

Volunteer Officer Report March 2019

Tilly – Willow Woodmin School of Design Rep

What has been worked on in the past month?

Following a very successful and highly attended Rep forum this month, I have managed to form a great rapport with a number of reps in the school of design. I have therefore had an increase in the number of issues and ideas being brought to me.

I spent an afternoon personally messaging a lot of the reps whom I had not spoken to since I was appointed and the general consensus was that their courses were going well with no problems, or very manageable problems which they were able to solve within their course. Some also had suggestions or issues which I was able to signpost them to suitable solutions. It was good to touch base with the reps in my school and will be something I would consider doing more often, as it is sometimes difficult for everyone to attend a physical meeting.

I have been working with the reps of two adjoined courses as well as Anne and the Course Lead to raise issues of contact hours and support they are receiving.

I am also looking into the spending in the school, specifically printing credit as this has been a fairly long-standing issue in several courses.

I met with Gyles Lingwood to get a better understanding of the hierarchy of staff within both the school and the college and I came away with the knowledge of the best people to talk to about certain issues, which means I will hopefully be able to get problems solved more quickly in the future.

Successes from the past month and any Reps Wins

A first year Graphics Rep suggested the implementation of a buddy system within her course, where a few second and third years can provide their email to a first year so that the right support is there from the beginning. She is currently speaking to her program leader about doing this. In addition, she was also considering starting a blog of 'Things I Wish I Knew in First Year' (or something along those lines). I hope to make this school-wide and maybe get a contributor or two from each course.

After speaking to Anne Chick, she agreed that more emphasis should be put on the student feedback section of the Subject Committee Meeting and there should be a space for an informal discussion, as the reps suggested at the Rep Forum, whether that be in the committee meeting or at another time.

I would say this has been the best month so far in terms of engagement between myself and the reps, giving me a lot of things to work on, and I have honestly loved every minute!

Plans for next month

I am planning to organise a Rep pre-meet for the subject committee meeting at the end of April, so that ample time can be allocated for issues that may not have been prioritised before.

I also plan to ask the reps in my school how they would like an informal conversation/discussion to be held and who they would like to be there. It was suggested, a meeting chaired by myself and Anne, involving as many reps as possible, before the end of this year, which is something I would like to implement.

Other than that, I just aim to keep on top of ongoing issues and staying in touch with the reps, as well as keeping on top of uni work. Its going to be a busy month.