**Alex Gooch, SU President Education – November update**

Manifesto updates:

Back in March I was elected in with the aim of working on 3 main manifesto points; ‘Uni X Student Collaboration’ to get more opportunities for students gain experience through more volunteering and employment opportunities, ‘More Sustainable Campus’ to raise awareness and have a positive impact on how sustainable students can be with more 2nd clothes fairs as an example, and ‘Free Food for Thought’ to go out and gain more real feedback and ideas from students across campus and giving out free food treats in return. Whilst still doing some small things on each of these and still being passionate about them, these projects have taken a backseat in order to prioritise other projects that needed more urgent work.

Other Projects:

Cost of Living Crisis

After my re-election, it became more and more obvious that cost of living was going to continue to get worse and impact our students so began to prioritise working on this. I attended a national cost of living session at NUS Lead and Change with other presidents across the country to begin thinking about what to campaign for and share ideas in July. I have since been leading the campaign within the SU and working on what more we can do. In August I went to another cost of living campaign group with other presidents in Birmingham which spoke more on how we can do more looking at the national picture and government. The campaign is now broken down into 3 sections; What the SU can do, What the Uni can do, What more the Government can do.

**Wins so far**

* Won a bid from the university for some money and have began to work collaboratively with them.
	+ As a result of the bid we now can, and are:
		- Providing a free weekly dinner club (check website for dates)
		- Providing a free weekly breakfast (check website for dates)
		- Free teas and coffees in the Social Space kitchenette
		- Increased Food Bank capacity
		- 10 Free lunch bags daily in the SU kitchenette (no need to ask someone as this can be embarrassing, help yourself!)
		- Free sanitary products
		- Getting another microwave and hot water tap in SU
* Made parking FREE at university car parks for those with a valid parking permit for 5 months until March 31st saving students up to £40 a month.
* This Friday (last Friday once we are in council!) I have a meeting with Ipswich’s local MP to discuss a range of things. Read my letter to him attached [HERE.](https://www.uosunion.org/pageassets/costofliving/whatarewedoing/Cost-of-Living-letter-to-TH.pdf)

There is hopefully more to come with more meetings scheduled with the university, but I will wait to discuss those until they come to fruition.

Graduation

It was really exciting to be on the other side of the graduation ceremonies this year and I was honoured to be part of the procession and be on stage. Graduation is the things many look forward to, so it was great to feel all the positivity from that week.

Organisation

This summer was a big one for the organisation going through restructures, employing new staff and working with both an Interim CEO to make changes and our new full-time CEO who joined late September, Jumara Stone. Jumara has hit the ground running and already had a massive positive impact on the SU as an organisation, a team and a collective that is ran by the students for the students.

Training

Summer also was a time to undertake some additional training. As previously mentioned, I attended **NUS Lead & Change** in Leeds with sabbatical officers across the country and increased my network, now regularly talking to other 2nd year Sabbs. I recently had a refresher on **Safeguarding** which was really useful as last time I had some I undertook it from the lens of childhood and disability from my degree where I now looked at it more from HE students. I also had some training on **bid writing** which has already proved useful in the work I’m doing with cost of living and will do further as we start writing the SU’s 5-year strategy with Jumara.

Ipswich Central

I met with Ipswich Central today to discuss how the SU and student voice can input more into the work they are doing on improving Ipswich for tenants, students, businesses, tourists, users etc.