

AGM Report 2021

SU President – Vaios Koukouletsos

Hello and welcome to my AGM written report where I will be updating you on what I have been up to this year and on my key manifesto points. If you want to ask me anything about what I've been up to, feel free to email me at su.president@solent.ac.uk

Manifesto Points:

AFFORDABLE AND HEALTHY FOOD ON CAMPUS:

- The catering contract was renewed before I took office, meaning that I had very little room for adjustments and no leverage to put pressure at the catering company to consider my demands. However, in the contract was already included a more affordable approach on prices and a wider variety of products.
- I got in touch with them and had discussion with the estates and facilities team and secured products for every pocket. That means that you will see very cheap as well as very expensive products. Everyone can buy what they think fits themselves best.
- Due to Covid fresh food was limited therefore healthy and vegan products were not as many as there used to. A new packaging for every product was introduced to make it Covid safe, meaning that the price was slightly increased in order to match the extra cost of the packaging.

IMPLEMENT A FREE BIKE RENTAL SCHEME FOR STUDENTS:

- University independently announced its own bike hire scheme back in August.
- We formed a group in order to co-ordinate our efforts and launch the bike hire scheme together.
- Alongside Union's activities manager we went out and searched for advertisers that could bring us some revenue by advertising them on the bikes' frames.
- The university developed the booking app, bought the bikes and equipment as well as provided the storing space.
- Still waiting to launch the scheme but everything came on halt due to covid and due to the fact not a lot of students are on campus.

PROVIDE STUDENT JOBS IN CAMPUS RETAIL OUTLETS:

- The catering contract was renewed before I took office, meaning that I had very little room for adjustments and no leverage to put pressure at the catering company to consider my demands. However, in the contract was already included the fact that the company would be keen on hiring students.
- I got in touch with them and had discussion with the estates and facilities team and demanded students to be employed on these retail outlets. Talk about the fact that I want to see at least 30% of the staff on those shops to be students.
- Covid(again) ruined my dreams. These outlets had to make reductions therefore, hiring new staff became impossible.

LIVE STREAM STUDENT COUNCIL FOR STUDENTS:

- The first student council has happened and was recorded as opposed to livestreamed, which will be made available for you to view. Future sessions will be livestreamed on the Union's Facebook for you to view, ask questions and get involved.

OTHER THINGS I'VE BEEN UP TO:

- Committee Meetings- Academic Board, Student Board, Management Board etc.
- Trustee Meetings- Trustee Board, Sosut, Finance Committee and HR committee.
- Board of Governors- A number of BoG meetings
- Changed the name from Head of student Voice to SU President
- Lobbied the university to not go ahead with the phase 2 of tutors' reduction
- Attending covid response meetings
- Regular meetings with the Pro VC and the Deans
- Attending student appeal panels
- Suggested and amended the No-detriment policy
- Wrote letter to MPs on tuition fees refunds
- Wrote a joint letter with SUSU asking landlords to free students from contracts and give refunds
- Run online drop in sessions for students to come and ask questions
- Interviewed university's new CFO