



UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN STUDENTS' UNION  
Vice President Academic Affairs Report

**BlackBoard**

As many of you will be aware, there has been a number of issues over the first months of term with our virtual learning environment, BlackBoard. I have been working closely with the University to ensure that the issues are resolved as quickly as possible and that alternative solutions for students have been in place in order for you to continue to learn! I felt it was important to keep students up to date on the status, providing statements regarding any progress made. I would like to thank each and every one of our students for being so patient with these issues and I am continuing to work with the University to ensure a similar situation does not occur!

**NUS Zones Conference.**

I attended the annual National Union of Students Zone Conference from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of October where I met with other student leaders to discuss issues in higher education. This involved some interesting conversations on the BME attainment gap, and the future of the TEF, of which The University of Lincoln Recently received gold standard in. I also had the chance to speak with Shakira Martin, our NUS President!

**The Postgraduate Welcome**

This year, the Students' Union worked in partnership with the University to hold "The Postgraduate Welcome" this was a series of events open to all postgraduate students. events included PhD in the pub, coffee mornings, drink receptions and a Postgraduate fayre. The events were well attended, with over 130 students across the events. Really positive feedback from the fair especially was received, with suggestions to invite final year undergraduate students to the fayre in order to get information on prospective postgraduate options!

**SUggestions**

I am currently working on two SUGesstions that have passed the 50 votes threshold. The first is getting a 4<sup>th</sup> floor printer in the west wing of AAD. This is due to a new school being placed in this space, meaning demands are high. I have contacted ICT in regards to this issue, who will raise it to the relevant staff members. With this, I have also requested a review of printer placement of AAD to ensure they are accessible for all students.

Reading Lists uploaded to blackboard a month in advance. Students who have asked for this so that reading material is readily available to those who wish to start early, and to be more inclusive of those who need extra time. I have contacted Karin Crawford, Head of the Lincoln Higher Education Research Institute and Claire Bell, Head of Equality Engagement and Development to arrange a meeting to discuss this going forward.

### **Course Rep Training and Rep Forum!**

This month we have delivered training sessions for over 250 course reps, giving them the tools and skills needed to represent your student views. Training has included some key skills workshops in order to absolutely equip reps. Alongside this, the first Rep Forum of the year had a great turnout, with some really good feedback. Our Snapchat filter in support of raising mental health awareness in students reached the UK Snapchat story!

### **CourseMate**

I am currently working on the release of "CourseMate". This is a course level version of SUGGESTIONS, that allows students to give ideas for improvements on their course, and reps will work on them! The system is currently being built, and a more information will follow!