Worcester Students’ Union Council Report: 13/01/15

Presidents Report by Wesley Hudson

Hello everyone, I hope you have had a relaxing Winter Break and are ready for a new and very busy year. There are many exciting things to look forward to that we, the Students’ Union, hope many of you will get involved in.

Green Impact

As I’m sure many of you may have already seen the Students’ Union has now adopted our very own polar bear from the WWF. This may seem a little confusing to you all so I thought I would include some information on why we are doing this. Having won the NUS Gold Green Impact Award two years in a row it meant that we are now eligible to apply for the excellence award. This involves creating a student led campaign that can be based on a number of different topics. Vanessa and I chose to focus on Energy Usage, in particular the energy usage of the students union. We are trying to reduce the amount of energy we as a building use and at the same time hopefully encourage other students and staff members to do the same. However we felt that this would not interest many students so we decided to make the campaign a bit more different, this is where Pearl comes in. We have linked our initial idea of energy consumption to climate change and the loss of the arctic ice, where the polar bears live. We are using Pearl as an anchor to the campaign and hope that people will have a sense of ownership seen as the SU is adopting her, we also hope having something physical (the picture is actually of Pearl and the information the WWF send us about her) means that people may feel more emotional towards the campaign meaning more engagement. We are hoping that as many students’ want to get involved in the campaign as possible. I think this is a great opportunity to try something new and help raise awareness both in energy consumption and climate change

Refreshers/ Rag week

This period of time for the past few years has often been known as “Refreshers”. However, this has never actually been an official thing so this year the Sabbatical team have decided to make it one. We feel that this will allow us to keep up our engagement with current students’ as well as engaging with new ones that will join us for the start of semester two.  
We felt that this was also the perfect time for us to raise a lot of money for R.A.G so with the help of Jack we are focusing most events that week as a way to raise money for our chosen charities. We are still planning what kind of things that will be going on that week. We are however, open to any suggestion no matter how big or small from you as councillors.

Housing

Last semester I worked closely with the Union’s student advisors on our “Don’t Rent Yet” campaign. This was very successful and we had some great feedback from students. We sent out postcards to students living in halls of residence again reminding them to wait till after the winter break to start looking for houses.

Leading on from this we have again been working extremely closely with the accommodation team at the University in the planning and set up of the Unions very first Housing fair, we have invited over 50 University accredited landlords to attend the fair. We hope that this will encourage students to sign up to private accommodation that is safe and has a good environment at a reasonable price. We have also invited a number of different stalls including energize Worcester, the University’s finance advisors and Endsleigh to also help with advising the students about renting in private accommodation.

2015 is looking very promising and I hope that we can all work together to help maintain our Students’ Union’s great reputation.