|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sabbatical Officer Name: | Noah Russell |
| Sabbatical Officer Role: | VP Undergraduate Students (Education & Welfare) |

**Section 1: Sabbatical Officer Report**

*This section is to be completed by the Sabbatical Officer prior to the accountability session.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **General Report**  *(Written by the Sabbatical Officer this report is aimed at providing insight into their work/activity since the last accountability session or the start of their term in office)* | |
| In the past 3 months I’ve been relatively busy with meetings and working groups taking up most of my time. I haven’t had as much time to work on campaigns and shorter term projects as I’d have liked but I hope in the near future I will be able to finish some of my projects, or at least stabilise them for the upcoming year.  Much of my focus now is ensuring the introduction of Vice President International in my stead is as quick and easy as possible, whilst maintaining the representation of non-international undergraduate students. On top of this, making sure my campaigns are sustainable for the upcoming year is a real priority so the hard work I’ve focused on isn’t left by the wayside during the transition. | |
| **Manifesto Update**  *(Written by the Sabbatical Officer this section is aimed at tracking their progress against manifesto commitments made by them during their successful officer election)* | |
| **Testing your gear for free at the SU** | This project has seen sizeable progress since our last meeting, with 18 kits being collected so far, with enough stock to last for the foreseeable. We’re still seeking funding for more permanent distribution of kits. |
| **Making Cardiff a greener University** | Generally little progress has pushed forward in regard to the Fossil Free Careers project, with the university strongly planting their feet in the ground in opposition to the removal of fossil fuel and mining companies from campus. |
| **Free STI kits on campus** | STI and pregnancy tests are now available from the SU advice desk, which is a big win for the team. |
| **A new blended learning framework** | With the relatively smooth and successful implementation of Blackboard Ultra, the main focus has been on securing internet access consistently across campus and working on ironing out kinks in the new online learning platform. There have been issues in Healthcare subjects but the data gathered trends toward being positive across the board which is good to see. |
| **Mental health and wellbeing support** | Much of what I’ve done regarding mental health and wellbeing has been tied to the work already mentioned, STI and pregnancy tests are supplied, as are drug testing kits. I’ve also been working on the Feed Your Flat campaign, which supplies food essentials to students free of charge. These projects cover the base issues which can often exacerbate mental health, and so a healthier student population is built off of readily available support. |
| **Lower international student fees** | The SU has continuously been clear on its support for lowering international student fees, we are working on a campaign alongside NUS to push for these to be lowered, but sadly progress has not been as good as I’d have hoped. We will keep pushing for this and laying the groundwork for next years team to hopefully make some significant progress. |
| **10% of salary to Cardiff Foodbank in light of the Cost of Living Crisis** | I continue to donate 10% of my take-home pay to Cardiff Food Bank in light of the Cost-Of-Living crisis. This totals £165 PCM, this was particularly strenuous during the month of January due to the costs of the holiday period, but I will continue as long as it is possible. |
| **Policy Update**  *(Written by the Sabbatical Officer this section report is aimed at tracking their progress against any relevant policy passed by Student Senate or AGM)* | |
| **Gender Identity Fund:** We are still pushing on the Gender Identity Fund to be funded by HEFCW which will hopefully come through with the plan of distribution we’ve made now, with a page on the website specifying criteria and allowing students to put in bids.  **Cops Off Campus:** Little has progressed on this as largely the motion’s aims were completed. We have however been invited to a police oversight board to critically analyse the police’s progress on removing the racial disparity in arrests and stop and searches, while hopefully ending the racist tradition of policing in South Wales. While I have little hope of significant progress in the short term, it will be beneficial to have a highly critical voice on this oversight group.  **Ceasefire Now:** I’m incredibly proud to announce that we as a students’ union are calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. We’ve put out a statement and will continue to monitor the situation to aid where possible. | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chair of the Accountability Session: | Marc Perez Piquer |
| Vice Chair of the Accountability Session: | Joshua Tandy |
| Additional Members of the Accountability Session: | Arnav Jain  Mia Antoniazzi  Umar Shahid |
| Date of the Accountability Session: | 22/02/2024 |

**Section 2: Accountability Session**

*This section is to be completed by the accountability session members prior to speaking to the Sabbatical Officer. This section should then be used to aid discussion with the Sabbatical Officer and information added where relevant.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Areas Working Well**  *(Written by the accountability session members this section should detail areas the members think is working well and what they believe the Sabbatical Officer should keep doing)*  *Note for the accountability session members: Don’t forget to ask the Sabbatical Officer their opinion on what is working well.* | |
| * Testing your gear – did quite well – getting permanent funding – will continue * Free STI kits on campus – really good * Blended learning framework – good that pretty much all schools have it * 10% of salary to Cardiff Foodbank – consistently done – promise kept | |
| **Areas For Improvement**  *(Written by the accountability session members this section should detail areas the members think could do with additional focus).*  *Note for the accountability session members: Don’t forget to ask the Sabbatical Officer their opinion on what could be improved.* | |
| * Making Cardiff a greener university – could definitely do with more green spaces outside – less concrete and more patches of grass/shrubbery * Blended learning framework – still some kinks to be ironed out before the end of the year * Poor IT in schools – authenticator process - message to be passed on * Mental health support – things like STI tests and Feed Your Flat do help, but need to tackle the root of the issue * Multiple assignments on the same due date – more support to help these students to get organised at the very least – a few small changes could be put in place now - something that could be passed on to the new team * Lower international fees – freeze – something that could be passed on to the new team | |
| **Accountability Session Questions**  *(Written by the accountability session members this section should outline the key questions the session have for the Sabbatical Officer, a notes of the answers should then be provided in the next box).* | |
| **Q1.** Blended learning framework – noticed that lately in some parts of the campus the internet has been poor – could you arrange a meeting with the university and pass on this feedback? | **A1.** Can pass this feedback on |
| **Q2.** IT has been poor since it has been centralised – is this something that can be fixed? Can it return to one person per school | **A2.**   * This is a budget cut issue * Can pass this feedback on. At the moment, students have to fill in forms – a solution could be to improve this system |
| **Q3.** What else can be done for mental health support (direct factors)? Often students struggle with having multiple exams/deadlines close together or on the same day | **A3.**   * Exams/deadlines are all down to staff workload * Agree that this doesn’t make much sense * Can pass this feedback on, but it is part of a larger framework |
| **Q4.** Why has progress been slow on the NUS campaign (lowering international student fees)? | **A4.**   * The government view on international student fees has got increasingly poorer. There are concerns for universities that this would cause a drop in international students, which would cause a drop in money. At the moment, it feels like more of a fight to combat them getting higher * A national campaign/wider issue is generally slower |
| **Q5.** International students fees – is there an update? Has there been a meeting? Can they be frozen next year? | **A5.**   * Matter of wording * Don’t think the current rates are acceptable * At the moment fighting to keep them as they are * University’s thoughts are that they can’t drop them * Can look at more coherent action e.g. a petition |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Does the accountability session wish to consider any of the following notices?**  *If Yes, please provide details of the reasons for such motion or notice in the box provided.* | |
| **Motion of Censure**  *Motions of Censure shall be considered when the committee believes the elected officer has committed a serious offence against their office or democratic responsibilities as outlined in the bye-law appendices. Note: When motions of Censure are considered the elected officer shall be provided with at least 48 hours-notice in order to be able to provide a fair and accurate response to the reasons for the censure.* | No |
| **Notice of Requires Improvement**  *Notices of Requires Improvement shall be considered when the committee is dissatisfied in an elected officers work or conduct in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto commitments. Note: When notices of Requires Improvement are considered the elected officer shall be provided with at least 48 hours-notice in order to be able to provide a fair and accurate response to the reasons for the notice.* | No |
| **Notice of Satisfaction**  *Notices of Satisfaction shall be considered when the committee wishes to formally recognise an elected officer for outstanding work in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto committee. Note: Prior warning for a Notice of Satisfaction is not required.* | Yes |

**Section 3: Accountability Session Outcomes**

*This section is to be completed by the accountability session members following their meeting*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Is the session satisfied with the discussion held with the Sabbatical Officer? | Yes |
| If the answer to the above question is **no** please provide additional details below. | |
|  | |
| Is there anything the session wishes to make Student Senate aware of as a result of the meeting? | No |
| If the answer to the above question is **yes** please provide additional details below. | |
|  | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Following consideration did the accountability session apply any of the following motions or notices?**  *If Yes, please provide details of the reasons for such motion or notice in the box provided.* | |
| **Motion of Censure**  *Motions of Censure shall be considered when the committee believes the elected officer has committed a serious offence against their office or democratic responsibilities as outlined in the bye-law appendices.* | No |
| **Notice of Requires Improvement**  *Notices of Requires Improvement shall be considered when the committee is dissatisfied in an elected officers work or conduct in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto commitments.* | No |
| **Notice of Satisfaction**  *Notices of Satisfaction shall be considered when the committee wishes to formally recognise an elected officer for outstanding work in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto committee.* | Yes |