

Student Representative Committee

Meeting held in Union 1, Frenchay Campus, at 17:30 on Monday 16th April

020: The Chair introduced himself and welcomed the Reps present to the final SRC of the year and set out the agenda and purpose of the meeting.

021: The Chair reported that he had successfully lobbied, as part of his work related to course costs, that the University will now be providing free black and white printing for all students. Courses in FET and ACE in receipt of the materials bursary will continue to receive this. The University is due to review the learning outcomes of every programme and has pledged to pay the costs associated with these outcomes. As a result of SU lobbying, the University is to also review its laundry provider and freeze the cost of rent for of University accommodation in order to ensure value for money for students. The University is also to undertake a review of its openness and transparency.

The Education Officer was not present for this item.

022: The Secretary provided an explanation of the purposes and role of Student Council and invited all interested Reps to stand for election to this committee. There was not a contested election as the same number of Reps stood for election as the number of positions available. SRC agreed to elect those who stood *en banc*. The successfully elected Reps were:

Ayrden Pocock

Curzio Potenza

Hana Nagoor Mohideen

Jasmine Pow

Toby Usher

023: The Academic Regulations and Policy Manager, Tracey Horton, explained that the purpose of the academic regulations was to ensure that all students are treated consistently whilst assuring high academic standards. A large piece of work to review the regulations is currently taking place to streamline them and them more accessible for both staff and students. This work amounts to the first phase and the second phase will be to create an entirely new regulatory framework. Reps broke into groups to discuss how they thought the academic regulations impacted upon them. Reps fed back various areas where they thought the regulations would affect them. TH then asked Reps where they could go for help in a series of scenarios. The answers provided did not include the academic regulations despite all of the information being contained within them. TH asked how the regulations could be made more accessible. Reps provided the following answers: the name "regulations" is a turn off as regulations connote being against the student not for them ("if you need help, you aren't going to something called regulations"), the language of the regulations should be more aligned with the language of students and the issues they are likely to face, FAQ sections to guide students to the right sections of the regulations, flow charts with scenarios, using Blackboard and myUWE with useful hyperlinks and making sure that idioms and colloquialisms were removed for EAL students.

024: SRC was provided with the proposals for the changes to module evaluations which had come about through the feedback Reps had provided at the last meeting. The University intends to reduce the number of questions, introduce free choice module specific questions and give discretion to module leaders as to the timing of the release of the evaluations. The Reps present agreed that these were positive changes and provided the following feedback on the newly proposed questions: Q1: "good" seemed far too generic and broad; "effective" was suggested as a better alternative.

Q2: “interesting” seemed too difficult to nail down and not useful, especially for level 1 modules designed to provide foundational knowledge; “engaging” was suggested as a better alternative.

Q3: Reps agreed that this question wasn’t asking for the feedback they thought was important; the suggested alternative was “The assessment criteria for this module is accessible, clear and easy to understand”.

Q4: Reps were happy with this question.

Q5: Reps agreed that this question was actually trying to ask two questions at once and the meeting did not understand what the true purpose of the questions was. Those present believed that this question could be interpreted in different ways and asked that clearer feedback on what was actually being asked be provided before they could suggest an alternative.

Q6: Reps thought that simply asking if students were “satisfied” was quite a low benchmark.

Q7: Reps liked the idea of a free question but thought “Please feel free to expand on the reasons for your above answers” could be a better alternative.

SRC agreed that there should be an expectation that staff will work with Reps to develop the module-specific questions.

025: No Union Updates were forthcoming.

026: No AOB was presented.

027: This was the final SRC of this academic year; the next meeting will take place in the new academic year.