

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT, 23 FEBRUARY 2017

JAMIE JORDON, VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION

COURSE COSTS & RESOURCES

At Freshers' Fair in September, we held a priority ballot for students to decide one of our priorities for the year. The most voted on was course costs, which aligned with something I wanted to work on this year anyway. I have taken the lead on the project with the help of Siân (VP Community & Welfare).

In the first semester, we had been working collaboratively with the University Directorate on the costs on graduation. We have successfully managed to reduce the price of guest tickets from £35 to £15 without having an impact on the experience of the day.

In November's Student Rep Committee (SRC), feedback was given surrounding the access to computers and specialist software in the Faculty of Environment and Technology (FET). After working with Lead Department Reps from FET, Team Representation and the Deputy Director of IT, we have managed to resolve some of the issues.

- In total, there have now been 150 new computers installed in Frenchay Library to increase the volume of computers by 5%.
- It has been agreed that 200 more computers will be installed on Frenchay Campus this year once an appropriate location has been decided.
- After feedback around the slow login times in social areas (such as The Hive), IT Services have worked to resolve this.
- The Students' Union is looking to set up temporary computer space for the summer exam period, where computers can be booked with the ability for us to install specific software.
- The University are developing software to show real-time availability of computers on mobile devices.

Following on from this, in January's SRC, one of the agenda items was around course costs and availability of resources. This session had some useful discussions and have gathered a variety of feedback – if you have any, then feel free to let me know. I'm liaising with Academic Services on this to begin making positive improvements, and taking it as an item to Academic Board.

STUDENT REPS

Before the winter break, we held various feedback sessions with students, Student Reps, and Academics to find out what good student representation looked like to them. From this, working with Team Representation and Academic Services, we are working on a Representation Strategy to develop and enhance the current structure. This aims to think more widely about the student voice and representation by encouraging both Student Reps and Academics to utilise other areas such as Academic Societies and PAL (Peer Assisted Learning) Leaders. We recognise that a “one size fits all” structure does not work at an institution as broad as UWE Bristol, which offers a variety of programmes from Occupational Therapy, to Law, to Fine Art. We will be offering support to various departments to find the ways which best suit them to gather student feedback and action changes.

With the successes of Academic Societies and the development of representation, Olivia (VP Societies & Communication) and I have been working on developing the relationship between Student Reps and Academic Societies. We have been working in partnership with some of the University Directorate to come up with ideas to pilot with Societies that have volunteered.

I have been working with Team Representation in organising the annual awards night, which celebrates the successes of both students and staff. This will be taking place on Monday 3 April at 18:15 in At-Bristol Science Museum, where you will have the opportunity to explore the exhibits for an hour before the main event. Nominations and ticket sales are currently live. You can find more information at:

<https://www.thestudentsunion.co.uk/ents/event/6923/>

#UWESAYSRELAX

Over the January assessment period, we soft launched our #UWESaysRelax campaign. Through this campaign, we aim to make students aware of the services that are available to them. From the Wellbeing Service to our Advice Centre to academic skills help via the Library, to Extenuating Circumstances. We also aim to promote taking breaks, so students don't burn out and compromise their wellbeing and health. We handed out fruit with flyers signposting to the various services available to them, whilst encouraging students to take a short break.

We will be doing this again around the summer exam period, hopefully on a larger scale. We have been contacting companies asking if they can donate different goods from bottled water to dried fruit packs. We also have some funding to contribute towards this.

NHS BURSARY

The Students' Union has concerns over the removal of the NHS Bursary which is available to nursing, midwifery and allied health profession students. The replacement of this bursary with loans will add additional pressure on to these students and act as a substantial disincentive to prospective students to study these essential professions, as demonstrated in the decline in applications.

Siân, Olivia and I have been supporting Beth (Glenside Campus Officer) and Charlotte (Gloucester Campus Officer) with a Save The NHS campaign. In December, we collected feedback from students around why the bursary was important to them. I have collated this into key themes where students will need support after the removal of the bursary. I am taking proposals to Academic Board, where I will seek endorsement to work collaboratively with the University to support our students on affected courses.

OTHER INFORMATION

Total hours worked to date (as of writing): 1296.75/1221

Range of meetings attended since last Student Council:

- Annual Provider Review Pilot
- Awards and Finance
- Board of Trustees
- Collaborative Provision Committee
- Executive Meeting
- FET Computers and Software
- Finance and General Purposes Committee
- Glenside Development Group
- Glenside – February Planning
- International Student Experience Committee
- Learning Environments Advisory Group
- Learning, Teaching, and Student Experience Committee
- Lecture Capture Communication
- Library Redevelopment
- Mental Health Working Group
- PAL Stakeholders' Group
- Programmatic Blackboard
- Race Equality Taskforce
- Readinglists.uwe.ac.uk Stakeholders' Group
- Representation Strategy Working Group
- Start of the Year Meeting
- Student Rep Committee
- Student Rep support on Academic Board
- TEF Operational Group
- TEF Steering Group
- Various monthly catch-ups (Associate Deans, CEO, Directors etc.)

Range of other appointments since last Student Council:

- #UWESaysRelax
- Accommodation Fair
- Engagement Plan
- Feedback sessions on Academic Societies & Student Reps
- Head of Department (Health and Social Sciences) Recruitment
- Preparation for Mid-Term Review
- Prevent Debate Planning
- Promotion of Glenside Extended Opening Hours
- Rent Survey Response Collection
- Representation Manager Interviews
- Secondary School Visit
- SHAG (Sexual Health Awareness & Guidance) Week Preparation and Engagement
- Student Led Enhancement Manager Interviews
- Vietnamese Society's TET Show

If you have any questions, feel free to drop me an email on vpeducation@uwe.ac.uk