

Student Union Report (Nov 2009– Jan2010)

Town takeover – We have had several more planning meetings to plan the Town Takeover that we are organising alongside UPSU (Plymouth University Student Union), PCA (Plymouth College of Arts) and Plymouth City College. The town takeover is only a week away now on the 6th February and we are busy preparing to SAY NO TO AN INCREASE IN TUIUTION FEES and are hoping to have a lot of support from UCP Marjon students on the day. We have had lots of press coverage in the Herald as well as on Heart FM.

General Election - This term the NUS priority campaign is the General election. It is vital that students register to vote so that the student voice is heard. We have been busy looking at ways to engage students at UCP Marjon to vote and help educate everyone on Politics so we know what we're voting for!

Refreshers – We held a re-fresher's week in marking week 18th – 22nd Jan. It was without a doubt the most successful re-fresher's week the MSU has ever held and we have been overwhelmed with the fantastic turnouts.

Catering & Estates updates – After numerous meetings with various staff, we have been promised that the new rendezvous menu will be in place by Monday 25th January (at least partially). There is now a takeaway pizza menu in the evenings too. We have been pleased with the amount of people using the weekend food, especially the Sunday roast which seems very popular.

The new social space is almost complete and should be open for use in a matter of days now.

NUS conference – Nicky and Nikki attended a two day NUS conference in Bournemouth where good practice was shared and problems solved. We both felt it was an extremely worthwhile trip which we got a lot of great ideas from.

Governance update – The MSU is undergoing a governance review. The main aim is to ensure that we are running the correct democratic processes and running a fair and effective union. This is the current situation;

- The Service Level Agreement (SLA) that was started last year is now in its final draft and should be completed within the next term. The SLA is a contract between MSU and UCP Marjon as an institution which states the clear guidelines and responsibilities to ensure a greater collaborative partnership.
- The MSU constitution is still under review. Amongst other things, external trustees will be brought in to introduce greater stability and consistency to the union. We hope that this will be finished by the end of the academic year.
- We are in the process of writing a new 5 year strategic plan for the union, including a massive union development plan.

- Operational meetings have now been put in place with various university departments. These meetings will again ensure and encourage greater stability and consistency and create better communication systems between the union and the UC.
- We will be holding an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to get your views on what you want from your Student Union by the end of this academic year.
- We appointed 8 part time officers to represent the student union in welfare, diversity, entertainment, sport, international, mature student and media. (All of which can be found on our notice board opposite rendezvous and on the website).
- We are now having weekly officer meetings to again create better communication and effectiveness within the union.

Have your say – We held a Have Your Say day in November where students gave their feedback on a variety of things at UCP Marjon. The results to this are being made widely available including on the MSU website, the MSU Grapevine magazine, to members of management and attached at the end of this report.

Grapevine - The second “finance” edition of the Grapevine is finished and at the printers now.

Dedicated Student Hours - Since coming into office as president and deputy president, we have spent just shy of 100 hours on giving advice to students with specific enquiries and have actively been involved with handling complaints and appeals, plus supporting students with extenuating and stressful circumstances.

Collaborative Provision Audit – Nikki Unwin spent two days at a Collaborative Provision Audit reviewing the relationship, support and general provision for students in partnership colleges and placements.

Varsity Planning – Nicky Primavesi has been working with Sports Federation and UPSU to plan Varsity, a three day charity event where Plymouth University and Marjon compete in over 11 sports for the Varsity Cup (currently in Marjon hands!)

Rag week – We have been planning RAG week which is now confirmed for the week commencing 22nd February. Raising and Giving week will raise money for three charities, a local charity Simon Adams, an ex Marjon student diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease, A national charity, Great Ormand Street hospital and an International Charity, The ARROW project.

Green Travel Plan – Several of our MSU officers have joined us in the Universities Green Travel Plan meetings to help make Marjon a greener campus and cut down on congestion and help ease the car parking problems & improve travel links to campus.

Upstarts – We held the first Upstarts in the Presidents lounge which is a networking event for students who are interested in starting their own businesses to meet with local successful entrepreneurs.

Graduation – We both Graduated! Graduation Ball was a great success, again with better attendance than ever, especially from fresher’s. Lemar was a big hit and we all enjoyed meeting him afterwards.