

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT II

VP SOCIETIES & COMMUNICATION

Collaboration:

To encourage collaboration between society committee members, I decided to build upon, and take advantage of the current mechanisms that are in place. Before the Second Societies Conference in January, I asked attendees to fill out a label with their name and society to stick to themselves so that individuals could be identified, thus encouraging collaboration. The technique proved to be successful, with a majority of committee members participating in discussions.

In addition, Quidditch and the Students' Union has been trying to design a RAG Bar Crawl to create an informal opportunity for our societies to socialise. The event plans to use venues on the Clifton Triangle, with members of the society marshalling it. The bar crawl is planned to occur on Monday 27th February or Thursday 16th March.

In terms of facilitating the relationship between the Students' Union and university, we have been working how we can engage with the students and communicating this back to members of the university directorate. Jamie (VP Education) and I have been working on how to build a relationship between academic societies and student representatives. I presented the idea at Societies Conference, with a positive response, getting four societies to pilot the methods and measure which ones will work best. When informing the university regarding this project, they were supportive and believed that funding could be found, if we could source evidence. The likelihood of the pilot showing success during my time as Vice-President is low, so the project will be handed over to my successor.

Similarly, the sabbatical team has been working on ways to develop the relationship between the Students' Union and our different campuses. As each student demographic is so diverse, our approach to communicating with students on each campus needs to adapt so that we can utilise our time effectively.

Online Platform:

Society Spotlight was developed so that students could reach out to the marketing channels at the Students' Union and promote any events they were hosting. Societies appear to like the idea, although getting them to engage is proving to be a challenge.

We have decided that in order to make the project consistent, we will allocate each week to a random society (unless someone specifically asks for dates). In the future, we would like to see societies writing articles week on week for events to help drive awareness and involvement.

Inclusivity:

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The work towards inclusivity has involved building upon previous work to create an environment that students want to engage in. TIGER has been incorporated into our universal committee training, with the aim of challenging the 'lad culture' that appears to develop at university. The training has been used in SHAG Week as well, which was well-received by students on Frenchay campus.

At the Second Societies Conference, I tried to improve the inclusivity and transparency of the Union by trialling 'participatory budgeting'. The exercise got four societies involved, all requesting additional funding to subsidise the cost of a trip or activity.

Employability:

The Students' Union has been supporting the development of Student Media, offering students the opportunity to develop their practical skills alongside their studies. Western Eye has released two papers since the beginning of the year, printing a diverse collection of articles and distributing them over three of our Bristol-based campuses. Hub has been working with a busy schedule, trying to keep up with the demand of students wanting to train.

As the elections are upon us, we have co-ordinated a Woman in Leadership drop-in session for female candidates to attend. The aim of this is to encourage students to get involved with the elections and ensure that we maintain diversity in our sabbatical team.