

## STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT – VICE PRESIDENT SPORT AND HEALTH

### VARSIITY

Around this time of year, the majority of my time is spent working with the opportunities team and Bristol Student Union to ensure our Varsity Series is the best it can be. Together, with the new Varsity Event Manager, we have put together a fantastic array of events for both competitors and spectators. One of our biggest successes has been securing Ashton Gate for the Rugby & Football games. Acknowledging that it is a further distance for UWE students, we have put on transportation to ensure that no one misses out. This year for the first time we are also offering spectator Varsity t-shirts with any profits going to each union's RAG teams. I also have the pleasure along with my counterpart at Bristol SU of leading one of the Varsity events. Friday Night Lights will host both American Football and Lacrosse varsity games and has been a big learning curve for us. Our vision is to make the Bristol vs UWE Varsity Series the biggest in the UK in the next five years and 2017 is the first year we've taken major steps to achieve this goal. Ashton Gate has the capacity of 27,000 people and although we are no where near that mark yet, we are making big improvements to achieve this.

### BUCS & PARTICIPATION

After the success of the BUCS 'University In Focus' event in which UWE was the showcased university, I have looked to ensure Sports Clubs still continually get a good presence on The Students' Union website. The sports section of the website now has a 'Sports News' section with new articles also being featured on the home page of latest news. This gives clubs an opportunity to submit things like match reports, good news stories or advertise training sessions. I think it's important for students to visit The Students' Union page and be able to easily keep up to date with sports at their university and hopefully increase engagement.

Recently, BUCS secured £50,000 from Sport England to help fund universities looking to increase female participation in sport. Each university can request up to £5000 to help with campaigns and activities towards this. I am in the process of applying for UWE to be one of those universities and believe we have a strong case with our recent female participation showcase with BUCS and the array of activities we have put on for This Girl Can week. If successful, we will be looking to put on activities as early as April. It is hoped that this will help increase participation and engage with those who have unengaged or never been engaged with sport previously.

### RAG

As mentioned previously, I secured £1200 in funding to go towards the club that raises the most money for charity. We have some amazing engagement with some clubs going above and beyond in what they are doing and raising for charity. The winner of this will be announced at the end of March

and we have also added a Fundraising Club of the Year award at Sports Ball to demonstrate how important engagement is with RAG is now considered at UWE. In addition, RAG has been heavily involved with Varsity, not only producing spectator t-shirts but also providing merchandise on the day of the events such a foam fingers and organising a launch party for varsity with all proceeds going to charity.

## SPORTS BALL

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UWE Sports Ball. I wanted to ensure that this year, Sports Ball was the best one yet. Sports Ball will now take place at Ashton Gate Stadium in their brand new Lansdown Suite. The prestigious venue sets the tone for what will be an amazing formal evening. I wanted to stick to my manifesto of having strong communication with members so at the first Sports Conference, I asked if they wanted the format of Sports Ball to change and what they would like to see. The majority of the response was that a formal black tie event was what it should continue to be but suggestions of a change of venue were put forward which has now happened. Ashton Gate really will make for a great evening and as I know it is not accessible as previous years, we will be looking to put on transport for those that would like it. I have also been successful at ensuring despite the improvements in venue, the price has not changed and early bird tickets were still offered.