Worcester Students’ Union: Student Council 14/04/2015

President’s report

By Wesley Hudson

Hello everyone, as you may know this will be the last student council meeting of the academic year. I firstly wanted to thank you all for your time and effort you have put into attending the meetings this year. We have made some very important and interesting decisions that, without your help, wouldn’t be available. I also wanted to wish the best of luck to those students who are leaving us this year to go on to graduate in November. I hope the skills and experiences you have learnt during your time here will be useful to you.
The Students’ Union is looking forward to a very exciting few months ahead with the end of the year looming.

Sustainability
As many of you know Vanessa and I have been working very hard towards our Green Impact Project. I can happily say that the project has come to an end. All the paper work, reports and case studies needed have been sent off to NUS to be marked. Laura Williams, the NUS leader of the Green Impacts projects will be visiting the University to audit the project on the 20th April.

Alongside that the University sustainability department is holding a “World Café” for staff, students and university board of governors to discuss sustainability. You are all invited so I will hopefully see as many of you there. (You will have received an email from the University with the details).

As well as the above the University are looking for a group of people to be involved with their responsible futures pilot from NUS. This is surrounding sustainability in the curriculum. They are looking for 5 auditors who will travel to Coventry to be trained and then audit their work (5 students from Coventry will come to Worcester to do the same). They are also looking for 10 students to take part in a focus group. This will all count as volunteer hours. If you wish to take part in either groups please let me or Katy Boom (K.boom@worc.ac.uk) know.

Pro Vice Chancellor Students
Unfortunately John Ryan our current Pro-Vice Chancellor Students will be leaving the university to retire toward the end of this academic year. However in my last report I wrote how the sabbatical officers sat on the interview panels. The two favourite individuals moved onto a second interview and the University have appointed Ross Renton, who will take over in August.
He has been with Hertfordshire since 2004 during which time he has been deeply involved in promoting student services, leading on the University’s outreach and widening participation work, developing student representation and engagement and working in productive partnership with a broad range of educational, community and business partners. Ross has a very deep, longstanding personal interest and commitment to student welfare, participation and volunteering as well as to graduate employment and community involvement.

Chief Executive

Another big change that the Union will see in the near future is a new Chief Executive. Unfortunately Paul Johnston will be leaving the organisation on the 12th of June. This means that we will need to find a suitable replacement. I am currently working with a group (Made up of Trustees, Sabbatical officers and University management) to organise the recruitment and interview processes. There will definitely be a presentation stage and a question stage during the interview, of which we are looking for a couple of students to sit on. If any of you are interested then please do not hesitate to contact me as soon as possible.

Welfare
The last two months have a seen a real breakthrough in Nightline. There is now a fully formed committee who have taken over the main organising of the Nightline. The students union and University are still involved in helping the setting up of the service. Pre-session meetings are taking place to inform people about what being in nightline involves. There is a training weekend in May meaning that the nightline will be set up for a trial period over exams. There have been a number of issues with the location of nightline however after meeting with University staff these seem to have been sorted. If any councillors still wish to volunteer for Nightline it isn’t too late, please contact Steve Jones (Jons1\_13@uni.worc.ac.uk).

I have been working closely with Louise Jones, Director of Health and Wellbeing, at looking into decreasing exam stress during dissertation and assignment period. We have ordered free water for students, free fruit and potentially a company called “Pets as Therapy” (Who are also being used in the hive) will be on campus. This will be over the 4th, 5th and 6th of May. It will be based in Pierson.

Amsterdam
From the 31st of march to the 3rd of April, Abi Clarke and I took a group of 40 students (A mixture of Societies, Stars and Sports teams). We had an enjoyable time whilst there and everyone returned safe and sound.

Car Parking

More issues have arisen with Car parking the past month . One particular Student has raised some issues with me including car park closures. An in depth report was written and sent to the management of the University, however nothing prevailed. The paper is being altered and will be sent to higher up individuals. Should any of you wish to look at the paper or want to be involved in the discussion please do not hesitate to contact me.

Student Engagement Co-ordinatior

Last week Tom and I met the new Student Engagement Co-ordinator for the Hive, Shelley Probert. Her duties will be to engage with students and to get them more involved with the Hive and bridge the gap between the Campus and the Library. As well as this she will be working closely with the Students’ Union on different initiatives as well as dealing with issues that students may have with the Hive.

I look forward to seeing you all in celebration week and the new semester.