**Officer’s Report**

**Sabina O’Donoghue**

**Senedd**

**21/02/2022**

**President’s Summary:**

I would like to welcome you all back to Aber and I hope you all had a lovely break before returning to do exams. Speaking of exams, we were delighted to welcome the Dyfi Donkeys back to campus as part of our exam de-stress activities. We released a de-stress guide which Hannah and Elizabeth worked on.

Our Refreshers fair was a huge success! It was nice to see how busy the union was on those days, we hope you all enjoyed us welcoming you back. A big thanks to Cleo for all the effort she put in in organising it. A huge huge thank you to Al for organising our meet and greets on that week too. We had loads of people in attendance and from what I gathered students really enjoy these meet and greets so thank you Al, for making them such an important part of welcoming students back.

It’s not too late to stand for elections! STANDING CLOSES TOMORROW @ 12pm!! I’ve written essays in less time. I can honestly say this job has given me so many different opportunities and amazing experiences so I recommend taking the risk and standing.

Just before Christmas we organised a range of activities to happen during the festive period. Some of these things included packing goody bags for students in Aber over the break. After a few hard working hours packing and counting we’d put together goody bags for over 250 students. We also organised a winter meet and greet for those students to mingle.

This year I had the idea to set up a remembrance tree in the student union. It seemed to be well received by students and they enjoyed being able to pay tribute to lost loved ones so hopefully that can become a student union tradition.

As part of a policy that was introduced in 2020 surrounding the NUS Student Switch Off this year, I ran a campaign called ‘Cwtch Up’. Over the course of the winter I put together a collection of tips and tricks as well as some facts to encourage students to turn down/off your heating. After speaking with the University’s sustainability advisor he explained that controlling our heating and accepting a lower house temperature is one of the small steps we can take in helping to tackle the global warming crisis.

**Elizabeth – Academic Affairs**

The postgraduate network that Elizabeth has set up now has 139 members signed up. As a part of this network, coffee mornings are held for postgrads every Friday to come and study and socialise. Elizabeth also organised a festive cheese & wine event for the Postgraduate network, which was a great success and this semester she has held a postgraduate network quiz. A rep festive quiz was held at the beginning of December with Taskmaster tasks in between the quiz, which turned out to be a great success. Elizabeth has also launched the Decolonise. campaign with a bilingual feedback form available on the website for students to fill out and is actively trying to keep up to date with the university’s Race Access Project.

**Rachel - Opportunities Officer**

Rachel has recently completed her Give It A Go campaign which consisted of 30 activities led by our clubs and societies, as part of her priority to increase engagement with Tîm Aber. Part of that was also the random draw for a group session at The Snake Room as an incentive for anyone who attended a session.

A key win for Rachel has been trialling a visible room bookings calendar which should be finished in the near future. Also, following from our Liberation Focus Group, the development of room accessibility information to be added to the SU website.

Also as part of developing facilities, the Boathouse Committee has met and the next stages of working with Estates are underway.

For events, Superteams is around the corner so a lot of focus is going into the final preparations, Rachel has been working closely with Bangor SU with the development of Varsity and SocsFest, and finally the development stages of This Girl Can week has begun. It’s going to be a busy but exciting term!

**Hannah – Wellbeing Officer**

First Mates – Currently Hannah is working on putting on a ‘First Mates’ speed-friending event which in the SU Picture House on the 16th March. This style of event is extremely like traditional ‘speed-dating’, however in this case instead of finding a date, students sign-up to find friends. This is a campaign that is focused tackling student loneliness and aims to help students who are feeling isolated and struggling to find friends at this point in the year.

Reclaim the Night – on Tuesday 8th March, during This Girl Can week, there will be another Reclaim the Night march which will start at the Bandstand on the Promenade and finish back up at Campus, there will also be a banner making session at the SU for those who would like to make posters/banners for the march, all materials will be provided by the SU.

Wellbeing Donkey Day – At the start of Semester 2, during Re-Freshers week, Hannah also hosted another successful Donkey Wellbeing Day with Dyfi Donkeys.

Ripple Suicide Prevention – Hannah has been working alongside Ian Munton and Sam Glennine to help employ a new suicide prevention software university-wide.

Abortion Policy – Hannah is currently in the process of making an informational webpage about what abortion rights are available in each comfy.

Wellbeing Guide for De-Stress – Hannah successfully published a wellbeing guide as part of De-Stress week.

Gender Identity Training – with the help of SU CEO, Hannah is currently in the process of making Gender Identity Awareness Training. This has previously been given to all staff at the SU and so for Trans Day of Visibility (31st March) this training will also be offered to students

**Mared – UMCA President and Welsh Culture**

During the second of Refreshers UMCA was very busy throughout the Union freshers’ fairs promoting what we do as well as Coleg Cenedlaethol Cymru’s services and the Unversity’s second language Welsh lessons. A ‘Steak and Pint’ night was organised for our members down in the Llew Du pub and it was great to have everyone together and ready to start the second semester. The Intercollege Eisteddfod will be held in Bangor on the 5th of March so Aelwyd Pantycelyn are currently practising twice a week to ensure victory against the other Welsh Unions. We hope that this will be good practice for Eisteddfod yr Urdd in Denbigh later in the year.

A couple of weeks ago UMCA had a Basketball tournament. We hold this tournament yearly and it’s a great opportunity to bring everyone together and keep fit in a in fun and relaxed way. The first-year team won and much to the shame of some of our older members in the process.

One of my priorities for the year was to hold activities to break the stigma surrounding mental health and to promote wellbeing activity. I am extremely proud that we so far succeeded in organising workshops and sessions with the DPJ Foundation, a mental health charity based in the agricultural community. A lot of our members study agriculture or come from an agricultural background so I hope that between the two courses give an opportunity for them to discuss their own mental health and the subject in general in agricultural circles.

With St David’s day and Welsh Week on the horizon, our plan is to hold different events throughout the week and have a stand in the Union to give out traditional Welsh food recipes and provide Welsh Cakes, Bara Brith and Leek and Potato Soup, to give a proper taste of the Welsh language community for all the University’s students.