Deputy President (Welfare) Report

A note by Charlotte Ivison

Campaign Weeks

The next campaign week is Healthy Living Week from the 24th-28th January, all the publicity for which is up – please join the facebook event and invite your friends. It's quite a varied offering this year, with plenty of nutritional and wellbeing based activities in addition to free sports sessions.

I'm in the middle of coordinating a Drugs Awareness campaign for late February. It will involve the official launch of our Limits website, with some really good literature and freebies, as well as some workshops run by the local police force.

SHAG Week is also happening in February (7-11th Feb), which will feature performances of the Vagina Monologues as well as bringing back the Chlamydia and HIV testing and doing a workshop on healthy relationship dynamics by domestic violence charity Tender.

Welfare survey

We've decided to write a survey of all the Welfare services available on campus, which will hopefully get ethics clearance to make it more valid and also make the results potentially publishable. At the moment we're looking at including the best standard surveys used to analyse things like depression, as well as looking at what questions are currently asked of our students. We're looking to get this online on the 1st March when we (hopefully) receive ethics clearance.

Visa reforms

You can read more about this report in the paper—I apologise now for the pain reading it probably caused you. The President, Deputy President (Education), Representation Coordinator and International Officer and myself got together after reading the giant document and collectively produced the draft. We have put this online for general student comment, and will be submitting the final version for consideration before the deadline of the 31st January.

Fairtrade policy

I've held a steering committee to renew our Fairtrade status and will be completing and sending off the renewal paperwork shortly as it has turned out to be quite straightforward. I've also updated the Fairtrade policy to follow the new guidelines – see my paper.

Projects

I've organised a New Projects Committee for the 31st January, with five potential projects which is great. We should soon have all of the Projects content online which will make life easier for everyone.

Halls Committee

I've been following up on feedback from the last Halls Committee with Commercial Services, looking at a breakdown of Halls rent with a view to communicating that to students to make the system more transparent. However, a lot of students brought issues which should have been communicated elsewhere, i.e. to wardens, so I'm working on tightening up the structure now.

Welfare officers

I've been working with the Welfare Officers to make them more of a visible campus presence. This will probably involve a poster campaign and them alternately manning a welfare stand on campus. I'm preparing a funding request for materials for this for the next RWB and then it should be up and running.

Safer Neighbourhoods

This week I attended a Safer Neighbourhoods ward Panel meeting, which is basically the local police and concerned citizens and citizen reps discussing crime stats and deciding on policing priorities. At a later meeting with the police, I expressed concerns that the representation of our students in this area isn't proportional, which they agreed with. So, to make us have a bit more clout, I'm going to have a regular student consultation group to feed into the meetings. The officers have even offered to come and talk to us directly which is great.

Sabbatical Elections 2011

We've started preparations for this year's elections and I'm going to be acting as Deputy Returning Officer.