

Sabbatical Officer Name and Role:

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

Date of Report: February 2024

Updates

Manifesto

Update Title: **Chat with Chidinma**

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."

The start of the year saw the launch of the first series of Chat with Chidinma. Chat with Chidinma is an informal session where students can come along to meet with me in a relaxed space and discuss any queries, concerns, and ideas they might have about issues related to their student experience.

Four sessions were scheduled to happen across the main Luton campus, the Bedford Campus, the Alexon building (in Luton), and the Birmingham campus. However, due to train strikes, the Birmingham session did not take place. The other three sessions were insightful. I met with students from different courses and gathered feedback, concerns and ideas in a less formal setting. Plans are still in place to reschedule the Birmingham session and I look forward to meeting the amazing students in the Birmingham campus once more.

The students I met during the sessions appeared to enjoy giving their feedback in person and without necessarily having to go through any formal process. The feedback, concerns, and ideas were all directed to the right person so action could be taken.

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

The third episode though, was a very interesting one for me to shoot. In the third episode, I went out to speak to students and to ask them what they have enjoyed most as students at the University of Bedfordshire since this academic year began. It was an awesome experience hearing positive feedback on things that can now be improved upon since students enjoy them.

Faculty – UBBS

Update Title: **Faculty Meeting**

Update Category: **Insight**

A big welcome to all students who joined the University of Bedfordshire in January. It was lovely to meet most of you at the Induction sessions I had the opportunity to attend and deliver the Welcome to the Students' Union presentation.

I attended my last Faculty Academic Board meeting in the last week of January, and it was a good one. The Students' Union presented a detailed table of information containing feedback from various courses across the Business School. I would like to encourage students to continue giving feedback, as their voice is important in creating change.

Other

Update Title: **Reporting Racism as a Student**

Update Category: **Action**

In preparation for the Race Equality week that started on the 5th of February, I was part of the students' Union team that worked alongside the Race Equality Charter Committee and the Directorate of Student Experience to evaluate the support and report webpage of the university and to now add a dedicated button for reporting racism. Students can now easily and straightforwardly use this [Link](#) to report any concerns they might have about Racism in the University.