

School Representative Reports December/January

Eva Oberg- School Rep for health professions

What I have been working on

I think for all students across the school of Health Profession the New year has started with a few weeks of assignments and exams, which I hope for everyone that things have gone well.

Since arriving back in January, I have attended a few things with the hope of more coming in the next few months.

On the 10th of January I attended the school teaching, quality and learning committee where I had a chance to listen to the various programme leads up-date in their respected disciplines across the school. Updates in regards to how the courses are going so far, the challenges encountered so far and future challenges that may arise and how these challenges may be resolved. Had a chance to address any student issues that may have arisen.

Had a meeting with Maja Smith (VP Education) and Gemma Chilvers (Representation and Engagement coordinator) discussing problems arising in the last few months, the necessary training I feel would be beneficial and my plans for the next few months whilst in position.

What I plan to do

In this month I plan to; use survey monkey to communicate with course reps more effectively.

Plan a quiz for all health professions to bring them closer and make they more aware and familiar with each other.

Talk more regularly with the entire student body to be more aware of any problems arising and with course reps also.

Updates

none

School Rep for Biomedical and Healthcare Sciences – Rachel Hine

What I have been working on

- This month I have not been able to work on anything significant due to being busy with third year January exams. I have also not been able to meet with the course reps as the January SSLC meeting was cancelled.
- However, I have had a one to one session with Maja Smith to discuss new actions for the following term.

What I plan to do

- Meet with all course reps at the February SSLC meeting to discuss any issues following the January assessment period.
- Promote the SSTAR awards and student elections to course reps.
- Create and disseminate the SoBHS course rep specific newsletter.
- At the next School T&LQC meeting discuss the possibility of setting up a school newsletter.

Other updates

School Rep for Medicine – Charlie Markham

What I have been working on

- Chaired January SSLC meeting
- Continued to discuss possible changes to help with course rep workload – discussion with UPSU, staff reps and other course reps have led to a decision to trial an online forum format, where student/staff reps can make posts on issues for other students/staff to respond to and we can track actions based on posts. This will lead to better accountability and will remove the need for medical course reps to regularly attend the more than 26 different working groups in the medical school
- Discussed with Maja Smith about further action on the integration of medical societies into UPSU, she will email Terry Vallance, Head of Administration in the Medical School
- Attended the medical school expansion board meeting and presented on the most pressing issues for students/issues that need to be considered for students when the school is planning for expansion
- Conferred with course reps on issues regarding degree classification criteria, support and room usage

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
- Respond to Maja Smith regarding her email to Terry Vallance
- Follow up on structural changes to working groups by organising creation of online forum – organise informing of all relevant parties regarding this
- Follow up on assigned action points from meetings
- Continue to support course reps in their action points to improve on aspects of the course students are concerned about

Other updates

Institute of Education School Rep – Abby Williams

What I have been working on

Unfortunately, due to being on placement Full time (since the last forum) I have been unable to fulfil this role as well as I would have wished. However there are many point I shall be implementing in the next few weeks.

I have contacted our information specialist to range a meeting

What I plan to do

- Meet with the information specialist (Julie Luxon) to discuss improvements and thoughts from the faculty
- Elect a deputy
- Meet with all course reps to see how we can all help each other
- Meet with the volunteering and post graduate officer.

Other updates

Danielle Noble-Devenney (known as Dani Devenney), School of Humanities and Performing Arts

What I have been working on

- Quickly resolving issues (i.e. with seminar groups, assignments, assessment weightings) by effectively liaising between staff and students

What I plan to do

- Continue to build my relationship with staff and students within the school by regularly attending meetings and welcoming feedback
- Look for potential candidates to fill the role for next year
- Q&A session with Maja to help students in my school understand my role and what I can do/have done for them

Other updates

School Rep for Business –Abi Rivers and Ollie King

What I have been working on

- Met with students in December. We invited the 120 course reps from the Business School. Only 5 turned up to Abi's and 10 turned up to Ollie's with 10 emailing apologies to Abi and 14 sending apologies to Ollie.
- The student feedback received was module specific, so we advised them to firstly talk to module leaders and then come back to us if they needed additional help.
- All reps found the meeting beneficial. Though none were aware of the Business School merger and the impact this may have.

- Course reps were struggling with logging volunteering hours however this has been resolved as Abi told Maja about it at the 1-2-1 meeting and a new clearer instruction will be sent.
- We updated Maja on the meetings.
- Abi had another 1-2-1 with Maja about the future of this term.
- Abi met with Danielle about the SSLM which is coming up on the 8th of Feb.
- Ollie will meet with Maja on the 01/02/18 for 1-2-1.
- Both to meet with Danielle Bishop and lead Programme and School Teaching and Learning Committee on the 08/02/2018.

What I plan to do

- Plan for the SSLM which is coming up on the 8th of Feb. Then send feedback to the relevant people and hope that more students turn up to the meeting as there is not much we can do with the limited student voice that turned up to our meetings.

Other updates

School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences – Jake Evans

What I have been working on

During January, plans were made with the Lead Reps from SoGEES, and our first meeting since the establishment of the lead reps has been planned for the 13th February. Additionally, this month I have been drafting up an action plan to address the growing need for workspace and resources for the SoGEES students, as a common issue is workspace in the library and available textbooks, especially those which are very common/vital to their education.

What I plan to do

Over the course of February, I intend to work with all the lead reps to develop this action plan to ensure that everyone is happy with the plan. This may include encouraging students to more actively engage with academics to ensure the library has sufficient resources; and working in tandem with the library to ensure that plenty of study space is provided to ensure that all students have access to study areas in the library.

Moreover, I would like to work with the LabPlus team to get the word out about the importance of LabPlus and ensure that it is used to its full potential. This could simply be

addressed by inviting a member of the LabPlus team into lectures at the start of the academic year during the induction week to cement the foundations.

Finally, now will a fully established system I am now familiar with in SoGEES, I can start working with the reps and their cohorts to start working with them over the last few months of the year.

Other updates

Dentistry School Rep–Amir Jahromi

What I have been working on

- Since the last monthly report, I have been able to continue gain feedback from students regarding their experience as a dental student. A frequent piece of feedback that Dentistry Course Reps have received is the number of supervisors in the DEFs (Dental Education Facilities). Certain bays within the DEFs will only have one supervisor in a given time which causes a backlog of student waiting to be seen. I hope to re-emphasise this prior to the next SSLC meeting.
- I explained to students where the minutes from SSLC meetings could be accessed. Students wanted to see what topics were being discussed, and many were pleased to see that their feedback was being passed onto members of staff.

What I plan to do

- 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. This is to be done prior to any SSLC meetings.
- Discuss with Maja Smith certain topics such as the position of the dental school within the University and its community.

Other updates

School of Law, Criminology and Government – Sharon Amadi

School of Nursing & Midwifery – Lucy Murley

School of Psychology – Victoria Hunt

School of Engineering – Alix Mullally

School of Biological & Marine Sciences - Emma Zandt

School of Computing, Electronics & Maths – Ryan Skidmore

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