

**Presidents Report**

**November 2018 Student Council**

**Rafael Garcia-Krailing**

**Summary**

Over the last month, there have been significant teething problems within both the university and the students' Union. The sabbatical officers have been working hard with the university to address these issues and find resolutions to enable the student experience to prosper.

The majority of my time since the last council has been taken up by NSUSL issues and getting the ball rolling with marketing both at the SU and the platform.

The Students Union agency (MOBAS) are having their first meeting with the SU staff team on the 9th of November meaning that they can take our marketing forward and alleviate a significant amount of pressure on the sabbatical officers, as we have been picking up communications since the start of term.

Furthermore, in the last few weeks, we have seen deterioration in the relationships with students and the general public, which has been exacerbated by some inappropriate behaviour. I am attending a forum for local residents on the 8th of November to explain that the negative behaviour has been conducted by a tiny proportion of our student population and the majority of our students want to contribute positively to the community.

**Key Talking Points:**

* **Student Issues**
* **Platform Performance**
* **Financial viability model for the platform**
* **Platform Marketing**
* **Students’ Union Marketing**
* **Student Behaviour**
* **Pilot Project Pedestrian**

**Report**

**Manifesto Pledges**

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

I have chaired the student operational steering group in our first meeting and was able to raise a significant number of issues students had been having at the new campus.

**Issues Raised in university meetings:**

* Night Time security on the bridge
* Hot water in halls of residences
* Wifi Issues in halls (Waterside & East halls)
* Lack of smoking bins
* Student Behaviour at St johns halls
* Front door in the Engine Shed
* Post room signage
* Wifi Access in Library
* University Loan laptops issues
* Plugs in the learning hub
* Water coolers in the Learning Hub and Senate
* Timetabling between campuses
* Learning hub upstairs doors
* Senate front doors

On a smaller level, I have supported over ten students resolve IT issues, particularly with regards to the new laptop bursary scheme and loan laptops.

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

* I have chaired the last three commercial operations meeting for the platform.
* The Platform is off-budget, and I have requested a new budget to be developed that is acchievable.
* I have incorporated a break-even budget at the platform as a key performance indicator for the unions CEO.
* I have asked the finance manager to create a model that enables us to test the financial viability of different events. This has been completed and allows us to create scenarios regarding attendance, event cost and overheads to predict the profitability of the event.
* The platform team, Ryan and I had a strategic meeting with a marketing agency to kick-start the marketing for the platform particularly with regards to Saturday nights. We are in the process of developing a strategic plan.

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

* I have supported Ryan in acquiring the keys for the sports facilities.
* Every month the sabbatical team have has one to one with me so we can work if there is anything I can support them with.
* Shangyin and I have spent a significant amount of time trying to get his visa and national insurance number sorted.
* Shangyin and I have started to develop a welfare calendar that can be utilised for the rest of the year. And repopulated in the coming years.
* Shangyin and I have been working on some promotional materials for international men’s day. (19th November)
* Gemma and I have been working on the VP BME proposal.

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

* I have chaired our fist NSS meeting to decide how we are going to go about the promotion of the NSS in the coming year.
* I have met with a number of academics to get a feel for how they believe we can support the promotion of the NSS.
* Gemma came up with the fantastic Idea of doing another "Waterside and You" session so that students can raise their concerns directly with the university teams, so I have liaised with the university to have a forum at the end of November.

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

* I am attending the first fitness to practise hearing next Friday.
* After recent events I will be involved in the up and coming disciplinary panels.

**Other Activities**

* I have met with the impact assessor with regards to the heritage of the building. The heritage and volunteer coordinator and I took part in an interview talking about the transition into the engine shed.
* I have written the booking processes for the sports pitches will need a review and student feedback to iron out any issues.
* Ryan and I had a catch up with members from the local housing group and have acquired Shangyin the opportunity to present to them regarding what students want out of there private accommodation.
* I attended a university event with their marketing students’ and was able to get some interesting feedback about their transition to the new campus and how they are finding the change and also promote what the union offers.
* The CEO and I met with a company that deals with Sports Dome netting, the CEO is picking up with the university as to getting this improvement made to facilitate sports clubs using the facility.
* I have Set up the new marketing agency for the union, and they have now had their first meeting with our staff team.
* Gemma and I have begun communications with the PGR (Postgraduate research) students and are looking at ways that we can develop our relationship so that we can work closer together in the future. We have a meeting booked in with all of their reps at the end of November.
* I have been working with the finance team to close one of our old subsidiary companies.
* I have been working with our finance team to get the new trading company bank account set up (Which is now complete).
* I have sorted out the contract for one of our student videographers.
* I am chasing up some issues at the platform, as some students staff have not been renumerated appropriately.
* I have Started a product price competitor analysis between the engine shed coffee shop and the other outlets on campus making sure we provide the best value to our sand support them in having access to high-quality food students.
* I have finished the role descriptions and recruitment packs for the vacant external trustee roles, they need to be advertised.
* I delivered some postgraduate induction talks.
* The sabbaticals and I have still been manning social media channels; we thoroughly look forward to the agency coming in and picking up a proportion of this so we can regain balance to our workload and spend more time on our strategic priorities.
* I have been working on developing a series of events for students that are interested in music and entrepreneurship, this event is particularly looking at attracting students that the union does not already engage with. Moreover this series is a pilot for funding application. Meaning if this is successful we shall be looking to apply for funding from external funds (National lottery and others). With the view to diversifying the funding for our projects. (Pedestrian)

**Declarations: None**