



Annual General Meeting	Deadline for Submission: 25th February 2021
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Contents	
1.0 Introduction.	3
2.0 Manifesto Updates	4
2.1 More employability for students	4
2.2 More use of event spaces on campus	5
2.3 More support for Societies	5
2.4 More awareness for sustainable products on campus	6
3.0 Other Projects and Involvement	7
3.1 University Fortunes Virtual Freshers Quiz	7
3.2 Solent Self-Isolation Toolkit	7
3.3 Workshop Wednesdays	7
3.4 Joint campaign Social Media and Mental Health for students	8
3.5 Union Awards	8

1.0 Introduction.

To say this year has brought challenges would be an understatement. With Covid-19 still very much a consistent issue, students have suffered greatly due to this, both mentally and academically. This and my passion for mental health triggered me to want to promote and raise awareness of the mental health services and support available both within the university and the community. Alongside the Head of Student Wellbeing, we worked to deliver a virtual event with a focus on connecting students with mental health services and resources. We hope that we could provide students with the necessary knowledge and courage to feel strong enough to take the next steps and seek help should they feel they need to do so.

In addition to this, I have been able to empathize with students and listen to their voices to raise concerns back to the University, to ensure their voices are heard. An ongoing campaign I have also promoted is the 'Students Deserve Better' campaign. We have seen a drop in the level of engagement from Societies, however I have tried to support societies as best I can by listening to their concerns and feeding this back to the Union. With a very limited amount of access to the campus and resources available, all societies have struggled in one way or another to maintain a substantial amount of social and society specific activities.

2.0 Manifesto Updates

Progress / Completion

2.1 More employability for students

Ongoing

Set up a series of “take to the floor events” which have had to be facilitated solely online via livestreaming platforms. Talks that have gone ahead successfully include:

- **Former Sabbatical Officer’s Take to the Floor.**

Completed 28.01.21

Used promotional videos of former sabbatical officers as a method for promotion to boost student engagement and attendance.

Attendance and engagement figures to date: 520 views online.

- **Media, Events, Journalism and Sound Technology Alumni**

Completed 04.02.21

Sent promotional materials out to relevant student groups and gained engagement from societies with relevant industry awareness including the Live Event Society.

Attendance and engagement figures to date: 195 views online.

- **Business, HR, Marketing and Sport Health and Social Sciences**

Ongoing due 8th April

In contact with 2 alumni from the representative industries to get involved.

Next steps to confirm alumni and make the relevant student courses aware.

- **Warsash Maritime School Careers discussion**

Ongoing due end of April

Met on 17.02.21 with Brian, Roger and David from the Warsash Maritime Association to get their support to plan the careers panel discussion. Brian, Roger, and David are going to contact me with the relevant contacts to industry professionals to be on the panel discussion. Fern is currently communicating and due to work with student officers Alex and Charles from the WMS, to help build student engagement and discuss relevant times students will be available to attend.

Student- led Event Project

Ongoing into 2021/22

Currently working to implement a student-led and delivered end of year union event project which entitles students on the Level 5 Event Management and Events and Festival Management the opportunity to gain practical work experience whilst at University.

- Project Proposal submitted to leadership with approval and requests for updates.
- Andy and Fern met with Neil Barker, level 5 leader to discuss plans and agreed the financial aspects and Andy and Fern are now going to put together a brief for event students for 2022.

2.2 More use of event spaces on campus

Progress / Completion

Subject to Covid-19
lockdown
restrictions easing.

Due to the current lockdowns and strict instructions for only mandatory activity on campus, this has been an increasingly difficult point to achieve.

- **Implementation of an on-campus exhibition for students happening in April**

Fern has been working with student groups including Alessia Perrin, the Events Officer and Solent Proofreading and Editing Society to gain student understanding of the wants and needs of current students. In response to this, as a project team we are hoping that we can deliver a physical student showcase event for students to show a great array of student talent and creativity.

- **Working to look at implementing an outdoor refreshing farm.**

Looking at the logistics as to how the refreshing animal farm can be done during Mental Health awareness week as another opportunity to elevate student stress and support students. Andy and Fern are hoping this can go ahead in the North Car Park area next to the Spark Atrium.

- **Enrichment period for students.**

On Thursday 18th February Fern was able to attend an initial meeting with Nona and the heads of departments to discuss the enrichment period for students, due to happen during May/June. Whilst on this call, Fern expressed the importance of students having access to spaces and specialist facilities on campus. Fern is going to be working with Nona and Caroline to plan and implement an enrichment period with the hope that the campus can provide open access to social spaces and specialist facilities to students during this time.

2.3 More support for Societies

Challenging point, however, I have been able to refer society requests for access to on campus facilities and support students by increasing their voice to the University.

- **Society 6 Months Memberships**

Completed 01.02.2021.

Implementation of a new 6 months membership scheme for societies to ensure all societies are accessible to all Solent students as well as students who are from the Warsash Maritime School.

- **Solent Scheme Update**

Ongoing

Solent Scheme is going to be amended.

- **Leading and delivering a second Society Showcase for Societies**

Completed 11.02.21.

Despite general low levels of engagement Fern was eager to align a second Society Showcase with the new Society 6 months memberships to ensure that Societies were given the opportunity to showcase their societies and promote student involvement.

Attendance and engagement figures to date: 297 views on Facebook

2.4 More awareness for sustainable products on campus

- Promotion surrounding products that are sustainable on campus.

To be completed

Had an initial meeting with Liz the Universities Environmental Officer surrounding Universities sustainable initiatives.

- Work around implementation of sustainable products

To be completed

with the Women's Officer

Planning to work with the Women's Officer to look at the possibility of implementing sustainable female products in the SU shop.

3.0 Other Projects and Involvement

Progress / Completion

3.1 University Fortunes Virtual Freshers Quiz

Completed 01.10.21

- Successfully planned 3x rounds of 'Family Fortunes' style quiz for students to get involved in during the refreshers period.
- Was able to attract a diverse student audience including international students and alumni / postgraduate student's involvement.
- Used a local radio presenter who is known in the Southampton and Surrounding areas to host the live final
- Worked with the University to get a personalised introductory video for the live final from Theo Paphitis.

3.2 Solent Self-Isolation Toolkit

Completed 19.10.21

- Created a document alongside the Head of Student Experience to enable students to have access to tasks and activities to remain productive and keep a positive mindset during self-isolation.
- Included a list of employability tasks using the Solent Futures Online Resources.
- As well as a list of social (virtual) activities like attending a virtual society taster session, checking in on a close friend and organising an online quiz.
- Finally included a productivity aspect to help students including simple things like writing a to do list, reorganising and tidying their room, having a social media detox, listening to a TED talk on personal development and downloading Duolingo, a free app to start learning a new language.

3.3 Workshop Wednesdays

Ongoing

Involved in the ongoing project team to deliver a series of workshop Wednesdays style events to upskill and increase students learning. This is an ongoing project happening throughout the entire year.

- Student Opportunities workshop with Solent Futures

Completed 18.11.21

Worked with Kelsey from Solent Futures to organise and co-host a session around student opportunities which fits in well with the employability element of my manifesto. Promoting a range of resources, opportunities and support that both the SU and Solent Futures provide to students.

Engagement figures to date: 217 views online

- Proofreading and Referencing

Completed 16.12.21

Worked with the proofreading and editing society to arrange a representative from the society to showcase their advice and tips for students on proofreading.

Contacted the library to get a representative to deliver a short presentation about Harvard referencing for students at Solent.

Engagement figures to date: 772 views

- Candidate Manifesto Workshop

Completed 17.02.21

Worked with the RAD manager to put together some ideas on current topics for students to consider in their manifestos, as well as good tips and things to avoid when writing a manifesto.

Engagement figures to date: 6 students attended the event held via Zoom

3.4 Joint campaign Social Media and Mental Health for students

Completed 16.02.21

- Worked with the Head of Student Wellbeing to implement a plan for an on campus and virtual alternative event to discuss student mental health.
- Organised a meeting prior to the event with the mindful running society to discuss their involvement and how they can talk about their personal experiences as current third year students as well as discuss how their society offers a support network for students.
- Completed some research on alternative local mental health charities and services that provide support and mental health advice so that we could signpost students to the relevant services. In addition to this, I was able to research online mental health support services inclusive of different student groups, for example the LGBT community to ensure inclusivity and support for a diverse range of students.
- Teo and I were also able to hold a drop-in session for time to talk day to give students the opportunity for a discussion. I was able to connect with a student and discuss society opportunities and how this can help increase a student's support.

Engagement figures online: 146 views online

3.5 Union Awards

Ongoing due 30.04.21

- A key part of the project team for the Union Awards.
- Have set out a plan for an on-campus event.
- Worked with Laure, the Spacial Planning Manager to discuss the implementation of an on-campus event and have decided that due to Covid-19 the restrictions on capacity, social distancing and catering will have a negative effect on what we hope the union awards would look like.
- Worked with Ciprian to discuss and adapt the full list of awards.