

Name: Emma Brown

Role: Union President

Date of Report: 17/11/25

Improving Bus Routes and Services

Area of work: Transport	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
New bus route: Highfield-Portswood- Bevois Valley- St Marys - NOCS	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with Sustainability Implementation Group, University of Southampton transport manager Meetings with University Council, Vice Chancellor, Vice Chair of Council Dame Judith Macgregor Meetings with students to find out student needs Meetings with university security, police, discussing student safety in Portswood/Bevois Valley
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting data from SUSU Insights team to present to Unilink: where do students live, safety problems, Further meetings with Unilink Meetings with students/staff at NOCS
Winchester U7 timetabling and route improvements	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with and received emails from WSA students to use as evidence Meetings with transport manager
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further meetings with Unilink
Improved Night-time Services	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unilink has increased U1N to run every night between Tuesday and Saturday during university term time. U1N route has extended beyond Wessex Lane to Swaythling Roundabout U1N route has extended beyond Civic Centre to Ocean Village so that it serves Lucia Foster Welch halls 5 one-way journeys (city to Wessex) has now changed to 4 city-wessex and 1 wessex-city so that Ocean village students can get back home from a night out.
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More timetabling changes, period of testing at the moment where we see how the changes are working out. Cheaper night bus tickets to incentivise night bus travel over Uber/taxi usage.
Reporting and Feedback System	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks with Unilink – found out that they do not hear much at all from students. Mentioned poor success of the email system they currently use for customers to make complaints and feedback (Students have raised this problem to me)
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research what would be successful – find out does Unilink have the resources to manage a better feedback system.

Accessibility and Hidden Disabilities	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently handed over from Toby. Met with disabled students to find out about accessibility problems.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackle the problem of Wessex lane adjacent bus stops – buses become crowded from Wessex students, buses frequently skip next stops - no space for customers who are unable to walk easily. Look into the possibility of a Wessex shuttle bus / buses that skip Wessex / ensure bus drivers allow space for customers further down the line.
Fee capping	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In talks with Unilink transport manager but looking unlikely due to the cost of running the services. U8 route withdrawn as it cost same as (theoretically) paying for a taxi for the bus users – very expensive route and closure will save money. Talks about feasibility of adverts on buses for more income – Transport manager said they hadn't considered that before.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor complaints about bus prices. Focus on U7 (WSA route) and U1N for now as that is most common feedback regarding price.
Bus awareness	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unilink have been putting out good communications about the buses so far. Little negative feedback, so low priority right now.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During implementation of new bus route / route changes, produce marketing materials for this.

Amend the Relationship Between Committees And SUSU

Area of work: Activities	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Fix MoneyHub Problems	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problems with MoneyHub: i.e. no bank card, problem of timing in getting reimbursements, having to make large payments using account then getting reimbursed, problems with paying back international accounts, and more – all fixed. These are the major problems with MoneyHub that committee members have identified.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still hear some concerns from committees and we still need to build up trust for the future, but the new features has solved most of the problems, and Paul and the finance team are doing great work on fixing them.
Ensure Clubs/Socs feel heard	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observing Sparkle/Travis' interaction with socs/clubs – Travis is running the clubs executive committee and getting a diverse range of feedback, Sparkle is reaching out to societies to talk to them. I talk to clubs/socs during random interactions and have been pointing them in the right direction to submit their feedback.

	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to hear more from clubs/socs but due to my limited time it is difficult to oversee these. Would like to pop in more 1:1's with Travis and Sparkle to understand what committees are talking about.
More and Fairer Clubs/Socs Storage Allocation Room Bookings System Improvements	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B42 Renovation Plans prioritise added storage space. • Student consultation on renovations included asking about storage • Good improvements all round, new B42 design allows storage to be accessed out of SUSU hours. •
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would still need to consider a fair system to allocate storage once that is available. • Look into feasibility of locker style cupboards that maximise overhead storage. • Need to ensure that the renovations will provide the right facilities for storage. • Once renovations are approved by Estates Programme Board and University Council – we can get on with more specific storage plans.
Space Usage Efficiency	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talked to COO of SUSU about maximising storage space, having a tour around all rooms (including disused areas like the climbing wall) • Discussions regarding the renovations, getting students involved on consultation.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After renovations are approved, look into more specific plans, with more rounds of student consultation, specifically with committee members.
Resource Accessibility and Easy-Reference Guides	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talked to Director of Membership (oversees Activities) and she thinks it's a good idea. • Activities coordinator will be drafting a template for automatic update email with support guides, for clubs/socs complaints processes as I flagged this as an issue that students were left in the dark.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications with activities team and committee members to figure out what would be most useful in the guide. • I will sketch out what this should look like, and hand it over to Travis/Sparkle to approve, and for graphic designers to produce.
<p>Other projects:</p> <p>Had a meeting with bookings process with Louise but difficult to make changes. Ivvy is a complex system and there is no better alternative in our budget. Receptionists still manually add bookings – there definitely remains inefficiencies in the system which impacts students who need a fast approval of their space. Room bookings continue to be over multiple system. Integrating uni room booking and SUSU will not likely work.</p>	

Student Housing

Area of work: Advice	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Legal action against bad landlords/lettings agencies	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with Director of Membership (oversees Advice centre) Looked into the legal procedures that Advice did a few years ago regarding PoshPads who had some illegal processes – however this only got 5 students to provide evidence. Originally, the idea was to partner with local law firms, but this will be costly. Now the case will likely be that we could do some pro-bono work in collaboration with the university law department
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get in contact with university law department pro-bono teams to look at feasibility of idea.
Quality of University Halls, Non-university accommodation, HMO properties	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with Councillor Pat Evemy of the Polygon and Banister ward about quality of housing – raising the main issues students bring up often, and pushing for better quality private accommodation and HMO properties The Southampton city councillor, who will be mayor next year, is very interested to hear the viewpoints and open about wanting students to have improved accommodation.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue working with the councillor and get in contact with more key stakeholders who are able to ensure housing quality improves. Lobby SASSH to impose harder regulations, research SASSH accredited housing providers to check they are providing the right quality.
Renters Rights	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended SASSH presentations at Solent University to learn more about Renters Rights and got in contact with a lot of independent landlords to find out their planned response.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce marketing materials to promote Renters Rights – what this really means for students.
Promote accredited / trusted landlords and estate agents	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In talks with Advice centre to see what are the worst lettings agencies in terms of complaints they see from students. Difficulty navigating legal issues with condoning certain lettings agencies, so we must do it another way, hence looked at accreditation schemes. Researched SASSH (Southampton Accreditation Scheme for Student Housing) - The scheme is run in partnership between the University of Southampton, Southampton Solent University and Southampton City Council. The purpose of the scheme is to ensure that students have access to a supply of high quality, safe accommodation that is well managed.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote SASSH accredited landlords via the advice centre's platforms.
Accessible Housing	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picked up from VP Inclusion work.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talked with of Residences Life Cycle to find out how many accessible halls they provide. HMOs not provide enough accessibility, which remains a problem.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Neurodiversity & Disability Society and reach out to students to find out about their experience with accessible housing.

SUSU Events and Entertainment

Area of work: Events	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Improved event promotion	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sent event promotion ideas to events and marketing team just before Freshers week to provide help on how to boost freshers ticket sales.
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure ideas continued to be integrated into event promotion. Using sususabbs account to promote some events (Combines getting more sabb representation and promoting the event)
Bring back live music to SUSU	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events forum focus on live music and clubbing events. Research on other student unions throughout the country who do successful events of this type (particularly Cardiff has been mentioned by a few students) Gathered a focus group of students who are particularly interested in live music and clubbing events at SUSU and can give feedback to events team.
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus group to meet with events team (once a new events coordinator has been hired) Continue research, look into spring/early summer events.
More feedback on SUSU events	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brought back an old events feedback form to life – now being promoted via the sabbs fortnightly emails. Events forum is being chaired by Union President – ran a session in the loft, interviewed students on Redbrick, hosted a stall on concourse – getting loads of fantastic feedback which is being referenced often in decision making by different teams throughout SUSU.
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue promotion of the events forum and feedback forms. Digital screen promotion of the above feedback mechanisms.

Student Safety

Area of work: Advice/Marketing	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Incident response and prevention	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talked to members of police who ran a stall outside SUSU – discussed better collaboration between SUSU and police, particularly in SUSU promoting how to properly report an incident or crime with the police. Met with head of university security who informed me of the university procedures, tours of the security offices, found out that highest crime is bike theft at university sites – so I am producing materials that promote how to use the locked bike storage and to use D-locks for best security.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrote a blog on how to keep safe at night – promoted through SUSU platforms.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with advice centre and marketing to push for better information campaigns on incidents, how to be an active bystander, how to report crimes.
Protests – informing and protecting students	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings with CEO on navigating the problem with freedom of speech restrictions, getting students informed of the protests, and in talks with University Executive Board, Vice-Chancellor, University Security and university communications team to urge for better communications regarding the protests – especially when protests have disrupted bus travel through Portswood and organised larger protests that have involved prominent far-right figures from the UK – leading to more disruption. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue monitoring the protests and gathering feedback from students about their experiences walking past the protests. Continue putting out statements for the Friday protests.
General university safety	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received general feedback from students, but low on priority list as no incidents of note – main security concerns on campus are bike theft (but one of the safest areas of Southampton is the campus due to the security patrols and already extensive CCTV network) <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with estates team for better campus lighting and work with security for a better CCTV system if it is needed. Promote incident reporting resources – i.e. QR code posters, reminders in emails, etc.
Highfield-Avenue Path	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project has been picked up from VP inclusion. The university are aware of this problem but we need to lobby the council to pick this project up. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get in contact with Southampton City Council to organise more accessible path with more lighting.

SUSU Spaces

General

Area of work: Facilities	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Phone Charging Availability	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made a video that promotes how to ask for and use the phone chargers in the Stag's pub. Looked into Queen Mary student union's phone charging bank. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find out through student consultation if this is needed.

Toilets	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researched all the SUSU toilets • Made a video with the student content creator showing where all the toilets are available in the SUSU building. • Working on improved wayfinding signage with marketing team to make the toilets easier to find. • B42 renovation plans will fix all of the toilets, with additions to the plans to improve the B40 (Stag's) toilets.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting supreme court ruling guidance to inform choices for toilet signage, gender neutral toilet provision. • Ensure there are more gender neutral toilets in the B42 renovation plans + student consultation, especially with LGBTQ+ society.
Membership Office	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Videos planned to show Sabbatical officers at their desks and how to find them.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record and post videos. • Look into getting pictures of the office + team members displayed.

Advice Centre

Area of work: Advice	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Advice centre information	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some video content published advertising the advice centre, including a vlog-style video which shows the office – less daunting to students. • Discussed idea of showing advice centre staff on the wall, but staff members unsure about doing this.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More videos to promote advice centre especially in VP inclusion's absence.

Redbrick Kitchen

Area of work: Social Enterprise	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
More cheap food options at SUSU outlets	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed idea with social enterprise team of having more food vans but out of cost scope – shifted to idea of more food options at the chip van / cycling through a different “food of the day”
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue talks with Social enterprise team • More student consultation about food prices / variety
	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised idea to social enterprise team, already in the works.

Redbrick Kitchen meal deal	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look into + alcoholic drink at Stag's option as part of a more expensive meal deal, but likely to be too complicated.
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Stag's

Area of work: Social Enterprise	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Cheaper Stag's drink prices	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stag's lager and Thatchers gold is now £2.75 (down from £3.50/£3.80) Stag's steins are now cheaper than buying 2 pints (except for £2.75 drinks as they are already very cheap) J-Bombs are now £1.50 (down from £3) In talks about having a "beer of the month" / world beers selection in rotation as the Oktoberfest beer selection performed very well.
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep promoting these drinks deals as we are now very competitive with other student bars. Communication that you can buy cheaper coke/juice if you ask for on-tap. Improve selection on tap
Students to add their own music to the playlist	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QR code advertised on table displays and digital screens on adding your own music to the SUSU venues playlists.
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some bugs need to be fixed.
Improved decoration Information	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrap-around display of the pizzas and drinks deals on the previously empty pillars. Improved displays showing cocktails/bombs on offer.
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student consultation to see if better decoration is needed.
Incentives for clubs and socs	Work so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with social enterprise leads and VP sports to discuss what clubs and socs might want – discussed drinks deals, VIP booths, etc. Main problem is that many clubs and socs will come to Stag's roughly at the same time to begin a pub crawl, but won't stay the whole night. We are looking into incentives to encourage them to stay longer or voluntarily come at staggered times.
	Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club/soc committees consultation on incentives

The Bridge

Area of work: Social Enterprise	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details

Cheaper food options	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge menu has changed to provide a different variety of food to encourage more customers. • Looked into smaller portion sizes with cheaper cost.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of the new bridge menu. • Student consultation to find out if students would go to Bridge more if the food was cheaper (which would also mean lower quality, less variety, smaller sizes) • Lobby the university to provide cheap food options, like Beans on Toast, as Bridge menu is new and can't be changed as often, and only serves Highfield students. Cheaper university food outlets could serve Avenue, Winchester, and other campuses.
Shutters on the bridge bar area	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shutters are currently being installed.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review in a few months on success of this project.

The Shop

Area of work: Social Enterprise	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
SUSU Meal Deal Tiers – more variety, cheaper options	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compromise found with 2 meal deal tiers option, instead of 3, as it is simpler and less financially risky. • Data shows 55% of students buy the cheaper tier, 45% buy the more expensive tier – meaning there is no negative financial impact of this – however, lower income students are benefitting as they will save money (and the whole meal deal was expected to go up to £4.25-£4.50 due to supplier costs, so this was the better option). More students are buying the expensive tier as the year goes on.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More advertising of the tiers • More food options to be added to the meal deals. • Continue with student consultation and gathering feedback.
Better drink options in the meal deal	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pushing for better drink options, particularly with juices, but main pushback is the price of items. Requested cartons of juice but they are unsustainable so social enterprise team are pushing back. • Looked into a fresh juice machine to get around the problem of tetrapak cartons but main problem is possibility of misuse. • Gathered a lot of student feedback regarding this.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue searching for a solution where non-fizzy and more healthy drink options can be integrated into the meal deal.
Meal deal snack selection	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathered a lot of student feedback. • Encouraging more snack options but main pushback continues to be price.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue searching for solutions.

Meal deal signage	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pushing for better signage, including colour-coding systems, especially to differentiate vegetarian, halal, gluten-free options and more. However, main problem raised by social enterprise team is that will complicate stocking and different times have different amounts of stock so will overflow into wrong sections. • Explained that this is still a better option than having no sectioning at all. • Looking into the provider giving different coloured packaging for different sandwich types but this is going to be again, costly. Currently all sandwich items have the same brown/beige colour.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep pushing for better signage.

Celebrating SUSU History

Area of work: Transport	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Mural in the Tunnel	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talked with SUSU staff who said this would be a good idea. • Currently this project is low priority so little progress so far.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise what the mural will look like, who will paint it, where we will get the budget from, etc. • Promote throughout SUSU staff community looking for volunteers to get involved with the project. • If painting will be too costly/complicated, look into printed vinyl graphics instead.
General SUSU archives and promotion of history	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Joanna Mitchell Hynes, marketing manager of University of Southampton – who is writing a piece for the Hartley News – interviewing previous SUSU presidents and showing the journey of SUSU and the university over the years. She is collecting archives of SUSU from the library and will be sharing them with me over the next couple of months.
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the archived photos and stories on our SUSU social media pages.
Other work:	

SUSU Campaigns, Networks and Projects

- Trans Awareness Week
- Christmas
- Events forum
- Sabbs on Tour

University Projects, Boards and Committees

NEQ (North-East Quadrant)

Attending NEQ meetings on a regular basis, bringing student representation to the board. Emphasised need for student comms about the building project as students need to be kept in the loop. Brought NEQ to Sustainability Forum's attention, presented on NEQ and its sustainability achievements to students, who are getting involved in the plans on engagement with sustainability.

STEM Labs

Attended student consultation for this project, as a FEPS student, who highlighted the need for excellent lab teaching facilities and multipurpose spaces. Whole day of filming and voiced-overs for video content that will promote the university's estates masterplan, including STEM labs, that will be published in the coming months.

HLT (Hartley Library Transformation)

Student consultation for the HLT project, including emphasising need for more 1-person meeting rooms where students can conduct online meetings, as well as better sound insulation, number of study spaces and more. A good tie-in to my manifesto campaign regarding more study spaces. Emphasising that open areas that were supposed to be large atriums should be converted to more study spaces, as we need the seating during exam time.

University of Sanctuary Working Group

Taking over from VP inclusion. Sanctuary efforts tie into our work on protests, and I am working to ensure there is a collaboration with Sanctuary members and SUSU to provide an event during Spring term, that would tie-in nicely to the culture festival and promote university of sanctuary.

UEB (University Executive Board)

Attending this board, 2 hours, every Tuesday + 1-2 hours of prep, bringing student voice to one of the top levels of decision making at the university.

University Council

Attending 2 university council meetings so far (July + October), with a student member attending alongside (October-) – where we bring student experience to the decision making, especially when lay members of council are external to the university and less familiar with what students are talking about. During this meeting, I present the progress of the Sabbs' projects and the student union as a whole.

University Senate

I have attended one Senate so far (October) During this meeting, I present the progress of the Sabbs' projects and the student union as a whole.

Campaign Leadership Group

I have attended one Campaign Leadership Group meeting, in November.

Estates & Infrastructure Committee

In EIC a lot of papers going to this committee I have already sat on the estates project boards that feed into this, but I highlight key student concerns regarding the projects.

Public Realm Wayfinding

I bring student opinions to this board which discuss signage across campus, especially regarding naming conventions used by students and encouraging more student consultation, particularly by connecting the board with partially sighted students who can give excellent feedback regarding quality of signage.

Other

Meeting with Satvir Kaur, MP, on 28 November to express opposition to the proposed International Student Levy. Additionally expressing these thoughts to the Vice-Chancellor's Office and raised our position at the University Executive Board, outlining SUSU's concerns regarding the levy's impact on the experience of current international students, its implications for prospective students, and the wider consequences to our position as a global university.