



University of Lincoln Students' Union Volunteer Officer Report

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What has been worked on in the past month?

- I attended the PG Conference along with Vicky, the PGT Officer at the University of Birmingham's Guild of Students this month. Drop me an email if you'd like to see my full report from that conference, but in general it was very valuable for learning more about how to tackle employment rights issues for PGR students and gave me useful info on how engaging PG students as a union. We also discussed the inadequacy of current PG representation within NUS and I argued strongly for a full time officer- a motion is being submitted to NUS conference to this end that I will be urging our delegates to support.
- I also attended the latest PG Rep Forum, where I updated reps on what I've been up to, engaged them in a discussion around what they'd like from an online community (any thoughts please do let me know) and we discussed issues such as communication on the end of the PhD process and working conditions.
- I have signed and helped promote a petition calling upon the Vice Chancellor to address the multiple employment rights issues for PG students who teach at the university. The petition achieved 124 signatures in a few days, demonstrating the strength of feeling at the university on this issue- the petition has ended now and we're currently seeking to engage senior management on the issues raised in the petition: https://www.change.org/p/pay-phd-students-who-teach?recruiter=43760884&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=f

[facebook&utm_campaign=autopublish&utm_term=share_email_responsive&utm_content=ex55%3Acontrol](#)

- I attended the first meeting between UCU and the Students' Union this academic year. This meeting helped establish that we will be having regular meetings and the areas of crossover in our work. In particular, training and induction for new staff was highlighted as an area we can work together on immediately.
- I also attended the university ethics committee meeting this month.
- I attended a second conference, this one on Liberating Higher Education (hosted by the NUS PG campaign), discussing topics such as decolonialising the curriculum (through a more honest teaching of British history and in studying the experiences and resistance of oppressed groups), affective research (researchers not feeling the need to always separate feelings and emotions in research from their 'thinking' processes) and the importance of academics (including students) being activists as well.
- I've also continued to engage with the student life team on online provision for postgraduates, bringing feedback from PG Rep Forum to them- watch this space!
- I also worked to raise the profile of PGR issues during the SU elections, encouraging PGR students to vote, asking a PGR-specific question to welfare candidates at question time and talking with some of the candidates about PGR issues.

Successes from the past month:

- Attending conferences, learning how to tackle issues, fighting the corner for better PG representation to NUS reps and gaining useful contacts going forward.
- A successful meeting between UCU and the SU, forming the basis for an ongoing dialogue between the two unions.
- Through a number of actions, raised the profile of PG employment rights issues on campus.

Plans for next month:

- Formulate concrete action on training and induction issues at the university, working with the SU and UCU.
- Get a good turnout at the next PhD in the pub (15th March, 5pm, upstairs of The Swan- make sure you're there!)
- Begin to establish a grassroots group of PGR students together to develop the SU's direction on conditions for postgraduates who teach.