



Vice President Education Report May 2019

Module Evaluations

The most recent round of Module Evaluations has just closed, finishing on 23%, equal to semester A. This is positive given that historically, the second round sees a significant drop in response rates. The holding of position and increase on previous semester B results can be attributed by the increased marketing provision provided by The University and Students' Union in partnership, alongside working to demonstrate the impact of Module Evaluations on the Student Experience. This is a big success, given the importance of delivering the survey to the organisation, and demonstrating value to the University. From this, a working group consisting of University and SU staff, and elected students will be formed to discuss how to further improve response rates of Module Evaluations in coming years.

Rep Forum

Across the academic year we have held 5 Rep Forums, October and December, February, March and April with over 570 attendees. Topics that have been discussed are The Library, The Advice Centre, Employability and Academic Societies, alongside Module Evaluations. At Rep Forum we ask Reps to complete feedback cards, rating how much they feel supported by the VPE, and how much they feel Rep Forum has helped them represent students' academic interests. From the written comments, changes are made, and new ideas are implemented for the next forum, and fed back to students at the start. Rep Forums large role in ensuring that Reps feel supported. Across all feedback collected, a score of 4.7/5 has been achieved on the question "how much do you feel supported by your VPE" whilst keeping a full team of senior academic representatives at the time of writing.

Coursemate & Representation Review.

Since the launch of Coursemate in September 2018, there have been 145 submissions from individual students with 59 being marked as completed. Not only does this demonstrate the need for platforms of online representation and idea raising, but also increasing the provision of representatives to come together and work on issues, responding in a peer to peer fashion, helping to increase the visibility and

accountability of elected representatives. Alongside releasing Coursemate, across the academic year 18/19 I have been leading on an institution wide academic representation review. This has engaged over 2000 staff and students ranging from undergraduate programmes to work based distance learners and postgraduate research students. The data collected consisted of survey responses, complimented by qualitative feedback gathered utilising the School Action Day initiative as part of the Academic Opportunities Portfolio. There was 18 School Action Days delivered in total. A report analysing responses will be produced, alongside recommendations for changes to the structure and how it interacts with key staff members at the University. Upon completion this will be presented to the executive committee for the new sabbatical officer team to consider.

Access & Participation

The Office for Students' has insisted that all HE providers deliver a 5 year Access & Participation plan, that ensures all students from all backgrounds are able to fairly access and succeed at University. Within this it has stated that attainment gaps (in particular the BAME gap) must be eliminated. From April 2019 the VPE alongside Chief Executive now sit on a working group led by the DVC for Student Development & Engagement that is responsible for producing and delivering this plan. As the OFS has requested student consultation on the document the SU is working in partnership to gather opinion on the document once it is produced. Alongside this, Access & Participation was discussed as a key theme at the final Rep Forum of the year, with feedback being used in the production of the document. Other initiatives led by the Students' Union such as Academic Societies, Student Conference funding and Outreach ambassadors are also being considered as part of the plan.

Academic Societies

When Cassie and I took on academic societies as a manifesto pledge, we aimed to help achieve the Activities Department KPI of creating 35 academic societies alongside working to gain institutional support. Over the course of the academic year, we have grown from 14 academic societies to 35, with a further society being applied for from the school of sport and exercise science. Alongside this, the notion of academic societies has been placed on the map of the university and its future strategic aims. This can be seen in the increase of discussions about support academic societies at relevant forums. To secure and further this work, an academic societies charter is currently being produced, that the University will be asked to agree to working towards. The Charter outlines the support need by Academic Societies by both from University and Students' Union together in order to make

Thanks

As Vice President Education this will be my last report. Over the last 2 years, speaking to different students every single day has been incredible. From increasing the amount of Reps for students to raise things to, increasing the amount of academic societies, working to make sure we have digital opportunities to support you all the way through to seeing you every week at quack, this 2 years has been a pleasure, and I couldn't be more thankful to everyone who has spoken to me, and supported me over my time. I wish the best of luck to Georgia, Cassie, Abi, Mohit and Emma.

Much Love,

TG xo

Tommy George
Vice President Education

