
PRESIDENT'S REPORT, OCTOBER 2020

FROM: HARRY PEARCE

SUMMARY: TO PRESENT A REPORT TO THE BOARD ON WHAT I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON SINCE STARTING THE ROLE.

RECOMMENDATION: TO NOTE THE CONTENTS AND AGREE THE REPORT

Month of June (before the role started):

Spent time shadowing my predecessor at meetings such as University Council, Inclusive Practice, Board Meetings. Spoke through my manifesto points, met with Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice Chancellor.

Period without a General Manager:

When myself and fellow officers took on the role, we were without a General Manager until the end of August. Within the first month I spent a lot of time working with people from the University to create contracts, complete the relevant forms for COVID-19, attend Health and Safety meetings, dealing with Payroll, approving holiday leave, organizing training, responding to emails sent to the General Manager email account, dealing with emails and discussions from the board, completing the final stages of the interview process for the interviews for the new General Manager. This included short listing applicants, arranging the interview dates and times, planning the two-week training program.

This was a time where it was difficult to get any student facing activities done. I was also at this point still receiving my own training and attending the following meetings at the university: University Council, Inclusive Practice, Network of Hope, attending NUS training and the Universities Student Engagement and Retention Meetings.

The Team:

I am confident in saying that we have a really good team of Officers in the Students' Union this year. The change in roles really ensures that all aspects of the Students' Union is covered. Ollie has taken a lead on welcome week and the activities with him being VP Sports and Activities. Sally has been taking a lead in Black History Month, she has been working closely with our BME officer on this. Sally is also really passionate about working closely with the local community. Something I think is really important given the current circumstances. me working on all things academic.

It has been a really busy couple of months and as a team we are working tirelessly to ensure that our students receive the experience they deserve at University both academically and socially. We all feel that the education sphere has a lot to answer for and they have not been treated well, so we really do feel a moral obligation to all the students and make up to them the lost time as such.

Inclusive Practice:

The Students' Union have spent a lot of time working on this over the years. Since taking over in July, we are now at a point where we have a first draft of the check list complete. The checklist, looks at ways of removing the barriers faced by disabled students which keep them from being able to achieve their goals. Removing the existing barriers means disabled people can have access to the same education non-disabled students

experience. This is significant because we have recently witnessed an increase in the attainment gap between non-disabled and disabled students at the university. I and the Inclusive Practice team have now arranged a COP to gain feedback on the checklist. I have been involved in discussions with the Pro Vice Chancellor and other senior members of the University. After the COP, we will act on any feedback and will then take this to the senior leaders again, in hope that we will eventually get the checklist enrolled out to the university.

Welcome Weekend:

Given me not really being able to focus on student related issues in the first month, this weekend was something that I was really looking forward to and I know that Ollie and Sally were too. With the campus being shut down early due to the COVID-19 outbreak I was looking forward to welcoming the students and for our campus to get the buzz back again. I was based at Hope Park and Ollie was based at The Creative Campus.

Due to not many staff being able to work the weekend, I was also handing the keys out. This was rather beneficial because it meant that I was actually at the main point where every student needed to come to collect their key and sign in. It was a really good way to network with our students and their parents also. I also spent time dealing with students who wanted to change their course, had covid related questions and worries. This really helped me promote the Students' Union and what we do and I was told numerous times I had put students and their parents minds at ease, Ollie was also told the same.

Freshers Week

As previously stated, Ollie has taken a lead in Freshers week with us all working together to ensure that the week runs as smoothly as possible. This has been something we have all been working on since we took over in July. In line with the university, all of our decisions and plans have been created in a three-tiered response:

1. Everything back in person
2. In person and online
3. Fully online

All of the fresher's events have therefore been planned in accordance to this. Due to an increase in the R rate in Liverpool the decision was made for freshers' week to be fully virtual. We agreed to the following activities; Get Moving Workout, Basic Breakfast Guides, Virtual Drop in Sessions, Best Designed Flat Competition, Live Quiz Night, Boxercise Class, Virtual Tour of Liverpool, Big Shop Bingo, and a virtual freshers Fayre. We have found that since going virtual, a lot more people are actually attending and showing interest.

We have created numerous videos in preparation for Welcome Week. Including our own Welcome to The Students' Union Video for orientation day and myself in the University Commencement Ceremony.

1,189 Views on the Facebook Video.

1,500 Views on the University Commencement Ceremony.

Course Rep

As I am sure you are all aware, the aim of the course rep program is to continuously improve the student learning experience in partnership with the institution and student's association. I have been working on creating a new training program, responding to Covid-19. My worry is that due to students working from home they may not show as much interest. I have overcome this by getting in touch with heads of departments to arrange me attending large lectures to really promote the course rep program. Feedback from the heads of department is that they are looking forward to working closely with me on this and have had a high amount of interest in the role.

I am also working closely with members of the University and members of my Inclusive Practice meeting to ensure that the Student Staff Liaison meetings are as inclusive and comfortable as possible to ensure that we receive quality feedback.

Recruitment

During my time as president I have successfully recruited the new Union Development Manager, in the process of recruiting new student trustees and executive council. All is going well with this.

Black History Month and Nightline:

Due to both of these being close together, it is a lot for Sally to deal with so it has been agreed that I will help and assist her with these. I have met with members of my previous NUS group and we are working on a networking event for all universities to attend during Black History Month. The aim of this is to encourage groups to meet each other and network to help students learn from each other's experience. Sally will be taking a lead on Black History Month.

As a result of Black History Month taking up a lot of Sally's time it was decided that I would take a lead on Nightline and getting it back up and running. I am passionate about getting this back up and running, as I am cautious we currently have a lot of students here on campus and at home who could do with having a chat due to these unprecedent times. I have had initial meetings with the people from Head Office and one of the Universities Senior Resident Tutors is also on board. We are just in initial chats about how we can take the service fully on line and recruiting volunteers.

Next Steps for me:

- Continue to support Sally throughout Black History Month
- Prepare a two-week itinerary for if the Halls have to go in to lock down
- Confirm all nightline plans and get the service ready to be up and running
- Train all course reps
- Complete all recruitment
- Organise the Inclusive Practice COP and feedback to senior leaders in the university on this
- Continue networking with my NUS small and specialist group
- Continue to promote the Students' Union and its officers