



UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN STUDENTS' UNION

Vice President – Welfare and Community report

Introduction

The last few weeks I have been focussing on planning campaigns with the 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 while also raising the issues of to let board on student properties and the street lighting consultation.

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. 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 postgraduate students at PHD in the pub and international student in the winter festival.

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.

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 planning campaigns for the New Year and our student led projects are smashing it with their 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. The forum also wish to publish a press release expressing their thanks and their delight at the positive atmosphere the west end had this year.

We have been working with the community in Sincil bank to plan a Pecha Kucha event where students and residents will present 20 slides with 20n seconds each. If you have a connection to the area and wish to take part please email me.

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.

We have also met with the business manager and are in communication with the centre staff after the issues with the phone lines. This was due to a fault in a old system which is due to be replaced early next year.

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.

Faith

I have raised with the faith advisory board the problems that our Islamic student are facing with space provision for Friday Prayers the university is currently looking into long term solutions in regards to this. I will update when I have any new developments.

Ops Plan Update

Objectives

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 this will occur February next year. 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 shop 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 I am working to gain a agreement from both City Hall and the University to allow this to become a reality.

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.