

AGM Report For VP Sport Officer

Name:

Paul McCarthy

Role:

Vice President Sport

Progress on Manifesto Pledges:

Coming into the year as VP Sports, I had five primary manifesto goals:

1. To increase participation in LUSU organized College Sports events;
2. To increase communications between College and University Sports Executives;
3. To focus on mental health within sports teams;
4. To win an away Roses; and
5. To increase transparency in the SU.

Obviously, in the time since writing this manifesto, there's been a global pandemic which has put a stop to all activity, and this has meant I have not been able to make as much progress on each of the goals as I would have liked to – however I'll quickly summarise the progress made on each here.

1. Whilst there's been no full carter shield events, the strava Carter shield I've run with JCR Sports Reps has seen good in engagement in a lot of colleges, although I would note there's definitely more that can be done to engage students once in person college activity is back. On a side note, so far the OLANCASTER games competition between BUCS teams and colleges that I've arranged has been really successful and seen wide participation amongst both colleges and sports teams.
2. This is a goal where I think I have had success. Simply creating a direct line of communication, via a teams group, between me and BUCS presidents, me and College Sports captains and one with JCR Sports reps means the VP Sport is instantly accessible and I can answer any queries captains may have. I would look to ensure this is mandatory from here on for the role as it has made communication significantly easier.
3. Initially this goal started well, with a number of teams electing welfare officers, a channel being created for elected welfare officers and a couple of networking sessions to share ideas about what teams can do to look after a player welfare, particularly when apart from each other. However more needs to be done here, momentum has slightly stalled and I think proper signposting courses and training from professionals would give welfare officers more confidence in their roles and improve mental wellbeing focus in sports teams – this is something I would look to instil in my next term
4. Sadly, Roses in its traditional format won't be able to happen, this year. However, we won a virtual roses I organised in November, and have organised an exciting combo of physical and virtual competition to take place at the end of the month that I'm hopeful students will really get behind.

5. As an officer team we've tried to regularly update and be open with the rationale behind every decision made this year, but it's up to students to judge the progress of this one.

Other Projects I Have Been Working On:

Other projects I have undertaken have primarily featured around attempting to keep people active during isolation and lockdown, be this through the Coranctivity challenges, with a different physical challenge set up every day, organising a virtual roses or the Olancaster games (or arranging for Lonsdale bar as a pool bar for the brief time it was legal).

Significantly behind the scenes I have been working on reforming our funding model and sporting arrangement with the university in order to protect sport at every level for every student. Also I have put pressure on the university to hire an associate director of sport and implement the sports review that has been delayed for the past number of years – partly off the back of this pressure this job is now in the hiring process with someone to fill the role for the start of the next academic year.

Priorities for the remainder of the year:

Facilitate as much activity as possible for those who have missed out. That would consist of running tournaments for college, rec and uni teams, helping clubs find friendlies with local sides or other institutions, working with JCR Sports officers to arrange carter shield like tournaments in sports such as rounders that anyone especially freshers can partake in – and I am trying to make as much of this free of charge and accessible as possible.

Continue reforming and negotiating sports funding, looking into changes that can be made to the likes of sportlancaster, college affiliation etc – so that long term sport is protected, sustainable and situations such as rec leagues being scrapped aren't going to happen again.

Officer Budget Expenditure:

As of yet, due to the lack of activity there has been next to no expenditure out of my officer budget. By the end of the year I foresee a limited amount being spent on facilitating the likes of Carter Shield tournament days perhaps, but with such unusual circumstances by budget remains largely untouched.