

School Representative Reports November – December

Vicky Hunt - Psychology School Rep

What I have been working on

- I have attended the following meetings: Faculty TLQC, Faculty Health & Safety Committee, School TLQC, Faculty IT Committee, Union Council, Annual Student Meeting, Course Reps
- I have met with Maja to discuss a placement info event I hope to run in the 2nd semester
- Continued contact with Stage course reps
- Campaign Training on the 12th December

What I plan to do

- Meeting with Course 1 student reps on the 14th December
- Arrange Course Rep meeting
- Continue to attend further meetings throughout the 2nd Semester
- Arrange a further meeting with Maja to plan the placement info event
- Discuss campaigns to run further with course reps and sabbs

Other updates

Eva Oberg- School Rep for health professions

What I have been working on

It has been a busy month throughout the school of health professions with many of the course reps and student body being out on placement.

Over the past month I have received some interesting emails about ideas and problems that course reps have been experiencing and tried to put these issues at ease, especially in regards to the role of the course reps and emphasising that I am available through different forms of communication to insure that all queries are addressed.

Over the last month I have attended the following meetings:

- Teaching, learning and quality committee meeting for the faculty of health professions- hearing the necessary updates from the entire faculty and then different ideas that can be

used throughout the school of health professions to improve quality and student academic experience.

- Annual student meeting- this meeting highlighted the financial status of UPSU, the growth in recent years and the future and strategical plans of UPSU going forward. Got updates from the sabbatical officers about their roles so far and future plans going forward.
- Union council meeting- second union council meeting that I attended. Voted in motions regarding electronic watch and fossil fuels usage within the university setting. Heard from Julian Chaudhuri, Deputy Vice chancellor for Education and student experience, about the strategic plans of the university.

What I plan to do

In the new year, I plan to do a lot more surveys and set all dates for course rep meetings until the end of the term year.

Do news feeds emails or posters about what I am doing throughout the year.

Plan more activities for all the student body of health professions to insure we become tighter as a PAHC community.

Updates

none

Rachel Hine – School of Biomedical and Healthcare Sciences Rep

What I have been working on

- I have created and distributed a survey on student perception of assessment and feedback which was circulated during November. The results were collated and successfully used within a presentation for a staff conference on the 6th December delivered by SoBHS course representatives.
- I have encouraged students to complete the 'Hidden Course Costs' and 'Student Opinion' survey by email and sharing on social media pages.
- I attended and chaired the SSLC meetings on 29th Nov and 13th Dec.
- I attended Union Council Meeting on 30th Nov. Here I had the opportunity to listen and discuss the Education Strategy with Julian Choudrey.
- I attended the Annual student meeting on 5th Dec.
- I attended the Faculty TL&QC meeting on 6th Dec and the School TLQC meeting on 15th Nov.
- I distributed the second course rep specific monthly newsletter on 11th Dec with relevant updates for reps during the previous month.

What I plan to do

- Students within SoBHS are not familiar with the 'Your Voice' feedback app. I intend to contact students on how to use this app to improve knowledge of feedback options.
- SSLC and School T&LQC meetings have highlighted that students are not aware of the 'you said, we did' points on the DLE which aims to close the feedback loop for students. There has been some discussion about potentially setting up a school newsletter with these action points within. I intend to follow this up in the year year and liaise with staff about this possibility.

Other updates

Business School Reps – Abi Rivers & Ollie King

What I have been working on

We have met with Professor Jingjing Xu (Interim Head of Business School) and discussed about the merger of the Business School and the impact this is having on the structure and staffing. She wants to hear more from students and perhaps form a student council for the Business School.

Both had a meeting with Tracy Priestman to discuss meetings with our course reps. Due to the merger of the business school, there are now 121 course reps, so we split into two them into two groups to make meetings easier.

Course Rep meeting on 07/11/2017 – this was for Abi's half of the course reps. The turnout was very poor, with only 7 people attending, and only 10 sending their apologies in advance to Abi.

Abi emailed Tracy, Maja and Alec to flag up the poor attendance.

Ollie has met with Andrew Hunt (Programme Leader for Economics) to discuss the possibility of moving the Economics Society to the SU as funding has been severely restricted and it seems unrealistic that the society will be able to do many things.

What I plan to do

Ollie having his meeting with his course reps on the 13/12/2017.

Ollie to meet again with Andrew Hunt again to see if he is happy with moving the society to the SU (he is meeting with other staff members to discuss funding for the enrichment societies). If he is happy, then I will aim to get started in January with moving to the SU. If the society is approved by the SU, then I will work with other FoB enrichment societies (Accounting, Marketing etc.) to see if they feel they want to move to the SU.

Abi is waiting for a reply from Maja about where we should go from the meeting and what are the next steps that need to be carried out.

Both to organise another course rep meeting post-January exams.

Other updates

Charles Markham – School of Medicine Rep

What I have been working on

- Chaired November SSLC meeting
- Discussed possible changes in how students are assigned to working groups to allow for less interruption of student's course commitments
- Forwarded details of training/upsu announcements to course reps
- Presented at a staff conference regarding issues in medical student assessment perception, following distribution, collection and analysis of survey results
- Organised a meeting with staff members to discuss encouraging integrating medical societies into UPSU
- Handed over some administrative duties (like shirt purchasing and elections) to SSLC secretary
- Discussed with Nursing and Midwifery rep regarding bus issues, and continued to discuss with course reps about how the issues are affecting students
- Followed up on emails sent to enquire about course reps attending meetings, and gave feedback regarding how other issues have progressed (i.e. response to catering staff regarding different perceptions of the café)
- Organised and attended a meeting between exam organising staff and students to discuss issues in perception and possible solutions
- Helped to form the Medical school expansion bid and have been involved in discussions about practicalities of this

What I plan to do

- Follow up to assessment perceptions by organising contact sessions between staff and students, while ensuring that these are effective and are answering student concerns. Not just distributing prescribed information
- Inquire about the nature of exams compared to other institutions including the dental school
- Move forward on integrating medical school societies with upsu
- Follow up on attendance/bus concerns and help to resolve these

- Follow up on structural changes to working groups
- Follow up with course reps on their individual activities (e.g. development of student input into student support working groups)
- Follow up on assigned action points from meetings

Other updates

School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences School Representative Report – Jake Evans

What I have been working on

This month I attended a SoGEES and FoSE TLQ where I provided some insight into some new of the topics that were raised, and raised some issues of my own; and listened carefully to the issues raised by the Lead Course Reps present. A deputy school rep has also been selected for times I cannot attend meetings.

I also met with the course reps from all the courses in SoGEES to answer questions they had and set out how the lead course reps work within SoGEES.

What I plan to do

Over January I will be arranging a meeting with the Lead reps before the next SoGEES meeting so that I can ensure any issues get raised at the right forum. I also aim to finish a newsletter aimed for the SoGEES students and get that distributed for the first week of semester 2. I will also be attending an E-Textbook steering group on the 4th January where I will provide more student input about them, so any issues or feedback would be great.

Other updates

Part-time Officer Role/School Rep Role – Danielle Noble-Devenney (known as Dani Devenney), Humanities and Performing Arts

What I have been working on

- currently arranging a course rep meeting to get to know my reps and gather information on any issues they wish to raise with me
- English stage 3 have been given a participation assignment where they have to submit six pieces on set texts, but may only submit pieces on texts that they attended the seminar for. The guidelines given by the module leader state that “The student was concerned that students with disabilities who have been unable to attend six seminars will be

penalised for this. The guidelines given by the module leader state that "If you don't have six pieces, you can submit a portfolio with all the pieces you have done, so you will still get a mark." The student was concerned that students with disabilities who have been unable to attend six seminars will not be given an equal chance to achieve the same grades as their course mates. I have taken this to Maja VP education, and it has also been taken to James VP welfare.

What I plan to do

- Elect a deputy school rep

Other updates

School Rep SoBMS – Emma Zandt

What I have been working on

Meetings attended: external advisory meeting, course rep feedback session.

I have been working on creating an online survey to gather students feedback on employability skills within the programmes, in conjuncture with the associate head of school. The results from this survey will be shared and taken into consideration at the next external advisory panel meeting.

Students feedback passed on through course reps overall positive. Some second-year students expressed concerns about coursework load and how this is not divided equally over semesters. Concerns were also expressed about placement years, mainly funding and usefulness. Third-year students mentioned feedback from alumni would be great to improve employability advice. All these points have been taken into consideration.

Actively promoting several surveys and campaigns around campus.

Promoting PALS programme throughout the school to see if possible to extend to all programmes and third to second year sessions.

What I plan to do

Send out employability survey to all students within school and if possible to alumni.

Several meetings to attended in the new year.

Collect feedback from students about PALS programme.

Other updates

Dentistry School Rep–Amir Jahromi

What I have been working on

- Firstly, I met with Rebecca Turner during a UPSU and PSMD focus group meeting, where we discussed the relationship between UPSU and dental students. It was made clear that one thing I could promote using my role as Dentistry school rep is how UPSU values representation and feedback from all students. Rebecca explained to me that the responses given regarding UPSU and how well it represents dental students was quite negative, and this was recognised from feedback surveys such as the NSS/SPQ. My immediate thought was to explain to Dentistry course representatives that they are members of UPSU, and that they act as a platform for dental students (and all students) to voice their opinions to UPSU. I strongly believe that dental students are unaware of this and of how much UPSU does to take on board any feedback from students. This will hopefully make future response from dental student more positive.
- I have chaired my first SSLC meeting. The meeting was mainly introductory, however I gave the course reps the opportunity to provide feedback to members of staff. The meeting was a success and a deputy chair has been elected to act in my place if I am absent, and a date for the next meeting has been agreed. I also used this meeting as an opportunity to introduce myself to the members of staff and my fellow course reps, where I explained to course reps the importance of ensuring that students are aware that we operate as members of UPSU.
- As school rep, I have a responsibility to liaise TELMED to update the SSLC page on DLE. This page contains the details of all course reps, so that students know who they can access for more information or if they would like to provide feedback on the course. The page is currently being updated and I have collected the relevant information from the majority of the course reps, but I still need to contact Yr 3 course reps so that their details can be added to the page.

What I plan to do

- Provide feedback to staff regarding travel issues to and from Devonport experienced by Yr 2 dental students.
- Continue to update SSLC page.
- Continue to receive feedback from students.
- Arrange a meeting with course reps to see what actions are to be taken in the near future regarding the course and how it is being delivered.

Other updates

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Plymouth Institute of Education – Abby Williams

School of Law, Criminology and Government – Sharon Amadi

School of Engineering – Alix Mullally

School of Computing, Electronics & Maths – Ryan Skidmore

School of Nursing and Health Professions – Lucy Murley

School of Art, Design and Architecture – VACANT

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If you have any questions regarding representation please contact the Student Voice team
studentvoice@su.plymouth.ac.uk