

Sabbatical Officer Name and Role:

Chidera Umeh, Co-Vice President (Self-Identifying Male/Non-Binary)

Date of Report: (21/03/2024)

Updates

Manifesto

Title Update: *NEW PROGRAMS TO FACILITATE THE INTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND RE-ENGAGING OUR ALUMNI TO INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE CURRENT STUDENTS WITH THEIR SUCCESS STORIES ON AN INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL.*

Update Category: Insight.

Aligned with my manifesto's objectives and building upon the successful launch of two initiatives geared towards enriching the student experience and nurturing a dynamic campus community at last month's event, I've been collaborating with our team to develop additional programs in support of these goals. Concurrently, in partnership with the social opportunities team, I'm actively exploring avenues to raise awareness for these events alongside the ongoing efforts of the SU staff and my sabbatical team.

Campaigns

Title Update: *COST OF LIVING*

Update Category: Insight.

During my recent meeting with the SU's senior leadership team, we delved into a new cost of living policy designed to tackle the diverse challenges and impacts encountered by our students amidst the escalating cost of living. Our conversation was highly constructive, leading to significant progress on our targeted plans. We've commenced outlining the contents of the cost-of-living policy, sustainable objectives, and focal areas for the upcoming academic year.

One of my goals is to advocate for the continuation of the discounted breakfast and lunch on the Bedford and Luton campuses while exploring additional measures to alleviate the financial strain students are facing during this period.



Faculty

Title Update: *UPDATE ON EES FACULTY*

Update Category: *Action/Impact/Insight*

In adherence to my role responsibilities, I had the privilege of attending training sessions and sports matches for our various sports teams this month. I am delighted to announce that our university's Futsal team won this year's championship, and I had the pleasure of being present to support the team on match day. Currently, our university sports teams are actively engaged in varsity games against the University of Northampton.

During some of my visit to the sessions, I took the opportunity to gather feedback, and I am currently collaborating with the university sports department to address areas identified for improvement. Additionally, we have established a social group for the Bedford campus, where students can contribute ideas for future campus activities. I encourage students residing and studying at the Bedford campus to join the group and participate in shaping the direction of our events. Your input and feedback are invaluable in ensuring the success of these initiatives, and your involvement and feedback are crucial, and together, we can create truly memorable experiences for everyone involved.

Policy Work

Title Update: *SPORTS PILOT*

Update Category: *Impact/Action*

I and Ryan Murphy, your Co-President, have actively gathered feedback from students on the Luton campus who expressed a desire for a dedicated space for recreational sports. After compiling this valuable input, we collaborated with the UoB Sports Department to put together a proposal that was presented to university stakeholders. In response to the students' request, the University approved the return of an increased variety of sports offerings in Luton campus. To support these initiatives, the University has committed to funding a sports pilot project that will run from February to May 2024. This development follows the launch of free gym memberships in September 2023. Monday, February 12, saw the University launch of several free sports sessions at venue 360, providing students with more options to stay active.

Thank you for reading and see you next time.