**Student Council Report**

**Abi Clarke, Vice President Student Activities**

Since the last Student Council there have been a number of things that I have been involved with. 2015 looks to be a busy and exciting time for the Students’ Union.

**New Society Approval and Support**

From the start September, we have had a significant increase in the number of sports and societies that have been created. This is something we actively encourage as it offers a wider spectrum of opportunities for students’ that increases engagement and participation in extra-curricular activities.

Since the improvements made to our website, we have found that more students are enquiring about creating new societies, which suggests the online system is helping to facilitate the process. Now that this process is encouraging more societies to develop, we need to ensure that we are giving the necessary provision and support to the new societies as they are passed through the system. I have met with a few of the new societies this week and will be doing so with the remained of the new ones in the subsequent weeks to follow.

**Refreshers/RAG week**

We will be holding an official Refreshers’ this year which will include numerous RAG activities to raise money for our chosen charities. It will also include a Sport and Activities fair, which we are in the process of planning so that the new January and February starters can see what we have on offer in terms of activities and so that other students get a renewed opportunity to take part in the upcoming semester.

**Varsity**

We have a new sport introduced into the Varsity schedule this year and cheerleading and dance will go back to being competitive events. As long as both sides can agree – this means more students than last year will be able to take part in Varsity competitively. We are also looking for more ways that non-sporting students can get involved e.g. social media coverage, promo, varsity maker, volunteering, etc.

I have now booked the dates for the event and have started to book in the venues and timeslots. I have a meeting with Ben from Gloucester in the next few weeks to confirm some more details. Varsity will be taking place on the 25th-30th April 2015.

**Celebration Week**

We have booked in dates for Celebration week, including a brand new society event. We are currently in talks with potential venues and are looking to form student groups to help provide feedback on some of the smaller but key details such as menus and decor.

**Socials on University Campus**

In September, the University decided to ban socials in all forms of University Accommodation. This was met with a lot of student complaints and led to a number of complaints from residents in the local community. Since the ban was announced we have fought for the reintroduction of responsible socials on campus. I have drawn up a contract that requires the signatures of

 **Academic Societies**

I have been in on going meetings with a number of heads of institute to discuss how we can create and support an increased amount of Academic Societies. Tom and I will be working on this over the next few months to try and offer students more opportunities to explore their chosen subject outside of the lecture theatre. At this stage, meetings have been positive and this is something that the university are keen to support.

**Volunteering**

Sports and societies have been highlighted as the largest student group to have signed up for V-Records online. This is a sign that the push we have put on volunteering this year is working. I am currently looking for volunteers to help with Varsity and on celebration week working groups and hope to encourage even more students to get involved with the Volunteering opportunities we have on offer.

**BUCS Inclusive Sport**

Connor and I will be attending BUCS disability event at the end of January in the hope to lobby BUCS to promote and be more proactive toward inclusive sport. We are hoping that BUCS will start to recognise wheelchair basketball and other inclusive sports in their list of competitive sports that Universities can compete in for BUCS points. We have been putting together some research about BUCS and their current inclusion plans and have found that the current provisions are poor. Anyone who wishes to know more about this can contact me on a.clarke@worc.ac.uk.