

April Student Council Report: VP Community and Welfare – Siân Hampson

Housing:

I met with the Director of Facilities following the rent setting report; he will be giving us an official response to all the recommendations that were made shortly. After assessing their responses, we will be able to figure a way forward with this, and whether more lobbying is needed or not.

In collaboration with Halls Life a rough structure has been made for Halls Committees, this will include a position for feedback, Green Team, Volunteering, RAG, and social events. We are hoping to get funding from the university to support this. I can forward a copy of the structure to the council for feedback once we have something a bit more solid in place.

Mental Health & Wellbeing:

Since the last council there has been little progress made with Nightline, we still need to do significant work with contracts and agreements. The university have been slow with their responses.

We also had a successful University Mental Health Day, and raised money for POPYRUS, the Prevention of Young Suicide charity.

Disabled Students Allowance:

At the last council, I was asked what the union was doing around DSA, I have since set up focus groups to get feedback from different students about DSA. They will be:

- 5th April - 14:00-15:30 The SU Meeting Room 1 (For those who started getting DSA after 2015/16)
- 6th April 14:30 -16:00 The SU Meeting Room 2 (For those on the old model, and got DSA before 2015)
- 6th April - 16:00-17:30 The SU Meeting Room 2 (for disabled students* who do not get DSA)
- 10th April - 15:00-16:30 Bower Session Room TBA**
- 13th April - 15:00-16:30 Glenside session Room TBA**

If you would like to attend, or feedback on DSA at UWE please let me know.

International Students:

I have continued to work with the advice centre on getting the university to act as a guarantor. The university have been positive towards the idea, and have a working group about it. Unfortunately, each time we go to these meetings we have been tasked to find yet more evidence (other than the motion, manifesto pledges, student council feedback, and the 101 things I wish I knew report). They have also asked for evidence of hardship students have faced when not being able to get a guarantor. I will be getting more feedback shortly to answer these questions, and should have a better update next time!

Response from Unite Regarding Break Ins:

“We’re aware that we have had several bike thefts over the past couple of weeks and have been liaising with both students and the police to ensure all evidence is reported effectively. Unfortunately, from CCTV evidence we have found that students have not been securing the bike store door behind them when leaving the store, however we do have clear CCTV images of the person responsible which have been passed to the police.

Every student has basic contents insurance for their room and they are given a copy of this when they check in, we advise them to upgrade their insurance to cover any high value items that aren't included such as bikes.

We have increased our security patrols of Marketgate and we have also had a new door fitted that has increased security measures to ensure that nobody is able to access the bike store unless they have the code. We have changed the code and asked all students who use the bike store to come down to reception to get the new code and also to fill out a bike registration form.”

If you have any questions that weren't answered at Student Council, or would like to get involved in anything I am doing please email me at vpcommwelfare@uwe.ac.uk or you can pop into the office at Frenchay.