

## **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 alongside the entertainments team, I ran 2 of the 4 rooms. My aim was to bring a more diverse range of music to the ball than 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 heeeeee). 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 year's exec to scale up the event to make it a major part of next year's 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 would be a 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 alongside 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.

Next Biko planned for 12<sup>th</sup> of Feb for the Haiti Appeal.

## **Societies Committee**

As chair of the Societies Committee, I have been part of all the meetings and 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 practise 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**

Pangaea is Europe's largest student run festival, it is now only a few days away and has been dominating my life since Christmas. We have loads of society involvement from Capoeira to Bhangra along with other student groups helping out. We have a marketing team, creative team and event directors all working together toward the event. It seems to be shaping up very nicely, fingers crossed it all runs smoothly on the day.

## **Website Team**

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

## **Drama Fest**

I have been part of the committee choosing the plays to be performed this year. The festival has moved forward rapidly in its organisation now all venues and plays have been sorted.

## **Biko Records**

Biko Records is a new venture which I am running with Student 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, artists getting 75 % and Student Action 25%. This will not only be one of the first charity record labels, but also the first Union record label.

Biko 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 artists on spotify and i-tunes.

The Record label has had its first release that got to number 55 in the UK charts!! And there are two nights planned - one acoustic night and a big launch party on the 25th February, featuring The Dutch Uncles, so watch this space.

## **The Collective Music Night**

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

The night was run brilliantly but we had a disappointing turn out, there is going to be another one in the New Year in a smaller venue, building on what we learnt this time.

## **Societies Speed Dating**

Along with Laura, I organised a "speed dating" session with society heads. Really just a meet and greet to share ideas, this was really well received. We have one planned for the start of this term.