

Societies Handbook

The societies handbook is the first information pack societies get from the union. It is the role of the activities officer to keep this up to date. I also decided to reformat and condense the booklet to make it more accessible.

Freshers Ball

I was also involved in the running of Freshers Ball. Working along side the entertainments team I ran 2 of the 4 rooms. My aim was to bring a more diverse range of music to the ball that is normally dominated by one or two musical genres (mostly cheese). With the help of two student run nights we had a dub reggae and garage room and a techno and electro room. I was involved in creating flyers; booking acts and stage managing on the night.

I also implemented the first ever fancy dress theme namely "thriller" after the late great Michael Jackson (eeeeee heeeeeee). Not only did we feel this was a good idea as a bit of fun, but a good bonding activity for our Freshers. On the night we had zombie face painters helping get the crowd involved.

Societies Show Case

Along with the communications officer we ran a societies showcase during Freshers week. This was a chance for societies to show off what they actually do. For example we had Fashion Soc do a catwalk, Music soc perform some orchestral and funky numbers and gliding society brought in their full size gliding simulator. We got very good feedback from the societies involved and we would like to get next years exec to scale up the event to make it a major part of next years Freshers week integrating it with the Freshers fair.

BIKO LIVE

BIKO LIVE is a new club night in the Union that was initially set up as the campaigns officer wanted a musical extravaganza to celebrate her green week. I realised this was great opportunity for societies and students to showcase what they can do (much like the societies showcase). We built the night around the concept of a night of live music arts and dance along with the green theme. The first event included MUSEA performing live art, music from a student collective called Risky Biscuits and DJing from Fuse and UMDNB. Student action also had a clothes sale that raised over £50.

It has now become a monthly event designed to run along side our campaigns. The next one will be featuring even more society and student involvement. We have the 50 piece Manchester gospel choir, 20 piece Manchester Uni Jazz Orchestra, Bhangra Soc, Dance Soc, MUSEA, ACS and many other small student groups involved in all areas from decoration to promotion. My aim eventually is to have a successful night that societies can use can take over and run themselves.

The Christmas Biko live is in the pipeline it has a 1920's/30's theme and will be held in Christies Bistro. It is being run by the emerging arts society and the music soc.

Societies committee

As Chair of the Societies Committee I have been part of all the meetings, so far these have mostly involved the process of re-registering societies and approving new societies. We are now at the end of this process and are bringing some new societies that we feel need to clarify their aims and objectives in order to be approved.

Warm Up Sessions

The warm up sessions happen every Friday and Monday from 5-11pm. These are simply DJ slots in the Union Bar. Originally these were only run on Friday the idea was to provide an opportunity for student DJ's to practice their craft outside of the bedroom. But due to popular demand, Dubstep Soc and UMDNB now run their own sessions on a Monday. This has seen a good community of DJ's build, out of which we are soon to have an urban music night.

Societies Feedback

We have developed a feedback form for societies so we can find more effectively what facilities they use and any problems they face. The survey is now live on line and open for a two week period. I have had lengthy conversation with General Office about the problems that arise on their side. I plan to have a meeting with a group of society members to further gauge student satisfaction.

Pangaea

I have started down the long road of organising the largest student run festival in Europe. We now have all our section directors sorted and are recruiting help from across societies. The theme for this winter is a twisted fairy tale.

There is now a decorations team in place. A marketing team. Almost a full line up. And tickets are now on sale.

Website team

I am part of the team keeping the front of the Union website up to date.

Drama Fest

We are in the preliminary stages of organising the event.

I have been part of the committee choosing the plays to be performed this year.

Biko Records

Biko records is a new venture which I am running with Atudent Action and Fuse to set up a record label for the Union. We have had a programme put together that digitally distributes our music on 700 different platforms. We aim to offer a deal to artists signed to us which is unrivalled by other record companies artist getting 75% and Student Action 25%. This will not only be the only be the one of the first charity record labels but also the first Union record label.

Bike Records now is a fully registered society and the committee has had its first meeting. Look out for Biko record nights in the near future, and our artist on spotify and i-tunes.

The collective music night

Born out the warm up sessions, there is now going to be a big event in Club Academy on the 15th of December organised by the Techno, Dubstep and DnB societies.