

Present, Apologies and Quoracy	
Chair of UC, no voting rights	Robert Nutkins
Part-time Officers, full voting rights	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Officer – Takudzwa Mawera Environment & Sustainability Officer – Neve Peat Faith & Belief Officer – Alex Butters International Students Officer - Gem Evelyn Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender + (LGBT+) Officer – Sam Prichard Mature Students Officer – Martin Nicholls (Co-opted during meeting) Postgraduate Officer – Will Styles Transgender and Non-Binary Officer – Jonah Zalick Welfare Officer – Owain Gullam Women’s Officer – Jessica Andrews Smith Vacant Roles Partner Institutions Officer
School Reps, full voting rights	Institute of Education – Jenna Johnson Plymouth Business School – Charlie Atkinson School of Art, Design & Architecture – Cat Dodd School of Humanities & Performing Arts – Bethany Hensman School of Law, Criminology & Government Representative – India Ellis School of Health Professions – Simrandeep Kaur School of Nursing and Midwifery – Maeve Hoey Peninsula Medical School – Emily Schenk School of Engineering, Computing, & Mathematics – Vivian Hocking School of Geography, Earth & Environmental Sciences – Izzy Haines
Sabbatical Officers, full voting rights	VP Wellbeing and Diversity – Fawziyyah Ahmed VP Activities – Verity Lemm VP Education - Emi Dowse UPSU President – Chukwudi Ezenyi (KC)
Other attendees, without voting rights	Chair of Accountability Board - Alex Jobling Accountability Board Member – Will Jones UPSU Interim Chief Executive – Antony Blackshaw Representation and Democracy Manager – Tracy Priestman (Minute Taker)

	Representation and Democracy Co-ordinator – Steph Martin Vacant Roles Accountability Board Members
Apologies	School of Biomedical Sciences – Libby M School of Biological & Marine Sciences – Georgia Small Academic Officer – Katherine Collins Students with Disabilities Officer - Will Robinson
Not present at the meeting and did not send apologies	Peninsula Dental School – Alastair Campbell School of Psychology – Tafadzwa Nyambuya
Quoracy	In order for a motion to be passed 75% of the elected voting members need to be present, quoracy was 22 and was reached

Minutes	
Welcome	The Chair welcomed everyone in attendance.
Matters from the Last meeting	There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.
Accuracy of minutes	The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting
Notice of Any Other Business	Will Styles gave notice of one item
Matters to Discuss	Co-option of vacant positions
	Martin Nicholls gave a short speech about why he should be co-opted as Part-time Mature Students Officer. Martin then left the meeting whilst the vote took place.

For: 20
Against: 0
Abstentions: 2
Martin Nicholls was co-opted to the role of Part-time Mature Students Officer

Elections of ASM Chair and Deputy Chair

The Chair passed to Alex Jobling as Robert Nutkins was standing for the role of Chair of the Annual Student Meeting (ASM). Robert's manifesto was shared and they left the meeting for the vote to take place.

For: 23
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1
Robert Nutkins was elected as the Chair of ASM 2021

Owain Gullam gave a short speech to explain why they should be elected as Deputy Chair of ASM, they then left the meeting whilst the vote took place

For: 18
Against: 0
Abstentions: 6
Owain Gullam was elected as Deputy Chair of ASM 2021

Election of Student Life Committee Member

Viv Hocking gave a short speech to explain why they should be elected as representative to attend Student Life Committee, they left the meeting whilst the vote took place.

For: 23
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1
Viv Hocking was elected as Student Life Representative for the current academic year.

Ratification of quoracy for ASM

The Chair explained that the bylaws called for Union Council to set quoracy ahead of the ASM. It was suggested by UPSU that the number of students required should be 22 as that is the quoracy for Union Council and that body has the power to make binding policy decisions.

Verity Lemm – VP Activities explained that due to the challenges already faced by clubs and societies this year it was decided that forcing attendance was not

	<p>the best approach so it will not be mandatory for a member of committee to attend the ASM.</p> <p>Will Styles – Part-time Postgrad Officer commented that, although Union Council might like the number to be bigger, they felt the suggestion of 22 realistic.</p> <p>Taku Mawera – Part-time BAME Officer suggested that a set number may not be the best approach.</p> <p>Will Styles suggested if the proposed number of 22 is based on the 75% quoracy for union Council, then a figure of 75% of attendees could be used at ASM.</p> <p>Antony Blackshaw, Interim CEO explained that the number would be the minimum number of attendees, not the minimum required to vote.</p> <p>Owain Gullam – Part-time Welfare Officer thought that it was concerning if only 11 votes were needed to pass policy.</p> <p>Gem Evelyn – Part-time International Students Officer suggested that there could be a percentage and a minimum number.</p> <p>Both India Ellis, School of Law Criminology and Government and Viv Hocking, School of Computing Engineering and Mathematics thought that it was a good idea to have clubs and societies send a rep as they should be engaged and do benefit from SU funding.</p> <p>Antony Blackshaw, Interim CEO added that the meeting will still take place, even if only one student turned up. Antony noted that other than the ASM, the only other way to change the M&As is via referendum and it is very hard to engage students on issues like that.</p> <p>Gem Evelyn questioned if the quoracy was just for this year, it was confirmed that it was.</p> <p>The Chair called for a vote on whether quoracy should be 22 for the ASM For: 24 Against: 2 Abstentions: 0 Quorum for the ASM was set at 22</p>
	<p>Academic Rep Structure Policy Proposal</p> <p>Cat Dodd - School of Art, Design and Architecture Rep and proposer gave an overview of the proposal which calls for a review of the academic representation system and to set a benchmark level of consistent practice across the university.</p>

This involves collating and sharing best practice and expectations of reps, staff and the SU in a toolkit.

Taku Mawera – Part-time BAME Officer noted that it would be prudent to include the roles and the School reps and Part-time Officers in the information shared with staff and students. Cat Dodd, agreed and commented that academic representation was used in the proposal as a blanket term but it is not only limited to Course Reps.

The Chair called for a vote

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The proposal passed

Communications Output Refresh Policy Proposal

Viv Hocking - School of Computing, Engineering and Maths Rep and Accountability Board Member gave an overview of the proposal. Viv explained that the resolves seek to increase the visibility of student achievements and to promote student business, making sure that students are being represented and not just treated as a commodity.

Taku Mawera – Part-time BAME Officer commented that they agreed with the overall points in the proposal but felt that it was exclusive of people not involved in societies and by extension clubs and the wider student body.

Viv Hocking expressed confusion as to how Taku Mawera had drawn that conclusion as they had been very careful not direct to any one branch of the Union and clarified that the policy proposal encompasses all students and that the words clubs and societies did not appear in the document.

Owain Gullam – Part-time Welfare Officer explained that initial conversations did take place over a month ago and came about is a direct result of what had happened at Freshers Fair so that may be where the confusion has come from.

Taku thanked Viv and Owain for the clarification.

Martin Nicholls – Part-time Mature Students Officer asked Viv Hocking if, when he was speaking to UPSU about their strategy, was there anything in the current strategy that could hinder how this policy is implemented. Was there any friction about sponsorship deals for example?

Viv Hocking responded that he met with the Director Of Student Experience, Oliver Horne and didn't experience any friction, he noted Oli was very enthusiastic about this policy and it has been recognised by UPSU that working practice from a previous culture needs to change.

Emi Dowse – VP Education noted that she is in agreement with what this policy says however, it needed to be noted that a reduction in promotion and partnerships will decrease the money available to SU services.

Emi Dowse added that she agreed that students deserve to be celebrated and many of these systems are already in place but students may not always come forward and share their achievements. Emi asked if there were any suggestions how to improve engagement in this area.

Viv Hocking suggested regular one to one meetings need to continue happening, there needs to be engagement from the SU departments with different student groups. For example, at the Societies Forum, student groups are given the opportunity to share what they have been doing but that just sits in the minutes document and is not shared more widely. The Union could be doing work to support promoting this more. More communication between the SU and students who volunteer their time is needed.

The Chair called for a vote

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The proposal passed

Volunteer Recognition Refresh Policy Proposal

Viv Hocking - School of Computing, Engineering and Maths Rep and Accountability Board Member gave an overview of the proposal. Viv explained that previously each SU department had its own recognition scheme which had varying levels of attainment and students were given a small token at each level, such as a pin badge or travel mug. These tokens promoted the Student Voice brand and were appreciated by students.

Viv Hocking added that over the past two years, these individual schemes were merged into one with waypoints of 25, 50, 100 and 200 hours, the higher end of which is seen as unachievable by many students. This has resulted in less engagement in the scheme and students feeling less valued for their contribution.

Viv also added that the certificates are automatic, do not fill a full page, have the signature of the previous CEO and can be easily amended.

Verity Lemm – VP Activities noted that she has spoken to Viv Hocking about the review that UPSU has already undertaken as there is awareness of the shortcomings of the current scheme. Verity commented that the SU wants the scheme to be the best it can be for students.

Will Styles - Part-time Postgraduate Officer requested that the recognition for 100 and 200 hours not be removed as students do reach it and it is appreciated.

Viv Hocking noted that it was not the specific objective of the proposal to take things away but to support what students want as the current 'one size fits all' approach doesn't work.

The Chair called for a vote

	<p>For: 23 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 The proposal passed</p>
<p>Reports</p>	<p>UPSU update</p>
	<p>Antony Blackshaw, Interim CEO gave the Union update. Antony explained that the financial situation had improved slightly since the last report to Union Council, this is due to the sacrifice of those staff on furlough. The current prediction is that the SU will be in £220k deficit on 31st July. UPSU does have reserves to cover this and will continue to lobby the university for support.</p> <p>Should the current restrictions be relaxed as planned, the SU plans to open after Easter, possibly the gym will open on the 12th April. From the 19th April a rooftop bar service is being considered but at this time is it not really viable to open the building. There will be no summer Ball this year.</p> <p>Staff have been brought back on flexi furlough to plan for reopening and there needs to be consideration for what will happen next academic year, there may be two years' worth of students wanting to participate in 'freshers' events and the format need to change to accommodate that. The SU is planning for an increase in student staff to support SU activities moving forward.</p> <p>The recruitment of the new CEO is progressing and invitations to tender have gone out. Interviews are planned for the start of June with Antony staying until the end of July.</p>
	<p>Part-time Officers and School Rep urgent updates</p>
	<p>Owain Gullam, Part-time Welfare Officer noted that there has been feedback from students on placements that they are not kept informed.</p> <p>India Ellis, School of Law, Criminology and Government asked that everyone share the survey about how course reps get elected.</p> <p>Neve Peat, Part-time Environment Officer reported that the university has now affiliated to Electronics Watch, something that students have been lobby for.</p> <p>Sam Pritchard, Part-time LGBT Officer is hosting an LGBT+ meeting this Thursday (20th) at 10:00</p> <p>Viv Hocking, School Rep for Computing, Engineering and Maths reminded all to consider using the sunflower badge on signatures.</p>

Sabbatical Officers

Verity Lemm – VP Activities

- Planning for reduced, closed Varsity event which will be streamed
- Working on placement issues with VP Education
- Continuing with Wellbeing training for committees, have included Mind you Mate, Confidentiality Training and Bystander training so far

Fawzy Ahmed – VP Wellbeing and Diversity

- Attended the university Wellbeing Strand meeting and fed back what the university could do better.
- Planning #beanally campaign to tackle micro aggressions
- Working on the #NeverOk campaign to address sexual violence and hate crime on campus.
- Working on the Access and Participation Plan student submission. A student led documents that gives feedback on what the university has done to support under-represented groups.

Emi Dowse – VP Education

- Lots of meetings with confidential content that cannot be shared yet.
- The Safety Net is moving forward and needs to go to Senate for agreement
- Involved in Graduations discussions
- Involved in the Extenuation Circumstances Policy review which is going well but would like more input from liberation reps, please get in touch.
- As agreed at the last Union Council, joined the advisory committee for the Students United Against Fees Group

Chukwudi Ezenyi (KC) – President

- Meeting tomorrow with Post Grad Faculty Reps to see how the SU can best support them, will update after meeting
- Working with VP Wellbeing and Diversity on getting feedback from International Students
- Looking at developing a collaborative relationship with Marjon and PCA unions to create a city wide Student Council

KC noted that Antony Blackshaw, Interim CEO had already covered everything that he would have said in the Trustee report.

Accountability Board Report

Alex Jobling, Accountability Board Chair noted that all reps should feel able to vote in the best way for the students they represent and not feel pressured into voting a specific way for any other reason.

AOB's	Jonah Zalick, Part-time Trans and Non-Binary Officer requested that pronouns be referred to and not preferred pronouns as that implies that there is a choice of which to use.
	Taku Mawera, Part-time BAME Officer spoke about how they had felt after interactions with a number of people online during the election period. Taku reminded everyone to show respect, compassion and be mindful of how others could be feeling. Taku suggested that if members have a problem with what others have said then they should take that up with the individual personally.
	It was noted that if any member thinks that another member of Union Council is acting outside of their elected role then there are steps in the Union Council Bye-law that can be taken to address that. The University Speak UP Tool and UPSU Members Disciplinary Bye-law can also be used, as appropriate.
	All members have received a direct meeting request for the ASM on 23 rd March
	Viv Hocking, School Of Computing, Engineering and Maths Rep asked that all members complete the lecture timing survey.
Next Meeting	Next meeting 20 th April 2021 SSTAR Awards nominations currently open ASM 23 rd March

Appendix 1 – Academic Rep Structure Policy Proposal

Student Impact	
Have you consulted students about your proposal? Please explain how many students you have engaged with and how.	I have spoken to ADA course reps about this, alongside other school reps. The visibility of the roles is lacking, and reviewing the representation system enables a way forward to increase visibility at an academic level. It is believed this would ultimately celebrate the course reps' roles, whilst ensuring the student body know who to contact.
How does your proposal impact the students at the University of Plymouth, what difference will it make to students?	Increased visibility of course reps ensures students are able to direct their feedback appropriately, and celebrates the commitment students have made in becoming course reps. This in turn pressures courses into filling these roles, facilitates greater reach of the union and democracy within the student body.

Policy Proposal

The Union Notes (Facts) This section should include facts, not reflection or opinions. Please provide references where possible.

1. A course may elect students to represent them. These students liaise with their course staff and School Representatives to seek support on issues relating to the academic experience.

The Union Believes (Opinions/Beliefs) This section requires reflection on the facts stated in 'The Union Notes'

1. Every course should have reps, though this isn't mandated. These reps should be approachable, and the student body should feel comfortable talking to them.
2. Course and School Reps should receive appropriate support from the University and Students' Union to enable them to carry out their duties to the best of their ability.
3. The system of representation should be visible and easily accessible to all students.

The Union Resolves (Actions) Here you will describe the action you want to be taken, be specific.

1. UPSU should conduct a thorough review of academic representation at a School and Faculty level, as part of that review they should consult with relevant staff and students to get feedback.
2. That feedback should then inform a best practice toolkit to be shared by the Student Voice and VP Education at the end of the academic year, to all relevant University staff with the purpose of supporting the following academic year's structure.

Appendices/supporting information Please include any supporting information relevant to your motion, this could include; consideration of how you would achieve any points in 'The Union Resolves', links to news articles or online publications

1. A more standardised approach to promoting the academic representation structure/academic reps would ensure every school is able to get the most out of the representation structure.

Appendix 2 – UPSU Communications Output Policy Proposal

Student Impact	
Have you consulted students about your proposal? Please explain how many students you have engaged with and how.	In seeking to present this policy, the proposer has consulted with other elected members of the Union Council, the VP Activities, the VP Education and both the Student Voice and Volunteering departments of the Union.
How does your proposal impact the students at the University of Plymouth, what difference will it make to students?	This policy aims to restore community faith in the comms output of UPSU by highlighting student success stories, wins for students and ensuring that student led events are not overshadowed by commercial output.

Policy Proposal
<p>The Union Notes (Facts) This section should include facts, not reflection or opinions. Please provide references where possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 2021 digital refreshers fair highlighted commercial affiliates instead of spotlighting student activity. 2. The 'Wins for Students' page on the UPSU website has sparse content and is not kept up-to-date with actual attainment of improvements or solutions delivered for students. 3. The last tangible 'Win' on the 'Wins for Students' page was the introduction of Microwaves in the SU one year ago. 4. The 'Campaigns' page on the UPSU website features three campaigns launched by the prior VP Education and does not highlight any of the work undertaken by the incumbent Sabbatical team. 5. The 'Campaigns' page does not highlight any campaigns undertaken by members of the Union Council. 6. The different departments within UPSU previously had their own social media output channels that enabled them to spotlight student achievement. 7. Social media output of the Union has been consolidated into single branded channels resulting in reduced departmental output. 8. The current media output of UPSU is heavily biased towards advertising and does not highlight any of the extra-curricular activity undertaken by the community.

9. Visibility of the Union Council is low, there is no promotion of work being undertaken by its elected members.
10. The Union Council page on the UPSU website is sparsely populated and does not list its members.
11. The Union Council page on the UPSU website does not list any of the policy proposals that have been passed in the current council.

The Union Believes (Opinions/Beliefs) This section requires reflection on the facts stated in 'The Union Notes'

1. The brand behaviour of UPSU should be student focused and should be comparable to other charity operations.
2. The brand behaviour of UPSU should not parallel multinational for-profit organisations.
3. The brand behaviour of UPSU should lead by example – highlighting student led activity and policy.
4. Student fairs such as Freshers Fair and Refreshers Fair exist to spotlight student activity and encourage community engagement.
5. Community engagement is essential to enable the Union to operate.
6. Student fairs such as Freshers Fair and Refreshers fair should promote sustainability within the community, reducing the handout of single-use plastics and throw away material as “freebies.”
7. Social media output of the Union should focus on celebrating the student community.
8. Visibility of democratic operations within the Union should be high.
9. Students deserve to have an awareness of the Union Council and what it can do for them.

The Union Resolves (Actions) Here you will describe the action you want to be taken, be specific.

1. Celebrate and promote student achievements and community activity through UPSU social media channels, drawing from regular community engagements such as student forums, representative 1-2-1 meetings and sabbatical officer reports.

2. Work with members of the Union Council to publish articles relating to their activity and increase the visibility of their work to the student community by enabling members of the Union Council to engage in social media takeovers and to produce content posts that highlight their work.
3. Ensure that the Union Council webpage is maintained in good condition and kept up to date with policy decisions and minutes whilst also ensuring that succinct points from these documents are highlighted in a format that is accessible to the wider community.
4. Ensure that student fairs are student focused, preventing commercial aspects from overshadowing community activity whilst also working with commercial affiliates that attend student fairs to ensure their offerings are both attractive to students and are considerate of UPSUs sustainability objectives.
5. Involve the elected Sabbatical Officers in the commercial department of the business, improving their knowledge of commercial operations and enabling the Sabbatical Officers to have more say in the contracts and advertisement agreements undertaken by UPSU.
6. To circulate all Union Council papers and reports to SU Directors so they are aware of student-led business and enable them to cascade student business from the council within their respective departments and attend the meeting as observers if required.

Appendices/supporting information Please include any supporting information relevant to your motion, this could include; consideration of how you would achieve any points in 'The Union Resolves', links to news articles or online publications

<https://www.upsu.com/studentvoice/representatives/unioncouncil/>

<https://www.upsu.com/studentvoice/campaigns/>

<https://www.upsu.com/wins/>

<https://www.facebook.com/upsunion>

<https://www.instagram.com/up.su/>

<https://twitter.com/upsu>

Appendix 3 – Volunteer Recognition Scheme Refresh Policy Proposal

Student Impact	
<p>Have you consulted students about your proposal? Please explain how many students you have engaged with and how.</p>	<p>In seeking to present this policy, the proposer has consulted with other elected members of the Union Council, the VP Activities, the VP Education and both the Student Voice and Volunteering departments of the Union.</p>
<p>How does your proposal impact the students at the University of Plymouth, what difference will it make to students?</p>	<p>The policy aims to reaffirm and support the work that has recently been undertaken by the Volunteering department to refresh the UPSU recognition scheme.</p> <p>The policy aims to enable the volunteering department to lead on a recognition refresh that would restore both staff and volunteer faith in the recognition scheme.</p>
Policy Proposal	
<p>The Union Notes (Facts) This section should include facts, not reflection or opinions. Please provide references where possible.</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. The prior UPSU Student recognition scheme was operated independently by each of the UPSU departments – enabling recognition that was catered to the student roles of each department. 3. The prior recognition scheme focused on staff members having informal conversations with volunteers about their volunteering journey and to gain feedback about what drives volunteers to succeed. 4. The prior UPSU recognition scheme, which awarded bronze, silver and gold certificates in different branches, was replaced with a single-track recognition scheme. 5. In addition to certificates, the prior recognition scheme awarded students with branded UPSU merchandise as a token of appreciation. 6. The single-track recognition was introduced in response to the University engaging with the HEAR (Higher Education Achievement Record) scheme and a desire to provide an employability-based recognition scheme. 7. The University has since withdrawn from the HEAR scheme so student volunteers no longer receive an employability record when they graduate. 	

8. The single-track recognition scheme produces automatically generated and poorly formatted certificates.
9. The single-track recognition scheme does not award gifts to students.
10. The single-track recognition scheme operates interviews upon attainment of set hours logged by a volunteer that replaced the informal catch-ups.
11. Recognition interviews take a formal format where staff are required to ask volunteers questions that had been chosen with the employability focus in-mind.
12. The formal interview process does not benefit volunteers and does not provide UPSU staff with valuable feedback about what volunteers are enjoying or what volunteers are not enjoying.

The Union Believes (Opinions/Beliefs) This section requires reflection on the facts stated in 'The Union Notes'

1. Student volunteers and student activity are and is an essential part of maintaining a sense of community.
2. Student extra-curricular achievements and contributions should be celebrated by UPSU.
3. Student volunteers are driving forces for change and feedback within the representation structure.
4. Student volunteers should feel empowered through recognition and should be able to enjoy engaging with a recognition scheme.

The Union Resolves (Actions) Here you will describe the action you want to be taken, be specific.

1. Affirm the need for a recognition scheme that encourages and rewards student engagement.
2. Proceed with the recently undertaken review and refresh of the single-track recognition scheme, taking on board feedback from current volunteers about how the scheme should evolve.
3. Ensure that the current UPSU recognition scheme and any replacement or renewed scheme are actively promoted to student volunteers across all branches of the Union.

4. Ensure that any outstanding staff reviews of hours logged by students are resolved and associated certificates can be obtained by those that have earned them.
5. Stop using automatically generated certificates and return to using printed personalised certificates.
6. Enable the different departments of UPSU to have control over their specific departmental output around their volunteers.

Appendices/supporting information Please include any supporting information relevant to your motion, this could include; consideration of how you would achieve any points in 'The Union Resolves', links to news articles or online publications

1. The use of automatically generated certificates in the single-track recognition scheme devalues the certificates. These documents could easily be replicated by an individual with sufficient knowledge of word-processing.
2. The automatically generated certificates are not maintained in a suitable format – they are often generated on an A4 PDF document but do not correctly fill the document page.
3. The automatically generated certificates have the former CEOs signature on them at the time of writing this policy.

the SU
volunteering
award

This is to certify that

Vivian Hocking

has been recognised as a

Dedicated Student Volunteer

having completed 100 hours of supporting fellow students and/or charitable activities.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Students' Union this academic year.

03/03/2021



Chukwadi Kosi Ezanyi
UPSU President, 2020 - 2021



Sarah Gibson
UPSU Chief Executive

upsu
UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD STUDENTS' UNION

Figure 1 - Example of the automatically generated certificates – generated 3/3/21.

the SU
volunteering
award

This is to certify that

Queen Elizabeth II

has been recognised as a

Dedicated Student Volunteer

having completed 100 hours of supporting fellow students and/or charitable activities

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Students' Union this academic year.

99/99/2371



Chukwudi Kosi Ezenyi
UPSU President, 2020 - 2021



Sarah Gibson
UPSU Chief Executive

upsu
UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX STUDENTS' UNION

Figure 2 - An example of how easily these automatically generated certificates can be manipulated.

Appendix 4 – Part-time Officer Updates March

Part-time Transgender & Non-binary Officer – Jonah Zalick
My manifesto points
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I will lobby to the university about changing how they address trans and non-binary students. Being misgendered and deadnamed is profoundly distressing and I will try my hardest to see to it so that trans and non-binary students will experience this less.2. I will proudly elevate our trans and non-binary voices by relating them to the student union with no hesitation on being heard.3. I will endeavour to link students with supportive resources (if requested), whether that be other faculty members or organisations.4. I will make it a definite point to engage in <u>online</u> contact with trans and non-binary students whether that be for casual chats or more in-depth discussions. Webcams/microphones will never be mandatory for conversation; I personally know that can be dysphoria-inducing. If I am scheduled on-campus that day, we can try to arrange a meeting. If the coronavirus threat level decreases I will become more flexible with arranging in-person meetings.
Progress on my manifesto points
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I am awaiting being invited to the group involved in changing the university's enrolment and IT generation process.2. Continuing to plan the creation of the trans community group with Beau mentioned in my previous report.3. See 2.4. See 2.
Key feedback I have received
Positive feedback from Steph on Beau and I's progress on group policy. Positive feedback from Emi about the progress I have made in my role.
Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 10/02 2pm Had a catch-up meeting with Emi to see how I was doing and if there were any ways I could be helped. Emi notified me of the group that is putting efforts into the name change and said she would pass my name on.- 12/02 11am Attended the Liberation Groups Drop-In, unfortunately there were no attendees but I had a discussion with Steph, Emma and Fawziyyah about how we could better improve attendance to these sessions.- 24/02 10am Beau and I had a meeting with Steph about the progress we have made so far in the creation of our group.

- 04/03 4.15pm Had a meeting with Beau and Steph as well as Jack Williamson (Student Development Coordinator) about the possibility of making our group a student network.

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

Create schedule for project management. Create advertising draft for Advertising + Comms to create visuals for promoting our group as well as telling them what to write on the post. Create a Google Forms in order to get student information in case of interest in the group. Begin to create the social spaces for the proposed group.

Part-time Environment and Sustainability Officer – Neve Peat

My manifesto points

- I will endeavour to improve engagement with Environmental Societies.
 - Incorporate student led sustainability into UPSU policy
 - This would be achieved through a monthly meeting with all the societies to have their input
 - Plus meetings and regular engagement with individual societies and their committees
- I will lobby the University and UPSU to reduce food wastage on campus.
 - Increase cooperation with local charities and food banks
 - Initiate a scheme similar to [‘Too Good to Go’](#) for students
 - This scheme would allow students to purchase mystery bag from the cafes on campus of food that would otherwise be wasted at a discounted price
- I will endeavour to build upon the progress made by previous SU officers.
 - Seek to introduce COVID-Secure mechanisms to enable the continuation of projects such as the Swap Shop
 - This would involve moving it to an online shop, where students can purchase donated clothes for £1 a piece
- I will try to promote sustainable living by incentivizing students to adopt sustainable living habits
 - Organise engagement through digital workshops
 - Increase engagement of sustainability through social media

Progress on my manifesto points

- Most of the podcast have been recorded and are in the process of editing
- Social media pages have been used to engage students with more post to come up shortly

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Looked at student campaign about food wastage in halls - In the process of setting up digital workshops
Key feedback I have received
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No new concerns have been raised
Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with Chris Woodfield from the Sustainability Hub (11/02/20) - Meeting with the Sustainable Catering team (11/02/20)
What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start uploading podcast episodes - Start working on swap shop
Other updates (see above)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current student campaign is Food4Fuel, looking at food wastage in halls

Reports not received from;

Academic Officer	Katherine Collins
Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Officer	Takudzwa Mawera
Faith & Belief Officer	Alex Butters
International Students Officer	Jean Michel Evelyn (Gem)
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender + (LGBT+) Officer	Samuel Pritchard
Mature Students Officer	VACANT
Postgraduate Officer	Will Styles
Students with Disabilities Officer	Will Robinson
Welfare Officer	Owain Gullam
Women's Officer	Jessica Andrews Smith

Appendix 5 – School Rep Updates

School Rep Updates March 2021

ADA School Rep – Catriona Dodd
My manifesto points
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contacting course reps regularly about positives and negatives experienced in their course; this better connects the school and enables advice to be shared across courses, whilst celebrating where things are going well. 2. Making sure reps are confident in raising issues between SSLMS, and able to reassert their position come SSLMs. 3. Implementing a transparent process documenting points raised and action taken; this ensures the feedback loop is closed and the cohort are able to see what is happening, and facilitates a better degree of accountability to prevent the same issues reoccurring without a new resolution.

Progress on my manifesto points

1. a) Reps seem very willing to proactively reach out and seek support
b) Many celebrations of staff have been received; students have been directed towards the SSTAR awards. Celebration of staff has been raised at the FAF too, and it was suggested I could pass on those staff who have really gone above and beyond to the Dean to recognise them in the interim.
c) I have supported reps with regard to the NSS, offering advice and guidance about raising completion rates and general information about what the NSS means for them.
2. I have attended several course meetings to support reps and their students in securing an outcome and ensuring they are being heard.
3. Previously I had raised the suggestion of course reps being listed on DLE pages at the FAF and FTLQC, was agreed this would be beneficial but no further progress made. I have constructed a policy proposal to be raised at Union Council to enable a review into the current promotion of reps at an academic level.

Key feedback I have received

ADA students are very pleased that the university is preparing to open studios to those courses that need them, though many are not happy with the schedules these have been agreed upon.

Many students are facing financial difficulties in relation to the cost of course materials, a particularly prevalent issue within ADA where specialist materials are generally available within the workshops and studios.

Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these

FoAHB Teaching Learning Quality Committee:

The students reps raised the lack of quality feedback in term 1, personal tutor support issues (following the statement that tutor support was adequate in lieu of a safety net arrangement), the availability of textbooks/ebooks online, issues around pre-recorded lectures, lecturer attitudes to ECs and the access to resources for students in practical courses in ADA (where the library was not adequate).

Faculty Advisory Forum

The representatives discussed the aspects of current learning they would like to see retained in a post-covid environment. This covered topics like pre-recorded lectures not working, but how the option to attend digitally has been great for many, and the use of new platforms like Mural. There was discussion around student isolation and what can be done to fix this, where I asked that staff make use the course reps and academic societies, considering their pre existing connection to the student body and the level of willingness shown by many. There was discussion about personal tutor support that echoed the FLTQC, where there is recognition that the support is often not enough, but staff aren't in

a position to provide that level of support currently. I advised that by and large the students are very aware of how hard the lecturers are working to support them, and are very understanding that they are similarly struggling.

Democratic Review

Addressed areas of improvement I would like to see within UPSU, to be reviewed as a collective. This was really fantastic to understand areas other representatives and officers were keen to see changes within, and to push me to consider issues that I wouldn't necessarily raise in person or as a matter of urgency.

Course Rep drop-in Session with the Student Voice Team and the Faculty Rep

Discussed with reps the issues they are having, and have arranged follow up meetings with them to discuss my progress supporting them. These will now be running more regularly.

Union Council

Many discussions about support from the university, particularly pertaining to fees.

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

I am intending to support ADA students with getting the best outcome for their return to studios and workshops, following the government announcement.

Other updates (see above)

I have begun public speaking training with Speechcraft alongside a few other reps. This is proving to be very beneficial and will definitely allow me to better advocate for students.

School of Nursing and Midwifery Rep Maeve Hoey

My manifesto points

- Engaging in committee meetings and being a student voice.
- Ensuring communication between students and the faculty.
- Making the school more inclusive.
- Staying informed on any current issues.

Progress on my manifesto points

I have been attending the TL&Q meetings for the faculty and the whole school of health regularly. I have been involved in regular meetings with course reps so they can have consistent communication with myself and the lecturers, and then passing any concerns onto relevant staff straight away. I have been utilising the help of my course reps while I've been away on placement, they have been passing feedback to me where they have attended meetings that I cannot attend. The school have elected Diversity and Inclusion Champions and I am a part of that group – I've set up a SNAM Diversity and Inclusion twitter, so we are able to generate conversations and spread awareness.

Key feedback I have received

- Communication is good between the faculty and its students; regular webinars are being held by staff for students to ask questions and voice their concerns.
- Worries from many nursing and midwifery students with learning difficulties and accessible exams and teaching, deputy and myself have aimed to address this a few times. But this is a continuing issue – potentially having a focus group on this in the future.
- Students who have returned to campus for clinical skills have felt safe and enjoyed being able to learn face-to-face.
- Diversity and Inclusion Group working really well

Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these

- 12/01/2021 – School TL&Q Meeting – voiced student concerns and asked staff to consider holding regular webinars to allow students to ask questions and voice their concerns directly, where I myself can be part of the panel. Students agreed that they'd appreciate this communication with staff more regularly considering the circumstances we are in.
- 13/01/2021 – Emergency Union Council on Safety Net – joined this meeting with Course Rep, Hannah Spiller, and addressed our faculty's concerns as best as we could.
- 09/02/2021 – Student Union Council – voted on policies.
- 10/02/2021 – Exeter Student Rep meeting – voiced student concerns about their stress levels due to summer deadlines etc and how student wellbeing is very low, consider what the faculty and I could do to boost morale.
- 19/02/2021 – Truro Course Rep meeting – again voiced student concerns on wellbeing and stress, discussed events that we could do as a faculty to improve morale.
- 24/02/2021 – Student Diversity and Inclusion meeting – students and lecturers have been chosen to be in the Diversity and Inclusion group, we discussed what our pledges are and what we are going to do to educate others on Diversity and Inclusion. I offered to create a SNAM Diversity and Inclusion Twitter to firstly, give an introduction to the members of the group, but to secondly, provide information to students and staff on what events and resources are available on Diversity and Inclusion. Agreed on next date for the meeting.
- 04/03/2021 – School TL&Q Meeting – discussed NSS and also voiced concerns about students who are at a disadvantaged due to learning disabilities, and what barriers are in the way of them getting formal assessments. Have agreed to be part of a focus group on this issue to determine what the faculty can do to support these students.

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

I am currently meant to be on my first placement; however I have an injury which means I no longer can continue. Before the next union council meeting, I will be attending any meetings relating to my faculty and any relevant issues/news. I will also be here for my course reps to take their feedback and pass it on to relevant staff – will be sending out an email to all course reps to confirm my availability for any meetings.

Other updates (see above)

Check out the SNAM Diversity and Inclusion twitter – @PUNCchampions 😊

SoGEE's Rep – Izzy Haines

My manifesto points

Encouraging the course communities to stay vibrant in this uncertain time. Although lectures are online, keep people engaged and passionate in their studies and listen to suggestions of ways to make this new type of learning more attractive. Ensure that through this distant learning people continue to feel supported by the faculty.

Progress on my manifesto points

I chaired a meeting on the 26th February available to all course representatives within my school. Unfortunately, this meeting did not get as many attendees as I had hoped so feedback was very minimal. Within the meeting I discussed and reiterated the information I had passed on previously in regard to a safety net policy and feedback.

During this meeting I also got to know individual course representatives better and was able to give full details on the tutor concerns brought up at the previous meeting. Within our school an email has been sent out reminding tutors of their roles to keep in touch with their students. So far, this email has brought remarkable progress to this problem. This has made online learning look more attractive, knowing that you have direct support from your tutors.

Key feedback I have received

Many people said themselves and their peers do not mind if there isn't a safety net policy they just want to be acknowledged and kept within the loop as they feel they do not know what is going on.

Tutor support has significantly improved since the last Union Council meeting with many tutors reaching out and apologising for not being in contact sooner.

Feedback from lecturers about keeping students updated was that they did not want to bombard students with lots of information in long emails that people won't necessarily read. They have now apologised and said they hope to make more

frequent and concise contact with students within the school.

Group coursework is still a concern, people are struggling to get all members of groups to participate. There were suggestions about maybe reducing the weight of group work.

Our school has agreed that there will be some form of peer-review within all group work projects, it may be optional.

Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these

SoGEE's Staff and Student liaison meeting- attended to give feedback on areas in which the school could be improved.

Student course representative review- A meeting chaired by myself to ensure that course representatives from my school feel they have been given a platform to share any feedback they have. Hopefully help to put those with questions at ease and ensure these questions get answered.

FTLQC meeting- A meeting that encouraged students of the school to address any issues that we may be facing in regard to the quality of teaching and learning within SoGEE's

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

Continue to follow up any issues raised by members of the school, ensure that the school and module leads have not forgotten the current problem at hand.

By the next Union council meeting I hope to have held my third course representative review meeting to ensure everybody within the school feels represented and heard. Possibly send out a survey to members of my school to ensure that all people, including those that do not want to come onto a zoom call, can give their feedback.

Although we are in a very uncertain time at the moment and most societies are not meeting frequently, I hope to promote societies such as Geogsoc and Envirosoc that are holding zoom calls etc, encouraging further learning in a social environment in their chosen field.

Other updates (see above)

School of Biomedical Sciences – Libby M

My manifesto points

- Create awareness about students' rights.
- Work closely with Faculty to ensure that students are aware of hidden course costs such as travel expenses whilst doing an optional year.
- Allow students to anonymously contact all members of the UC on an online platform about any improvements/ideas that we could implement.

Progress on my manifesto points

- On the UoP website, detailed information about hidden course costs such as travel expenses whilst doing an optional year is now online for all students to see.
- Had a meeting with Tracy to inform her about including a link to the Student Feedback Survey (SharePoint) in the Student Voice section of the mobile app.

Key feedback I have received

- Not much since last UC – most students still want the safety net to be the same as last year
- After contacting Lynn – NHS BMS students can now access asymptomatic testing/COVID-19 vaccinations at the hospital.

Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these

- Placement Focus Group – NHS BMS students believe that the communication between them and the placement team has been subpar. For example, asking students to re-send important documents last minute and not giving them a PDF document outlining that they are an “essential key student” until later. There is a risk that these students could have been stopped by the Police during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- UC – Meetings BMS students want their tuition fees reimbursed due to little or no lab experience.

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

- Contact the placement team about travel expense reimbursements and preceptorship funding.

Other updates (see above)

School of Engineering, Computing & Mathematics

Vivian Hocking

My manifesto points

School Representative:

- I will continue to lobby the University to provide high-quality digital learning resources.
- I will endeavour to raise awareness for the student support and wellbeing services offered to students through the University including modified assessment provisions.
- I will endeavour to encourage availability of digital lessons where practical engagement is not a component.
- I will also lobby the School to ensure that students are given appropriate feedback on their assessments.

Progress on my manifesto points

I have been continuing my dialogue with the University with regards to the provision of digital learning resources and have highlighted that in the current learning environment it is important to ensure that students have access to digital copies of the reading lists for their modules and have good access to online journals.

In addition to this I have highlighted the importance of access to support and wellbeing services and lobbied the University to increase awareness of the Sunflower Lanyard scheme – which aims to provide support for students with hidden disabilities.

I have discussed with the School leadership team the importance of recognising that students may have a given day where they have 4-6 hours of back-to-back Zoom sessions and the increased risk of Zoom fatigue leading to burnout.

I am currently recording data via survey to determine compliance with giving students breaks and buffer time.

I have highlighted to School leadership that where marking rubrics are concerned; students should be given an indicator of why they have been graded differently from students that have received different a different grade but met the same rubric criteria.

Key feedback I have received

The library has acknowledged that there are some publisher-imposed restrictions on the number of concurrent users accessing specific digital eBooks but encourages students to contact their subject information specialist if they have difficulty accessing resources and the library will make best efforts to obtain resources for students.

The School has agreed to increase the signposting of support and wellbeing services and there should now be an additional section for these services on the homepages of specific courses within DLE. The University has included the Sunflower Lanyard scheme in internal bulletin emails and has agreed to put up printed materials about the scheme around campus.

The School has recognised the need to ensure that students are given a break in the middle of two-hour digital sessions and has recognised buffer time should be implemented at the start and conclusion of digital sessions to ensure students aren't immediately going from one session to another without time between session.

Prior to digital delivery of sessions, lectures started and ended five minutes after the hour and five minutes before the hour. The School has recognised the importance of ensuring this is maintained within digital delivery.

The School have acknowledged that copy/paste feedback is not appropriate and students should receive constructive feedback that supports their learning.

Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these

- **SECaM Teaching & Learning Quality Committee**
 - Discussed the provision and availability of digital learning resources.
 - Discussed the need for breaks and buffer time in digital sessions.

- Raised concern over engagement within breakout rooms and the disconnect in final stages between domestic students and international exchange students that are studying remotely from overseas.
- **Faculty Teaching & Learning Quality Committee**
 - Raised concern over engagement within breakout rooms and the disconnect in final stages between domestic students and international exchange students that are studying remotely from overseas.
 - Discussed the need for breaks and buffer time in digital sessions.
- **Computing Programme Committee**
 - Highlighted what has been working well for digital delivery and what has not been working well.
 - Suggested lecturers remain in Zoom calls for the duration of the timetabled session even if they finish early, so that students have the opportunity to chat with them informally.
- **SECaM Senior Leadership Team meeting**
 - I collected questions from students within the School using Slido and then presented these in a Q&A format with the Head of School responding to the questions live over Zoom.
- **Regularly scheduled catch-up meetings with the SECaM Deputy Head & Associate Head for TLQ.**
 - These meetings enable me to provide feedback from student representatives to SECaM on a regular basis.
- **Student Services Wellbeing Roundtable focus group**
 - Provided feedback about the availability and quality of signposting for student support services.
 - Suggested personal tutors be given training as mental health first aiders.
- **Digital Education Strategy focus group.**
 - Highlighted usability issues with the University DLE, mentioned that the DLE dashboard replacing course specific home pages has had the unintended effect of hiding important information.
 - Highlighted issues around concurrent users having access to specific eBooks and journal articles and the lack of a 'save place' feature so that students are able to easily index digital resources.

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

1. Collate data from the lecture timing survey and investigate the possibility of converting this into an actionable policy for the Union Council.
2. Work with members of the Accountability Board elected in the by-election to bring them up to speed with work that has taken place this academic year.

Other updates (see above)

I have been engaged in discussions with members of the Union Council, the Sabbatical Officer team and staff within the SU with regards to how effective the UPSU recognition scheme is and community perception around the social media outputs of the Union.

There is a tangible feeling within the student community that the Union has become overshadowed by commercial interests and does not engage in enough promotion of student activity.

I will be bringing two policy proposals to the March Union Council meeting with a view to voice the Councils support for a recognition scheme refresh and highlighting community sentiments about the lack of output from the Union on student success stories.

School of Health Professions – Simrandeep Kaur

My manifesto points

1. find a safe way for students to practice clinical techniques and communication.
2. Arrange feedback sessions and update students accordingly.
3. Discuss the possibilities of a safety net for this academic year.

Progress on my manifesto points**Key feedback I have received****Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these**

Meeting with Robert about the democratic review.

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

Update students with feedback from the teaching and learning meetings.

Other updates (see above)

Physiotherapy student emailed concerns regarding testing two times a week. I got into contact with Alli and Verity. Verity was able to raise this on my behalf during the Faculty of teaching, learning and quality committee. Student was given feedback by Verity.

Reports not received from:

Law, Criminology & Government	India Ellis
Psychology	Tafadzwa Nyambuya

Peninsula Medical School	Emily Schenk
Peninsula Dental School	Alastair Campbell
Biological & Marine Sciences	Georgia Small

Newly elected Reps not required to submit report;

Plymouth Institute of Education	Jenna Johnson
Humanities & Performing Arts	Charlie Atkinson
Plymouth Business School	Bethany Hensman

Appendix 6 – Sabbatical Officers Updates

President Update

KC

The month of February has been quite a challenging month as we have had quite a number of challenges faced by students as a result of the ongoing lockdown.

Manifesto Point	Update
<p>Inclusivity: Endeavour to make the university more inclusive for students from minority groups such as postgraduate and nursing students. I will lobby for full representation for these groups by ensuring student events fit within their timetable</p>	<p>Following my last update, the issue of inclusivity continues to be one that we still see amongst international students and postgraduates, as we still struggle with enough engagement from these groups. Fawzy (VP Wellbeing) and I organized an open forum for international students where we looked to make them aware of general ongoing students challenges that we thought they might not have been aware of and take note the challenges that they could be facing as international students and see how we can support them more. The attendance for this was very low and we thought we would need to reorganize it for a different date and improve our comms of the forum. It also did highlight to us that there is still a comms challenge with regards to how information is being sent to students.</p> <p>With regards to postgrads inclusion, I was looking to organize a general postgrad talk session to see how we the SU could support them more and make them aware of the services we have in place that could be beneficial to them. I decided to change my approach to this, following my meeting with the student voice team to still have the talk session, but per faculty. This is because the challenges of the students could vary across faculties. Owing to that, I have reached out the postgrad faculty reps who are happy to get involved in this. Emi and I (VP</p>

	<p>Education) will be meeting with these reps to progress things with them.</p> <p>I have channeled my main focus of this point to currently be on postgraduates and international students. This is because we have had very little engagement with these student groups, since the beginning of the new session and even more since the lockdown this year. With regards to international students, I have been in communications with the International Students Advice centre (ISA) to find out if they have been hearing from international students. ISA have constantly come back saying that they have not heard much from international students and noting that not all international students are currently in the country. This has had me concerned that international students may be going through various challenges as well but might not feel comfortable enough to come out to say, due to varied reasons. As a result of this, myself and Fawzy (VP Wellbeing & Diversity) will be hosting an international student open forum where we can find out from them, what challenges they might be facing, tell them what challenges other students are facing, answer questions that they might have, and find out how we can improve communication with them. With regards to postgrads, I am looking to arrange a meeting with Emi (VP Education) and Will (Postgraduate officer) to discuss ideas on how we can support postgrads more as an SU and see how we can improve communication with them.</p>
<p>Democracy: Ensure that there is more student representation on university committees in order to get wider student views and participation by using the likes of our part time officers, course reps, members of our sports clubs and societies.</p>	<p>Referendum Policy: Will Styles (Parttime Postgrad officer) and I (seconder) proposed a policy to the Union Council that aimed to reduce the amount of signatory needed for referendum calling from 400 to 200 as it was difficult to get a good democratic engagement with the initial figure. It was delighting to hear that this policy was well discussed and approved at the last forum (which I was absent as I wasn't very well).</p> <p>Democratic Review: The democratic review discussion is on the way to commence, and there have been a proposed amendment to the Memorandum and Article of Association.</p> <p>Student Elections: we just concluded the SU elections which was quite different this year as everything had to be done online ran from the 1st-5th of March (Please</p>

	<p>follow the link to watch the election result announcement). I was very happy to be involved in this process from partaking in the thinking of running session where we met with people who were considering running, to being part of the training sessions for the candidate, hosting the hustings for the presidential candidate, and planning and hosting the election result night. It was great to see proper democracy in action resulting in the election of our new sabbatical team for the 2021/2022 session. 😊</p> <p>University of Plymouth Students' Union - YouTube</p>
<p>Sustainability: I will create student led initiatives where students with more sustainability knowledge are being empowered to educate others. My long-term goal is to create a university where all students have the foundational knowledge of sustainability.</p>	<p>Since my last update on sustainability, I have attended the sustainability forum where Neve (Chair) updated us on the progress of the sustainability podcast series which should commence soon! I did mention this at the Sustainability town hall meeting of which I was a panel member of, to make them aware of the coming development. The members of staff present at this meeting appreciated the idea and some signified interest of getting involved once it's up and running.</p> <p>Also from that meeting, I understood there's still a need for an action to be taken with regards to the use of single use coffee/takeaway cups, so I will be picking this and the following the university up on this for the best outcome. I also realized that there needs to be more work done with regards to getting students engagement in sustainability around campus, so I am looking to set a meeting with Neve (and other interested students) on how we get other students to engage with this more, as I know how vital this is for our environment.</p>

OTHER UPDATES

MEETING WITH THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Few days ago, the sabbatical team met with the VC where we raised concerns about the continuity of the rent rebate, seeing as it ended on the 8th of March. She did tell us that she would speak with the finance team to see if anything could be done about it, but she did not think much could be done due to the financial constraints and UPP still unwilling to show support financially.

We also still did raise the issue of safety net and the fact that students are still asking for this, but she said there won't be any changes to the current safety net in place as the concern of quality of degree still remains.

University Internationalisation Group

During the election week, I attended the UIG meeting on behalf of Fawzy (as she was off, campaigning). I raised the issue of the government's announcement that said final year international students who were not back in the country not being eligible to apply for the post study visa if they

were not back in the country by April, but still advising students not to travel. They all agreed that they were contradictory messages, but much could not be done within the university as it was a government issue. It's been good to see that the government has now looked into it and giving an extension till June.

I also raised the concern about the need for more to be done regarding more support being available for UPIC students and helping them integrate into the university, which they all agreed to be an issue.

UPIC MEETING

Owing to the concern I raised at the UIG meeting regarding UPIC, Bogdan Ghita (Associate Professor) who works closely with UPIC asked for us to have a meeting to discuss this in depth for him to more understanding of what the issues were and how it could be resolved. Following the meeting between myself and Bogdan, he sent an email to the head of UPIC, highlighting the issues we discussed. We will be having another meeting with Peter (head of UPIC) next week, where we will discuss solutions and best outcomes to this.

TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING

In the month of February, we had a successful trustee board meeting where we discussed the proposed amendments to the memorandum and article of association. We also started conversations around the recruitment of a new CEO and Antony's (Interim CEO) time with us.

SAFEGUARDING WORKING GROUP

I recently attended the safeguarding working group meeting (previously known as prevent) where we had a guest police officer tell us about the kind of issues that are becoming common amongst students and younger adults, but he specified that most of these things were not common in the southwest. It was also mentioned at this meeting that they were working with the SU to ensure our policies are aligned.

STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

We had the student life meeting which I chaired just recently. It was a success because the sabbatical had the opportunity to raise urgent student concerns ranging from inclusivity, rent issues, to need for physical and mental wellbeing spaces on campus, which were all very well received by members of this committee and got actioned on. We also discuss the membership of this committee and the need for a sub working group, and the membership of that. We would be looking to vote on who would be members of these committees at union council for more student representation.

ZOOM CALL WITH LUKE POLLARD (MP)

Due to the various challenges faced by students as a result of the lockdown, the sabbatical team thought it would be useful to reach out to the MP's to seek their support for our students. Following our email to the MP's, Luke Pollard got back to us recognising the challenges mentioned and the need for more support from the government. As a result of this, Luke organised a zoom call for students within his constituency (which UoP is part of) and got to hear firsthand the issues raised by the multitude of students in attendance. I appreciated and followed Luke up after the zoom call to know what had been done so far and responded making me understand that he has raised these issues in a letter to Gavin Williamson MP (Secretary of States for education). Please see the link to the letter below.

[Luke writes letter to Gavin Williamson MP for local university students - Luke Pollard MP](#)

Vice President Education Update

Emilia Dowse

February has been a quiet month for me compared to January. Many of the issues from January are still ongoing such as the need for additional support for students and I continue to raise these at the relevant meetings. It was also a good month because I could finally announce to students that the SU had mutually cut ties with Clever Student Lets, something students have been asking of the SU for months.

Manifesto Point	Update
<p>Extenuating Circumstances I will endeavour to amend the extenuating circumstances policy, making it more inclusive of the underrepresented issues students face. To make these adjustments, I aim to create a tool for students to report difficulties when applying for extenuating circumstances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Met with Anna Sendall, she has given me advice on how to start on this point.• I have used the appeals and complaints training sessions to learn more about the extenuating circumstances.• Have attended UTLQC, where we have had discussions about whether students should still receive extenuating circumstances in light of COVID in 20/21.• I advocated that students should still receive the 10-day extension, but they should have to submit a form and self-certify.• The 20/21 academic year will allow all students to self-certify for a 10-day extension, or to non-submit.• I attended the Quality and Standards subcommittee and have asked to be on the subgroup for the review of the extenuating circumstances policy. I am now waiting for the committees to be set up.• On the 9th of November I attended my first meeting for the Extenuating Circumstances Policy review. We discussed the current policy and the improvements which need to be made in light of an external audit the university had made or the policy. I mentioned my manifesto goals of making the document more accessible and easier to navigate for students. I also highlighted the need to include mention to some of the underrepresented issues students are facing.• On the 26th of November I attended an Extenuating circumstance review meeting. We spoke about not requiring evidence for sensitive extenuating circumstances requests such as bereavements and sexual assaults etc. We also spoke about expanding the circumstances students can submit to include natural disasters, and terror attacks etc. We also discussed the fit to

	<p>sit policy and how students who become ill during an assessments can be supported and not penalised.</p>
<p>Life Skills Seminars I will lobby to incorporate life skills seminars into induction week to help students to adjust smoothly to student life. Students with the relevant life experience will deliver sessions such as 'how to student', presenting, budgeting etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly discussed with advice that they may be able to help me with this manifesto point • Met with student voice and planned out a timeline for when these seminars will take place. • I will try and adapt the seminars to the COVID period by making some around digital learning and how best to manage fatigue. • I took part in a Student Life podcast about digital fatigue and how students can manage the increase in screen time.
<p>Accessibility I will inform academic staff about how the presentation of their lecture materials can hinder learning abilities. I will encourage providing the option of coloured paper for handouts and advise against the use of black text on white backgrounds. Many students are unaware of how colours and presentation influence their ability to process information; I hope to improve this by breaking down learning barriers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Jennie Winter head of Educational Development. • We discussed how they might help me with this manifesto point, hopefully by including it in their training sessions for new staff. • Met with Jennie Winter to plan the creation a of talking head video in which I educate staff members about the SU, Sabbatical team and my role as VP Education. I will also include a segment on accessibility and how they can improve their lecture materials to make them more accessible to students. • I filmed the video for digital educations teaching courses. The video included how academics can improve accessibility through making simple changes to their materials such as changing the colour of their backgrounds and handouts and about how lecturers at the University should be thinking of ways they can make their lectures accessible by design and not just as a response to individual needs.
<p>Lecture Capture Following on from the work Millie did around lecture capture last year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I attended the AV-refresh board, where we discussed the introduction of hybrid teaching rooms. • These would allow for lecturers to teach live sessions with students both physically and virtually attending • I have made a strong case as to why this should be introduced, with the main focus on students with disabilities and improving the sense of belonging. • I am hoping that with the blended learning approach we can move to having all lectures

	<p>(where possible) captured and uploaded on to the DLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lecture capture policy was approved at UTLQC.
<p>Buddy Scheme I am working with the VP-Wellbeing to implement a new buddy scheme, where 1st year students will be paired with a 2nd year student to give them advice and friendship throughout the year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had a meeting with Fawzy and advice to discuss a similar scheme they had in the past. • Decided that we would implement a very basic scheme, which would act as a trial for future years. • Researched into similar schemes and how they were run at other Student Unions. • The buddy scheme was delegated to the Volunteering department. The scheme is now up and running with over 50 students signed up to be buddies and over 50 to have a buddy.

Other updates

Safety Net

- I initially raised the topic of implementing a new safety net at the University Teaching and Learning Quality Committee (UTLQC) on the 11th of November following students requests for one. I was told that the University would not be reintroducing one because many of the amendments had been kept from the previous year and the University had prepared for blended learning it wasn't needed.
- I went away and collated student feedback on why a safety net was needed and raised it again at UTLQC on the 23rd of November. At this meeting the student petition was also spoken about and the committee noted that there was confusion of what students wanted from a safety net. They also said that they still would not be implementing it due to the above reasons.
- I followed this up by consulting with students and Union Council to work out what they wanted from a safety net and I presented this to the chair of UTLQC who told me to write a paper on it.
- I began writing the paper, however when we returned from annual leave after Christmas it was clear to see that with lockdown 3, more measures would need to be put in place.
- I raised this at UTLQC on the 12th of January and the committee agreed that additional measures would need to be put in place to supports students, but it might not be the best of 60 credit approach students are asking for. The University will be making decisions about a safety net within the coming weeks, ensuring that they maintain academic integrity.
- We also brought this to the attention of the Vice Chancellor in our meeting on the 13th of January.
- On the 25th of January UTLQC signed off on automatically validating EC's, allowing students who fail an assessment to re-sit at first attempt. They are still looking into what more they can do to support students and I will be involved in that discussion and decision making.
- Since my past update nothing more has been added to the current safety net policy. UTLQC have organised a working group to write a paper on the options the University can implement, however this has not been presented to UTLQC yet. I followed this up with the D-VC Education and Student experience and he said there should be an update at the next UTLQC meeting on the 01/03.

- At the Senate meeting on the 24/02 the Vice Chancellor said there would be no more measures added to the safety net. Verity will be asking UTLQC for a final decision on this at the meeting on the 01/03.

Digital Q&A

The SU has been working with the University to put on digital Q&A sessions to address students' questions on important issues such as the safety net, student mental health, fees and refunds etc. The idea of the sessions is to give a face to the University and to help students feel heard and responded to in a direct way. It is our hope that these will become regular sessions with the University and will continue into the new academic year.

- Our first Q&A was on the topic of the safety net. We launched the question submissions on the 18th of January and closed them after 24 hours. After submissions were closed, I worked with student voice and the comms team to collate and narrow down the answer submissions to send to the University.
- On the 21st of January I interviewed Julian Chaudhuri and Adele Hill in our first Q&A. The interview will be released to students and staff on the 26th of January.

University Comms Group

- Following on from the Student communication sent out on the 8th of January and the response it received on social media, the university set up a new emergency communication group to address students' frustrations and concerns.
- The group is currently focused on addressing four main topics. 1. the safety net 2. the rent strike 3. Fee refunds/reduction and 4. hardship fund, however this may evolve in the future.
- They are working to not only address the surface level issues such as the social media response, but also the core issues such as support staff, comms teams and lecturers not having the knowledge or understanding to respond to students.
- The group has created FAQ documents and information sheets for staff members across the department to be able to respond to students' questions or signpost them to the relevant staff member.
- We discussed how the SU Q&A's will be helpful in getting information across to students in a more personal and student friendly matter.
- I encouraged the University to be more transparent and open with their students, even if they didn't have the answers yet. Currently students want to be kept in the loop on things and the university would benefit from doing this.

Personal Tutoring Policy Review

- I am sitting on the working group for the personal tutoring and academic support review. We are reviewing the current personal tutoring policy and working to improve it to ensure better support for students.
- Some of the changes to the policy include having a required amount tutor sessions per academic year, introducing pastoral tutors to provide an additional support person for wellbeing and pastoral needs, and encouraging group tutorials. This should ensure that all UG students are supported throughout their entire time at the University.
- The updated personal tutoring policy went to UTLQC on the 25/01/21 for its first draft and will be voted upon within the coming months. Once voted in the policy will be implemented in 21/22.
- The Policy was voted in by UTLQC and then was signed off by Senate on the 24/02.

Clever Student Lets

- I approached the SU's leadership group with concerns that students have shared with UPSU about Clever Student Lets.
- We provided CSL with a document of the themes of topics students were raising with our SU Advice Team, as well as forwarding them an open access document of over 50 student's experiences with CSL.
- The CEO, one of our Directors and I met with Clever Student Lets and I outlined the complaints students had raised. We then gave them a two-week period to respond to our concerns.
- I created a video outlining the Sabbatical Offices response to students concerns and what CSL has promised to do in light of hearing them.
- There was mixed response to the video. Some students were happy that the SU was seen to be acting on their feedback, others understood that we are in a fixed contract with CSL, but do not want the SU to work with them in the future and some want the SU to break the contract now.
- I fed back students' responses to the video at our leadership meeting. We then followed this up by meeting with the incoming CEO of CSL to readdress the complaints by students.
- I am meeting with the CEO of CSL on the 26/01/21 to discuss things going forward.
- Following the meeting on the 26/01 Clever Student Lets and the Student Union have agreed to mutually end the contract. We will still be working with them to improve upon issues our students' feedback to us.

Meetings and Other

- The team met with the Plymouth Rent strike group to discuss whether the SU can support their campaign. Due to the nature of the campaign, we are unable to endorse them, however we taken their requests away and are seeing what we can do as an SU to address them.
- I attended Q&A session delivered by the Student United Against Fees campaign. The campaign is run by SU's across the country aiming to tackle the issue of tuition fees. I thought that the campaign was run well and that our students would want the SU to get involved. A policy was passed at Union Council to get us to join the campaign.
- I delivered the vote of thanks speech at three of the virtual graduation ceremonies. I had positive feedback from both students and academics. I then met with the Graduations organisers to discuss feedback of the ceremony and plans for both the 2020 and 2021 graduations.
- I sat on a task and finish group which is looking to create a policy around name changes within the university, and to address issues with names being recorded on the system at enrollment. The group is mainly focusing on improving things for trans and non-binary students as well as international students. As a result of this I have met with our Trans and non-binary officer and got him invited onto the working group to ensure there is better representation.
- I have met with students looking to run in the SU Elections. I gave them advice on the role as well as answered any questions they had. I also filmed a video to encourage other students to run.
- I had a catch up with Anna Sendall and Antony to see how the SU can get involved in the OFS CMA Audit, which was an investigation into whether students had been delivered what they were promised by the University. We agreed that I would send over the theme of complaints

students have taken to advice, and that the finished report would be sent out to our school reps to ensure accuracy.

- I attended the Faculty of Science and Engineering course rep drop-in session. I found this session valuable for getting feedback from our reps which I was able to take to the University.

Media

Due to everything being online this year, I feel it is more important than ever to keep students up to date with the work we are doing and get their feedback on it as soon as possible. I have been using social media and videos to do this.

- Clever Student Lets Update

<https://www.upsu.com/news/article/upsu/UPSU-Cuts-Ties-with-CSL/>

Vice President Wellbeing & Diversity Update

Fawzy Ahmed

February was a slightly busy month for me. I had a few projects here and there. Some of the projects from last month and this month are still ongoing. Looking forward to March!

Manifesto Point	Update
<p>Make Wellbeing forums as regular as sports and society forums, this would create a platform that would break the stigma surrounding mental health, and give students the opportunity to have their voices heard and for students to give feedback on student support services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had a meeting with student voice on how I can begin to achieve this goal. The discussion was largely focused on the fact that there are many support services available for students, but many students are not aware of these services and how to access them. There is a disconnect with what is available and the information that is out there. • The forums will essentially be a platform for students to find out information about the support services available for them. It will serve as a feedback session to find out what works for them and what does not work. • Hosted a Wellbeing forum on the 24th of February. I got in touch with the CCJ school rep to send it to course reps. The attendance was better than the previous and some very useful was collated which will be passed on the support services team. The theme of the feedback was on accessibility of the website, how the support services are advertised. Some students shared their experiences of using some of the support services to other students which was very useful. I also asked the students present about the possibility of Wellbeing Champions, some of the students welcomed the idea of having Wellbeing champions, whilst some students did not feel comfortable with the idea of students supporting students as it may put

	<p>additional pressure on students. I will be exploring this idea further. More updates to come. One student mentioned that the Wellbeing forum is a great idea and they believed that more students would benefit from it. I am looking to host the next forum sometime in March and will focus on promoting it to reps</p>
<p>Work alongside the University Equality and Diversity team to champion equality and diversity using promotional videos and posters to tackle issues relating to racism, islamophobia, homophobia, or any other form of prejudice thus making campus a welcoming environment for all.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had a discussion with student Voice on how to move this forward. • For LGBTQ+ month, I worked with the LGBTQ+ PTO and Trans PTO to put out a post that celebrated and created awareness of the month. • #BeAnAlly Campaign: Putting plans to launch this new campaign. This campaign is set to launch in a few weeks' time. It will focus on sharing tips and creating awareness of some microaggressions faced by some marginalized groups such as BAME, People with Disabilities, LGBTQ+, Muslim and Women. The main aim is to create awareness of some of the prejudice that people face in our community such as Ableism, Homophobia etc. I will be working with the University's EDI committee to create awareness of this campaign, so it is shared across the University. This has slightly progressed since my last update, I sent the information of the campaign to the liberation PTO, so far, the Trans and Non-Binary PTO and the Faith and Belief PTO have expressed their interest in taking part. I will be getting in touch with clubs and societies that identify as being part of liberation groups to ask if they would like to get involved in the campaign.
<p>Work alongside the Student Support Services to orientate international students to be knowledgeable about mental health, thereby enabling them to support themselves as well as their peers. Using the welcome week and social media as a platform to engage the students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am in regular contact with the international student advice team to find out how international students are coping and if they require support. • I will be sharing posts on social media to try and engage all students including international students on how they can care for their wellbeing during this unprecedented time. • The SU president and I are hosting an international student open forum on the 3rd of February 2021, where international students can come along to provide feedback and to be signposted on a range of topics such as

	<p>Wellbeing, COVID hardship fund and more. The international student advice team will also be attending the session to provide information/answer questions relating to immigration/visa. The International student open forum took place on the 3rd of February, it was attended by the SU president, the part-time international student officer, ISA and some members of the English learning center. Although the session was not well attended, a few international students sent their questions through the reps and via email. Moving forward, we agreed to hold another forum but ensure promotions are more and ensure emails are sent to students via ISA and the English learning center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing-I am looking to compile an International student mental health guide after being inspired by other unions. I have reached out to some of these other unions asking them some for some tips and information that will be helpful for international students in Plymouth. • I had a catch up with student voice on how we can better support International Students. We agreed on putting out a survey for international students on the SU website to better understand how helpful the International Student Advice (ISA) is to the students and how the support can be provided.
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OTHER UPDATES

Inclusivity and Diversity and APP

The University is undertaking an Access and Participation Plan to improve the access and participation of underrepresented groups in the University in line with the Office for students' requirements. I had a meeting with Julian True who is the APP manager at the University. The meeting was focused on how we can involve students in the work of the APP. In the coming weeks, I will begin to form groups of students that identify as any of the underrepresented groups, so the University will have a better understanding of the experiences and barriers that these students face. Thus, this will ensure that students voice is involved. I will be working alongside with Course reps and school reps to try and get any interested students involved.

Following from this discussion, I raised the topic of Inclusivity and Diversity at the Student Life Committee. I provided some feedback I had received from some students that they do not engage well in the University because they do not feel included and supported. This issue was also raised in the Wellbeing Management group, where the conversation of how they can make the support services they provide more inclusive and diverse for all students. Moving forward, I will be working with Oli to

try and collate this feedback from some of our student societies that identify as being part of Underrepresented groups. This feedback will then be fed back to the University and used to shape the University's policy moving forward. I will also be link with the University EDI committee to discuss how we can strategically work our way through this.

As part of the Office for Students requirement, I am the lead representative for the student submission for the OFS review which is focused on holding the University to account for the promises they made to students from Underrepresented groups on the support they have been given with regards to Access Participation and Success. I had a meeting with the director of student experience and part of the APP group. This meeting was for us to ask questions to have a better understanding that took place in the 19/20 plan. For the submission, we are looking to put together a survey based on the student submission that will be sent out to students from the Underrepresented groups to have clear students' feedback on how they feel they have been supported by the University based on how the promises on that were made.

We are also looking to put together a focus group of some students. I have had conversations with a few students who may be interested in taking part of the focus group. As an SU we are working towards the deadline in April and are hoping to have something ready for Board of Governors so they can have a look at our submission before the date.

Faculty Teaching and Learning Quality Committee (FTLQC) (FoAHB)

-I attended the FTLQC for the faculty of art, humanities and business on the 8th of February alongside the other school reps. I raised a number of issues based on the feedback I had received from the School reps and course reps. These are the issues that were raised during the meeting and the actions that were added, I also passed this feedback to the VP education to see if there is anything that can be raised at a higher level.

- For the pre-recorded lectures: someone from the CCJ school asked the school rep for CCJ to raise at the TLQC as well as follow up with him in an email.
- For the personal tutor support- Bonnie said she would email all the ATL to email personal tutors, reminding them of their duty in supporting students. Also, the school reps where told get specific examples and raise at TLQC.
- For library resources-the person from the library has said the lack of e-resources is a problem across the UK but they are working to get alternatives for students
- For Quality feedback- The School rep for CCJ was actioned to follow up with the module lead on the specific course and I also mentioned that it's something we are starting to see in other schools
- For Access to resources for practical courses- they said they are currently working with to reopen facilities by the 8th of March, but Bonnie said she will email the head of school to see if there's a chance it can be reopened sooner. Library also said they have some resources such as cameras, but they will have confirm first

Housing Campaign

I hosted a know your rights session with the student advice team to inform students to their rights as tenants staying in a student accommodation. The session was very formative and highlighted the rights of students as well as the rights of landlords. The session ended with me and the advice students to stop and think before signing any tenancy agreements for the 2021 session and informing students that the advice team carries out free tenancy checks for all students, and are free, independent and confidential, so it would be a good idea to pass their tenancies to advice to go through before signing it off. The session was good as the students that attended were happy with the session and had a few questions, we had about 20 minutes of question time.

Rent Rebates and Reduction

I raised this issue in several University meetings such as student life committee. I also raised this on behalf of the sabbatical team in our meeting with the Vice-chancellor on the 13th of January where she informed us that the University were in active talks with the 3rd party company that manages the University Halls. On behalf of the Sabbatical team, I wrote a letter to the Plymouth MPs which all the officers signed urging them to lobby the University as well as Private landlords to offer students some financial relief during this ongoing situation. I put together a private landlord toolkit for students renting with private landlords which contains tips and information on how to rent during this pandemic. I raised this issue in several University meetings such as student life committee. On behalf of the Sabbatical team, I wrote a letter to the Plymouth MPs urging them to lobby the University as well as Private landlords to offer students some financial relief during this ongoing situation. I put together a private landlord toolkit for students renting with private landlords which contains tips and information on how to rent during this pandemic. I will continue to raise students growing concerns with regards to rent and accommodation and ensure that their voices are heard. I will continue to raise students growing concerns with regards to rent and accommodation and ensure that their voices are heard.

Policy proposal for joining national campaign for fees reduction

Based on some feedback I received, I raised the topic of fees reduction. I raised the topic of what is our stance as a Union on Tuition fee reduction for the Academic year 2020/2021. I have put together the basic outline of a motion which proposes that we take a stance on this national campaign.

Graduation Speeches

I delivered the vote of thanks speech at 3 of the virtual graduation ceremonies for the faculty of arts, humanities and business. There was positive feedback from students as well as academics.

Listening Post Catch up

I had a catch-up with Tilda Fraser and the head of the Listening post in the Support services on the 24th of February. Tilda and I raised the accessibility of the listening post. We discussed about how the listening post is a very useful tool for students, but many students are not aware of this service. We also discussed how the listening post can be rebranded and better advertised for students, so students can be more aware of the service.

Training

The Sabbatical team through this month had a range of training sessions. We had trainings with Maria on team building and leadership, understanding the sabbatical role, time management and stress management. I found this training useful as it made me to further understand my role as a student representative and gave me some skills, I can utilize not just in my work life but also my personal life.

The Sabbatical team also had training on; complaints procedures, the academic appeals procedure, fitness to practice hearings, Tech training, committee training and SU finances. I found all the training very useful because it gave me a better understanding of different processes that operate and made me aware of these processes and how they work.

Vice-President Activities Update

Verity Lemm

Manifesto Point

Update

<p>Sustainability: Promote environmental sustainability, embed environmental action points into icons (student group recognition scheme) to reward student groups for their efforts. Work with student groups to help them become more financially sustainable moving forward. Ensuring long term sustainability of student groups by helping them target all student demographics, this will help with inclusivity and diversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have managed to have a discussion with Sam Davies, from the university, regarding how we can include our students groups in sustainability projects across the campus. We discussed the idea of sustainability champions, where we could have individuals representing our student groups. Sam is looking to get funding for a staff member to look after this initiative. Hopefully we will touch base soon, but this is exciting. ONGOING- Awaiting reply
<p>Mental well-being and support: Continue to develop mental health support within student groups. Introduce well-being advocates into societies and volunteering groups and continue to enhance within sports clubs. Make sure the mental well-being related courses are readily available by demonstrating their importance to the University.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am in discussions with the University and the advice centre about running further information session and look after your mate training for the student group members. I will hopefully get this to coincide with the elections o new committees. This will help students be trained up and ready for the start of the next academic year. ON GOING! Will be organising one round of training before Easter for sports clubs, and further training after easter for Socs and those who couldn't attend before. • Investigating the possibility of introducing by-stander training alongside the well-being training for the new committees. Hopefully can do this in house when Steph has been trained to deliver it!
<p>Appropriate facilities and funding: Continue to lobby the University into providing appropriate room space and facilities for all students, so they can achieve the most out of their extra-curricular activities. Support student groups with sponsorships and partnerships to help with long term financial sustainability. Follow through the newly passed sports strategy to ensure the University is working towards developing sports at UoP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have had meetings with the university to discuss council funding with regards to life centre closing – on going. • How are our student groups going to recover from covid 19? Have been challenging the Uni, asking them how are they going to support the student's union with student experience? I am worried they are going to just expect us to provide everything they want, when in reality our clubs and socs need more support than ever. What funding is available? - potentially some funding from UUK and I am doing some investigating with some Alumni funding. • Working with departments to ensure we will have the facilities and funding to provide some experience up until the end of the academic

	<p>year (4th June) where it is appropriate it follows the government guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have been involved in discussions surrounding covid-19 testing on campus and how this will affect the students going forward.• Off the back of the issues I raised at Student Life Committee, I have had a meeting with the head of estates to address a couple of issues – firstly the lack of studio space available to run our physical well being classes e.g. yoga or other exercise classes. They are looking into what is available and if they can make something available for us. Secondly – the general lack of proposed well-being spaces (physical and mental) for the future of our campus. Our students need looking after and we have limited space for this e.g. sensory rooms, quiet rooms, lounge rooms. I will be creating a portfolio of proposed rooms and spaces based off of what other SUs do well and what we believe to be achievable. I have asked Societies for some feedback for this, and I will further ask union council. This is a great opportunity for students to have a direct feed into estates and facilities which hasn't always been done before.• Have been working closely with SU staff surrounding refunds for our students who have had limited experience for their money. Working on a bigger project to see if we can refund our students, but allow them to still be members e.g. fund their memberships, as we do not want covid-19 or money to be a barrier in the current circumstances. ONGOING• Working closely with our water sports clubs. Due to their large assets, they need more attention paid to their finances, especially after having no income this year. Successfully gained funding to purchase 3 fireflies from UWE, which will be viewed after lockdown. This means that we will now have 9 boats, so more Give it a Go sessions potentially available and better race worth boats, which falls in line with the Uni 2030 strategy for maritime location. Have been investigating yacht club finance, they unfortunately will not survive another year due to their enormous outgoings, lack of income,
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	<p>and the state of the J80 boats. I am meeting with Nadine, Oli and Antony to assess how the SU can support with these shortcomings, as they are not the fault of clubs at all, but in response to covid. Once we have made plans as an SU, I can take this to the Uni to challenge their further support, in line with the 2030 strategy.</p>
<p>Recognition and Celebration: Continue to build on #TeamPlymouth by using this platform to celebrate all student groups. Continue to spotlight student groups monthly for outstanding achievements. Evaluate the icons scheme (student group recognition), based on student feedback and current student trends.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing - Have had initial discussions about the SU awards and how they might look this year. It was generally decided that they need to be different to reflect the difficulties faced this year. We also agreed it was important to celebrate everyone no matter how small! Have shared ideas with Oli regarding a easy submission on the website, which will display the recognitions on a big wall, where anyone can view. This could also have a feed into social media. Still looking at other potential ideas. • Have been part of the reevaluation of the recognition scheme. Staff are aware that in previous years there has been some shortcomings e.g. hours achieved and not the desired recognition. We are looking at going back to a tiered approach, also looking into ways we can recognize people with employability benefits such as linked in. Also taken on board feedback from students on this and I look forward to future confirmation of this scheme
<p>BUCS Student chair role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BUCS regional meeting in February was quite a positive one. We were able to discuss some potentials for activity in semester 3. The main take away from the meeting was that we will do regionalized friendlies rather than BUCS directed competition in semester 3 if possible. • BUCS advisory at the end of March – hopefully getting news on affiliation costs, which will be invoiced this month.
<p>Student group forums, FTLQC, Union council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been in touch with the FoH school reps at the drop in sessions to discuss their concerns

	<p>regarding their schools. I have been passing this information onto Adele and Emi where we can work together. Have got another FTLQC (informal) this week, where we can raise some of these themes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the FoH TLQC I was able to raise an issue on behalf of student regarding available asymptomatic testing and those students who are currently living off of campus. Some confusion if students are required to have Neg test for teaching. Some mixed messaging in some faculties, but in general, for teaching sessions, neg test is not required. • Emi and myself hosted a confidential drop in session for FoH student on placements. This was a safe space where they were able to raise their concerns and provide feedback. This came about as students said they didn't feel comfortable raising concerns with academics as the concerns were shared- having an effect on their experience on placement or ended up with FTP consequences. • Will be sitting on webcam policy working group moving into this semester. This is a theme especially within the FoH due to professionalism. - Many issues continue to be raised. I have a meeting with Adele next week to address this further, some academics are being REALLY difficult. • Have had specific course meetings, where themes of complaints have been raised. This is proving challenging, and I am escalating to faculty level where appropriate. • Have had 2 good forums this month where we also hosted AGM training. It was good to reassure students that we are here to support them and we are aware that engagement has been low and they may struggle to fill committees. We have lots of support in place to help students achieve this, and we will carry this over to September as well. we will also implement 'adopt a soc' for those that do not have committees by sept/oct, where we will not fold them, but keep them and their accounts dormant in case anyone comes forward over the next year.
Varsity 2021	March update-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the latest government announcements, we have been able to forward plan for the first time in a while! Here it is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organized virtual offer for worst case scenario- Strava challenges and online fundraising groups. ○ Physical offering dates have been decided as a 4 week window from the return after the aster break, until marjons exams start (earlier than plyms). Having a large window will allow team to prepare, will allow the organization of live streaming and will allow it to be carried out safely. ○ Live streaming will mostly be organized by marjon as thy have the facilities and students. ○ Our events will be strictly no crowds- even if allowed. This will help us keep the events as safe and as controlled as possible. What sanctions will we have in place? - if students turn up the matches will be void or paused. - still investigating this. ○ Physical offering (outdoor sports) we have identified some suitable neutral ground locations that can be used. We are not doing outdoor events at marjon as this will be too hard to crowd control and we have zero budget for things like security when we are not selling tickets. ○ Physical offering (indoor sports) this is still very unknown. We are anticipating indoor sports may not be allowed back in time for a varsity, however, some may be legible. Marjon have said we can host indoor events on their campus as we can crowd control at doors entrances and exits. We will be asking team captains when they would like to do their events, with the possibility that for adequate preparation, we may need to push it into exams, finding a way that this could work for members and whether they would want this.

OTHER UPDATES

- Have supported Emi where needed with the safety net discussions by attending UTLQC. I have also been invited to sit on the University covid response group, which will be great for student voice and feedback moving forward.

- Have been attending the 'thinking of running' sessions, hosted by student voice, this is for the upcoming sabbatical elections. We also did a specific session for VP Activities based on feedback from forum. Have further this by supporting candidates through elections, attending the lunch time sessions to offer advice and support and hosted the candidate question time for VP Activities (hustings)
- Have been working with the sabbatical team on a couple of projects – graduation speeches, hardship fund video, library face masks video. In our team meetings we have also discussed our approach for the meetings with the VC and DVC and the Board of Governors.
- Normal trustee meetings have been taking place and we discussed student trustees and our plans for the rest of the year.
- Part of chats surrounding the BRIT challenge, which is a fitness and fundraising challenge. We will be putting this on for the students, who can then raise money for 4 mental health charities. We will coincide this with student minds week at the start of may!
- Gave the vote of thanks at the FoH graduation ceremonies, which was a really rewarding experience. We had great feed back from the graduation team, I am pleased we still decided to do these live.
- We have progressed the discussions regarding the sports rebranding. We will be going out to a design competition with a money prize. This will hopefully make our logo more representative for our students and campus. This will be signed off by the uni as well so we can work together. I will be discussing the future of sports kit at forum, a we have a chance to move away from akuma. This will be purely student focused.
- As a Sabb team we have had chats with Marjon and PCA sabbs which has ben good to be able to offer support to each other on issues like loneliness, accommodation and grades (safety net).
- Have had a meeting with student voice to run over my manifesto and see what I could do to progress this. It is always useful to revisiting my aims, especially with the year we have had its easy to end up a bit off task!

Vice-President Activities Update

Verity Lemm

Manifesto Point	Update
<p>Sustainability: Promote environmental sustainability, embed environmental action points into icons (student group recognition scheme) to reward student groups for their efforts. Work with student groups to help them become more financially sustainable moving forward. Ensuring long term sustainability of student groups by helping them target all student demographics, this will help with inclusivity and diversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing discussions on how we can incorporate sustainability into ICONS, if not this year then for the years to come. • Have managed to have a discussion with Sam Davies, from the university, regarding how we can include our students groups in sustainability projects across the campus. We discussed the idea of sustainability champions, where we could have individuals representing our student groups. Sam is looking to get funding for a staff member to look after this initiative. Hopefully we will touch base soon, but this is exciting.
<p>Mental well-being and support: Continue to develop mental health support within student groups. Introduce well-being advocates into societies and volunteering groups and continue to enhance within sports clubs. Make sure the mental well-being related courses are readily available by demonstrating their importance to the University.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am in discussions with the University and the advice centre about running further information session and look after your mate training for the student group members. I will hopefully get this to coincide with the elections or new committees. This will help students be trained up and ready for the start of the next academic year. • Have been re sharing all university advice and support and SU services within the student network for them to share with their members to hopefully increase the reach.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see section below re campus master plan and well-being spaces
<p>Appropriate facilities and funding: Continue to lobby the University into providing appropriate room space and facilities for all students, so they can achieve the most out of their extra-curricular activities. Support student groups with sponsorships and partnerships to help with long term financial sustainability. Follow through the newly passed sports strategy to ensure the University is working towards developing sports at UoP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have had meetings with the university to discuss council funding with regards to life centre closing – on going. • Have had meetings on how to pursue the sports strategy this year and whether it is viable to bring in a member of staff to oversee this within the university. Have spoke with Antony about what we provide and how we can progress strategy from our end. • Have been involved in discussions surrounding covid-19 testing on campus and how this will effect the students going forward. • Raised at SLC about the campus masterplans and the lack of both physical and mental well-being spaces on campus within the new developments. This is important to me as this is heavily included in the sports strategy. This was received really well and I will now be liaising with estates and facilities with the backing of the committee. Hopefully this will have positive progress. • Have been working closely with SU staff surrounding refunds for our students who have had limited experience for their money. Working on a bigger project to see if we can refund our students, but allow them to still be member e.g. fund their memberships, as we do not want covid-19 or money to be a barrier in the current circumstances. • Spent time with jack going over the societies term 2 funding allocations. Still have money left over from semester 1 o we are looking into what this can be used on to help the socs out!

<p>Recognition and Celebration: Continue to build on #TeamPlymouth by using this platform to celebrate all student groups. Continue to spotlight student groups monthly for outstanding achievements. Evaluate the icons scheme (student group recognition), based on student feedback and current student trends.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delighted that the SU takeovers are happening again now - Helped the continuation of the main SU take overs on Instagram as we had lots of groups that wanted to do it before, so we had a bit of a waiting list. Have also been using the team Plymouth social media to celebrate. • Ongoing - Have had initial discussions about the SU awards and how they might look this year. It was generally decided that they need to be different to reflect the difficulties faced this year. We also agreed it was important to celebrate everyone no matter how small! • Will be sharing the ICONS plans with the forums, we hope students will recognize the fact that ICONS has been adapted this year to recognise any achievements during this year.
<p>BUCS Student chair role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had a BUCS advisory in January, which was a chance to catch up with the national staff and institutions since the cancelling of BUCS. The most important things to note are that BUCS have released a survey to see what/ if institutions want some competition in semester 3. they are not currently looking as far as next year. We are still waiting for an update re affiliations. I was able to raise my concerns that in semester 3 students are normally academically focused, also might not be safe since students have been out of sport for so long. • Had a follow up regional meeting, as a region we were able to discuss our institutional changes due to covid e.g. UWE extending their term and Bath cutting theirs short. Good to communicate about organizing friendlies if possible. Also asked the staff to encourage their sabbs to come to the next meeting so students could feed into these meetings and I could have their view for the advisory meetings.
<p>Student group forums, FTLQC, Union council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had a couple of emergency Union Councils where we have had the opportunity to discuss Clever Students lets and the Safety Net. This was valuable feedback that the sabbatical team can take forward. • Have been in touch with the FoH school reps at the drop in sessions to discuss their concerns regarding their schools. I have been passing this

	<p>information onto Adele and Emi where we can work together. Have got another FTLQC (informal) this week, where we can raise some of these themes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be sitting on webcam policy working group moving into this semester. This s a theme especially within the FoH due to professionalism.
<p>Varsity 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Marjon regarding varsity. After my meeting with the other student officers from across the country it was good to go into this meeting with some ideas. The vast majority of other institutions want to provide some kind of varsity, but everyone knows the main issues will be the viability of the sport and the spectators. Most are going to try and organize behind closed doors fixtures, with the possibility of live streaming. Marjon were also keen for this, and since then we have had a catch up with our digital and comms department to pitch the ideas. We also spoke to the varsity captains and asked them to consider a few things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How can we still raise money for charity ○ Where can you play your fixture that is safe and secure (not on marjon campus as it will cause issues for spectators) ○ When could your fixture take place? With BUCS potentially back to back, when can you play? Weekend? Evening? Before or after easter? <p>UPDATE: Have met the committee again in January to touch base. We went over the constitution and myself as chair made amendments as necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking ahead this month we will work towards organizing a virtual varsity, so we have something ready if a physical varsity cannot go ahead. • Decided as a committee if we can do a physical varsity we will be doing it directly after Easter break before exams and dissy deadlines • Have spoken to Marjon President regarding some societies taking part in varsity g. Esports or gaming.

OTHER UPDATES

- Have met with the TPTO women’s officer to discuss her plans for the year and where I can support. A lengthy discussion about international women's day. Plans to involved some student groups and potentially link up with the university.

- Have provided some resources for the university holocaust Memorial Day, will be sharing the resources provided within the university through the student networks on the day.
- Have been attending the school rep drop in session with student voice, to help support the concerns our school reps have. Mostly regarding uni comms and safety net. Was able to take the feedback away.
- Have supported Emi where needed with the safety net discussions by attending UTLCQ. I have also been invited to sit on the University covid response group, which will be great for student voice and feedback moving forward.
- I met with the new co-chairs of RAG committee and I was able to chat with them about their plans for the year. We discussed the challenges and money raising plans for the selected charities.
- Have been attending the 'thinking of running' sessions, hosted by student voice, this is for the upcoming sabbatical elections. We also did a specific session for VP Activities based on feedback from forum.
- Met with a couple of societies surrounding their concerns about engagement and AGMS etc. Was nice to chat and reassure them that they're not alone. Gave advice on what they can try in the meantime, and also that the SU will be working on how we can support AGMS and committees into the coming year.
- Have been working with the sabbatical team on a couple of projects – graduation speeches, hardship fund video, and library face masks video. In our team meetings we have also discussed our approach for the meetings with the VC and DVC and the Board of Governors.
- Normal trustee meetings have been taking place and we were given a review from the auditors. Antony is also looking at changing how we run our SU sub committees and their membership.