

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 International Students Officer - Gem Evelyn Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender + (LGBT+) Officer – Sam Prichard Mature Students Officer – Martin Nicholls 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	Plymouth Business School – Charlie Atkinson School of Biomedical Sciences – Libby M School of Engineering, Computing, & Mathematics – Vivian Hocking Deputy School of Geography, Earth & Environmental Sciences – Charlotte Mclellen School of Psychology – Tafadzwa Nyambuya School of Law, Criminology & Government Representative – India Ellis School of Nursing and Midwifery – Maeve Hoey School of Art, Design & Architecture – Cat Dodd
Sabbatical Officers, full voting rights	VP Wellbeing and Diversity – Fawziyyah Ahmed VP Activities – Verity Lemm VP Education - Emi Dowse
Other attendees, without voting rights	Chair of Accountability Board - Alex Jobling UPSU Interim Chief Executive – Antony Blackshaw Representation and Democracy Manager – Tracy Priestman (Minute Taker) Representation and Democracy Co-ordinator – Steph Martin Representation and Democracy Co-ordinator – Emma Quinn Vacant Roles Accountability Board Members

Apologies	<p>Peninsula Dental School – Alastair Campbell School of Geography, Earth & Environmental Sciences – Izzy Haines UPSU President – Chukwudi Ezenyi (KC)</p>
Not present at the meeting and did not send apologies	<p>Institute of Education – Jenna Johnson Peninsula Medical School – Emily Schenk School of Biological & Marine Sciences – Georgia Small School of Health Professions – Simrandeep Kaur School of Humanities & Performing Arts – Bethany Hensman Academic Officer – Katherine Collins Faith & Belief Officer – Alex Butters Students with Disabilities Officer - Will Robinson</p>
Quoracy	<p>In order for a motion to be passed 75% of the elected voting members need to be present, quoracy was 23 and was not reached.</p> <p>It was agreed that absent members should be given the opportunity to vote via email after the meeting.</p>

Minutes	
Welcome	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone in attendance and noted that quoracy had not been met.</p> <p>It was agreed that absent members should be given the opportunity to vote via email after the meeting.</p>
Matters from the Last meeting	<p>There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.</p>
Accuracy of minutes	<p>Taku Mawera, Part-time BAME Officer noted that they had spoken at length on a matter impacting them and that the point they were making was diluted as the minutes did not include all of what they said, word for word.</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting</p>

<p>Notice of Any Other Business</p>	<p>Vivian Hocking, Verity Lemm gave notice of items prior to the meeting. Tafadzwa Nyambuya, Takudzwa Mawera and Jonah Zalick gave notice of one item each.</p> <p>Jonah, Zalick, Part-time Trans and Non-Binary explained that a new support group has been created, find out more at https://linktr.ee/plymuni.trans. An Instagram profile has been created for Trans, Non-Binary, questioning students and allies. Follow at plymuni.trans.</p> <p>Tafadzwa Nyambuya, School of Psychology Rep asked for an update on the accommodation refund situation as it has been raised within the school. Tafadzwa added that it would be beneficial to have a breakdown of how fees are spent and more transparency would help to address some of the questions students have.</p> <p>Taku Mawera, Part-time BAME Officer gave notice of an item. Given their election experiences they would like to discuss the powers the Accountability Board have and what the disciplinary measures would be in Union Council members were behaving in an inappropriate way. Also the issue of conflict of interest if they are associated with Union Council members from a friendship perspective.</p>
<p>Matters to Discuss</p>	<p>Men's Wellbeing Policy - Appendix 1</p> <p>Will Styles, Part-time Postgraduate Officer gave the speech for the Men's Wellbeing Policy Proposal. Will explained that the proposal is to address issues of welfare with a targeted approach towards male and male associated identities and that it is not a liberation platform. This means that any students can occupy the role and get involved.</p> <p>Will noted that the Part-time Women's, Trans and Non-Binary and LGBT+ Officers were involved in discussion about this proposal which includes a clause in the resolves; that at least one of those role would need to work in collaboration with the Men's Welfare role on campaigns for at least the first year. It is hoped that this will set a precedent of strong collaboration between the roles and to define the remit and scope for the role.</p> <p>Will referred to a talk he gave titled 'Working together for Success' which explained how it is only through collaboration we can achieve lasting social change. Will noted that there has been a significant amount of student support, input and feedback into this policy proposal, in addition to a survey conducted last year with the former VP Wellbeing and Diversity Sabbatical Officer which is linked in the references.</p>

Will acknowledged that there is still some debate on how best to address men's issues and where the source of those issues lies, which is beyond the scope of this discussion, but it needed to be recognised that there are issues which affect male identities and that there is an opportunity for students to campaign against these issues, whatever they may be.

As engaged student representatives Will asked Council members to think about the impact one role can have and he would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns.

Maeve Hoey, School of Nursing and Midwifery Rep, asked how this role differs from the Welfare role that currently exists.

Will Styles responded that this role is about targeting issues affecting males and male identities. One of the main outputs from the survey conducted last year was that male students feel that issues impacting them were often overlooked and that perception needs to be tackled head on.

Taku Mawera, Part-time BAME Officer agreed with the policy proposal as these issues do need tackling but noted, as pointed out by Maeve, there is already a Welfare Officer role and if anyone is able to be elected to the role, what stops a women from speaking on these targeted male issues. There is already a Women's Officer position and a male currently holds the Welfare role.

Will agreed that there could be women students who have a lot of input to have on men's welfare issues which is why this proposal allows for a woman to stand for the role and that input is embraced.

Owain Gullam, Part-time Welfare Officer explained that there is nothing mandating the Welfare Officer to do the work mandated by this role, should it be passed. Owain noted that they work within their manifesto and with what their predecessor did. Attending the meetings that they are invited to and speaking on the things that both they and the students that speak to them would like them to raise. The things in this policy do not always come up. If this was introduced in a liberation format, it would stop any student from standing for the role but it is not.

Verity Lemm, VP Activities agreed it is a really important subject that needs to be addressed and dealt with properly, that is not in dispute but wondered why it doesn't fall within the Welfare role. This raises the question if all of the roles functioning as they should be. It is not sustainable to keep creating new roles if existing ones are not picking up what should be part of their remit. There are many groups of students that need welfare support and new ones cannot keep being created.

Will Styles responded that it is an important point to raise and explained that one of the strengths of the welfare role is that it is so broad and it has been

identified that this is an issue that often slips through the net. When it is addressed it is largely the whim of whoever occupies the welfare role that could address it. Students have highlighted that they would like more than just a whim, they would like a targeted, dedicated role to consistently address these issues and that's where the gap is and this role fills that gap perfectly.

Martin Nicholls. Part-time Mature Students Officer explained that as Will was writing this they were also looking into writing the same proposal and speaking to people about why women and trans and non-binary people need this role.

Martin understood the idea of why people are questioning why it is not the remit of the Welfare role and noted it is very specific, targeted idea which needs an individual to consider issues that affect a number of demographics. Martin said that many of the trans and non-binary people that they had spoken to wanted a men's officer role because they believed that there are issues that affect them and they don't have anyone to go to on the Union Council that might represent them as an individual.

In response to the question of why do we need to create another role, Martin questioned what would be lost if another role was created, it is more representation for students, they are a volunteer and not paid, more representation is only a good thing.

Maeve Hoey noted that, in a time where women are currently dying on the streets and there are people having to fight for women's issues, they did not think that right now was the right timing for the creation of a men's officer and queried how it will go down with the general population of the university. They understood why it is needed and acknowledged that men's mental health is a massive issue, they are currently training to become a mental health nurse, but at the current time, society needs to be considered and the number of people that could be offended by mandating a men's officer when there are so many women's issues currently happening in the world.

Will Styles agreed that there are some very important women's issues going on, particularly now and they are glad there is a dedicated, liberation, women's officer to promote these. Regarding how it would be perceived within the student population, the feedback has been overwhelming positive, in the region of 99.9% approval of those students canvassed, with over 500 students canvassed so far.

Will did not see that there would be a significant backlash and referenced the success of the Men's Welfare role at UWE for proof of success. The role at UWE is now in its third year of running. The role was a two year trial which has been extended and it has been successful in supporting men's mental health. Will noted that there are a lot of issues and it is important that we do not detract from women and it is an important distinction that this is not a liberation role.

Gem Evelyn, Part-time International Students Officer commented that the fact that people can see that there is much to gain by having the role is enough to push it through. In terms of it being a specific role that students can go to as they feel more comfortable going to that person, through shared characteristics or experience is more beneficial. The more opportunities that there are for students to have several options of who to approach with their issues is beneficial so they can connect with who they feel comfortable to approach. Women have a specific role to progress their issues but at the moment there is not a specific role for men.

Viv Hocking, School of Computing, Engineering and Maths explained that this is an issue that has come up at Union Council previously and, for whatever reason, prior Union Councils keep batting it away. Viv thought that was a mistake and the fact that it keeps coming up shows that within the community is a need and a desire for this role.

Viv added In order to bring this proposal to Union Council there were a required number of signatures, in excess of 180, to enable it to be discussed at Union Council, 1% of the students population have said, unequivocally that they want this role.

Viv also noted that the members of Council are elected to represent students and not their own person views and by giving their signatures, students have told Union Council what they want, they want the role. Will pointed out in the chat there were 270 signatures on the current petition.

Viv continued to say that outside of the university if someone accesses counselling, the first question that they get asked is if they would like to speak to a male or female counsellor. So it is recognised that someone seeking support needs to speak to somebody that they identify with or that they feel comfortable with. Within the current system, to the best of their knowledge, there are no male counsellors or Advice Centre workers. As a university there are no avenues for male students seeking support that they can identify with or relate to and that needs to exist.

Viv noted that they had discussed this with their housemate who questioned why there is not a men's officer if there is a women's officer as the whole point of feminism is to be equal. It is not just men that are signing that petition. Viv responded to the question of who will be offended by having the role and asked who would be offended by not having the role, it works both ways.

Will Styles responded to the comments about male counsellors. There is a male counsellor and they are lovely, however there were previously two and that allowed the facilitation of the men's discussion group which was launched after the success of the women's group. Unfortunately it is not possible to run it with

only one counsellor. The lack of males in those roles is in part due to only a small number of men choosing that career pathway.

Will agreed that there are a lot of concerns and acknowledged that it is a contentious issue. Will welcomed amendments to the proposal so that it can work for everyone. It is what level that happens at, or the specific nature of the role, which is up for debate and Will considered the current suggestion of a Men's Welfare Officer to be a nice middle ground. It's not a Men's Officer, it is not a liberation role, but it is something and it offers a way to see if it could work.

Taku Mawera noted that previous Union Council members have batted the idea away on the basis that men are not a protected group under the Equalities Act and in 2017 Lowri Jones, previous UPSU President, said that the idea of what is being discussed at Union Council, a men's forum, was a group of men that are gathering to discuss sick ideals of what it means to be men, according to an article in Huffington Post.

On this basis Taku questioned what would happen if whoever was elected to the role had a political ideals that were not desirable and started discriminating and unsightly ideologies were perpetuated by that individual. What vetting methods can be used to ensure that this does not happen?

Tafadzwa Nyambuya, School of Psychology Rep reminded Union Council that just because there are elected liberation officers in the SU it should not be assumed that their voices are being heard as they should be, across the university there is still a lot of work to be done. This is a great idea to represent men but there are existing roles that can lobby to ensure that men's voices are being heard, to campaign and advocate for men to be open and to speak about their issue. The wider implications of the additional role need to be considered.

Will Styles answered that other roles covering the responsibility for men's welfare relies on those individuals to take an interest and this cannot be depended upon each year. The only way to consistently target an issue is to have a mandate for a role to do so. Will did not think that this role would detract from any others and considered that it actually seeks to keep those other roles on a pedestal.

Will commented that the best way to open up and allow men to share their thoughts is to give a platform to these issues. The former university men's discussion group felt that they needed permission to open up and to speak about their issues and struggles. Men typically open up when and atmosphere is created to do that and someone opens up first and expresses that vulnerability. The male psyche generally seems to feel like it needs permission and this is an opportunity to address that.

Will added that regarding unsafe views or unsavoury ideals, there are mechanisms within the SU to deal with this and those systems are robust. Will did recognise that concern which is why the clause has been added that, for the first year, all campaigns need to be run alongside the listed roles.

Jess Andrews-Smith noted, as mentioned a few times, the role will be open to both men and women to run for. Viv touched on that men need someone to talk to about their concerns and having a male in this role would be beneficial.

Having also spoken to a few people about the role, they said they would be a lot more comfortable if it were a male in the role, than a female. Although, a woman may still have the exact same concerns and same passion, having a male in the role, males would be more likely to open up and discuss their concerns.

Martin Nicholls pointed out that the issues that this role would be addressing are personal things. Martin assisted in setting up one of the first Andy's Man Clubs in the UK, a place where men can meet talk about issues experience by men. Martin explained that there is a reluctance by men to discuss mental health which is feeding into the current mental health crisis. One of the Andy's Man Clubs Martin was aware of was headed up by a woman and none of the men attending those sessions cared she was a woman, all they cared about was the fact that she deeply cared.

Martin added that there are comments about why this is not already being done, which is a great question. People get defensive when you put man in front of something which is a fair point. This role is a men's welfare role, it is solely dedicated to the wellbeing of men. Union Council have the opportunity to say that we care enough to create a role specifically designed to look after you and pave the way for other universities to do the same thing.

Will Styles gave a closing statement. Will pointed out that male students are more likely to gravitate towards that position and it would be likely, more often than not, that it will be filled by a male students. However, Will did not think it would be a good idea to exclude non CIS males and other broader definition males from running for that role, as other identities have a lot of input on these issues from all perspectives.

Will acknowledged that there are concerns and is open to amendments to address them. Support from students has been immense in the past and Will wanted to do right by those students who expressed an overwhelming agreement for this role.

The Chair explained that as the meeting was not quorate they were happy to take votes from absent members by email after the meeting.

For: 8

Against: 3

Abstentions : 9

Absent Union Council members were given 5 working days to cast their vote via email, final voting numbers reached quoracy.

For: 11

Against: 3

Abstentions: 10

Safe Spaces Policy Proposal – Appendix 2

Owain Gullam, Part-time Welfare Officer gave an overview of the proposal and explained that it had started off as a manifesto point whilst running in the recent elections as Sabbatical Officer. Many women involved in sports clubs wanted more dedicated women's time but upon further investigation there were wider issues of the UPSU Safe Space Policy being out of date and not easy to engage so this policy addresses that.

Verity Lemm, VP Activities noted that she had discussed this with Owain. The SU have previously tried to run various women only sessions in the gym through different campaigns and for a number of varying reasons they have not worked as intended. Verity explained that she supported the motion but it needed to be acknowledged that a one size fits all approach is not the answer.

Owain Gullam commented that the reason why the suggested trial period is so extensive is so that the right approach can be finessed and mistakes can be identified to allow for the right approach to be found.

Martin Nicholls, Part-time Mature Students Officer questioned if there was an evidence or instances in the SU gym where people have felt uncomfortable, as noted in Union Believes part 7 of the proposal.

Owain Gullam said that he did not have evidence and could not speak to how all people using the SU gym felt but that was one of the comments that came back from clubs when doing manifesto research and speaking on this issue. Owain added that as a student gym it may be different from other commercial gyms.

Libby, School of Biomedical Sciences Rep asked what ideas Owain had for safe spaces in gyms.

Owain Gullam responded that clubs use other spaces as well as the gym and there are opportunities for other groups and demographics to benefit from this policy also. Owain noted the need to learn from all these groups about how they operate and what can be implemented to support them.

Verity Lemm explained that the SU gym is small and underused so there is no data, this serves to highlight the main issue, that it is underused and that more information is needed about how best to support students.

Taku Mawera, Part-time BAME Officer noted the point that negative stimulus can take place in a gym and asked what steps will be taken to address that, what will the complaints process be?

Owain Gullam thought that the process currently would depend on what the nature of the issue was, concerns would probably be investigated and dealt with accordingly. The Safe Space Policy review would address what the process is and how to access that process. The Safe Space Policy needs work and accessibility needs to be addressed

Martin Nicholls pointed out that the SU gym is old, expensive, out of date, it smells funny, booking is online, limited to an hour and you only get 50 minutes. It is currently running in a way that people don't want and don't need.

Owain Gullam thought that if the gym did take its time to review how it operates as part of this then it could lead the way of how to operate across the city.

Viv Hocking, School of Computing, Engineering and Maths noted that he had not been in the gym for a long time but agreed that it was not suitable. There is not a lot of equipment, what is there is largely cardio. Viv wondered if perhaps this can also be addressed and added that some students do prefer the SU gym due to the location.

Owain Gullam thanked Union Council for their feedback and hoped that if spaces can be made more accessible, they will be more widely used which will allow for more investment and changes over time.

The Chair called for Union Council to vote on the policy proposal. Due to the meeting not being quorate, absent members will be asked to vote via email following the meeting.

For: 19
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

Absent Union Council members were given 5 working days to cast their vote via email, final voting numbers reached quoracy.

For: 23
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

Accountability Board Policy Proposal – see appendix 3

Emi Dowse, VP Education gave an overview of the policy proposal and explained that currently the Union Council Bye-law states that no person can hold more than one seat on Union Council at a time but this does not currently include, Accountability Board members. By having a person which is a School Rep, Part-time Officer or Deputy whilst also being a member of the Accountability Board, they cannot effectively hold themselves to account.

Emi Dowse clarified that the policy was in no way a response to the members of the current Accountability Board, there are no issues with the Board, nor have any complaints been received. This proposal is to make democratic processes more robust and resolves to include a new point that School Reps, Part-time Officer or their Deputies cannot also be members of the Accountability Board.

Martin Nicholls, Part-time Mature Students Officer noted that Emi said about a robust scrutiny mechanism and queried if any students had been consulted about the proposal as it states that the other Sabbatical Officers have been consulted, none of which are students.

Martin added that it had also been said that it has nothing to do with the current members of the Accountability Board, two of whom are also School Reps. They are probably the most active School Reps who are doing jobs that probably should be being done by the Sabbatical Officer team. Martin questioned if there had ever been a time that has come out of this when someone hasn't been held to account because what is being suggested is that the two most active School Reps stand down from their position because they might not hold themselves to account, even though that has never been demonstrated.

Emi Dowse responded that it has not been done in the past as this issue has not arisen before. Emi reiterated that this is nothing against the current School Reps, they are amazing but they cannot hold themselves accountable, you just can't do that if you are in that role. If passed this would be moving forward in the next election. Both Viv and India are great but they are not going to be in these roles forever and its making sure that the roles can be as efficient and as effective as possible.

Emi added that this proposal ensures that when students do come to question something, they will not be questioning the effectiveness of the Accountability Board or it's members. Students have not expressly been consulted as it is a minor change to a bye-law and is not the sort of policy that students would be consulted about. A policy proposal is not really the correct format for these kinds of issues but lacking any other mechanism, this is how it is done.

Owain Gullam, Part-time Welfare Officer asked if Emi spoke to either the Union Council Chair or the Accountability Board Chair about this as they have insight

on how the Bye-law or Accountability Board works, Owain also pointed out that a conflict of interest can be declared at any time.

Emi Dowse hoped that they would declare a conflict of interest, she acknowledged that she hadn't specifically spoken to them but Student Voice has previously spoken to them about this and Emi would be happy to speak to them about it. It is not about the people currently in place, it's about who it could be in the future and them being about to do it effectively.

Owain Gullam added that if the policy existed before this year, the work that Viv and India have done on the board would not have been possible, at least not by them. There are nine seats and we only have four, previously two. We are trying to increase engagement but at the same time closing opportunities for engagement. This would make it harder to get involved, maybe in the future when engagement is increased then it might make sense.

Verity Lemm, VP Activities commented that as a group of Sabbatical Officers, the student body would not expect them to hold each other to account amongst themselves. They have elected the Sabbs and Sabbatical Officers need to be held accountable. It is the same for Part-time roles, everyone is elected by students and there needs to be a robust place to hold them to account.

Verity noted that she was not disputing that it may be shutting doors, there has been some fantastic work done this year and it may take a while to engage members but, at the end of the day, reps are elected by the student body and there needs to be a robust accountability process. Unfortunately, it is not robust if there is an overlap to the people that hold the roles.

Alex Jobling, Chair of the Accountability Board noted that Owain Gullam had already said some of the things that he was going to mention. The role of the Accountability Board isn't necessarily to hold to account the part-time roles, it is a role assumed in the Bye-laws. There were two members of the Board at the start of the year, one Chair and one member. Roles of the Accountability Board are restricted if there are fewer than five members.

Robert Nutkins, Chair of Union Council noted that the Bye-law states that if there are less than five members then the powers of the Board for that year are decided by the Board of Trustees.

Alex Jobling noted that the two members tried their best and then the Board gained Viv and India who are both great in their roles and are an asset to the Board and the Council as a whole. Alex noted that they had never heard about the Board until a member of Union Council explained about how there was not a Board last year. Alex expressed concern about the future of the Board. In principle they agreed with the motion but in practice the membership of the Board is such that it has been restricted, it is not the ten person Board as it

should be. Alex added there are only a small percentage of students that care what Union Council does.

Verity Lemm noted that she understood all the points that Alex made but thought that having a robust system where elected reps are held to account, and issues of engagement are separate issues and we need to consider how we effectively improve engagement. Encouraging people to engage should not be a reason for having less robust accountability processes. Both are important but they are separate issues and we need to work on both.

Taku Mawera, Part-time BAME Student Officer noted that they agree with the proposal in principle but engagement has always been an issue, Taku noted that they wanted to run for the role but no-one else was bothered to run for the role so there was no Board that year. A lot of people are saying they did not know there was even a Board until they were elected. There needs to be more signposting and active advertisement of facilities in the SU which needs to be tackled first and this can be implemented when the time is right. Taku did not think it would work well at this time, but overall it is a good thing.

Taku added that a lot of students hear the phrase Accountability Board and think that these are the people to go to deal with these issues. Taku noted that there is a Speak Up tool, in their experience it does not sit well with them when something happens in your own house and that is not dealt with, the individuals issues are not dealt with and delegated elsewhere. To that individual it looks like you have said that this is your issue, you deal with it.

Taku continued to say that as members of this Union Council we naturally expect respect from each other and to make each other comfortable. From their experience in the last election cycle they have not seen that and do not know the reason why. They addressed the correct channels and were told that there was a conflict of interest.

Taku did express concern that if conduct of Union Council members is not addressed effectively, there is space for an individuals politics or character to shape what they do and that can impact on others mental health and wellbeing. This needs to be looked at as the powers of Accountability need to be executed.

Robert Nutkins, Chair of Union Council noted that the discussion is moving away from the topic and asked to move back to the Policy.

Viv Hocking, School of Computing, Engineering and Maths and member of the Accountability Board apologised both personally and on behalf of the Board if Taku felt they had been let down. Viv explained that the role of the Accountability Board is not to mediate disputes between individuals or to solve interpersonal problems. The role of the Accountability Board is to ensure that people elected to their roles are conducting themselves according to the

mandate to which they have been elected and to monitor policies which have been passed.

Viv explained that a conflict of interest was declared concerning the matter which has been referred to. There will be times within the community where conflicts of interest will occur and people will need to excuse themselves accordingly. However, the issue which is being referred to comes under the Members Disciplinary By-law.

Where somebody feels they have been attacked or harassed that is beyond the remit of the Accountability Board, of students volunteering to represent students. That is an issue that Union needs to deal with under the Members Disciplinary By-law, or worse, under the university code of conduct. Viv noted that they have previously referred Taku to the relevant processes, as have others.

Gem Evelyn, Part-time International Students Officer queried their understanding that the members of the Accountability Board assist the Chair of the Accountability Board in holding people accountable. The only issue with this paper would be for the Chair to hold both Union Council and Chair role, members holding both part-time roles and Accountability positions would be okay in their opinion.

Emi Dowse noted that it has not been made clear in the proposal that when the Bye-laws were written, by saying that no member should hold more than one seat on Union Council, that included the Accountability Board, it just wasn't specifically stated. This policy is being proposed to fix that loop hole that was never intended to be there. Emi added that she hears what is being said about Accountability Board not having enough members and a lack of engagement and that is a separate issue that can be worked on.

The Chair called for a vote and noted that absent members will be asked to vote following the meeting as quoracy has not been met.

For: 10
Against: 5
Abstentions: 3

Absent Union Council members were given 5 working days to cast their vote via email, final voting numbers did not reach quoracy which was 23.

For: 12
Against: 5
Abstentions: 5

Student Trustee Increase Policy Proposal – see appendix 4

	<p>In the absence of KC who had proposed the policy, Emi Dowse, VP Education explained that this was discussed as part of the proposals at the ASM. At the ASM it was agreed to amend the Memorandum and Articles of Association to remove the numbers of each Trustee type. It was further agreed that a formal proposal to increase the number of Student Trustees from two to four would be put to Union Council.</p> <p>Verity Lemm, VP Activities added that when the Sabb roles merged part of the agreement for that to happen was to increase the number of Student Trustees on the Board to keep the levels of student representation. Only two Trustees were recruited last year as, due to timing, the changes could not be made in time to still take advantage of being able to promote to students in term time. Emi Dowse added that this has been voted in at the ASM so it just need to be formalised here at Union Council.</p> <p>Martin Nicholls, Part-time Mature Students Officer noted the proposer of the motion is not here and asked if this had been proposed by a member of staff.</p> <p>Verity Lemm acknowledged that the Sabbatical Officers do speak to staff about many things but reassured Union Council that this has come directly from Sabbs and that discussion was led by Officers on the Trustee Board when the roles merged. It will only benefit students to have another two student representatives on the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>The Chair noted that absent members will be asked to vote by email following the meeting</p> <p>For:18 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1</p> <p>Absent Union Council members were given 5 working days to cast their vote via email, final voting numbers reached quoracy. For: 22 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1</p>
AOB	<p>The Chair noted that due to the time taken to debate policy proposals there will not be sufficient time to complete the remaining agenda items and that a follow up meeting to discuss these matters will be called.</p> <p><u>Logo competition</u></p>

Verity Lemm noted that the AOB they had to raise was concerning the logo competition for the Sports Logo redesign, please do consider entering and sharing.

Bar re-open

It was also noted that the Bar is open again, it is on the rooftop only for the time being and social distancing rules are still in place.

Debating time lost

Martin Nicholls noted that time had been lost to discussing a personal grievance and that time should have been spent discussing policy. Martin noted that this also happened at the previous meeting and something should be done to stop it in future. Martin asked if there is there any way to politely cut people off when they go off topic.

Robert Nutkins, Union Council Chair noted that the Chair can move debate along and Alex Jobling, Chair of the Accountability Board added that they can also make that recommendation.

Robert Nutkins noted that they are conscious of directing topics of discussion or censoring individuals and they believe in freedom of speech and ability of all members to say what they would like., Alex Jobling agreed.

Robert further explained that there is a need to consider that strong feelings can manifest during discussion and they feel that it is not up to them to decide what is relevant or what is not. Alex Jobling added that whilst the discussion may not be primary to the discussion, it can made an extra point to the overall debate.

Tafadzwa Nyambuya, School of Psychology Rep thought that asking if there is any way to cut people off when they are sharing their experience, this has been spoken about at this meeting before, about invalidating people's feelings as if it doesn't matter. At the end of the day when the point was made, it was valid to what was being discussed and when it did go off topic, the Chair did say it was time to move on. It should not be the case that people should be cut off just because some people maybe are not interested in what that individual was saying.

Viv Hocking noted it was incredibly inappropriate that this conversation is happening as if the individual concerned is not still in the meeting. If people do have any feedback of this nature, it should be emailed to Student Voice after the meeting.

Viv Hocking also added that they kept quiet during the conversation about the Trustee Board and thanked people for their comments, they have enjoyed working with Verity and Emi this year and did not feel attacked or under duress by the policy or the discussion. They were aware that the policy was coming and

had had the conversation with Student Voice at the outset of running for the roles.

Follow-on meeting

On the 5th May Union Council held a follow-on meeting to discuss the items of AOB that remained from the meeting of 20th April.

Viv Hocking, School of Computing, Engineering and Maths Rep and Accountability Board Member raised an item regarding the Annual Student Meeting (ASM)

Viv explained that the format of the meeting was Zoom webinar and, as such, only the panellists that are active on screen are visible. At a time when conversations have been about the issue getting students to engage and participate, Viv thought that the ASM should have been meeting format and not webinar.

Viv appreciated the concerns around managing a meeting with a large number of attendees but considered that it is possible to do that successfully in a meeting format.

Viv continued to say that another issue was that a member of Union Council felt that they had been censored during that meeting and had their question muted without it being responded to. Viv pointed out that the interim CEO has said in this meeting, that the level of disconnect he sees between Council and UPSU is the worst he has seen in his time working with unions and this needs to be addressed.

Viv commented that Union Council are here to represent students and if UPSU is worrying about optics and how something looks then something is wrong, that was not a representative meeting, it was a presentation and failed to achieve what it set out to do.

Will Styles, Part-time Postgraduate Officer explained that it was his question which was muted. Will noted that they had raised this matter outside of Union Council and were happy with how its been dealt with. It was a frustrating issue and when questions are asked, they should have answers.

Tracy Priestman, Representation and Democracy Manager explained that they had spoken to both Viv and Will as well as the Accountability Board outside of the meeting and have taken considerable feedback from all parties. This will be taken on board and considered in future for all engagement opportunities.

Tracy apologised if students had felt that it was not the right decision that the ASM was a webinar and noted the decision was made based on limited knowledge and experience of running large digital meetings.

	<p>Viv also noted that they thought that the presence of Jackie Weaver was aimed at the wrong demographic and said that the discourse that it caused was not positive and did not encourage engagement. Students do not get engaged in the SU because they want to get involved in local politics. Viv expressed disappointment that it missed the mark badly about what is important to students.</p> <p>Emma Quinn, Representation and Engagement Co-ordinator explained that other students had given positive feedback regarding hearing about Jackie Weavers' experience and being able to ask questions. That students had enjoyed having the opportunity to hear about the experience of a woman in that political field and someone that had been under intense public scrutiny. There was a demographic of students that did find that interaction beneficial and even if it was a light-hearted introduction, the conversation that it produced was valuable to some students.</p> <p>There was one other item from the previous meeting requested by Takudzwa Mawera, however, as they were not present it was not discussed. They are able to raise it at the next meeting should they wish.</p> <p>Fawziyyah Ahmed, VP Wellbeing and Diversity explained that they will be running a 'Stressless' campaign along with Emi Dowse, VP Education and invited Union Council members to get involved. The campaign will share resources to students to reduce stress during the assessment period.</p>
<p>Reports</p>	<p>UPSU update</p>
	<p>Antony Blackshaw gave a brief update that the financial position has stabilised at a level better than initially anticipated. The tender for testing on campus which was awarded to the SU has been extremely successful, as a result the contract has been extended until the end of June which will bring in a substantial amount to offset the deficit due to COVID.</p> <p>Antony noted that the sense of separation between Union Council and SU operations is stronger here than anywhere else they have previously worked. Antony explained that it is a perception and not a reality and it is really important that Union Council understand that elected reps have the authority to say that things are not good enough and expect there to be a response. Antony said they would be happy to be involved in these conversations.</p> <p>Antony added that UPSU know the gym is not where it needs to be, some of that is regarding the state of the facilities when it was taken over and plans are in place to improve. Antony would be happy for Velu, Director of Commercial Services to attend Union Council and hear feedback about the gym.</p>

	<p>Antony explained that the changes to the M&A's are being prepared to go to the university Board of Governors in May and back to the SU Board of Trustees and off to the Charity Commission, all in place for next year.</p> <p>Also, the university are projecting a substantial uplift in student numbers which will mean an uplift in block grant which is linked to student numbers.</p> <p>Antony also reported that the bar and gym are open and the CEO Advert will be published next week.</p>
Next Meeting	Thursday 3rd June 2021

Appendix 1 – Men' Wellbeing Policy Proposal



Men's Wellbeing Policy Proposal

Contact details	
Your name (Proposer of the policy)	William Styles
Your email	william.styles@students.plymouth.ac.uk
The name of a person who supports the policy (Seconder of the policy)	Niall Hamilton, Martin Nicholls
Seconder's email	niall.hamilton@students.plymouth.ac.uk martin.nicholls-6@students.plymouth.ac.uk
Student Impact	
Have you consulted students about your proposal? Please explain how many students you have engaged with and how.	<p>202 sample students 2020 113 self-identified male students 2019 294 sample students 2016</p> <p>Surveys conducted on top of SU at lunch times (pre-covid)</p>

How does your proposal impact the students at the University of Plymouth, what difference will it make to students?

-Affords designated role for issues and campaigns
-Be a signpost and beacon for recognition of male wellbeing
-Improve reporting, monitoring, and campaigning on welfare issues

Policy Proposal

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

1. Research shows that men can face specific challenges in terms of mental health.
2. Men are two thirds less likely to report difficulties and access help than women. Cultural stigma is cited as the leading cause of male silence.
3. Male University attendance in Plymouth and Nationally has been dropping (by percentage) across the last decade, as has attainment, while drop outs and male students' suicides continue to rise.
4. Male domestic abuse statistics show a rise across the nation currently at 22% (23% in Devon & Cornwall)
5. of 203 Plymouth Students (2020);
-99% of male presenting students support the creation of a Part-Time Men's role
-100% of female presenting students support the creation of a Part-Time Men's role
6. of 113 Plymouth Students (2019);
-Plymouth male students are unsure if their wellbeing is valued.
-Plymouth male students feel men's mental health is overlooked.
-While over 85% of Plymouth male students have recognised poor mental health in a fellow male student, only two thirds felt the person recognised it within themselves with 1 in 5 not knowing anything that could be done.
-20% of Plymouth male students have been victims of domestic abuse
7. of 294 Plymouth Students (2016);
-96% of female presenting students support the creation of a Part-Time Men's role
-99% of male students presenting support the creation of a Part-Time Men's role

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

1. Men on campus are in need of long term, dedicated and targeted action to address the lack of engagement and reporting to student services.

2. Men on campus are in a declining state of wellbeing and in need of considerable support and help to address current trends both in their own wellbeing and in the wellbeing of those their behaviour effects.
3. The stigma issues are largely cultural and will take large-scale long-term activity to shift.

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

1. An addition of the role “Part-Time Men’s Welfare Officer” to 2.1.3 of UPSU Governing Documents Union Council Bye Law
2. To be of non-liberation format such that any and all students may occupy the role and vote on matters.
3. To be mandated to run all campaign for it’s first year of existence in collaboration with at least 1 of the following; the Part-Time Transgender & Non-Binary Officer, Part-Time Women’s Officer, Part-Time LGBT+ Officer, and the Part-Time Welfare Officer. This is to promote a high standard and set a precedent year of collaborative action.

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.mankind.org.uk/statistics/>

<https://www.studentminds.org.uk/mensmentalhealth.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6560805/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/talking-about-men/201808/mens-mental-health-campus-breaking-the-silence>

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1h8IdleBMz7Td92HcEom9oZ1MOU0g4UpXtB7prNUM_jQ/edit#gid=0

https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/uploads/production/document/path/13/13913/Annual_Equality_Report_201718.pdf

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/gender-gap-university-applications-high-men-women-ucas-figures-students-a8191491.html>

[Engaging men to stand up to violence and harassment \(endvawnow.org\)](#)

[jrssa2001.pdf \(warwick.ac.uk\)](#)

Appendix 2 - Safe Spaces Policy Proposal

Contact details	
Your name (Proposer of the policy)	Owain Gullam
Your email	owain.gullam@students.plymouth.ac.uk
The name of a person who supports the policy (Seconder of the policy)	William Styles Jessica Andrews-Smith
Seconder's email	william.styles@students.plymouth.ac.uk jessica.andrews-smith@students.plymouth.ac.uk

Student Impact	
Have you consulted students about your proposal? Please explain how many students you have engaged with and how.	Being a candidate in the recent elections and turning in 450+ votes with multiple clubs and societies only getting involved because of this policy idea.
How does your proposal impact the students at the University of Plymouth, what difference will it make to students?	<p>This policy aims to ensure all spaces on our campus are safe for everyone, especially to encourage better engagement in sport.</p> <p>Sport and physical activity decreases stress, anxiety and health risks, whilst increasing productivity happiness. All students should feel they have unvetted access to these benefits.</p> <p>A review of the safe space policy would ensure that considering recent events, and changes to the law, everything that can be perceived as intimidation is included in the mitigation of this policy.</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. That access to the gym is limited, especially during COVID-19 with restrictions that vary. 2. UPSU's Safe Space Policy is out of date as of December 2017. 3. UPSU's Safe Space Policy states "We recognise discrimination can occur wherever it is not consciously challenged".

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

1. That all places on campus should not just be safe but also feel safe.
2. That gyms and spaces for exercise can be an environment where inappropriate behaviours can manifest.
3. The gym can be an intimidating place for many individuals and demographics, for many complex reasons.
4. That everyone should have opportunity and encouragement to utilise our facilities.
5. That exercise is increasingly important to everyone's mental wellbeing and shouldn't be impinged by societal norms.
6. That no one group or demographic should be held responsible for the pressures that people feel when entering environments like the gym.
7. That gyms are opportunities for certain minorities (in that field) to feel/be more oppressed, making them potentially unsafe places.

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

1. To review the safe space policy to ensure that it is up to date and inclusive of all UPSU areas.
2. To ensure that the review is accessible to all members of UPSU and highlighted everywhere it is deemed necessary so that appropriate feedback from UC and students is gathered.
3. To ensure we as a union are continuously highlighting ways that unwanted/unacceptable behaviour can be reported, especially in places such as the gym.
4. To ensure action is taken when those reports are made, in every environment.
5. To advise the UPSU gym schedules new classes and specific hours marketed towards liberation groups, after running extensive trials and research between September 2021-June 2022.*

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

* Trials & research which will give ample opportunity for this policy to work and give times to find different ways of implementing potential solutions.

<https://wonkhe.com/blogs/its-time-to-assure-students-about-safety-on-campus/>

Appendix 3 – Accountability Board Policy Proposal



Accountability Board Policy Proposal

Contact details	
Your name (Proposer of the policy)	Emi Dowse
Your email	Emilia.dowse@su.plymouth.ac.uk
The name of a person who supports the policy (Secunder of the policy)	Chukwudi Ezenyi, Fawziyyah Ahmed, Verity Lemm
Secunder's email	chukwudi.ezenyi@su.plymouth.ac.uk fawziyyah.ahmed@su.plymouth.ac.uk verity.lemm@su.plymouth.ac.uk

Student Impact	
Have you consulted students about your proposal? Please explain how many students you have engaged with and how.	I have consulted the other Sabbatical Officers in their role as student representatives.
How does your proposal impact the students at the University of Plymouth, what difference will it make to students?	More robust, democratic, student led accountability and scrutiny mechanisms will lead to the student body having greater confidence in democratic processes and be more likely raise their concerns.

Policy Proposal
The Union Notes (Facts) This section should include facts, not reflection or opinions. Please provide references where possible.
1 The Union Council Bye-law states that;

- 1.1 ... No Student Member (as defined in Part 11 of the Articles) may hold more than one seat on the Union Council at any one time.
- 2 Omission in the Union Council Bye-law currently allows for elected Part-time Officers, School Reps and their Deputies to be elected as Members of the Accountability Board.

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

- 1 That allowing elected Part-time Reps, School Reps and their Deputies to sit on the Accountability Board is a conflict of interest.
- 2 It is not possible for the Accountability Board to effectively hold themselves to account, either individually or collectively, if they also hold other seats on Union Council, either with or without voting rights.

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

- 1 To amend the Union Council Bye-law to ensure that elected Part-time Officers, School Reps or their Deputies cannot be elected as members of the Accountability Board.
 - To add a new point 12.5 and to renumber all subsequent items in clause 12 of the Union Council Bye-law.
To read; Neither the Chair nor any member of the Accountability Board may hold any other Part-time Officer, School Representative or Deputy position on Union Council.

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

Appendix 4 – Student Trustee Increase Policy Proposal



Student Trustee Increase Proposal Template

Contact details	
Your name (Proposer of the policy)	Chukwudi Ezenyi (KC)
Your email	chukwudi.ezenyi@su.plymouth.ac.uk
The name of a person who supports the policy (Secunder of the policy)	Emi Dowse Verity Lemm Fawziyyah Ahmed
Secunder's email	emi.dowse@su.plymouth.ac.uk verity.lemm@su.plymouth.ac.uk fawziyyah.ahmed@su.plymouth.ac.uk

Student Impact	
Have you consulted students about your proposal? Please explain how many students you have engaged with and how.	Proposal to change numbers passed at Annual Student meeting
How does your proposal impact the students at the University of Plymouth, what difference will it make to students?	Increased opportunity for students to participate in UPSU Trustee Board allowing for more roles for individual students and a greater student voice on Board

Policy Proposal
The Union Notes (Facts) This section should include facts, not reflection or opinions. Please provide references where possible.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On the 23rd April the Annual Student Meeting agreed to; "To remove the specific numbers of each trustee type listed in the Articles of Association, to allow such decisions to be taken jointly by the Trustees and Union Council.

To further note that a formal proposal to increase the number of student trustees on the Board from two to four will be presented to Union Council if these amendments pass at this meeting.”

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

1. An increase in the number of Student Trustees is beneficial for the UPSU Board of Trustees.

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

1. For UPSU to increase the number of Student Trustees from two to four and to engage the additional Student Trustees in the next recruitment cycle (intended for April/May 2021)

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

Appendix 5 – Part-time Officers Reports

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

- Podcast uploaded

Key feedback I have received

- No new concerns have been raised

Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these

- Meeting with Paul Warwick about running sustainability workshops 15/03/21

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

- Work on swap shop

Other updates (see above)

- University now affiliated with electronics watch after concerns risen by student regarding ethical tech sourcing

Part-time Transgender & Non-binary Officer – Jonah Zalick

My manifesto points

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 hesitance 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 online 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

1. I am still awaiting being invited to the group involved in changing the university's enrolment and IT generation process. And, as a part of our newly-formed support group, Beau from the LGBT+ Soc and I are collecting student feedback on how the university has

been treating trans students, collating what feedback we get into a document for a meeting between the VC and Sabbs on 07.04.2021

2. Finally launched the Trans and Non-Binary Support Group with Beau! See 1, where I have talked about collating student feedback.
3. See 2. Even though the Trans and Non-Binary Support Group is in its fledgling stages, we have already provided students personally with resources in the university that will help them with the personal problems they came to us with. We have also sent an email out to those who have registered their interest, announcing our upcoming plans as a support group - being the supportive resource that I have mentioned in my manifesto.
4. The Discord server for the Trans and Non-Binary Support Group has been fully created and is just awaiting a few more group enlistees to be officially launched. We are also going to create a Facebook and/or Instagram group depending on any feedback if students do not wish to use Discord. However we have said we are going to provide a beginners guide on Discord for anyone who is new to the application!

Key feedback I have received

Positive feedback from Steph on Beau and I's progress on creating the Trans and Non-Binary Support Group.

Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these

- Several meetings with Beau to work on documents, graphics and information provided for members of our support group.

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

Attend a LGBT+ Society meeting on 07.04.2021 that is classed as a trans social. This will be social focused on trans voices and will hopefully be a chance to hear more voices in the community as well as see if there is anybody else who would like to join the support group.

Also launch the Discord server and get talking to the support group members!

Reports not received from;

Appendix 6 – School Rep Reports

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	Martin Nicholls
Postgraduate Officer	Will Styles
Students with Disabilities Officer	Will Robinson
Welfare Officer	Owain Gullam
Women's Officer	Jessica Andrews Smith

School of Health Professions Rep – 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

Union council meeting
Annual student members meeting

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)

Have School of health professions teaching and learning meeting approaching where I hope to address feedback.

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. Send out a survey via microsoft forms to course representatives that will gather data regarding ways in which the school could improve.

Progress on my manifesto points

Unfortunately, I have not been able to chair a meeting of my own since the last Union Council meeting. However, I have created a survey that is live until the 16th of April that allows course representatives and any other members of the school to give feedback on their University experiences and how well they feel the University has adapted in our current climate. There is also a section that allows students to leave suggestions on ways in which the University can improve.

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 is still significantly improved since Meriel sent her reminder to the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences tutors to encourage them to reach out and remind them of the support that is required.

Feedback regarding the transfer to online has been more positive. Many students have commented that they much prefer coursework in lieu of exams and hope that these remain after the pandemic is resolved.

School of Nursing and Midwifery – 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 holding regular meetings with course reps so they can have consistent communication with myself, and then passing any concerns onto relevant staff when I can. I have been part of panels for faculty held Q+A meetings to stay informed with any issues and to keep up to date on the ever-changing circumstances within my school. The school will be holding meetings soon to focus on what can be done for students with SpLD needs.

Key feedback I have received

- Students appreciate that the faculty are getting better at communication; regular webinars are held by staff for students to ask questions and voice their concerns, I am usually part of all of those panels to ensure student concerns are addressed.
- 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. There is a meeting this month (April) with the faculty on these issues and I will be speaking aiming to address student concerns.
- 2nd year Patho exam worried some as it was harder than previous exam – will be taking student concerns on this forward in next faculty meeting.

Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these

- 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.
- 04/03/2021 – Apprenticeship Stakeholder Event
- 10/03/2021 – Student Diversity and Inclusion Champions meeting – met with fellow students and staff members to discuss any EDI related issues within our school and began planning how we are going to use our twitter to educate others and start conversations about race, gender etc
- 12/03/2021 – Stage 3 student meeting – I was part of the panel during a year 3 meeting on paid placements and ensured any student issues and concerns were addressed
- 18/03/2021 – Union Council – regular Union Council meetings where I represented SNAM students
- 19/03/2021 – First Year Rep Meeting – met up with first year reps to discuss any of their concerns and feedback
- 23/03/2021 – Annual Student Members Meeting
- 24/03/2021 - Student Diversity and Inclusion Champions meeting – met with fellow students and staff members to discuss any EDI related issues within our school and planned a takeover on twitter for Neurodiversity week

- 29/03/2021 – Second Year Rep meeting – met up with second year reps to discuss any issues they were having and receive feedback – however, only one rep attended so I was not able to collate much feedback.
- 30/03/2021 – Third Year Rep Meeting – met up with third year reps to discuss how they were doing and to receive any feedback that they had – however, only one rep attended so I was not able to collate much feedback.
- 31/03/2021 – Midwifery Rep Meeting – met up with midwifery reps to see how they were and to collect any feedback they had, meeting was successful and have suggested that we meet more regularly.

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

I am part of the panel for future faculty meetings and I will be meeting with the faculty to specifically follow up SpLD concerns. I will also be attending the faculty held student rep meetings with course reps.

Other updates (see above)

School of Biomedical Sciences Rep– 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

Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these

- UC meetings and general meetings with course reps to see how they are doing.
- Chaired an SSLC meeting

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

- Conduct another meeting with course reps and talk about issues (if any).

Other updates (see above)

School of Humanities and Performing Arts Rep – Charlie Atkinson

My manifesto points

1. Focus on ensuring that members of the school have the ability and opportunity to have their voice heard and issues raised.
2. Support students with a push towards a Safety Net with greater protections for students.

Progress on my manifesto points

1. I have been in contact with the Course Reps within my school via email, to try to organise a time for meeting on Zoom, to discuss issues that students may be having within their courses.
2. On the same email, I also asked how Course Reps how students on their course feel about the need for a Safety Net.

Key feedback I have received

A few Course Reps responded to my email, with the main response being a willingness to organise a Zoom drop-in call following the Easter Break, to try and be more organised due to the fact that there was not a School Rep in position from the start of the academic year.

Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these

FoAHB Teaching Learning Quality Committee:

Discussions about Blended Learning going forward, issues around the library.

School of Humanities and Performing Arts TLQC:

Again, Blended Learning was discussed for going forwards, as well as a Library update relevant to the School, about the returning of books going forward.

Union Council

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

Set up a time for the Zoom drop-in session with Course Reps, at a time which will be best for maximum engagement.

Try to get a better grasp of the numbers on Course Reps – Some courses appear to have no Course Reps, or few for the number of students who may be on the same stage of a course.

Other updates (see above)

Introduced myself at both Faculty and School level as the School Rep for Humanities and Performing Arts.

School of Psychology Rep – Tafadzwa Nyambuya

My manifesto points

continue all the wonderful programs like B.A.M.E. Perspectives and PsycFam; a scheme that works alongside with PsySoc in order to promote community and is a scheme that will help students from all stages get to know each other and break the communication barriers. These programmes aim to create a safe space for student to have discussions and encourage diversity.

Secondly, due to Covid-19, students are going through times where they may feel like they're alone due the lack of face to face socialising. In order to try have a little normality and interaction between students, I will create a space where students can do the required readings together; Peer mentor Reading groups. This is to encourage discussions about what the books/articles mean and any ideas and opinions on the current subject topics.

Lastly, I want to make it easier for students to feel comfortable approaching their lectures. In order to break the barrier between students and lecturers, I would propose a termly event where lecturers may be invited to a zoom quiz night hosted by Psysoc, and students will get the opportunity to get to know their lectures not only as individuals but also on a more professional level.

Progress on my manifesto points

There is a continuation in the BAME Perspective programme, planning to host a speaker after easter.

As the psycfam program, we were able to host a fundraising social event for one of the reps, that was working on raising money for the children in need charity. This was with students and lecturers which was one of my manifesto points. This was a success and the fundraising even helped the rep reach their goal.

I have been lobbying for more interaction with from the university to promoted student wellbeing services and support from the university- more work needs to be done with this as we have a long way to making sure all students in psychology feel supported by their representation and university.

Key feedback I have received

I have been involved in trying to improve the communication between course reps and students. This has been through creating a structured way of receiving feedback from student by creating a bi-week feedback drop in where reps from different stages are in attendance to answer questions from students and receive feedback.

- Minor students:

Some of the issues raised is the support student receive that are doing minor subjects. This is dues to schools not communicating and only having one tutor when they are taking two subjects. The people responsible for supporting students, some are not getting back to them when students reach out for support.

- Stage 1 accommodation update

Stage 1 students are asking for an update from the SU regarding accommodation, rent and refund. They are looking to hear what is going on as rent is due soon, for the students not currently residing in their accommodation due covid restrictions.

Meetings I have attended and my contribution to these

- Bi- weekly meeting with rep and students

We have been able to make reps more visible to students. This is a channel for students to contact their rep and to know them

- Monthly meetings with reps

I set this up as I felt it would be a great way for reps to utilise their roles and give them the opportunity to share ideas and give the role a better structure

- Faculty of health TLQC
- School of psychology TLQC

I was able to pass on the feedback i received from the previous months

- Equality and diversity committee

I am working a student perspective on the work they are doing in increasing diversity and equality within the University and curriculum

What I plan to do before the next Union Council meeting

- Get more feedback from students doing minor subjects

I want to get a better understanding of how they feel in terms of support. I will create a questionnaire for students to fill out and share their experience.

- Raise the issues with the psychology faculty

I will email Alastair- the associate head of student experience- about the concerns shared

- Contact other school reps to work together to be visible to students that do minors

This could be a great way to show how students can get support from the reps as they may not know who to reach out to.

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Other updates (see above)

Reports not received from:

SR - Plymouth Institute of Education

Jenna Johnson

SR - Art, Design & Architecture	Cat Dodd
SR - Plymouth Business School	Bethany Hensman
SR - Law, Criminology & Government	India Ellis
SR - Peninsula Medical School	Emily Schenk
SR - Peninsula Dental School	Alastair Campbell
SR – Biological and Marine Sciences	Georgia Small
SR - Engineering, Computing and Mathematics	Viv Hocking

Appendix 7 – Sabbatical Officer Reports

President Update

The month of March has been an eventful but quiet month as well. It was at the beginning of the month that we had our annual student elections and elected our officer team for the next academic session. It was also in this month that we marked a year of being faced with the pandemic and working from home. We are looking to continue to improve on all that we have learnt since the pandemic in order to still achieve the best student’s experience for our students.

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 (second) 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 INTERNATIONAL ADVICE CENTRE (ISA)

On the 25th of March, myself and Fawzy met with Catherine from ISA to discuss the graduate visa route for international students. We pointed out our concern that the latest information had been made available from the government for more than a week, without haven't heard anything regarding it from our international advice centre. We understood that there was already an update set to go out that day regarding this scheme and that they have planned information sessions, so students can make further enquiries and gain more clarity on the scheme. We were delighted to hear this and we agreed to share this information through our own channel as well. I also did mention about having someone from ISA on the employability advisory group to help with raising concerns/queries that they might be getting from international students regarding employability from an official point, whilst having the likes of a sabbatical officer and international part time officer as student reps on the group. We also discussed the need for closer working relationship between us and them, and following that meeting, Fawzy has been invited to the welcome week meeting they

are looking to have in a few weeks, ahead of next session. We hope this relationship would continue to grow for the betterment of our international students' engagement.

MEETING WITH POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH (PGR) FACULTY REPS

We (Emi and I) recently met with the faculty of Arts and Humanities rep (Sally Charlesworth) and the Faculty of Health reps (James Conway, Kathryn Bamforth, and Anis Sahoo) to discuss the idea of the postgrad talk session that we're looking to run with the aim of increasing the engagement from their end and fostering our relationship with PGR's.

University Internalisation 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

Myself and Fawzy were invited to a meeting by Ross Pomeroy who works with the university academic partnerships and has UPIC under his remit. He was looking to understand what these challenges with UPIC were in details (inadequate support, difficulty in integration), what we've previously discussed, and what could be done to improve all these. At this meeting, we discussed about the possibility of having a UPIC society which we thought would help with the integration process for students at UPIC. As a sabbatical team, we had previously discussed the idea of having a UPIC/SU ambassador (title will be changed) which we did mention at this meeting, and the idea was well received. We agreed that we would have another meeting including Tobi from UPIC, Oli from the SU and Neil Gillet from Student support to see how we can continue to improve the experience of the UPIC students.

At the last UPIC advisory group meeting, I raised the need for both organisations (UPSU & UPIC) to ensure on building an official relationship especially now that UPIC students are full members of the SU, as the relationship in the past four years has been more of a personal one because of a member of the sabbatical team being a previous student of UPIC.

SUPPORT FOR SUDENTS (RAMADAN)

For some who may not know, Ramadan is fast approaching, and we have students who partake in this spiritual activity. I remember organising a meeting with our faith and belief societies last academic session (in my previous role) to see know if they needed more support and it was raised to me by a member of the Islamic society about the need for a bit more support during Ramadan.

Seeing that we have Ramadan on the way, I recently raised the need for the university to have some support available to our students who would be partaking in this. It was well received, and I was put in touch with the Multifaith, Pastoral and Spiritual Support Co-ordinator, and we are looking to meet soon to discuss what could possibly be offered from the university.

GOVERNANCE AND APPOINTMENT MEETING

The governance and appointment group consisting of myself (as chair of the trustee board), Jane Hopkinson (Deputy Chair) and Charlie Gage (student trustee) met last month to discuss and agree on who our search partners for the CEO recruitment would be. We had three options of partners to

consider based on approach, experience, and contract offered. As a committee, we finally agreed on Dixon Walters as our search partners as we really liked their initial research and approach, raising relevant questions and challenges even though their experiences wasn't much in SU's particularly but in Higher Education.

TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING (Catch UP)

We had a trustee board catch up meeting last month as well were we got updates about our February financial accounts, and the governance and appointment committee updated the board on the appointment of the CEO recruitment search partners we are looking to work with (as reported earlier). At the latter part of the meeting, we had a workshop session to review our strategy, and see how we can improve this to continue to achieve our goal. This was a very useful session as it gave us the chance to reflect on some things and see how we could do things better.

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.

ANNUAL STUDENT MEETING

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

March has been an exciting month for me with being elected into the role of President for next year! It has also been quieter which has allowed me to focus on my manifesto goals more and plan for the future.

Manifesto Point	Update
Extenuating Circumstances I will endeavour to amend the extenuating circumstances policy, making it more inclusive of the underrepresented issues students	<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.

face. To make these adjustments, I aim to create a tool for students to report difficulties when applying for 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 sit policy and how students who become ill during an assessments can be supported and not penalised.
- On the 18th of March I attended the EC review meeting where we discussed new amendments to the policy as well as making it clear to students what can and can not be accepted through case studies. I was pleased to see that my comments and suggestions had been incorporated into the new draft policy. I also explained how some students believe that they are unable to get ECs if they are in the process of getting a diagnosis and that there should be some clarity given to students that they are still able to apply.

<p>Life Skills Seminars</p> <p>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. • I met with student voice to plan how I can still complete the rest of this manifesto goal. We created a two lists of potential topics, one for students starting university and one for students graduating. • I used my instagram takeover to do some polls asking students what life skills they would find most beneficial to know. I found this useful as some of the suggestions I had differed from what students actually wanted. • I am planning to meet with the advice centre to see what they are already providing and how I can work with them on this manifesto point.
<p>Accessibility</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (where possible) captured and uploaded on to the DLE • 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.
- A paper was presented to UTLQC on the 01/03 outlining additional measures that could be implemented under the safety net. This was then accepted by UTLQC on the 15/03 and recommended for a vote at senate which is taking place on the week commencing the 29/03.

Meetings and Other

- I had 1-1s with our Students with Disabilities rep, our School of Biological sciences and our school of engineering rep. I found it great to be able to hear the work they have been doing and offer my support and assistance where possible.
- The current sabbatical team and the CEO met with the Sab team elect to welcome them to their new roles and answer any questions they may have had. It was lovely to get to know Charlie and Madeleine a bit more.
- I have been supporting Verity with some issues students raised in the Faculty of Health.
- I have been working with the Sabbatical Team on the Never Ok campaign, this is a campaign to address all forms of discrimination, bullying hate crime and harassment on campus
- I continue to work with the Graduations manager in the planning of the "In person celebration event" for the 2020 cohort and the graduation ceremony for the 2021 cohort.
- I have been supporting KC with his manifesto goal of setting up post-graduate talk sessions. KC and I have met with the Post Graduate reps from the Faculty of Health and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business. I found these sessions useful in finding out how the reps felt about the SU, whether they were aware of the SU representation systems in place and how they felt we could better support them.
- I am sitting on the advisory group for the Students United Against Fees campaign group that the SU joined in February. The campaign is still in its early stages, so we have been discussing how best to achieve its campaign goals. I have only attended one meeting so far but I am looking forward to working on a national campaign.
- I have been working with the student voice team to review the academic representation systems.
- I sat on the panel for the first round of the Sanctuary Scholarships. The sanctuary scholarships are given to individuals who are asylum seekers and refugees. Although it was quite intense and hard to narrow down applicants, I found the process to be humbling, and extremely rewarding.
- I had my bi-monthly meeting with the library and we discussed their plans for the new academic year. They expressed their concern about students not returning their library books at the end of the academic year. The sabbatical officer team are working on ways we

can address these concerns and ensure that books are returned for individuals who need them.

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.

Vice President Wellbeing & Diversity Update

Fawzy Ahmed

March was a slightly busy month, with biggest project being the APP student submission. Lots of exciting projects coming together slowly. Bring on April!

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.• I hosted another wellbeing forum on the 11th of November, the session focused on Tips for wellbeing and University experience for students. The turnout was low, however a few students reached out to let me know that they wanted to attend but they could not, they asked if notes can be shared afterwards. I will be sharing of the notes of the forums on social media so all students will be able to access all the information.• I hosted another Wellbeing forum on the 18th of December which focused on sharing tips on how to take care of your wellbeing and support services and places that were open in Plymouth over the Christmas holiday.• 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

	<p>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 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the feedback the sabbatical team has received as well as the feedback received from Wellbeing forums, we are putting a wellbeing enquiry/survey to students to have an insight of how students have been supported by the University support services • Putting plans for the next wellbeing forum, which will be after the easter break, I will be reaching out to course reps and school reps so more students can attend. • Wellbeing Champions: I had a meeting with one of the school reps in the Business school and we are looking to implement Wellbeing champions per school. These champions will be purely for signposting purposes. More updates coming soon
<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. • November is the month that has a few dates in the diversity calendar. November is month for Movember, Disability History month, and Islamophobia Awareness month. • For movember, I put out a statement on social media to create awareness of the importance of movember and why it is important. • Disability History Awareness month starts on the 18th of November. The University Equality and Diversity team has some plans for the month. I will be catching up with them to see how I can support their plans. I also intend to work with Disability officer and the Vice President education to work on some plans for the month. • For islamophobia awareness month, I have contacted the Islamic society to ask if they have any plans for the month, I will be putting out a social media post to create awareness of the month and what islamophobia is about.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For LGBTQ+ month, I worked with the LGBT+ 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. This campaign will launch after the easter break.• I had a meeting with the new spiritual and pastoral coordinator with the SU president-KC, where we discussed Ramadan, for Muslim students. I have already been in contact with the Islamic society on how the SU and the University can support Muslim students in Ramadan. In this meeting, I raised the need for halal/kosher food options on campus, the pastoral coordinator will follow up with the University and we are looking to have a follow up meeting to discuss this further.
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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.

- 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 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.
- 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 put 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.
- The SU president and I had a meeting with ISA to discuss the new graduate entry route for

	<p>international students where we discussed the need for up-to-date information to be shared with students. I raised the point about having some of workshops to assist students on applying for this new visa. ISA mentioned that they will be having information sessions in the months leading to the opening of the application. In this meeting, I asked to be involved in discussions relating to International students' orientation- this is so I can ensure relevant information can be passed on to new students such as housing information, Banking information, how to get a job etc.</p>
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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.

I worked with the University APP group to put together a short sharp survey based on the activities that the University has said they put in place for the 19/20 plan such as the PALS scheme, Mentoring programme, Law clinic, Safety net etc. The survey went live on the 30th of March and is scheduled to close on the 13th of April. I will be using the survey analysis to back up the student submission which is due to close on the 16th of April 2021.

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 confirmed first.

#Talkaboutsex week

Week commencing 16th November, the University launched its Sexual Violence Misconduct Policy. During this week, I arranged an interview with the UPSU President, KC and head of student services, Alice Ludgate to introduce the week. The interview consisted of aims and importance of the week, what is the SVM policy, what's on during the week and lastly where students can access both internal and external support. During the week, I am scheduled to chair a debate on topics relating to sexual violence such as sugar dating. I will be chairing the debate alongside the part-time Welfare Officer.

#ReClaimtheNight and NeverOkay Campaign

Following the incident that occurred a couple of weeks ago, the students union, the EDI committee, the support services and the women's network came together to launch a campaign called #ReClaimtheNight which focused on

- Male allyship for women's safety
- Support for victims
- Challenging violence on our streets and on our campuses

On behalf of the student union, I wrote a statement of support and highlighted the support available within and outside the University. The statement alongside statements from the EDI and women's network was published on the University Website.

NeverOkay Campaign: This is a campaign; the student union is looking to run after the easter break that is focused on Sexual Violence and Misconduct as well as hate crime. The main aims of the campaign are as follows.

- Recognise that the Speak Up tool may not be the first port of call for students.
- Identify inappropriate behaviours.
- How to call out inappropriate behaviour

I have put together some resources for this campaign which will be launching on the 26th of April.

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. 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 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

Insert brief overview of your month here

Manifesto Point	Update
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.	<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
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	<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. ON GOING! Will be organising

<p>available by demonstrating their importance to the University.</p>	<p>one round of training before Easter for sports clubs, and further training after easter for Socs and those who couldn't attend before.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 year (4th June) where is appropriate it eh gov guidelines. • Have been involved in discussions surrounding covid-19 testing on campus and how this will effect 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 crating 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 feed back for this, and I will further ask union council. This is a great

	<p>opportunity for students to have a direct feed into estates and facilities which hasn't always been done before.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. ONGOING • Working closely with out 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 fudning 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, 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. Onc 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>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 short

	<p>comings 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>
<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 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. • 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 o

	<p>their experience on placement or ended up with FTP consequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Varsity 2021</p>	<p>March update-</p> <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 Easter break, until Marjans exams start (earlier than plyms). Having a large window will allow the 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 they 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

	<p>will be void or paused. - still investigating this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 UTLCCQ. 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!