

Student Representative Committee

Meeting held in Union 1, Frenchay Campus, at 17:30 on Thursday 30th March

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

022: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without amendment. Because of feedback from SRC, Academic Board had approved the Chair's report on course costs and had begun work on those issues.

023: The VP Education explained that he would be working with the University on course costs and access to space and resources for students. He further explained that he had been working with IT Services (as a result of the previous meeting's outcomes) in regards to IT resources across the campus. He updated SRC on the progress on the Principles of Academic Representation, a new strategy document being produced by the Representation Team which aims to strengthen academic representation and connect it to other student groups and learning communities. He had also been involved in discussions and debates relating to HE sector reform and representing student views to the University. Additionally, he will continue to work with the Representation Team on organising the Student Experience Awards.

The Education Officer was not present and no report was received prior.

The Academic Board representative reported that the Board had been busy working on the TEF submission. The VC's report to AB indicated that UWE had escaped the trend of falling application numbers which was present across the rest of the sector. The first work for the 2030 strategy was beginning to come online. The University was keen to gain student views on creating a more inclusive and cohesive University community and that there was an appetite for the opening of new creative learning spaces.

024: Julia Lloyd (Senior Project Manager) gave an overview of the event capture programmes for Reps. In providing context of the learning environment updates, it was important to note that the feedback from students was often different to the staff experience. The different event capture programmes are being migrated in to a single system called Panopto. Event capture is intended to support all learning styles and the roll out is happening across all campuses room by room. Lecturers will be able request event capture enabled rooms and the intention is that students will also be able to use these for their own practice. Although the system will record audio and visual, there will be variance dependent on the specific design and layout of each room. The project has representation from The Students' Union on the Project Advisory Board and the focus of the project going forward will be to work in partnership with students, unions and staff.

Andrew Mathers (Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Criminology and UCU Representative) provided Reps with the staff perspective on and experience of event capture. The primary staff concern was for maintaining education as a high impact public service for the general good. Some staff are opposed to the rollout but most are simply looking for greater clarification and assurance on safeguards and acknowledge the potential benefits of the project. Some staff were frustrated that there still was not a policy on this that had been agreed with academics. UCU was concerned about the impact on staff employed in academic support roles, such as note-takers, and whether students in need of additional support will receive the same level of support. Lecturers value their autonomy and are concerned about the length of time recordings will be kept. Additionally, there is a real

concern about the impact this could have on seminars which are student led and driven if this is seen as inhibiting for certain students.

Reps largely shared the concerns raised by the UCU representative and were concerned about being 'watched' in lectures but especially in seminars which are smaller and require students to be more vocal. Reps were however very enthusiastic about the possibilities for their learning and development that this project could bring about. They agreed that there should be no pressure put on lecturers to use this system and that it should not be used to punish students who do not attend sessions but that the captured content should be available only to those who do. The project will be looking at the impact on attendance but at present these decisions are made by the academic leading each event captured session. The only exception is when a student has a reasonable adjustment. Reps strongly queried as to why these conversations and consultations had not taken place earlier and were united in opinion that partnership between the University, staff and students was the way forward.

025: The Secretary explained the purpose of Student Council and invited interested Reps to put themselves forward for election to this body. The Reps elected were:

Tristan Lee

Shay Singh

Henry Bisset

Joshua Vaughan

Iraje Ahmed

026: Jason Briddon (Director of Library Services) and colleagues provided a recap of developments in delivery this year. On Frenchay, £1 million had been spent on developments including the refurbishment of level 4 to provide 200 additional study spaces. At Glenside, there had been a redevelopment of the ground floor and study spaces as well as a trialling of 24 hour access. At Bower Ashton, 30 extra study sop case had been created as well as an increased number of loanable laptops. The use of reading list software was being rolled out across the University. There had also been developments in PAL with the creation of a Student Life PAL designed to help build resilience and support for care leavers, international students etc.

For the academic year 17/18, £700,000 would be spent on redevelopments and improvements at Frenchay including a refreshment zone, study pods on the silent floor and additional study spaces on level 3. The old red Bar will be converted in to a 100+ space learning zone. The B Block corridor will be converted in to a 100+ space learning zone. PAL will be looking to include ILM accreditation into its programmes. The library will be focusing on what it looks like in 5 year's time with the integration of technology into study spaces and changing and adapting to student needs and demands comprising a core focus.

027: The recent SU elections had seen excellent turnout and engagement. The Student Experience Awards will be taking place soon and there are still tickets available for Reps and their guests.

The Chair updated on the SU's bid for NUS Alcohol Accreditation and the awards the SU had already won and how this will help students to develop positive and safe relationships with alcohol.

The Chair then updates on the SU's success at the Green Gown Awards and how the SU was working toward a Green Impact Award and how this would be embedded within the curriculum and the in SU through the new Student Sustainability Committee.

028: There was no AOB. As this was the last SRC of the academic year, the Representation Coordinators thanked the Reps present for their hard work and dedication and for the positive changes they had made by working in partnership and encouraged them to stand as Reps again next year.