

Student Council Report – Officer Updates

➤ **President – Jubair Ahmed**

Jubair’s action plans have now been finalised and are already in motion. The plans focus on delivering tangible improvements for students under the priority campaign “Delivering Student Value at Herts: Living and Learning. These plans aim to strengthen the sense of belonging, enhance the overall student experience, and ensure student voices directly shape positive change across campus life and learning.

The table below outlines the specific actions, focus areas, and desired outcomes for 2025/26:

Officer		Jubair Ahmed, President	
Priority Campaign	Delivering student value at Herts: Living and Learning		
	Desired outcome: Students get more value for money, feel a stronger sense of belonging and see a clear link between their voice and positive change – both in campus life and in the classroom.		
Living Making campus life worth it by boosting value for money and creating a stronger sense of belonging.	Accommodation value for money	• Push for better value in accommodation – including free society membership, Forum tickets, food vouchers, laundry card with a few washes on it or a local bus pass.	
	Sense of belonging	• Advocate for more student-led events and activities across Schools to strengthen community and belonging.	
	Campus catering	• Campaign for fairer catering prices, better ethnic food options and longer opening hours.	
	Multi-faith spaces	• Lobby for a larger multi-faith prayer space and clearer signposting for all faith-based facilities.	
Learning Ensuring teaching, support and timetables work for students, with their voice at the heart of change.	Student voice	• Support ACE is ensuring sure student voice is heard and acted on through strong School Forums and better feedback loops through the PVC Advisory Group.	
	Champion improved teaching quality	• Work with student leaders to observe modules with both positive and negative feedback, documenting best practice and areas for improvement to improve teaching quality across all Schools. • Champion better teaching and learning by challenging poor practices (like repetition, reading from slides or unengaging delivery) while promoting active learning.	
	More visibility of academic support	• Secure clearer and consistent standards for academic support – visible office hours, faster email replies, and better signposting to HAS • Work with SLT and ACE to identify and lobby for improvements to the Personal Tutoring system	
	Removing barriers to Engagement	• Use insights from Herts Unfiltered to identify the key reasons students struggle to engage with onsite teaching, such as timetabling challenges, commuting pressures or classroom environment. • Work with CEdSS to develop a set of recommendations to reduce these barriers, including policy proposals where relevant, with the goal of lobbying for better student attendance and more meaningful participation in classrooms.	

➤ Part Time Elected Officers Update

The Part-Time Officers have now completed their training and reviewed all findings from *Herts Unfiltered 2024–25* to understand the key recommendations. Using these insights, they have begun developing their own action plans and are currently mid-way through this process. All action plans are expected to be finalised by November 2025.

Crucially, once the action planning is completed, the actions arising from the Motions passed last year will be formally assigned to the Women's Student Officers to lead on. She will then provide a comprehensive update to the next Student Council.

In the meantime, the PTOs have been actively supporting the Students' Union during **Freshers' Week** – engaging with students, promoting societies, and gathering feedback for the *Herts Unfiltered* survey. They have also played a key role in delivering the '**WTF is Herts SU**' outreach campaign, where they, alongside Jubair, have been speaking directly to students, offering support, and listening to feedback that will further inform their action planning and campaigns.

A few of the key issues currently being explored by the Officers include:

- **Improving inclusivity and belonging** through more culturally diverse events, representation, and campaigns.
- **Enhancing academic engagement and support**, including better visibility of personal tutoring and academic confidence-building.
- **Increasing awareness of wellbeing and employability support**, particularly through workshops, mentorships, and outreach initiatives.
- **Improving accessibility and accommodation experiences**, focusing on neurodiversity, transport, and overall campus inclusion.

Together, these priorities aim to address key themes raised in *Herts Unfiltered* and ensure that student voices remain at the heart of positive change throughout the academic year. We will also continue to provide update on the progress of these action plans post their finalisation in the officer monthly updates on the SU website

➤ Updates on motions passed in Student Council

Following the Student Council meeting in April 2025, where motions proposed by the students were passed including Urgent Action for Women's Safety on Campus and Improving Transparency and Accountability in Herts SU. The Students' Union maintained regular contact with the students throughout summer to provide progress updates and clarify actions being taken.

The below summarises the main developments and conversations that took place between May and October 2025.

1. Urgent Action for Women's Safety on Campus	
Lighting and Safety Walkarounds	– Feedback from the Society regarding lighting around campus (particularly near Hutton and Film buildings) was shared with the Estates team. – Estates confirmed all lighting had been checked earlier in summer, and a night-time walkaround was later conducted by the SU President to identify and report any faulty areas. – Estates have been reminded of the need to remain responsive to student safety concerns, especially ahead of winter evenings.
Research into Campus Safety	– The SU Insight Team began scoping a student safety research project, in collaboration with the Dean of Students' Office. – A draft survey has been developed and shared with Socialist Students for feedback before formal submission for university ethics approval. – The aim is to capture location-specific experiences of harassment and safety concerns to inform future policy and campaigns. – This will be assigned to the Elected Officers in November
Safe Club Page and Forum Updates	– The Safe Club webpage on the SU site was updated before the Forum's September reopening, including information on spiking test strips, reporting mechanisms, and zero-tolerance messaging.

	– Posters have been installed across the venue and student bathrooms promoting the Zero Tolerance, Total Support campaign.
Progress on the OFS Mandatory Consent Training	– The mandatory consent and anti-harassment training was introduced for all students during registration; however, Students raised concerns about communication and quality of the training content. – Following this, the SU escalated the matter to the Dean of Students (Geri Ward). Geri confirmed that the training forms part of the registration declaration, is hosted on Canvas, and is being monitored by staff for completion. – The Dean has offered to meet directly with Students to review feedback and explore improvements.
Student Forum with Dean of Students	– The SU and the Dean's Office have agreed to host a student forum in early November 2025, open to students and staff (including the Sexual Violence Support Advisor and Wellbeing team). – The event aims to provide transparency on reporting systems, the Speak Up platform, and safety initiatives launched this academic year.

In terms of actions around transparency and accountability, Officer monthly updates are now being published on the SU website with reports already available for July, August and September.

Additionally, a Motion Tracker has been launched on the Student Council webpage, where students can follow detailed progress on all actions being worked on. Find the detailed motion by motion update here: <https://hertssu.com/your-say/student-council/>