

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT, 25 APRIL 2018

JAMIE JORDON, VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION

COURSE COSTS

I have continued to raise awareness of the extra costs that students incur whilst studying at UWE Bristol. After undertaking a piece of research to identify various costs of concern to students, and compiling this into a report, I have lobbied the University to think about what they should do to ensure that they address this significant issue. After working with the University with the evidence based research, they have agreed and pledged to do the following:

- Making black and white printing free for all students
- Ensure there is parity across programmes in ACE and FET, so that students on said programmes receive the £75 credit allowance
- Undertaking a full review of the learning outcomes for each course and ensure that any costs associated with meeting the learning outcomes for the course are covered by a student's tuition fee. For example, if there was a compulsory field trip, this would be paid for by the University. If there are materials required to meet the learning outcome, these will be provided by the University, free of charge.
- Continuing to be transparent in how tuition fees are spent

This partnered with Siân and Zain on Rent Setting Board, they have also agreed to the following:

- Reviewing the laundry costs at UWE Bristol Accommodation to identify ways of providing better value for money for students.
- Freezing rent charges at UWE Bristol Accommodation for the next academic year.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE AWARDS

I have been organising and planning the annual Student Experience Awards over the past few months – a night to recognise Student Reps and UWE Bristol staff who have gone above and beyond into creating positive changes to the student experience. This year, the awards night will be taking place at M-Shed Museum on Bristol Harbourside. We have seen a record number of nominations from across the University this year, demonstrating the breadth of talent and the strength of our Student Rep system.

SUSTAINABILITY

On Friday 13 April, our Green Impact entry was submitted, undertaking all 50 of the criteria via the workbook. Our face-to-face audit with NUS is currently being scheduled for mid-May, with the final awards announced in June. I have been working this year to ensure that we hold on to the title of 'Union of the Year – Commercial'. From chairing the Green Impact Steering Group to making sure departments are thinking green, we have seen some encouraging changes. I have outlined some of the highlights from the submission below:

Energy Use and Utilities Savings

- Over the last three years, we have saved 17.2 Tonne CO₂ equivalent through electricity usage – the equivalent of taking 3 cars off the road for a year!
- We also reduced our water consumption over the last three years by 1,080.42m³

Food Waste Sent For Anaerobic Digestion

We have worked hard at Bower, Glenside and Frenchay to place separate food waste disposals in our regular business processes around the buildings in commercial areas and staff rooms.

Below are the tonnes of food waste from The Students' Union 2016/2017:

- Car Park 28: 2822kg
- Glenside SU: 213kg
- Bower: 1953kg

= 4.988 tonnes total, a reduction of 1.182 tonnes on 2015/2016.

- 3,020 kg of CO_{2e} saved – equivalent to taking diesel one car off the road for a year or a passenger flying return from London to Los Angeles
- Generated 7,052 kWh biomethane – enough to cook over 1,000 roast dinners*
- Or 2,246 kWh renewable electricity – enough to charge a smart phone over 75,000 times**

All CO₂ factors are taken from the UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting (2017).

* Assumes 2 hours in a gas oven for each roast dinner

** Uses iPhone 8 with standard charger

At Frenchay, we have specifically saved the equivalent of an Olympic swimming pools' water from food waste reduction from 15/16 to 16/17.

- Quantity from SU Frenchay (car park 28 collection) 2015/16: 3.97 tonnes
- Quantity from SU Bower Ashton 2015/16: 1.35 tonnes
- Quantity from SU at Glenside 2015/16: 0.85 tonnes

= 6.17 tonnes total

Positive Change from Switching To Compostable Coffee Cups

Our change from single use coffee cups to Vegware compostable cups, means that we have been reducing the embodied carbon in our cups by ~70% (suggested figure from Vegware). The Vegware transition is happening in a staggered manner, with our Bower Ashton site already using Vegware products in the café and our Frenchay Bar starting use since September 2017.

In the first six months of 2017/2018, we have saved 1 Tonne of carbon through using Vegware packaging, saved 386KG of virgin materials - equivalent to cancelling out the carbon from 2 flights from London to New York.

This is well on track to surpass our total from 2016/2017, when we saved 1.1 tonnes of carbon, saved 521kg of virgin material and have 1 Tonne of finite resources.

In my role as the Full-Time President Champion for sustainability, I have actively contributed to developing the sustainability strategy within The Students' Union and the University, through a variety of informal and formal mechanisms. I have really enjoyed being so actively involved in sustainability – not only has it developed myself for the future, but I've been able to be at the forefront of developing UWE's students today for a sustainable future for all.

Some of my achievements this year have included:

- Embedding ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) into the first Student Rep Conference in 4 years
- Established a new 'Teaching for Sustainable Development Award' at the Student Experience Awards
- Gaining the support of Academic Board to support the NUS SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Teach-In, as a result we were in the top 3 Universities of academics engaged and students reached
- Chaired the UWE Partnership Responsible Futures Steering Group, leading to a successful mid-audit and action plan for the next phase

- Delivered the Sustainability Report to The Students' Union Board of Trustees each meeting, resulting in a protection of the funding and resource for the Green Team Programme
- Supported the University's Sustainability Plan refresh, holding the University to account for their action plan and ensure we contribute effectively
- Received the award of South West Fair Trade Business, as a result of a successful partnership with the University
- Raised the profile of the joint sustainability work with the University at Academic Board and to the Governors
- Engaged the Presidents and Trustees on the SDG Accord, resulting in The Students' Union becoming the first Students' Union to commit to the International SDG Accord
- Chaired the Green Impact Steering Group, ensuring all managers and Sustainability Champions understand their role and the progress we are making in line with our strategic plan

OTHER INFORMATION

Total hours worked to date (as of writing): 1603.75/1554

A range of meetings attended since last Student Council:

- Academic Board
- Academic Literacy Forum
- Academic Regulations Critical Reading
- Athena SWAN Steering Group
- Attendance Recording and Learner Analytics Project Board
- Board of Trustees
- Business Case Competition Briefing
- DSA Modernisation Task and Finish Group
- Employability and Enterprise Management Group
- Equality and Diversity Review
- Exam Feedback Meeting
- Finance and General Purposes Committee
- Green Impact Catch-Ups
- Healthy University Group
- Inclusion, Diversity and Race Equality
- International Student Experience Group
- Knowledge Exchange in Sustainable Education
- Learning Environments Advisory Board
- Learning Gain Task and Finish Group
- Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee
- PAL Stakeholders Group
- Readinglists.uwe.ac.uk Stakeholders Group
- SHAG Week Preparation

- SHAPE Alumni Event Planning
- Staff Committee
- Student Experience Awards Planning
- Team Meeting
- #UWESaysRelax Planning
- Various One-to-One's with SU and UWE Staff
- Welcome Planning

A range of other appointments since last Student Council:

- Academic and Student Services Recruitment
- Academic Practice Directorate Recruitment
- Business Case Competition
- Student Rep Committee
- Students' Union Investigations
- Students' Union Recruitment
- Surgeries
- Sustainability Filming
- UWE Student Conference
- Welfare Awards
- Leadership Race Results Night
- Mental Wealth Strategy Launch
- SHAG Week
- South West Fairtrade Awards
- Student Experience Awards

If you have any questions, feel free to drop me an email on vpeducation@uwe.ac.uk