



UWESU

# Societies and Communications Committee

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*January 20th 2015*

The reports of the full time and part time elected officers for Societies and Communications

## Vice President Societies and Communications (Full Time)

### Campus Connect

**Purpose of Project:** To look at the provision of facilities, representation and extra-curricular activity on Bower Ashton and Glenside and to improve provision based on feedback from students based on these campuses.

#### Tasks

Conduct survey for Glenside and Bower students

Feedback from survey collated

Action plan for implementing improvements to campuses in line with student responses

Organising society activity on Bower Ashton

### Academic Societies

**Purpose of Project:** To improve the support UWESU currently has in place for academic course based societies and to create a more solid relationship between university staff and UWESU when it comes to supporting academic societies.

#### Tasks

Create formal guidance document for academics and UWE staff on understanding and supporting academic societies

Create specific materials and guidance for academic societies on opportunities and working with the university

Apply for match/additional funding from faculties to support big society projects

Establish formal match-funding scheme between UWESU and UWE for academic societies

Establish formal partnership between UWESU and UWE on supporting academic societies

### Societies Volunteering in the Community

**Purpose of Project:** To inspire and encourage more societies to volunteer and integrate with their local community and create more comprehensive guidance on volunteering specifically for societies in order to help them do so.

Guidance for societies on organising and running volunteering and community projects produced

Supported a number of societies in setting up new volunteering and community projects

Set up a more efficient process and clearer criteria with the UWE Better Together Fund for funding society projects and ideas. All society applications to the Better Together Fund were successful.

Embed new guidance on volunteering and community projects into society development meetings and training more comprehensively to make sure incoming committee members are fully aware of the opportunities available to them and empowered to organise for volunteering, charity fundraising and community work.

## Student Media

**Purpose of Project:** To improve the support UWESU currently has in place for student media based societies and to create a more solid relationship between university staff and UWESU when it comes to supporting student media.

Planned researched into different student media models with other students' unions

Surveyed and led focus groups with students on media related courses on what they want from their student media and why they do/don't participate

Conducted research into different student media models at leading/ competing students' unions

Design and organise new committee structures/ constitution/ specialist training/ funding proposals for student media support based on research findings.

## SU On Tour

**Purpose of Project:** To take UWESU 'on tour' to different areas of the university we wouldn't normally have a strong presence. To raise awareness of the student's union as a whole and to promote our services, sports teams, societies, networks, green leaders, volunteering opportunities etc to UWE students.

Designed promotional flyers and pens to hand out to students

Booked spaces across the university on Glenside, Frenchay and Bower Ashton

Organised team of volunteers to work during the week talking to students and promoting the students union

## General

Supported three new societies in setting up

Delivered 'catch up' committee training and training for new societies

Designed and launched the Societies Top-Up Fund application and coordinated funding allocations for the second term

Secured extra funding to support society projects that promote sustainability and green initiatives.

## **Jamie Jordon Academic and Enterprise Officer** (Part- Time Volunteer)

**Goals:** To create better links between UWE Enterprise and Employability and UWESU Societies, to make academic societies more visible on campus and support more academic societies setting up on different courses.

Secured new noticeboard space exclusively for societies to promote their employability, networking and skills development events in the EZone (Frenchay)

Created link with UWE Info Hub for societies to use to promote their employability, networking and skills development events online

Established UWESU presence at upcoming careers fair to promote societies

Working with UWE Enterprise to put together more comprehensive training to support societies in securing sponsorships

## **Holly Risdon Community and Volunteering Officer** (Part-Time Volunteer)

Contacted local projects and communities for new volunteering opportunities

Promote UWESU Volunteering Fair

Help launch the Guide to Society Volunteering

Help UWESU Volunteering connect with societies more through social media

Help Societies understand UWE funding protocols and help with applications

Increase numbers of society volunteers

Support more local communities and projects

## **Verbal Reports to be received from:**

**Jude Nassar- Societies and Communications Officer**

**Sian Hampson- Campaigns and Engagement Officer**

**Louie Roberts- Participation and Equality Officer**

**At the Societies and Communications Committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January**