

Advice Centre

I've designed and printed a colourful new poster campaign to raise awareness of the Students' Union Advice Centre.

Anti-Fascism & Anti-Racism

Since the last Council Meeting, I have helped organise UMSU's first Anti-Fascism & Anti-Racism week, aimed at addressing the rise of the far right. Events included an Open Media screening of NaziBoy and BNP Wives, a talk by a Manchester academic on the French resistance to the Nazis, daytime film showings and a naming of the dead memorial event. Some events were less successful - it rained far too heavily for one of our outdoor events to go ahead, and I will be working with Josh Dresner at scheduling a faith-based event later on.

Around 60 people signed up to the UMSU Anti-Fascism & Anti-Racism Collective, which myself and Laura are launching this Friday (23rd). We're hoping this will mean there's an organised anti-fascist and anti-racist presence on campus all year round.

Community Reps

The Community Representative scheme, called My Manchester (My MCR) is really taking off the ground. The Community Reps have organised two events so far, one in Rusholme and one in Moss Side, and have been attending community groups to provide student input and try and diffuse tension between students and local residents. They're organising something big for the summer, including food, football, litter picking and prizes, which I'm supporting them with. We're getting quite a few hits on the Community Reps' website, and I've been working on publicising the scheme.

Crime

I have applied for £1000 funding to run an anti-burglary day. Wait and see!

Free Education

In line with the commitment to campaign for a Free Education in my manifesto, I have submitted a Free Education motion for the next General Meeting.

Hearing Loss

Clubbers earplugs are now available for free from the Welfare Officer. They're lime green and perhaps a bit uncool, but at least they protect your hearing!

Housing

I have been dealing with a barrage of housing complaints and queries. I have also attended Manchester Student Homes policy committee, where decisions about the future of the University-owned letting agency are made. Here I represented our students' interests, ensuring that whatever the list release date for next year, it wouldn't penalise University of Manchester students who have exams in January when Manchester Metropolitan students don't.

Mental Health

I have been speaking with Laura about spending some of the Disabled Students budget on a memorial to students who have committed suicide. The idea behind the memorial is to have something that isn't morbid, but serves the dual purpose of displaying information and points of contact for students in crisis. I have also been working with the organisation PAPHOS who deal with young people and suicide to promote their training events to Manchester students.

Plagiarism

Meeting students who have been accused of plagiarism and accompanying them to their hearings is still a big part of my work. I have three plagiarism hearings scheduled for this week alone.

Safety

At the last meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, I raised the issue of the fact that nothing is being done about safety in Whitworth Park, even though I have repeatedly raised it both with the Council and the police. Students are still being attacked in the park. Alan Gilbert has got onboard with this campaign and is using his own influence to make this park safer.

Sexual Health

I'm planning a day promoting condoms in the next couple of weeks. I have a thousand lollipop shaped condoms (difficult to describe, but they're quite realistic) and house staff are making some "STOP UNSAFE SEX" lollipop lady style signs for volunteers to use while handing them out. It should be an eye-catching stunt to promote condoms. I have also applied for more condoms from the NHS.

Voting

I helped sign people up to vote in the General Elections in the foyer.

Women's Conference

I attended NUS Women's Conference - my last ever NUS conference!