

Vice President International Officer Report for June 2020

Introduction

My name is Amina Akugri and I am the new Vice President International for the 2020/2021 academic year. I studied MSc Accounting and Finance and this is my first time being a Sabbatical officer. I would like to extend my profound gratitude to all students who put me in this position by voting for me and to the Staff of the students Union I am looking forward to working with you this year. I know the year already started amidst a global pandemic but the team has still managed to work creatively to ensure the demands of students are being met which is incredible. I believe the team is ready to take the year and still ensure it is able to meet its goals and objectives.

Plans for the year ahead

Covid-19 has had a global effect on how things should be done and I am aware that student's needs and support is important to the SU. For this reason I would like to assure you that students would be supported and led in the best possible way. My plans are to:

- Work closely with the University to improve and continuously provide the necessary support International students would need during their transition period whilst adhering to Covid-19 safety precautions.
- Work with ISA ,student leaders and societies to create events where Students would be able to interact with other people and feel a sense of belonging in the community
- Promotional campaigns on Hate/Harassment on students and encourage them to make use of support available in making reports/complaints
- Improve the academic support and resources available for International students and teacher student engagement
- Signposting of students to the needed places to get the right support
- Follow up checks/feedbacks on students well-being

Handover/Training

The week commencing 8th June 2020 was packed with handover , overviews , training inductions and not forgetting a new Surface pro 7 I received to ensure I can work remotely to meet the demands of students. This is the first time handover and training had to be done remotely as well as adhering to social distancing but all in all the whole team did a great job and is still ensuring training is going on as planned.

There is a lot to learn and understand but I am confident that I would receive adequate training to get me equipped and prepared for the role. Myself and other sabbatical leaders have already attended our first Board and committee meetings which has given us an insight of what our one year would entail.

Our second week was a tough one but I can confidently say we realised how good and strong our team is due to how we worked well, handled our backlash and still succeeded in reaching a quota for our BLM Referendum. We have been engaged in weekly challenges as well to help us identify our strengths which would enable us work better as a whole team. Training is still on-going in week 3 with a sunny and warm weather. I am excited about all that I need to learn so I can work with other Sabbatical Leaders and Staff in making a change and achieving our set goals and targets for the year.