

Volunteer Officer Report October 2018

Luke Kidger – School of Film & Media Rep

What has been worked on in the past month?

I attended a meeting/tour with the Head of School to explore concerns from students that there was not an adequate amount of space and facilities for animation students in their current location, this was then followed up with more discussion at a LSFM Rep event, and now will be taken further with a meeting attended by various departments within the University, attended by myself and concerned students, in order to explore viable and potential avenues to resolve this issue. It was a big help to be able to hear from my course reps from animation who gave an insight into their issues and those of others.

I have also principally been speaking to and meeting with students from Media Production, Audio Production and Film & Television about their experiences over their time at the University, in order to produce a TEF submission in the upcoming month. This has been great not only for the pilot scheme, but it has allowed me to take note on the current situation of these different courses and identify any areas where we could be improving.

I attended the Rep Forum and an LSFM Rep Meeting with academic staff, the Rep Forum allowed me to meet first year reps and here about how they had been getting on in the first weeks of university. And the LSFM Rep meeting allowed for everyone to establish who they were, their roles, and also what we wanted to be focusing on, whilst also ensuring that everyone had the chance to get to know each other informally and lightly discuss some current issues.

I have organised meetings with the student engagement leads within LSFM at which I intend to discuss promoting course mate more strongly within the school, in order to ensure that students are aware of the platform where they can make positive recommendation for changes and voice their concerns. I have also organised a meeting to prepare for the LSFM Subject Committee of which will inform next month's report once we have discuss issues and matters within the meeting.

Successes from the past month and any Reps Wins

As this has been my first month as School Rep, the success for me personally is that I feel I have now have a clear understanding of my role, the expectations and requirements, and the methods and protocols for getting support for others and encouraging change to be explored by members of staff.

I have also had the opportunity to speak to a whole range of students from different courses, which has widened my understanding of how different the experiences are of other students across the school of film and media.

I have directed multiple students within the school to the advice centre, which in itself might seem far from a success or a heroic action, but it was great to be a person of trust who students could come to to discuss their issues before handing over to someone with more authority and ability to guide on the subject.

Plans for next month

I will continue to focus on gathering TEF data from level 2 and level 3 students who are currently undertaking a degree in Journalism and Public Relations. Once this has been

completed with the help of other course reps, I will compile the data with the information from Media Production, Audio Production and Film & Television.

Additionally next month, I aim to work with level three film production students particularly but also students across all production disciplines to look at providing more equipment training related workshops and sessions. Looking at how and by who these sessions will be provided, and on what basis be that a regular occurrence or an optional booking system. For this I intend to liaise with module leaders and also staff within the Media Loans department.

I also want to explore more support avenues for students who have difficulties in the academic/theory side of the LSFM courses – a handful of students with dyslexia who I spoke to pointed out that the weekly reading and digital resources that are often displayed in protected formats, would not function with or allow software provided to them designed to support their learning.

Finally, following from my main manifesto promise, I want to speak to more students as well as members of staff, to explore how we can ensure that the taught experience across all modules and degrees within the school is at a consistent high quality – there will always be room for improvement, and members of staff have already shown a keen interest in finding out how course experience can be improved.