



**STUDENTS' UNION  
AT BOURNEMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY**

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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# **JANUARY 2015**

# FULL-TIME OFFICERS

## President

Chloe Schendel-Wilson

The community column that I have been helping to set up with James Donald is now in the Bournemouth Echo Online. It will be produced by Rob, our communications officer, and Sarah, our Part-Time Community Officer. It is to highlight the work that students do in the local community, and we are hoping that it will turn into a regular page in the paper – which should be really beneficial for the students, SUBU and the university.

I have been doing a lot around steering the activities department and improving the student experience in terms of making activities as accessible as possible to all students. After giving a presentation about the importance of keeping Wednesday afternoons free, BU now have a timetabling policy that states that academics should avoid scheduling timetabled activities on Wednesdays from 1pm, where possible. Alan James and I have subsequently been meeting with SportBU, and the student that first approached us about this, to figure out how we can progress further, and trace the certain courses or academics that really need to improve with this.

I have also been sitting on a Student Induction Group – looking at best practice and ways in which we can improve the arrivals period and first year as a whole, to integrate social, academic and support in one and ensure that students settle into all aspects of their university life. The long-term aims of improving the induction will hopefully result in a better student experience and improved retention.



## VP Education

Ellie Mayo-Ward

I've been working a lot with the rep system lately getting all our event dates organised and planning these events. We have our rep re-engagement event happening in February, which is an event to re-engage reps after the Christmas break and will consist of workshops, with the involvement of the Student Experience Champions, and will also be an opportunity for them to socialise with each other. In keeping them engaged we are hoping to keep getting consistent and good quality feedback throughout the year.

Speak Week is also coming up in March – another week-long campaign with the student reps to encourage students to give us feedback on all aspects of university life.

I have also been working on the GOAT (Go Out And Talk) team and I'm aiming to pilot the new initiative soon. This will hopefully get us more qualitative data from students and allow us to have a better on-campus presence.



# FULL-TIME OFFICERS

## VP Welfare

Reece Pope

I have recently joined the communications subgroup of the Value For Money Steering Group, where I am in the process of producing a report that highlights the value of SUBU's extra curricular activities for both the student experience and the university's community relationships.

During the exam period we have been running 'Keep Calm and Keep Revising' where we have been handing out free tea and coffee to remind people to take regular breaks whilst revising.

I have been working to improve the bus service and working with Richard Wintrip to hold a bus forum in Corfe House. This is so that students can express their views on the bus service directly to both the University and the bus company.

I have now started to plan a campaign alongside SportBU to help highlight LGBTQ+ inclusivity within sports teams, and will be working on it this term.



## VP Lansdowne

Peter Briant

I have been working with students from the EBC and finding out what they would like to see in the way of sports facilities down at Lansdowne - my results have been reported back to Estates. Upon the suggestion of a table tennis table, we have decided to take this into account and are looking into it for an option for the opening of the Old Firestation in the daytime.

A member of CHAIN (Contact, Help, Advice and Information Network), is booked in for March 4th, to come down and talk to those in the Health and Social Care sector about how to network globally with those in similar professions.

HSS students that go out on placement will now receive a text message mid placement reminding them of ways that they get in contact with the university should any problems arise; this will also help them to feel a part of BU.



# SUBU ACTIVITIES

## Activities

The Activity Leadership scheme training programme is now complete and finished, and we will be collating feedback until Summer ready to make any necessary changes for the new year.

A restructure of the Activities Team has taken place, and should even out staff workload, and ensure that students are never left waiting for an answer.

Planning for the annual Activity Awards is underway and we're looking at a bigger and better event than ever before!

## SUBU Volunteering

The SUBU Volunteer leaders took part in some Risk Assessment training at local charity base Streetwise, where they were thrown in at the deep end surrounded by risks (all controlled, and mostly fake!) in order to learn how to effectively mitigate and reduce risks throughout their projects and giving them transferrable skills to move forward with.

In November we completed recruiting for the remaining Leadership roles, and all projects have now successfully been re-launched. The volunteer committee are preparing for and taking a lead on the running of the second Big Feed of the year. They are also heavily involved with the Re-fresher's fair being run in conjunction with the Activities Council.

Volunteering now have a regular slot on the Lansdowne campus for 5 minute volunteering, and the dedicated Lansdowne Officer along with other members of the team is undertaking research with students on the Lansdowne Campus to establish any issues Lansdowne students have with getting more engaged with Volunteering.



## RAG

We've had a massive amount of sign up for our overseas trips, with our East African Playgrounds overseas volunteering filling up before the end of the first information meeting – luckily we were able to open up more spaces to students!

We also have a good number of sign-ups for Kilimanjaro, Machu Piccu and The Barcelona Marathon. Unfortunately due to low sign ups we've had to cancel the Morocco Trek and are currently trying to boost sign-ups for overseas volunteering in Cambodia.

LEGGIT our most famous (hitchhiking) event of the year happened on the weekend of 8th & 9th November and was a resounding success. Our furthest team made it all the way to Prague in only 36 hours, whilst spending no money on transport!

The participants managed to raise just short of £10,000 for local charity Diverse Abilities Plus.

The Rag committee's current focus is on more community events.

They have met with various staff within the university and are planning a 'rehome a duck (RAD) day', a push up competition, and also the planning for the second hitchhike of the year 'Lost!' has begun!



## Clubs & Societies

Since the last report the star grading has seen success; we graded 14 clubs, 10 of which achieved 5 stars. We have also moved the new clubs and societies registration online in order to alleviate some administration workload and make the process simpler for students and more efficient for staff.

We have been working on creating an event pack for students to use when running events. This is in the final stages and is expected to be ready before the end of the month, it includes things such as a budget sheet and what things to think of when running an event.

With our new plans for earlier AGMs and committee elections this year we have been creating training and re-registration packs which are on track to be complete for the training sessions in February, ready for re-registration deadline on 6th March, negating the need to chase students in the summer and training the new committees before September.



# REPRESENTATION

The Rep Development Scheme has trained 37 Student Reps in employability and personal development workshops. There were a total of 22 RDS workshops that ran in Term 1 (2014-15). We currently have a further 28 courses planned to deliver in Term 2, including workshops requested specifically by Student Reps such as sessions on Microsoft Outlook. We're always ready to hear from Student Reps about other courses that they would like to achieve.

Speak Week happened again last November with Student Reps and Senior Reps Officers alike taking a lead on this now recognised, campus-wide campaign. The purpose of which is to generate feedback from students on a wide range of issues from group work to assessment and feedback. This time around the campaign was made more mobile and could be seen in locations other than the Atrium. In total 34 Reps volunteered their time to assist the campaign and there were 889 pieces of raw feedback collected; this feedback was collated and feed into the relevant departments.

The 'You're Brilliant!' Awards are continuing into their 5th year and so far there have been 102 nomination in total this year, 53 of these being for staff members. This continues to be an excellent way for students to recognise truly brilliant staff. In November

the 'You're Brilliant!' Awards featured at the Vice Chancellor Awards evening; there were five different categories with one overall winner taking the 'Most Outstandingly Brilliant' title. BU's Centre of Excellence in Learning are currently analysing data from the 'You're Brilliant!' Awards, to better identify the factors that students consider to make excellent teaching.

Coming up in early February, for the first time in four years, we will be holding a re-engagement event for the Reps. RepFest '15 is an afternoon designed to combine the social aspects of being a Rep with opportunity to gain additional skills and contribute to discussions about the development of student feedback. There will be a range of sessions that Reps can participate in, culminating with a social to allow them to mingle with their peers.

Other event coming up; SOS Campaign for the Senior Rep Officers to increase response rates among their cohort in February. The second Speak Week of the year in March. And the Rep Awards night in April to celebrate the successes of this year's Reps.



# DEMOCRACY

## The Student Shout

On Thursday 20th November, we had the second Student Shout of the year. The meeting was quorate with over 100 students in attendance. Issues discussed included the removal of gossip magazines for sale in the Student shop; however it was decided that this would instead lead to a campaign about the harmful impact that gossip magazines can have on the reader, which I am currently helping the students involved to put together. It was also discussed and decided that Nerve should be played regularly in SUBU commercial spaces such as the Student Shop and Dylan's.

By-elections were also ran at the Student Shout for the 10 unfilled Student Council positions. There remains only one unfilled council position, which is Socials Officer for Lansdowne Council; however this hasn't prevented the council from holding social events to bring Lansdowne students together.

The next Student Shout is set for February the 13th and the following one on March 6th - preparations are underway for these.

## Elections

Nominations open on February 2nd-27th where we will be holding 'Thinking of standing' sessions as well as Campaign training for any prospective candidates. Our aim this year is to reach out to students beyond those that already get involved, to diversify the candidacy for these roles.

Campaigning and voting commences from March 13th-19th with results being announced on the 20th.

## Campaigns

On the subject of elections, I plan to bring together a group of students and staff to lead a campaign on why it's important to vote in the general election. Before this, I will be coordinating a student voter registration drive with hopefully the help of the local councils, on National Voter Registration Day, which is February 5th.

## Democracy

Evaluating the November Student Shout led onto some wider questions about democracy in SUBU, so I followed up on this by organising a session taken by James Robertson, a Development Consultant from the NUS, with the Full-Time Officers and student chairs of the four councils, who learnt about democracy and representation and then applied it to the context of a students' union. James based his session on his NUS Report 'Democracy is dead! Long live democracies' which reviews where democratic deficits exist within Students' Unions and ways to encourage more student leadership and representation of students. Work on this is on-going but has provided a lot of food for thought.



# SUBU ADVICE

SUBU Advice has kicked off the new year with a new manager, Alexis Drayson. Alexis has been an Advice Worker in SUBU Advice for four years and is very excited about developing Advice further and moving the team to the new offices in the spring. We are currently recruiting a new part-time Advice Worker to enable us to continue to provide an excellent Advice service and to work with students to prevent issues before they arise.

Ready to Rent is being launched mid-February during which we will provide information and Advice to students looking for their accommodation. Money Matters continues on the 5th February during which we hope to engage students in how best to manage their money.



# LANSDOWNE CAMPUS

The new HSS intake is taking place in February with 110 new students joining BU to study Adult Nursing or Midwifery. They will be based in Bournemouth, UCY or Portsmouth. We have been involved in the organisation of a mini HSS Fresher's Fair which will take place in February.

We visited the Portsmouth students in December and gained valuable feedback which will help to make them feel less isolated and one request to help support the annual Midwifery Conference could be included in the HSS delivery plan at the end of this month.

I spent an afternoon in Cranborne House shadowing their Supervisor and providing an induction about SU services. This enabled me to appreciate the vast amount of issues they constantly deal with and consider ways the SU can reiterate our help and support

available through campaigns. I have also arranged time to spend at Dorchester House and I aim to visit all the Lansdowne student halls by the end of the last semester.

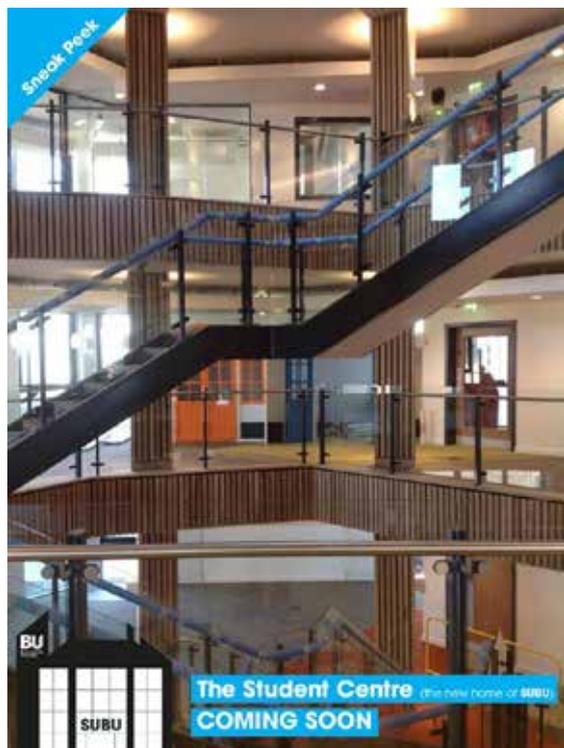
# COMMUNICATIONS

SUBU's Comms Team have been busy so far this term and in the lead up to Christmas and 2015 so far we have been putting a lot of work in to a number of exciting projects. We are as excited as everybody else for the student centre, and have been evaluating how we use and present our brand, ahead of the big move. Starting with SUBU Activities, we have undergone a period of 'brand development', with new colour schemes, refreshed logos and a task aimed at defining the department in only two words! Armed with these new materials we will be refreshing Activities web presence and creating some brand new marketing materials to make sure that Activities reaches as wide an audience as possible in an engaging and effective way.

We are also putting a lot of time in to the SUBU Elections, rethinking how we present the elections, how we design materials for it and introducing a new campaign: a letter sent to SUBU's most involved students, thanking them for their contribution to SUBU and letting them know about an information meeting to discover more about running in the elections.

Aside these two key projects, the comms team has worked in partnership with BU to create a high-quality video in support of the National Student Survey, and continues its regular support of SUBU's departments, both commercial and non-commercial. SUBU's social media performance has also seen a steady increase in reach and engagement. The Comms team has also taken large steps toward achieving its goal of student co-creation and the creation of two brand new student video production teams, SUBU TV and TOFS TV, has already seen some excellent regular videos made for SUBU and the Old Fire Station.

In other news, the comms team welcomed its newest (honorary) member as our Sales Exec Andy's son, Thomas Frank Elsey, was born over the Christmas break. Our team development was also very successful: Comms Coordinator Rob completed a 10 week course in Adobe Indesign, while Design and Print Coordinator Andy completed a photography course and will soon be working with local design agency Campbell Rowley 1 or 2 days a week on a project to design the wall vinyls in the Student Centre.



# COMMERCIAL SERVICES

## Dylans Bar & The Loft

We have seen a downturn in trade through the exam period of January (quieter than same period last year), this is probably due to most students being in the semester based programme now. Coffee sale have also been hit hard by the opening of the new Chartwells Atrium Café on the ground floor.

We are preparing for the closure of the Loft at the end of this term (this has come early than we had anticipated). The impact on SUBU will primarily be on 3 fronts, loss of turnover (around £100k), loss of daytime social space and loss of a bookable event space for students. We also have a placement commitment to the manager to complete.

## Student Centre

Preparation for the opening of the two outlets in the student centre is into the final phase. Staff arrangements have largely been agreed. Outlets will be based on a 'grab and go' coffee bar style, with as much of the food prepared in our own kitchens. We have no real feel for whether the turnover in these outlets will compensate for the loss of turnover in the Loft.

An important part of our move to the student centre is attempting to find an alternative workable venue for student events that would have taken place in the Loft. We may also consider using Dylan's on more occasions and even the Old Fire Station may have to pick up more events.

## Student Shops

Talbot Campus shop is performing well. We are about to carry out a quick study of the profitability of the different shelving bays in the shop. We already suspect this will point towards us carrying more chilled food and drink and raise the issue of investment in replacement chilled display space.

Bournemouth House shop should really be reconsidered. The building it is in has very low footfall and the shop is only serving very few customers. We should question whether we could redeploy those resources in a better way at the Lansdowne - maybe a pop up shop in the Old Fire Station?



# COMMERCIAL SERVICES

## Old Fire Station

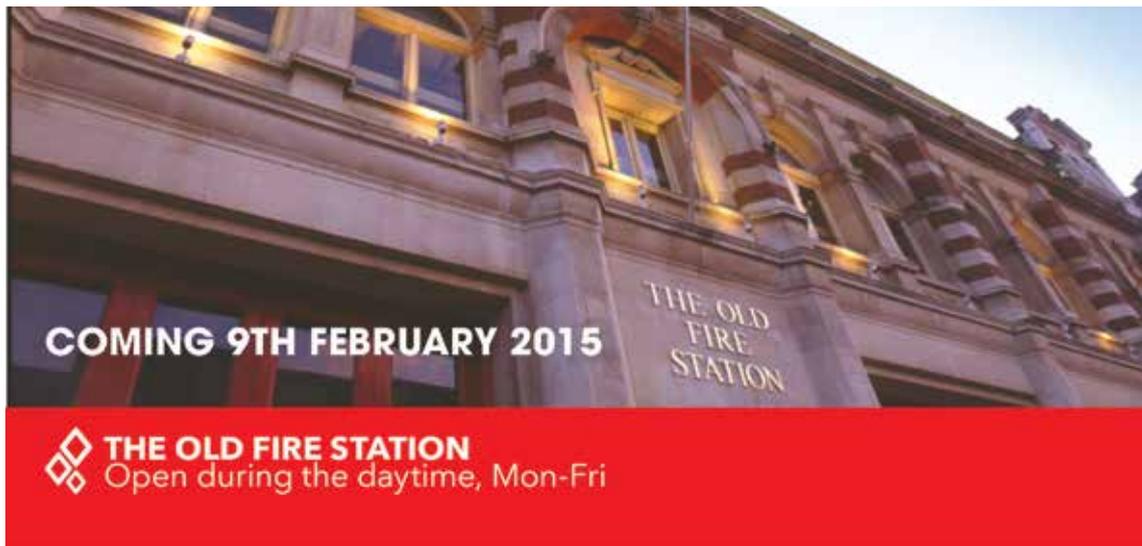
The late night market is still very challenging. Our regular student party on Fridays is doing well (much better than last year), we have a good run of live music concerts booked in until May, and we have sporadic big Saturday events. The venue is currently running on a reduced staff team of 2, having not replaced a manager who moved on in December. Our intern has now left after doing a great job with of Friday night promotion.

Efforts at the Old Fire Station are focused on:

- Discovering the next generation of event promoters - this is starting to bear some fruit that should come on stream in 2015/16.
- Repositioning the Old Fire Station for a longer term future in partnership with BU (Student Centre), without losing the event capability. This has led to a daytime opening experiment (funded by BU) that should allow us to explore many more student events, academic tie ups and stretching our business hours into the evening (6-10pm).
- Tweaking the management team to reflect activity levels and encourage new ideas, initially 2 managers, 1 placement student and a short term intern are the plans for 2015/16.

## Summer Ball

We are planning the Summer Ball to return to its normal site this year. The Ball will be built to the same specifications as last year (7000 tickets). We are reworking the promotion and ticketing to avoid some of the issues that arose last year - the focus of the promotion will hopefully move back to 'you' and 'your ball', rather than the line-up.



# SUBU TRUSTEE BOARD

The SUBU Trustee Board are pleased to have completed another cycle of annual accounts and reporting with all non-commercial departments coming close to budget for the year ended 31st July 2014.

During the year we welcomed our newest trustee, Aaron Newbury who is currently a placement student at BU.

We also say goodbye to one of our original external trustees, Councillor Pat Oakley and thank him again for the wealth of experience he brought to our Trustee Board.

Our Staff Trustee, Richard Gerrard is also retiring on rotation so there is currently an opportunity for another staff member to apply for this role. Despite some reservations at the beginning we have found this role to be immensely helpful to the Trustee Board.

The Trustees were also pleased to see the role of the 'student wardens' being reported positively by the local Evening Echo which ran an article entitled 'Students Promote Harmonious Living' back in October.

