**Societies Officer Student Forum Report**

**Pledge 1: Increase society awareness.**

My First point is to increase society awareness. Many students are not aware of where they can go to access societies or what societies we offer within the union. So, to ensure that all students are given the opportunity to join any society that they wish to I will focus on ensuring that all societies are visible around the university, and online.

**11/10/2023**

This pledge is an ongoing project, and with the help of the new website this has been more possible than it has been in past years, this is due to the transparency that the website has on locating and looking in to joining the societies that we have currently have on offer. A great example of this is that as of the time I am writing this report we have 15 societies, with some of these being development societies. Which is a jump of 12 since the beginning of the Academic year. Which without increasing the awareness of the societies we already had would not have been possible.

**09/01/2024**

This is still ongoing, with the website being used a lot more as the year is going on our number of societies has now jumped to 16 (at the time of writing this) 4 of these reaching the threshold of members and becoming a fully-fledged society going into the second semester on top of the 3 we had previously. Current plans going into the second semester include a re-freshers fayre in early February with the aim to help our other societies reach this threshold as well.

**29/03/2024**

 This is still something that we are tracking and managing. Since the last student forum, we have gained 2 societies ( pool society and will run for donuts) which are currently running very smoothly and hoping to raise their membership as we go through the rest of the year and on to next year. We have held a few societies drop-in sessions for film society and pool society to try to get them up and running and from this pool society did get taken over and there sessions are going well.

**Pledge 2: Have regular contact with all societies.**

My second point is to have regular contact with all society committees. Being a committee member can at points be very stressful, and sometimes you can feel very alone while running a society. So, I am promising to maintain regular contact with the committee members so that they can let us know how we can support them as much as we possibly can.

**11/10/2023**

Again, this is something that is going to be ongoing throughout the year. As of writing this report I have started to pop into some of the society sessions and get to know some of our students that have shared interests and encourage those that haven’t yet, to sign up to be members of their respective society through our new website. I am looking forward to popping my head into more of the societies in the coming weeks and get to know a bit more about the hobbies that our students share.

**09/01/2024**

I will put my hands up that I have not been able to visit all of our societies since writing my last report due to time running away with me before Christmas and assignment deadlines but I am hoping to have more time to do this during the second semester and am looking forward to joining in when and where I can. Although I haven’t been able to attend sessions I have spoken to committee members when they have reached out to me.

**29/03/2024**

I have been in regular contact with society committee members whether that is checking in when seeing them around campus or over email, and in the next couple of weeks myself and Ellie will be dropping into the societies sessions to talk to all committee members about our society committee elections ready for next year.

**Pledge 3: Encouraging more academic based societies.**

My final point is to encourage more academic based societies. When studying many students can feel alone, however if we were offering more academic based societies, we can create a sense of community for those students who are struggling and create a place where they can go and gain some support from other year groups. So, I will work with the academic representation officer in which is the best way to support these societies and for students to gain the most out of these societies.

**11/10/2023**

With the help of the vice president this pledge is starting to happen. We have been contacting lecturers and heads of departments to let them know that each course has their own academic society which eventually will be ran by the 2nd year course rep/ reps for that academic year. These societies are there to support all students academically with the help of their lecturers with all students automatically enrolled as a member of this society. We have currently received confirmation of 1 course already starting to use these groups to create a positive atmosphere throughout the university and wider community. but throughout the year this is something that I will continue to encourage.

**09/01/2024**

We currently have a few academic societies up and running, with a few more being brought up in talks of starting them. One course that I know is up and running is the Studies in Primary Education Society they meet up once a week and at the end of last semester did a few things for charity for example made some Christmas shoe boxes that were sent off to children in need of them.

**29/03/2024**

Due to change in lectures, I have been unable to go and see how the academic societies are running. One thing I have realised through this year is that our academic societies pretty much run themselves. We have given the odd bit of support that they might need around promoting events they are running but other than that they have sorted out their own rooms, times, and support that they may want/need from lecturers.

**Other Items:**

**11/10/23**

I started the year off with helping and attending freshers. This involved helping with the set up of the events that were held at senses lounge. Supporting some of our societies at the freshers fayre with guiding people over to our little corner to come and meet our wonderful committee members, talking to some of our new students about their own hobbies and supporting them in finding a society that may meet these or letting them know how they can start their own. I attended staff vs students, which was a fun afternoon and was great to see some of our new students join in with Volleyball and teach me how to play. Lastly I attended as many of the events as a could to support the other executive committee members in their events and plans. I have also attended the student experience task group with Ellie (Vice president) which gave us an insight into the workings of the university.

**09/01/2024**

Since October I have hosted a couple of quizzes with Ellie. I have attended a couple more of the university's committees such as environmental, student experience, and employability. and I have helped with the set-up of our wonderful events. As well as attending as many of them as I can which I can definitely say I have enjoyed.

29/01/2024

Since January I have helped to run a Kahoot night at the bar, attend as many Tuesday night events as I can. I also helped to promote and sell tickets for Varsity as well as attending the event. I had helped during the leadership elections by talking to students and getting as many as I could to vote.