

**Presidents Report**

**October 2018 Student Council**

**Rafael Garcia-Krailing**

**Summary**

Over the summer break the Students’ Union has faced a period of unprecedented change, not only the change in strategic alignment of the organisation but also with the move to the Waterside campus. These monumental changes have undoubtedly been challenging; however, the opportunity we now face as a student body is enormous and we have the opportunity this year to set precedents and policy that will shape the future of our organisation.

**Key Talking Points:**

* **Union Day in the town centre**
* **The new Sabbatical team**
* **The finalised Strategy**
* **SUMS**
* **The Marketing Provision.**
* **SID (Student Information Desk)**

**Report**

**Manifesto Pledges**

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

Issues Resolved:

* Catering power at the Engine Shed
* Sports Dome leak
* Negotiate radio space at St Johns
* Alcohol in the Engine Shed.
* Fire panels in the Engine Shed.
* Front door in the Engine Shed
* Engine Shed fryer
* Mini bus on campus

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

* I have incorporated the commercial aspects of the Students Union into a commercial entity (Northampton Students’ Union Services Limited). This meaning that if the commercial side of the business failed the charitable side would not be impacted and enables us to recruit a Board of Directors that have a particular skillset in the night time economy which will enable us to be financially sustainable.
* I have raised the issues of poor financial performance to the Board of Trustees and set the Students’ Union CEO a key performance indicator of a break-even budget for next year.

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

* I have supported the Sabbatical officers in their training.
* I have organised external experts to come into the Union and deliver talks on active blended learning and how it is being done well.
* I have developed a bespoke welfare training schedule that empowers the new Welfare Officer to understand all the research undertaken last year.
* We had our first Exec meeting which went well and have now attributed a staff resource to that team to make sure all actions are minuted and to help formalise the meeting.

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

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

* I have met with the Director of Student Academic Services and have made the proposal that a SU representative will be able to talk in the panels to support the student.
* Participated in a Mitigating Circumstances task and finish group which resulted in a trial of students being able to have a resit after a ‘mit circs’ assessment.
* I have proposed at the Board of Governors that teaching needs to be a key focus for the Board over the next year.
* I move been instrumental in the development of the Student Information Desk and have championed the increase in hours of support available to students.

**Other Activities**

* I Attended NUS 2018 and attended a number of workshops regarding governance
* I opened the vulnerability centre at the platform
* I Performed a governance review for the board of trustees from that I developed:
  + An Audit and Risk committee
  + Developed another role on the Board of Trustees (Senior External trustee)
    - Created a job spec
    - Started recruitment
  + Made recommendations to the Students’ Union Delegation of Authority.
  + Reviewed the Committee Terms ofR for trustees and made recommendations and the new strategy passed through at Trustee Board level.
* Supported Student Action for Refugees campaign for five scholarships for refugee students.
* Acquire and fit the St Johns Radio centre for the new media group.
* Help us achieve excellent rating in Green Impact for SU’s.
* Won Most Improved award for Green Impact.
* Championed the change in systems provider from Uni Cloud to SUMs! This means we will have a good website!
* Closed the SU Letting Agency
* Make sure the University disciplinary process is conducted in a fair and just manner.
* Lobby the University to develop a working group on a Sexual Harassment Policy which they have now done and both myself Shangyin and Jack are invited.
* I have been working with another charity called Mighty Creative to look at creative ways in which we can support BME mental health and academic engagement.
* Written a new Trustee Recruitment pack.
* Started the recruitment for two new Trustees.
* The Sabbatical team picked up marketing provision for the last month and over Fresher’s.
* Shangyin and I have organised some small events for World Mental Health day.

**Declarations**

1. Student Gift Croatian football Shirt Value £30
2. Student Gift Aftershave £30