



UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN STUDENTS' UNION President Report

Executive Committee

It was with our deepest sympathies and condolences that we acknowledged the passing of a former student and member of the University of Lincoln Students' Union, Grace Millane. Grace's story gained national and international traction, and here at the Union, we focused on ensuring that those who knew Grace and were close to her, and all those affected were supported in the best way possible. We offer our best wishes to Grace's family and friends.

The Sabbatical Officers had the opportunity to contribute to work the university is looking to do to address issues pertinent to the direction of the university and its strategy. In a Leadership Group meeting, with colleagues from the university, we were able to contribute in focus groups to how the university is looking in terms of international student recruitment, the university estate and the university's civic role.

Visibility and Impact

This month I attended the National Union of Students (NUS) Strategic Conversations conference where the discussion was centred around NUS' financial standing, consultation and proposed reforms. It was an insightful conference that addressed the issues that NUS are currently facing, notably the £3million deficit, the impact on efficacy, representation and support for Unions and questions around what NUS is, its purpose and whether the current model is fit for purpose in supporting and representing students' unions and students across the country. I was able to have conversations with the national President, Shakira Martin, as well as the deputy President and VP Higher Education, Amatey Doku, both of whom sit on the relevant boards putting forward the proposed changes that need to be seen in NUS in order to maintain its solvency and ensure its status as a union for students. The issues being discussed centre around the 'Turnaround programme' which relates to getting NUS to safety, ensuring short-term changes to the way the organisation operations. This includes staffing, finances, and activities to make sure it remains viable. It also relates to reform, looking at the fundamental changes needed in regard to corporate governance and democratic governance and the interrelationship between the two.

Shakira and Amatey reiterated the significance of ensuring that as many as possible contribute to the consultation about the reforms and this is something we are looking to do here at Lincoln.

I met with The Linc this month to discuss Black History Month and the impact of the campaign on campus and to members of the SU. It was a great opportunity to reflect on the campaign and ensure that the right ethos had been achieved. We are looking to expand on the conversation around Black History Month and ensure that the campaign is sustainable for next year.

I have been in conversation with Deputy Vice Chancellor Liz Mossop regarding the work that the university is doing to address issues with the attainment gaps within the institution. Currently we are aware of the discrepancies in attainment, depending on the students' relative statuses, background and circumstances. Both the university and the union acknowledge that more needs to be done to address the imbalance in attainment currently at the university and this is work that we are currently involved in addressing alongside the university and ensuring the right interventions are put in place.

From the 1st January, trustee Chris Bateman stepped down as a member of the Board of Trustees. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude for the work he has put into the board and wish him the best in his future endeavours. In lieu of Chris' resignation, Sue Liburd has officially taken office as a trustee. In a similar light, I would like to thank her and look forward to working with her over the next year.

Kudzai Muzangaza
University of Lincoln Students' Union President