

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT 25/26 – NOVEMBER 2025

STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT

ASAD ZARIF AWAN

Date: 12/11/2025

Introduction

This report outlines my key objectives for the academic year and provides an update on the work undertaken so far, the progress achieved, and the next steps planned. My focus remains on strengthening student representation, improving engagement with the Students' Union, and ensuring opportunities and support for students continue to grow.

1. Strengthened Representation with the NUS

Objective: Ensure UWE students' voices are strongly represented nationally through the National Union of Students (NUS).

Progress to Date:

- South West Regional Day at The Students' Union at UWE: We hosted the Southwest Regional Day, bringing together Sabbatical Officers from across the region to discuss shared student issues and collaborative campaigns. This allowed us to highlight the challenges UWE students are facing while contributing to wider regional action planning.
- NUS "Fair Deal" / "Fair Future" Campaign: I led the Fair Future petition campaign at UWE. Through active outreach, classroom shouting, social media and collaboration with student groups, we secured over 450 signatures, placing UWE in the Top 3 participating institutions.
- NUS National Conference (Upcoming): I will attend the NUS Conference in Coventry, where I will continue to represent UWE students and ensure our priorities are reflected in national campaigns and policy discussions.

Next Steps:

- Advocate for UWE-specific issues at the conference.
- Strengthen collaboration between UWE SU and other unions for future campaigns.

2. Representation and Student Engagement

Objective: Increase student engagement and ensure diverse representation across SU structures.

Progress to Date:

- Encouraging Student Leadership: Ahead of The Students' Union at UWE By-Elections, I actively encouraged students to stand in elections, focusing especially on underrepresented campuses and communities.
- By-Elections and Improved Voter Turnout: As a result, key vacant roles (Glenside Campus Officer, Democratic Procedures Officer, Postgraduate Officer, and LGBTQ+ Officer) were successfully filled. I also promoted manifesto awareness and informed voting. Due to this, voter turnout increased from 71 voters last year to 672 voters (an approx. 846% increase) across campuses.
- Ongoing General Election Preparation: I am currently working on planning for the next election cycle (local elections May 2026) to further increase candidate diversity and overall student participation.

Next Steps:

- Launch early awareness campaigns for the next elections.
- Increase presence across all campuses for wider engagement.

3. Local Business Discounts Campaign

Objective: Expand student access to affordable local services and support local businesses.

Progress to Date:

- Visited 50+ local businesses (independent and chain).
- Secured confirmed discount agreements with 14 businesses for UWE students.
- Follow-up visits in early November to collect marketing assets (logos, promotional details).

Next Steps:

- Launch a targeted marketing campaign to promote the new discount scheme (late November – December).

4. Academic and Professional Development Support

Library Workshops:

I raised the need for more practical workshops focused on IT and AI skills directly with the Vice-Chancellor. This has now been escalated to the Head of Library Services. We have had our initial meeting, and they are currently working on logistics to expand the workshop programme.

SU Careers Fair:

We have confirmed the SU-led Careers Fair for 10 February. Khadiza, VP Education, has volunteered to take the lead. This event is being coordinated by myself, Umar, VP Societies & Communications and Mo, Black Minority Ethnic officer, the aim is to bring a diverse range of employers and development opportunities directly to students.

Student Support: In addition, I have continued liaising with the Credit Control team to ensure that all genuine student requests are appropriately addressed. Several withdrawal notices have been successfully rescinded as a result. Working closely with the Advice Centre, I have also supported students with accommodation-related issues and provided guidance on academic offences.

Closing Statement

The work this year has strongly focused on representation, engagement, affordability, and academic support. My next phase will focus on delivering the student discount platform, further boosting representation in elections, and ensuring UWE students continue to have a strong voice both locally and nationally.

I welcome feedback, ideas, and collaboration from council members as we continue forward.

Thank you.

Asad Zarif Awan

SU President - The Students' Union at UWE