



## Union Update: April 2015 – April 2016

It's been an amazing year and wouldn't have been possible without you, the students of Bangor. With you we have achieved and delivered so much this year:

- Welcomed over 8000 students to **Serendipity** in September 2015 and facilitated over 20,000 sign-ups for Clubs and Societies
- Relocated our entire Union operation to **Pontio** – developing a whole new student space, open plan offices, a brand new Student Centre, a Student Media Suite, new meeting spaces, improved storage space and bigger brighter place to hang out
- Held our biggest ever **Student Officer Elections** with 18 candidates for the four full time roles and falling slightly short of our biggest ever number of votes in 2012
- Launched a huge **Voter Registration Drive** to raise awareness of the General Election in May 2015 and subsequently this year for the Assembly Elections in May
- We developed a launched an **Assembly Elections Manifesto for Change**, highlighting the big issues facing students. We then shared this with local and national political parties to encourage them to sign up to the issues.
- Picked up several **NUS Awards** for Union of the year, Education, Diversity, Activities and Student Officer Team of the Year. We were also shortlisted for best Clubs and Societies in the **WhatUni Awards**.
- Worked in partnership with **Bangor – Calais Solidarity Group** to collect donations for refugees in Calais.
- Secured support and funding for a brand new **Online Membership System and Website** that will revolutionise our online interaction
- We've developed our first ever comprehensive **Finance Procedures** to ensure that we are clear on everything to do with money and able to support you properly
- We worked with Commercial Services Department to ensure that students on campus no longer have to pay the **Tampon Tax**.
- We've worked closely with NUS on their **Cut the Cost** campaign and in November we took a bus load of students to lobby their MPs about the cost of education.
- In November we rolled out our **Take your time to Sign** campaign with the intention of educating students around the pitfalls of signing to early and the quality of housing within Bangor.
- With a new space came a new Union brand and Logo and a return to our roots with the name **Undeb** taking pride of place within our new logo.
- Over 1800 students voted in the **EU Membership Referendum** and 81% of you voted to remain – we'll be sharing this message over the next few months
- We've recruited a **Love Bangor** Partnership Assistant who will be supporting our student led initiatives with the community and ensuring that the Union and the student community is at the heart of Bangor
- We've been working hard over the last few months on our new **Strategic Plan for 2016 – 19** and with the information that the 1000 students gave us through the Bangor Student Survey and the 30 or so Focus Groups that we set up to capture deeper understanding we are now



in a position to start the crafting and drafting process and we'll be presenting our new plan from August of this year.

### Clubs and Societies

- We've successfully held **Varsity** twice and won it twice!
- Received over 2000 nominations for **Clubs and Societies Awards** in 2015 and 2016
- **BUCS** Success with 7 teams winning their leagues and gaining promotion up the tier
- Rolled out the **Campus Sport** Programme in July 2015 and strengthened this programme for 2016 – 17. We've seen over 450 students take part each week.
- Launched an amazing **Summer Sessions** programme in July 2015 and engaged huge numbers of students in a wide range of activities across North Wales
- Increased our Clubs and Socs **Training Programme** to include more opportunities to learn First Aid, Water Competency, Disability Inclusivity and a bigger Student Safety Team
- Launched the **This Girl Can** Programme in conjunction with Canolfan Brailsford
- Strengthen our **Out in Sport** Project and secured an LGBT representative on the BUCS Wales Group
- Supported the development of **Wheelchair Basketball** in North Wales
- Delivered an even bigger **Healthy Living Week**
- Set up a new partnership between Bangor City Football Club and **Bangor Student Media**

### Student Volunteering

- Offered **626 students** the opportunity to volunteer so far this year and we're on target to meet our 750 opportunities target by the end of the year
- Set up three new volunteering projects:
  - **Connect@Bangor** - developed to provide friendly support to students who may be finding it difficult to take part in university life to their full potential.
  - **Adults with Autism** - developed to provide a structured monthly activity session for young adults with Autism/Asperger's Syndrome
  - **Volunteering with the Elderly** - new projects developed in partnership with the North Wales Housing Association to offer volunteering opportunities working with the elderly.
- We now offer an accredited qualification in **Volunteer Management** which is open to all volunteers and provides an excellent progression from the role and existing training provided to Project Leaders.
- We've supported **RAG** to raise £2846.95 and we are sure there is more to come
- We recruited 53 students as **SU Heroes** to assist new students to move into accommodation during Welcome Week. They clocked up an impressive 830 hours between them
- We celebrated **Student Volunteering Week** officially for the first time and a week of events were arranged to promote volunteering at university.
- We worked closely with the Halls Office to roll out the **Big Give Volunteering Project** in June 2015 and from this year the British Heart Foundation will be taking care of waste created by students leaving halls from this year onwards and we'll be focusing on waste food

### Student Voice



- Published two **Annual Student Statements** (one for PG and one for UG) and presented the issues to the University
- Completed the **Mid-Cycle Review** for the Quality Assurance Agency and ensured that the student voice was at the heart
- Successfully delivered the **Student-Led Teaching Awards** in 2015 and recently received over 700 nominations for 2016 event
- Recruited an additional five students to the **3 Years Later Project** (a unique longitudinal study to examine the in depth opinions and thoughts of our student community)
- Worked closely with the University to hold **National Student Survey Action Plan** events in each College
- Visited our students at the **Bangor College China** Campus and delivered Course Rep Training
- Launched the new **Bangor Student Survey** to gather in-depth opinions of the student community
- Delivered a full training programme to **69% of our Course Reps** – our biggest number ever
- Rebranded the Academic Representation Unit as the **Student Voice Team**
- Set up another successful **Study Aid** Programme and gave out over 900 cups of tea and coffee
- Supported the set up and delivery of four very successful **Course Rep Councils**
- Worked closely with the **Course Rep Executive** to develop and strengthen their roles
- Developed the first ever **Course Rep Dragon's Den**
- Supported Course Reps to complete **Student Submissions** for Internal Quality Assurance panels in five schools
- Launched the first ever **Student-Led Teaching and Learning Strategy** with Course Reps and Senior University Staff
- Produced a **Hidden Course Costs** paper to highlight financial issues and are now working University Senior Managers to develop changes
- Supported Course Reps to conduct the first ever **Student Led Curriculum Audit**
- Launched a **Diversify the Curriculum** campaign to bring the individual into their degree
- Worked with the University to secure revisions to current regulations around **Postgraduates Who Teach** and **Progression Rules**

## Welfare

- Developed a **Tenants Forum** Action plan to tackle some of the issues being faced in Bangor
- Supported our students to deliver SHAG Week and gave out 800 condoms over 3 days
- Trained a further 5 staff and sabbatical officer to allocate the **C-Card** (a scheme to improve use of condoms)
- Lobbied Ysbyty Gwynedd to implement additional **Sexual Health** provision
- Launched our **Cliteracy Campaign** with Sex Quiz in Bar Uno
- Worked with the University Mental Health Advisors to implement brand new **Mental Health Drop In Sessions**
- Launched the **Open House Scheme** and enabled 60 students to look around various houses, ask questions and take their time to sign
- Hosted a **Housing Quiz** where over 90 students learnt a lot more about renting in Bangor
- Raised awareness of **World Aids Day** with an event for students



- Gave out 400 lollypops as random acts of kindness for **Blue Monday**
- Held the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **Landlord Awards** with 60 nominations for great Bangor landlords
- Worked with RAG to set up the first ever **Canine Calming Room** (with Guide Dogs Cymru) in North Wales. 600 students attended!
- Set up and ran a **Reclaim the Night** march through Bangor