



Lincoln
STUDENTS' UNION

Georgia Petts
Vice President Education
October 2020

<p>Report Summary</p>	<p>This month has seen the welcome of students virtually and on campus, we held our first blended Welcome Week, have been helping students with questions about settling in and finding their feet in Lincoln. With the first Senior Rep Group of the year came the introduction of all the Senior Reps to one another with a great turnout and lots of discussion about the first weeks of classes and a virtual visit from the Subject Librarian Team. My KPIs are slowly coming along and I am making changes to make sure I can still achieve my goals and the aims I was elected in on even if the journey has to change to achieve them I want to make sure I stay true to my manifesto promises.</p>	
<p>KPIs</p>	<p>Updates</p>	
<p>Deliver a new rep structure, setting out clearer descriptions for the roles and what can be expected.</p>	<p>Progress this month:</p>	<p>Work on the governance documents and the 'theory side' of the restructure is underway. I am bringing new feedback constantly and working with the team to make sure we can raise any issues with the current system, to produce a structure that provides more support and flexibility. Semester B of 2019 to 2020 helped highlight that we need to be flexible so that if anything that arises that we didn't plan for we can adapt and support students however they may need supporting.</p>
	<p>Plans for next month:</p>	<p>This next month I will be checking up on the progress of the documentation and finding out where I next need to feedback and gather research. It is important to keep checking in so that I can ensure that the new structure is reflective of what students need from their reps and their VPE.</p>
<p>To establish the Postgraduate Students Association as a representative organisation for postgraduate students at Lincoln.</p>	<p>Progress this month:</p>	<p>Last year's Postgraduate Officer Jacob and I completed his handover this year, where we debriefed about his time as the officer, all his successes and what he would suggest changing to help enhance the experience of future Postgraduate Officers and students. The governance documents for the Postgraduate Students Association have all been passed through the Executive Committee and everything is now ready for our first PSA hub next month. I caught up with the Academic Societies Officer James to talk about rep involvement with Academic Societies, one thing we spoke about was how to get more postgraduate students involved with them.</p>
	<p>Plans for next month:</p>	<p>The conversation with James was really useful to get another perspective into the postgraduate student experience and one way to encourage engagement but also how we can work with the Academic Societies to make their events more</p>



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		inclusive for postgraduate and undergraduate students alike. When I leave this post next July I want to make sure in my handover to the next VPE that I provide ideas on how to engage all students and not just by specific events and methods tailored to postgraduates, but that whatever they do on the whole can apply to all students. This is also something I will do for the rest of my term as the VPE, I believe the PSA will actually help strengthen this by providing an identity for postgraduate students, but also giving me a place to promote the use of feedback systems and events for all.
To increase the engagement with online feedback platforms and tools.	Progress this month:	This month I have been meeting with academic staff members to talk about mentoring the potential for a mentoring programme between staff and students that is mutually beneficial for all parties. I have also been planning to hand over the chairing of the Student Teaching and Learning Experience Panels to one of our attendees and the Social Science's College Officer Talia. Students have been emailing and messaging more so than ever asking for help and wanting answers which has been great to be able to help signpost to the university services as well as our Advice Centre.
	Plans for next month:	Handing chairing responsibilities over to Talia will help the development of the panels and see us increasing the levels of engagement students can have with them but also allow me to take a step back and look forward to how we can next improve the experience and levels of feedback and interaction. Now that the academic year has begun again, I will be continuing to promote and hopefully increase the knowledge and use of Coursemate as well as our other platforms for feedback.
Provide feedback on the Assessment Charter and assessment feedback .	Progress this month:	I held our first Senior Rep Group of the year and it was so good to catch up with everyone and find out what students have been saying about the start of the academic year, OWL week and Welcome Week. Together the Senior Reps and I went through all the feedback we have gotten, any updates I could provide about the year ahead and also importantly how everyone was settling in and feeling about the year. The updates each School Rep and College Officer gives are great to stay in



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		the loop with what they are working on but also to see where I need to provide more support.
	Plans for next month:	After the success of the last Senior Rep Group meeting with DVC Liz Mossop we have decided to do another in November to see how the semester and teaching is going so far, providing the platform for the Senior Reps to get first hand information. Our Student Leader team recently presented our KPI presentations to the Board of Trustees as well as the Senior Leadership Team at the university and got some useful contacts and feedback on our plans for the year. Now that everyone knows about our KPIs we are in a good position to progress any KPIs that were waiting for official confirmation before we could move forward on them.
Work in partnership with the university to enhance pastoral care .	Progress this month:	The Senior Tutor handbook updates that Garry Wilson the Senior Tutor did have been well received from feedback I have heard in committees, I met with Garry early in the year to look through the handbook and the support being provided to academic staff members in their Personal Tutoring roles. This handbook along with notifying students of what support they should receive from their personal tutors as well as what they can go to them for and what should be taken elsewhere, to the Student Support Services for example, will be instrumental in the first steps of achieving this KPI. The systems are in place and my role now is to help students feedback when they are not working for them, figuring out if this is because they are not being supported or if they are not using the right service.
	Plans for next month:	Next month I will continue to gather feedback and make sure students are able to access support services and myself are any help they need or feedback they wish to give.
To enhance the experience of Academic Societies .	Progress this month:	James hosted the first Academic Societies Hub and I attend along with Abi to give my update. There were quite a few questions which was great to see and luckily I was able to answer most that came my way and take back those I couldn't for further feedback. After meeting with James this month we have discussed how I will help to enhance the experience of Academic Societies by getting the Senior Reps more involved and helping set some guidelines for how we do that.



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	Plans for next month:	I am going to start planning what advice I want to handover to the next VPE and Academic Societies Officer when I leave in July so that they don't have to relearn everything I have spent the last three semesters working on. The Senior Reps have been growing their social media followings and post to encourage more interactions, moving forward I am going to encourage more collaboration through virtual means between the Senior Reps and the Academic Societies committees with James' help.
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Student Interaction update:	I have been signposting a lot of students who do not want to return to campus so that they can have these conversation with the right services across the union and university, to save their time and get a solution quicker to their concerns. The Senior Reps have been bringing forward any concerns from the start of the academic year which I have been taking forward to work on with the university college leadership teams. Welcome Week activities including the Walking Tours, cinemas, quiz, bingo and Twilight Cafés all helped me to reconnect with students this year so I can be a more present student leader again and not always a face on a Facebook live.
Committee and University Staff updates:	University Committees are now back in full force, myself and Abi are preparing for our update to the Academic Board and I am looking forward to chairing our first Education and Student Life Committee of the academic year.
Any Other Business:	The student leader team met with Karl McCartney this month and asked him about the support he can provide for international students seeking employment with supporting visa, how we can help students get recycling facilities across the city and what his thoughts were on students lobbying the government for a reduction of tuition fees.