
Full Name	Sam Blouri Far
------------------	----------------

Year of Study	3
----------------------	---

What has been worked on in the past month?	<p>This month the School of Pharmacy (SoP) welcomed all new and returning students and we have now had two and a half weeks of blended learning. It was great to see all my colleagues and staff members after such a long break. I was also fortunate enough to virtually meet the new cohort through a small presentation I gave with the Deputy Head of School, where I introduced myself, talked about my role and ways to contact me.</p> <p>Initially there was a lot of confusion around the timetable and the so called “bubbles” students had been put into, however, with the help of the student module leads and the programme lead, these issues were resolved before the first face to face lecture for week 1.</p> <p>Moreover, I reviewed the feedback given from students to staff on the School Action Day (SAD) regarding the learning agreement and with the help of the Student Engagement Lead (SEL) we managed to implement most of last year’s feedback into the new learning agreement.</p> <p>I have been in regular contact with my course reps and the fellow school reps within the College of Science (CoS) and we are looking at the potential talks for the “Stem for all” campaign that will take place later this academic year.</p> <p>I attended my first Senior Rep Group (SRG) session this month where all the school and the VP Education discussed rep wins and the challenges every school has been facing so far.</p> <p>Furthermore, as part of the KPIs I had submitted to the VP Education, I am happy to report that the SoP has scheduled two Interprofessional Education (IPE) sessions for some MPharm students with Biomedical Science students for this semester. I would to thank all staff and students that were involved in the planning of these sessions for this semester.</p> <p>Finally, a few students raised some issues with the covid report system. They had initially tried to contact the school’s track and trace system, but they could not get a response. An email was sent out to a student bubble that told all students in that bubble to self-isolate due an outbreak. However, due to what was thought to be a glitch, none of the staff members who ran the face to face session with that same bubble, received any information regarding the outbreak. This was escalated to the VP Education and the to the Head of CoS and the deputy head of SoP.</p>
---	--

Successes from the past month and any Reps Wins	<p>Although this year’s “Welcome Week” was very different to the years prior, I was still able to introduce myself to freshers and talk a little about what I do at the school and my roles outside of university. I believe it is important for students to have a contact whom they can share their concerns and questions with, especially this year where time on campus is very limited. Therefore, I ensured that students knew who I was and how they can contact me. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the course reps and student module leads who have put a lot of work in</p>
--	---

to provide freshers with all the information they need before starting university.

For students on the MPharm programme there was a lot of confusion surrounding the existing tutor groups and the newly formed bubbles, which were introduced this year to minimise the chances of a COVID outbreak. The issue was resolved with the help of the student module leads and the programme lead before the module introduction and Problem Based Learning (PBL) set off.

As mentioned before, the feedback from last year's SAD has now been reviewed and factored in for the new learning agreement that is now available on Blackboard. Some of the changes include the removal of the 5 minute-late rule as some students may be experiencing internet troubles and having the learning materials (including pre-work) available on Blackboard 5 days prior to the integrated learning sessions. This was one of the things myself and the course reps were aiming to do before the start of the academic year, and I'm pleased we have been able to do so.

The meetings with the other school reps within the CoS have been really productive as well. We have come up with several ideas and potential topics for the college-wide "Stem for all" campaign. The campaign will involve several speakers all showcasing the diversity and inclusivity within the CoS.

This month some students on the MPharm programme had IPE sessions with biomedical science students where different case studies were presented, and students will work in groups and showcase their findings at a later time this semester.

The issue with the COVID track and trace system caused particular concern in students as there would be a risk of staff members continuing to teach face to face sessions after coming into contact with students that had contracted the virus. I escalated this to Georgia as soon as I found out about the issue and she raised the matter to the Head of the College of Science and Engineering. The incident has since been reviewed and it appears that the member of staff had missed the track and trace notification. They have now been directed to immediately self-isolate. This was a very urgent matter that was dealt with in the space of one day and helped so many staff and students within the SoP and potentially the CoS. I would like to thank the VP Education, the Head of the College of Science and Engineering, and the Deputy Head of the SoP for responding so quickly and resolving this important problem in a matter of hours.

Plans for next month

For next month, I am aiming to carry on working closely with my colleagues in the CoS to hopefully kick start the "Stem for all" campaign as I am especially passionate about the subject matter of the campaign.

In addition, I will continue to promote the vacant course rep positions ahead of the SU elections and try to spend more time with course reps, especially those on the Pharmaceutical Science Programme.