

## STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT 24/25 – MAY 2025

### VICE PRESIDENT SOCIETIES AND COMMUNICATION REPORT

**UMAR ABBASI**

**Date: 15/05/2025**

#### 1. Diversity Day 2025

Overview:

- Expanded from a single-day, Frenchay-only event to a three-day, multi-campus celebration.

Activities & Locations:

- 25 Feb: Mothers for Mothers Stall - The Students' Union Building, Glenside
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Inclusive Make up workshop with Jax-Glam - A block Shared Space, Bower Ashton
- 27<sup>th</sup> February - Taste of Culture Fair and Taste of Culture Performance, Meeting Room 1 and Union 2, Frenchay
- Taste of Culture stalls: 20+ societies showcased cultural food, traditional attire and music.
- Performances: Dance and music and from multiple societies.

Collaboration:

- No More Silence magazine contributors joined to read student-submitted writings onstage, fostering creative expression and dialogue.

Key Outcomes:

- Broader reach across all three main UWE campuses.
- High student engagement: societies reported increased footfall at stalls and workshops.
- Positive feedback from participants and society leaders.

#### 2. Societies Award Prize

Objective:

- Transition from recognition-only awards to funding prizes, to incentivise quality and innovation.

Implementation:

- Introduced a monetary prize for “Society of the Year,” plus two further funding prizes awards for two different categories of Award.
- Secured funding from UWE Bristol.
- Announced the new prizes at the launch of the Society Awards campaign.

Impact:

- Marked increase in award nominations and promotional activity by societies.

#### 3. Societies Participation & Student Engagement

Membership & Applications:

- 3014 total society memberships as of week ending 30 March 2025 (+3% vs. same period last year).

- We continue to receive new society applications, and to date since the start of the academic year have had 52 applications spanning all categories of Academic, NFI and Special Interest Societies.
- Newly set up Academic Societies ratified include UWE Doctoral Society, UWEye (Optometry), Midwifery and Nursing.
- Newly set up National, Faith and Identity Societies include Somali Society, Gujarati Society and Hispanic Society.

#### Event Delivery:

- Over 100 society-run events hosted across all campuses during Term 1, including guest lectures, film screenings, hackathons, and social mixers.

## 4. Sustainability Champion Initiatives

#### Climate Education Course:

- Partnered with SU Sustainability Lead (Sandrine) to promote a Climate Education Course to student leaders.
- Delivered a follow-up presentation at the Societies Conference on “Climate Education Course.”

#### Library of Things (Share Bristol):

- Collaborated to launch a “borrow-and-return” model for items such as tools, and other equipment.
- Exploring free annual memberships for one society per term as a pilot incentive.

## 5. Support for Myanmar Society

#### Context:

- In response to the recent earthquake in Myanmar, many Myanmar Society members faced uncertainty and distress.

#### Actions:

- SU Organised a support event bringing together UWE Counselling, Chaplaincy, Student Services and the Myanmar Society.
- Provided a safe space for peer support, information on hardship funds, and on-campus fundraising stalls.

## 6. E-Sports Society Room Update

#### Background:

- The E-Sports Society has sought a dedicated space to host weekly gaming sessions and tournaments.

#### Advocacy Efforts:

- I contacted the Head of Space Management in February, initial verbal support but no suitable rooms currently free.
- Scheduled a presentation to LTSEC on 1 May 2025 to push for allocation of a multi-use studio space.