



University of Lincoln Students' Union Volunteer Officer Report

23/03/18

Charlotte Stone- Social and Political Sciences School Rep

What has been worked on in the past month:

After our school action day, myself and the student engagement champion had a meeting to discuss the outcomes, and the solutions to some of the problems and suggestions students highlighted. We discussed student representation for social sciences in more detail, how to gain more reps, how to make sure students know who their rep is, and to take photos of the reps to put in Bridge House as a point of reference for students.

Following on from this meeting, we decided to pursue the idea of a student parliament within social sciences. Myself, the chair of subject committee, and the student engagement champion, as well as two other students who enquired the idea, had a pilot meeting to discuss how a student parliament would work, alongside subject committee, how we would promote this, and the likelihood of students attending. We came up with a few options and took the idea to subject committee.

The reps and staff at the subject committee felt that a student parliament would struggle, as it would be difficult to engage students, and would also mean that there would be more of a barrier between staff and students, because the new system would work in a ping-pong style. Consequently, subject committee's may reduce staff numbers to create a balance in the student to staff ratio, to make reps feel more comfortable to speak up and give their opinions on items raised within the committee.

Successes from the past month:

We have had 7 rep nominations within the school, with most reps returning for a second year to be a rep which is positive. The final subject committee was successful, with plans in place for next year to work on promoting reps. The current reps are highly enthusiastic about this, which is really good, and they have worked really hard to push their ideas forward on how to make student engagement better within the school.

Plans for next month:

As my role is ending in May, I will speak to the reps that become elected to make sure they know what to do for the next academic year and will try and encourage them to push for more reps within social sciences. The school are planning to ask reps to attend 1st year personal tutor groups next year as they occur once every week for four weeks at the start of term, to talk about their role, and why others should run for the position. I will also ask them to talk about the school rep position, and I am planning to write a short summary about my time as school rep and all the wonderful opportunities I've had, and how many new people I have been able to meet.

I will also meet again with the director of teaching and learning, and the student engagement champion to talk about my role, how the year has been, and what still needs to be worked on once I leave.