

President- Student Council Report

BAME attainment gap:

Steps taken so far

- Set up a meeting with each Dean to talk about the BAME attainment gap at their school and the support they have for their students. Got school level plans for reducing the attainment gap.
- Create a student staff mentoring scheme. Due to the limited number of BAME staff at the university, started it off as a focus group. The first events to take place on the 11th and 13th of Feb.
- Liaised with BAME officer and BAME advocated linked with union to talk about running BAME case studies and came up with the questions.
- Written to the VC, asking for more BAME staff at the university and higher enrolment of BAME student in the postgraduate studies (better support for them). Raised this at multiple CEGs and emphasised its importance while shaping the universities strategic plan. Met with Lynn (the chair of BoG) to ensure APP and BAME attainment gap is not only on VC's agenda but a board target and got APP as a standing item for BOG. Got officers on the Panels for VCE recruitments to ensure everyone was given a fair chance.
- Planned the launch of BAME campaign called 'Rise Up' under the umbrella of This Student Can. As a part of the launch the team plans to create more awareness about what is BAME and what does the attainment gap means. Will have a stall at the refreshers' to talk to students about it. If it's well received, we plan to do regular stalls on both campuses to spread awareness and engage more students.
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Future Steps:

- Feed back into school level plans for each school. Continuous accountability of VC at all levels to make sure these plans are being implemented by the schools. Work with WASS to scrutinise any school at smaller level for not working on their action plans.
- Set-up more Student-staff role modelling events based on the feedback received from the first ones and try to get a mentoring scheme in place eventually.
- Carry out BAME case studies to understand BAME student experience better at Herts. Make one/two videos out of it to show students and senior university staff so they can better understand how our students feel.
- Present APP to the board with WASS.

Women's only gym times/class at UH:

Steps taken so far

- Got student feedback on the idea during speak week
- Took the student feedback VCSU
- Met with David Connel (head of Herts Squad) about the sessions and agreed certain times during the week to be allotted to women's only session for gym and pool. Agreed to get student volunteers to run these sessions, however members of VCE are not comfortable with it.
- Contacted other unions who have successfully introduced these times to understand how it works there.
- Went back to DC and talked about a more sustainable approach to this.

Next steps

- I will do an insight of the demand for these sessions from a staff and student perspective. Things to be looked at are: how much students are willing to pay for these sessions, what impact will it have on the current users of the gym as they wont be able to use it for the agreed times, any backlash from male students.
- Visit other unions to see how it works and bring it back to Herts to try and replicate it.
- Get trial sessions in place, and if successful lobby the sports village to make it into a permanent session.
- Speak to BUCS officers
- If sports village isn't supportive, take it to the life style board

Work within each school (with relevant Officer where appropriate) to lobby for one thing in each school. Specifically target:

Steps taken so far:

- Visit each school (SEG or Deans) to find out the support they have and what they can do more
- Different schools have different challenges; agreed to support them where its best. Lobbied for more placements and jobs for experience within the school.
- More officer *presence on de Hav to increase student engagement at different schools.*

Future steps

- Chase up all the schools in semester B and reflect on the impact made by these meetings.

Merit-based scholarships for home and international students

Steps taken so far

- Discussed it with international students and VC
- Spoken to the relevant member of VCE
- In the process of planning fundraising events with Alumni networks

Next steps

- Meet with the head of international office and Alumni networks to plan the fundraising
- Take it to Board of Governors if needed

Well-being

Steps taken so far

- Spoke to advise and support about promoting Samaritans more on campus. Their contact details are now on the automatic reply for advice and support. Leaflets and marketing materials throughout the university.
- Chased up on the two new-graduate roles to start in the Dean of Students, will be on the panel for selection. Raised the issue with waiting times at CEG.
- Working with HSU staff on a Never Okay campaign.
- Working with voice team on mental health march.
- Chased up on Mental health charter

Next steps

- Push mental health charter forward
- Monitor the impact of the new appointees for well-being team, and if needed lobby for more.

More gaming consoles and Teqball tables:

Steps taken so far

- The first esports room made in accommodations (Newton Court).
- Received funding (£8000) from Campus Community Life-CCL fund to get teqball tables and gaming consoles for societies to use.

Future steps

- Speak to relevant societies and estates to think of locations for the tables.
- Speak to activities team and VP activities about managing the equipment.

Completed projects:

- Multi-faith/relaxation space in CL LRC during exams session. The first session is almost over. LCS team and I will get together after the exams to reflect on the use of the space to make it better for next exam session. If it goes well, LCS to make it a permanent thing for exam sessions.