Sabbatical Officer Report

Officer: Tammy Bowie | Lampeter Campus President

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| **Officer Objectives & SU Strategic Plan** |
| **Sabbatical Officer Campaigns** | **Knowing & Reaching Our Members** | **Growing Our Opportunities** | **Amplifying and Strengthening Your Voice** | **Making the Most of our Resources** |
| Housing Education | X |   |  |   |
| Mental Health | X  | X | X | X |
| Green Policy | X |  | X | X |
| Sport and Soc Accreditation | X | X |  | X |
| Distance and International Community | X |  | X |  |
| Accessibility (Physical and Financial)  | X | X | X | X |

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| **Specific Campaign & Objective Updates** |
| **Campaign/Objective** | **Update** |
| Mental Health – Mental Health Week and resource collation | Since launching out MHW Campaign this October, we have collated a number of resources that I am working with Hwb to make available on the Hwb app so all students across our sites can access them at any time. This includes time and assessment planners, interviews with lecturers on specific assessment types regardless of discipline, among other wellbeing resources. We are also planning to relaunch/advertise these resources further in second semester, once students return from Christmas break. We will also be working on wellbeing components to be included in isolation packs provided to students.  |
| Housing Education – Campaign launch | As of the end of October, my housing campaign will be launched fully. We will be launching with a ‘Housing Horror Stories’ event that aims to show students the issues common with off-site accommodation. We will then launch an interactive form I am in the process of developing with the design team, that will enable students to rate aspects of a property during a viewing, as well as record key information. This form can then be emailed to them for easy comparison. We aim to launch this form in December to allow students who begin to look for off-site accommodation in semester two to use it. We will also be breaking down and updating the Accomodation handbook put together by previous Sabb teams, to make it more accessible and easier to navigate. This will also become available on the Union website.  |
| Accessibility (Financial) | I have worked with the finance team early this academic year to address issues around PG Fee payments, ensuring the system is updated to reflect loan payments. My initial intention was to secure a blanket payment plan for students to pay their tuition in 6 equal installments; however, due to the way awarding of qualifications works at PG level, this is impossible. As a result, I have worked with Finance to produce infographics on how the payments are made and the reasoning behind this, so that PG students have this information at the beginning of their studies.  |
| Accessibility (Physical) | I intended to launch an accessibility survey of the Lampeter campus earlier this month; however the Disability PTO for the Lampeter campus has expressed interest in being involved in this process, so the survey has been put on a short hold while the PTO’s undergo training. This survey will be launched as soon as this training is completed. The survey will address issues such as disability parking, access to lecture rooms, accessible accommodation, appropriate dropped curbs and room allocations.  |
| Green Policy – Paper Waste | The aim of this green policy was to address paper waste as a result of elections and lectures. The aim is to put forward policy for consideration at campus council to propose an opt in/out system for hand-outs in classes, so staff only print/produce physical copies for those students who need them as opposed to printing enough for a full class. If this is passed at campus council, it will be presented to the university council to pass into policy. While in the context of COVID, handout production is significantly lessened I intend to pursue this policy at this semester's council.  |
| Sport and Society Accreditation | Given the current COVID context, I have chosen to postpone work on this until we have a better understanding of when/in what capacity our clubs can return to training/meeting. |
| Distance and International inclusivity/community | Given the current COVID context, my initial plans for this have had to be re-examined; this has unfortunately meant that there is little progress in this area currently. However, I believe it is more important than ever that our Distance and International students feel included in the student population, and aim to have a new plan of action finalized by the end of this semester to implement in the new year.  |

**Emergent Themes & Student Feedback:**

* **Common Modules -** We had a large outcry against the introduction of common modules surrounding three main themes; their relevancy, the assessment types and an assumed lack of consultation. Since these issues have been raised, academic staff have put in some temporary measures, including emergency feedback sessions to tailor the next block of common modules to resolve a number of these issues. I am working with the staff responsible for these modules to address these concerns at the highest level.
* **Wifi –** Due to the increased strain on Eduroam, on site students have expressed concerns over poor connectivity. A poll was issued to discover whether this was an isolated issue or campus wide. It appears to be a campus wide dip in connectivity that the IT department are rectifying. They were installing more routers in the initial halls of residence buildings that raised concerns. I believe this will be rolled out across the whole campus.
* **Accomodation –** Issues were raised around the delay in Accomodation allocations. Since this was addressed quickly, there have been no further issues raised to me.
* **Mental Health Support -** We had some students raise concerns over the accessibility to mental health support as a result of staff working from home and the switch to online support. For the most part this seems to have been well received; however we are constantly working with staff to ensure support is available to all students and is well advertised.
* **Clubs and Society -** Clubs and Societies are impatient to return to regular activity, primarily sports teams who participate in contact sport (e.g. Rugby). Particularly because our English institution counterparts had been able to return to regular activity (even under increased restrictions). The SU is working consistently to update the clubs and societies with the latest government and external governing bodies guidance, and online activity (such as theory training for sports teams) has been encouraged. Students, while frustrated, are keen to work with the SU to return to holding activities as soon as possible.

**Coming Up:**

* As a result of the announcement on 19/10/2020 about the circuit breaker lockdown, we anticipate a number of issues surrounding students wishing to leave site to isolate at home.
* We will also be launching campaigns covering; Wear it Pink, Movember (through support of the Men’s Rugby Team campaign)

**Any Other Information:**