

## **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT, 6 FEBRUARY 2018**

### **JAMIE JORDON, VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION**

#### **COURSE COSTS**

Continuing the work and research surrounding the extra costs students incur during their time at UWE Bristol has remained a priority for me. Working with CJ, Lead Department Rep for Art and Design, I have started to draft a report surrounding the extra costs that Art and Design students incur to complete their assignments. The School of Art and Design is home to some of our most creative minds at UWE Bristol – and with this comes a need for a range of supplies and resources. At current, undergraduate students on these courses receive an allowance of £75, which can be spent on such materials. Whilst this contribution from UWE Bristol is by no means unrecognised, it has become apparent that this only touches the surface of what Art and Design students have to truly spend. Postgraduate students currently receive no allowance to go towards materials and resource, meaning they have to take from their own pocket to cover costs. The report uses a variety of sources such as data from NSS, our strategic plan survey, the student wellbeing survey and a collation of quotes from students across the Department.

After informing University Directorate that I was compiling this report, I was asked to include other areas of cost that students also face. I have started to include costs creative courses from the Faculty of Environment and Technology face and the cost of UWE Bristol Accommodation and the laundry services.

#### **STUDENT REP CONFERENCE**

As part of a wider offering for Student Reps, working with Team Representation, we have organised for a Student Rep Conference to take place this year. The aim of this conference is to develop and upskill Student Reps in a range of areas. We have a variety of sessions ranging from negotiation, public speaking, campaigning, student demographics, sustainability and employability, with some delivered by external speakers. The hope is that this will help Student Reps to become more confident and in the work that they do, and also act as a method to maintain engagement at this time in the academic year. The conference will be taking place on Saturday 24 February, 09:30-14:30, The Students' Union at Frenchay.

## UWE BEST PRACTICE EVENT

In December, UWE Bristol hosted a “Best Practice Conference”, where staff from across the institution came together to attend a variety of sessions and workshops relating to good practice and students’ experiences here. I lucky to be invited to deliver a plenary session on student representation. This session was titled “Effective Student Representation – A Reps View to Success” and covered a variety of aspects of being a Student Rep – recruitment, training and continuous professional development. It was great to showcase some areas of exceptional work across the institution and provide some Student Reps the opportunity to talk about their experiences – especially to a wide-ranging audience, from University Directorate, Faculty Staff, and Professional Services.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Recently, we have installed Delphis soap dispensers in The Students’ Union at Frenchay – this soap is readily biodegradable and is not tested on animals. We have “think green” posters and stickers around the building to remind people to be sustainable, from switching off lights to not printing needlessly – we hope this will reduce energy usage and help towards future awards such as Green Impact. We are also currently reviewing our supplier of cotton based clothing and scoping out alternatives that are fair trade, but also financially viable for The Students’ Union.

## OTHER INFORMATION

*With the suspension of the President, I have become Acting President and have undertaken extra responsibilities in said absence such as becoming Chair of the Board of Trustees.*

Total hours worked to date (as of writing): 1194.25/1147.00

A range of meetings attended since last Student Council:

- Academic Board
- Academic Governance Review
- Academic Literacy Forum
- Athena SWAN Steering Group
- Attendance Recording and Learner Analytics Project Board
- Attendance Recording and Learner Analytics Stakeholder Group
- Board of Trustees
- Bower Ashton – Year Ahead
- City Campus Meeting

- Collaborative Provision Committee
- Education Catch-Up
- Farmhouse Meeting
- Green Impact Actions
- International Student Experience Group
- Postgraduate Research Representation
- Report and Support Updates
- SHAG Week Preparations
- Staff Committee
- Student Life Board – Student Engagement Strand
- Student Minds Meeting
- Student Reps Operations Catch-Up
- Sustainability Board
- Sustainable Development Goals Meetings
- Team Meeting
- TEF Meetings
- UWE Bristol Student Conference Group
- UWE Exchange Meeting
- Various One-to-One's with SU and UWE Staff
- Welcome Planning

A range of other appointments since last Student Council:

- Accommodation Fair
- Attendance Recording Tender Presentations
- Bingo
- Graduations
- Holocaust Memorial Vigil
- International Students' January Orientation
- Is there a student mental health crisis?
- Learner Analytics Tender Presentations
- Learning 2020 Best Practice Conference
- Mayor's Office Round Table Event
- Sports Conference
- Strategic Plan Filming
- Student Rep Committee
- Surgeries

If you have any questions, feel free to drop me an email on [vpeducation@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:vpeducation@uwe.ac.uk)