



ACTIVITIES OFFICER (C) REPORT

For the attention of:	Student Council	Taking place on:	17/11/16
Name:	Jamie Smith	Action:	To note

Summary: *This paper provides an update on the work of the Executive Committee member*

Priority campaign(s) and objective(s)

1. Team: Let's Be Honest
2. Keep Wednesday Afternoons Free
3. Women's Friendly Hour (Gym)
4. Up Your Grants
5. Save Our Space

Progress on priority campaign(s)

Let's Be Honest –

As part of the officer teams mental health campaign I have been focusing on ensuring equal opportunities for students to be involved in activities with my Keep Wednesday Afternoons Free and Women's Only Hour campaigns. I want to ensure that students are able to gain more than their degree should they wish, whether it be sports, societies, volunteering, representation roles or anything else!

I have also launched the 'Be a Friend' socials where students can come and enjoy a break from the busy day to day life. We encouraged clubs and societies to bake cakes, biscuits ect. to sell at the event in aid of Mind a mental health charity. Our Cambridge campus worked with the volunteering service and Student Mind to provide a 'crafternoon' for the event that was successful. We raised £40 for Mind at the last event in October and we hope that our next event will raise even more!

Keep Wednesday Afternoons Free -

I want to make Wednesday afternoons free from lectures to give **all** students the opportunity to take part in extra/co-curricular activities, catch up on their studies or to just generally practise self-care.

There is already a policy put in place for students who compete in BUCS to have Wednesday afternoons free to attend fixtures. I believe that this opportunity for free time for extra/co-curricular activities should be available for all students.

I have received a large amount of support for this policy but have decided to bring this to council to gather more feedback and support to increase my case to the university.

This campaign is linked to the mental health campaign as I believe that all students should have the opportunity to be involved in extra/co-curricular activities and practise self-care.

I have researched other unions and universities who currently have this policy such as UWE, Coventry and Sheffield Greenwich and they have seen a rise in participation

Women's Friendly Hour (Gym) –

I have currently been working with the Sports Rep to gather feedback from female students about the ongoing issue with accessibility at the gym. I am currently in conversations with Active Anglia about piloting a women's friendly hour at the gym. I intend to continue to improve the accessibility of activities at our university.

Up Your Grants –

Policy update – see resubmission

Save Our Space –

Resubmission of original policy – I will continue to lobby the university to consult students on all decisions regarding new space. I am currently working on getting student feedback into the discussion about the optometry building and its effectiveness as a teaching environment.

Day to day life –

This has probably been the most intense few months of my life!

I've been meeting with clubs and societies and have begun weekly training drop ins to ensure that regardless of a society start up time, they are trained as soon as possible to ensure their sustainability. As well as the usual society 1-1's, meetings, catch ups, promotions, etc. (You're all smashing it)

We've also welcomed a number of new societies that have been working very hard to gain memberships! We've launched our committee member of the month award the year which is amazing and I'm so pleased that we are continuing to develop our reward schemes for all of our volunteers! They all deserve it.

I've been going on Give It a Go's and working hard to get as many student suggestions into the mix as possible. I've also been attending conferences and away days!

I've been meeting 1-1 with the reps to discuss their manifestos among other things. I helped Dhruvi (Community and Environment Rep) run a very successful carbon monoxide awareness event where she gave away free note books, pens, leaflets and carbon monoxide detectors.

All in all it's been hectic and I've learnt a lot about the union, university, students and myself.