

**Strategy-**

I, with the help of the Executive, have written a 5-year strategy document for the Union. The document, when ratified by Council, will determine the direction of the Union over the next five years (if it is ratified by successive councils).

**SUEI-**

Along with the General Manager, Welfare and Research Manager, Academic Affairs Officer and the Postgraduate and Mature Students' Officer, UMSU's involvement in the Students' Union Evaluation Initiative has started.

I gave a presentation to the Exec bringing them up to date with the process and the SUEI working group has started to meet regularly.

SUEI is a self-evaluation exercise that is independently audited and will allow us to ensure that Union activity is focused on students.

**Governance Review-**

Charity law has changed such that we will have to change some of the Union structures in order to successfully register as a charity. A governance group has been set up but is yet to meet as we are awaiting the outcome of the Corporate Governance and Management Audit.

**Corporate Governance and Management Audit-**

The Executive has decided to commission an audit to look at how well the Union is set up to deliver on student needs. The audit will take place at the end of October with the report coming out in early November.

**Financial Audit-**

The auditors are soon to finish their report but it is clear from drafts that the Union will be said to have accurate accounts and be in a strong financial position.

**Council-**

I'm working on making Council as accessible and effective as possible by providing members with information that will allow them to do their jobs well. This will be manifested in a council guide but also in more informal support, such as help campaign planning.

**Open Day-**

Traditionally, the University has given information to prospective students about the Union on open days, but this has been judged to be largely inadequate. In response to this, I organised Union tours led by members of the Executive and volunteers. The tours were very successful and the prospective students seemed very impressed by the Union.

**Informal networking-**

Over the summer I have spent a lot of time making contacts in and around the university who will be invaluable in helping getting the work of the university done. This networking has been with:

Manchester City Council- Waste and Recycling team

NUS- With officers from around the country and NUS staff, especially our Regional Officer.

UCU- The president of the local branch

Athletic Union- Olivia the president

University- Registrar and Secretary and his deputy, Alexander Clarke in STARS, Lucy Millard and others in the University Sustainability Team, Hannah Patterson in Manchester Student Volunteers, the President, David Barker from Risk, Danielle Atkinson from recruitment, Maynard Case the V-C for Risk, Compliance and Sustainability, Colin Sterling the V-C for Teaching and Learning, Louise Wormsley the Head of Teaching and Learning Office, and many others.

Committees- I have attended (and will continue to over the year) and met the chairs of the following committees:

Teaching and Learning Group

Planning and Resources Committee

Finance Committee

Board of Governors

Senate

### **Community-**

I sat on the panel of the Withington Civic Societies Withington 2015 event. It was an eye opening experience that really drilled in that the Union has an important role to play in supporting student cohesion with local communities.

### **NUSSL-**

In May or so I was elected to sit on the Environment and Ethics Committee of NUS Services Limited. I have attended two meetings, which are excellent opportunities to present the Union's strong ethical standings in influencing NUSSL policy.

### **Environmental Stuff-**

Defra bid- Pushed the University to apply (successfully) to be part of the greener living fund.

Focus on Sustainability- Helping to organise a university-led event.

Green Gown Awards- Represented the Union at an awards ceremony (but unfortunately we didn't win!)

Biomass boiler- We are currently looking at carrying out a feasibility study on the practicalities surrounding installing a biomass boiler to provide our domestic hot water services.

### **Media-**

I have appeared on or given interviews to the following media outlets. Independent, BBC Radio North West, arranged to talk on North Manchester Radio.

### **Training-**

I have undertaken the following training:

In house- Week long training programme put together by General Management and NUS. Was very useful for settling the Exec into their roles and for the Exec to get to know each other and the staff of the Union.

Liberation- A brilliant one day event. Opened my eyes to the amount of work that needs yet to be done on liberating oppressed groups of students.

Board of Governor Training, delivered by the Leadership Foundation- Another one day event in London that brought me up to scratch with issues surrounding being a student member on the Board of Governors.