

President's report



11 November 2014

Recent Achievements

Nerve, our student-led radio station, won four awards recently at the National Student Radio Awards, sponsored by BBC radio. They were:

Gold – Best Entertainment – Sean Montague & Emily Sandford

Bronze – Kevin Greening Creativity Ward – Sean Montague & Emily Sandford

Bronze - Best female – Emily Sandford

Bronze - Best technical Achievement – Richard Graham (Nerve Extra)

These are the first national awards that Nerve have ever won and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Sabbatical officer updates

President, Chloe Schendel-Wilson

I recently ran a week-long event called 'Let's Go... Try Something New', where students from around fifteen different clubs and societies spent the week showcasing themselves in the atrium and recruiting new students. It went very well and was successful in keeping students engaged in extra-curricular activities past the arrivals period.

I have also been working to set up SUBU's 'Green Student's Taskforce', a group of environmentally-focused students involved with the Union. They have now built up a close relationship with BU's Energy and Environment Team, helping them with events such as Green Week and the Environmental Launch Parties. I also recently organised for them to carry out environmental auditing in Bournemouth Hospital and Bournemouth Borough Council. They found it a valuable experience and a great addition to their CVs.

Vice President of Education, Ellie Mayo-Ward

I have been working on the MyBU student feedback tab so that it is updated more regularly -with evidence of 'You Said This Happened' so students are more aware of the changes that happen because of their feedback.

We have also trained over 500 Reps out of 650 over three days. I am working with some of these Reps to organise our Speak Week where we collect student feedback about a range of issues.

I am also working on analysing feedback about group work that was collected last year to find areas where BU excels and has room for improvement.

Vice President of Welfare, Reece Pope

I have been looking at how to improve the transport provisions to and from both campuses. I have been able to get duplicate buses running on the U1 route before 9am, after receiving large amounts of feedback from students on the U1 bus route that they were struggling to make it to lectures on time due to overcrowding.

I have also been looking at the experience of international students after the arrivals period. I am looking at the advice provisions that are available at the moment, and how this can be improved, and I have also looked at issues surrounding housing for international students.

The welfare council has also been elected so I have been training the officers and explaining the importance of their role and the insight that they can bring to the role.

Vice President of Lansdowne, Peter Briant

Part Time Officer Elections have taken place and as a result, the Lansdowne Council has formed for the second year running.

Following on from enquiries and requests from students, I have looked into the provision of a microwave in Studland House and also for smoking shelters. These however, have been pushed back on grounds of health and safety and the no smoking policy the university adopts.

I am also currently looking into the provision of student parking at the Lansdowne campus and I am currently collecting data for this.

Departmental Updates

Activities Update

SUBU Volunteering

The Big Feed was back too and as popular as ever. Six teams and a total of 41 volunteers worked hard throughout the day to collect 1.9 tonnes of food for the local food banks.

So far students have collectively volunteered over 700 hours this year.

RAG

The expeditions this year are Kilimanjaro, Machu Picchu, and the Barcelona Marathon. For volunteering, the team has chosen Uganda and Cambodia. We have also added a Marathon event this year to try to increase participation from SportBU students.

LEGGIT, our incredibly successful hitchhiking event, saw over one hundred students raise around £10,000, by hitchhiking across Europe.

Our next focus will be on more community events. We will be meeting with Ian Jones, Head of Regional Community Partnerships, to update him on what we have planned. We are also hoping to do some joint events with AUB, Southampton Uni and Southampton Solent.

Clubs & Societies

Both essential committee briefings ran and we trained a total of over 200 students, an increase on last year.

The activity Leadership scheme has also been developed and the training workshops have begun. Early feedback is positive, but we will be reassessing and developing throughout the year.

Academic Clubs & Societies

Identifying the need for a specific member of staff to take on Academic Clubs and Societies SUBU have recruited an “Academic Societies Development Intern” to encourage the growth and engagement of Academic Societies.

We have been working towards establishing a brand for Academic & Professional Societies within Clubs & Societies, included a dedicated page on the SUBU website. This will help to create a consistent and recognisable message for future A&P Society promotion initiatives.

We are also trialling an Academic & Professional Societies social lunch event, organised for the committee members of existing A&P societies. The idea is to create a place where academic society committee members can talk about what they’re doing and form collaborations with both each other and SUBU. The aim is to strengthen the relationship as much as possible, so that we can better understand and support them.

Communications Update

Freshers’ Fair

SUBU Comms Media Sales organised the most successful Freshers’ Fair event to date with over 7000 students attending. The atmosphere was buzzing and we’re starting to plan next year’s event already.

Christmas Fair

Comms Media Sales are also organising a Christmas themed fair event planned for Tues 2 Dec in the penultimate week of Autumn term. This will be the first ever of these events at BU and we hope to follow the success seen at other Universities.

BU reading weeks

The presence of an ‘unofficial reading week’ corresponding with Graduation Week has presented challenges to SUBU in communicating campaigns and services. It would be useful if these events could be universally announced in advance to aid planning.

Commercial Services Update

Old Fire Station

Event programme

This is very challenging at the moment – partly due to student spend on events contracting, partly due to viscous competition on the high street (with event concepts not appropriate for a Students Union) and partly due to us going through a period of change to try and adapt to this.

The Arrivals period

This went well for us, although moving our key event to the BIC (due to size) had significant impact on our revenues. Social media was extremely damaging this year – with multiple copycat events and ‘official’ mimic pages having considerable impact on student experience.

Daytime opening from January and improvement of the student experience on the Lansdowne

We are extremely keen to make this trial a success with support from BU. We also believe there may be opportunities to use the resources of the Old Fire Station in support of academic programmes in events, SciTech, business and marketing – effectively using the venue as a ‘lab’ for learning practice.

Daytime opening could be the first step in moving the venue away from purely being a nightclub into it becoming a centre for socialising, learning and events.

Dylan’s Kitchen & Bar and The Loft café

Student organised events are still an area we are seeing great demand for.

Plans are largely in place for the roll out of the two coffee outlets into the new student centre.

SUBU Shops

The Lansdowne Campus shop (in Bournemouth House) continues to trade as last year, despite very low footfall in the building.

Talbot campus shop ran a successful pop up BU merchandise store at the BU graduation ceremonies.

Lansdowne Update

We have secured inclusion in the HSC final year Team work in Practice projects (TIP) as a stakeholder. This is where usually teams of six students from different health professions are placed together to create a unique and useful addition to practice such as an app to help give advice with heart attack situations or a z card to help new student on a ward when on placement.

Progress has been made with the potential to support students when on placement through a no reply texting service which Peter has instigated. This will be made available for the New Year and is an on-going action point for LC.

Partner Colleges Update

At the start of the term our Partner Colleges Coordinator attended Freshers' Fairs at some of the regional Partner Colleges to promote the Student Union; making the Partner students aware that they are members of the Union and ensuring they know how they can get involved if they wish. As well as the fairs, the Partner Colleges Coordinator gave several inductions to Franchised students. The on campus inductions for the Wiltshire College Salisbury were a success and the students were particular happy with receiving BU Student ID cards.

Democracy Update

We've helped coordinate cross-campus elections to elect 35 student Part-Time Officers, each representing different student groups and interests. Each officer sits on one of four Student Councils depending on their remit. The four councils are Welfare, Activities, Lansdowne and Education.

Representation Update

Over 500 new and returning student reps attended Essential Rep Training events throughout October, and many are now attending weekly short training sessions under the SUBU Rep Development Scheme.

35 Senior Rep Officers were elected by reps for their faculties or schools at the end of October, and attended a weekend training event. This was followed by the first of their fortnightly Student Education Council Meetings, on 10th November.

Research and Information Update

What 'mattered most' to students in 2013-14 about their BU experience: comments from the Student Opinion Survey

Overview

This report presents the aspects of the BU experience that mattered most to the students who responded to the Student Opinion Survey (SOS) and the National Student Survey (NSS), using both quantitative and qualitative data from the SOS and quantitative data from the NSS.

Throughout 2013-14, 20,445 comments were provided by students on aspects of their BU experience, both academic and wider. The total comments were grouped by comment theme, then grouped according to 'positive' or 'negative' (in line with 'Keep', 'Stop', 'Start') and how many schools (and faculty) they originated from in order to obtain an institution-wide picture of what students commented on the most.

What 'mattered most' to students in 2013-14: top issues from SOS comments

<i>Theme</i>	<i>% of comments</i>
Quality of feedback	29.5
Contact & communication with lecturers	21.3
Quality of lectures	15.5
Timetabling	14.9
Practical sessions / workshops and placements	9.7

Figure 1 below shows the top 6 themes or aspects of the BU experience that students commented on the most, and whether the comments were positive or negative. Where the comments did not originate from all schools (and faculty), the colour of the bar in the chart is paler and translucent. The commentary that follows the chart expands the themes to illustrate them.

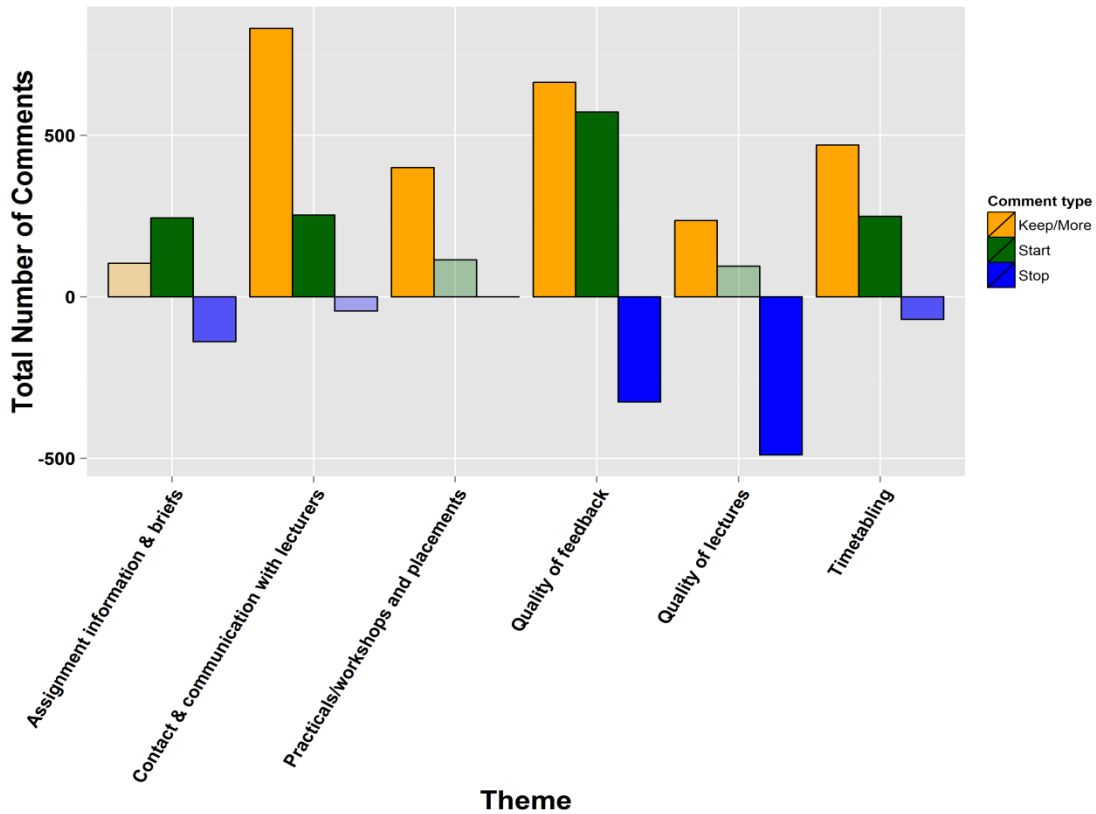


Fig.1 Aspects of the BU experience that students commented on the most 2013-14

The most commented on themes expanded

Assignment information and briefs

Keep / Start: Clear and accurate information on briefs
 Stop: Limited / inaccurate / unclear information on briefs

Contact and communication with lecturers

Keep / Start: Easy to contact and approachable lecturers who reply to students, 'open door'
 Stop: Unapproachable teaching staff

Provision of practical sessions / workshops and placements

Keep / Start: Placements, practical sessions, lab work are greatly appreciated by students

Quality of feedback

Keep / Start: Constructive, detailed, legible feedback providing examples for improvement
 Stop: Illegible feedback that does not provide enough detail or suggestions for improvement

Quality of lectures

Keep / Start: Delivery of interactive and engaging lectures

Stop: Lectures that are not engaging / interactive, for example, overuse of power point

Timetabling

Keep / Start: Well organised and communicated timetables

Stop: Crammed timetables, back to back teaching through the day or days with long gaps

What 'mattered most' to students in 2013-14: 'satisfaction' levels with aspects of their course (SOS and National Student Survey)

Figure 2 below shows a comparison between the SOS and NSS 'satisfaction' levels of students with aspects of their course. The proportional scores have been calculated by weighting the 'Definitely' and 'Mostly' responses and disregarding the 'Neither' responses.

Fig.2 Comparison between SOS and NSS weighted 'satisfaction' scores for course aspects

