

**VP Welfare Report**

**November 2018 Student Council**

**Shangyin Ji**

**Summary**

Over the last month, I have adjusted to the intensity of this new role and improved many aspects according to my manifesto. The sabbatical team has been working well together to ensure that the students can have a positive and quality experience of their university life.

The majority of my work since the student council has been focusing on the student mental health and quality of university life. Due to the fact, welfare is a new role that should be predominately student facing, so I am available to listen to and resolve student issues.

Moreover, in the last four weeks, I have also built the relationship with some charities and Northampton Borough Council. The aim is to increase more cooperation and create an increased welfare provision for students.

Finally, since the recent serious incident on campus, I have received lots of complaints from the hall students about accommodation safety. I have booked the meeting with the head of safety and security in the university to discuss this problem in order to generate increased safety for students on campus.

**Key Talking points**

* World Mental Health Day
* Well-being Wednesday
* Well-being Working Group
* Preparation for SU Cook
* Student Issues

**Report**

Manifesto Pledges

*Set Up two regular international activities for international students to make friends with home students.*

* Conversation Café (17th October) I have attend conversation café, whereby I spoke with many international students and talk about a few issues they had and encouraged them to participate in more union activities.
* February Graduation Ceremony Issue, I am in conversation with the university to enable students to have increased visas so that they are able to attend graduation.
* SU Cook (During the Preparation) So far, I have set up a project group involving changemaker, we are now leasing with the university to acquire a facility to put on the events.

*Support International students in acquiring accommodation*

* I have attended Open Day (27th October) to talk to all the students about the accommodation information, they are really receptive of the welfare agenda we are trying to foster at the University of Northampton.
* I have collected the issues about accommodation safety and quality from both home and international students. I am aiming to progress these issues in a meeting with the safety & security department and residential life team.

*Bring in external expertise to the union regarding student mental health*

* World Mental Health Day (Hand Massage & Graffiti Artist) this day was a huge success, reflecting on the event it was great to have some of the sports teams participating and we engaged many students throughout the day, both activities being well received.
* Well-being Wednesday (Pat Dogs & Conversation Cafe) These to projects I am looking to support through the rest of the year to engage students in the topics of well-being and give them a reason to come into the union.
* Well-being Working Group (SU-University-NHS) I have set up monthly wellbeing meeting between these partners whereby we can raise student wellbeing issues and look to be proactive in supporting our students.
* World AIDS Day (National AIDS Trust) I have just finished the preparation and acquired the ribbons and we shall be taking part in a promotional campaign. This is an exciting partnership for the future.
* International Men’s Day (Northampton Borough Council) I have had a meeting to start the relationship with the NBC to look to work with them in developing a community event, it is unlikely we will be able to do anything together this year for the event, however, moving forward this partnership has been established.

*Develop content for social media around the topic of welfare*

* Raf and I have been working on the promotion for the International Men’s Day (17th November 2018).
* We have developed a contest calendar and are now deciding on events we can run during the day.
* Raf and I have been working on the promotion for each Well-being Wednesday. We are looking to utilise the expertise of the marketing department to take this forward.
* Raf and I have been working on a welfare events calendar. This will not only support me in having a framework for events going forward, but it can be a living document for the future welfare sabbatical officer.
* I have spoken with university staff about how we can promote their welfare services more on our channels. And we are looking into seeing how we can get more welfare centric content on the university screen.
* I am working with the marketing agency to create a welfare campaign for the rest of the year, that focuses on student mental health and wellbeing.

**Other activities:**

• I have been supporting Raf in collating student issues to take to meetings to be resolved by the university. Both for Waterside operations working group and the Operational student experience working group.

**Declarations: None**