

Full Time Officers – Union Assembly Paper – 12/05/2026

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This paper outlines the work done/being done by the Full Time Officer (FTO) team since the previous meeting of Union Assembly.

- 1.2. The FTO team is responsible to Union Assembly, therefore the work being done by them is open to scrutiny by members of the Assembly.

- 1.3. Union Assembly is invited to ask questions about the work detailed in this report, to dictate priorities of the student body to the FTO team, and to comment on the value (or lack thereof) of the work being done.

President: Rory O’Ceallaigh

1. Progress Against Manifesto Pledges

Manifesto item	Summary of Work	Progress Red – no progress/laid down Amber – in progress Green - complete
Rent Control	<p>My Instagram post, joint with Cartmel College, discussing Lancaster University campus accommodation prices for 2026/27 has received a lot of engagement – over 1000 likes, 46,000 views, 22 reposts, and nearly 450 shares. My Council paper for 15th May places the onus on the University to follow through with work we proposed earlier this year to support students in the short term, and look to resolve the systemic issue for the long.</p> <p>We have surveyed students on their weekly spending habits, this received 41 responses which is not huge, however the results are still helpful to get a rough picture of what is the highest cost burden on students. On average, nearly 50% of student’s weekly expenses go on rent – include bills and that rises to nearly 60%. After this, we see transport and groceries as the next significant amounts. The students we surveyed were spending an average of £325 a week – the average maintenance loan provides only £198 a week for a 40-week academic year.</p> <p>Realistically, addressing anything other than these factors – rent, bills, groceries, and transport – will have a negligible impact on the day-to-day life of</p>	Amber

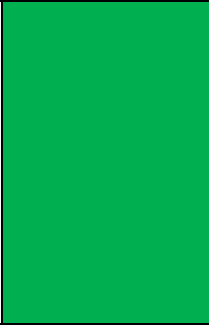
	<p>students, and so the argument for Rent Control remains pertinent.</p> <p>I was meant to have a meeting with UPP last term to talk about these numbers – this was to be set up by the University, which did not happen. I am now chasing to get something in the diary, however the University (the contract holders with UPP) needs to be leading on these conversations as they hold the power for change.</p> <p>I will turn this box green when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The University gives commitment to appropriate support mechanisms for students affected by the cost of living/campus rent prices in the 26/27 academic year 2) The University gives long term commitment to bring its rent prices under control 	
<p>LUSU Transparency and Accessibility</p>	<p>Watch along with UA on the LA1 TV YouTube Channel!</p> <p>Weekly updates given on the UA Teams Group</p> <p>The AGM motion for increased financial transparency was discussed at the January meeting of the LUSU Trustee Board and received unanimous support from members. We are continuing to work as a charity to implement this motion.</p> <p>I continue to welcome any further suggestions for how we could make LUSU (including the Trustee Board) more transparent and accessible – hence being rated Amber.</p> <p>I will turn this box green when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The financial transparency AGM resolution sees fruition from LUSU 	<p>Amber</p>
<p>Make colleges live up to the hype</p>	<p>The University is hiring new Pro Vice Chancellor for Student Experience and Colleges who should be announced by the time of UA. I was on the panel interviewing for this role, and both Leah and I were part of the deliberation. This role will take a strategic lead on Colleges, and we hope we can work well with them to ensure the University and LUSU share a vision for this unique element of Lancaster University.</p>	<p>Amber</p>

	<p>With this new PVC steer, it is up in the air whether any of the work done up until now on College Redesign will be taken into account.</p> <p>The Head of Accommodation has approved the Welcome Rep Memorandum of Understanding, it is basically being enacted now, but we are looking to take it to the next Student Experience Committee to formalise it in University records.</p> <p>We are supporting JCRs to bring end of year events back, which for ease of communication we are simply calling Extravs again! We have agreed the following dates for these events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Monday 15th June – Lonsdale- Friday 19th June – Furness, Fylde, Pendle, Grizedale- Saturday 20th June – Cartmel, Bowland, County, ending with ALL in the Great Hall <p>At the time of writing, Roses is the first priority, but staff time will be focussed towards these events as soon as possible.</p> <p>I have also seen the draft of the JCR Review we commissioned, focussed on what we and the University can do structurally to best support these student groups unique to Lancaster.</p> <p>In Week 21 we asked the question “Do you know where your College Membership Fee goes?” jointly with our JCRs – this got great traction from students who have been asking this question for years. After a conversation with the Vice Chancellor, we look like we’ll be able to have an answer to the question and solution to the problem by the end of this academic year ready for implementation next year.</p> <p>I will turn this box green when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Extravs are well on their way to happening2) The College Membership Fee question is answered3) The JCR Review is presented to the University and tangible outcomes are agreed	
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2. Additional work not in manifesto

Work item	Summary of Work	Progress Red – no progress/laid down Amber – in progress Green - complete
LU Future & Industrial Action	LU Future has been discontinued, and industrial action is realistically off the cards for the next academic year.	Green
Car Parking	<p>You can purchase an out of hours parking permit here: https://lancastersu.co.uk/events/out-of-hours-student-parking-permit</p> <p>Given the publicity we gave to parking at the start of the year, we have since been inundated with student questions, concerns, and complaints about car parking which our Advice team have handled fantastically. I have offered support where I can, and in some cases we have been able to get students fines overturned.</p> <p>This is realistically all the work I can do on car parking, I hand that baton over to next year's team to make further progress.</p>	Green
Busses and bikes	<p>Cycle Lanes – I facilitated a meeting between the University and our student cycle lanes campaign on 19th March. This was the first meeting our campaign group had been able to have with Lancaster University in the two years they have been endorsed by UA. It was a good first step in a joint up approach to seeing better cycle infrastructure between the University and the City, but we need to make sure the dialogue stays open.</p> <p>Busses – Lancaster University's Head of Service Delivery promised to reach out to Stagecoach to see what could be done to make the busses more appealing to students. When I have chased them about this, I have not been given a response.</p> <p>I will turn this box green when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We have made contact with Stagecoach and deliverables are agreed for next year 2) I have seen continued interest from the University to engage on cycle lanes 	Amber

<p>Circuit Laundry</p>	<p>I will be working with Lancaster University Facilities to create a survey this term asking what students would like to see in a new laundry provider/if Circuit Laundry have their contract renewed.</p> <p>After my discussions with Circuit Laundry, they have committed to funding the marquees for the Don't Ditch It campaign this year. While this is great, the question is, do we want investment initiatives like this at the expense of more expensive laundry provision?</p> <p>I will turn this box green when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) I have completed my survey and produced a laundry manifesto to become Union Policy 	<p>Amber</p>
<p>Student Poverty</p>	<p>My student poverty work is rolled into Rent Control, College Membership Fees, Car Parking, and Busses and Bikes work.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Student Engagement</p>	<p>The Student Engagement Framework is being rolled into the work the Vice Chancellor has started in developing a new University Strategy. This years' Officer team will have some input into this, but the bulk of the work will be over summer and first term of 2026/27 so we will hand this over to the new team to see to completion.</p> <p>I will turn this box green when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) I am happy with our input into the University Strategy so far as we can do as the 2025/26 Officer Team 	<p>Amber</p>
<p>National Union of Students: Tuition Fees</p>	<p>Leah and I attended the NUS National Lobby Day on 11th March – I appeared on BBC News talking about Tuition Fees, and got snubbed for further TV appearances which I'm not bitter about at all.</p> <p>The next day, the Treasury Select Committee announced a National Inquiry into the fairness of the student loans system. We submitted our evidence, and encouraged Lancaster students to give testimony as well. The deadline to contribute is now closed and we await the results of the inquiry.</p> <p>On 7th April, the Government announced they would cap the interest rates on plan 2 and 3 student loans, calculated as RPI+3%, at 6% (previously it was RPI+3% uncapped). They said</p>	<p>Green</p>

	<p>this was to protect graduates from inflationary pressures due to the Iran war, however we don't believe they would have done this had we not been campaigning on the matter up to this point.</p> <p>This is Green for now, but I will drop it back to Amber if the results of the inquiry creates more work.</p>	
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Activities Officer: Emily Houston-Woods

1. Roses 2026 – Lancaster win for the 5th consecutive year!

- 1.1. Emily has been busy with LUSU Staff and Roses Committee delivering Roses 2026, the 60th iteration of our sporting rivalry with York University and Students' Union.

- 1.2. With over 130 fixtures, student performances, and coverage from our student media groups, we won for a record fifth consecutive year with 241.5 points to York's 120.5 – the highest winning score in the history of the contest!

- 1.3. Due to the busyness of the Roses weekend, Emily hasn't had a chance to write down her updates on manifesto progress and other work, so these will be delivered verbally at Union Assembly. Emily's last paper is included in sections 2 and 3 below for information.

2. Progress Against Manifesto Pledges

Manifesto item	Summary of Work	Progress Red – no progress/laid down Amber – in progress Green - complete
1.1 Sport Model and Kit Review	<p>The Sports Model review has gone out for responses last week, currently the review is at 44 responses from 68% of sport clubs.</p> <p>Results from this review, and the kit review will be collated and presented at the next Union Assembly. Alongside being presented to Sports Committee.</p> <p>Resolutions to the feedback will then be actioned upon.</p> <p>Anybody who has any other feedback on the Sports Model/Kit currently can also send this directly to me.</p>	Amber
1.2 More Secure Access Fund	<p>Held a meeting with the University last week to discuss how the £146,000 will be allocated.</p> <p>It was decided that the funding will be split over 5 years (£30,000 per year). With the money being split into separate pots such as money for memberships.</p>	Green
1.3 Academic Free Wednesdays	<p>See Liz's report.</p>	Amber

1.4 Expand Student Leader Training	No further work on this. Exec handover will be after Roses.	Green
Improving accessibility, transparency, and support	<p>In the last UA I spoke around wanting to solve some of the issues with in-house banking and how it was influencing student groups.</p> <p>I held multiple meetings with SLT at the SU around the issues student groups were facing with in-house banking.</p> <p>These meetings were productive and we were able to come to a resolution and the removal of the backlog of payment claims by December 24th was achieved.</p> <p>I have been reassured by SLT that a new system will be put in place as soon as the tendering process is complete.</p>	Amber
Women's+ participation in activities	Leah and I are currently working on a project looking into empowering Women+ student leaders at Lancaster. More info on this to come.	Amber
Home Roses	Work is still ongoing with planning for Roses. The Roses SU staff and I are holding meetings with every club to ensure they have everything they need for their fixtures. We held the joint Roses Committee with York at the start of February and all applications were processed.	Amber

3. Additional work not in manifesto

Work item	Summary of Work	Progress Red – no progress/laid down Amber – in progress Green - complete
Neurodivergent Students and Access to Sports	Currently (still!) waiting on BUCS to organise a meeting to continue the work on the Neurodivergent athlete toolkit. I want to expand my work to include societies too – if anyone wants to collaborate on this let me know!	Long-term project
Trans+ Students and	Siven has authored a paper which is being presented to this UA – we will touch on this later!	Long-term project

Access to Sports		
Society Access to Flat Floor Space	<p>Held multiple meetings with the University upper management around space capacity on campus for flat floor space.</p> <p>Societies Committee also met with the new Vice Chancellor, and he was keen to find solutions to the problems.</p> <p>More updates to come on this.</p>	Amber

Wellbeing Officer: Leah Buttery

1. Progress Against Manifesto Pledges

Manifesto item	Summary of Work	Progress Red – no progress/laid down Amber – in progress Green - complete
<p>Pushing for a more proactive and accessible mental health service</p>	<p>As part of the Students’ Union’s report to the University Council, I highlighted the need to reconsider their approach to prevention and early intervention in light of an unprecedented number of student deaths this academic year. This triggered a healthy discussion from members of council, including scrutiny of the university’s suicide prevention framework from lay members (externals).</p> <p>The university has commissioned an external audit of the delivery of their wellbeing services. This included some focus groups with students and staff, one of which I attended. In this focus group, I discussed gaps in access to wellbeing support in demographics such as international students, queer students, trans students, and students who live off-campus, and stressed the need for a more unified approach to wellbeing support across departments. The full report is estimated to be completed and shared with stakeholders at the end of this academic year, although this timeline is approximate and subject to change.</p> <p>This work is ongoing and will out-live my time in office, and so I will turn this box green when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I feel confident that I have put in my best efforts and done all I can within the time I have. 	<p>Amber</p>
<p>Making town safer for students</p>	<p>I am finalising my report on street lighting in Lancaster, which I hope to circulate upon completion.</p> <p>The intention remains to take this report to the City Council, possibly with some endorsements/support from local stakeholders (pending some research into whom we might ask). As stated in my</p>	<p>Amber</p>

	<p>previous UA paper, a number of the locations flagged by students as feeling unsafe do not require more street lights, and so a significant portion of the report is dedicated to ways of improving safety that focus more on cultural changes e.g., commitments to better education for young people (particularly men and boys) on topics of safety and consent.</p> <p>I will turn this box green when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have finished and submitted my report to the City Council for discussion 	
<p>Increasing provisions of free menstrual products across campus</p>	<p>The University has taken my proposal and the project has been given to the Facilities Manager to try and bring it to reality. We met with him last term, and he informed us that so far, he's enquired with period care brand TOTM, who's impact report you can read here. I'm working with the University to ensure that provision remains accessible and ethical.</p> <p>I have requested a project update, but at the time of writing I have not yet received a reply. I hope to be able to give a verbal update at UA.</p> <p>I will turn this box green when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are free period product dispensers at key locations across the university 	<p>Amber</p>
<p>Encouraging student led initiatives</p>	<p>On 23rd of April, we were able to bring to life the idea of Natalia Kreczmer – who sits on sustainability committee – to provide free, re-usable period products to students. We set up a stall in the farmer's market, and gave away 54 of the 66 menstrual cups that LUSU had purchased for this project. It was an incredible way of both alleviating period poverty for a number of students and normalising conversations about menstruation!</p> <p>There are also around 40 A5 frames up in the stairwell up to the learning zone (opposite our lovely faces) where we hope to put a representation of who sits on UA. In doing this, we hope to bring</p>	<p>Amber</p>

	<p>some recognition to our brilliant student leaders.</p> <p>I will turn this box green when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representation of UA in the stairwell is complete - I am satisfied that I have put in my best efforts and done all I can during my time. 	
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2. Additional work not in manifesto

Work item	Summary of Work	Progress Red – no progress/laid down Amber – in progress Green - complete
<p>Continuing work on tackling sexual misconduct</p>	<p>We have put together a survey to go out post-Roses to gain student insight as to how you perceive the university to deal with sexual misconduct and ways in which you think they could and should do better. This survey will remain open for as long as we need in order to maximise engagement and take our findings back to the university for them to implement.</p> <p>After a conversation with the Vice Chancellor, he suggested that I work with the newly recruited Pro-Vice Chancellor on bettering Lancaster’s provision of consent training to be implemented next academic year. I will continue to push for this to include in-person, reflective training that focuses on educating students and changing attitudes in order to bring about positive cultural change.</p> <p>The Vice Chancellor also expressed interest in meeting with and trying to rebuild a relationship with the Birchall Trust, and I am keen to facilitate this. I have brought this to the Birchall Trust and am waiting on a response as to when they might be available. A renewal of the</p>	<p>Amber</p>

	partnership between Birchall and Lancaster University would be incredibly meaningful in demonstrating their commitment to improving their provision of support for survivors of harassment or sexual assault.	
Keeping campus trans+ inclusive	No change	Amber

Education Officer: Liz Gillett

1. Explanatory note

- 1.1. The Education Officer has been on a period of illness and so we are unable to give a political update of their work.
- 1.2. An operational update of Liz's work has been provided by the LUSU Academic Representation Coordinator, see section 2.
- 1.3. Liz's last update to UA has been provided in section 3 as an indication of progress made this year.

2. Operational Update provided by the LUSU Academic Representation Coordinator

- 2.1. With Liz being currently off work, this update is strictly an operational update on her projects:
 - 2.1.1. *On-campus Sensory rooms*: A draft of a proposal for the creation of sensory rooms on campus is currently in the works and will be shared with relevant stakeholders in due course. The accessibility community is being involved and consulted regarding this work.
 - 2.1.2. *Self-Certification*: With fit-to-study policy being approved at Education Committee, we are currently seeking updates on its implementation going forth.
 - 2.1.3. *On-Campus PGR Space*: on reflection of existing issues with the FHASS PGR Hub, there were constructive conversations regarding the future of FHASS PGR spaces across the university. We will be speaking with senior staff in FHASS on this progress and any further developments on this for the foreseeable future.
 - 2.1.4. *Study Space in Town*: Options are currently being looked at with the university, seeing what is available and what can be done at this present time.

3. Progress Against Manifesto Pledges (from Union Assembly March 2026)

Manifesto item	Summary of Work	Progress Red – no progress/laid down Amber – in progress Green - complete
Ensure that Curriculum Transformation Programme (CTP) has a high quality of education	CTP has been prioritised over the last two weeks, due to significant changes. Semesterisation will be delayed until the 27/28 academic year due to challenges with implementation. The new curriculum will go ahead, within the current three term structure. How this will be decided will be on a localised departmental level. We are pushing for academic reps to be a key stakeholder in	In progress

	<p>this decision and are considering how we can support reps in this position.</p> <p>The University has been collaborative and informative, with a meeting to go over the options before a recommendation was decided. They have been transparent with us on the challenges with CTP and semesterisation, which is different from previous university management.</p> <p>The RCOO, Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor held a session with academic reps to explain the changes and answer questions.</p> <p>We are working with the executive staff of the university to continue this collaborative approach.</p> <p>We have released an article, and creating a reel with faculty reps to explain the changes to reach more students.</p>	
<p>Timetabling (flexible timetables and Wednesday afternoons)</p>	<p>Previously, the timetabling team are hosting a session with academic reps to introduce the timetabling process and to pilot timetable changes from 26/27.</p> <p>We are unsure what the implications of delaying semesterisation are on the progress of the rep group and Wednesday afternoons.</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>Self-Certification of extensions for coursework</p>	<p>Self cert policy has been approved by education committee. I am working closely with the team to get this passed through Academic Standards and Quality Committee (ASQC). It is likely that this will be implemented from the next academic year. Mode of implementation is something to be explored going forward.</p> <p>Within the last few weeks, we have had student consultation sessions with academic reps. They had incredibly valuable feedback, and will be discussing this feedback with the university.</p>	<p>Completed!</p>

4. Additional work not in manifesto (from Union Assembly March 2026)

Work item	Summary of Work	Progress Red – no progress/laid down Amber – in progress Green - complete
Sensory space	<p>The Minecraft server has launched for a sensory room creation to engage students in the project and the accessibility community.</p> <p>Meeting with accessibility community and the library, dean for colleges and Furness JCR to keep this a student-centred collaborative project.</p> <p>Proposal is in process.</p> <p>[From the previous paper below]</p> <p>Idea for two smaller sensory spaces, one in the library and one in another location that is relatively central to campus. This is under the arguments for privacy, however still enabling the ad-hoc element for emergencies.</p> <p>We are currently looking into smaller spaces, with one potentially being the learning support rooms on A floor of the library, and another in a college.</p> <p>An idea of some brainstormed features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -fidgets -weighted items -lighting -beanbags -music 	In Progress
Post Graduate Research (PGR) Study spaces	<p><u>Bowland Annex.-</u></p> <p>FHASS PhD students have been moved into a shared office space. This has resulted in pushing these students off campus as the space is not fit for purpose for many students of which the space aims to serve.</p> <p>These issues persist; progress is stagnant.</p>	In Progress

	<p>Held a session with students in the hub. Students feel worse about the situation. Suggestions of protest were raised by students present.</p> <p>I had a meeting with the Deputy Vice Chancellor(DCV), Rebecca Lingwood, in which we are waiting on a review to find out the next steps. Thus far the review has been delayed.</p> <p>Success -notice boards and lockers, and various other odd jobs that have been pending since September have been completed. However, heating is now turned off at weekends and overnight, despite being advertised as a 24/7 space.</p> <p>At this point, I believe that adaptations and compromises are not long terms solutions. Fixed desk in appropriate study spaces is what is needed.</p> <p>[From previous paper below]</p> <p>The Storey. Exploring a creation of a new space in town – working with estates to start a proposal to take forward to the Vice chancellor and COO.</p>	
<p>Supporting Academic reps</p>	<p>Regular Faculty Rep committee meetings.</p> <p>Special note: A huge well done and thank you to the senate reps, who articulated student voice incredibly well when discussing CTP changes at senate.</p> <p>Meeting with Chemistry reps over coursework and concerns surrounding CTP</p> <p>Supporting LEC reps following a tricky meeting and issues surrounding their departments approach to National Student Survey (NSS).</p>	<p>In progress</p>