



## September Officer Report – Vice President Welfare & Community

### **Freshers'**

So it looks like we made it through Freshers' then, even though we didn't think it was possible - It certainly was the best week of my life like everyone had suggested!

We started Freshers' week by spending our weekend moving lots of the students in, for me I spent my Saturday and Sunday in Cygnet Wharf and Courts; which was the most lifting I had done in a while, but was worth it to see all those students ready to start their exciting new adventures in Lincoln!

We then started our Monday with a host of Welcome talks to students in the new first year cohorts and I was very lucky to get to meet 8 new groups of students who got to hear all about what we have to offer at the Students Union. Tuesday and Wednesday were the sports and societies fayres, which also hosted our Campaigns Network Groups and Student Led Projects. I got the privilege of spending my days wondering round the fayres and chatting to as many student members as possible, as well as helping all the CN Groups and SLPs with any queries and assistance they needed. Over the 2 days, the Campaigns Network got over 450 signups as a collective which is AMAZING, and starts everyone off on a really good platform for engagement over the next year! This year we also had a quiet half an hour that was open to anyone who didn't feel comfortable in the very busy atmosphere of a full fayre and was a good first step in looking at how we can make all our fayres and freshers' events more accessible.

Each evening I spent lots of time chatting to students in ques, which was a really valuable opportunity to hear about what their first week had been like and signpost them to any services that might be relevant to assist them going forward.

During Freshers Week I also did an interview for Lincs FM in which I talked about our Women's Campaigns Group, and how they campaign to ensure students feel safe in Lincoln; in response to the new Lincolnshire Police Campaign on sexual misconduct.

Over the whole course of the week, the Volunteers who helped run all the events were absolutely incredible! I'd just like to take this time to thank them all for their hard work and express how grateful myself and all the other Student Leaders are.

## **Register to Vote**

With the prospect of a General Election on the cards, we have started to work on a register to vote campaign, which we have begun to launch in the last few days and will continue to promote for as long as required. Voting is super important, particularly as an organisation built on democracy and elections, we see this first hand all the time!

## **Climate Emergency**

Our work around the Climate Emergency is ongoing and within the next two weeks we will know what the results are of the environmental officer by-election! I have been working with students in the ECO society to help expand on how we support our students who have a keen passion for environment issues, and Cassie and I are very excited to be launching our first 'students as leaders of sustainability' event next week which invites any students who care about the environment to have their say about how the union and University can tackle climate change, and can actively involve students in the changes they wish to see. In addition, I also attended the Climate Action Event at the university last month, which helped me understand more about what the university is working on and the science behind climate change. How we address the Climate Emergency we declared is very important and will be something Cassie & I will be working on heavily in the coming months.

## **Campaigns Network**

September has been a really exciting month for the Campaigns Network, as students have started coming back to campus it has meant that we can start actively working on many of the campaigns for the year! We started the month off with our Campaigns Network Officer and SLP Leader training; which had a really good response, and each officer made a Campaign Plan for the year which was filled with new and innovative ideas that came from direct student feedback about issues on and around campus. In addition, we also put on a Campaigns Network Quiz to get everyone across the campaigns network together to bond and get to know each other.

In the last week I've begun visiting as many of their taster sessions as possible and look forward to seeing everyone at our first Campaigns Network meeting at the beginning of next month! Next month will also see our first Campaigns Network Awareness Event, so keep an eye out for that!

RAG in particular have had a big month, appointing 4 challenge leaders (2 for Kilimanjaro & 2 for 3 Peaks) after successful interviews, followed by 4 well attended challenge briefings and now 14 signups for challenges in 2020! RAG are well on their way to their target this year, and I know they're going to smash it! In addition to all this, Lincoln also won the bid to hold the 2020 NaSFA (National Student Fundraising) Conference so preparations have begun on that!

## **Inclusivity Campaign – Lincoln Together**

When I've not been out and about, a lot of my time in the office has been spent working on Abi (VPA) and I's first campaign of the year, which will bring Liberation Officers from the Campaigns Network (BAME, Women's, LGBT+ & Disabilities) together with Activities (Sports, Societies & Academic Societies) to promote how we can make Activities more inclusive! We've come up with lots of amazing ideas for our Inclusivity day in October, but

we've also been working on how we can make sure that this has a long-lasting difference, particularly through new training and new/revised policies.

### **University Meetings**

This month also included a few new university meetings that I hadn't attended before such as Academic Offences Committee and Education and Student Life Committee, with ESLC being a really great opportunity to learn more about what different areas were doing across the university, and ensures students were always being considered at the forefront of decision making.

Additionally, I had my first collaboration meeting between ourselves, the Students' Union and Student Services, in order to ensure the partnership working between both organisations can be as successful as possible this year.

### **GOATing (Going Out And Talking)**

With students being back, I did loads of GOATing this month and got so much feedback about the student experience; from a lack of recycle bins to issues with accommodation, there's been a large variety and am working my way through addressing many of the issues raised.

### **Officer Networking Event**

September also saw our first Officer Networking Event, where we got all Volunteer Officers together to get to know each other, build networks and plan collaborations for the year ahead. The evening was a real hit, and I am very glad to see the Students Leaders beginning to integrate networks to form more powerful campaigns and events.