

**Presidents Report**

**January 2019 Student Council**

**Rafael Garcia-Krailing**

**Summary**

Since the last council, we have moved forward on a number of large projects, such as the website, Re-Freshers and the inception of a large welfare campaign.

Things on campus seem to be settling down with the majority of issues being resolved. A significant proportion of my time this month has been taken up with meeting external stakeholders and trying to create links for the Union moving forward.

A key theme since the last council has been mine and Gemma's focus on creating the NSS content and delivering it in third-year lectures.

Finally, we were also successful in getting the board of governors to approve the new VP BME role.

**Key Talking Points:**

* **NSS Presentations**
* **Local housing group meeting**
* **The Internal Audit**
* **Resolved the opt in for the website**
* **Attended another residents community forum**
* **Meeting with the Scouts**
* **BME officer passed through board of governors**

**Report**

**Manifesto Pledges**

*Utilise my knowledge of the University to support students in resolving issues at the new campus.*

• We had the first waterside and you meeting on the 13th of December at Avenue campus, which although the turnout was small it was great to be able to hear the concerns of those students. These predominantly being around the access to space for showcases and the art shop.

• The sabbatical officers have booked in the next waterside and you meeting for the 14th of January to take place at the engine shed. I have developed the advert for the event and it is now on the university screens. Hopefully, this will have good attendance and we can look to resolve the issues the students are facing.

*Ensure the commercial sustainability of the Students’ Union’s new Engine Shed and The Platform.*

* Ryan and I have been attending the Students’ Union finance committee. In which we are providing scrutiny over both the Students’ union accounts and the Platform accounts (NSUSL). The key issues we have been raising are around.
  + Bar performance
  + Retail performance
  + The platform café
* We have asked for a revised platform budget to be drafted that is more realistic and based on performance this year thus far.

*Mentor the other Sabbaticals, supporting and empowering them to make change.*

* Gemma and I have been working on the delivering of the NSS presentations, to help the 3rd year students with their understanding of the survey.
* I have been supporting in getting the re fresher’s activities in place.

*Hold the University to account regarding the quality of teaching, by monitoring the impact of the campus move.*.

* Myself and Gemma have been delivering the NSS presentation and articulating to the students the importance of their feedback and reinforcing the value in student voice.
* I attended an SSLC with some sports student course advocates, they had some excellent questions and I was able to give clarity on a number of different topics ranging from sports facilities to the students benefit package.

*Make sure the University disciplinary process is conducted in a fair and just manner.*

* Since the beginning of December I have not had any further University disciplinary panels.

**Other Activities**

• I have presented at local student housing meeting with the view of developing our network within the landlord community and the council so that we can be kept up to date on the latest information in the sector.

With particular reference to how we support our international students in acquiring private accommodation. With that, I have secured another seat at the local housing group meeting for the vice president of welfare to sit on.

• We have finished the internal university audit and the auditor seems impressed by the steps we have taken in the last year. We are currently awaiting the written verdict but it is looking positive.

• I attended the first wellbeing campus meeting whereby we looked at how we achieve a well-being campus status. We discussed all the initiatives that we currently offer and how one of the key issues is that we do not communicate this effectively.

• I have met with the university’s new additional needs manager and I have looked to set up a meeting to introduce them with our VP welfare so that we can more easily provide representation directly towards that department.

• I have recently had a positive meeting with the university IT who have helped us resolve the Opt-in system on the website, so that is students are not members of the student union, they can easily opt in so that they are on our system.

• I have a really productive meeting with the scouts and are looking at ways that we can develop our relationship with them that could help to support our members in accessing some of their opportunities as well as how they can help support some of our internal training programs.

• I presented a paper to the board of governors and received support for the role, it will now be included in the up and coming march elections!

**Mandates**

**Security**

**Status: In Progress**

1. **President to look into security policy at the university**

There are a number of policies that the university has that relates to security

These can be found at <https://www.northampton.ac.uk/more/governance-and-management/university-policies-procedures-and-regulations/>

If council could have a think specifically what policies that they would like me to focus on and outcome they would like, I have been involved in a significant number of these policies over the last year, and the Students’ Union is consulted on the majority of these policy changes.

I will report at the January council to complete this mandate.

1. **President to explore the idea of holding security open forums**

Action complete forum to take place on December 13th

1. **President to explore if security can be stationed at ground floor security barriers**

This has been raised at Waterside operations meeting, the university are looking into the viability of doing this.

1. **President to look into ensuring houses are locked automatically**

This has been raised and contractors are coming out this week to look at resolving the issue. This should be completed by the start of next term.

1. **President to explore whether Police can walk around campus in their uniforms**

I have had a conversation with Lorna Clarke (Head of campus police) and we have talked about how they have been trying different shifts varying their attire. They are now in the process of reviewing what has been most effective.

**Declarations: None**