

**Vice president Union Development Report**

**November 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:**

* **SU Talks**
* **Re Freshers 2019**
* **Uno**
* **Partnerships – Daily Bread and Sports facilities**

**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’***

* The launch of SU talks which will tackle multiple issues and topics that resonate with the variation of students at university.
* In progress on structuring an effective Re-Freshers programme for January 2019 – meeting expectations on what the students want.
* Encouraged university to have a focus on a ‘green impact’ agreed behind the green campus idea with the use of reusable cups.

***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
* Explored a method of engaging students with a freelancer who would work on a project across the year to create ‘community connector’. These students would hold events around campus which would focus on creating a community feel. After various meetings regarding this the staff and budget resource would make it near impossible to have a great impact, this could be something worth exploring for the next academic year.

***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.
* Encouraged Weight lifting sports club and ensured the process was followed correctly.

***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
* In Progress of working with Entertainment’s officer developing forums and polls where the student can vote on what they want.
* Communication with students in person – to get a ‘feel’ for what the students actually want and think about the students’’ union.

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

* In progress of launching ‘SU Talks’ November 2018 which will feature speakers coming into the SU. Each speaker will have different themes such as LGBT, Sport, Business, Welfare, Education this will cover 10-15 speakers across the year, appealing to all different types of students.
* Launched Milk it Mondays – Encouraging themed events that relate to the students.
* 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.
* Monthly meetings with the university to ensure the process around sports facilities and bookings are dealt with according to student issues.

***Other activities:***

* Looking to do a Refreshers in January which will be similar to freshers’ September 2018 and will include events that cater to all.
* Marketing within the SU for engagement with our students

***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.