outcomes, together with the Union President.
- Lead on student communications planning, created an Alumni Emails FAQ, and requested Alumni Emails myth-busting content to ensure clarity over confusing information about the current system.
- Secured a two-year extension, consisting of a standard one-year extension and additional opt-in one -year extension, to the alumni Email accounts.
- Secured an agreement from the university to explore a yearly opt-in system from Sept 2028 onwards.

Ace Awareness Week

- Planned and delivered the Ace Awareness Week campaign in partnership with students and the LGBTQ+ Society. The campaign consisted of a Board Games Mixer Event, social media posts consisting of student-submitted testimonial content, and a campaign corner with informational poster boards.

Trans Awareness Week

- Planned and delivered parts of the Transgender Awareness Week campaign in partnership with students and the LGBTQ+ Society. This consisted of organising the Flag Raising Event, writing a [Blog](#) on name change processes across the university, and assisting with the organisation of university vigils for Transgender Day of Remembrance, and putting up trans flag decorations.

Regular University Meetings

I am happy to answer questions about my attendance and involvement in any of the following:

- Academic Quality Standards Subcommittee
 - Annual Monitoring Scrutiny Group
 - External Examiners Scrutiny Group
- Advancing Assessment
 - Transforming Assessment Administration Working Group
- B54 Refurbishment Project Board

- Blackboard Ultra Migration Project
 - Blackboard Ultra Comms Working Group
- Doctoral College Committee
 - Doctoral College PGR Annual Monitoring and Scrutiny Group
 - Doctoral College PGR Professional Development Subcommittee
 - Doctoral College PGR Quality Monitoring and Enhancement Subcommittee
- Education and Student Experience Committee
 - Education and Student Experience Programme Board
- Education Partnerships Subcommittee
 - Education Partnerships Annual Monitoring Scrutiny Group
 - New and Renewing Education Partnership Proposals Group
- Generative Artificial Intelligence Working Group
- Learning Spaces Advisory Group
- Implementing Changes to the Academic Year Steering Group
- NSS Intensive Taskforce
- PAT Project Steering Group
 - PAT Project Workstream 2, Roles, Responsibilities and Governance
- Senate Membership Working Group
- Student Skills Strategy Group
- University Senate
- University Research Ethics Committee

Acronyms 101:

AMSG – Annual Monitoring and Scrutiny Group
 AQSS – Academic Quality and Standards Subcommittee
 DCC – Doctoral College Committee
 DHoSE – Deputy Head of School Education
 EESG – External Examiner Scrutiny Group
 ECS – Electronics and Computer Science
 EPAMSG – Education Partnerships Annual Monitoring and Scrutiny Group
 EPSC – Education Partnerships Subcommittee
 ESEC – Education and Student Experience Committee
 NREPP – New / Renewing Educational Partnership Proposals
 FDoGS – Faculty Director of Graduate School
 PDSC – Professional Development Subcommittee
 PGCE – Postgraduate Certificate of Secondary Education
 PGR – Postgraduate Research
 QME – Quality Monitoring and Enhancement
 SSLC – Student Staff Liaison committee
 UG – Undergraduate
 WPSM – Widening Participation and Social Mobility
 WSA – Winchester School of Art