



## **VP Societies and Communications Report**

Hello!

Hope you're all well and that you're enjoying your first term. I would like to congratulate you all on Fresher's Fair, it was such a success and a lot of you had gone all out with your stalls.

Sign up's ranged from 17 to 530 students sign up for a society this year which is a lot better than previous years. So once again well done on the effort you all put in, there was lots of variety and creativity in the ways in which you all decorated your stalls.

Now, what have I been up to?

### **Budgets**

At the start of the year it took a while for you all to be allocated a budget, which was REALLY annoying as you all needed your first allocations to help with your stalls at Fresher's Fair.

This was due to the fact that any religious or cultural groups that were previously societies have now become 'Networks' and fall under the Community and Welfare VP's remit. Unfortunately, the money had to be split between both, leaving me to fight for us to have a larger cut of the money. Whereas we previously had £5,000 I manage to get it split £3000 to societies and £2000 to networks for the first term. Only once I knew how much we had, could I then allocate you all a budget and give you all more freedom to spend money on items for Freshers Fair.

### **Societies**

This year I would like to make societies more sustainable, as part of my manifesto I wanted to help boost society's budgets. I am more than happy to help with any fundraising ideas that you all have as I think it is important to focus on making your budgets a lot bigger by not relying on the allocation I have given you, but by helping you all utilise the resources you all have to increase your society's wealth.

One of my fundraising ideas at the start of the year was Frolics Festival. I had organised for there to be two huge marquees, a stage for there to be live music and a few inflatables. A shisha company and two massage therapists were also going to come for free in order to provide a few other things for the event. However I couldn't get in contact with a lot of the societies over summer. It's now been moved to March and the date is yet to be decided. As this is an event for your benefit I want you all to work with me on this one and help find innovative ways to make it a success and cost effective. I would like for you all to think about how your society can use this Festival as an opportunity to raise money, whether it's creating a coconut shy stall, face painting. How is your society going to get involved?

UWE Students' Union

**Main site:** Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QY.

**Tel:** 0117 32 82577 **Fax:** 0117 32 82986

**Email:** [union@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:union@uwe.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.uwesu.org](http://www.uwesu.org)



### **Wednesdays-**

Every Wednesday I will try to attend as many different society sessions as physically possible. It has been hard to achieve this recently as only a hand full of you replied to mine and Helen's email asking when you meet up and where. This is an ongoing process so while I have been to a few sessions I plan to attend a lot more, please keep me informed ,add me on Facebook; invite me to events and keep me within the loop. It's part of my manifesto to be proactive and actually get involved with many of your activities so help me in achieving this.

### **The Varsity Series**

I have been thinking about having more events on campus for societies that are interested in competing. It was suggested we do a societies varsity at the same time as the sports varsity and make Varsity a lot bigger this year. It's been done in previous years and our societies teams won everything! I would like to set this up again, this would raise your profiles give us more to splash about at the activities awards. There are so many amazing societies and I don't think you all get enough credit for it. It would be so much fun to get involved with varsity so I hope a lot of you are keen to do so. Who is interested in getting involved in competing? Or helping me organise this?

### **Societies Awards**

I'm going to work really hard on societies awards this year, I think we have a lot to celebrate and will have a lot more by the end of second term. Any suggestions for this event are more than welcome as it's an event to celebrate how great YOU all are. We really need to have a structure down by the end of this term for the activities awards, so what date it will be, where it will be held and an itinerary.

### **Communications**

Alongside working with societies I work within the media department twice a week.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September myself and the Media & IT manager recruited Western Eye's editor and assistant editor, Rebecca Day (Editor) Sam Hudson ( Assistant Editor) , they are a great pair and I look forward to working with them this year.

I will also be involved at looking into re-branding the SU among other things that are currently under construction.

The SU has multiple methods of communication, all of which you could all use to your advantage, HUB radio and the Western Eye are at your disposable so please get in touch with the editors and make sure that your successors are being publicised.

UWE Students' Union

**Main site:** Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QY.

**Tel:** 0117 32 82577 **Fax:** 0117 32 82986

**Email:** [union@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:union@uwe.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.uwesu.org](http://www.uwesu.org)



### **Website**

So unfortunately there have recently been a few problems with the SU website the SU staff acknowledge and accept there have been some teething problems with the move to the new website system. They have been and continue to work through the issues.

The positives to the new system are wide reaching and include:

- 1) Membership Registrations: 10,156 to date, over 1/3 of UWE students have successfully registered on the site.
- 2) 811 members of Societies
- 3) Better website admin features for Societies. Features include: Posting News, Events, Message members, add products and trips for sale online, view sales reports.
- 4) Integrated till (POS) system at Frenchay Reception and at Freshers' Fair.
- 5) Website traffic/use is up by approx 25% compared to last year.

The biggest problem we had from the SU IT point of view was the delay in being able to take online transactions; this was due to a delay in the contract for the credit card processing company being confirmed by the Union. It was resolved as soon as it could be since then the website and linked Till system has processed over £178,000 worth of transactions through the system.

Although the website cause a few setbacks at the start of term things are running smoothly, if there are any other issues then bring notes to the meeting and ill present them to the media and IT department.

### **RAG**

RAG also falls under my remit as previous Activities Presidents have worked with them and helped co-ordinate events, so recently I have been working on holding a Charlie and the Chocolate Factory day in Red Bar, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 11am-5pm. RAG is something every student can get involved with, they will be holding multiple events throughout the year that I would like all societies to get involved with, and working together on fundraising can only intensify the events and make them a lot more appealing to students. Keep an eye out and participate in the fundraising.

Tom Renhard was elected as RAG President and has been leading the team well so far. The new RAG team has been really pro active and have a wealth of ideas in order to help raise money for charity; it's such a pleasure to be working with a large group of enthusiastic people.

UWE Students' Union

**Main site:** Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QY.

**Tel:** 0117 32 82577 **Fax:** 0117 32 82986

**Email:** [union@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:union@uwe.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.uwesu.org](http://www.uwesu.org)



Lastly if anyone would like to get involved with helping to run these events and ensuring that societies hold more of a dominate presence within the SU, please consider being an exec member, vacant positions are:

- **Events Officer-Role:** Support the Annual Awards Dinner; offer support to societies in running their events; liaise with the Vice President Societies and Communications on events.
- **Campaigns Officer-Role:** Increase participation in Societies; lobby the University when mandated by Societies and Communications Committee; liaise with the RAG committee; support Societies who want to fundraise.

I really need someone who is passionate about helping to run events and someone who is quite punctual and organised. More hands make lighter work so get involved and run for these positions.

After reading through this report please make notes on how you can participate in the above, all suggestions are more than welcome and will lead to a more productive committee meeting.

Thanks

Safi

UWE Students' Union

**Main site:** Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QY.

**Tel:** 0117 32 82577 **Fax:** 0117 32 82986

**Email:** [union@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:union@uwe.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.uwesu.org](http://www.uwesu.org)