Mid-Term Student Voice Report

A Review of the 2017/18 SVR and KPI updates actioned by the Students’ Union

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Introduction

Welcome to Newman Students’ Union’s Mid-Term Student Voice Report. This report is a follow up from the annual Student Voice Report but differs in structure. The annual Student Voice Report contained many recommendations for the University and the Union to consider implementing. This report will specifically examine the recommendations of the first Student Voice Report and detail the current progress. This report will also contain feedback from students through the semester 1 SSCCs and research conducted by Newman SU throughout Semester 1.

We at Newman SU would like to thank everyone involved in the feedback process from our Course Reps and our StARs to all the staff who support all our students daily and have played an active role in acting upon the student voice.

Tom Ashford (President)
Gill Leedam (Academic Representation Officer)
Recommendations Update

This section provides an update on the recommendation that were made in the Annual Student Voice Report, published in September 2018.

**Learning and Teaching**

1) Feedback from the ISSS should be acted upon and all lectures should be of a high quality and delivered in the time scale provided with adequate preparation for assessments.

This is an expectation on all staff and Assistant Deans are in place and providing greater leadership and management. Recommendation actioned and complete with SU monitoring.

2) The University to investigate the possibility of releasing the grades of students who must undertake SKE for their PGCE course earlier than the rest of the cohort, or to release all results earlier than August.

Assessments will liaise with staff about bringing the marks to an earlier board. Recommendation actioned, update to be provided in the next annual Student Voice Report.

**Assessment and Feedback**

3) All feedback should have a detailed written response with examples and lecturers should produce action points with constructive feedback for the students in order to improve.

This may not be suitable for all feedback, but feedback is carefully monitored by the external examiners who also provide information on the feedback given to students in their annual reports which are received at senior level and a summary provided to the Learning, Teaching and Academic Quality Committee (LTAQ). Recommendation actioned and complete with SU monitoring. Newman SU advises all students who do not feel that their feedback is adequate to have a conversation with their module leader or to visit the Students’ Union Advice Clinic.

4) Subject areas must ensure that work is returned within the three week turnaround time, and students are informed with adequate reasoning if the feedback surpasses the turnaround time.
This continues to be a University requirement and automatic email reminders are sent to all module leaders two weeks after the submission deadline to remind them that there is only one week left to return marks to students. It has been noted that a considerable number of module leaders have by the two week point already completed and released the work to students.

5) Subject areas to look into whether a minimum spacing of assignment deadlines can be applied across subjects to ensure that students are not completing multiple assignments at the same time.

Subject areas do try and avoid bunching of assessments and the Quality Office highlights those dates with a number of submissions due when it receives assignment briefs to assist colleagues. Newman SU advises students who have bunching of deadlines to speak to the module leaders and request a change of deadline. Recommendation complete.

6) PESS must ensure that the feedback provided by external examiners is acted upon at the earliest available opportunity.

The Academic Representation Officer and President will take this action forwards to discuss with PESS. Update to be provided in the next annual Student Voice Report.

Support and Guidance

7) To look into the location of the counselling service and consider whether it can be moved to a more confidential location of the University with much less footfall than the library has.

There are plans to relocate some departments in the University over the coming years, during which time this will be considered. Recommendation actioned as ongoing.

8) The University to allow the Students’ Union to have a continuous weekly stall in the Atrium from 5pm on the day where most part-time students have evening lectures. Possibly, to bring the microwave up to the Atrium at this time, with the agreement that the Students’ Union will return it to the space outside the Sanctuary that evening.

The Students’ Union will be starting this from February, with an aim to run at least one evening session every fortnight.

9) For mature students with children to receive timetables much earlier. If necessary, the timetables could be released with a disclaimer of a possibility for change. However, any sort of guide would be beneficial to our mature students with children.

A paper will be going to the next meeting of the Student Experience Committee on how to facilitate this for students.
10) For the University (and Students’ Union if necessary) to signpost to multiple childcare facilities in the local area.

After a conversation with the Quality Office, this could be problematic in terms of liability if a student assumes that those listed have been checked or are recommendation by the University in any way. Newman SU are committed to looking at alternatives and an update will be provided during the next Student Voice Report.

11) For the University to ensure that students not being permitted to enter lectures late is eliminated in all departments, with the agreement that students who are late enter the lecture in an appropriate and quiet manor in order to minimise disruption to the learning of others, and support offered to those who will be consistently late to lectures for legitimate reasons.

This is under discussion at both the Regulations Task Group and the Student Experience Committee. An update will be provided in the next annual Student Voice Report.

12) The university to liaise with the relevant department to look into offering more skills test support sessions throughout the year, with opportunities to run additional specialist sessions if requested by students.

These are offered throughout the relevant periods and during the summer to assist students. Newman SU requests that if students find these difficult, to have a conversation with their module leader or visit the Students’ Union Advice Clinic.

Facilities and Resources

13) Newman to look into the possibility of compensation for students for the building work and the disruption to learning, such as printing credits or Sanctuary vouchers.

In a statement from Paul Dean, Director of Estates: We have now completed Phase One of the Estates Strategy, with the associated investment benefitting both the student and staff experience and resulting in a much improved environment for all. All projects are planned and programmed to cause as little disruption as possible to those on campus. Clear and accurate information regarding the projects was delivered regularly and all projects are delivered under the construction design management regulations and are regularly audited by an external consultant and Newman University’s own health and safety team. We feel that the University, as far as possible, mitigated any disruption and therefore we do not feel that it would be appropriate to give any form of compensation. Recommendation complete. If students wish to discuss this further, we recommend visiting the Students’ Union Advice Clinic.
14) For Estates to investigate other options to extend student car parking near to campus for commuting students.

Estates have plans to extend the car park up towards the Sports Hall during phase two of the Estates Strategy. An update will be provided in the next annual Student Voice Report.

15) Newman to install hot water dispensers and more microwaves across different areas of campus.

Estates are currently reviewing the contents and number of vending machines, and a further microwave and hot water dispenser is available in the McAuley Building. All food outlets on campus offer hot and cold water free of charge. A map of these will be published by the Students’ Union soon.

16) Sanctuary look at the possibility of doing a meal deal for students or alternatively setting up a loyalty scheme.

The President has been in discussions with the Catering Manager and at this moment in time, this is not a viable option due to the nature of the business and profit margins. Newman SU will continue to look at other options.

17) Newman library to market their services more, especially in regards to what they can offer with regards to resources.

The library now have a stronger social media presence and can be found on both Facebook (@NewmanUniversityLibraryUK) and Twitter pages (@NewmanLibrary).

18) For the University to look into making the timetable available earlier in the summer for Level 5 and 6 students.

As in recommendation 9, this is being considered in a paper going to the Student Experience Committee.

19) For Registry to investigate the possibility of reducing the length of gaps between lectures. Newman SU suggests that we aim for a recommended maximum time of 2 hours where possible, to reduce the number of students having gaps longer than 2 hours.

With the increased use of timetabling software this is now taking place as much as possible. Recommendation complete.

20) All staff to ensure that changes to timetables or modules are communicated to students at the earliest available opportunity to reduce any unnecessary inconvenience caused as a result of changes.

The paper mentioned in recommendations 9 and 18 is designed to address this, as well as a formal policy on the rescheduling of sessions. Recommendation actioned with an update to be provided in the next annual Student Voice Report.

Organisation and Management
21) The university to request that the Faculty of Education to allocate school placements to students, in a more reasonable time frame. It would be beneficial for students to know where they will be placed in good time.

Newman Students’ Union are currently in discussions with the Faculty of Education and Course Reps for the relevant courses will be provided with further information from the details we have been provided. Any student is welcome to come and talk to the SU or the Faculty of Education about this.

22) For staff across all departments to take account of the most commonly mentioned issues in SSCCs and create actions to improve on these over the next year.

This is an expectation and the summary of SSCC minutes are provided to both Learning, Teaching and Academic Quality Committee and the Student Experience Committee.

Union Recommendations

Learning and Teaching

1) NSU to look into creating more student-centred awards for 2018-19 and improve their communications and marketing for the awards night.

The Excellence Awards are currently being planned with this recommendation in mind.

Employability and Development

2) The Students’ Union should look into the possibility of creating a volunteer scheme to enable students to take part in community activities which enhance their employability and other skills

A new volunteering scheme, #TeamSU, was created over the summer and currently has over 50 volunteers registered.

3) The Students’ Union should provide additional optional training for all students in the form of ‘Skills Development Workshops’ which focus on developing skills such as public speaking.

Over 30 Skills Development Workshops are planned during semester 2, with over 180 students taking part. Further information on this can be found on page 12 of this report.

Student Voice

4) Newman SU to ensure that Course Reps are provided with full training and support throughout the year, including a review of the whole system.

A review of the system was conducted during the summer of 2018 and a further review will be conducted in June 2019. All Course Reps are provided with full training and those who don’t engage are offered the opportunity to step down and have someone else elected in their place.
On 6th November 2018, the President of Newman Students’ Union and the Vice-Chancellor of Newman University signed Newman’s Student Charter.

The Student Charter describes the partnership between the University, NSU and students. It is not a list of rules; it is a general statement of the responsibilities and expectations that form the foundation of our partnership. It is only by working together as partners that we can create and sustain the learning community that is at the heart of Newman’s endeavour.

The student charter is available at www.newmansu.org as well as a hard copy that is located in the NSU office.

A Case Study into Personal Tutors

One agreement within the recently signed Student Charter was that the University would provide;

‘Each student with an Academic Personal Tutor who will provide guidance and support throughout the duration of your studies at Newman University’ (NSU & Newman University, 2018)

NSU understands that the implementation of Personal Tutor’s across the University campus will not be completed quickly and relevant training will have to be provided. To aid the University, NSU will review its implementation through a case study of where the system already exists.
The Mature Experience (ME) Panel is made up of four mature students who question various Newman departments about what they do for mature students. A representative from the SU sits on these discussions and takes notes, these notes then will be formulated into reports for committee’s and task groups as well as forming a part of the 2018-2019 Student Voice Report.

The ME panel has so far met with four departments across the University:

- Student Services
- IT Services
- Library Services
- Registry
- Finance
- HEADs

The structure of the conversations is based on four questions/statements that are asked by the ME Panel. These questions/statements are:

1. What do you do as a department?
2. What do you do specifically for mature students?
3. These are my positive experiences.
4. These are my negative experiences.

From these questions/statements the conversations with departments take place.

A summary report has been written about the meetings that have occurred within semester one. Overall, the main theme to come from these meetings is concerns with communication and marketing towards students and between departments.

Students are often facing “referral fatigue” as different areas of the University are unaware of their responsibilities or passing on these responsibilities to someone else. This causes a lack of confidence in students searching for help, which can often deter them from seeking the help or answers they need.

Recommendations have been made to the Student Experience Committee and the full copy of this report is available by contacting the President of Newman Students’ Union.
As part of September’s Sports and Health Month, we raised awareness of sports hijabs and now have 6 available from the reception desk in the Sports Centre building for those students who may not be able to afford them. Furthermore, we designed and produced the SU Cook Book in order to give students living in halls some incredible recipes which are homemade and healthy whilst living independently. All recipes in the Cook Book were given by University staff and students.

During October we ran two campaigns, Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Black History Month. These saw brilliant engagement from students across the university at our BAME Festival of Culture and Book Swap. Online, we promoted BAME Authors within university curriculum which was well received by students and staff who recommended authors and engaged with the social media posts. We raised £102.97 for Breast Cancer charities as a result of our Wear it Pink Day and ‘BoobBall’ tournament where students took part Dodge Ball Competition in order to raise funds for CoppaFeel! UK.

In November, we delivered Transgender Awareness Month and took part in Movember where the male Exec Committee members grew moustaches and beards, and the females ‘Moved for Movember’ raising funds for the Movember Foundation: a total of £45.

Finally, throughout December, we ran a Domestic Abuse Campaign, fundraising for Papyrus. On online awareness campaign was promoted and we hosted an information and support day with various charities and speakers attending. This campaign will be revisited later in the year with a focus on ‘Tea and Consent.’
Students’ Union Year in Numbers

The following statistics show the variety of achievements in the Students’ Union between September 2018 and January 2019. Enquiries about any further details on these statistics should be directed towards the Membership Services Coordinator.

**Course Reps:**
- Elected: 95% of total available positions
- Trained: 85%
- Continuing Course Reps: 23%
- Skills Development: 39%
- Suicide Awareness and Prevention: 22%
- Attendance at SSCC 1: 81%

**Societies:**
- Total society members: 143
- Individual society members: 131
- Total active societies: 11
- Committee members trained in Suicide Awareness: 12

**Events:**
- Total number of events so far: 7
- Non-alcohol events so far: 6
- Total events throughout the year: 20
- Non-alcohol events throughout the year: 14

**Volunteering:**
- Registered volunteers: 58
- Trained volunteers: 26 (45%)
- Active volunteers: 12
- Volunteers completing over 5 hours: 3

**Advice:**
- Total cases: 23
- Feedback satisfaction: 4.9*

**Campaigns:**
- Total campaigns so far: 7
- Planned campaigns: 13

**Fundraising:**
- Total charity funds so far: £529.64
- Total charities given to: 6
- Total funds sent to Papyrus UK: £230.49 (44%)
During the first semester of the academic year the Advice Clinic saw a total of 21 clients: three more than at the same point in the previous year. The table below shows the split of these cases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caseload</th>
<th>Academic Appeals</th>
<th>Misconduct Appeals</th>
<th>Complaints</th>
<th>General Advice</th>
<th>Total Advice Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Recommendations**

Following the recommendations made in the End of Year Report for 2018-19, the following actions have been undertaken:

- Fewer advisors have been recruited to ensure all advisors are able to complete their placement hours
- Advisors have received more comprehensive training, with ongoing opportunities throughout the year to enhance their skills and knowledge
- The ‘New Client Form’ has been edited to make it easier to complete for both advisors and clients
- A new online feedback form has been created which is sent to all clients once their case is closed, or after four academic weeks

As we continue into the second semester of this academic year, the following recommendations are made to ensure that the Advice Clinic continues to improve:

- Ensure that New Client Forms are completed as thoroughly as possible to enable us to identify trends in advice
- For the Membership Services Coordinator and other staff to make use of the diary booking system to enable Advisors to take up the majority of casework
- Continue with the creation of new policies in line with current activity to formalise our processes
Skills Development Workshops

This year Newman Students’ Union has developed a large programme of Skills Development Workshops which are open to all students. The majority of these workshops are free and are designed to help students build upon their current skills and increase their employability with a variety of professional development opportunities. These opportunities have been taken up by students from across the University.

The workshops cover a variety of areas including:

- IT skills (using Microsoft Office programmes and LinkedIn)
- Health and Well-Being (First Aid and Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training)
- Time management and budgeting
- Employability (identifying skills for students involved in societies, Course Reps, or as volunteers, and CV/cover letter writing)
- Additional skills (British Sign Language and public speaking training)
- Dissertation help

All workshops are free except the First Aid Training. We have formed an excellent working relationship with First Response First Aid who provide us courses for up to 12 students at a time, on campus for £32.50 per person. This is an almost 60% discount from the normal price of £75 per person.

Thus far, we have booked 6 courses: 4 Emergency First Aid at Work courses and 2 Paediatric First Aid Courses. The majority of the Paediatric courses have been taken up by students studying PGCE Primary or Early Years.

The LinkedIn course is run by an external partner: Luan Wise, who is a chartered marketer and is also running a course for staff at Newman. This is a 3 hour course where the participants will also get a free professional photograph for marketing and application purposes.

The Suicide Awareness and Prevention Awareness is an online course which has currently been completed by 65 students, of whom 30 are current Course Reps and 12 of whom are Society Committee members.

Over 180 students have registered their interest in taking part in one or more of the 35 workshops available, with the most popular being British Sign Language (118), Suicide Awareness and Prevention (103), First Aid (85), and public speaking training (84). This is almost 7% of the current student population.

Moving forwards, we are hoping to continue to work with both internal and external partners to provide students with a varied range of professional and ‘soft’ skills. We welcome suggestions from both students and staff and will be monitoring engagement and impact over the academic year.
GOATTS Reports – SU Officers

This summary is taken from the Executive Officer GOATTS reports (Go out and talk to students) and their Executive Officer reports, which are submitted for every Student Forum and Executive Committee. It outlines the most prominent activity that they have conducted in engaging with students.

### President – Tom Ashford

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Assisted with BAME Festival of Culture and spoke to students about their experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Trained around 70% of all Course Reps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/10/18</td>
<td>Group meeting with the StARs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/11/18</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS while promoting opportunities at the Enterprise Festival.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/11/18</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS and spoke to students about the Student Charter and Student Voice Report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December/January</td>
<td>Had 1-2-1 meetings with the StARs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Met with Potential candidates who are considering running in elections</td>
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### Vice-President – Bryannah Collins

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06/07/18</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS RE University’s No Smoking Policy. 62 students responded and the results were delivered at the next University Health and Safety Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30/07/18</td>
<td>Conducted online GOATTS on how students would like the SU to communicate with them. 68 students responded. This has influenced the SU’s communication this year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/08/18</td>
<td>Conducted online GOATTS RE Citizen ID cards. 110 students responded, 107 of whom stated they wanted a free card. As a result, the organisation was invited to Fresher’s Fair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22/08/18</td>
<td>Conducted online GOATTS RE the possibility of an outdoor cinema. From the responses, this was then investigated by the VP and Events and Activities Officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Met with students regarding the Student Partnership Project on Nightline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS to gauge feedback of RaG week and students’ thoughts.</td>
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### Academic Representation Officer – Gill Leedam

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<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06/07/18</td>
<td>Conducted research via email with PGCE students on Skills Test support. Findings were then written up in the annual Student Voice Report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Delivered Course Rep Training to some small groups of Course Reps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/10/18</td>
<td>Represented the Students’ Union at Graduation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/10/18</td>
<td>Completed analysis of BAME Author of the Week campaign using GOATTS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/11/18</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS to discuss the International Stress Awareness Day events and to publicise the Student Voice Report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/11/18</td>
<td>Conducted further GOATTS to discuss the International Stress Awareness Day events and to publicise the Student Voice Report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/11/18</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS with the President RE the Student Voice Report, Student Charter, awareness of Course Reps, advertising events, Skills Development Workshops and talking about WiFi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Met individually with most of the STARS about their roles and additional support.</td>
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### Societies Officer – Tanya Elliott

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<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19/09/18</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS at Fresher’s Fair and spoke to all societies and a lot of sports clubs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/10/18</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS at Careers Fair and discussed the skills that students would like to build on. This influenced the SU’s Skills Development Workshops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS by going into several different society sessions to talk to their members. No particular outcome, but awareness raised of the Societies Officer and how the SU can help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Trained several societies, either single-handedly or in conjunction with the Membership Services Coordinator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/10/18</td>
<td>Conducted first Societies Guild meeting, which went very well overall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/11/18</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS while promoting opportunities at the Enterprise Festival.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22/11/18</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS to raise awareness of the societies we have and to encourage students to join societies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date(s)</td>
<td>Equality and Campaigns Officer – Kim Roberts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Completed online research of student interest in British Sign Language workshops. The Membership Services Coordinator is now running short workshops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/11/18</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS on Gender Neutral Toilets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19/11/18</td>
<td>Met with LGBTQ+ Society to discuss plans for LGBTQ+ History Month.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23/11/18</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS regarding the #nobystanders pledge and got 20 more students signed up.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23/11/18</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS and gave students copies of the SU’s free cookbook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/12/18</td>
<td>Met with Accommodation Manager to change Halls sign-up sheets with requested changes for inclusivity and gender following GOATTS feedback. This change is now confirmed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/12/18</td>
<td>Attended a meeting with LGBTQ+ committee to help and support the creation of informative workshops for LGBTQ+ History month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12/18</td>
<td>Delivered a Domestic Abuse Campaign Day with internal and external stall holders and spoke to 60+ students</td>
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<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>RaG and Community Officer – Mark Broadway</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS to find out what events students want to see during RaG Week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct-Dec</td>
<td>Trained #TeamSU volunteers in small groups and as individuals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Planned and delivered a successful RaG Week with a variety of events.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Planned and delivered the first charity Raid on campus.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Events and Activities Officer – Liam Rogers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Conducted GOATTS to promote the Christmas Carnival.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Planned and delivered Christmas Family Fun Day, including sourcing donations for a raffle.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Sport and Health Officer – Jacob Sant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Released an online survey about Women’s Only Hour at the Gym.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29/11/18</td>
<td>Planned and delivered a mixed ability and mixed gender rugby session.</td>
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Motions Passed at Student Forums

The following motions were passed at one of our two Student Forums during semester one. A motion which passes mandates the Executive Committee to work on this motion and achieve change where possible.

**Access to Water**

Although this motion was passed, after research it was discovered that there were 11 water dispensers on campus. The VP at the Student Experience Committee was tasked with creating a Wellbeing Map which highlights areas for wellbeing upkeep on campus. This was approved and will be promoted to students soon.

**Free my Wednesdays**

This motion passed at the first Student Forum, and was designed to ensure that no compulsory lectures or seminars are timetabled on Wednesdays for 2019/20 onwards. This was due to sports and societies taking place on Wednesdays conflicting with lectures, ultimately hindering student experience.

**Disabled Sign Change**

This motion passed at the second Student Forum in December. It was delegated to Estates who have looked into it and are optimistic that the new signage will be able to be implemented.
Student Voice

Academic Representation

The Students’ Union runs the Academic Representation system in conjunction with the University. This system comprises of Course Reps and Student Academic Representatives (StARs).

We have successfully elected 154 out of a possible 163 reps, of which 132 have been trained. 22% have completed the voluntary online suicide prevention training, and 39% have utilised our Skills Development Programme opportunities.

Feedback from staff about the Course Rep system this year has been overwhelmingly positive. On the whole, the training provided has been excellent, and the communication between Reps and academic staff has been great. Feedback has involved the recognition that the system has run much more smoothly this year; however there is always room for improvement. We are really pushing for 100% election and training statistics this year, and this will be implemented in February to ensure the hard work from Semester One continues to move forward.

Following feedback and due to the level of demand and responsibility expected from StARs, we feel that rather than appointing StARs through an application process, we will elect recruits during the main election week alongside the Executive Committee. There is also the potential to re-name the STAR role from the academic year 2019/20.

SSCCs

Student Staff Consultative Committees (SSCCs) are the heart of NSU’s Course Rep system. SSCCs give student reps a professional environment to feedback the feelings of those undertaking the course. The table opposite shows the most common issues discussed in SSCC meetings. In total, 81% of elected Reps have attended or sent apologies to their SSCCs in Semester One.

- 95% of all positions elected
- 85% of all course reps trained
- 39% skills development trained
- 22% trained in suicide prevention
## Closing Statements

Newman Students’ Union are delighted with the positive enhancement and change we have seen over the past semester, particularly in relation to inclusive activities and building upon the positive student experience here at Newman.

We look forward to continuing to work with various departments over the coming semester and building upon our own successes in the SU.

We hope that this Student Voice Report has been informative and you have enjoyed reading about the journey both the University and the Students’ Union has been on over the past semester. If you have any questions or comments about this report, please get in touch with Tom Ashford as Newman Students’ Union President 2018-19.

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