

## Vice President (Welfare & Education) End of Year report

So, this is my last ever council, and I am coming to the end of my student union career. I'm not quite sure what to make of it. I have been involved in some way or other in SUSA or student representation if you want to call it since I arrived here just about 5 years ago. In first year I was the person who got picked to be a course rep because I was sat at the front (like a geek) in the lecture theatre and now I have just spent a fabulous year representing the whole student body as VP.

This year has had its ups and down, there have been times where I have held my head in my hands and wondered why on earth I was doing the job when it felt like I was repeatedly hurling myself at a brick wall, but that was all worth it for the successes that came at the end of it. The University are now adapting to the idea of student independence and are in the process of developing a recording system for lectures, and potentially abolishing class attendance requirements, to making sure that last semester, disabled students were actually able to sit their exams in the way that they needed, to running a bigger, year long sexual health campaign, so at one point the NHS refused to give me any more condoms... apparently they didn't have enough to keep up our demand!

I've been on committees galore ASQAC, QEC, SEC, Plagiarism policy review, Academic Portfolio Review and a long list of others, I'm not going to bore you with the details, because as all the Sabbs can tell you there is no way to make my job sound sexy! It is all very important but just not sexy... but we talk about things like how to make you the most employable students once you graduate, how to make sure that your degree meets your needs or creating an environment so that you can really enjoy your time at university.

What I will say is that, things have come some way from being that student who is picked to be a course rep for a role that they have no idea what it is. The university are starting to value the opinions of students. They are increasingly engaging with them and the student body as a whole is increasingly being given an individual voice. Student representation is moving away from the bunch of student officers planning in a room, SUSA is opening up and really considering what the students actually want from that and we can see that more and more are getting involved. We just have to look at the election turnout to see that.

So I come to the soppy bit of my report. None of my achievements would have been possible without the support from many many people.

First the staff. Really none of the work that we do would be possible without you. They really are all an amazing bunch of people. Thank you all for the support and guidance that helped me run the gauntlet of a sabbatical year. There are a few people I must mention though.

Wendy has been an amazing support; she has completely fed my caffeine addiction, but most of all she has been a friend in a sometimes very tense environment.

Nick, you have pretty much been my guru for the last year, you have provided me guidance, information, someone to sound idea out, been someone to vent and rant to about all the injustices in the world and really helped me when I have found myself stuck in the mud... Thank you so much.

Tom, you can be the most annoying person I know at times, but you have been a great president, I don't think we would have been able to get to where we are now without your passion and determination.

Greg, you like to cause trouble even if we disagree on many things I admire your determination. I'm going to miss arguing with you.

Mark, I don't know how we have managed to work together and live together but I swear you have been a rock a fantastic colleague and my best friend. Couldn't do it without you.

Right folks I think that is all for now, I just want to wish Mark the best of luck for next year you will be great! Well I also wish good luck to everyone who will be continuing or taking office next year.

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