



Sabbatical Report 1

Gary Richardson - Student Activities Officer

November, 3rd 2011

Areas of Work Since the Last Council Meeting

Leek Road Large Astroturf

Before I met with Fiona Roberts and the two members of the Hockey team that had brought the problems to my attention the areas of concern on the astroturf had been temporarily fixed. There is a plan to get the astroturf relaid in the upcoming months where it wouldn't effect our fixtures.

Single Tour Provider for our Clubs and Societies

After gathering feedback from the Student Activities team it had been decided that rather than informing our Clubs and Societies that they have to go with a single tour provider we decided that we would have a preferred tour provider that we would recommend our clubs and societies to use.

Contracts should be signed within the upcoming weeks.

Student Activity Exec

Last Tuesday evening we had our first of three Student Activity based forums for our members to attend. The second forum (Societies Forum) will take place on Tuesday 8th and final forum (Stafford Clubs and Societies) will take place on Monday 14th. As a result of the first forum we have received various amounts of feedback especially regarding sporting facilities, training times and wednesday afternoon and the effect it has on members turning up to play.

With the forum we have 8 members from Stoke Sport committees that have shown an interest in being apart of Student Activity Exec and we will aim to have a the first exec meeting before December

Set Plans For Alternative Varsity

I have had a meeting with Alex Chou (Activities and Finance from Keele Students' Union) regarding Alternative Varsity and the events to take part in the competition, however since that meeting it has become apparent that there seems to be a lack of correspondence from Alex to his organisation which is needed to ensure that the Alternative Varsity can work as we need co-operation from there core staff members to deliver this event as well.

We have set plans of having this finalised by seonc week of December.

Other Areas of Work Since Last Council Meeting

- I attended the 2nd BUCS West Midland regional meeting which 27 people including Sabbatical Officers, Directors of Sports and Coordinators attended.
 - Plans for Club and Societies Development Meetings are still in progress as well as guidelines for constitutions, code of conduct and social policies.
 - I presented plans for a World Record Attempt for the longest Football Match at the last Sports Management Board which received backing from all members. The current aim is to hold the record from March 21st-March 23rd and to break the record during Sports Relief.
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Important Areas Of Work

Wednesday Afternoons

It is currently on the agenda for the Officers to plan a campaign informing students about the current policy on Wednesday afternoons (which is attached). Currently there are several lectures taking place after 1pm with no suitable alternative available for those that want to take part in Student Activities on a Wednesday afternoon.

Areas Of Work For The Next Council Meeting

- Start Club and Societies Development Meetings
- Finalise plans for the Alternative Varsity
- Have the first Student Activity Executive Meeting

Originally adopted May 2000

Academic Board - Wednesday Afternoon Policy

Staffordshire University & The Students' Union note that:

- 1.) Wednesday afternoons are traditionally used by students for sporting activities. In recent years, this has become a time for a vast majority of other extra-curricular activities to take place.
- 2.) National sporting fixtures take place on Wednesday afternoons, (BUSA), often requiring students to travel during Wednesday mornings because of the distances involved.
- 3.) The Students' Union operates an ever increasing number of student activities. Wednesday afternoons is seen as a common time for all these activities to meet.
- 4.) The changing demography of students has seen an increasing number of mature and 'locally-based' students attending The University. These students occasionally find it more difficult to use study facilities, (library, IT services, etc.), in the evenings.
- 5.) Due to the introduction of tuition fees, a greater number of students now undertake part-time work to fund their time at University. These students may also find it difficult to use study facilities in the evenings, or may require more time to complete part-time work.
- 6.) The demands being put on The Universities teaching staff is continually increasing, and whilst contact with students can occasionally be substituted through IT, and other modern technology, lecturers still need valuable time for marking; personal tutorials, etc.

The Students' Union believes :

- 1.) Timetabled teaching encroaching into Wednesday Afternoons limit the ability of our students to partake in extra-curricular activities, such as sport.
- 2.) Allowing students free time during the day will enable certain groups to utilise the study facilities to a greater degree.
- 3.) Having afternoons free of timetabled teaching allows teaching staff to allocate specific time to their own research; marking of work; personal tutorials; and any other work that may not be covered at other times of the week.
- 4.) This issue should be continually monitored and stay relevant to student demography & culture

Staffordshire University & The Students' Union resolve:

- 1.) To continue to actively encourage student activities on Wednesday afternoons.
- 2.) That no official or unofficial teaching sessions, (i.e., lectures, seminars, tutorials),

should be set after 1 p.m. on Wednesday Afternoons.

[If teaching is timetabled during this period, alternative slots will also be made available, and students allowed to decide which they wish to attend.]

3.) That during teaching weeks, no assessments shall take place after 11 am on a Wednesday.

[This will enable sporting clubs to comply with travel commitments.]

4.) To widely distribute this policy within The University, including such areas as the Internet and School Notice Boards. The University will also ensure that all lecturers, Deans and timetable administrators are aware of, and adhere to, this policy.

5.) That The Students' Union will ensure the policy is promoted and advertised wherever possible, making use of all their communication tools.

6.) That The University and The Students' Union will develop an effective means by which students can comment on any breaches of the policy. The Students' Union will ensure this channel is communicated wherever possible.

7.) That this issue will stay relevant to student demography & culture, and will be assessed regularly by examining results from The Student's Union's 'lifestyle survey'.

That this policy overrules all previous policies regarding keeping Wednesday afternoon's 'free', including AB/177/25- 'Wednesday Afternoon Policy'.

Resubmission of lapsing policy motion on behalf of steerings

Proposer: Kelly Foster - Chair of Steerings
Paul Chapman - President