

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-

Charity law has changed such that we are essentially being forced to adopt a new constitution. The governance working group has met and decided that we need to carry out wide ranging consultations on the following aspects of the new constitution; sab roles, make up of the trustee board and our policy making procedures. I shall organise these consultations.

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 Officer met and went through the budget. It was noted that the budget is fairly conservative, but the hope is that we will perform better than forecast.

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.

SUEI-

This is progressing too slowly, largely because everyone is so busy.

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 the 11th of 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.

Society Committee-

The committee met and got on with its business.

Chris Davies-

Myself, the Women's Officer, Student Direct Officer and Academic Affairs Officer met Chris Davies, Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning for the Faculty of Humanities, to discuss feedback at the University of Manchester. Out of this meeting it was decided that we will hold an event at the union giving students the opportunity to discuss feedback with senior university staff.