

TOWN TAKEOVER

I have dedicated a fair amount of time organising the town-takeover campaign. The aim of the campaign was to encourage students to say no to top-up fees, encourage MPs to state their position on education funding and ensure that students are aware of the alternatives to the current system. In order to ensure that this campaign was successful I was involved in attending meetings concerning the campaigns organisation and review of town-takeovers which had occurred in other areas; organising the flash-mob stunt and preparing the materials for it; advertising the event through emails and calling societies; making a promotional film for the event; and attending the stunt and debate on the day to ensure that the whole thing ran smoothly as well as acting as a media spokes person. On balance I believe the campaign was successful as it received a lot of press coverage and attracted a number of students to campaign on the issue.

DIVERSITY WEEK

All of the preparation for diversity week has now been completed. Over the past few weeks I have been in touch with the international society, the chaplaincy, various ethnic societies and interested students in order to create a week which is full of activities and educational material which promotes the diverse nature of the world which we live in and rejects intolerant attitudes. I have also created all of the promotional materials for the week and I am looking forward to seeing how the week pans out.

DISABLED STUDENTS WEEK

I attended the disabled student's week planning meeting in order to co-ordinate the organisation of this campaign with the planning for diversity week since both are scheduled to occur during the week commencing 9th November. As a result I became involved in organising some of the events which will occur during the week as well as including the message of the disabled student's week campaign into diversity week's inspirational figures campaign and its club night.

CARBON AMBASSADOR TRAINING

Next week the training for the carbon ambassador scheme commences. This scheme aims to train students to become environmental auditors who can go out into the business and perform environmental audits. In order to ensure that we have the correct number of people from Manchester being trained up I have been advertising this opportunity to students by the attending meetings of relevant societies and sending out emails to students informing them of the opportunities.

PEOPLE AND PLANET

I have been attending people and planet meetings in order to encourage them to continue with their green campaigning and holding the university to account on their green policies through advertising the universities go green league rating and encouraging them to attend the student's sustainability forum. I also ran a writing and press release training session for the group.

GENERAL MEETINGS

I attended and helped the fair-trade society at the last general meeting and attended a review session of the general meeting where we discussed strategy for making the next general meeting a success.

POLITICS SOCIETY AND ALL NIGHT GENERAL ELECTION COVERAGE

The politics society approached me asking for my help in organising an event in the union bar which will be the first union backed coverage of the general election. In order to make sure that this event will occur I have attended a meeting with the General Manager and took the issue to our exec meeting in order to gain exec approval and opinion over the technicalities of the event. The event has been accepted by both management and the exec and decisions were passed to allow BBC coverage of the event and a drinks and snack bar to be open all night. I believe this event will be useful from a campaigns perspective for running a successful get-the-vote out campaign this year as it will allow students to engage with the election in a fun way.

SOUND IMPACT

I attended sound impact training in order to find out how to improve the union's environmental efficiency. This is an important part of the environmental campaign as it will allow the union to act as a role model in terms of environmental efficiency. I have also organised a meeting with the relevant people within UMSU in order to ensure that the actions suggested at the training are carried out.

TREE PLANTING

I organised and promoted the tree-planting weekend as part of the union's environmental campaign. This event successfully encouraged a number of new faces to get involved in green campaigning as well as giving them an action to take in order to reduce their carbon footprint.

GOVERNANCE REVIEW

I attended a governance review meeting. This review is integral for ensuring that the union is running as efficiently as possible and allowing UMSU to help students as fully as possible.

SOCIETY AND CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE

I attended the NUS society and citizenship conference in order to learn about various campaigns which students can get involved in, vote for members of the society and citizenship advisory committee and represent UMSU's opinions in discussions of what policies should be taken to NUS's national conference this year. Both environmental and ethical investment issues were discussed.

CAMPAIGNS COLLECTIVE MAILING LIST

After a few problems with the campaigns collective mailing list, the list is now up and running and I am working on an area of the website where campaigning societies can submit their campaigns to the list.