

**Part-time Officer Reports December/January**

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| **Chair of the Accountability Board – James Lord** |
| **What I have been working on** |
| Since the last report, the Accountability Board has not been required to meet due to the Christmas holidays and the exam period in January. As such this report will remain mostly unchanged from the previous. |
| **What I plan to do** |
| Starting February 1st, the Accountability Board will be hosting biweekly drop in sessions in the hive. These sessions are there for any student to drop in with any concerns or queries and the Board looks forward to being more open and approachable to students.  At a date which is yet to be decided the Accountability Board will be holding a meeting prior to the Union Council Meeting on the 13th February to discuss any policy proposals that are set to go before Union Council.  The Board will look to see if another Facebook Live Q+A could be held at some point after the New Year, this however is not something that will happen in the short term. |
| **Other updates** |
| Unfortunately with no nominations for the Accountability Board by-election, it had to be cancelled which was an unfortunate disappointment.  The Accountability Board hopes that everyone who had exams get the results that they deserve and they had a good start to 2018. |

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| **Accountability Board Member – Conner Kearey** |
| **What I have been working on** |
| The accountability board, has been advising on motions out forward to the Union Council. Offering advice on a few motions, in particular the motion regarding the Non Binary forum and the fossil fuel motion.  Further to this, the board now has its own email address making communication easier and has held its first Facebook live feed. |
| **What I plan to do** |
| Over the coming months I hope to continue to look over proposed motions. Further to this, I hope to see more students out their name down for election to the board. |
| **Other updates** |
| None. |

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| **Part-time Environment and Sustainability Officer - Jamie Witherford** |
| **What I have been working on** |
| * I have been helping to arrange activities for Green Week starting the 5th of February, these will include a Green networking event called the “Green Conversation” and hope to start the gardening sessions up again. * I have attended the Sustainability in Higher Education conference at Plymouth University on the 11th of January to help support the university community and gain a better understanding of such issues. * I also sat on the Sustainability Action Group meeting on the 16th of January to talk about issues such as People and Planet society’s push for divestment and sustainable electronics in the university and action plans moving forward. |
| **What I plan to do** |
| * I aim to attend any meetings regarding sustainability at the university and the student union. * I will be hosting the Green Conversation during Green Week and will be finalising organisation for the event. * I will try to be more active in the societies that have taken the message of sustainability to heart, visiting more workshops and the like. * Pass the message on that the student voice is being heard, with the students being the forefront of the agenda of sustainability within the university. |
| **Other updates** |
| * The student voice has been a major talking point in almost every meeting I have attended. With the People and Planet society doing such brilliant work towards such wide reaching and long-lasting goals it has become a prominent issue at every level of the university. I will try my best to support these movements and help the different student bodies to work together. |

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| **Part-Time LGBT+ Officer – Goda Cegialyte** |
| **What I have been working on** |
| I had a meeting with Gina Connelly (CEO), Lowri Jones (President) and James Warren (VP Welfare) following up the Gender-Neutral Toilets (GNT) policy. The meeting was really positive, and it was confirmed that signage for the SU and its GNTs will be ready in February for the trial to commence.  After the meeting with Gina Connelly, Lowri and James organised a meeting with Ian Short (Facilities Manager) for us, to have a tour of the UPSU facilities and how the GNT policy will be implemented. A member of the forum was also in attendance.  Following on from the SU tour, I decided it would be good to extend this and include university buildings as the second part of our tour. This was to see the accessibility of any other GNTs on campus and any possible GNTs that could be introduced. A report was written up about this tour and was sent to the university for comment. If you would like a copy of the report, don’t hesitate to get in touch. |
| **What I plan to do** |
| On 31st January I will be meeting with Andrew Grace (Equality & Diversity Administrator for Health & Human Sciences), Mel Joyner (Director of Student Services), Katie McManus (Equality & Inclusion Co-ordinator (PUPSMED)), Maja Smith (VP Education) and Lowri Jones. This meeting is in regard to LGBT+ Student Safety on international visits across all faculties, i.e. the dangers to LGBT+ students in Russia, for example, but also the wider implications on learning and social aspects of missing out on field trips. Following this meeting, there will hopefully be a paper that will be presented to EDIC (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Committee). I will be updating on the outcomes of the meeting soon after.  I am still in the process of organising the UPSU staff training. The training will be around LGBT+ issues such as Misgendering, use of correct pronouns and the use of gender-neutral toilets. The training will be mandatory for all full-time UPSU staff and will also be open to students. I am planning on setting up a meeting with Jonny Noades (Student Development Manager) and Alex Doyle (VP Activities) within the next couple weeks to get the ball rolling and discuss how the training will be held.  The next LGBT+ forum meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th February, at 6pm in the Hive. Dates for the remaining forum meetings for the academic year will be announces as soon as possible. |
| **Other updates** |
| The following are the updates from Andrew Grace since the organisation of the LGBT+ Student Safety meeting:   1. Asking staff/students to disclose their HIV status has now been removed from all risk assessments. 2. A provision advising staff/students to check the Foreign Office website for safety information will be added; Andrew Grace is also meeting with H&S to see how this can be adapted to specifically mention issues relating to the safety of LGBT+ staff/students. |

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| **Part-time Officer Post-Graduate- Paige Harris** |
| **What I have been working on** |
| * I was away for a lot of the Christmas break, so I haven’t been able to be as productive as I would have liked! * Since being back in Plymouth, I have had meetings with Maja Smith & Tracy Priestman to discuss the upcoming term, and increase engagement with the postgraduate forum * The postgraduate forum was held on the 22nd January (minutes will be put on postgraduate forum website as well as Facebook page asap) * Among many things, we discussed the possibility of reducing the number of physical forum meetings, and start an online forum where anyone can post questions. This was greatly welcomed by the people attending the forum especially individuals who study away from Plymouth, so I will work on that * Working on the feedback box idea from the previous forum meeting, Tracy Priestman and I decided to bring it to the forum to ask whether it would be better to have the box in the postgraduate office, rather than the hive (as some may not know where that is- as was apparent with the last forum meeting) |
| **What I plan to do** |
| * Meet with staff in the postgraduate office to discuss having a feedback box or poster of some kind to engage with postgraduate students who are not already aware of what the SU can provide * Work with the SU to provide an online platform for the forum- this may be in place of the February forum? I will work with Tracy to develop this and will inform postgrads asap. * Continue to support VP education and work with VP education with postgraduate enrichment grant |
| **Other updates** |
| * Please add course mates/other post-graduate students to the Post-Graduate Forum Facebook page. * If there are any concerns that I should add to the agenda for future meetings, please let me know, or write it into the concern box. If there are any immediate concerns, please message me. * Role of secretary is still available for the post-graduate forum, contact me on Facebook or via email to discuss this role further. |

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| **Part-time Disabled Students Officer – Caitlin Brawn** |
| **What I have been working on** |
| · Trips being made more disability friendly working with student reps and academic  forum chairs  · SU more disability friendly – sign posting in the SU for colour blind and visually  impaired - bigger and easier to read signs  · Trained staff in SU with disability needs  · Quiet hour in the SU Once a month- Turn off music, Colouring books, board games |
| **What I plan to do** |
| · My main focus on making the SU more Disability friendly.  · Mental health awareness week beginning May 14th 2018  · Disability Month: May – use the Humans of Plymouth University Facebook page to do a campaign raising awareness about mental health.  · Discussed a disability bingo event in SU: bringing people with disabilities together in a fun and safe environment  -Raise awareness about invisible illnesses – not everyone is visibly disabled  -Signposting services and courses offered by student wellbeing, e.g. lectures on how to boost your mood, manage anxiety  -Signpost mental health events coming up |
| **Other updates** |
| -Collaborate with Part-time Welfare Officer on mental health awareness month |

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| **Part-time Volunteering Officer – Kat Pierce** |
| **What I have been working on** |
| It has been admittedly a slow start to the new year due to many people having exams and the holiday period being a break from university. However, I have begun looking to find out about projects we as a student body take part in beyond the main student led projects. In particular I have heard a lot from the RSPB and the local branches of some Charities.  I recognise the importance of cooperation in bringing together all aspects of voluntary work under one banner within UPSU, and have been discussing with other prominent groups, how to better ensure this is clear to all students. As yet we have not formalised a plan, but will continue working together in this area.  Clubs and societies who are working towards achieving ICONs awards are aware of the steps they need to take, and I look forward to seeing the work they all achieve this year. My deputy and I will continue to be available if anyone needs a hand or wants to discuss their ideas with us.  I also met with the staff from the Volunteering Office regarding rewards and recognition, as we have our midyear event fast approaching and the end of year presentation needs advance preparation.  On 18th January I held the first Forum of 2018, where we discussed the progress of this year’s student led projects, their upcoming events and also the Build your future day the SU are holding. |
| **What I plan to do** |
| Before Christmas I reviewed the process of logging hours and ensured that he breakdown of types of volunteering are clearly outlined on the UPSU website, but it has come to my attention some still find this difficult so I will be organising some open doors afternoons, for people to come and find me in the hive where if necessary we can sit down and get you hours logged together.  In February is the scheduled reward and recognition event where students who have completed the hour log milestones, will receive their award certificates. I am encouraged by the number of people who have logged commendable amounts of hours so far this year.  The UPSU Build your Future event is also upcoming in February and I have been working with others to prepare the sessions and event agenda. On the day I will be working with Alec to run the session on Emotional Intelligence.  Keep an eye on social media: We will be looking to find out your opinions on some key issue in relation to volunteering, so your voices guide the progress within the volunteering department at Plymouth University. |
| **Other updates** |
| We will have our next Volunteer Forum will be held in the Hive on 15th February, at 6pm.  At the Volunteer Forum on 18th January we decided that I would schedule in some open door, drop in’s so anyone who wants to talk can ask questions, or simply drop by and let us know what Volunteering is going on. If you have anything you want discussed or a project you are passionate about please do let us know.  Other dates for Volunteer Forum Meetings:  March – Thursday 22nd  April – Tuesday 17th  May – Thursday 24th  For reference: My email address is katherine.pierce@students.plymouth.ac.uk |

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| **Part-time Welfare Officer – Tamsyn Hudson-Rose** |
| **What I have been working on** |
| -Held a Welfare Forum on 18th January – highest number of attendees to date! Hooray!   * Discussed consent workshops, * ask for Angela, * SHAG week in Feb, * Mental Health awareness month in May, * collab with WANB+ forum regarding women’s history month, * collab with Disabled students forum regarding Mental Health awareness month in May * The debate on straws: disabled students need them but the environmental impact is bad – need a solution to this * Fitness to study: is the uni being too heavy-handed on disabled and mentally ill students? * Stretched victim support service * Creation of mental health group within student wellbeing services for transgender/nb students   -I’m planning SHAG week with Plymouth PSHE.  -I’m working with the Learning Support and Wellbeing partnership to lobby for the creation of mental health group for transgender/nb+ students |
| **What I plan to do** |
| * My main focus is SHAG week in February. We intend to hold a day on consent; a day on sex work and pornography; a day on LGBT+ issues; a day on mental health; and a day on STIs with free chlamydia testing in the SU. We will speak to the relevant societies and other forums (LGBT+, Student minds, femsoc, medsin) about supporting this. * Mental Health awareness month in May – planned to use the Humans of Plymouth University page created last year for a social media campaign about mental health, as well as doing some ‘mind your mate’ style training and some signposting to support resources for students struggling with mental health issues. * Submit policy proposal for renewal of the motion to support student sex workers |
| **Other updates** |
| * Collaborate with Part-time Women’s Officer on women’s history month * Collaborate with Part-time Disabled Students Officer on mental health awareness month |

Part-time BAME Officer – Ropa Mugaza

Part-time Global Students Officer – Laura Prigge

Part-time Women’s & Non-Binary Officer – Adrienne Solon

Part-time Societies Officer – Ashlee Mlambo

Part-time Sports Officer – Manasseh Hayfron-Taylor

Part-time Academic Officer – Vacant

Part-time Partner Institutions Officer - Vacant

Part-time Faith & Belief Officer - Vacant

[Find out more about Part-time Officers](https://www.upsu.com/studentvoice/ptofficers/)

If you have any questions regarding representation please contact the Student Voice team [studentvoice@su.plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:studentvoice@su.plymouth.ac.uk)