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Monthly Full Time Officer Report

Officer:	Joe Leam - Campaigns and Activities Officer
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Manifesto

Pledge	Progress
Online Platform for Sports and Society Reimbursement	Fully completed, up and running - Big thank you to Rachel Sunderland, our Activities Manager, who put the work in to do this. Sports and Societies can now upload receipts online rather than have to come into the SU office, collect and fill out a form, speeding the process up massively.
International students hardship fund	International students are now able to claim the hardship fund in line with domestic students, following meetings with Pewist Osman, the head of student services, and Sue Tarhan, the director of student support services.
Cheaper drinks in the bar	Given the financial position of the bar, which made a loss last year, there was much dispute about lowering the price of the bar drinks. As a compromise, the bar agreed to do weekly deals in which specific drinks will be much cheaper for the week, as well as the aptly named "Joe's Jugs" which is three pints in a jug for £7.50.

Currently Working On

What are you doing?	Progress
BUCS x Trans Campaign	Currently, there is no ability for trans or non-binary students to identify in competitive university sport beyond male or

	<p>female. On top of this, trans students must have transitioned for 2 years or more to be able to play. There should be greater inclusivity and understanding by BUCS, the university sport governance body.</p> <p>I have contacted the NUS trans officers and the London regional rep of BUCS in the hopes of getting a campaign going nationally, whilst conducting research on how BUCS may be more inclusive. In the coming weeks, I will begin formulating a strategy on how we can campaign.</p>
<p>This Girl Can</p>	<p>We have began the planning of the week of This Girl Can, which has an event everyday for women and non-binary students. It is an exciting schedule with something to do everyday. This includes an adidas womens colour run and free sessions in the gym.</p>
<p>The Justice for Cleaners Campaign and Goldsmiths Workers Action</p>	<p>Alongside other students, UCU, Unison and the cleaners, we formulated a campaign over the summer leading to the cleaners no longer being outsourced by ISS, a company who mistreated them. They are now to be employed by Goldsmiths, given the same rights as all at the university. This included two protests, one outside estates and one outside the new art gallery. We also hold a supper club in the SU cafe every two weeks for cleaners to come before or after their shifts.</p> <p>Following on from this, we will continue to work with other outsourced staff, namely security and catering, to bring them in-house, so they have the same rights of all who work in the university, creating more of a sense of community.</p>
<p>The University is Ours - Staff/Student Assembly</p>	<p>I organised the Staff/Student assembly in the SU venue to promote solidarity between staff and students, promoting the belief in having an elected warden in line with the beliefs of the Goldpaper - a</p>

	<p>document pushing for democratic running of the university with its priorities being governance, mental health and housing.</p> <p>This with UCU, the cleaners campaign and other staff and students. It was proposed in light of the cleaners being brought in house and the warden resigning, showing that it is a time of change for the university and we should all work together to promote a better run university, and show that the neoliberal marketised model of university does not work.</p> <p>I have since taken on the task of continually organising the staff/student assemblies.</p>
<p>Goldpaper</p>	<p>Alongside a number of staff and students, I co-wrote a section of the Goldpaper. Goldpaper is a vitally important document centered around the university being democratically run by all workers and staff, rather than the top down approach we have now. It centers around three main sections; governance, mental health and housing. I am continuing to work with all in the Goldpaper, arranging meetings and engaging as many students and staff possible to come together to work for better transparent running of the university and more support in mental health/housing.</p>
<p>Elected Warden Campaign</p>	<p>I co-wrote the open letter to the chair of council proposing we have an elected accountable warden with a transparent recruitment process.</p> <p>We will be meeting over the next few weeks to formulate a strategy on where we go next to get an elected warden.</p>
<p>Cut the Rent and Rent Strike</p>	<p>As Eva, our ex-president left, the SMT decided they would allow the £50,000 of rent strikers money in the SU bank account to be used in how the student body see fit.</p>

	<p>Myself and Felix, the original lead of CTR, met with strikers who decided they wanted their money given back.</p> <p>Following this, the university turned around and said if we give the money back to the strikers they will chase them for the debt, as well as take away the £50,000 from the SU grant, citing that to give the money back to strikers would be to subsidise them with free accomodation from the money that the paying students used.</p> <p>I therefore have been meeting up with Felix to formulate a plan on what to spend the money on. We thought the best idea would be to split the money between two things; a graduate hardship fund, for those in need having graduated without a job, and a deposit scheme, for those who can't afford a housing deposit going into first and second year. This has to be run past the students, in student assembly through a motion, and by the strikers whose money it actually is.</p> <p>Following the decision of the student body and the strikers, I will follow their word, which will hopefully be to use this money in the ways outlined above.</p> <p>I have also joined up with the housing arm of the Goldpaper, Goldsmiths Housing Group, to plan on how to make accomodation cheaper/better and lessen the blow of gentrification.</p>
<p>Skills and Rights outside the Classroom</p>	<p>One of my main priorities this year is to give access to information, skills and rights that we are not actively taught inside the classroom at school, college or university.</p> <p>I began with the idea of a series of talks from charities and trade unions coming in to speak to us. This evolved to actually</p>

	<p>filming a series of videos with various figures from various charities and trade unions, in the hopes of creating content that will reach more people and last a number of years.</p> <p>The Goldsmiths Housing Action Group have crafted a booklet around housing information, advice, info, etc, which I helped feed into. This gave me the idea of continuing this with other areas, hoping to put together other booklets.</p> <p>The areas I will focus on for the videos and booklets will be workers rights and trade unions, immigration, banking and taxation, academic, political and campaigning, sexual health and housing/tenancy/accommodation.</p> <p>I have begun contacting people who are keen and I will continue to formulate a network of people who are keen on getting this together, hopefully filming in the new year to be released on Youtube, shared on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.</p>
<p>University Challenge</p>	<p>I am proposing an event in the SU cafe in the next few weeks in which trials will be conducted for the places on the Goldsmiths University Challenge team. I will give people an hour to answer 40 questions, whilst timing them. Those who answer the most questions correctly in the shortest time will be shortlisted, in which I will then conduct interviews with a smaller series of questions, hoping to choose the right four people.</p>
<p>Rent Guarantor Scheme</p>	<p>A student, Penny, came to me with information about the rent guarantor scheme the university offers explaining that she'd be told it is no longer on offer.</p> <p>I planned a meeting with Sue Tarhan, the director of student support services, to find</p>

	<p>out more information. She explained it was 'under review' and told me only 3 places are offered, and all places have to be for students living alone.</p> <p>After much debate, we agree to go away and both formulate some ideas on how to improve the service. Sue said there was no budget to improve it to which I suggested there needs to be. She suggested we pay for the fees for students to use external guarantor schemes. I suggested we should lobby SMT for more budget to help rather than outsource.</p> <p>The plan is to get together some feasible ideas, in which I will involved Penny, then take those back to Sue to work on together in the hopes of creating a much better support basis for students who don't have guarantors.</p>
Sports Tour	<p>I began planning a sports tour over the summer, asking a number of different companies for prices. This has been on ice whilst new students join teams. I will ask sports captains at the sports captains committee meetings whether or not they would like an organised tour, and if its affordable, consulting them to ask members of their teams. We will then plan accordingly once they get back to me.</p>
Community Work	<p>We have formulated a working group inside the SU to work on improving the university's relations with the community. I have also scheduled a meeting with Selina Bolingbroke, the community engagement director. The hope is to lobby the university to improve their place in the community and support locals further, acknowledging their effect on gentrification and prices around New Cross and Lewisham.</p>
Campus Space	<p>I assisted JT with the project of the quiet space in RHB, which will be opening in the</p>

	next few weeks. I suggested we use blankets and cushions, and soft lighting, for a comforting and anxiety-reducing space.
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University Events and Meetings That I Have Attended

Event/meeting	Outcomes and/or actions taken or agreed on
Student Experience Sub-Committee (SESC)	<p>In this meeting, I proposed the sheer need for a timetable and module deadline. Many modules are veto'd as late as the first week of term, meaning students are not given what they chose in their degree specification or module choices. In response to this, I recommended an early september deadline for modules to be changed or cancelled, so students are not cut short on what they were promised.</p> <p>I also suggested we have a timetable deadline, in order for timetables to be finalised at the late August, so students can organise their lives outside of university. As timetable are received late, people who require jobs to live, or have childcare duties, are massively impacted. There is a huge need for timetables to be handed out much, much sooner.</p> <p>The committee said they would get back to us next time around with an update. I will follow this up at the next meeting, 11th December.</p>
Wardens Open Meeting	I asked Patrick Loughrey, our outgoing warden, if he will be taking a pay-off in leaving, similar to what he took when he left the BBC. The answer was no, leaving us with the knowledge that student's fee will not be paying him off.
Inductions	We attended all the inductions, split equally between us all, introducing what the SU

	does and playing our painfully cringeworthy video, thus introducing all new students to the SU.
Welcome Week Events	Between the sabbatical officers, we attended almost every single one of the freshers week events we proposed, as well as the two days in the welcome fair tent, supporting students and speaking to them about the SU's role on campus.
Mental Health First Aid Training	Mona and I both attended the mental health first aid training proposed by the university, which is taught on-site with the trainer in-house. The hope is to have as many lecturers as possible trained, with a list of MHFA'ers to come to people's need in a time of crisis on campus.
Project Management Training	Helping me to understand how to formulate and run a project.
Public Speaking Training	Working on how better to speak in front of an audience.
Media Law Training	Understanding the law around the media and how to not get the SU sued.

Things to Work on in Future

Event/meeting	Plans
Nursery	The price of the nursery stands at around £74 a day, which is completely unaffordable for students. I will lobby the university to subsidise for student parents.
Sports scholarship	Lobby the university to put forward funding to give scholarships for talented athletes.

External Events That I Have Attended

Where and when	Reason and anything to report
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NUS Students Unions Conference	To meet other students unions and hear about their projects and campaigns.
NUS Lead and Change	To be guided on how to be an effective sabbatical officer.
BUCS Conference	To learn about the governing body for university sport.
NUS Zones	To join national campaigns.

Anything Else To Report?

I proposed the idea of having the photography exhibition space in the cafe, which has seen a large amount of students work be shown.

We now have over 3000 memberships in our sports teams and societies, a record number!