



## UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN STUDENTS' UNION Vice President Welfare and Community Report

- We held our first ever second-hand book sale on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month, which was a big success! Those who brought along books were able to sell the majority, but from the feedback I gathered, most people would prefer an online platform (which is definitely something we can work towards in the future). I am also looking into holding another one towards the end of the year, as some said it would be useful then as most need to de-clutter when moving house.
- I responded organisationally to two government consultations in October; that on Lincoln's bus service (evidence gathered by a survey), and that on the Gender Recognition Act (through working closely with the LGBT+ Officer Sian and Gender Rep Riley, and attending our Student Led Project Amnesty Lincoln's 'Evening of Action' event where I was able to talk to students directly about what they wished to be included in our response).
- As usual, this month I attended both the Sincil Bank residents meeting and the Carholme Community Forum. Students seem to have settled into the local community really well during Freshers as there was little to report back on!
- I was on the interview panel for our new supervisors at The Swan this month, which was a great experience.
- I also chaired my first disciplinary panel, and sat on my first non-attendance panel. These were very different yet interesting experiences, and both of which I will continue to do throughout my year as Vice President.
- This month I have been focusing on environmentalism. I have been working with Union Staff on how we can improve our Green Impact award (last year the Union achieved 'working towards' in its first year of

entering). I went to my first meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, alongside ECO Society President George, and was able to raise the issue of recycling provision in university accommodations. This is something I really want to improve, so I am looking into ways of achieving this.

- This month we had SHAG Day, which was an amazing success as 1000 bags were given out. These included information about the University's on-campus sexual health services. We also held our Mental Health Day installation- the #BreakTheWall campaign. This campaign was also incredibly successful, with nearly 500 people coming and taking a postcard to help 'break down the wall' of stigma surrounding mental health. This month I have also been supporting and attending the Union's Black History Month events, and supported the LGBT+ Campaign Group at Pride.
- This month has been amazing for the Campaigns Network; we have had training, and the first meeting. These were both big successes and have helped foster a culture which I hope will continue throughout the year. I also had what we have called '50/50 meetings', with every single Officer and Student Led Project Lead in the Network. These are one to one catch-ups half way between Campaign Network meetings with myself and the Campaigns Support Coordinator. These worked really well as a chance to catch up, check everything was okay, and plan for the coming month. We now have five Officer positions filled (with newly elected BAME Officer Rhianne, Women's Officer Alexandra, and ISA Officer Mohit), as well as two new Student Led Projects (STAR and UNICEF).
- As part of this I have been helping to support RAG Officer Emma and committee in plans for RAG Week. Myself and the other student leaders are also working on a few extra things to help fundraise during the week.
- This month I have also been working with the University Chaplaincy by attending their away day (which focused on promoting mental health), and charity lunches. Out of this has come discussions about the provision of prayer space on campus and the need more, which I will try to represent to the University.
- I have also been working in collaboration with LGBT+ Officer Sian, LGBT+ Gender Rep Riley, and Women's Officer Alexandra in preparation of the University's Gender-Based Violence Taskforce meeting, which is working to improve university bullying and harassment policy to include more on gender-based violence.

- Kudzai and I have also been representing the displaced students from Viking House. We were able to support the students who were unable to move into their accommodation, and through working with the university were able to secure considerable compensation and further measures to make sure those students were moved into their rooms as soon as possible. As a part of this, we have elected Reps in each Apartment- which is exciting as there is now another representation structure which falls under the Vice President Welfare and Community role. We are looking how Reps could potentially be elected in all university accommodation in future. We are continuing to support the students in Viking House going forward!