

**Vice president Union Development Report**

**December 2018 Student Council**

**Ryan Bradshaw**

**Summary**

Over the past month the students’ union has been working tirelessly to maintain expectations and ensure we offer the best experience and support to our members.

**Key Talking Points:**

* **Art Shop & UNO**
* **Re Freshers 2019 – Commercial and Charity**
* **Community Events with University (Lee Craven)**
* **Partnerships Sports facilities – Towcestrians**

**Report**

**Manifesto Pledges**

***Focus on activities and entertainment catering to the variety of students at university***

***‘Meet expectations of what the students want from the students union’***

* In talks with the university regarding the Art shop with the potential to move to Waterside.
* In progress on structuring an effective Re-Freshers programme for January 2019 – meeting expectations on what the students want.
* Ongoing discussions with Uno who advised will be having the 19 go past avenue campus for a 50p Charge which will mean there will be 4 buses in the hour going past avenue including the 20 Free Bus as of January. Keeping the 20 as a free service as would have to be £1 for the bus and will see more benefit with the 19 coming into play. Uno board meeting in December to look at how to improve the bus routes and put more buses on the route from avenue to Waterside.

***Raise awareness of methods in which your voice can be heard***

* Worked on Marketing platforms in which to engage with students and provide authentic content to engage with different students, for example – I used Facebook to target our mature students and Instagram to target our younger students. – Ongoing
* Working with Lee Craven on community events such as Party Bus, Street party and Sporting events with a twist. – On going

***Encourage participation in Sports Clubs, societies and Volunteering Projects***

* Building partnerships with local business such as ‘daily bread’ to encourage volunteering opportunities for our students and healthy eating.
* Working alongside I love tour to organise a sport trip to Italy in the Easter 2019
* Working with the council to encourage partnership with the town centre and bring societies into the town’s projects such as parades, where the suited society can play music and perform at the parade.
* Visited Towcester sports facilities, to build a working partnership with the students’ union. The club will be starting a development plan for facilities. This would be very beneficial for sports clubs and the facilities could be used for a wide range of events such as: Sports matches and training facilities, Varsity, Fresh fest and union day in the future.
* Developed Mixing society and advised the students on the process involved to make it happen.
* Worked on bespoke societies Trips
* Marketing for Sports, societies and volunteering projects on the students’ union social media channels.
* December Christmas Markets in the learning Hub, Secured space to allow our student groups to promote themselves.

***Create a synergy between the students and the union. Allowing for more student input within the union; developing the student experience***

* Focused on being active on my social media platforms to encourage student voice
* Communication with students in person – to get a ‘feel’ for what the students actually want and think about the students’’ union.
* Working with Lee Craven on community events such as Party Bus, Street party and Sporting events with a twist. – On going

***Launch at least 10 new events that cater to everyone***

* In progress of developing a commercial and charity Re-Freshers 2019 that will cater to the wide variety of students at the University.
* Worked with Socs and volunteering on creating events such as Quizes that will take place at Avenue Campus student’s union prior to Karaoke – Increasing engagement.

***Ensure adequate facilities are available at waterside to all students especially for sports, societies and volunteering projects.***

* Meetings with University addressing the issues around sports and facilities and working on the SU managing keys for the sports facilities which will allow for better engagement and usage for our students’.
* Built Partnership with local bars for sports teams to hold their socials (*Fever & Bridge 26 and in progress with Au-ra)*
* Towcesterian sports facilities partnership – Meeting in December to see if they have the bid accepted (I wrote a letter of Support) Then hopefully if granted the bid can liase with them for our clubs to use the space which will help the development of all clubs, especially sports.
* Monthly meetings with the university to ensure the process around sports facilities and bookings are dealt with according to student issues.

***Other Activities:***

***-***Delegated a committee and submitted entry for Green Impact.

***UNO mandate:***

* Discussed the situation with UNO regarding frequency of Buses from Avenue to Waterside.
* 20 is a Free service that is the only bus that travels directly past avenue every 30 minutes.
* Advised if Uno could increase frequency of buses at peak times and run double decker’s on this route to accommodate the students.
* Uno advised it would affect the business financially by increasing the amount of buses. However agreed they are keen to work towards a solution for this and will explore options of taking a bus off a less busy route to accommodate the 20 bus route.
* Uno advised that there is also a 19 which stops on Barrack Road which runs every 12 minutes but is a charge of 50p for students.
* Uno advised there is the number 18 which also stops outside the Picturedrome for a 50p charge and also runs every 12 minutes.
* Uno advised bus routes will be updated to stop at east park halls as of January 2019.
* Uno and the university will look to use special student cards for next acedmic year for students who are travelling from avenue to waterside in hope that it will stop the high volume of people just using the service because it is free.
* Additionally, Uno advised that they could look to increase Frequency of the 20 bus but would then charge 50p for students’ using the service.
* Uno looking to have real time updates at the stops
* Board discussion of the 18 service to cut the amount of busses on route and then put these resources to the 20 bus route.
* Uno and the university to circulate Map information of all the bus routes
* Uno advised the board are looking at potentially having the service run to Moulton again and also looking at the potential of having the 19 bus to go past avenue campus as well, this is ongoing.

Following email comments from Uno:

* ‘A double decker on the no 20 is essential in my view. I am working on resetting the overall Uno bus budget to reflect actual costs
* I will be advocating a double decker in the costs so you need to do that now in my view.
* A report on the budget will be considered at the next Uno bus board on 5th December,2018.  Also, to be clear, an extra double decker bus on the service 20 will not cost 50p return but more like £1.00 per passenger journey (£2 return trip) to cover its costs.
* This would then provide a 20 minute service approximately rather than a half hourly as at present – not worth it in my view –  therefore the choice is either free or alternatively £2 to save 10 minutes on a journey – you choose!
* We are diverting the no 19 past the avenue campus from January, 2019.  This will then provide a further half hourly service. The charge for that can be 50p, but I suspect many students will wait for the free bus - but it will be there if they want it at a cost of 50p each way from January, giving in effect 4 buses an hour instead of two at present if the timetable is orchestrated properly.  That solves your issues in my view.’