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| **Role** | **Vice President Community and Welfare** |
| **Name** | **Oluwafunbi Babatunde** |
| **Date Submitted** | 11-11-2024 |

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| **Manifesto Work**  *Provide an update on the work you have done on the manifesto that you were elected against, since the last meeting.* |
| * **Career Compass**   In a bid to fulfil the promise of creating empowering opportunities, initiatives and support for students, as outlined in my manifesto and in alignment with our students’ union strategic plan to enhance student opportunities, I organized an event called Career Compass in collaboration with professional advisors from the careers team. It was a successful event in which we had about thirty-four (34) students in attendance who benefited from the insightful session delivered by the team. The event featured sessions from the Careers Team, offering insights into career navigation, job opportunities, entrepreneurial support, and guidance on crafting CVs and LinkedIn profiles. The feedback from students so far have been positive.   * **Societies**   As you know student societies plays critical role in student life. My colleague, Jack and I started the year by training committee members, outlining their responsibilities and ways to improve engagement. To help societies become self-sustaining amid budget constraints, we introduced a membership fee of £2 as this will also enhance commitment on the part of society members. This initiative has already shown positive results, boosting commitment and participation.  Furthermore, we have seen a rise in new societies such as Sign Language Society, Chess society, LGBTQIA society, Telugu and engaging activities by societies such as ACS-Meet and Greet, Nigerian Independence Day celebrations by Nigerian society, among others.  In addition, with the support of the other Sabbatical Officers, I successfully secured additional funds for the Society Development Fund from the university’s international recruitment team to further enhance society engagement.   * **Accommodation**   Accommodation concerns have been increasingly raised by students, particularly during Welcome Week. This concerned was looked into and it became apparent that many students prefer private accommodation over university housing due to perceived affordability and better quality. This aligns with feedback from some staff members during university meetings. Research shows that private accommodations around the university are more affordable than the university's own accommodations as they seem to offer better quality services to students. However, a comparison of rent costs across UK universities shows that the University of Wolverhampton falls within the average cost range compared to other institutions.  In relation to the NUS campaign on student guarantors, I have found that students are hesitant to bring accommodation concerns to our Advice and Representation Centre, but often seeks alternative methods. Nevertheless, I am actively supporting the NUS campaign to advocate for the abolition of guarantor requirements, outlawing rent up front and ensure there’s no student exemption to no fault evictions. I have submitted available evidence to this cause, and at NUS National Lobby Day on October 23rd, 2024, the changes were advocated for.   * **Speak up Campaign**: This campaign was launched during the welcome week, and we have continuously   emphasised the need to speak up to all students at all our events. We also have flyers that contains the details of the speak up campaign and how to speak up.   * **Inductions**: Sabbatical Officers have played a key role in welcoming new and returning students across our   campuses. During these inductions, we engaged with many students, introducing them to the services, support offered by the Students' Union and promoting upcoming events |

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| **Policy Work**  *Executive Officers are required to work on policies implemented by the student population. Please provide an update on the work undertaken on any current ideas/policies related to your role.* |
| * **AI Policy:** Throughout the past year, Sabbatical Officers have raised concerns in committee meetings, including   with the Vice Chancellor, about the use of AI in student assignments. These concerns included students facing academic misconduct, plagiarism issues, and assignment failures due to AI detection. We are pleased to inform the board that, following our efforts, the university has revised its AI policy, leading to the deactivation of the AI detection tool in Turnitin for both students and staff.   * **New Grading Policy:** In response to numerous student complaints about grading last academic year, we raised   these concerns in our respective committee meetings with the university. After months of discussions and follow-ups, the university has implemented a new grading policy. This policy aims to benefit students by reducing the need for resits and streamlining the progression from one level to the next, alleviating unnecessary stress in the process. |

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| **Additional Project Updates**  *This is an opportunity to update the panel on any extra work you have engaged with, that sits outside the previous two boxes. This can include key student issues you’ve been addressing.* |
| * **Community Shop**   I have also been involved in discussions regarding the establishment of a community shop. Having met with council representatives and touring various community shops for module development, this project is still in the planning phase as we are evaluating its viability and hope to see progress soon.   * **Library Meeting**   Over the past four months, we have played active roles in the refurbishment of Harrison Library by attending weekly meetings. We provided input on aesthetic improvements on student services, ensuring the project aligned with student feedback and needs.   * **Transport Issues- Bus Cancellation**   The issue of bus transport emerged as a significant challenge at the start of the year, continuing from the previous academic year. After the university announced the cancellation of the bus service, we engaged in a series of discussions, expressing our disappointment and highlighting the negative impact on students. To demonstrate our concern, we supported a protest held during the University’s Open Day.  While the university remains reluctant to reinstate the bus service, the university has introduced financial support for students affected by the cancellation. Eligible students can now apply for hardship funds to assist with transportation costs by contacting money@wlv.ac.uk   * **Curriculum framework design workshop:** We contributed by advocating for more student involvement in   shaping these frameworks. We also pushed for making the curriculum more adaptable to changes in the job market, diversifying the reading list so students are better prepared for future careers. A workshop was organised by the committee hearing directly from students on what they need and how they can be fully supported.   * **Visit to Walsall campus:** The sabbatical officers decided to schedule a workday from the Walsall campus as   part of our ongoing effort to ensure that all campuses, including Telford and Walsall, are equally represented and supported. During our visit, we took the opportunity to meet with students, listen to their concerns, share updates on upcoming SU activities, and gather valuable feedback on how we can make student life better across all campuses. |

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| **Meeting Attendance**  *Please highlight any relevant meetings you’ve attended and key issues arising from these meetings.* |
| Meetings have become part of our daily routine, as we regularly attend them to represent and advocate for students some of these meetings are as follows:   * **Scholarship Panel**   I had the opportunity to sit on the panel for the Wolves Sport Scholarship application review, where we evaluated and made decisions on student applications.   * **International Students Working Group**: Over the past academic year, Sabbatical Officers have actively   participated in the International Students Working Group. We contributed to the development of a comprehensive support document for international students, we offered key recommendations based on feedback received from students such as accommodation support, enrolment etc.   * Wolverhampton leadership group, Access and participation plan and others. |

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| **Additional comments:** |
| * **Recruitments:** Since the start of the academic year, we have participated in interviews for school reps, liberation   reps, bar staff, and welcome desk staff. Collectively, we interviewed over 50 candidates, many of whom were successfully employed during the summer.   * **Welcome Week:** We were actively involved in the planning and execution of Welcome Week. Through various   games and quizzes, such as "How Well Do You Know Your SU?", we successfully engaged with students and awarded prizes. Also, student have better understanding of the services we provide here at the students’ union.   * **Black history month involvement with the University:** The Students' Union Officers have been actively involved   in the University's Black History Month event, our contribution includes attending meetings, an interactive “How Well Do You Know Your Black History?” quiz that aligns with this year’s theme of reclaiming narratives. The quiz is designed to engage students and enhance their participation will be accompanied by a presentation slide, which is currently in the final stages of preparation. Given the concise nature of our contribution, we are allocated 20 mins for our presentation. |