

Volunteer Officer Report October 2018

Claire Hodge – School of Pharmacy Rep

What has been worked on in the past month?

The first few weeks back into this new academic year has been extremely busy for me and the School of Pharmacy in general.

I attended my Senior Rep Training the week before university started and got to meet the majority of my fellow reps which was really good and useful to meet the team before this year started.

I did a lot of preparation and work around Welcome Week this year, recruiting student volunteers from years 2-4 to help throughout the week in welcoming our new students and getting involved with different activities, helping the new students to settle in and get to know some current students. I was in university myself with the school three days of that week, and one day helping out with the activities run for all of the Science Foundation Year students. This again was an excellent opportunity to meet some of the Pharmacy foundation year students and to let them know who I was, should they need any help or information in the future. On the Friday of Welcome Week we had a lot of student-led activities. In the morning I was helping to promote academic representation, our Pharmacy Society and also external organisations such as the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association (BPSA). In the afternoon I ran some activities with the help of some current students, to help aid team-building and communication between our new students, which I think was very successful.

Following on from welcome week, I have met with my current course reps on two occasions. The first was just as an introduction to allow everyone to meet and get to know who each other were, and the second time was to do some feedback gathering about the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) pilot and also for our School's Periodic Academic Review (PAR). My reps have been very engaged so far which has made life much easier and for this I am very grateful!

I have also had a couple of meetings with our current and future Student Engagement Champions, as are current staff member is going off on maternity leave soon. In these meetings we have discussed general handovers and also things such as the upcoming School Meeting and School Action Day in January.

I also attended the first College of Science Education & Students Committee on Thursday 27th September, where there were general updates about the goings on in the college and each school. In this meeting myself and an academic from the School of Pharmacy were asked to prepare a presentation of some sort for the next meeting, discussing the types of things that make our school so successful and students so happy and successful in their studies.

I also attended Senior Rep Group on Tuesday 2nd October with all the other senior reps in the university to get an update on current events and what we should be working on over the next few weeks/months.

I have also been working closely with the BPSA to help organise transport for an upcoming conference at the University of Nottingham.

Successes from the past month and any Reps Wins

Welcome week was a huge success, with many current students offering to help out to welcome the new students.

Course reps have been really engaged and helpful in completing the TEF and PAR feedback I had to gather for different reports.

Transport has been secured for the conference in Nottingham for 53 students, allowing more students to attend than ever before from our university.

Plans for next month In the next month

I have more meetings coming up, starting with Rep Forum on 22nd October and we then have our first round of Student-Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC) and Subject Committee meetings, which will be the first time all reps and staff have met together to discuss any feedback arising from students so this will be good.

I also have to compile my final PAR report for submission by mid November, which could be more difficult than I initially thought due to the volume of detailed feedback from reps - although this is obviously a good thing!

I am also working closely with the Pharmacy Society as a committee member to help put on both events and socials throughout the academic year and we have just had our first mental health first aid session secured, which is really exciting for our members and the school in general.

Finally, I am hoping to complete our academic rep line-up by filling current vacancies within the school, both in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Rep training will then be the next priority following on from this and I am looking forward to having a full team to work with over the upcoming year.