THE STUDENTS' UNION AT UWE

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT 24/25 – FEBRUARY 2025

VP SOCIETIES AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

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HIGHLIGHTS SINCE LAST STUDENT COUNCIL:

Refresher's Fair:

The Refresher's Fair for the January intake students, as well as returning students, was successfully organized. Over 20 societies participated in the event, attracting a significant number of new students who visited the society stalls to learn about the various activities and opportunities available within UWE SU Societies.

Societies Participation and Student Engagement:

As of the week ending January 12th, Opportunities memberships totaled 6,711, reflecting a 1.5% increase compared to the same period in the 2023-2024 academic year.

- We have continued to receive new society applications, with 49 applications submitted since the start of the academic year. These span across Academic, National/Faith/Identity (NFI), and Special Interest categories.

- Newly ratified Academic Societies include the UWE Civil Engineering Society, Radiography Society, and UWE Investment Society.

- Newly established National, Faith, and Identity Societies include the Jewish Society, Nepalese Society, and Japanese Society.

- During Term 1, over 100 society events were hosted by our groups across all UWE campuses and external venues.

Pull Up Societies:

In response to the rising cost of living, we introduced the 'Pull Up Your Societies' initiative. Every Wednesday, society members—whether committee members or general members—receive a 10% discount at the Student Union Bar.

Societies Award Money:

As announced during the first Societies Conference, this year we will not only recognize the Society of the Year but also award a monetary prize. This initiative has motivated societies to actively participate in university life and promote themselves for the prestigious title. Additionally, a second monetary award will be announced during the Society Award Night.

Societies Fund in Student Experience Fund:

I am delighted to share that this year, several societies applied for and received funding from the Student Experience Fund. This funding will support their activities and initiatives, further enriching the student experience.

MANIFESTO UPDATE:

Diversity Day:

The VP Societies and Communications with other Presidents will host a '2025 Celebrating Diversity' event on February 27th in Union 2. Students will be invited to participate in 'A Taste of Culture,' where they can showcase culturally significant food and perform in dance and spoken word events. Additionally, several workshops will be held to raise awareness about the challenges faced by our diverse student population and to celebrate our differences collectively.

E-Sports Society Room:

The E-Sports Society has been seeking a dedicated space for some time. Following an email from the society, I initiated discussions with the SU President and SU CEO. In early January, we met with the UWE Head of Space Planning, where we received a preliminary proposal for a temporary room in either the N or Q Block. This marks a significant achievement for the E-Sports Society. I aim to confirm the visit in our next meeting and hope to secure the room as soon as possible.

Promotion of NFI League:

I collaborated with Chloe from the Sports Centre to promote the NFI Football League, an initiative led by students Mariana and Jabed. Unfortunately, the league did not conclude last year due to a lack of participation. However, this year, the final matches are scheduled to take place within the next two weeks.

Societies Squid Game:

I am excited to announce the upcoming Societies Squid Game at UWE. This event provides an excellent opportunity for societies to engage in university life actively. Participation is exclusive to society members, encouraging students to join a society to take part. The preliminary dates for the UWE Societies Squid Game are set for mid-May 2025.

This report highlights the progress and initiatives undertaken to enhance student engagement and support societies at UWE. I look forward to continuing this work and further contributing to the vibrant student community.