Student Council Report

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Position: Vice-President Activities
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Please find below a summary of the 5 main projects I have been working on since taking up my role in the summer.

1. SPORTS AT HERTS

Sports at Herts is more important than ever because being physically active can improve mood, decrease the chance of depression & anxiety and lead to a better/more balanced lifestyle. Covid-19 has meant that many face to face events have either been restricted or cancelled. The government have taken into consideration the need for sport nationally and have left it up to each national governing body to decide when and how each sport can resume safely. I have been working closely with Herts Squad to insure that as many students as possible get involved in at least one sport per week. Being well connected with student groups on WhatsApp and Facebook I have been able to heavily promote Active Student sessions, Campus Leagues and AU sign ups. Mental health is very important during these times where contact with people is limited so it is very important that sport is continued to be promoted heavily because these provide a sense of life to campus and also creates opportunity for students to meet new people.

2. BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During August/September plans started for what was going to take place across the University for Black History Month. I felt very passionate that there was input from students into the planning of what was taken place for such an important month. To make sure that the correct things were planned I conducted a survey that I asked friends and members of the African Caribbean society to participate in. The survey was very successful, giving us a good insight into what the students wanted and how they wanted us to improve the things we have going on at Herts. From the survey I noticed that there was a high percentage of people that wanted black owned student businesses promoted using the University networks. I then created weekly radio DJ sessions and weekly cook along sessions, where student DJ’s are able to DJ live via trident media radio and student chefs are providing live cooking shows on the Herts SU Instagram. This has proven to be very successful and entertaining for the students.

3. LOBBYING FOR MARQUEE

Having a background in running sporting and night club events I have made it a priority of mine to find a way of creating a safe space in where I could run socially distanced seated events. For example, the events would have ranged from a cocktail night to a sports quiz night. After researching what some other Universities were doing it was a common theme to see that they
were still running events just under a marquee with limited sides. The reason this is allowed is because by limiting the number of sides you have on the marquee, will class space as an outdoors space. I have proposed to the DOS that this is something we should be doing for our students to provide them with the university experience they deserve. I am currently in meetings with the relevant people at the University to make this happen and providing government guidance does not change we should see more face to face events on campus because of this idea.

4. SOCIAL MEDIA TAKEOVER

The university social media platforms are often created and run by staff not students. I think that this is good because things are kept professional but may not always be what the students want to hear or see which will limit engagement with students. I am keen to get the officers and students to take over social media platforms like the SU’s Instagram story because it shows that we as an SU not only provide a service to the students but also have students involved in everything we do. Recently I was able to take over the Herts SU Instagram story where I responded to question from a recent poll regarding societies. This proved to be very successful with student engagement as I was able to answer over 25 questions and over 1000 people viewed the response that I gave to the questions.

5. TOOL KIT

During these uncertain times it was apparent that many students coming back to University were unsure on how things were going to turn out. Many questions I received pre-freshers were regarding events and societies. Societies were very confused to what activities they were going to be able to provide their members with. To make it easier for societies trying to plan their year we created a tool kit which allows the societies to read guidelines on what can and can’t be done. There is also an online form that they can fill out which we then read and apply feedback on if we were to feel that the event was not following health and safety rules. Society committee members can find the tool kit on the Hertfordshire SU page. This tool kit provides societies with many answers to questions they previously had. This tool kit will be updated as government guidance changes.

Further information about the work I do can be found here: https://hertfordshire.su/your-say/electedofficers/vice-president-activities/

And further information on Student Council can be found here: https://hertfordshire.su/your-say/student-council/

Thank you for reading!

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