

Sabbatical Officer Name and Role:

Amina Awal, Co-Vice President (Self-Identifying Female)

Date of Report: March 2024

Video Link –

Updates

Manifesto

Title Update: **Fostering Inclusivity: Uniting Diverse Student Communities with Different Creative Initiatives.**

Update Category: **Insight/Action**

This update covers the month of March 2023, giving an overview of ongoing initiatives dedicated to enhancing both the social and academic experiences of students within our university community. Aligned with the core objectives outlined in my manifesto, the primary aim of these projects is to cultivate an environment that encourages interaction and collaboration among our diverse student body, thereby enriching their overall university journey.

Key initiatives highlighted in this update include the Buddying Scheme, which continues to foster student integration and peer support, promoting a sense of belonging and community among our students. Additionally, amidst the ongoing cost of living crisis, my commitment to supporting students remains unwavering. Through initiatives such as the Food drive and Lunchtime Socials, I actively engage with students across various UoB campuses, providing curated meals and opportunities for social interaction.

These campaigns, which I am deeply involved in, are meticulously designed to offer peer support, address mental health concerns, and provide valuable guidance to all students. For further details regarding these initiatives, please refer to the information provided below.

Campaigns

Title Update: **Buddying Program and Cost of Living Support**

Update Category: **Insight/Action**

Exciting progress continues in our efforts to enhance student experiences at UoB. The Buddying Scheme is well underway and preparing for the Mental Health Charter On-Site Visit. My focus this month has been on supporting students here at the University during the cost-of-living crisis, I successfully co-ordinated generous donations from the University and the Luton Branch of the United Nations Association to organise a Food Drive, handing out 100 food bags and recipe cards in the Metro Bar and Kitchen. With plans of extending to other campuses! More details on this will be shared soon.

Faculty – HSS

Title Update: **Health and Social Sciences (HSS)**

Update Category: **Insight/Action**

I've been collaborating closely with the Student Reps in my faculty, alongside tutors and staff, to ensure effective communication and representation. We are currently working on reverting the changes made to students' loan access dates. Additionally, student-staff meetings have commenced, providing an opportunity for students from the HSS faculty to voice their thoughts, ask questions, and be heard by staff members. To participate in these meetings, simply reach out to your course rep for the upcoming schedule. Your active involvement is crucial in shaping our academic environment.

Policy Work

Title Update: **Students' Mental Health**

Update Category: **Insight/Action**

Following up on my previous update regarding raising awareness around student mental health, I'm excited to share significant progress made in collaboration with the University's Mental Health Charter to promote mental health support for all students and reduce stigma.

Additionally, I'll like to inform you that an on-site visit will be conducted as part of this process. This visit will provide an opportunity to further showcase our dedication to promoting mental health support on campus and to engage in constructive dialogue with the Mental Health Charter representatives.

Thank you for your continued support in this important endeavour. Together, we are making meaningful strides towards creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all students at UoB.

Overall Review

I'm actively working to recruit more students for the Buddying program and deeply engaged in making students life better. I welcome your suggestions on how the university can better support students! Feel free to email me at Amina.Awal@beds.ac.uk.