

Pension stuff-

UMSU contracted employees are part of a pension scheme called SUSS (<http://www.sussonline.co.uk/>). As with every other such scheme in the country SUSS is facing deficit problems. In response to this the Trustees of SUSS have sent a questionnaire to member institutions asking what we think of several different solutions. Myself, the General Manager, Deputy General Manager and the Finance Manager worked through the questionnaire together.

Governance-

The governance working group met for the first time and decided that we will all go away, read the NUS model constitution, meet again and come up with recommendations to the Executive on how we should take this review forward.

North Campus publicity-

Now that the Executive have regular hours in the Peer Support Centre, I commissioned Materialise to make posters to publicise the fact.

Council guide-

I have completed the content of the guide and have commissioned Materialise to design the actual handbook.

Corporate Governance and Management Audit-

Following the Executive's commissioning of the audit, it has taken place and the report will be out late in the week starting November 2nd.

Looking at budget-

Myself, the Communications Officer, General Manager and the Finance Manager met and went through the budget. ...

Joint UMSU MMU Community Meeting-

The Welfare officer, the Academic Affairs Officer and myself met with the MMU executive to talk about our community strategies. The meeting was convened by Susan Nash of NUS (who was very helpful) and it was generally agreed that neither union's strategies was sufficient. It seems pretty clear from the experience of other cities (Leeds, Nottingham and Birmingham) that appointed community reps receiving bursaries is the way forward and that the work has to be co-ordinated by a staff member for reasons of continuity.

GM+ GGMM

As we all know the recent general meeting didn't make quorum. For me personally this was a wake up call as I'd always had a 'not on my watch' attitude to GMs failing to happen. In response to this, the Communications Officer, Student Direct Officer, Campaigns Officer, a Humanities General Council Member and myself, have met and drawn up an action plan to ensure we do not have a repeat. Key to a new line of thinking is that we have to explain what GMs are and why they're relevant to members on top of publicising when they are on.

Feedback meet SUEI

Fairtrade steering group-

I attended the University's Fair Trade steering group. Out of this I have approached the Make Trade Fair society to carry out a Fair trade audit of the Union to see if we can improve in any areas. The audit will be completed no later than November the 13th.

Scrutiny Committee training-

Myself and the Training and Development Co-ordinator have begun to organise training for the Council Scrutiny Committees, which will take place on Wednesday, 11th November.

International student conference-

Having been contacted by the NUS international officer I have asked the General Manager to facilitate their conference happening at UMSU.

Black students conference-

As above.

Union Development Zone

I have attended said conference.

Strategy-

I continue to finalise the strategy document. Just as I thought it was finished I've been bombarded with lots of feedback, which I'm currently trying to incorporate into the document.

Carbon ambassadors-

Upon the General Manager's initiative we have joined the NUSSL's carbon ambassador scheme. The General Manager, the Campaigns Officer and myself will co-ordinate the scheme in Manchester.

Nightline-

I've continued to try to arrange training for exec members but earliest appropriate date is December.