

## Sabbatical Officer Name and Role:

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

**Date of Report:** (15/02/2023)

## 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:** Action/Impact

In alignment with my manifesto, I have successfully launched two initiatives aimed at enhancing the student experience and fostering a vibrant campus community. The first initiative promotes integration among international, domestic, and EU students, fostering cultural exchange, and social cohesion. The second initiative focuses on re-engaging with alumni, leveraging on their success stories to inspire current students across the institution. Notably, the "MY JOURNEY MY STORY" event, attended by over 250 students from diverse backgrounds, featured an inspiring alumni panel and an exciting AFROBEAT club night at the Luton campus. These efforts underscore my steadfast commitment to student service, the advancement of enriching campus experiences, the promotion of inclusivity, and the cultivation of a strong campus community.

### Campaigns

**Title Update:** *COST OF LIVING*

**Update Category:** Action/Impact

Part of my conversation with the University's top leadership team revolved around a new programme aimed at addressing the rising cost of living. By providing breakfast and lunch subsidies on the Bedford and Luton campuses, we are taking proactive steps to reduce the financial hardship that students are experiencing during this time. As of my most recent update, I am still working closely with the Beds SU staff to implement our cost-of-living policy. Additionally, earlier this year, I met with the Housing

Manager at the Accommodation Office to explore ways for increasing awareness of their services and boosting support for students looking for suitable rental arrangements.

### Faculty

**Title Update:** *UPDATE ON EES FACULTY*

**Update Category:** *Action/Impact*

In response to feedback, we've established a Games Night in Bedford campus, building on the positive reception of our Superbowl live match. Furthermore, we are thrilled to have provided an inviting atmosphere for individuals to come together and enjoy the match. Gradually, we are building a campus community that is distinctively ours. With each event and gathering, we strengthen the bonds that unite us and foster a sense of belonging for everyone. In addition, we have created a social group where students can actively contribute ideas for future activities. Your input and feedback are critical to ensure the success of these initiatives. We sincerely invite you to join us and help shape the course of our events. Your participation is vital, and together, we can make these events genuinely unforgettable for everybody.

### 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.