



## **Ahmd Emara – Students' Union President's Report and Updates on Manifesto Progression**

*This is an update on the report submitted previously in the last Student Council as the below mentioned projects are the core of my manifesto that I have been working on this year. I officially started my post on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2016.*

Given that I was Frenchay Campus Officer last year, I was able to consult with many students and gather much feedback and hence my manifesto is based on what students want.

I would like first to give a brief introduction on what the role of Students' Union President entails:

- The significance of being the figurehead of an organisation representing 30,000 students and ensuring the student voice is heard with regard to University developments, engage the student population and find out the issues that matter to them most.
- Bring together all elements of The Students' Union, direct and ensure that the executive team deliver the overall objectives of The Students' Union.
- Lobbying, campaigning, surveying, researching, relationship building, negotiating and networking.
- Ensuring that students are represented in the development of student experience at UWE
- UWE Board of Governor
- Chair of the Board of Trustees
- On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Line Manage the CEO
- Lead the strategic development of the Students' Union
- Support the officers of the Executive Committee
- Co-ordinate Student Issue Campaigns
- Act as the main spokesperson on behalf of the Executive
- Attend external events as an ambassador of The Students' Union
- Attend and chair various Union and University Meetings including the Board of Trustees
- Delegate Leader at NUS Annual Conference

I got elected based on a manifesto including the following:

**Improve the quality of your education, earlier released & flexible timetables and more study spaces!**

I have worked with and lobbied the University to make this happen and so far timetables have been released earlier than ever this year as they got released on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September.

***Update: Still lobbying for more improvements for next year.***

Lectures Captures has started and more study spaces have been made all over campuses' libraries; Frenchay library an increased study space by 20%, creating 200 new study spaces. Bower Ashton: Extra study space by converting the old journals room, and filing the journals in with the books. Also the silent study area has been enclosed to make it quieter. Glenside Library: refreshing the main room and west wing. This increased study space for individuals and groups. In addition, the toilets have been refurbished; creating a fully accessible toilet, and five gender-neutral cubicles.

***Update: I have been lobbying for more study spaces and better facilities in the library which I hoping to take place sometime soon.***

### **Better Networking Over Campuses so that you make the most benefit of your SU (BNOC):**

Develop better communications between your SU and you across campuses and developing facilities on all campuses

I have been very committed to this point of my manifesto and I have spent at least one day a week on other UWE Bristol campuses to speak with students and get their feedback. This resulted in many activities being put in place on other campuses and also improvements such as the extended opening hours for Glenside Students' Union' bar.

Also I have always tried to encourage and support our student lead projects such as Pelico, Green Wheels. Also we raised £1143.43 with Team Entrepreneurship for one of their projects for Temwa in Malawi

***Update: I was able to gather more feedback from students on different campuses and it resulted in some improvements like an additional microwave at Frenchay in the One Zone area and another one at Glenside campus.***

***Also I am still lobbying for more microwaves on campuses based on students' feedback***

### **Improved and timely transport**

This year we have First bus 71 with its new route linking between Frenchay and Bower Ashton and also UWE Express linking between Frenchay and City Centre. Also I am working closely with UWE Travel on car parking issues and how we can make it easier to our students who are in need of the parking facilities according to UWE car parking policy. Cycling was one of my manifesto points and son far we have increased the number to bikes available to rent from UWE, improved facilities, worked closely with UWE Cycling Club and Green Team to promote cycling for more sustainable transport and new dryers will be installed soon to encourage more people to cycle.

***Update: I have conducted a survey on the bus service experience in which we gathered over 750 responses in addition to the UWE Travel survey in which we worked collaboratively on and compiled both together in a report that I have submitted a copy to the Vice Chancellor during my 1:1 with him. Also I will be having a meeting with the bus provider to see how we can find a solution to some of the issues facing our students.***

### **Accommodation:**

Around 15% of the students studying at UWE are international. Home students from low income backgrounds, also struggle to find guarantors. Without a guarantor many landlords and agencies usually require potential tenants to pay from 6 – 12 months' rent in advance. This is now in discussion and hopefully will be in place soon.

***Update: Still on going***

#### **Wellbeing:**

I mentioned wellbeing in my manifesto and having a pets' room as well, which will be taking place soon.

***Update: We have had so far three successful Puppy Petting Day events all over UWE Bristol campuses with a high turnout from students who enjoyed the event and felt much better and relaxed after the spending some time with puppies. All the puppies were sourced from rescue shelters and loving homes, not from breeding farms. The event was in aid of Mind charity that supports people experiencing mental health problems and in the first two events we have raised £300 and waiting for the outcome of the third one.***

***Also Guide Dogs will be on Frenchay campus on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.***

Besides my manifesto points I have been working and lobbying for other things, such as:

- I pitched to Steve West, Vice Chancellor the idea of having walk about around campuses to engage with more students and get their feedback.
- Also I pitched to Steve to have a Q&A with him #AskVC and he is happy to have it so this should be scheduled in the near future.

***Update: This should be happening soon and I would like to request from our Student Council to raise any topics or questions they like to discuss with the VC so I can prepare for the event which should hopefully take place soon.***

- ***Also I hosted a Christmas day event in The Students' Union for UWE students staying on campus or in Bristol over Christmas. In addition, in the meanwhile I am planning for a potential event I will be hosting for students staying over the Easter break.***



***I am really looking forward to having the Q&A with the Vice Chancellor.***

***Sincerely,***

***Ahmd Emara***