VP Education – Sabbatical Officer Report for Student Council

Name: Joshie Christian **Role: VP Education** **Date: February 2026**

Area of work: Exams and Assessments

Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
Assessment Information	Work since last report: • The notes from this consultation have been turned into a spreadsheet of over 200 pieces of student feedback about Assessment Rubrics and Briefs! • Feedback is being worked into a report for the Advancing Assessment Project, recommending that the university implement guidance for staff to always address every piece of information required for a **good assessment** brief. • This project was presented to the Advancing Assessment Project Board in January, and several other meetings have occurred with the Assessment Consultancy team to discuss how to deliver these changes successfully.
	Next steps: • Finish the report and share with the Advancing Assessment team. • Meet with the Assessment Consultancy Lead to discuss creating templates for Assessment Briefs that include all the information requested by students. • Begin designing assessment brief templates for a variety of assessment types.
Examination Videos	Work since last report: • *Nothing further as UOS Videography Team have not been available.*
	Next steps: • Write to the UOS Exams Comms Team to address the new videos they have produced, as some key information was cut, and request the video be re-edited into a longer format with all the key information requested by students. • Organise the filming of further Exam Hall videos.
AERs Project	Work since last report: • Reviewed the details and the implementation of the new descriptors for AERs launched at the end of 2025. Bought student feedback around AERs to this discussion and lobbied for clearer communication of how each AER works. • Formed part of an emergency response group to address issues discovered in the Semester 1 Examination Season where around 100 student's AERs did not transfer over into the new system. Acted as the student voice on the panel when deciding how to offer a large-scale special consideration for the affected students. Wrote and approved the information in letters to affected students.
	Next steps: • Arrange consultation for any further student feedback and suggest improvements to the UOS Disability and Inclusion Team. • Request support to produce more information videos detailing how each AER works in practice and how students might access their support in the room.

SUSU
Southampton University
Students' Union

Examination Information	Work since last report: • Some of this feedback has already been incorporated into the report about Assessment Briefs and Examination Rubrics.
	Next steps: • The rest of the feedback needs to be typed up from the post it notes. • Write remaining feedback into a report detailing good practice and providing guidance around how to ensure students are confident and clear about everything they need to know about sitting an exam.
Examination Error Reporting *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.*	Work since last report: • Designed sections of the error reporting log and error reporting sticker to better reflect student feedback around feeling confident in the new process. • Approved the new process once all student feedback had been acted on and all the improvements students had asked for were clearly implemented. • Wrote the blue sheet (exam information) detailing this new process and sought consultation from students to check it was worded as clearly as possible! • Requested an extra 'Sabbs Fortnightly' email to be scheduled before exam season to highlight this change and keep students informed. • Wrote and distributed emergency comms to Deputy Heads of School when we discovered that the university communications about this change had not happened. Followed up with an extra 'Your Voice' Instagram post on susu_studentvoice about the change and answered queries from students and academics throughout the exam season. • Pushed for a widespread consultation activity about the changes. • Filmed a "Did You Know" informational video about the changes. • Filmed a video asking for feedback about the changes. This video links out to the UOS Consultation form and I will engage in further informal consultation.
	Next steps: • Take any further student feedback from the consultation and from informal conversations back to AQSS and to the UOS Associate Vice President Education. • Contribute to making any final edits to the new process for Semester 2.
The Southampton Assessment Load Framework *This project was not part of my Sabb Plan, arising in Dec 2025.*	Work since last report: • This is a large piece of work being done to reduce overassessment and reform assessment practice across the university. As the details of the framework are confidential until the next draft and approval on Feb 16th, I won't be able to report further here but will give a full verbal update about this at Council. • This has taken up almost all my time throughout December and January, organising and running student consultation, meeting to discuss the framework with Senior Reps, writing responses to the papers, and planning presentations and feedback to give at meetings of ESEC and Senate. • I have regularly met with the UOS Associate Vice President Education to catch up about student feedback on the framework and contribute to sections of the guidance being written. On multiple occasions I have been lucky enough to be joined by some of our Senior Reps and am massively thankful for their support!
	Next steps: *There is a lot of further work to do, and I plan to report fully at Council.*

SUSU
Southampton University
Students' Union

Area of work: Peer and Pastoral Support	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	**Details**
New Buddy Schemes	Work since last report: • *Nothing further as planning to work on this during/after the easter break.*
	Next steps: • Research options for using the content in a new sector-level framework for Undergraduate buddy schemes and determine which parts of this project might be suitable for adaptation and implementation at Southampton! • Begin drafting content for the modular buddy schemes.
PGR Buddy Schemes	Work since last report: • Met with Doctoral College Research Culture Lead to discuss suitable trial areas for PGR Buddy Schemes and find out more about current PGR peer support. • Highlighted the practices and impact of all existing PGR Buddy Schemes in my reports for the PGR Annual Monitoring Scrutiny Group. Requested Buddy Scheme provision be highlighted as an area of good practice in the Doctoral College report.
	Next steps: • Continue promoting the value of PGR Buddy Schemes. • Once UG Buddy Schemes have been designed, bring equivalent proposals to Doctoral Programme Directors for PGR Programmes.
Student Discipline *Part of the handover from our outgoing VP Inclusion in Nov 2025.*	Work since last report: • Passed some of the feedback gathered by the outgoing VP Inclusion to the UOS Director of Student Support and met to discuss other potential areas for making improvements to the student experience of the discipline system. • Met with Union President, and later with the whole Sabbatical Officer team, to discuss our participation on discipline panels and draft some suggestions for how the approach of using a Sabbatical Officer on the panel might change going forwards.
	Next steps: *No further work to complete.* *I will take the lead on feeding back suggestions for improving the student discipline process if any further feedback is received from students or further alternatives are suggested by the Sabbatical Officer Team.*

SUSU
Southampton University
Students' Union

Area of work: Supporting Student Reps	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	**Details**
New Rep Training *This project is being developed iteratively by several consecutive SUSU VP Educations.*	Work since last report: • Presented SSLC one-page information sheet to Deputy Head of School Education Network and to Programme Leads Network for feedback.
	Next steps: • Continue drafting content for further sections of the New Rep Training.
Rep Role Reviews	Work since last report: • Continued discussion between SUSU and WSA to plan a new department level SSLC structure for 2026/27 and elect three separate Department Presidents. • Begun discussions with Health Science to introduce a Cardiac Physiology Department President, Course Reps, and formalised department level SSLC for the academic year 2026/27, to reflect the creation of the new department. • Met with SUSU Representation Team about current Rep Role systems, and features needed, and what information is needed to keep rep roles up to date.
	Next steps: • Continue to develop plans to elect Course Reps on PGCE courses in Education. • Meet with Education School President and the Education DHoSE to discuss a new structure for the Senior Rep role in Education. • Implement new Department Presidents and SSLCs in WSA. • 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	Work since last report: • Continued contributing edits to update susu.org pages for elections, Senior Rep Roles, Student Council, the AGM, You Make Change, Petitions, and the Blog.
	Next steps: • Finalise new organisation of all susu.org front page menus and continue working to improve the organisation and navigation of the website in general. • Collate the Course Rep FAQ for the Student Voice section of the website.
Rep Development	Work since last report: *No work so far – this will happen after the Easter Break in late Semester 2.*
PGR Representation	Work since last report: • Attended the PGR Provision focussed workshop for the review of the work of the CHEP team at the university, joined by the FMed PGR Faculty Officer. • Completed a scrutiny exercise, reviewing the representation and student voice in every school and department, and wrote a list of recommendations for improvements in almost ever area, to be worked on in partnership with the Doctoral College Committee and the PGR Quality Monitoring and Enhancement Subcommittee.

SUSU
Southampton University
Students' Union

	Next steps: • Arrange meetings with each PGR Faculty Officer and their FDoGS in Semester 2 to discuss and consult on the current PGR Representation Structure. • Propose any changes to the PGR Representation Structure.
UG Faculty Officers	Work since last report: • Continued to meet and work with UG Faculty Officers in their Positions at the University Senate, and on ESEC, AQSS, AMSG, and EESG. • Repeatedly pushed for two additional Senior Rep positions on the UOS Senate, upping the number from three to five to ensure we can elect one per faculty. • Continued lobbying for this until it reached UOS Senate, where it was approved and has been sent to UOS Council for their final decision.
	Next steps: • Meet with each UG Faculty Officer 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. • Review inclusion of all faculty officer roles in the Terms of Reference for Senate / ESEC / AQSS / AMSG / EESG / EPSC and suggest edits for 2026/27.

Area of work: Student Comms and Finding Information	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	**Details**
Information & Digital Comms Project	Work since last report: *There is not currently any university staff capacity to develop new comms platforms at the scale needed to bring about the desired change* *I will continue to lobby for reform of student comms and information.*
Mass Emailing	Work since last report: • Fixed several school and department level issues with the all.soton system. • Began supporting academics to work with their local admin teams to set up dedicated programme level mailing lists. This is a new system that will enable us to eliminate access issues currently occurring with all.soton.
	Next steps: • The UOS mass emailing guidance has not yet been released for consultation. • Once a draft has been finished student consultation will be arranged.
Prerequisite Flowcharting	Work since last report: • Continued to lobby for this to be implemented university wide.
	Next steps: *No further scope to develop this until the University continues the development of the 'Education in Focus' project, which has been delayed by other projects. I will continue to lobby if/when the project is reinstated, and when my time as VP Education ends, I will ensure that this idea is passed on to my successor.*

SUSU
Southampton University
Students' Union

SUSU Representation

As one of our Representation Co-ordinators sadly left SUSU in December, I have been covering as the SUSU representative for SSLCs in FELS and FMed where needed and have also been co-chairing several additional SSLCs for small parts of the School of Education.

I was part of the interview panel and was delighted to appoint a new co-ordinator who starts on the 26th.

Did You Know Campaign

- Planned a series of videos communicating changes to university processes and regulations, intended to supplement the existing Did You Know Campaign from the previous year.
    - Recorded informational updates and calls for feedback around the Exam Paper Error Reporting changes introduced in the Semester 1 Examination Period, released in Feb 2026.
    - Pushed for UOS Videography support for a short series of informational videos around the upcoming changes to the academic calendar, which we will be filming in March 2026.
    - Planned a series of 10+ short information videos each focussing on introducing one of the regulations in the upcoming Assessment Load Framework, to help students learn their new rights around Assessment. Filming will begin in March 2026 and continue throughout the year.

Other Events

- Got into the Holiday as an elf comparing musical acts at Winter Festival, and as Rudolph at Solve and Sip.
- Planned and ran a dedicated PGR Xmas Quiz and ran two Break the Ice events!
- Sat with the platform party as the student representative for the FSS, FELS, and FAH winter graduations!
- Headed to Leeds with our Union President for the Russell Group Student Unions conference!

Regular University Meetings

I have added in bold burgundy the dates of these meetings since around October / November.
I have made grey the meetings and projects that have closed or ended since the last Council meeting.

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

- Academic Quality Standards Subcommittee **(22/10/25, 28/01/26)**
    - Annual Monitoring Scrutiny Group **(18/02/26)**
    - External Examiners Scrutiny Group **(10/12/25)**
- Advancing Assessment **(20/01/26)**
- B54 Refurbishment Project Board **(03/12/25)**
- Blackboard Ultra Project Board **(20/11/25, 22/01/26)**

SUSU
Southampton University
Students' Union

- ➤ Blackboard Ultra Comms Working Group ·········· (08/12/25, 05/01/26, 15/02/26)
- o Doctoral College Committee ·································· **(11/12/25)**
  - ➤ Doctoral College PGR Annual Monitoring and Scrutiny Group ····· **(13/01/26, 22/01/26)**
  - ➤ Doctoral College PGR Professional Development Subcommittee ············ **(04/12/25)**
  - ➤ Doctoral College PGR QME Subcommittee ················· **(27/11/25, 12/02/26)**
- o Education and Student Experience Committee ············ **(08/12/25, 26/01/26, 16/02/26)**
  - ➤ Education and Student Experience Programme Board ·········· **(04/12/25, 15/01/26)**
- o Education Partnerships Subcommittee ·················· **(12/11/25, 14/01/26)**
  - ➤ Education Partnerships Annual Monitoring Scrutiny Group ················· **(05/02/26)**
- o Generative Artificial Intelligence Working Group ···················· **(06/11/25)**
- o Learning Spaces Advisory Group ······························ **(03/12/25)**
- o Implementing Changes to the Academic Year Steering Group ············ **(26/11/25, 20/01/26)**
- o NSS Intensive Taskforce ·················· **(11/11/25, 10/12/25, 14/01/26, 13/02/26)**
- o PAT Project Steering Group ································· **(15/01/26)**
  - ➤ PAT Project Workstream 2 ··························· **(01/12/25, 05/02/26)**
  - ➤ PAT Project Workstream 4 ····························· **(26/01/26)**
- o Student Skills Strategy Group ··························· **(03/02/26)**
- o University Senate ······································· **(11/02/26)**
  - ➤ Senate Membership Working Group ··················· (03/12/25)
- o University Research Ethics Committee ······················ **(09/10/25)**

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

SUSU
Southampton University
Students' Union