Students’ Union President Officer General Meeting Report

**Some new wins since my previous report:**

* I have raised students complaints based on lockers and their unfair usage – The University has finally emptied the lockers in the College Building, and Centenary Building and are policing them more efficiently.
* The lack of microwaves next to the canteen – I contacted the University about this upon receiving student complaints, and the University has acknowledged this, and has stated that they’re going to address these issues.
* 24 Hour Library access for students – The University Executive Committee (ExCo) stated that one of the conditions for the 24 Hour Library staying open this year is that the SU runs a ‘Hush Campaign’ which has been done sometimes by the SU in the past. I worked with the University to ensure that this campaign was ran effectively through the use of social media and posters placed around the libraries in both Northampton Square, and Bunhill Row which told students to please respect the neighbours of the University late at night by keeping noise to a minimum.
* I communicated to the University that the lifts were broken in the Library and in the main University Building hallway, and had them fixed by the University in under a week of raising the issue.

**The Headlines – My top priorities that I’m currently working on**

**SU visibility on campus** – *We’re moving to bigger and better spaces, and we’ll try to let you know what we do more on campus!*

Background/Why I’m working on this:

Every year, the SU gets feedback that we aren’t visible enough on campus, students don’t know what we do, and in some cases, when we do good things, students think that it was the university that did them. And just to add no, we are not the Bar, and we don’t run the bar!

Actions that I’ve taken on this:

* I have had conversations within the SU to have more banners made for our themed weeks and events (Like the petting zoo that we run every year) so that we can show students that the week/event is an SU initiative
* I have begun implementing an ‘SU on tour’ initiative from where the SU spends more time engaging students on campus once a week or every two weeks, as well as having a stall in a central point within the university to talk to more students and to let them know what the SU does, and ask them what they wants us to do
* I have fed in to some decisions being made about the new SU space and offices that we’re moving in to in September 2017 (First floor of the Tait Building)

**Food Campaign** – *It’s finally happening! I’ve initiated the first stage of the food campaign that was on my manifesto! It’s time to take the fight to Sodexo.*

Background/Why I’m working on this:

This food campaign is based on student feedback that the SU has received over the past year. The feedback came from students on multiple courses and years, through emails to the SU, Student Experience Committees, end of year surveys, and other feedback forums. We then realised the scale of complaints and hence are acting on this to make the differences and change that you asked for.

Actions that I’ve taken on this:

* Two areas have been identified as the primary issues to work on – Pricing of food in the canteen, and also the quality/healthy options of food available within the university
* Several meetings have taken place between the SU and Sodexo since the beginning of this academic year, and the last academic year
* In these meetings, myself and other SU Officers have raised students concerns and feedback on pricing and other aspects of the catering on campus
* I decided to run a survey based on the food available on campus to gather more focussed and detailed feedback (Survey has now closed), and is aimed at providing Sodexo with the necessary feedback, so that the SU can effectively campaign for change
* There were 670 responses to the survey (108 staff members, 530 students, 32 skipped question)
* The data is being analysed by myself and the SU and we will try to produce recommendations and solutions and present them to Sodexo so that they can initiate change based on student feedback from the survey
* Further meetings are being held with Sodexo to discuss what can be done based on student and staff survey responses.

**Campaigning for increased social space on campus** – *Campaigning for the space that you not only need, but you deserve!*

Background/Why I’m working on this:

Everyone knows that City isn’t the best university for having social spaces on campus. Students have fed this back to the university time and time again, and also to the SU, and we’re trying to make this a reality.

Actions that I’ve taken on this:

* Using the committees that I sit on, I have expressed the need for more social space on campus, and the university is trying to make this happen
* Using my knowledge of new university buildings that are being constructed, I am ensuring that the university builds more social spaces where possible within these buildings
* I noticed that the university didn’t have any student representation on a project board for a new building project that they’re about to start, and I insisted that the SU President was included in the membership of this board so that I, and my successors could all work on ensuring the university builds more social spaces on campus
* I am in discussions with the University about gaining access to more SU social space on campus
* I am leading on discussions around further use of the new space in the main entrance, and about possibly bringing the Fresher’s Fair on campus (Within 3-4 years if possible)

**What else have I been up to besides this?**

**Faith issues on campus**

I have been continuing the work around the Friday Prayer campaign and Friday Prayer is now back on campus and happening every week! We are still working on this to maintain that it is reflective of the student’s interests and trying to make sure that it is easy as possible by working with the university on this. The next step is to try and find a place for Friday Prayer to happen during exam times, and I will be looking into working with the university to find a suitable alternative to the Great Hall during this period.

Besides this, I am beginning to approach other faith groups and societies on campus to ask them what faith provisions/projects they want to see the SU campaign for them next – So if you’re reading this and have an idea for me, be sure to let me know!

**Input in to key decisions that the SU/University are making**

Our referendum procedures have been altered and are now set up correctly enabling the SU to hold a referendum on issues that students believe require significant attention and decision making abilities.

**Graduate Library closure**

As of the 30th September, the university made the decision to close down the Graduate Library due to the Sebastian Street project as it is located in the current site of some construction that is due to take place. This has resulted in many Postgraduate students (Specifically Postgraduate Taught/Masters students) being left without a dedicated space to study and are hence very unhappy. I have been leading on the work to get an alternative space provided for Postgraduate students to study in. The SU and the University have managed to find 57 extra spaces for use by PGR and PGT students from The School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS), and The School of Mathematics, Computer Science, and Engineering (SMCSE). This however means that there is still space that needs to be found for PGT SASS students, and PGT/PGDip School of Health Sciences (SHS) Students.