The Presidents Report

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| from: | Haris Rashid |
| Summary: | to present a report to the annual general meeting on what I haVe been working on this year |
| Recommendation: | approval |

This year has been quite a challenging year for me many reasons and Just as I am starting to get a feel for this role it’s unfortunately near enough time to end and due to these unprecedented times, my time has been cut even shorter.

Never the less I would like to reflect on what I have worked on this year to start off with at the start of the year I was in talks with stagecoach to increase their service hours for the 86c to 24hours, looking back now this has helped many of our students getting into town safer and cheaper in the late hours of the night. Moving forward before the new timetable comes out, myself or my successor, would like a similar process to be done but considering Aigburth and Creative students getting to and from university easier.

I had taken on the role of organising welcome week events alongside Steve, Mike McGlynn and the SRT team. I had devised an action-packed week of events for the freshers. Some the events to note are Karaoke night, Fast Friending, Tea and biscuit morning for mature students, Human bingo in the afternoon to accommodate commuting students, Neon paint party/ halls wars. I was also busy with Steve recruiting welcome week assistants. We had over 40 applicants this year of which only 8 were successful.

I also learnt the fact that commuting student’s issues were not shouted loud enough. The challenges faced by commuters who do not live with their fellow students or must travel long distances are many and varied. Often, people who commute to University face larger transport fees. They may have stayed at home to save money, and often these travel expenses can contribute to the student having a low attendance rate at University classes and society activities. Travel has been proven to cause stress and challenges for all workers, and students are no different. Delays, cancellations and traffic can lead to missed classes and waste precious available study time, particularly if students are working part-time to make ends meet. Living at home means that students may not have friends to attend activities with because unlike the majority of Fresher’s they have not met people in Halls of Residence This can be particularly difficult about integration of those students, some of whom do not feel like they belong on campus due to living further out. Therefore, I had decided to do events frequent e during the afternoon of fresher’s week for commuting students as well as have a part time officer to represent them.

I have also worked on weekly Friday events with Mike Mcglynn and the SRT’s this has helped students combat isolation as usually on a Friday student tend to go home to visit family leaving certain flat mates that can’t visit home lonely and especially for the students that do not like to go out. We have hosted great events captured some great memories there is still a lot more work to be done which my successor will work in such as including second years and third years a-bit more but from my experience I know this has proven difficult as not many students would want to travel to university at a later time.

Once our sports administrator Will left we were without a sports administrator for a short period of time which was when I had decided to act up I did struggle to balance the workload with my other commitments but then decided the role would best be done by our students this would give a chance to earn some money as well as learn some valuable skills this was when I decided to team up with the placement officer and make it a placement opportunity we had many people send their cvs in and had 6 interviews, 2 of which were successful and in short period of time have done a great job which I’m sure all sports teams would agree.

On Wednesdays teaching is a half day this is as all universities across the UK have their game days on Wednesdays, I had spoken to the university to open up the our place bar earlier on Wednesdays as this would be more profitable for the university as well as more enjoyable for the students as they could come and celebrate their win with the away team in the university bar instead of going to a pub, most students have thoroughly enjoyed this as they have not had to go elsewhere and have had a chance to enjoy their success which has been great across all sports teams. I also wanted our place to be the main student Hub despite the SU not owning it anymore students still refer to it as the SU and it brings about that sociable feeling many sports teams and societies have held fundraisers in there and have made it more sociable environment which is what I was pushing for at the start of the term. I had also created a sports teams committee group chat at the start of term so sports teams were aware of who was on different sports clubs committee to know who to get in touch with.

Since the departure of our VP welfare myself and Caitriona has acted up on the welfare role, I had run black history month where we tried different ways to celebrate it such as an Afro Caribbean meal, literature in the library, as well as playing a movie. I also encouraged students to raise awareness for breast cancer awareness by wearing pink. Most recently I have been promoting and recruiting volunteers for our new service nightline. We had over 40 volunteers at the start but due to assessment and commitments the number dropped. I have been going in to lectures making students aware of this service and giving them insight where many wanted to volunteer but the training had already begun. I have also been carrying our training for the nightline so we have a new batch of volunteers but due to the unprecedented times that has been cut short and is something the new VP of welfare will be able to work on.

As a near graduate one of the things I have envied other universities had was a grad ball, I wanted to start something which other officers would want to continue, I researched around other SU to see how they go about doing their grad ball, I also looked around for many venues to see who would offer the best package, towards the end the Marriott offered me the best package I then shared this with the the team whereby Sports award were going to be held here and the Hope star excellence awards this reduced our price further. It is truly unfortunate that the grad ball can’t go ahead this year as I was merely beginning to gather some great ideas together for it with a lot of student involvement for entertainment, my successor has shown an interest in doing one next year which I am happy to pass my ideas on to and I’m sure will be a fab night!

I have also worked with the catering manager to make it clearer for Muslim students as to what is halal and what isn’t as currently on the menus it said nothing this also came after some Muslim students, I spoke to were given food which wasn’t halal but the catering assistants weren’t aware it now states on the menu with a little H for halal. There were also no prayer facilities on creative campus this is something which afew students raised with me and something I was looking into.

During these current unprecedented times I am working on keeping student up to date with everything going on. I want to keep students positive whilst self-isolating, social distancing as it’s a tough time and I know they will be going through a lot of stress. I plan to share positive news, positive quotes, practical well being tips, home workouts, online games, quiz, to make everything seem a little more positive. I have already spoken to some student that are more than happy to do live home workouts to keep everyone close together whilst keeping fit, some students have shared some videos. I have also spoken to the film society if they would like to hold a group watching Netflix party. I still plan on getting in touch with other societies such as the baking society if they would like to do live videos to teach a new hobby such as baking to keep people busy. As well as doing virtual coffee if anyone would like to have a chat and also learn something new videos. These are all so that everybody stays at home unless they have to go out. I am reminding students of the government guidelines so they are keeping up to date. I am working with other Liverpool officers to lobby LSH to come to agreements with the landlords they are working with to help students in these times. I am also speaking to officers across the nation to see how they are monitoring the situation and what their universities are doing. I am also checking in with the university for updates to accommodation and exams.

Now that we also have our new officers, I will be working on a detailed handover so that they are fully aware of there roles and responsibilities. This year the sab roles have changed to president, VP welfare, VP sports and activities.

I look forward to welcoming Harry, Sally and Ollie into their new roles and wish them all the best with their leadership roles.