

Student Representative Committee

Meeting held in 1L1, Frenchay Campus, at 17:30 on Tuesday 15th November

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

002: The Chair explained that he and his fellow Presidents had been engaged in work and lobbying around course costs, especially the cost of graduation, accessibility of campus and of degrees for different groups of students, working with Reps and academic societies to build links and develop joint working and organising the national student demo against fees and cuts. Any Reps interested were encouraged to contact any of the Presidents for further details.

The Education Officer was not present and so the Chair explained her main priorities for the year: library resources, study spaces, academic resource centre and developing peer assisted learning. Any Reps interested were encouraged to contact her or the Chair.

003: The Chair explained the role and purpose of LTSEC and invited the Department and Lead Department Reps present to put themselves forward for election to this body. Six undergraduate Reps stood. The Reps elected were:

ACE: **Elyshia Neal** (LDR for Education)

FET: **Ronnie Mutulili** (DR for Engineering, Design and Mathematics)

HAS: **Iraje Ahmed** (LDR for Allied Health Professions)

FBL: None came forward, under item 006 a co-opt will be made at a later date

PGT: As above

004: The Chair explained the role and purpose of AB and invited the Department and Lead Department Reps present to put themselves forward for election to this body. Five undergraduate Reps stood. The Reps elected were:

Nina Higson-Sweeney (LDR for Health and Social Sciences)

Samira Abokor (DR for Business and Management)

No PGT or PGR Reps came forward, under item 006 a co-opt will be made at a later date.

The Chair noted that there were still unfilled positions for Department Reps in some departments along with the unfilled positions above and encouraged any interested Reps to contact the Representation Coordinators for further information.

005: The Chair explained the role and purpose of SC and all Reps present to put themselves forward for election to this body. Five Reps stood. The Reps elected were:

Shay Singh (Arts and Cultural Industries)

David Arjona Lozano (Health and Social Sciences)

Iraje Ahmed (Allied Health Professions)

Joshua Vaughan (Applied Sciences)

Harrison Marcks (Computer Science and Creative Technologies)

006: A majority of Reps present voted in favour to allow the Chair as VP Education to co-opt interested students and Reps in to unfilled positions on representation committees as the need arises.

007: SC introduced the Reps to the concepts behind Learning 2020 namely the strategic changes to the HE sector, she provided an explanation of TEF, how NSS taskforces work and the various strategic projects going on at UWE Bristol: Campus 2020, People and Performance and Learning 2020. She posed the Reps several questions to think about: what makes excellent teaching and learning? How do staff and students organise and work together? What do students want the campus to look like in 2020? How do we encourage the development of learning communities? What do students think about the academic year as it stands? And most importantly, how does the university encourage students to be involved in these projects.

008: TR explained that the nature of the blue skies thinking workshop was to encourage Reps to think critically and differently about the campus and how they are taught to provide insights that SC can use in her work. The Reps broke out in to groups to discuss this and then fed the ideas back to the meeting. Some of the feedback is summarised below, the rest can be obtained by the Representation Coordinators upon request.

The academic year: Law reported strong approval for its lecture and seminar structure and the amount of contact hours. HSS reported the need for more 1-1s to develop critical thinking and other key skills. B&M argued that it was not the amount of hours but the quality of the teaching in those hours and the interaction and engagement of students that mattered most, this view was largely shared by the rest of the Reps but some did maintain that contact hours were still important. B&M also reported that the numbers of students on courses was too high and diluting the quality of the teaching; the other Reps shared this view. ACE reported that many of their contact hours seemed to be 'filler' in order to have the required contact hours but that much of this time was underused. Those undertaking joint honours were unhappy that they did not receive sufficient PAL time as they were taking two courses but receiving the PAL time for just one. PAL was seen as a great opportunity by all present who identified the need to develop and strengthen this. AD wished to see more opportunities for independent projects. F&J expressed a desire for more opportunities to work with students in different years in collaboration and to have access to higher level modules and projects earlier on. All Reps expressed a desire for more optional modules, projects and courses from a diverse range of disciplines.


The campus: Reps identified the need for more gender neutral toilets. HSS and others reported a lack of social, group and individual study space which was disrupting the shape of their day as some students came to campus very late at night in order to use a computer. EDM asked that all computers had MatLab and other software as standard. All Reps requested more computers and better information relating to the location of free computers.

The Reps agreed that discussion within the projects taking place should not focus on satisfaction with courses or the campus but should instead look towards excelling for all students.

009: CT explained the new democratic model, known as Student Ideas, and emphasised how easy the new online system was to use. He encouraged all Reps to use their knowledge and position to be involved with SU democracy. Any interested Rep or student can contact the SU for help with this.

TB introduced RAG and explained how Reps could get involved with charity and fundraising. He then introduced the Green Team and explained how it could help develop skills. He encouraged Reps to question how their courses embedded sustainability and to engage with the sustainability survey. Any interested Reps or students should contact TB for further details.

010: HW discussed the UWE Student Conference taking place on April 10th 2017 and encouraged all Reps to sign up and present their work and research to fellow students, academics and employers.

 The Conference will be open to all students from all years and across all faculties. The LDRs will be forwarded a copy of the details and they will disseminate this to all Reps and students.

The Chair explained that there is a strategic plan in development regarding the future of representation at UWE Bristol and told Reps to look out for contact from the Representation Team regarding opportunities to input to this.

The Chair explained that Student Services with the SU are engaging in cognitive testing with students regarding the new NSS questions and asked any Reps interested in being involved to approach the secretary at the end for details.

011: The next meeting of the Student Rep Committee will take place on January 26th 2017.