

Name: Emma Brown

Role: Union President

Date of Report: 11.02.26

Area of work: Transport	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
U1 route changes or additional route to bevois valley/NOCS	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with Unilink manager – his response is that it is difficult to tell if a new bus route is needed or not without putting the route on – people will respond to feedback saying they want a new bus route but not use it – difficult to make changes in this area. Received comprehensive data of which areas are most populated by students, including a heat map showing where student properties are (anonymised data, but unable to share it on due to GDPR). Using this as evidence to support routes. Shirley buses were mentioned in previous student council, but evidence shows there is limited student properties in Shirley. Bevois valley is very heavily populated which shows the importance of reinforcing bus routes in that area. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveying, data compilation, pushing city council for funding for routes.
Bus Pricing	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with Unilink manager to discuss prices but from a business perspective there is not much Bluestar/Unilink can do – the Southampton City Council was subsidising the buses to be £1 after 6pm. Night buses to a lower price will be difficult to predict how many people will use the bus – Unilink manager raised concerns that if too popular, we would have to skip picking up people. Emma raised this as not a good reason. Night buses are also the most expensive service to run which poses challenges. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Council lobbying with local councillors to get more funding for bus subsidies. Local MPs, notably Darren Paffey and Satvir Kaur could help.
WSA Buses	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Miguel Mera (Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities) to put out a survey for WSA students on buses. Discussed WSA route extension to Erasmus park halls with Unilink manager but route change will be tricky and costly. Transport manager of University in support of change. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Release survey and gather feedback from students to be comprehensively evidence-based. Further meetings with Unilink and the university to increase funding provision and look into implementation of new buses.
Area of work: Social Enterprise	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details



The Stag's	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stag's Pizza timings now 1 hour earlier – from 7pm to 6pm, to encourage more students to get a pizza after their lectures • Working on late night food options for large events like Karaoke where food has previously been cut-off at 10pm. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on 2-4-1 Pizza and other deals to make them more financially sustainable
Bridge, Redbrick Kitchen, Shop	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected lots of feedback about the Bridge food options – particularly around what students want to add to menu. • Shutters installed in Bridge so it can be used as a space for socs without paying for a member of staff to manage the bar. • Still working on pushing for better signage and labelling across outlets. • Vegsoc are working with social enterprise team to find good vegan/veggie options across outlets. I am pushing for more veggie options in the Bridge side selection. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger push to social enterprise team to make changes to food; often changes are delayed or there is pushback due to financial reasons. Plant based universities are campaigning on campus so need to find financially viable plant-based food options that the social enterprise team will take on board.
Area of work: SUSU Campaigns	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
LGBTQ+ History Month	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed video for LGBTQ+ History Month with student volunteers • Installation in concourse: free LGBTQ+ badges with 16 flag variations + pronoun badges, available for free in concourse. Working on securing more funding so this can be a permanent addition. Gathered significant feedback on this: students love them, but wish there were more in stock. Calculations based on demand to order sufficient badges for each flag. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather feedback on campaign to assess for next year. • Gain secure funding for re-ordering more pride badges.
Womens History Month	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed video in collaboration with VP communities: 5-10 female presidents/committee members each say one bit of advice for women in leadership. Compiled together for an impactful and memorable video. • Reached out to a variety of societies to get them involved in campaign. Zumba, Art, Aerial Sports, Mind will be involved. • Will be doing a talk at Mindsoc's event to explain Womens history month • Working with EDI team at University to look into adopting a consistent free period products initiative across the university. There are a lot of adhoc measures in place but no consistent approach – which means there are significant gaps where no free period products are available. We can use SUSU's free period products initiative as an example of best practice and could adopt similar measures in all departments. There will be significant challenges

	<p>with funding on this. This will be a lobbying campaign linked into Womens history month to serve as a bigger project within the campaign.</p>
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare LGBTQ+ vs Women's history month video approaches and assess which approach is more effective for engagement and impact. • Feedback on campaign.
Safety Campaign	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with MP's office to talk about student safety in the city. Discussed measures to improve student safety, focusing on increased police presence in the night-time economy areas, safety campaigns, and the importance of affordable travel. • Lobbying for £3 night buses to be reduced in price and added onto the bus pass. • Initial planning into safety messaging and initiatives <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching SUSU safety campaign – to provide information on how students can stay safe, and reassurances about safety.
Other Projects	<p>Emma met with the office of Satvir Kaur, MP for Southampton Test to lobby against the government's decision to implement a levy for international students and to make recommendations for student safety. This is including a follow-up letter which will go to parliament. Key focuses include the impact of wellbeing for international students with both the levy and the anti-immigration protests.</p> <p>Discussed student safety with the Vice Chancellor, emphasising the importance of funding for cheaper night buses, a reflection on the Highfield-House anti-immigration protests, and safety messaging. to discuss how we can improve student safety across the city.</p>

Other work:
<p>Emma is a member of the Joint Selection Committee for the search of a new Vice-Chancellor, and is keen to get comprehensive student involvement throughout the process, and is supporting the student member of council to bring the voice of students to these meetings.</p> <p>Attended the Russel Group Students' Unions conference in Leeds, connecting with sabbatical officers and union representatives from across the country. This allows for wider lobbying initiatives to be developed, and Emma brought new ideas and inspiration back to SUSU. A highlight of the conference was a Q&A session hosted by Alex Sobel, MP for Leeds Central and Headingley and Co-Chair of the APPG for Students. Sobel provided expert guidance on how student leaders can effectively influence Parliament and identified critical upcoming challenges, such as the reduction of the graduate visa.</p>



Picked up on key liberation campaigns from the VP Inclusion role, leading LGBTQ+ History Month and Women's History month with a variety of social media content, events, and lobbying projects. She had some engaging conversations with students at the SUSU Student Accessibility Network, planning to find 3 priority areas that the group can focus on and make real changes in those areas.

Emma will be participating in the interviews for the Dean of Medicine, bringing student voice to the panel.

Met with university team of University of Sanctuary to look into what we can do to support refugee students, looking into forming a network/forum for students to talk about this. This is especially relevant among the Highfield house anti-immigration protests.

Emma had a site visit of the North East Quadrant (NEQ) building site on Highfield campus, and has been invited to the topping off ceremony in early March to give a speech and wear a hard hat. Working with the NEQ project board members to get more student feedback on the test furniture in SUSU Building 42, and bring more student voice to the project.

Attended John Hansard gallery for all-day interviews of artists for the NEQ site, to ensure the artists selected can appropriately take on the project. There will be sculptures and artworks around the buildings, with student engagement sessions held by the selected artist to help design the artworks.