

Student Council Report – 28th November 2017

Erin Mills, Vice President Sports and Health

Manifesto points:

Sports Clubs at Welcome Fairs

One of my first aims for the year was to get more sports presence at the Welcome Fairs taking place at Glenside Campus and Bower Ashton Studios. These campuses often feel left out, and by having sports clubs there, I hoped these students would feel more included in what The Students' Union offers. It was great to see the sports clubs who took up the offer of attending these events, and I hope this is something that will grow year on year.

I also originally wanted to get the sports clubs involved in the international welcome fair, again tapping into another group of students who may not otherwise interact with the clubs. On starting this job and learning more about what the international fair would include, I felt it was not an appropriate time for students to be met by 42 sports clubs, as the experience is daunting enough in itself. In addition, myself and members of the Opportunities Team were on hand to give general information about sporting opportunities here at UWE such as sports clubs, Off the Wall and the Social Sport Programme, as well as point them in the direction of the Fresher's Fair at Frenchay and Welcome Fairs at other campuses.

Authorised Absence Scheme

Another key focus area has been the implementation of an authorised absence scheme. Myself and Jamie (VP Education), feel that it is important for students to take part in extra-curricular activities without it impacting on academic studies. As of next year, UWE are implementing an attendance and engagement policy whereby all students' attendance will be recorded in order to identify students who may need extra help. This is clearly important and will be worthwhile for those students who do need support, but as we have hundreds of students here at UWE compete in BUCS every Wednesday afternoon, and many whom have to travel to away games, it means many often miss lectures on a Wednesday morning, which will affect their attendance.

Jamie and I have conducted research into what other universities are doing in this field, in order to create a report to take to the university. To support this, we are in the process of creating a small survey to gain a deeper understanding into how often, why and how missing lectures affects UWE students.

Facilities

Sports facilities was one of my main areas I wanted to concentrate on for this, because as many of you will know, current UWE facilities are not great for a campus university. Since beginning this job, I have found that there has been lots of investment into facilities. These include Lockleaze, which when fully completely will house a number of grass and 3G pitches, as well as a large club house. Development is also taking place at Dings (located in Frenchay, just by the M32) where there will again be a number of pitches along with a Pavilion. In addition, Hillside Gardens has recently gone out to tender, and

when completed in 2018/19 will be a set of sports facilities owned by UWE for use to our sports clubs. It has been exciting to feed into the development of UWE's Sport facilities, and I look forward to seeing them completed and our sports clubs having the opportunity to use new, purposeful built facilities.

Varsity

Varsity is taking a different approach this year and will be spread out across the year. I am a member of the Varsity Board and the Varsity Executive, which both meet monthly, to make decisions around the series. This year, there are more stand-alone events than in previous years, as well as more mass-participation events, such as the Colour Run, 10k and giant inflatables.

I have also been involved with the mini-video, which looks to promote the events of the series. The video had over 1,000 views, and the first event that it promoted, Varsity Darts, was a sell-out event. We are in the process of planning for the next video that will promote netball, Friday Night Lights and the Poetry Slam!

Other Things I have Been Working on:

This Girl Can Week

This Girl Can week is currently taking place (20th-24th November) and I've help feed into the timetable by getting clubs who were interested to host Female-only sessions to encourage girls to get involved in their sport.

In addition, I chose five focus sports, who had a photographer come along to their sessions and each of the clubs wrote a blog about why they love their sport and why more girls should get try it out. All articles and timetable can be found here: thestudentsunion.co.uk/opportunities/thisgirlcan/

Sports Strategy

The way sport at UWE currently operates is under review and a new sports strategy is being developed. I have been working with Alex Isaacs (Head of Sport at UWE) and Kelly Howard (Opportunities Manager) to develop a detailed survey about the new strategy to gain student feedback. The survey is still live and once closed, I will be looking to carry out focus groups to gather more information about the strategy, as well as collect student opinion on important aspects such as the pricing policy.

Sexual Health

Planning has begun for this year's SHAG (Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance Week), where we hope to boost the number of sports clubs involved in the Chlamydia test drive from 50% to 75%. We have had a number of meetings with managers to see how all aspects of The Student's Union, the shops and bars etc., can get involved to encourage more students' to look after their sexual health.

Alcohol and Sport

To coincide with the work being done towards the NUS alcohol impact accreditation, I have been working with some sports clubs on the topic. A number of our sports clubs will be completing the

TIGER (teaching individual's gender equality and respect) which touches on the subject of alcohol and how it may affect these behaviours. Furthermore, all sports clubs who decided they wanted to host initiations had to complete a plan (which included number of units people would drink and what the alcohol was, etc.), and read through and sign the Student Union's activities policy. I also spoke to BBC radio Bristol about the process, and our take on the events as a Student's Union.

Meetings Attended since July:

- Board of Governors
- Board of Trustees (two so far)
- Finance and General Purposes Committee (monthly)
- Hillside Gardens Development Meeting
- HUG (Healthy University Group)
- Mental Health Working Group (monthly)
- One to One with Alex Isaac (Head of Sport for UWE) – fortnightly
- Sports Facility Strategy Meeting (monthly)
- Varsity Board (monthly)
- Varsity Executive (monthly)
- Varsity Stand-alone event executives (e.g. Waterpolo)

Other Events:

- Induction lectures
- International Student Orientation
- LNDIR (Late Night, Do it Right) during the Welcome Period
- RAG Conference in Southampton Student's Union (29th August – 1st September)
- Sports Conference (12th October)
- Strategic Planning
- Surgeries across Frenchay, Glenside and City Campus
- World Mental Health Day (10th October) – based at Bower Ashton

Please email me with any questions or queries you may have on ypsports@uwe.ac.uk