

Sabbatical Officer Name and Role:

Chidinma Akwada, Co-President (Self-Identifying Female)

Date of Report: March 2024

Video Link – (*attach video link to Officer report*)

Updates

Manifesto

Update Title: **Reading Group**

Update Category: **Insight**

This work is in reference to my manifesto, stating:

"To actively improve the communication system between students and the university segments that are directly involved with the students' day-to-day university experience."

At the start of my tenure, I mentioned that I would like to start a reading group at the University. The purpose of the group is to introduce the students' voices in communications that are sent out to students.

Written communication is important and needs to be concise, clear, and fulfil its intended purpose. This campaign involves the recruitment of interested student volunteers to join a Reading Group, review communications from the University, and give feedback on how communication items are understood from the perspective of the student. The feedback from the group will help improve future communications to avoid any misunderstandings such as those students have pointed out in the past.

This plan had to be stalled because we did not get a diverse range of student volunteers who represent the diverse demography of students at the University of Bedfordshire. However, I am excited to announce that during my recent T2 planning session with Beds SU's Membership services team, concrete plans on how to reach more students have been made, and after achieving this, the group will remain in existence even after my tenure, as communications is such an important part of the student's experience.

Campaigns

Update Title: **Chidinma Says**

Update Category: **Action**

Since the launch of Chidinma Says, four episodes have successfully been published, and can all be found [now live on Beds SU's Instagram account](#). The fourth episode was uploaded on the 13th of February. Please have a look at it if you have not already!

The fourth episode was a special elections edition and was aimed at not only encouraging interested students to nominate themselves to be candidates during the elections but to also participate in the voting and contribute their voice in choosing the officers who will be representing them in the next academic year.

We had 16 candidates compete in this year's student elections across two positions and the winners were announced at the Elections Results announcement event which I had the opportunity to host on the 11th of March 2024. At the close of the voting period, we had a record-breaking number of 2,724 voters. It was indeed a successful election.

The next episode will be uploaded in April as March has been a very busy month with lots of activities from elections, to planning the RepCon which I talk about a little bit more later in this report and of course, the Easter break which is just around the corner.

Faculty – UBBS

Update Title: **Faculty Officer**

Update Category: **Insight**

An important change has been introduced to the officer team at BedsSU for the coming academic year. Historically there have been four full-time Sabbatical officers representing the student body at the University of Bedfordshire. However, in the coming academic year, there will be only two full-time Sabbatical officers, who have already been elected this month, and four part-time officers representing each of the four faculties.

This is to ensure that the officers have more time to work closely with their faculties, without necessarily worrying about the wider Sabbatical officer duties.

Sabbatical Officer Reports (AY23-24)



The faculty officers will be elected in September, so if you are interested in representing the University of Bedfordshire Business School, keep an eye out for election emails from BedsSU.

The part-time officer position is ideal for home and international students, being that it is a 20-hour paid job role and will allow you to work flexibly around your study.

Other

Update Title: **RepCon 2024**

Update Category: **Action**

In celebration of the amazing work all the Reps at the University of Bedfordshire have put in this academic year, the Sabbatical officers alongside the entire students' union team are planning the first conference of its kind titled – **RepCon 2024!!**

So, BedsSU is calling all Course Reps, Campus Reps, and Student Experience leaders to register to attend this conference. RepCon 2024 has an interesting and packed agenda consisting of items like sessions that are aimed at advancing rep and employability skills, celebrating wins, networking with each other, and learning from other reps' experiences.

If you are a Rep, then please look through your email inbox for the mail from BedsSU about RepCon 2024, for more details and to register your interest.