

## **SUBU President's report**

### **Plans for 2014/15**

Some of the key work that we will be focusing on includes:

#### **1. Responding to student feedback.**

NSS, SOS and 'How's SUBU for You?' surveys show us that we need to work with BU more closely at addressing a number of key themes. SUBU will be producing a 'Top 10' of student concerns based on all feedback received so far. Two of the top concerns are:

- a. **Assessment and feedback** – a disappointing 4% drop in NSS satisfaction from an already disappointing low point last year, meaning that 1 in 3 students are still dissatisfied with the quality of their assessment and feedback. In fact, Business School has dipped to only 54% satisfaction which is incredibly disappointing. This lack of student satisfaction is backed up by SOS data and feedback.
- b. **Listening and responding to student feedback** – NSS scores show a worrying number of students who are not clear whether anything happens because of student feedback. For BU as a whole, only 1 in 2 students can see clear action from student feedback. For one school it is closer to just 1 in 3 students.

The 'Top 10' list will be finalised by the end of September and shared with BU for us to consider ways forward.

#### **2. Academic Societies**

Evidence both locally and nationally shows the importance of academic societies to increasing student satisfaction and helping retention and success. SUBU is working closely with the CEL to establish a sustainable partnered approach to developing quality student led academic societies at BU this year.

#### **3. Talking to students – "20:20 Vision teams"**

We value student opinion, but rely too heavily on faceless repetitive surveys. SUBU will be taking a step towards talking to students more and surveying less this year, with the piloting of an initiative called '20:20 Vision teams'. Led by the VP Education, teams of 20 students will take 20 days to interview 20 students each about key issues around the student experience. These key issues will be driven by previous research from the SOS and other feedback. This will inform our direction far more clearly than just surveys.

## **Achievements in 2013/14**

The following were some of our formally recognised achievements in 2013/14

Last year was extremely successful for SUBU in pursuing our current vision of *'by 2016, SUBU will have a positive impact on every BU student's journey.'*

We were particularly pleased to have a number of our people and services recognised locally and nationally for their work.

### NUS Awards:

- Best Student Sports Club – Winner, SUBU Boat Club.
- Academic Representation Award – Runner up, SUBU Student Reps.

### Student Volunteering Network Awards:

- Volunteer Service of the Year – Winner, SUBU Volunteering
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Runner Up, Lexy Browning, SUBU Volunteer Co-ordinator.

### Bournemouth Borough Council Best Bar None Awards:

- Best Nightclub – Winner, SUBU The Old Fire Station.

### Student Publication Association Awards:

- Best Design Publication – Runner up, SUBU Nerve Magazine

### Green Impact Awards

- Gold Award

### Investors in People

- Retained standard

## **Sabbatical officer updates**

### **President, Chloe Schendel-Wilson**

#### *Community*

Since the departure of the previous officers, I've been working on a 'Student Survival Guide', with the AUB President, something which will better inform students about how to get on in their local community.

Improving relationships with the local residents of Bournemouth, as well as encouraging more of our students to play an active role in the community, is something I would like to achieve this year. I have been already been working closely with Ian Jones and James Donald in order to achieve this.

#### *Student engagement with SUBU activities.*

I will also be focusing on increasing engagement of students with our activities department, and looking long-term at ways we can decrease the cost of our clubs and societies, in order to make them as accessible as possible for students.

There is a positive correlation between participating in activities and retention and academic success.

### **Vice President Education, Ellie Mayo-Ward**

#### *Staff handbook for student representation.*

Over the summer, I have worked on a new staff handbook which is to go out to academic staff. This handbook explains what the Reps do, how we work in partnership with BU to affect change, and what is expected of them within the role.

I have also been organising the essential Rep training days for both new and returning Reps.

*Change of name for School Reps.*

We have changed the name of the School Reps to Senior Rep Officers (SROs), the reason behind this was twofold; the first reason being that we now have a faculty and therefore BU no longer operates a solely school based system, the second reason is that the title 'School Rep' did not fully explain how the officers fit within the Rep System.

**Vice President Welfare, Reece Pope**

*New Sabbatical position*

I have been focusing on preparing for the return of students and familiarising myself with this new role.

*Mental Health*

I have submitted an action plan to Time To Change, which is a charity aiming to break down the stigma which surrounds mental health.

SUBU will sign the Time To Change pledge on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

*Safe Space Policy*

I have also started to implement SUBU's safe space policy, ensuring that this is imbedded across all SUBU departments and is included within the training for students throughout the year. The training for staff will be held before students return for the 2014/15 year.

*SUBU and ALS*

I have managed to organise training for all SUBU staff to take part in a toolbox training session, which will be held by BU's ALS department. This training will allow all staff to better understand the issues that some of our students come across on a daily basis as a result of their additional learning requirements. We also intend to create a guide to minimum accessibility requirements for SUBU materials.

**Vice President Lansdowne, Peter Briant**

*Improving the estate at Lansdowne.*

Over the last few months, the Lansdowne office has been busy preparing for the arrivals period and for the coming year. We have secured funding to make the outside of Studland House more aesthetically pleasing which may also include seating. The BoHo lounge wall is also being redecorated.

*HSC students on placement*

In order to improve how SUBU engages with students whilst on placement a restructure of the Lansdowne Council has taken place.

## **SUBU Departmental updates**

### **Representation and Democracy**

#### *Working with CEL*

As a department we have been working closely with the CEL team in order to feed into many of the excellent projects that they are leading on.

#### *External conferences*

Additionally we have had a busy summer of presenting at conferences including:

- Welsh Initiative for Student Engagement Conference (WISE)
- NUS 2014
- Workers in Democracy and Representation National Conference
- QAA Quality Matters 2014 Conference

#### *Student Reps*

Last year our reporting of the Student Opinion Survey reports was much improved but we are working on developing a better platform for accurate and timely delivery of this survey. Within this we have started producing more tailored support and consultation with programme administrators as well as programme coordinators.

#### *Democratic involvement of our members*

We have moved from 1 student shout /AGM a term to 2 student shouts each term. Last year we successfully piloted the Student Ideas system which brought forward nearly 100 ideas for the Union officers (both part time and full time) to consider. This is currently being reviewed and improved to ensure even more students can have a say in how the University, the Union and the local community are run.

### *Partner Colleges*

A Partner College specific version of both the SUBU Arrivals Guide and Welcome Video were created for these students. This allows those student to feel welcomed to the SUBU community and ensure they know they can get involved if they wish.

### *Link Reps*

Links Rep were a new addition to SUBU last year. We aim to have at least one for each Partner College to ensure that there is further level of representation at the respective college. So far 5 positions have been filled.

## **SUBU Activities**

### *SUBU Volunteering*

We have new student led projects launching this year: Project Brownsea and Teach, taking our student led projects up to a total of 7. The majority of leadership roles were filled and we will recruit to the remaining ones at the beginning of the new academic year.

We have packed the first couple of months with activities including MAD Days, 5 Minute Volunteering and the launch of the Student Led Projects.

### *RAG*

This year the Student's Union decided to only elect in the President, whilst the other leadership positions were appointed into their roles. This enables SUBU to ensure the consistency of the services we provide are kept high throughout the year.

The leadership team are currently in the stage of shortlisting trip providers and charities and preparing for Fresher's Fair. The Trip providers were selected by staff staff after appropriate 'due diligence' scrutiny.

### *Clubs & Societies*

The registration process for new societies has been redeveloped, and we have implemented

networks (though there is still some adjustment on fitting them into the system to be done). We have also been creating a guidebook and a processes document for students to show them what happens from wanting to set up a club or society, right through to when they start.

### **Advice update**

#### *Action Plans 2014/15*

We, along with the rest of SUBU, have spent time over the summer working on our Action Plans for 2014/15. We've come up with some really exciting ideas which will change the ways in which we're reaching out to students to make sure they know everything possible about their rights and responsibilities across the whole of their student

#### *Student wardens*

We've recruited 9 Student Community Wardens for this academic year. These are paid part-time colleagues who go out into the Winton community and work to ensure students are integrating as well as possible. They also help communicate community messages from SUBU, BU and Bournemouth Borough Council.