**Alex Gooch, SU President Education – Update 25/05/2022**

In AGM last month and March Council I updated reps and officers about how a large focus for me would become all things around the resignation, interim and recruitment of the Student Unions’ CEO. This month has truly reflected that prediction with some more things happening along with it.

Interim CEO

Since writing last months AGM report we interviewed shortlisted candidates and have had daily conversations with Chair of the SU Trustee board to discuss how negotiations were going. Meg and I updated the staff team with anything that we could share with them as we went. I am now happy to announce that Tali Atvars will be joining us as Interim CEO starting Monday 23rd of May. Tali showed us throughout his application his commitment to supporting the team and laying out a firm foundation for the full time CEO once they begin their role. He will also have an overlap time with the full-time CEO once they start, to support in their handover.

Pre-Interim CEO

During the time period between Sarah’s notice period ending and the Interim CEO starting their role (the interim-interim I call it), Meg and I have taken on additional responsibilities as leaders of the organisation. Some of these responsibilities include authorising the SU payments such as paying staff, Summer ball related fees and venue hire, authorised staff holiday and office days, tried to support the team through this period to continue the amazing work they do even without a CEO, supported the trustee board with papers, sent off, reviewed and began conversations with the university to negotiate our block grant (the SU’s budget for the coming year), led a team meeting to discuss their ideas of what success would look like and KPIs if we were to receive this increase in block grant, worked with Bradley to identify areas for improvement within our governance for our upcoming governance review, used our HR system to input new employee details for our new Interim CEO and supported the team in thinking about how best to induct them on their arrival.

Full-Time CEO

The applications are soon to close for the full-time CEO though through discussions with our external recruiter, Bill Yuksel, there has been a good level of interest. I cannot say much more on this, but in the coming weeks we will begin to longlist candidates, have a shortlisting interview phase and a final interview day which will include the VC, SU staff team and potentially some students.

Summer Ball

Summer Ball! Summer ball was amazing and as time goes on, I am looking forward to hearing more from students how their experience was of the entertainment, venue, and more. Leading up to Summer Ball we had some staff illness but thankfully the team was able to club together to support the areas of Summer Ball planning that needed it most. A surprisingly large task which I really enjoyed helping with was the seating plan which I think we got as right as possible (sorry if not! Let us know).

Helen Pankhurst

Meg and I were recently fortunate enough to have a meeting with Chancellor Helen Pankhurst who is an amazing person who I wish we had more time with. We had an honest and open conversation about the university and the SU and the direction we see each organisation going in and the place we want them to be.

Non-disclosure agreements

I won’t write too much on this as there may be a conversation on this at this council. However, I have recently been working with Darragh and Meg as well as the Vice-Chancellor, COO and Director of people on NDAs and their usage and how the SU and university can be a supportive environment for students to not feel silenced when speaking out about sexual violence.