



UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN STUDENTS' UNION

Vice President – Welfare and Community report

Introduction

The last few weeks I have been focussing on recruiting campaigns network officers and strengthening the bonds between members of the campaigns network. I have also been creating links to the on-campus health centre and improving community relations.

Executive

I am looking forward to working with the other student leaders on various campaigns such as Tommy's academic campaign to ensure students are savvy about what is expected of them and how they can plan our assessments and learn techniques to make this as stress free as possible. Tommy and I have also met with the PGR Officer about aspects of Postgraduate life and surrounding differences and commonalities to undergraduate life and I am looking to delve deeper into postgraduate mental health alongside Tommy. Luke and I will be working on a campaign called don't drink and drown this is a welfare campaign looking to prevent accidents in the Brayford pool and raise awareness of the dangers of drinking near bodies of water. I have also greatly enjoyed meeting international students on Sophia's trips something which the students I spoke to greatly enjoyed.

Campaigns network

The campaigns network is really taking off we have had some fantastic events organised by our student led projects. We have been working very hard to ensure that the officers of the campaigns network feel supported and now act as representative of their groups.

Unfortunately, we have had resignations from several officers due to other commitments outside of their roles they do however wish to remain involved. We have recalculated our elections for the now empty posts and we now have a new disabled student's officer and a new BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnicity) officer. We will be holding a Bye election for the post of RAG officer.

We now have a monthly campaigns network meeting where I'm pleased to say lots of collaboration has occurred amongst the groups and projects. Our liberation officers have also been meeting with DVCs and relevant contacts with the university specially LGBT+ have been working with the wellbeing centre to update some of their information which is being given to students.

The Employability and Campaigning team have been brilliant working to make policies and procedures for the campaigns network and have been extremely helpful for our students who have contacted them for assistance and support for events.

Community

Our community work is going very well and the Carholme community forum said this year's fresher's was by far the best they have seen in many years with police and ASB team figures down significantly since last year. I believe this is due to the new approach and hard work conducted by both the union and the university. Other partners have also put more resources behind ensuring fresher's week is adequately resourced and I have had no major concerns raised to me by local residents.

Myself and the Community officer went to a Sincil bank community meeting this was extremely positive and lots of community projects in the works which our students could have a positive impact on and I look forward to updating the board as this work continues.

Projects scrutiny groups

I have continued to sit on MHT group this project is proving to be disruptive to students due to prolonged works and changes in the way work is being carried out due to the planned method being ruled potentially unsafe. This work is affecting students however timetabling has ensured that any assessments are accommodated out of this building and that there should be no exams taking place in the building. Concerns have been raised about the level of dust inside the building which is being addressed by the contractors.

Project advisory group

(Building Respect and Changing Cultures in the University Community.)

I am pleased to say the project was delivered ahead of schedule and below budget, this is now an online reporting system for staff and students to report sexual misconduct and can be used in further prosecutions and to access additional support.

On campus health centre

I have attended the first PPG (patient participation group) at the health centre alongside the head of the wellbeing centre and I look forward to increasing collaboration with the practice to ensure our students can access the care that they require and help advertise messages relating to accessing the correct care and how to treat some conditions such as colds and flu. We have had discussions surrounding transgender students as well as how the practice can receive student feedback.

Student Carers

I have been meeting and communicating with various students who consider themselves to be carers. Concerns have been raised to me about the lack of awareness and support for students who might not realise that they are caring for others. I have been working with Carers First and I also am planning a trip to Uni of Nottingham to see how they conduct work and support for their carers as they have a good reputation in that area. I will be looking at

conducting focus groups and helping to bring this to the university and the wider union on how we can better support these students and ensure they have a fantastic student experience whilst they are with us.

Ops Plan Update

Establish a credible Lincoln wide landlord/letting agency rating system by June 2018

I have been working with the advice centre and the university accommodation office in launching a virtual award which will allow the union to display the differing categories on our websites, so our members can look for the best provider based on student feedback. I have also proposed policy at ASM to ensure this will continue in future years.

Mental health training for personal tutors and PG supervisors

We are currently awaiting the training provider to train staff to deliver the course internally. Some staff have conducted training via the University HR department. I will going forward look to build a register of those who are able to deliver this training across the institution and how this training will be rolled out based on the availability and number of qualified trainers.

Student union to explore becoming a hate crime and incident reporting centre

I am working with head of student services on a project which will set up a hate crime reporting centre on campus and has a budget of £10,000 to combat hate crime this was the result of a HEFCE bid of £5000 and the university matching it with another £5000. I am working closely with this project to ensure students will have a central reporting system which can be accessed online, and that resource is put into combatting hate on campus. This project will run from December 17 to December 18.

Offer reduced cost sanitary products compared to supermarket prices.

The university campus show now only sells sanitary products at cost price and we now have free sanitary product packs available through the advice centre with aims to have jars of free products in union bathrooms.

Increase student voter registration & Implement Automatic voter registration.

Currently this objective is on hold until more information about how the new data protection act will affect this and how other universities have implemented automatic voter registration have adapted to meet the demands of the new act.

Increase liberation representation by ensuring all liberation officer posts are filled.

Despite some resignations liberation representation is improving and liberation officer posts remain filled. I am now working to ensure full committees and widening the awareness of the groups.