Welfare Officer Report - 18/11/14

**Student Support Services**

Met with Kate Gynn to find out more about student support services and what the university currently offers students. One problem that keeps arising is a lack of advertisement about the university's student support, academic support such as mitigating circumstances and the university's writer-in-residence and information on student's rights. The impression I got was that not many students are aware of what the university can offer them in terms of support. Kate emailed me the details of a project proposal **To Create A Virtual Centre For Student Progression And Academic Achievement** that I forwarded to Tom Clarke VP Education. This proposal's aims **to enhance the way the university communicates with its students and makes visible high quality learning resources** though more linked to the education area appears to have the potential to solve some of these communication issues.

If the model of a Virtual Centre proposed works for education, then I wish to investigate if a similar model could work for welfare and could be set up. This is similar to what I imagined in my manifesto - a website/information hub for university of worcester students with clearer links to student support and moderated advice forums in which students could support each other through their time at university. I have gained feedback that the registry site is confusing and complicated for students - can it not be reformed and presented in a clearer way?

**Bullying and Harassment Policy**

Recently met with Julian Bancroft-Martin to discuss the reformation of the university's bullying and harassment policy. He brought me up to speed on what was discussed in the last meeting and we came up with some new suggestions on where the policy could be improved. I particularly wanted to emphasise that there should be lower tolerance on cyber bullying and mentioned the several cases of lecturer > student bullying that have been reported to me since September and we need to look at how this can be prevented. (Those specific cases were directed to contact Tom Clarke, VP Education). There is an awareness problem here again as mentioned these issues to Kate Gynn and it seems students are not aware of their rights re. problems with university staff. Sadly I was unable to attend the following meeting due to being in a lecture but am following the meeting notes and am waiting to hear about the next meeting.

**Be Real Campaign**

Met with Hugo to discuss the campaign a few weeks ago and came up with some ideas for raising awareness but need to go back to the drawing board and ideally would like to bring in a larger group of people to discuss ideas for the campaign. Since Hugo came to student council to explain the Be Real campaign we have been in contact via email and have spoken to him around campus. He will keep me updated via email and I am keen to attend the next meeting.