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 |  | X | X |
| Mental Health | X |  | X | X |
| Green Policy | X | X | X |  |
| Sport and Soc Accreditation | X | X | X | X |
| Distance and International community | X | X | 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 | Following the success of our October Mental Health campaign, we have revisited this in January by combining our Mental Health and Study Aid campaigns. The aim of which was to signpost students to wellbeing support and promote tips on getting organized academically. We ran an Instagram competition for students to share their study spaces or how they keep notes, as a way to promote the importance of a dedicated study space, particularly for student wellbeing. As we approach the final dissertation period, we will be readvertising these resources and support services. |
| Housing Education – Campaign conclusion | The housing campaign has now concluded, I have worked with our comms team to overhaul the housing section of the website to make our resources more widely accessible. We have also constructed an interactive house viewing form that students can email to themselves when it is completed for future reference. Following feedback from the last Campus Council, I have also developed a how to get the best deal for your bills resource, which is now also live on the website; it covers everything from price comparison, council tax and splitting bills, to having a separate ‘bills account’ with your bank.  |
| 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. Now we are in the third semester, the work I intend to do on advertising the costs around PG study is more important than ever, and we will be launching resources for this towards the end of April. |
| Accessibility (Physical) | Working with the Lampeter Disability PTO, we have launched and concluded an accessibility survey. We have also prepared a report of our findings. This report has been shared with the Operations team and the Lampeter Provost, who are keen to work with us to address these concerns. The University is carrying out an audit of all UWTSD owned buildings, so our report will function as User Generated Data to prioritize improvement work going forward. I have assisted the Swansea Disability PTO to replicate this work for the Swansea campuses, follwing the interest shown at the Swansea Campus Council, and this adapted survey launched on April 14th.  |
| Green Policy – Paper Waste – Campaign Conclusion | Policy has been submitted for consideration at Campus Councils and Union Council in April 2021.  |
| Sport and Society Accreditation | The new accreditation system was approved at SU exec following consultation with students from the 3 residential campuses. Since then, I have been working collaboratively with the SOC’s to develop the activities within each branch, and we have created resource support packs for each branch to enable students to best achieve under the new system. Consultation with students showed the execs liked the visual infographic, so we are working with the design team to generate this professionally, as well as creating suitable webpages on the Union website.Due to a sector shift towards promoting academic societies, I am working with our Student Voice and Advocacy teams to identify support needs specific to Academic societies and creating support resources to address these needs. The next stage is to work with the SOC’s to create a tracking system that gives students control over their own evidence submission. The new system will be ready for launch for the new Academic year.  |
| Distance and International inclusivity/community | Since my last board report, I still believe it is more important than ever that our Distance and International students feel included in the student population; due to the extended lockdown and slow return to normality this has still been the most difficult area of my manifesto. As a part of our funding allocation to combat COVID’s impact on students, we have allocated a portion of this funding to an International specific fund, due to their lack of maintenance loan. I have been directing a portion of my time on this to bridging the gap between the residential campuses and the Satellite campuses through a development group consisting of myself and the SVR’s of London and Birmingham. It is hoped that our distance learner students who live closer to our England based sites will be able to engage that way in the future, while our satellite students have parity in their experiences.  |

**Emergent Themes, SU wins & Student Feedback:**

* **Student name changes on Student cards are now free for students who are transitioning:** This is a massive win for our Trans community.
* **LRC Access:** Access to the LRC is a constant desire for students and we have been in regular contact with the Library team on what this will look like in the third semester. They aim to reopen click and collect on an increased basis.
* **Safety Net Policy:** Safety net policy was confirmed
* **Microsoft 365 access extension:** We have confirmed an extension for graduate access to Office 365 from 3 months to a year, after the submission of a Big Idea by a student
* **Common Modules:** We are constantly working with students representatives and the University in discussions around Common Modules, including facilitating a ‘Roundtable’ Teams live event with key staff, for students to question them directly about the GAMs. This will take place on April 29th.

**Coming Up:**

* Elections
* Swansea Disability PTO Accessibility campaign
* Violence against Women and Girls resources and awareness campaign
* Launch of the SU Discord Server

**Any Other Information:**