

Student Council (01.12.21) – Updates from Rhi

Manifesto Themes:

Preventing Harassment and Discrimination on campus.

What progress has been made / what has been achieved?

- I hosted the Reclaim the Night Vigil on the 3rd November.
- The 0-tolerance approach/policy against sexual harassment and sexual misconduct was approved at the Board of Governors on the 23rd November and it will come into effect in the next couple of weeks.
- I signed up to the #16pledges campaign on behalf of Herts SU which was started by Not on my campus. This campaign aims to tackle gender-based violence through 16 pledges which have been split amongst four University stakeholder groups – Vice-Chancellors and Chairs of Governing Bodies, University Staff, SU Officers and Representatives, and Students.

What are my next steps / what do I hope to achieve by the next meeting?

- To implement the #16pledges campaign within the SU and to lobby the University to sign up to the pledges. I will also be speaking to sports teams and student leaders about also signing up to the pledges.

Improving the disabled student experience.

What progress has been made / what has been achieved?

- I have met with the head of the disability team to speak about how we can better support disabled students at Herts, in addition to how students can access support.
- I have also been speaking to students from the Disabled Student Network who have raised issues around accessibility on campus. I have alerted this to Mairi (PVC) and we are arranging a meeting to be set up with the estates teams.
- I participated on the Disability History Month Panel to speak about how the SU can support disabled students.

What are my next steps / what do I hope to achieve by the next meeting?

- To create and upload an educational piece on Study Needs Agreements.
- To have a meeting with members of the estates team, pro-vice chancellor and students about accessibility issues.

Mental health and wellbeing of students.

What progress has been made / what has been achieved?

- I met with the student wellbeing team, the safeguarding lead in HSK and some of the SCOs to discuss wellbeing concerns in the school. This is where I found out about all the support available, but students don't know about it/don't know who to contact in situations. Since then I have been collating all the information about what is available in each school and making it into easy to read lists.
- I had an Initial meeting with Liv our campaigns coordinator about the SUs wellbeing campaign and what we would like to do over the next few months.

What are my next steps / what do I hope to achieve by the next meeting?

- To send out the wellbeing support lists to each of the schools and all student leaders through our school specific monthly newsletters.
- To plan events for different mental health awareness days in 2022.

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Bits and bobs:

AskHerts Hubs.

- Zara and I were made aware that students were having to wait 4-5 weeks to receive their student status letters, which was causing international students a lot of problems. We successfully raised these issues directly to the team and to the Vice Chancellor and the backlog has now been cleared. We will now be working together to ensure that this does not happen again and to ensure there is more support in place for future international student intakes.

Graduation ceremonies.

- In the Chief Executive Group, the awards team came to speak about moving graduation ceremonies to July. If graduation ceremonies were moved to July, anyone that had to defer or refer an assignment would not be able to attend a graduation ceremony until December and therefore would not graduate with their friends or in the cathedral. I raised that this was going to negatively impact lots of students and therefore ceremonies should remain in September.

One-to-one meetings.

- I have been having 121s with several SCOs to see how they are doing and to get direct feedback about any issues they are facing within the schools. I have really enjoyed this, and I would like to look at expanding on 121s for the next semester so that I can speak to more students.