Akshay Kumbalath
VICE PRESIDENT (AHSS)

My campaigns, policy, and other work

My campaigns

Mental health support	Status: Completed
Context of the Campaign: To provide mental health support to students who are coming back to the on-campus university life and help them settle in. Also support them in dealing with the cost of living crisis and how its affecting their mental health **Aims and Objectives:** Collaborate with the wellbeing team in the university with their podcast and include stories about accommodation issues and cost of living issues from students and share the stories to students to let them know that they are not the only one going through this. **Updates and Wins:** Recorded the first episode of the podcast on the topic 'understanding mental health and wellbeing' and the remaining episodes are to be recorded soon on different mental health topic. The release of the episodes would be by January focusing on the new students also the existing students. In conversations with the wellbeing team about the progress in the podcast	

SU visibility	Status: Working on

Context of the Campaign: Make SU more visible to student.

Aims and Objectives: To make SU space and the services provided by the SU more visible to students. To increase the student engagement and get students to use the SU space for more events and other activities conducted by the SU.

Updates and Wins: In conversation with the Estates and Facilities to put more sign boards around the university to direct students to the SU space. Went around the campus to put necessary signboards to direct students to the SU and waiting for the design update and the quotation from the estates and facilities team.
Design for the floor stickers are done and waiting for budget approval. The updated signage boards and the floor stickers will be on campus by January refreshers, so the SU would be more visible and accessible.

Advance training in AHSS	Status: Working on

Context of the Campaign: Organize additional workshop or other training sessions for students to improve their skills to support their course.

Aims and Objectives: Make it more easier for students to get the necessary skills they need to improve their employability and also make their course easier.

Updates and Wins: In talks with the course reps to understand which courses need particular trainings and how students can make use of these trainings to make their course much easier and also improve their employability.

The courses needed more resources with the increasing number of students, talked with the department to provide more resources (cintiq pens) for students.

Held faculty forum with the course reps to listen to the issues and brought to the attention of the faculty that the cost of living is affecting them as the prices of the materials are going up. This was raised in the FPT meeting and the cost of the materials will be revised to make it more affordable to students .

Other updates

Wider University Projects:
-
-
-

Wider Union Projects:
- Cost of living

In conversation with NUS regarding the cost-of-living campaigns and how we can help the students on a national level. Supporting the NUS cost of living survey with cost-of-living stalls to get students to take the survey and mail their MPs to write a letter to the chancellor to include some student funds in the budget.

- Reviewed Hardship fund application to make the application easier and more accessible to students to apply.
- Article on the website for students regarding the cost-of-living campaign, for students to access information that they need to fight the cost-of-living crisis. Working on getting a navigation tab on the website to get all the information and updates together.
- The website information was updated on the First Bus website about the discounts that the students from ARU could get, it was updated on request as their website did not have that information updated.

Policies:
-
-

Committee updates

Senate Committee
-
-

Non-Senate committee
-
-

Students' Union Committees
-
-

Working groups
-
-