

## School Representative Reports October-November

### 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

### Nursing and Midwifery School Rep Role – Lucy Murley

#### What I have been working on

- School rep training
- Communication to and from Course Reps
- Individual Students concerns and issues

#### What I plan to do

- Improve links to course reps across all cohorts.
- Create a survey to find out the issues that are most pressing for all cohorts currently.
- Address the issue of late placement allocation.

#### Other updates

- Talking to local MPS about recruitment into nursing through the RCN.

### Dentistry School Rep – Amir Jahromi

#### What I have been working on

During my time as the Dentistry School Rep, I have focused most of my time on collecting feedback from students (mainly from Yr 2 students). The feedback has generally been

quite positive however any arising issues regarding the student satisfaction with the course will be brought up in the SSLC meeting, which is taking place on the 22<sup>th</sup> Nov. The recurring piece of constructive feedback from dental students is regarding the timetable layout we have been given to use this year. Our timetable is only accessible on an Excel document (unlike last year), which is quite inconvenient as it is complicated to access. I hope to ask for a change to the timetable layout, preferable to the format we had previously which could be accessed normally on our DLE calendars. Furthermore, I have been working with the Medicine School Rep to improve the inclusion of the School of Medicine & Dentistry in both the university and the community. This will hopefully followed up in future meetings between myself and the Medicine School Rep, which has not been arranged yet. In terms of meetings, I have attended my one-to-one with Maja Smith, and we discussed topics such as preparation for the TQLC and the arrangement of my first meeting with my course reps. At the TQLC meeting, nothing was directly aimed at my role.

#### **What I plan to do**

I plan to arrange a meeting with my fellow course reps to collate more feedback from the other years which I have not been able to communicate with. I also aim to provide feedback at my next SSLC meeting.

#### **Other updates**

None

## **Medical School Rep – Charles Markham**

#### **What I have been working on**

- Elected Course reps for the medical school (sending out survey monkey to entire school). Including from all years of medicine, intercalating students, and Physician associate students
- Assigned Course reps to working groups within the medical school based on a ranked choice survey monkey given to all course reps
- Distributed an introductory pack, which I designed, to course reps; to help them become familiar with their role and give them tips on how to do the job best
- Chaired the first SSLC meeting for the medical school on the 25<sup>th</sup> October, and decided on meeting dates for the rest of the year
- Followed up on old action points from last year's SSLC meeting to ensure resolution
- Met with David Parkinson to discuss the Inspire project for medical students and how this could best be advertised
- Met with catering staff from the university to discuss feedback given by medical students regarding the JBB café price/quality/availability of food
- Met with Adele Hill to discuss medical student's perceptions of what they need to do to be accomplished in their career, and where there may be misconceptions; discussed how we could possibly address these misconceptions
- Spoke with staff at medical school to create a 'GP promotion' working group, to address the need for 50% more medical students to become GPs – this is done in

the light of Peninsula graduates traditionally not seeking GP roles, and a culture within the medical school student body that discourages seeking GP as a career

- Met with Part time volunteering officer to discuss the medical schools perceptions around volunteering and students needing guidance/recognition for it; it was highlighted that the fact that discussions are happening with staff to create this within the medical school shows a lack of understanding about what exists through UPSU
- Have been asked to speak at a staff conference on student perceptions of assessment within the medical school
- Discussed with the lead for the Medical Expansion project about including student representation in this to help form the bid for more medical students, and give advice on the impact decisions may have for further students
- Sat on the PUPSMD Faculty TLQC, MEDEX board
- Raised the issue of bus timetable changes within the Faculty TLQC and how this has affected a range of students
- Recognised that medical societies exist separate from the university and were ratified with the Student Parliament. Student Parliament has now disbanded, and so they sort ratification from the SSLC – informed them that this is outside of our powers. Clarified with the medical school that they will receive the right to bid for funding this year, but they are unsure about future academic years. Discussion with Maja, Terry Vallance and members of the activities and sports teams has revealed that medical societies should be encouraged to become affiliated with the UPSU now that the medical school is a part of the university.
- Have helped the medical school staff to advertise a range of research opportunities and trial participation to student body; advertise opportunities for medical students to volunteer/get extra experience
- Carried out elections for staff awards for medical school. Presented awards at Medical school awards evening
- Forwarded details of training/upsu announcements to course reps

#### **What I plan to do**

- Organising shirts for course reps to wear when asking for feedback on 'shirt days'
- Create a survey to ask students directly about issues around assessment perception that are known anecdotally but have not been explored (e.g. what students do to prepare for exams)
- Will be in touch with course reps from other healthcare professionalisms; regarding how bus changes have affected their students.

#### **Other updates**

- One of the course reps collected responses to a questionnaire on when they are absent from sessions and why they feel that they are doing so; this is in response to the medical school recognising high sickness/absence rates affecting the number of students arriving to sessions by external providers. Awaiting on this course rep to summarise results
- Liaised course reps with assessment working group to discuss NUS benchmarking tool
- Supporting student rep to make a specific pastoral and wellbeing working group within the medical school
- Have referred a number of students to the raising concerns policy due to approaching myself with concerns

## Business School Reps – Abigail Rivers & Oliver King

### What I have been working on

We are currently attending meetings and trying to recognise how the business school merging will affect our roles as School Reps.

Abi and Ollie attended the School Rep training evening.

Abi attended the Plymouth University TLQC meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Abi had a primary meeting with Maja. There needs to be a follow up with more details on the merge within the business school and understanding around the merge.

- Action- Maja said she would arrange a meeting for us all to further understand this issue.

Ollie had a primary meeting with Maja. The communication between students and the faculty staff was discussed and is something that will be worked on following the merge.

The FoB societies will be aimed at becoming UPSU societies to get more funding.

- Action – Ollie will collect feedback from Economics students to see if they would be interested in a UPSU society.

### What I plan to do

In the future we aim to meet with all the course reps for our school and discuss what they would like to be achieved student led.

### Other updates

## Biomedical & Healthcare Sciences School Rep – Rachel Hine (SoBHS)

### What I have been working on

Since being elected as School Rep for SoBHS I have attended essential School Rep training by the UPSU to prepare me for the role.

I have contacted all course representatives within SoBHS and have created a course rep Facebook page to provide a platform for reps to communicate with one another and receive updates. I have received photos and descriptions from each course rep which have been used to update the DLE SSLC page and are now available to view by students. I have distributed course rep specific t-shirts organised by the previous School rep. The purpose of these t-shirts is to emphasise course rep presence and improve their recognition to students around the university.

I chaired the first SSLC meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. The minutes for this meeting are now available to view on the DLE which outline relevant points. Completed actions arising from this meeting include the upload of new issue forms to the DLE so new items can be added to the agenda previously to future meetings to improve the running of the meetings. Students have been asked to volunteer to sit on various committees however there are still available spaces therefore I intend to raise this again at the next meeting.

Students have also been recruited to deliver a presentation on student perception of assessment and feedback at a University conference on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

I have attended a one to one session with Maja Smith to discuss my manifesto and potential action ideas. As a result of this meeting she has assisted me in creating a monthly newsletter. This will provide course representatives with relevant information on who represents them in different committees and updates on Faculty and School TL&QC meetings, SSLC meetings and manifesto points. The aim of this newsletter is to provide an additional and alternative form of communication to course reps which they may choose to share with their course members.

I have attended one of each Faculty, School and Programme TL&Q committee meetings. No significant student led business for SoBHS was available at this point for me to bring forward. However, I have provided details, contacts and links to the minutes for course reps to view on the monthly newsletter if they would like to have more information.

#### **What I plan to do**

I plan to send out a survey during November on student perception of assessment and feedback. I will collate the responses and distribute the information to the students to present this information at the conference on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

I will continue to reflect and research potential future campaign ideas.

#### **Other updates**

I will be attending additional student representative training on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November to enhance my skills.

The next SSLC meeting will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

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

#### **What I have been working on**

The first few months have been slow, whilst I get all the cogs whirring and everything ready to go. However, I have attended an E-Textbook Steering Group meeting, where I provided a much-needed student voice along with Oliver King. Together we raised some issues that may be present in the current system of E-Textbooks such as ease of use etc. which will hopefully trickle down to improving your use with E-Textbooks.

Additionally, I have sent a survey round the school through my course reps regarding teaching and learning resources; and which you guys find most valuable and impactful.

I had a meeting with a member of Academic Staff on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss and review the information I received from a survey sent out to the Foundation Students which I will be working on to improve the course with the help of my course reps and the Foundation cohort.

#### **What I plan to do**

Over the next month, I have arranged a meeting with the course reps, so I can start to gain some feedback from the courses in my school. The aim of these meetings is to start working towards any of the concerns, and seeing where we can make improvements or adjustments as needed. Additionally, any appraisals will be raised at this meeting, so I can see where the school of doing well and use the strengths to help iron out the weaknesses.

From the mentioned survey, I will be working towards improving the lesser used resources and ensuring that they reach their full potential and don't go unused, as they could be vital to improving your performance while at university, and it would be a shame for such vital tools to go to waste!

Later in November I have a Faculty of Science and Engineering Teaching and Learning Quality meeting, where I can address these issues and help highlight them to the school where they may not see where these resources are lacking from a student stand point.

Over the next weeks of November, I have many meetings I am attending. These include a Science and Engineering Faculty Board, the previously mentioned course rep meetings, a Faculty Teaching and Learning Quality Committee meeting and a Chemistry Programme Committee Meeting. All of which I will be taking sufficient notes to ensure the information passed round is coherent. This will also allow me to work with my course reps to get feedback on any future changes and how you'd feel about them; but also allow me to possibly detect issues I'd not thought of and have yet to be raised to my attention.

Finally, during the beginning of December I will be hosting a drop-in session with myself, and some of the course reps will also be present. Here we will answer any questions, and receive feedback relating to your course, your school, or just university/life in general. We will all be as much use as we can. It will also give you a chance to meet with myself and some other courses.

#### **Other updates**

None to mention.

## **School Rep for Health Professions- Eva Oberg**

### **What I have been working on**

Since being elected I have attended several meetings and trainings:

- School rep training- to ensure that I can meet your needs as students to the best of my ability. In this meeting it allowed me to meet with the other school reps from the university and to brainstorm about the ideas that I can use to help build and improve the school further. It allowed me to identify and elaborate on the skills needed to be a good representative of the school whilst simultaneously having a lot of fun.
- One- to one meeting with Maja Smith- this meeting allowed me to specifically discuss the issues and goals relating to health professions for the next few months and what ideas I have that I would love to achieve going forward.

- Union council meeting – was involved in the election of new school reps and officers, heard the reports for the different sabbatical officers and the upcoming events and plans that they were involved in. For example, more UPSU representation at PAHC and student union having more of an involvement in PAHC.
- Teaching, Learning and Quality Committee meeting- heard the discussions from the different lecturers from all across the faculty of health and human sciences in regard to improvements that are ongoing in areas such as technology, eBook resources etc.
- Course rep training- had a great opportunity to attend the course rep training and meet all the different course reps within the school and to create links so that the student bodies are always being heard and that any feedback in relation to changes and developments is being communicated effectively.

### What I plan to do

In the coming month I am planning

- Course rep meeting- organising a meeting to hear the feedback from students and issues that need to be addressed.
- Electing a deputy school rep – so that any meetings that I cannot attend, due to unforeseen circumstances, the appointed deputy will represent the school in my place.
- Surveys and polls – I will be creating surveys and polls for both the students and course reps to complete in areas such as sports and societies, satisfaction of PAHC and course experience and interest events to integrate all health profession courses.
- ‘XMAS ICE BREAKER’ event- Having a Christmas ice breaker event in which EVERY health profession course integrates with each other.

### Other updates

I have had a great time and learned a huge amount since being elected for school rep a few weeks ago. So far it has been an amazing experience and I can't wait for the next few months ahead.

For the month of November, I hope to be getting to know course reps a little better and to plan more meetings with them, so we can ensure everyone is satisfied and to get help in organising Christmas events within the school.

## Humanities and Performing Arts School Rep – Danielle Noble-Devenney (known as Dani Devenney),

### What I have been working on

During my 1-2-1 with Maja, I brought up the issues we've been faced with in Humanities and Performing Arts regarding electronic submission, and whether staff should adhere to the current policy, as in our school the staff believe it is unfair on students. Maja has agreed to add me to the committee that she is chairing on this subject so that I can give student input.

**What I plan to do**

Meet with my course reps (after course rep training has been completed – as far as I know that will be sometime this month) and put electronic submission on the agenda to see if any issues have come up on other courses.  
I also need to elect a deputy very soon – this will be done at the first course rep meeting.

**Other updates**

Not yet!

**School Rep SoBMS– Emma Zandt****What I have been working on**

- Setting up feedback forum on Facebook and email group for all course reps in the school.
- Elected Deputy School Rep – Holly Morgan.
- Attended the University Teaching, Learning and Quality Committee meeting 13/11/2017.
- 1-2-1 With VP education Maja Smith and Student Voice Gemma Chilvers on 26/10/2017.
- Been promoting the 'Ban the Bottle' campaign in the School and receiving positive feedback from students regarding this.
- Have been invited to attend the External Advisory Panel for SoBMS, actively seeking feedback from students in the school about what they think can be improved to enhance their employability.
- Unfortunately, due to very busy time table, have been unable to attend any of the School and Faculty meetings so far.

**What I plan to do**

Set up information box at School office with contact information for School Rep and course reps.

**Other updates**

School of Law, Criminology and Government – Sharon Amadi

School of Psychology – Victoria Hunt

School of Engineering – Alix Mullally

School of Computing, Electronics & Maths – Ryan Skidmore

School of Art, Design and Architecture – VACANT

[Find out more about School Reps](#)

If you have any questions regarding representation please contact the Student Voice team  
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