

Name: Emma Brown

Role: Union President

Date of Report: 20.03.26

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"> <li>Meeting with University’s transport team – they are happy with my work on buses and are very keen to make the changes I’ve requested as long as they have strong evidence behind them.</li> <li>Will be implementing a proper feedback system for students, guided by in-person consultation on the Redbrick. This will include improving transparency, adopting a “you said, we did” messaging system for social media, and ensuring that the university’s transport team and potentially SUSU have access to the feedback and not just Unilink.</li> <li>My work focuses on route changes for the new academic year – including improving services to Bevois Valley.</li> <li>They are keen to get me more involved in bus decision making and give credit for the changes made from my work, even if they are implemented after I leave my post in July.</li> </ul>
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveying, data compilation, pushing city council for funding for routes.</li> </ul>
Bus Pricing	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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. Emm a raised this as not a good reason. Night buses are also the most expensive service to run which poses challenges.</li> </ul>
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Council lobbying with local councillors to get more funding for bus subsidies. Local MPs, notably Darren Paffey and Satvir Kaur could help.</li> </ul>
WSA Buses	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSA bus survey has been released in collaboration with Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities.</li> <li>Compiled WSA halls numbers and WSA accommodation into a heat map.</li> </ul>
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse results of survey and bring back to University’s transport team.</li> </ul>
Area of work: Social Enterprise	
Sabbatical Plan Goal	Details
The Stag’s	Work so far:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stag’s 241 pizza deal now only unlocked if you buy a £2.50+ drink with your pizzas. This change was implemented to make the deal more financially viable without increasing the cost of the pizzas. This was a sabb-based decision, with other options such as scrapping the deal or changing the prices to be unsuitable.</li> <li>• Working on club/soc Stag’s sponsorship – they bring large groups for socials at the venue, and we give the society money/drinks as a reward. We are still hashing out the details of this and how this will practically work.</li> <li>• Currently pushing for Stag’s to have more dedicated social media efforts – with potentially a Stag’s specific Instagram page. This is because the SUSU whatson page targets completely different markets – crafternoons do not appeal to typical Stag’s customers and vice versa, so engagement is reduced and key messaging can be missed.</li> </ul> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking at Stag’s karaoke as numbers are reduced compared to previous years – I am keen to make the changes fully transparent and get student voice input.</li> <li>• Live music and clubbing at the Stag’s, working with local events teams to produce popular nights.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bridge, Redbrick Kitchen, Shop</b></p>	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New high-protein and high-fibre labelling added to meal deal mains, in the same style as the vegetarian/vegan/GF labels I added earlier this year which have been incredibly helpful to shop customers, especially in a busy environment like the Shop at lunchtime.</li> <li>• I facilitated a meeting between our head of social enterprise (SUSU food) and the Vegetarian/Vegan society . Their feedback has been passed to our food supplier. They were really helpful, suggesting easy, practical fixes such as switching mayo to make an item vegan instead of vegetarian. As our fresh food supplier is local and we are their biggest customer, we can have discussions and make changes to their products.</li> <li>• The SUSU Shop has supported a £250 donation to Second Chance Animal Rescue through the Nisa Making a Difference Locally scheme! The charity rescues and cares for vulnerable animals, and we’re proud to make a positive difference in the local community.</li> <li>• Passed on a comprehensive list of feedback to the Bridge – not enough people using the space are buying food/drink. Changes I have made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New printed menus on tables. Previously we had QR code menus which creates an additional barrier to customers.</li> <li>○ Whiteboard feedback collection and staff asking customers what they would like. We also collect feedback on Instagram stories. This ensures that students are at the heart of decision making and they feel empowered to leave feedback.</li> <li>○ Looking into more side options as they are very popular but we need more variety to get more customers. This includes: veggie gyoza (chicken gyoza already sold), garlic bread, onion rings, hash browns.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We had to decide to remove the draught taps from the Bridge bar. We do not have enough purchases of drinks on tap aside from large events, and having them on tap is too costly to maintain financially, as beer/cider does go bad if not consumed, and the equipment is complex and costly. I have asked the team to look into any temporary solutions for large events such as freshers and Grad Ball.</li> </ul>

	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stronger push to social enterprise team to make changes to food; often changes are delayed or there is pushback due to financial reasons.</li> <li>• Menu changes for summer/new academic year.</li> </ul>
<b>Area of work: SUSU Campaigns</b>	
<b>Sabbatical Plan Goal</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Womens History Month</b>	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very successful Instagram video that I directed, with</li> <li>• Will be doing a talk at Mindsoc's event to explain Womens history month</li> <li>• 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 with funding on this. This will be a lobbying campaign linked into Womens history month to serve as a bigger project within the campaign.</li> </ul>
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare LGBTQ+ vs Women's history month video approaches and assess which approach is more effective for engagement and impact.</li> <li>• Feedback on campaign.</li> </ul>
<b>Safety Campaign</b>	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Lobbying for £3 night buses to be reduced in price and added onto the bus pass.</li> <li>• Initial planning into safety messaging and initiatives</li> </ul>
	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launching SUSU safety campaign – to provide information on how students can stay safe, and reassurances about safety.</li> </ul>
<b>Renters' Rights Changes – Information Campaign</b>	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful instagram video: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/DVlh14rjG9I/">https://www.instagram.com/p/DVlh14rjG9I/</a> explaining why students may receive eviction notices for the original end date of their tenancy. First in a series of videos about Renters rights changes. The video, posted on sususabbs, got 5.3k views and 125 likes. The average reel from sususabbs over the past 7 reels gets 1.9k views.</li> </ul> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce more videos and look into promoting information on sabbs on tour.</li> </ul>
<b>Halls information campaign</b>	<p>Work so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with halls manager who is happy to work with me to produce some videos for students living in university halls.</li> </ul>

- Planning a video to encourage more students to properly recycle (main issue is waste contamination). Where does your recycling actually go after you put it in the bin. Get a video from the recycling company to showcase what happens at the sorting facility.

Next steps:

- How to move out of halls checklist video guide.
- Promote the container on site at Wessex for donating items for reuse for next year's halls students.

## Other work:

### Building 75 Project

Emma signed a steel girder at the top of new building 75, which is on the North-East quadrant construction site on Highfield campus. B75 is the university's flagship, sustainable teaching and learning facility on the Highfield campus, set to provide a huge amount of additional study space for all students. It's named to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the University's Royal Charter.



*The ceremony was held on site attended by our Vice-Chancellor Mark E. Smith, the Sheriff of Southampton Pat Evemy, Kier Construction Southern, and myself (on the right) – we signed a girder and the concrete wall at the top of the building.*

### Safety Bus Improvements

Installed a new bench outside the SUSU Shop so students, especially those who can't stand for long periods, can comfortably wait for the bus under the shelter of the shop. New signage to be added to the digital screens, with clear messaging developed with Emma and marketing to make it as clear as possible how the free minibus service works.

### **Student Accessibility Network**

Emma has been working with students from the accessibility network to improve feedback systems and to plan better events. One engaged student has reached out about an end of year society showcase/festival, which I am meeting them about.