

Internationalisation

Joe and I have been working hard to respond to the government's proposals on international student visas. We conducted a survey that had over 900 responses in the space of 2 weeks over the government's proposals to change the visa system. We compiled this into a report which we sent to the Home Affairs Select Committee. Joe and I have also had several meetings about how to respond formally to the questionnaire the UK Border Agency has sent out on this issue and also about how we can seek to lobby MPs on this issue.

A strong relationship with the University

There has been a meeting of the University-Union Relationship review group. This was tasked with documenting the relationship between the Union and the University and also with making recommendations of how this relationship can improve.

The exec met the Vice Chancellor and Registrar in one of our 6 annual meetings with them. We pushed her hard to update us on where cuts might fall, in which she iterated the principles she has already laid out, and also to release the financial models they are going to be using in relation to fee setting.

I have represented the SU at the celebration of the Nobel Prize lecture and dinner, which was a helpful chance to network, one concrete result of which is that Brian Cox may come and give a lecture in the next few months.

I have also had several informal meetings with members of the University, including the Chair of the Board of Governors, Director of the Careers Service and new Director of Student Experience, who will be meeting the whole of exec this week.

I am also arranging for students from MHS to meet with their new Dean.

Campaigning on Education issues

Alongside lobbying the University on this issue we are also taking part in the march on 29th which I will be stewarding at.

I am also working on a General Meeting motion on Widening Participation to ensure that this years and future exec are mandated to campaign on accessibility issues.

A good national reputation

I attended with Emma an NUS national conference in Manchester on the issue of strategy and SUEI (the Student Union Evaluation Incentive). This was a helpful chance to refresh the vision of where UMSU is looking to head to in the coming years.

A new Governance structure and registering with Charities Commission

Emma is leading on this and I have been working with her and other members of the team to ensure that she is well enough supported in this role. As a result we will be having a temporary staff member coming in to support her in the analysis of our successful survey and ensure that we are continuing to consult widely.

Societies

I continue to attend societies committee and continue to be impressed by the range of activities going on!

Staffing

We are currently undergoing some structural changes to our staffing to allow us to become a student centred organisation. These changes were approved by the Trustees in accordance with Charity Law, once we have finalised the negotiations with the staff Union (Unison) we will be able to show these exciting proposals to all our members.

Exec

I have been attending exec meetings and also seeking to ensure that everyone is getting back to the groove of work after a long break.

We also had an exec day trip to Leeds and Sheffield student Union's, which was a great chance for us to look at some excellent practice of how students can be represented and provided for and energised the whole team!