

## Presidents Report

March 2019 Student Council

Rafael Garcia-Krailing

### Summary

Since the last council, my time has been spent on preparing the reports and presentations to go to the board of governors and delivering NSS promotional presentations. The governor's presentation was received well and they are encouraged by our new strategic direction. Shangyin and I have spent a significant amount of time working on the logistics of university mental health day and planning some future wellbeing events for the rest of the year and how we tie in our messaging to achieve our strategic goal.

### Key Talking Points:

- **NSS Presentations**
- **Board of Governors**
- **Disciplinary hearings**
- **Wellbeing day**
- **Platform Saturdays**

### Report

#### Manifesto Pledges

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

- I chaired the second student operational experience working group, whereby we reported some more issues that students had been facing, most notably from the meeting the university is considering a self-locking back door as requested at the last council.
- I have attended the waterside operational steering group meeting and engaged in discussions around how the students are using the learning hub space and helping to analyse information from student surveys about how the space can be leveraged most effectively for the students.

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

- Until the end of my term as president this will be my primary focus, and to make sure that we have a business model that is robust and developed for the next year.
- We have implemented a Platform loyalty scheme.
- We are looking at how we can improve the training for student staff at the venue.
- We have increased the scrutiny on the performance of the external promoters.
- Ryan and I are looking at how we can better integrate student-centric activities at the platform so we can leverage the space to its full potential.

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

- The Sabbatical team have been working on a few activities to take place on university mental health day, which will include creative art workshops and hand massages.
- Shangyin and I have been looking at the most feasible way to incorporate first aid training for a number of student groups and are currently liaising with the university on acquiring dates.
- Shangyin and I have organised some accredited mental health training to take place on the 23rd and 24th for some of our staff and half of the new execteam, we are looking to book in some dates for after summer to get the rest of the new execteam trained.
- Shangyin and I have ordered some SU branded goods in relation to university mental health day that will help promote what we do (Stress balls and face masks) helping to articulate to students that we are always there.
- The sabbatical officers and I have been working with the activities team to have welfare boxes at varsity.

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

- I am working with the sabbatical team at how we look to encourage more academic societies and we are writing a paper to take to the University.
- I have organised a meeting with the avenue students regarding how we can help improve their experience, and I am meeting them in the next couple of weeks.
- Gemma and I attended the Student experience committee whereby we contributed to debates around the new personal academic tutor system and future student support interface.
- I Chaired the student voice working group.

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

- Since the last council, I have sat on a number of panels and I shall be writing a review of my panel experiences which will form as a part of next year's sabbatical officer training package.
- I am writing a proposal for Exec to fund two of the next years sabbatical officers to go on a training course about the conducting of disciplinary hearings.
- I am working with an external company to see if they can develop some bespoke disciplinary training for next year's sabbatical officers.

### **Other Activities**

- I have been working with Katie from Mobas about putting up another sign outside the SU to give some more info about who we are and what we do.
- I have delivered a presentation to the new PGR student cohort talking about who the SU is and what we do.
- We have done a NSS coffee event in the SU for third years on Thursday the 28th to help incentivise completion.
- I have hosted the two hustling events.

## **Mandates**

### **Security**

**Status:** Complete

#### **1. President to look into security policy at the university**

There are a number of policies that the university has that relates to security

These can be found at <https://www.northampton.ac.uk/more/governance-and-management/university-policies-procedures-and-regulations/>

If council could have a think specifically what policies that they would like me to focus on and outcome they would like, I have been involved in a significant number of these policies over the last year, and the Students' Union is consulted on the majority of these policy changes.

I will report at the January council to complete this mandate.

#### **2. President to explore the idea of holding security open forums**

Action complete forum to take place on December 13<sup>th</sup>

#### **3. President to explore if security can be stationed at ground floor security barriers**

This has been raised at Waterside operations meeting, the university are looking into the viability of doing this.

#### **4. President to look into ensuring houses are locked automatically**

This has been raised and contractors are coming out this week to look at resolving the issue. should be completed by the start of next term.

#### **5. President to explore whether Police can walk around campus in their uniforms**

I have had a conversation with Lorna Clarke (Head of campus police) and we have talked about how they have been trying different shifts varying their attire. They are now in the process of reviewing what has been most effective.

### **Cheerleading Mandate**

**Status:** Complete

The students Union President is mandated by the AU Chair Mandate to reply to Cheerleading and chase up the location of their mats. The Chair moved to vote to accept the procedural motion.

**Declarations:** None