

# 16/03/2022 Student Council Agenda

(13:30 – 15:30, five minute break at 14:25)

Location: <https://zoom.us/j/93507491957>

1. Welcome – *The Union Chair and Representation Team Lead will welcome you and give you information about how council will run.*
2. Review of previous minutes ([Paper 2](#))
3. Senior Managers and Sabbatical Officer Question Time ([Paper 1 – Sabbatical Officer Reports](#)) – Our senior manager guest will be current UWS principal Lucy Merideth who will join us at 2pm. *She will be joined by your **Sabbatical Officers: Ellie, your student president; Kevin, your VP Education; Claire, your VP Student Development, and Luke, your VP Welfare and Wellbeing.***
4. Policy debate ([Paper 3](#))
  - a. Silent Study Space for UWS London Campus Students
  - b. Policy Lapse - SAUWS supports the working class
  - c. Policy Lapse - Pro-choice SAUWS
  - d. Policy Lapse - Home 'Sweet' Home

1. **Welcome** – *The Union Chair and Representation Team Lead will welcome you and give you information about how council will run.*

Kevin acting as Chair. Chair welcomes Council, and takes through the agenda for the final Student Council of the year.

The Representation and Communications Team Leader provides an overview of how Council will run explaining that Sabbatical Accountability and Question Time, then members will debate the policy ideas submitted by students and voting will take place via Polls on Zoom.

## **2. Review of previous minutes**

Chair asks council if any members would like to make amendments to previous minutes. No amendments suggested, minutes approved.

## **3. Senior Managers and Sabbatical Officer Question Time**

Our senior manager guest will be current UWS principal Lucy Merideth who will join us at 2pm. She will be joined by your Sabbatical Officers: Ellie, your student president; Kevin, your VP Education; Claire, your VP Student Development, and Luke, your VP Welfare and Wellbeing.

Chair invites sabbatical officers to greet council.

President, Ellie, greets Student Council. Apologies for not being in Paisley for the final council, this is due to having COVID.

Vice President for Student Development greets council. Vice President for Welfare & Wellbeing greets council, Luke is excited as it is his final council of his 2-year term.

Chair thanks sabbatical officers, and hands back to Ellie. Ellie apologies for no presentation to accompany summary of the year, this is due to sickness in the sabbatical team over the past week. Ellie is incredibly proud of everything they have achieved this year! The Union President's proudest achievement is the scrapping of grad fees. This was a collective action, as it has been an ongoing campaign for many years and involved many reps, and officers.

Another highlight for Ellie was COP26. UWS students went to COP26 and worked with many other Scottish and UK universities, to demand change when it comes to the climate crisis.

Ellie hands over to Claire, to discuss her achievements. Claire starts by saying what a learning experience it has been for her and thanks all the other officers for their support this year. It has been a rewarding year, as she has been able to help students, such as mature and parent students, overcome barriers through sharing her own experiences. Claire has taken an active role in the Women's Liberation Group too, including taking part in protests with other universities.

Chair passes to Luke, VP Welfare & Wellbeing. Luke starts by discussing the Thriving Learners Survey, the largest mental health survey to take place for students. The student strike was a pivotal moment, as it caused the university to really listen to us. It allowed the university to see the sabbatical officers as student advocates, and created great change, for example the degree algorithm changes. Luke also thanks the union staff, and fellow sabbatical officers.

VP Education, Kevin, thanks all the officers, and thanks the students for their feedback – especially for hybrid learning achievements such as lecture recordings. Chair then opens the floor to questions from members.

**Q:** What other events will be given to Lanarkshire students? We were promised a lot more this year, and got one event right at the start of T1.

**A:** Ellie responds that events had been planned in Lanarkshire, however, the union space is currently unsafe due to the windows. This means that a lot of events have been cancelled at the last minute. We are hoping to have an event before the end of the academic year!

**Q:** How have you been able to improve the relationship with the university?

**A:** Luke says that they have been able to face, and discuss, the real issues the students are facing. We have been listening to the university too, to try and improve the comms to ensure the messages are getting to the students about what support is available. We have the respect with the senior management team, they understand that we are there as a 'critical friend' viewpoint. Ellie follows up to say that there is an honesty between the university and the union now, we can have open and honest conversations.

**Q:** Member states that lecturers still need to do more personally as information gets lost in transit between senior management and lectures who then have to pass that information on to students. What can the sabbatical team do to make this communication better?

**A:** VP Education, Kevin answers this as it is working on this. This issue forms part of one of the universities key thematic themes. He discusses SEAT, Student Experience Advisory Team (working title) which will aim to resolve this issue with communication. This will be a specific team, or mentor, assigned to students to resolve queries and pre-empt questions.

Chair welcomes Lucy Merideth, Interim Principal.

Lucy gives an update on the work the university is currently doing. One of the key things is the recruitment of a new Principal, recruitment is currently ongoing as we are looking nationally, and internationally. Students and key stakeholders will also feed into this. Lucy hopes the timeline will be June/July, but this will depend on notice periods and employers. This year we have removed graduation fees, changed the degree algorithm, and made progress on the Student Experience Programme. She thanks the sabbatical officers for their work this year, and comments on how much progress has been made on their manifestos this year. We are hoping to return to in-person graduations this summer! Celebration events will also happen for those that missed out on graduations during the pandemic.

NSS Survey is under-way, Lucy encourages reps to circulate this to their classmates. The survey informs the way in which the university should work, including discussion with Programme Leaders.

Lucy congratulates the newly elected Sabbatical Officers, and all the candidates who ran in the elections.

Lucy asks any specific questions are recorded, to be directed to the correct members of staff.

Lucy explains the difference between Principal, and Vice Chancellor. Vice Chancellor is line managed by the chair of University Court. Both of these roles are outward facing, they usually would be representing UWS at a national and international level.

**Q:** Member asks how the union is helping to streamline communications, The Hub will often say one thing, but then the international team will say another.

**A:** Lucy is aware of this issue, as she has received complaints about this. Johnathan, VP Learning and Teaching, is working on this process. Lucy states we will make some changes, including the systems we use, and how we send information to students. Cannot confirm yet, but the aim is to streamline all information and communication to one portal. She also mentions that all courses will start to include generic modules focusing on: careers, employability, and life after university. Lucy states that this is a high priority for the university!

**Q:** The university website has a partnership with a Russian university, will this be removed due to the current situation in Ukraine?

**A:** Lucy states that firstly, the university ensured all their Ukrainian and Russian students and faculty were able to get support if they needed to. Currently, we have no active partnerships with Russian institutions. Lucy also checked whether UWS have any investments in Russia, which the university does not. We have hired a new member of staff to review all international partnerships, with criteria which all partnerships must meet.

**Q:** Member asks for some clarity on lecture recording. Can the Union do anything about helping the lecturers hold intellectual integrity for lectures so that all lectures can be recorded?

**A:** Lucy asks specific feedback of the course/year/subject, which can then be sent on to VP Learning and Teaching.

**Q:** Member asks about the cost-of-living crisis. The current student loan does not cover the rising costs. What are the university doing to support students during this time, including funding?

**A:** Lucy starts by discussing accommodation costs, UWS benchmark their costs against other Scottish universities. Comparatively, our accommodation is relatively affordable. Lucy then discusses fees, and loans for Scottish Universities. She acknowledges that a lot of UWS students do work alongside their studies, which is why she is so passionate about the Student Experience Programme to make studying as comfortable as possible for students. She then signposts to Hardship Funding and SAAS Funding for individuals who are potentially facing hardship but are unsure of where to go for support.

**Q:** What are the university doing to support students who are unable to find accommodation? This is especially impacting international students, who may move to the UK with their families.

**A:** Lucy is keen to pick this up separately as an issue with the sabbatical team and senior management.

**Q:** Given our high level of SIMD 4 students, is having average pricing justifiable (relating to earlier housing question)? We pride ourselves on being an accessible university, but this reduces accessibility for one of our largest student demographics.

**A:** Lucy points out that any profit is usually re-invested into properties, for example, two flats have been renovated on Lady Lane and George Street and these have cost significant amounts. She says

this is an incredibly complex issue. Whilst the university does build in contingency costs, she hopes that students can appreciate the rise in fuel costs will impact these decisions also.

Union Chair calls for a break, members to return in 10 minutes. When members return, Kevin welcomes the new Union Chair, Ameer Hamza. Ameer will chair Council for the next academic year.

#### **4. Policy debate ([Paper 3](#))**

- a. Silent Study Space for UWS London Campus Students
- b. Policy Lapse - SAUWS supports the working class
- c. Policy Lapse - Pro-choice SAUWS
- d. Policy Lapse - Home 'Sweet' Home

##### **a. Silent Study Space for UWS London Campus Students**

Proposer not present, Chair explains the policy.

Member points out that there are silent spaces on all other campuses and encourages other reps to discuss this issue. London campus should not be an exception.

Member says that this is a matter of urgency, as not all students are able to have silent study space at home or have the resources to do so.

Chair opens policy to vote.

Policy passes.

##### **b. Policy Lapse - SAUWS supports the working class**

This is a policy lapse, it was passed 4 years ago. Therefore, they are now up for review by Student Council.

Proposer present. Previous Sabbatical Officer is here to discuss policy. University previously was working with an industry partner who was antagonistic to working class interests, and their workers.

Member urges council to pass this policy, as we should consider the demographics of the university. We have a widening access demographic; therefore, we should stand with these students.

Proposer states this policy would encourage the union to stand against the university when working with businesses with unfair labour practises. The policy would also support the students who may be facing these disputes with companies.

Policy passes.

### **c. Policy Lapse - Pro-choice SAUWS**

This is a policy lapse, it was passed 4 years ago. Therefore, they are now up for review by Student Council. Proposer not present, Chair explains the policy.

Member asks for clarification as this policy references SAUWS. Chair explains this should not alter the policy as UWS Union, and SAUWS are under the same umbrella.

Member highlights that there are still issues with abortion rights in Northern Ireland too, so this policy should be passed to support these students.

Another member questions what this policy would offer, as it focuses on Northern Ireland, and Republic of Ireland. Member states that we do have influence due to NUS UK and Scotland bodies, as well as the European Students Union which we are a member of.

Council member also highlights the struggles in USA, and the repressive laws overseas. Member interjects that another policy could be proposed for further afield support.

Chair moves to vote. Council votes to pass policy.

### **d. Policy Lapse - Home 'Sweet' Home**

Proposer not present, Chair explains policy, specifically PBSA which stands for Purpose Built Student Accommodation.

Member encourages students to vote for this policy as PBSA's are taking up a lot of space in Scotland and forcing students to pay extortionate amounts on rent.

Member asks if the university has enough accommodation to supply the demand, or if that is why they have to outsource. Member highlights the difficulty of being able to impose policies onto private organisations.

Another member highlights that this policy does not impact private renters, London students and people living at home, it is limited in the students that it can support.

Members states students should pass this policy, as students in PBSA's have less rights than in university or private accommodations.

Chair adds that the Union does campaign for Student Housing in their national campaign efforts with NUS UK.

Union President states that students should pass this policy, as PBSA students do have less rights and encourages students to join NUS Scotland strike for Student Housing.

Member encourages policy to be passed, as together we can make a difference with students that do live in PBSAs, with action such as strikes.

Policy passes.

## **Paper 1 - Previous Minutes (Student Council 3):**

- 1. Welcome** – *The Union Chair and Representation Team Lead will welcome you and give you information about how council will run.*

Kevin acting as Chair. Chair welcomes Council, and gives apologies for Johnathan Powles, who is running 10 minutes late.

The Representation and Communications Team Leader provides an overview of how Council will run explaining that Sabbatical Accountability and Question Time, then members will debate the policy ideas submitted by students and voting will take place via Polls on Zoom.

- 2. Senior Managers and Sabbatical Officer Question Time**

Suzanne Daly, Head of Registry and Jonathan Powles, Vice Principal Learning and Students from UWS, will be your guests this meeting. Suzanne oversees The Hub, Registry, registration and Jonathan is responsible for all things learning and teaching and is focused on the student experience. They will be joined by your Sabbatical Officers: Ellie, your student president; Claire, your VP Student Development, and Luke, your VP Welfare and Wellbeing.

Chair welcomes guests Suzanne Daly, and Sabbatical Officers. Suzanne thanked the Council for inviting them along.

Chair invites the Sabbatical Officers to say a few words.

President Ellie greets Student Council, excited to be in London and to launch her hidden costs campaign during this council. Ellie reminds students that nominations are open for elections.

Vice President Welfare and Wellbeing, Luke, spoke about his speech to Cross Party group for Students/universities.

Vice President Student Development, Claire, has been working on volunteering week. Liaising with staff at the university on the results from COVID survey.

Chair invites students to ask guests and sabbatical officers questions.

**Q:** How often are enrolment pages updated on the website? Member has noticed some inconsistencies on these pages.

**A:** Suzanne has taken a note of that and will review these as soon as possible

**Q:** Is there any update on Summer 2022 graduations?

**A:** Expect an update on that as soon as possible.

Johnathan Powles arrives.



Johnathan tells council about SEAT (Student Engagement Advisory Team – working title). The idea is that all questions can be referred to one person throughout their time at university, everything from enrolment/financial hardship/essay extension. It is an adapted personal tutor system, with additional administrative support. The SEAT advisers will also reach out to students, for example, if you have not met a deadline. Expect to be partially implemented in September. SEAT will also include peer support.

Suzanne adds to the definition of SEAT. The advisers will understand the problems being faced by students and will be able to pre-empt problems by creating a knowledge base.

**Q:** Member has a question regarding returning to campus for Paisley students. Member has had 9 peers ask them about this as they are keen to get back onto campus as a few students have disclosed this is affecting their mental health. What are the university doing about this?

**A:** Johnathan says that students are now welcome on campus to use facilities. Timetabled in-person classes are variable depending on the course. Highly unlikely that we will be asked to impose stricter social measures. For September, Johnathan is hopeful that full in-person learning will be back. He notes this is not a promise, but this is his hope. Online learning will not be a substitute for in-person learning, however, it was part of the university's strategic plan pre-covid.

**Q:** Member comes back on this point, are students able to create their own in-person sessions? E.g. groups of students who are comfortable coming on to campus.

**A:** Johnathan says we should maximise opportunities, we want students to have the opportunity to either come to campus, or work online. UWS is trying to offer flexibility as much as possible!

**A:** Johnathan also remarks that they are emphatically encouraging lecturers to have in-person communication with their classes, but Johnathan will take it away to ensure the message is clear.

**Q:** Student says online module has been very unorganised. Course is in unison with GCU, and they have all thought online delivery is not fit for purpose. Have 5 people on record who are considering dropping out due to poor online classes and support.

**A:** Johnathan thanks for feedback, encourages him to discuss this offline as he is aware of some of the issues on the course.

**Q:** Prior to pandemic, there were 2 gender neutral facilities. There is now only 1 on Paisley campus after the pandemic. What are the university doing about this as it is an issue for students who are based at Paisley Campus?

**A:** Johnathan recently became aware of the issue, it is being discussed next week with another member of senior management. Aiming for a resolution, and apologies for it.

**A:** Further update from Johnathan: There has been an overall increase in gender neutral toilet facilities recently as the toilets recently refurbished in B block used to be male only and are now gender neutral. The Hub GN toilets are no longer there as there was a change due to the back door at the library being accessible and causing security concern. The library toilets are being rebranded to gender neutral to replace this change at the Hub.

**Q:** Can we have feedback and updates on solutions we offered at Council last time?

**A:** Last student council we had questions for Student Services, Sabina posted on Student Rep page with follow-up answers.

Johnathan discussed issues with lab access from last council. Followed up with schools and timetabling teams, practical lab time has been prioritized when timetabling. The university is trialling a new programme to support with referencing and grammar, it is a 24 hour service, it has

been very successful at other universities. Link may appear on Aula/Moodle for some courses on Studiosity.

There is a strong alignment between issues that are raised here, and across other forums. Meeting the diverse needs of our student body is our number one priority, we are aware of anxieties of both returning to campus and not wanting/being able to return to campus. We are aware that one size does not fit all.

**Q:** Member has been approached by other students for feedback on disability services. Some students have been waiting since the start of the course and have not got any communication back.

**A:** Johnathan has asked to email him directly and he will pick it up with Student Services team. He apologises for not having any response, or action yet.

**Q:** Campus access at the weekend is limited, library is open but member is unable to access labs.

**A:** Suzanne has asked Timetabling Team Leader, and further updates will be provided in the minutes (see below):

The main campus opening details can be found at [CORONAVIRUS STAFF UPDATES \(uws.ac.uk\)](https://www.uws.ac.uk/coronavirus-staff-updates). Opening hours means the campus is 'unlocked' and students can use the Library (when it is open), reserve classrooms and study spaces. There also is a PG area in J202 and P blocks that has special access for PG students. Specifically a question was raised about labs and the library access. Labs are arranged by Schools depending on H&S and usage and that the Paisley Library is open from Storie Street entrance.

**A:** VP Education has a meeting with the library staff next week so the issue can be discussed there.

Chair thanks guests for attending. Johnathan gives apologies for lateness and thanks all members for questions.

### 3. Review of previous minutes (Paper 2)

Minutes accepted as accurate

#### e. Ratifying of NUS Conference Policies (Paper 3)

- a. Accessibility in the Fight Against the Climate and Ecological Crisis – NUS Liberation
- b. Changing the narrative on GBV – NUS UK
- c. A Joint Approach to Tackling the Student Poverty and Housing Crises – NUS Scotland

Chair explains what NUS is, and general overview of these policies. President then explains how NUS conferences and policies work, requests that council approves the 3 policies.

- a. Accessibility in the Fight Against the Climate and Ecological Crisis – NUS Liberation

President expands on the policy and proposes.

Chair opens policy for vote.

Policy is passed.

- b. Changing the narrative on GBV – NUS UK

President explains the policy and proposes.

Chair opens policy for vote.

Policy is passed.

c. A Joint Approach to Tackling the Student Poverty and Housing Crises – NUS Scotland  
President explains the policy and proposes.  
Member enquires whether this is for all students, or Scotland only students. President confirms it is for Scottish students only.  
Chair opens for policy for vote.  
Sabina explains how voting works for any members new to council.  
Policy is passed.

#### **4. Policy debate (Paper 4)**

##### **a. Renew 24hr Library Access**

Proposer not present. Chair explains the policy, specifies that it is for the Lanarkshire library.  
Chair moves to vote.  
Policy passes.

##### **b. UWS Student Union Supports Sex Workers Rights**

Proposer present. Proposer explains the policy, suggests union should work with third-party charities to support students. Union should advocate for sex workers rights.

Member motions for council to pass this policy, member is aware of the support the union already has in place but points out that we can do more and should not demonise students who have to turn to sex work.

Another member motions for council to pass this policy, union should not criminalise or marginalise these groups.

Member asks what support is already in place at the union, and how this policy would make a difference.

Chair suggests the policy currently in place is to signpost to third-sector organisations. Proposer agrees that it is about working with third-sector charities to provide training to those that may need it.

Vice President Wellbeing and Welfare suggests that the union has not had any instances of this, if sex workers have come to advice workers then it has usually been for another reason. We currently do work with students to see what third-party service is most beneficial to them.

Chair moves to vote.

Policy passes.

##### **c. Easier way to apply for hardship and childcare funding**

Vice President Student Development is aware of how difficult it can be to complete forms for hardship support, motions for council to pass this policy.

President adds that the sabbatical team has already raised this issue with the university, and they are creating a new system which they are looking to implement in next academic year.

President encourages council for this policy to pass as it will help their actions in discussions with university.

Member asks for clarity as to whether it is both union and university funding – David Devlin confirms it is for university services only.

Policy passes.

#### **d. Services**

Proposer not present, Chair explains the policy.

Member motions council to pass, as students should have a variety of formats available to them.

Members suggests this policy could be a good solution, however SEAT may mitigate some of these issues.

Vice President Student Development agrees with above member, and highlights paper wastage.

Vice President Welfare & Wellbeing points out that students are able to request materials in paper format, such as Handbook.

Chair moves to vote.

Policy has not passed.

#### **e. Note Taker**

President raises concerns about accessibility needs, as some students do have to rely on this service during university.

Policy has not passed.

#### **f. Email**

Proposer not present. Chair explains the policy.

Member has concerns with this policy, university does have this process already, but it is not used.

President has concerns about this policy, as this may be already happening with disability services. It is an unrealistic expectation on university staff to tailor communications to each individual student.

Member raises concerns over policy creation, as a lot of policies have been proposed by one student.

Vice President Student Development has dealt with any issues offline.

Policy has not passed.

#### **g. Services**

Policy not discussed

#### **h. Keep Learning Online**

Policy not discussed

## Paper 2 – Sabbatical Officer Reports

President's Report to Student Council  
Ellie Gomersall

### Introduction

Hi everyone! Here's my final report to Council. This February, I've been taking our campaigns to a national level, attending rallies and strikes for free education and an end to student poverty, travelling to Edinburgh and London with other UWS students and student activists from all over Scotland and the UK. I also hope to continue my work on a national level and am standing to be the next president of NUS Scotland.

This is my final Student Council as your President and I'd like to thank all of you for making this experience so wonderful. I've still got a few months left in office (until the end of June) so please continue to stay in touch! Best of luck to next year's sabb team – I can't wait to see what you achieve.

### Manifesto Progress - 73%

- ✓ Academic Safety Net – complete/ongoing (see [Council Report 1](#))
- ✓ Online & Physical Learning – complete/ongoing (see [Council Report 2](#))
- ✓ Events at the Union – ongoing (see [Council Report 3](#))
- ✓ Regular Drop-ins & Updates – complete/ongoing (see [Council Report 1](#))
- Support for Societies, Liberation & Representation Groups – still more work to be done here, so stay tuned.
- ✓ Scrap Grad Fees – complete! (see [Council Report 2](#))
- Other Hidden Course Costs – conversations have started with the uni on this, but I'm going to need **your** help on this one! I want to know what hidden course costs there are on your course, and you can also raise these at your SSLGs and Divisional/School Boards!
- Timetabling & Enrolment – work is ongoing here! I'm aiming for progress on this before the 2022-23 academic year.
- ✓ Supporting the Student Strike – complete (see [Council Report 1](#))
- ✓ Working with other Unions – complete/ongoing (see [Council Report 1](#))
- ✓ Direct Action – complete/ongoing (see [Council Report 2](#))

### Get in Touch!

I'm always so happy for anyone to reach out – drop me a message on social media (Twitter/Insta: @UWSStudentPres or Facebook: Ellie Gomersall – UWS Student President) or email me at UnionPresident@uws.ac.uk!

# KEVIN'S (Union VP Education) REPORT TO COUNCIL 3 (AY 21/22)

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Hello Friends,

This report gives an overview of what I have been working on over the past few weeks. Previous reports can be found in the previous council minutes.

## Managing Assessment Deadline Clashes

- We have designed a survey to source staff feedback on how assessments schedules are currently planned and managed across the institution. Good progress with this work so far.

## Union Research Symposium 3.0

- We organised the Research symposium on the 16<sup>th</sup> February. Students who attended really enjoyed themselves, learned a lot about presentation skills, research and also Academic support available within the university. We gave out £50, £30, & £20 to the top 3 presenters.
- We used this opportunity to build further links between students by connecting them through societies. We organised a Postgraduate student society and an international student society meetings.
- With the great feedback received we will be looking at organising further academic events this year.

## Elections

- We spent a week in London meeting & welcoming new students and encouraging all students to participate in the elections.

## Library access and updates

- I welcome volunteers who will be interested to take part in conversations around what students would want the library space to look like.

Please Get in touch with Me

[Unionvpe@uws.ac.uk](mailto:Unionvpe@uws.ac.uk)

Social: @UWSStudentsVpE

<https://linktr.ee/unionvpe>

It is now easy to book a chat with me here: [Book a chat with Kevin.](#)

## **Report for Student Council from Vice President of Welfare & Wellbeing**

### **Reducing Dissertation Stress**

The paper passed the Student Partnership Forum and now head to the Education Advisory Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March

### **Recreational Sports/Active Health**

We offered 3 more social walks but unfortunately needed to postpone one due to stormy weather. We had 5 students come along for the social aspect at the Union in Paisley, but not the walk.

### **Thriving Learners Survey**

I presented to Scottish Student Sport on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March about the recommendations of the Thriving Learners Survey with Chris Maguire from the Mental Health Foundation. We spoke about what we can do as a sector moving forward, especially in relation to physical health and activity.

### **Student Mental Health Agreement**

We continue to make progress on this, especially with the excellent help of the students on the advisory panel.

### **University Mental Health Day**

We will host stalls across campuses on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March.



## **VP for Student Development Report for March 2022 Student Council 4**

**Claire Morris**

This report gives an overview of what I have been working on over the past few weeks, all my previous updates can be found in the Student Council minutes on the Students Unions website. This past month I have been working on the following:

### **THEME 1: Create volunteering opportunities and skills training sessions for students.**

**Volunteering and International Volunteering Event** – T2 VPSD attended Volunteering week online events for both Volunteering and International volunteering. Both events were well organized by the careers and skills team from UWS, and it was very insightful listening to other student's personal experiences highlighting the benefits of volunteering and explaining how this can help in your future career paths post student life.

### **THEME 2: Student Support: Promote inclusiveness and the Student Support Policy within the University making sure students are aware of learning support available.**

Make sure support is in place for students with post COVID-19 related issues.

**Societies Executive Committee Meeting** – T2 VPSD attended discussions held with various society members on ideas for events both face to face and online events. The mature student's and distance learner's society expressed concerns about students suffering with anxieties and mental health issues post COVID-19. VPSD shared links to Counselling and Wellbeing team @ UWS website and contact details and explained students need to reach out the free support is available.

**COVID Survey results** - T2 VPSD summarized the Survey Monkey results from T1, and shared the results with Lucy Meredith, Jonathan Powles, and Claire O'Donnell, who shared a video on the anxieties return to campus with Gillian and the SU Comms team to share on all social media platforms to help students who are still struggling. Further ongoing workshops and free Wednesday webinars are taking place with various topics online to boost wellbeing and mental health. These topics that will be discussed are some of the key themes that overlap with the results from my survey, students can sign up on Eventbrite to attend.

T2 VPSD shared the results from the **COVID-19 survey** including how students found wearing lanyards and the traffic light system helped reduce anxiety levels coming back to campus across all campuses. During T2 VPSD to continue to promote wearing lanyards they are free at the SU.

### **THEME 3: Greater promotion and communication of student support groups:**

Ensure effective communication with students, before commencing University and at the beginning of the Academic Year, ensuring students are aware of all the support mechanisms, services, and practical arrangements available.

T2 – VPSD had discussions with Ian Maitland re **Campus M**. Ian highlighted moving forward this communication platform will be introduced to all students starting in September 2022. All announcements will be on Campus M, the SU can opt into a dashboard to share all SU news feeds. A quick poll will be available for students helping to deliver comms.

T2 VPSD attended the Student Experience Project WS1: Curriculum Renewal (Meeting 10)

Make sure all student groups are acknowledged, promote new clubs, societies and extra mural activities, work towards helping develop student opportunities.

**Woman's' Liberation Group Training Session** – T2 VPSD attended with JM supporting new members, VPSD gave feedback to the WLG on how to complete the society action plan for 2021/2022 and the society aims for the upcoming year what they hope to achieve.

Other activity involvement the past month:

**Big Elections 2022** – T2 VPSD announced during February monthly update video, anyone wanting to stand for the VP for Student Development sabbatical role to attend the drop inn sessions face to face and online across campuses and if you have questions to please review the SU page.

**Graduations** – T2 VPSD and Other Sabbatical Officers had discussions re to make a decision which Sabbatical officers will be involved in the planning of graduations alongside Suzanne Daly and other UWS Staff.

**Student Council 3 Policies** – T2 VPSD will be planning discussions with Funding team re finding easier ways to apply for hardship and childcare funding and reviewing the application process (Passed policy from SC3).

**Cancellation of the GBV working group monthly meetings** – T2 A decision was made to cancel monthly meetings moving forward with UWS Staff, Union staff and members from the Liberation Groups. Rather to organize individual level meetings to discuss GBV using a scoping exercise that allows us to gain an overview of any GBV relevant activity done in our specific department or service. The importance of this was highlighted when putting together the video on available support for GBV within UWS (<https://www.powtoon.com/ws/dVX8yGTvbVP/1/m>). Feel free to look. Further discussions were held with the UWS GBV Working group offering members of the Woman's liberation group the opportunity to be involved in training with Woman's Aid.

**Academic Integrity & Ethics Committee Meeting** – VPSD is a member of this committee and in T2 attended this meeting (representing the SU and students). At the next meeting further discussions will be held on how to increase student participation and engagement on the ethics process. Issues such as the timing was mentioned and the turn-around time it takes to gain ethical approval, also applications that are rejected and looking at ways to support students to prevent this happening.

### Paper 3 – Policy Debate

#### a. Silent Study Space for UWS London Campus Students

It has been noticed that the UWS London campus only consists of 5 Lecture rooms and 8-10 Small meeting rooms. While the library is near the reception, where students or visitors are often asking for help to resolve their issues, which results in noise that can't be digested by the students who need silence in the open library space to concentrate. It is requested to President, VP, Sabbatical officer, and student representatives expedite the process to resolve this issue on priorities.

#### WHY YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT

Immediate actions are required on this burning issue which is creating enormous problems for final term students and even the new researcher. Due to the unavailability of the space, students start chatting and wandering here and there. It has been observed that if you want to learn something your need to create environment so as to execute accordingly, if UWS is not providing the environment then it is not possible for new researchers and students to explore more in the world of academics and publishing more content in international journals.

#### IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK WE SHOULD KNOW?

UWS London Campus has two floors in East India Dock Road 1. Import Building 2. Export Building Import Building is older with half of the 7th floor, where an open library is situated, and students are not enjoying the study resources actively due to noise. That's why in import building it is impossible to make space for the study area. On the other hand, in the Export building whole 7th floor is now part of UWS, which is indeed a piece of great news for students; we can use some of the space by putting partitions along with the bookshelves for the library, where students can enjoy their research.

#### b. SAUWS supports the working class

1. To consider the impact on individuals from deprived backgrounds in all policy
2. To consistently fight for the university to widen access beyond what already exists
3. To refuse to associate with any organisation or group that ignores the cost of their practices on working class individuals

#### c. Policy Lapse - Pro-choice SAUWS

1. SAUWS will officially take a pro-choice stance on abortion and support students' right to choose.
2. SAUWS will affiliate to Abortion Rights UK, a charity who campaign for safe abortion across the country.
3. SAUWS will actively campaign against any restrictions in pregnant person's current rights and access to abortion.
4. SAUWS will stand in solidarity with those in Northern and the Republic of Ireland in their fight for safe and legal abortion.

All information found here: <http://www.abortionrights.org.uk/>

d. Policy Lapse - Home 'Sweet' Home

1. SAUWS to take a stance against for-profit providers of Student Accommodation.
2. Campaign against any suggestion of outsourcing of student accommodation by UWS.
3. Work with the Glasgow Student Forum against the development of further private PBSAs within the local area.
4. Work with Shelter or similar organisations to educate students on their rights as tenants in PBSA.
5. SAUWS will no longer take commercial revenue from for-profit providers of PBSA.