Community and Wellbeing Sub-Committee Report.

The Community and Wellbeing Sub-Committee is dedicated to matters related to diversity and inclusion including protected characteristics, faith and belief groups as well as student-led societies, projects, events, sustainability, and improving the overall university environment.

# Key Areas of Focus This Semester

This semester, the committee has focused on two student-led motions:

* The Quiet Spaces initiative, aimed at creating more inclusive, low-stimulation environments for students with sensory processing needs.
* The Humanities Room motion, in which Humanities students requested a designated space for their academic community.

# Progress and Outcomes

## Quiet Spaces Initiative

We invited Access and Inclusion Officer, Jayden, to collaborate with us on exploring options for quiet and sensory-friendly environments. While creating new physical spaces was not feasible due to space limitations on campus, we shifted our efforts toward identifying and adapting existing spaces.

### Exchange Area in the Library:

We chose to work with the Library team based on their commitment to creating sensory friendly spaces on campus through ad-hoc sessions. In partnership with the Library and Estates teams, we adjusted the lighting in bookable meeting rooms to create a calmer, sensory-considerate environment. These changes have been implemented and represent a meaningful step forward. The library team currently offer sensory aids for use in the Wellbeing Collection, however the Students’ Union is ready to revisit offering additional aids if the need arises.

### Welfare Room (McAuley Building):

We confirmed that this space is appropriate for use when there is a medical need. However, concerns remain regarding its overall suitability and readiness for broader use.

### Ongoing Evaluation:

We acknowledge that further student feedback is needed to truly understand the purpose and expectations behind a “sensory room.” As a result, we plan to develop a data-gathering initiative to better inform future steps.

## Humanities Room Motion

After revisiting the motion, we aligned with the previous Executive Committee’s conclusion: a dedicated room for Humanities students is not currently feasible. Instead, we encourage students to consider forming an academic society, which could serve their needs for community and study-based engagement.

### The motion highlights a need for clarity:

### Resource development

In addition, we are developing a comprehensive campus study space resource. This will outline available study areas both open-access and bookable including capacity and appropriate uses. We aim to include academic societies in this resource to offer meaningful and contextually relevant suggestions.

### Clarity on Academic Societies

# Challenges and Constraints

The primary limitation continues to be the availability of physical space on campus. Rather than pursue new builds, our strategy is to work collaboratively with University teams to adapt existing spaces to meet evolving student needs.

# Next Steps for the Committee

* Study Space Resource: Finalise and publish the resource detailing campus study spaces and their features.
* Sensory Room Research: Launch a student-led data collection initiative to better understand what students would want and need from a sensory-friendly space.