**UOS Students’ Union**

**Mature Student Officer report**

**Officer name and role: Daniel Betts: Mature Student Officer**

**How to get in touch:** [su.matureofficer@uos.ac.uk](mailto:su.matureofficer@uos.ac.uk) (please note, this is unmonitored until w/c 7th Feb 2022). Happy for students to use [danielbetts1992@live.co.uk](mailto:danielbetts1992@live.co.uk) in the meantime.

**What has been worked over the past term?**

My manifesto consisted of two key points, ensuring Mature student feedback and concerns were raised appropriately with the University and looking to expand current events to include more that suit Mature students at times that work best for them.

* Feedback and concerns: I have been approached by a small number of Mature students regarding issues from getting back into education again after being out of it for a significant period of time to general queries on student life. The majority of these have been via University Facebook groups following public posts or in person. All issues raised have since been satisfied. Since I have only had limited engagement with students through these methods, I am considering options on more proactive engagement once I return to the University in February.
* Events: Through discussion with the Mature students from my first point above, the appetite for additional events appears to be low on student’s list of priorities. Concerns were raised around the distance from the University many lived which has thus far put them off from attending events in Ipswich in general, and those who live local predominately came to university to focus on their studies. I appreciate that those I have spoken to make up only a small proportion of the overall Mature student population and have raised this with the SU who have suggested some different courses of action to take. I feel I need more information on what, if any, interest there is in events with a Mature student focus.

**What will be worked on next term?**

Overall engagement with Mature students has not been at the level I was expecting. I need further information from the Mature student population and the onus is on me to be more proactive in obtaining this. It hasn’t helped that due to the new block and blend style of learning, my physical need to be on campus has reduced significantly.

Projects to work on with the assistance of the SU include:

* Produce a survey to be sent to Mature students with questions specific to my manifesto points.
* Arrange in person drop ins in the SU social space. These would need to be over various days and times in order to give all students a chance to raise issues.
* Promote my SU email and what I can do further. A few of the students spoken to had little to no idea what my role was and how it could help them until I approached them.