

Danny Lipatovs (VP Education) Accountability Report:

Employability

My campaign was primarily centred around employability, but also mentioned fighting against university cuts and clearer rules and messaging around AI in education at Bangor. On the topic of employability, the main avenues through which I was planning to advance my campaign were internships and student-led careers events. So far on the internship front I've been in touch with the team behind the scheme to remove old and misleading information on the University website, while also encouraging implementing an easier way for staff across the university to apply for setting up an internship. In the near future I will also be looking through previous years' metrics for internships to identify any academic schools or internal departments that haven't had an intern, to encourage them to apply for one (or more) so that students across the university, no matter their academic background, will have an opportunity that feels right for them!

Throughout my entire term I will also be chipping away at my other focus within the topic of employability, which is student-led careers events. Some context is needed to explain this one. While I was a student, I was involved in setting up and running an employability related group in my school that ran careers fairs, networking events and other skill-building sessions and workshops. These had a fantastic reception from students and staff alike and really helped students build their skills and networks in relevant fields. Hence during my campaign, I mentioned wanting to spread this across more academic schools. Now back to the point: It would be counterintuitive to try to push the model that we had worked out in my school onto other schools from top-down, as it would only be doomed to fail. Therefore, I have been getting in touch with staff across different schools and professional services in order to build a deeper understanding behind how and why student-led events occur independently, and from this I will then create a comprehensive "all you need to know" start guide for staff and students alike on how to build student-led events into their schools but organically and bottom-up, to make sure that the initiatives carry on long into the future and have a real and measurable positive impact on students in those respective schools.

AI and Staff Cuts

Luckily, there haven't been any further staff cuts across the university since a couple of years ago, and I'm hoping that this carries on, but in case anything is announced, I will make sure that the student body is clearly communicated with in a timely manner. On the AI front, I am quite often involved in what's called an "academic misconduct" panel, which I would say are 90% of the time to do with Generative AI misuse in an academic setting, showing just how much trouble this is causing. Rest assured that

there's a lot of work being done in the background at the university into figuring out how to set out clear and fair rules on its use, and how to keep up with a rapidly changing technological field while also sticking to the university's sustainability and ethical goals. Aside from representing student interests at the top level of university decision-making, I am not currently actively working on any project to do with GenAI. To be clear, this isn't because I don't care or that students don't care, it's just because there are currently things higher on my priority list.

Make a Change

PGR Study Spaces

Last year the Students' Union launched a new way for students across the university to get involved with democracy and positive change. If you're not aware, students can submit ideas and suggestions to us at the Union, after which we will encourage the rest of the student body submit evidence to the motion. If there is enough supporting evidence and the motion gets passed by us as the Officer Team, we then make that a priority for the Union to deal with. The first proposal that had come through this system in my term had been following the repurposing of a PGR (PostGraduate Research) study space into a lounge. We had multiple students feed into this so we as an Officer team passed this and took it to our Pro Vice Chancellor for Education and Student Experience. After raising this issue we were swiftly contacted by the Infrastructure and Student Spaces team (Campus Services) with whom we worked to find alternate study spaces that were accessible, quiet and could be accessed out of normal working hours. Due to the pressure we were able to apply because of the proposal and working with the right people across different departments, 2 different spaces were identified extremely quickly: one for all students from evening until early morning (18:30pm-6:30am) in Pontio CoLab space, and the second space is specifically for PGR students available 24/7, with details of the space to be announced to PGRs shortly. Once the signage is completed and comms are ready, these announcements will be made via Email, Instagram and the Students' Bulletin, with a formal update and the closing of the campaign on our website, at this link: <https://www.undebbangor.com/get-involved/student-voice/have-your-say/>

Other

We as Officers have also been extremely busy with general Students' Union activities around preparing for the start of term, for example Serendipity, our biggest annual event

for freshers and returning students. Furthermore, a lot of time in the summer went on planning the year ahead, meeting all the relevant staff and teams across the university that we would need to know and work with in our term, and also helping out day-to-day, with things such as stalls, open days and content creation for our comms and media!

There have also been things that we've achieved or worked on that we can't talk about yet as they haven't yet been announced, so keep a look out and you will hear about them in due course.

I have probably forgotten at least some of the work I've done over the last 3-ish months so if you're ever unsure with what I'm working on or have an issue you would like to raise, email me at: danny.lipatovs@undebbangor.com