

PART-TIME OFFICER SEMESTER REPORTS 2017/18

Faculty Representative FACE

Katie Hobson

At the start of semester 2 I attended training and was supported to identify what I wanted to change to ensure engagement and interaction with FACE School reps and beyond throughout the university.

I established a monthly school rep meeting with school reps from FACE to ensure that issues were being brought forward and that all school reps were aware of expectations of the role. I made myself available to all reps through email. I identified that I needed a way to communicate with all students in the faculty, hence I decided to plan a FACE faculty newsletter. I organised for photos to be taken and meetings with marketing and school reps to establish a group user identity for FACE to ensure it is a collaborative approach to outreach.

The course rep newsletter planning is well underway, with a brand and features decided on. I have received feedback on the plans and all seem positive. Other school reps are being proactive in organising group meetings with staff and course reps and I hope to continue and improve on this communication in Semester 2.

Mature Students Officer

Ashley Pattison

This semester I have;

- Opened channels across social media platforms to engage with Mature Students across the university
- Arranged the first AGM of the reformed Mature Students Committee
- Organised a Mature Students end of semester social
- Spoke in a series of talks in UoH functions to promote the concept of unity and engagement for mature students with HUU and UoH
- Begun planning my campaign for a more affordable and fair bus pass system for all students
- Chaired 2 of 3 UC meetings

Postgraduate Taught Students Officer

Lauren Williams

During my first semester as PGT Officer, I have been working to increase postgraduate engagement and consequently have set up a Twitter and Facebook account which can be used to contact students, promote both HUU events and the work that I am doing. I have been dealing with issues raised by students, such as looking into finding a dedicated space for PGT Students (similar to that available to PGR students in the library) and have inquired about changing the book limits for PGT students which is currently set at the same level as that of undergraduate students.

Working alongside Education Officer, Salman Anwar and Postgraduate Research Students Officer, Rebecca Devine we were in the process of setting up a meeting for Postgraduate students with the Vice Chancellor, in an attempt to hear students' views and opinions on issues that they have or changes that they want to make, however due to the Vice Chancellor's schedule this has been moved to next semester.

Looking to the future, I am hoping to get together with the careers service to try and look at including more Postgraduate options in the University Careers Fairs, or even host our own, with a focus on the career options that are available to postgraduate students after they have finished their studies. I am also looking at making more information available to undergraduate students (and postgrad students who may wish to continue their studies) about the options that are available at postgraduate level and courses which are on offer.

Chair of SEC (Societies Executive Committee)

Rayne Goddard

At the start of term, the SEC was having a hard time. Only two functioning members and no Activities Officer for support. I stepped into the role and we promptly elected the rest of the committee. Since then, we have attended all the EGMs it was physically possible for us to attend, as well as cutting the hours necessary for presidents to sit in on meetings with us. We have instead taken the route of individually contacting society executives to see if we can help with anything, and this has led to a massive increase in participation with the union. We've given away over £1500 of the society grant to societies that have applied, which includes international trips and several competitive trips. We're making sure to help out smaller societies as much as we can, and hopefully we'll get more smaller societies applying in second semester. We've also started writing a Society Guideline, which solidifies the role of the SEC as a body as well as formalising the process of punishments within societies. This is being written in conjunction with the Union's Zero Tolerance Policy, and will be passed through society presidents and executives for their support. Next semester looks like we'll have a lot of work to do, but we're all looking forward to it.

Chair RAG (Raising and Giving)

Tom McNamara

During my first two months as RAG Chair, I have worked hard to continue our success as “RAG of the Year” and to fulfil my manifesto promises. When I first wrote my manifesto, I had so many ideas, it was hard to concisely write it all up in a few points. My ambitions for this year have only grown since writing my manifesto. Hopefully this report will give some insight into the amazing achievements both RAG and groups around the University have accomplished and what we have planned coming up.

Student Awareness of RAG

My first manifesto promise was to raise student awareness of RAG. To do this I have taken advantage of the Union’s marketing department to help spread the word to the wider student population. As well as this, we frequently flyer in the union and at The Lawns to raise awareness of RAG and the amazing opportunities we have to offer. To increase our social media platform, we now have three separate Facebook accounts: Hull University Union RAG, Hull RAG Challenges and The RAG League 17/18. The first account being our general account where we post most frequently, including events and opportunities we have upcoming. The second page was originally called “Hull Climbs Kilimanjaro 2017”. It was a page used by our former Kilimanjaro team leaders to promote info meetings and fundraising events. This page seemed out of place when we have three other challenges to promote, so I borrowed a trick from Exeter RAG and suggested we convert it to a fully blown challenges page that my Challenge Coordinators can use independently of the main account. The third account is more focused at groups around the University. The RAG League is an initiative we have set up this year to promote student fundraising. For just £5, groups can register on the RAG League and any money that the group raises for charity will be recorded. At the end of the year, there will be certificates presented for groups that have passed certain milestones: Bronze (£500), Silver (£1,000), Gold (£2,500) and Platinum (£5,000). This is our way of offering some small recognition for the amazing work that students do around campus. It is only right that we celebrate your success! This ties in quite nicely with my second promise....

Increasing Student Engagement

While we only have a few sign ups so far, The RAG League is designed entirely around this promise. On top of this, we had great participation from societies during RAG Week, raising £8,983.10 for charity. This is a RAG Week record which even got RAG Week recognition in the Hull Daily Mail. This total included over £7,000 raised by Hull University Islamic Society as part of their Charity Week. Next semester we are taking it one step further by running a second charity week: Adopt a Charity Week (19/02/18 – 25/02/18). This will be the first time that we have run a week like this. During this week, we invite all societies, sports teams and individuals to “Adopt a Charity” for the week. We have some amazing events in the pipeline including a charity abseil from a University building.

Raising Volunteer Numbers

Last year, we had a general pool of volunteers who signed up with us and helped on events. However the number of volunteers dwindled throughout the year to the point that it was just mainly our three Senior Volunteers helping out on a regular basis. In order to improve volunteer engagement this year we have introduced RAG Reps. Reps are intended to be volunteers who we can work closely with over

the year, giving them an insight into how the Committee works if they wish to run for a committee position. During this semester, we have been reviewing how best we can utilise reps to spread the word of RAG and plan to give reps the tools to start running their own events on behalf of RAG.

Challenges

This year one of my aims was to continue building RAG's relationships with our long standing charity partners. This academic year marks our 10th year of working with Childreach International who we are supporting through our Kilimanjaro and Machu Picchu trips next summer. This year, we currently have more sign ups with Childreach than any other University in the country, at 28 sign ups (13 Kilimanjaro and 15 Machu Picchu). We are also striding ahead with Action Against Hunger (AAH)! Last year we ran the Budapest Marathon with AAH but only managed to get one sign up due to people's reluctance to sign up to a marathon. This year we are running the British Three Peaks Challenge with AAH and currently have 12 sign ups; myself being one of them! This is roughly double what other Universities have managed to recruit. It's safe to say we are smashing it with challenges this year and we're still not done!

Next semester, we will continue recruiting for the Three Peaks Challenge as well as recruit teams for our renowned Jailbreak event in June. This year we are aiming to make it bigger and better than ever by teaming up with Lincoln RAG to run a Varsity Jailbreak! This is something that other RAG's have done to great success.

RAG Charity of the Year

This year we decided as a committee to have 1 Charity of the Year opposed to 2 Charities of the Semester and instead do Jailbreak for a different charity opposed to doing it for the semester 2 charity as we did last year. So far we have raised £476.54 for Hull and East Yorkshire Mind who were voted as our Charity of the Year by students. This is less than last year as we have had more challenges to promote, however this total should go up a lot more next semester with less challenges promotion needed and more time to plan. We are already considering entering a team to run the Hull 10K for HEY Mind in June.

University of Hull Student Fundraising Total

Last year, we raised over £122,000 for charity as a University. This included over £25,000 raised in semester 1, which included everything raised up until the start of semester 2. We have currently raised £24,359 as a University as of the second week in December so we are well on our way to beating last year's record. With any money raised over Christmas and January being added to our total we should be looking at least £30,000 raised in semester 1, which would be an amazing result for the University.

Hull LINKS

Tom Barnes

Semester one has been a turbulent time for Hull LINKS. With the implementation of the second phase of restructure to St John Ambulance, a new student volunteering policy and changes to volunteer recruitment, there has never been a such significant need for adaptation and evolution within Hull LINKS, since that seen of the St John Ambulance regionalisation process in 2012.

On top of this, there has been a significant change within the LINKS executive committee. The previous Chair and Unit Manager, Mr Connor Robinson, and the former PR and Fundraising Lead, Mr Rory Hamill have both stepped down. I, Tom Barnes, have taken on the position of Chair and Unit Manager and have implemented a series of changes including:

- Finalising the recruitment of a new group of first aiders
- Overhauling the HR records of all St John Ambulance volunteers within the Unit.
- Building on the positive relationships with key stakeholders within HUU
- Working hard to motivate and enthuse volunteers and make them feel appreciated

During the first week of my time in role we had our unannounced safeguarding audit from the St John Ambulance safeguarding team. I am pleased to report that we passed this inspection and have already made significant progress on advised improvements to become even better.

Our volunteers have almost entirely completed their annual revalidation process, have planned a ball to celebrate the 26th Anniversary of Hull LINKS and have attended a series of recent socials including a Christmas meal on top of over 4,500 hours of volunteering given in 2017 across events and fundraising functions.

Going forward we are looking to continue to provide weekly training open to all students and staff at HUU, continue providing a high standard of medical cover on HUU events and more within the District and to strive to nurture some of the best student volunteers nationally.

I would like to take this time to thank all LINKS volunteers and Jennifer Watts (Welfare & Community Officer) for her constant passion, enthusiasm and dedication to the values of HUU and to improving the experiences of students at Hull.

Environment and Ethics Officer

Ruth Williams

On reflection of my manifesto I was overly ambitious not fully understanding the limitations the union has in making the university act and be accountable. That said I believe I have achieved my aim of increasing the awareness of the environment and ethics officer role by having a vegan fair and planning a human rights week. I have also managed to have the idea of an environmental impact form introduced although implementation is in progress.

I have been championing a move toward eliminating single use plastic in the union and regaining the lost fair trade status although this has been difficult but shall receive my full attention next semester. As part of the championing of fair trade I hope to run an awareness event about the ethical sourcing of university memorabilia and sports items. I have also made attempts and will continue to do so making sure the development of the union building planned is as environmentally aware as possible. There is little I will be able to do about university living wage but can hopefully consider the union practices.

Despite finding multiple road blocks to my plans due to me only holding the position for a year I think I have been active and reachable to students and have sought out interaction where possible in your ideas. The vegan fair was very successful for both vegans and non-vegans and I hope human rights week raises student awareness of what their human rights are and shows how the union champions them.

I also hope to use the second semester to establish a committee so that my work may continue.

LGBT+ Co-Officers

Georgina Baulch

Since elected in October I have been working very hard on increasing engagement of LGBT+ events, getting people involved and finding out what they want to see on campus. I was therefore involved in the Big Brainstorm event- where people could raise any grievances with LGBT+ and say what campaigns and activities they want to see on campus. I also did this with the other co-officer by going around campus with whiteboards and directly engaging with students. I have tried really hard to make sure people don't think there is a clique within the committee and have been an approachable and friendly face for people to come and chat to and confide in.

I have also been following closely gender-neutral facilities within the university- but this is something that needs more work in Semester 2.

For the past few weeks I have been focusing on getting campaign ideas for Semester 2 so that a few strong campaigns can be ran- and myself, Connor, the Welfare & Community Officer and a member of staff recently visited Manchester Students' Union to see what their liberation groups get up to. This was very helpful and gave me some ideas for campaigns that I will work on next semester.

There have been weekly LGBT+ events which I have been involved in as well as more one-off events such as:

- National Coming Out Day stall which I helped manage- got a really good turnout
- International Students Mixer where I raised awareness of who we are and what we do
- Organised and hosted Haven Hangouts
- TdoR- organised by the Trans rep and supported by the LGBT+ committee
- Halloween Social
- Event flyering for events such as Winter Pride Party and Conversation Station

I also introduced committee badges with names and pronouns and have been selling rainbow lanyards to help raise awareness. I did look into committee hoodies to help increase awareness on campus but there was very little interest.

I made lots of event suggestions, but again there was very little interest or input from the committee, so my focus for Semester 2 will most likely be campaigns.

Overall it has been a very busy semester for everyone involved and I think we did perhaps take too much on. Hopefully next semester will be more efficient.

Connor Massey

This semester has been very busy for myself and LGBT+ in general. One of my manifesto pledges was increasing trans rights within the union and university, in regard to this; myself, the other co-officer, the trans rep and the Welfare and Community Officer have been pushing the university to get more gender neutral toilets within the university, which they are working on.

I helped head a stall for National Coming Out Day which went very well, we got a lot of students putting down words to do with coming out and we gave some information about coming out. I also helped head the stall for National AIDS Day in which we raised £84.88 selling red ribbons for the National AIDS Trust.

We held a Big Brainstorm event to find out from students what they would like to see and what improvements they'd like from LGBT+. Been busy helping organise LGBT+ History Month in February and have organised Winter Pride Party on the 14th of December.

In terms of international LGBT+ students, I attended the mixer held by the International Students Officer along with the other co-officer to make international students more aware of who we are and if they have any ideas for events to speak to us.

I've also been working very heavily on promotion and making sure to hand out more things in person and so myself and others have been handing out a lot of flyers about our various events and also doing more videos and photos in general.

I am also the chair of the welfare and community zone so I've been making sure to hand in reports on time for Union Council and attending governance zone meetings. I am also the deputy chair of Union Council so have been helping the chair of Union Council out and even chaired the last Union Council.

We also have been holding coffee on Sundays for people to come meet each other and provide a community and some Friday events based on a variety of subjects.

As always a lot more can be done and is being worked on!

Disabled Students Officer Jess Clunan

In terms of actual campaigning, I have entirely failed in my first semester as Disabled Students Officer. However, in terms of setting the disabled students committee up to be as successful as possible during second semester, I believe I have fully completed my aims.

The first task I had was to come up with the branding of the committee. This was done through consultation with various disabled students across campus, and aims to include everyone into it. With this branding, different advertising materials have been created, meaning that in second semester, the presence of Disabled Students across campus will be far greater than it has been.

Another task that I had to achieve was to form a committee. This has still not been done, which is a major failure on my part, but I have met with different Disabled students through meet-ups and office hours, which means that hopefully, a full committee will be in place by the end of second semester. This will help in the launching of our first campaign this year, Invisible Disabilities. This was meant to launch this semester, but due to various issues which occurred, did not. This does, however, mean that it will be fully ready to launch next semester, and will be able to be as successful as it can be.

The task which I did not expect to fall to me, but has, was students coming asking for help in submitting DSA applications. I helped where I could, but have guided anyone who has asked to SWLWS. This not only gives these students support though DSA, but will also show everyone what SWLWS can offer to all students.

Next semester, I aim to;

- Form a committee
- Launch the Invisible Disabilities Campaign #Invisibilites
- Continue to assist students in finding the support they need
- Raise awareness of various disabilities through their respective awareness days.

BAME Students Officer

Maria Majekodunmi

First Semester was mainly assisting minority societies with events and providing a bridge between societies and union by aiding promotion and assisting societies to be involved with union events such as Black History month.

Moreover it was a semester to introduce BAME with a talk show every Friday called "BAME Talks". We had some notable guests like the HUU President Osaro Otobo and received positive feedback that led to a student coming up with a blood drive campaign for second semester.

To further introduce our team and get minority students to network we had organised a successful BAME Mixer for societies to informally network and share ideas.

Lastly to end the semester on an activist spirit myself the officer and a member of BAME committee (PR officer) took part in the London Anti-Slavery protest at the Libya Embassy to call attention to the crisis in Libya.

AU Presidents' Rep Nick Wright

With the re-organisation of AU Exec this year, the main focus of this semester was working out the specifics of our roles and then getting on with organising AU Ball. Despite lower than expected ticket sales, AU Ball went smoothly and feedback from those attending was nothing but positive, a reflection of the hard work put in by all the AU Exec. Goals for next semester include, revamping the AU Facebook page, ensuring the smooth running of Varsity and nailing down exactly what is required of someone in my role so that next year anyone volunteering for the role, knows what is expected of them and can get on with the job without having to figure it out first.

Reports not submitted

Councillor for Scrutiny (Governance Zone) – Kym Cardona
Councillor for Scrutiny (Welfare & Community Zone) – Jordan Navarro
Trans* Representative – Hayley Hatton
Part-time Students Officer – Adam Clifton
Postgraduate Research Students Officer – Rebecca Devine
International Students Officer – Stefan Caluser
Faculty Rep Science & Engineering – Steven Storey
Faculty Rep Business, Law & Politics – Michael Howe
Faculty Rep Health Sciences – Amelia Smallwood
Societies Council Rep – Katie Wilkie
AU Members' Rep – Maisie Loggie
AU Secretary & Communications Officer – Natasha Wilson