



London Metropolitan University
Students' Union

Subject: School of Social Professions Officer Report

From: Selina Anderson

Action required: To note

STUDENT VOICE & PARTNERSHIPS

It has been both a challenging and rewarding experience becoming Officer for the school of social professions so late in the year, as collaborations and relationships with the institution, staff and students, were already firm with our previous Sabbatical Officer, Mark Boansi. However, as a twice elected hub committee member for Social Sciences and Social professions, and a Student Representative prior, I was able to develop many existing relationships and new partnerships.

I have worked closely with the Head of Social Professions, Kelly Cooper, on a variety of collaborations including student voice, student development and staff recruitment. Kelly and I have also scheduled a workshop to take place in June, relating to the causes and solutions for youth violence. Following these workshops, participating students will have the opportunity to become facilitators themselves, creating an initiative to empower and inform children as young as 8 years old, to prevent them becoming involved in acts of criminal behaviour in the future.

Attending standard and enhancement committees and our regular meetings with the Vice Chancellor, Lynn Dobbs, have enabled the students to have a seat at the table where their voice is imperative for successful learning and teaching at London Met. I have been able to provide a lens to student life that is often unique of the lens from a teaching perspective which has enabled the university and staff to have a better understanding of our individually, unique experiences.

CUT IT OUT EVENT

I worked with Costel Rusu to organise an event called "Cut it out" a dialogue on youth violence. It was a great collaboration of views and perspectives from a range of academics and organisations, including Dr Lez Henry from the University of West London. It was an excellent opportunity to gain an insight into the vast range of reasons for the current issue of violence amongst our youth in society and allowed students and staff alike, to evaluate and analyse current discussions on the subject.

WELLBEING

I have been collaborating with Manor Gardens, a mental health organisation, working on ideas to encourage wellbeing amongst London Met students. We have been considering a holistic approach to wellbeing, by which students can include it in their study and day to day lives, providing self-help strategies and unique opportunities such as floristry and community gardening. I will continue to work on this project.

STUDENTS AS PARTNERS

I am near completion of a proposal to encourage a culture of Student partnership and collaboration at London Met. Many studies show increases in academic performance, knowledge and experience of leadership and improved employability and job prospects, when students play an active role in designing and enhancing their learning experience. This will also create closer working relationships between staff and students, aid retention and encourage staff to learn from and with students at London Met in a number of capacities.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

I have been in talks with Simon Boot from the Accelerator, London Mets business incubator, to improve its presence and visibility on site. When discussing this with students, many proposed talks and drop ins which I will organise with Simon to begin in the next academic year.

PARENTS AND CARERS

A range of suggestions have been submitted from our student parent and carers including, improved advice and information on funding opportunities, timetable considerations during half terms and holidays, clearer rules regarding children on campus and increased events aimed at parents, carers and their families. I will continue to work on these and assist with their delivery as a student this upcoming academic year.