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Sam Ronan Blouri Far

Year of Study

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What has been worked on in the past month?

In the month of August, the main focus has been to ensure the quality of the course by actively participating in online sessions with the head of chemistry and a few student volunteers at the School of Pharmacy (SoP) and going through ideas to improve the chemistry teaching for students on the MPharm programme.

A Teams meeting with college officer and the other school reps within the College of Science (CoS) was held where we laid the foundations for a "Women in Science" campaign to be held throughout the CoS.

I truly believe that to make positive changes to the student experience at the SoP, we need more course reps and student participation in general. Therefore, I have been promoting the course rep roles to all students on both programmes.

A few students raised their concerns about when the loans come in for the new academic year and after seeking clarification from the VP Wellbeing and the VP Education, I confirmed the dates and referred those who needed further financial assistance to the SU advice centre and Pharmacist Support.

Successes from the past month and any Reps Wins

A new format for chemistry teaching has been agreed upon which will involve videos that will cover the basics and they will be uploaded before the integrated learning sessions. The sessions themselves will consist of teaching for the first 90 minutes and a workshop style discussion with some practice questions or problem-solving tasks that really tie in the science to real life challenges, in the second half of the session. Hopefully these videos will be done before the start of the new academic year.

As mentioned before, I have been promoting the course rep role through emails and conversations and I'm happy to report there has been some interest from students on the MPharm programme. I have provided an outline what we will be working on this year and I'm looking forward to working with these students to improve the experience students have on the MPharm and BSc PharmSci courses.

Plans for next month

For September, my goal is to hold further meetings with the head of Chemistry and the SML to work on the all new chemistry videos and have them ready for the new academic year.

Furthermore, I will follow up on who the new Student Engagement Lead (SEL) so I can share the progress that the team of reps have made at the SoP.

Finally, myself and the other male school reps within the CoS are going to spend some time talking to female colleagues, course mates and lecturers to truly educate ourselves on the inequalities that exist for women in science, ahead of the campaign "Women In Science" where we will be helping to organise.