

NOVEMBER 2025

# VICE PRESIDENT SPORTS & HEALTH

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STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT 25/26

# QUESTIONS FOR STUDENT COUNCIL

1. What would encourage you or your peers to try a new sport this year?
2. What are the barriers to watching the BUCS matches across UWE sites?

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TERM

This first term has been focused on laying strong foundations for participation, visibility, and student voice in TeamUWE sport. Below is a summary of major activity across events, representation, and student engagement.

### REPRESENTED STUDENTS NATIONALLY



I attended BUCS Conference (1), a regional sabbatical officer day (2) and a Varsity planning day at the University of South Wales (USW) (3). These opportunities have allowed me to develop my understanding of sector best practice, understand emerging priorities for student sport, collaborate with other Student Unions, and bring back insight to strengthen our approach.

## SHOWCASING TEAMUWE



I've been collaborating with UWE sports marketing to promote Next Up - a new showcase sport event series to promote spectatorship and engagement of student sport. At the Bower Ashton Welcome event, I invited students to sit with me to design a (potential) new TeamUWE mascot - 15 students entered the competition. It was really wholesome and some great conversations were had amongst students who don't typically engage in sport, but in this instance they could but in their own way.

## CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

I launched a **TeamUWE Weekly email** on Mondays and a **WhatsApp Community** for all sport committee members to improve speed and clarity of updates. It also gives space for clubs to collaborate more efficiently and share ideas.

## MAJOR MILESTONES

A new **UWE Sports Strategy** has been officially commissioned, ensuring sport development has long-term direction and student representation at its heart.

Additionally, the **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) between the University and The Students' Union has now been signed off. This formalises shared responsibilities for delivering sport and gives us clearer accountability, better communication, and stronger partnership working.

# PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES

## 1. SPORTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LAUNCHED

The Sports Executive Committee is now fully operational with seven student leaders, each responsible for their own remit. The roles are as follows:

- Chair (VP Sports)
- Co-Chair & Communications officer
- Events Officer
- Participation Officer
- Community Officer
- Wellbeing & Inclusion Officer
- Recreation Officer
- Culture & Inclusion Officer

### Key developments:

- Each Exec member has been assigned six sports clubs to support and be a point of contact for committee.
- A monthly feedback cycle is being introduced so issues raised by clubs directly shape SU and university priorities.
- This structure gives us our first truly student-led mechanism for collecting and acting on insights from across sport at UWE, that is more than the role of the VP Sports.



The Sports Exec has been announced on social media, please see [here](#).

## 2. BETTER SPORTS COVERAGE AND LIVE- STREAMING

Improving visibility and recognition of student sport was a major manifesto pledge. Key progress includes:

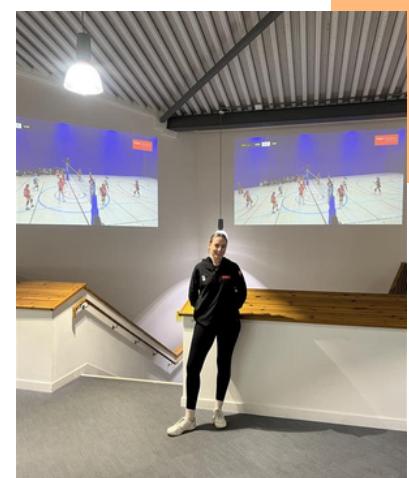
- A new Student Sports Media Assistant role has been introduced within the Opportunities Team (8 hours per week).
- Primary focus: BUCS Wednesday livestreaming across Students' Union buildings and University campuses.
- Secondary focus: Growing the TeamUWE Instagram, sharing photos, highlights, and behind-the-scenes content.

We have already successfully livestreamed:

- Netball Women's 1 vs Cardiff Women's 3
- Volleyball Women's 1 vs UWE Women's 2
- Volleyball Women's 1 vs Bristol Women's 2
- Netball Women's 1 vs UWE Women's 3 (cup)



Super happy with this one especially!



Fixtures were displayed in SU1 and SU2 with great engagement from students.

As a result, 5 different clubs so far have asked for their matches to be streamed in the future.

## 3. CAMPAIGNS: MOVEMBER

**Movember is a key part of how we open up conversations about mental health through sport.**

This year, I've been working alongside sabbatical officers around the country to put together a national "More Mo's, More Impact" campaign, collaborating with around 20 other universities and Student Union's. Activations include:

- Inside Out Day (19 November)
- Strava Move Challenge ("Tash me if you can")
- Tash of the Week / Tash of the Month celebrations

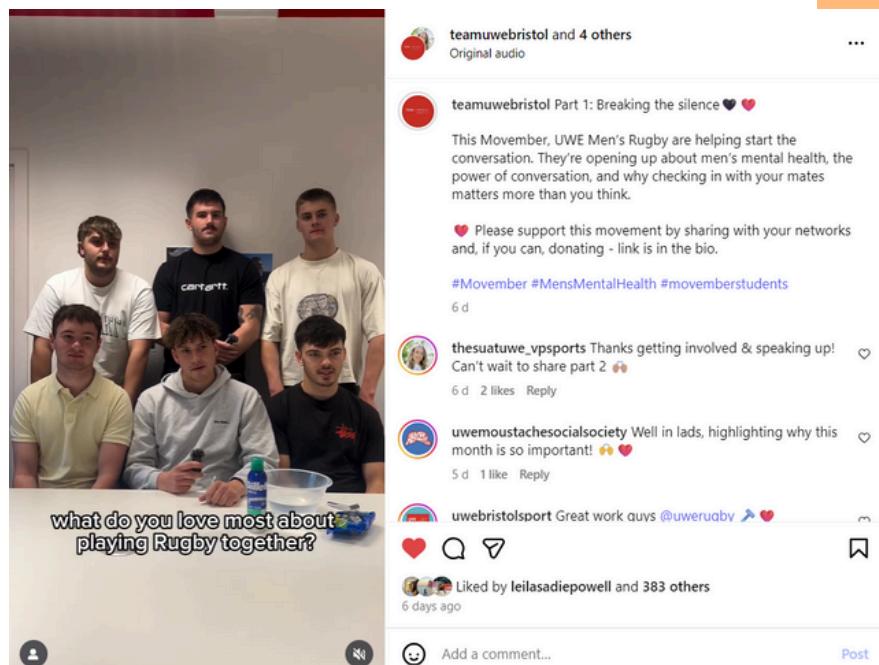
Promotional pieces included an SU webpage, graphics, a video and collaborative social media post to spread the movement across the university.

Participation as of 14 November:

- 226 individual fundraisers (24% increase from the final number of individuals who took part last year)
- 17 teams from across UWE
- Around 15 events from clubs taking part in Movember

A highlight was the "Shave and Chat" video with UWE Men's Rugby, exploring stigma, peer support, and experiences of opening up.

This post has over 18,000 views and reaching almost 10,000 accounts. It has been @teamuwebristol's most successful mental health posts to date.



## 4. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

Working to grow participation and community has focused on strengthening existing events and piloting new ideas:

- Varsity 2026 will continue with USW.
  - During the first Club Development Meetings (CDMs), Varsity was mentioned to explore interest and ensure clubs feel heard.
  - Met with Rhodri (USW Activities Officer) to discuss facilities, shared sports, and opportunities for a more collaborative student experience.
- Based on feedback, I'm introducing a "Warm-Up Series" at UWE to give more clubs opportunities to compete and engage, even when USW does not have equivalent teams.

These events will also drive more spectatorship, strengthening TeamUWE spirit.

- The first **Sports Conference** of the year saw 116 committee members attend. An aim was to make it more engaging and a space for students to learn and develop as club leaders, and setting this expectation from the start, will hopefully retain attendance for future conferences. Feedback was positive.

## LOOKING AHEAD: PRIORITIES FOR NEXT TERM

- Growing the visibility and impact of the Sports Executive Committee
- Celebrating student sport through improved social media and coverage
- Planning campaigns and events for Women's History Month
- Continuing conversations with a sports nutritionist to explore affordable, accessible support for club members and the wider student body
- Continued expansion of livestreaming locations and coverage