**Meg Wright, SU President Activities and Wellbeing- Update 01/11/2022**

Both me and Alex are really grateful that we have been re-elected into our second year as the presidents of the Students’ Union. In recent months, a large focus of our time has been on the more strategic long-term scope of the SU as we have been going through times of change. Including the recruitment of our new CEO, Jumara Stone and other key roles within the team, with an overall staff restructure. Alongside this we have had Freshers’ week, which was a week of activities and events to cater for all different interests. We had both paid and free events for all students to attend and really enjoyed welcoming new and current students back. We have also recently had officer training, which was good to bring the part-time officers together with me and Alex, to see what our priorities are for this year. There are lots of great events, ideas and support from the part-time officers happening and in the pipeline. Now into the new academic year we both will be working towards our second lot of manifesto points.

***Free Social Sport***

The first one I’m going to start with is free social sport, making social sport free to attend for all students. So, you can come to whatever you fancy, whenever you fancy and as many times as you fancy! I’m pleased to say that I have achieved this for you and all social sport is indeed free. The main reasoning behind this point was to make sure all students regardless of their circumstances had access to free sport, as research suggests that being active is good for wellbeing and the social side that comes from attending is also good for student’s wellbeing. Additionally, students that are on placements do not need to purchase a membership when they can only attend a number of sessions due to placements and it has come at a good time for all students with the rise in cost of living as it is something extra that we as an SU can offer students.

***SU Garden***

My second manifesto point is the SU garden, with the aim of improving the courtyard space outside of the SU social space. It is something I have been working towards whilst in my role, but it is more than a yearlong project. The latest update with regards to this is I have had various meetings with the stakeholders of this space and there has been an agreement that the majority of this space is going to be made into a wellbeing garden, with space for students to sit and relax and also a mini student allotment. I’m looking forward to continuing to work on this and create a green space that we will all love.

***More Events Between Freshers’***

Thirdly, more events between freshers’, keeping up the momentum of events throughout the year, to cater for all interests! More nights out, different ‘Give it a Go’ sessions, pub quizzes, coffee and cake socials, wellbeing events and more. As part of the cost of living campaign, as an SU we are hosting free events to attend to bring students together, most recently we had pumpkin carving and Halloween movie night in the social space. There are also free weekly breakfast and dinner clubs in the social space, which I encourage students to come along to. Furthermore, there has been more nights out hosted by the sports team committees and there is an appetite for a regular quiz night to happen.