



## Vice President Education Report August

### SUggestions – Plotter in AAD west 4<sup>th</sup> floor

An SUggestion was submitted to have a plotter installed on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of AAD West. Since my last report, I have met with received a quote from the printer supplier, and have forwarded this on to our ICT services. This will be discussed at the next print board meeting held on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Key Performance Indicators

Every year the Student Leaders produce Key Performance Indicators that reflect what they want to achieve across the year. I have posted mine below for you see! If you have any questions or want to know more, feel free to get in touch.

1. 150 Submissions to CourseMate
2. Commitment from the University for Institution-wide roll out of Lecture Recording in core modules in September by June 2019
3. 30% completion rate of representation review from all students
4. Institutional commitment to provide resources to support the aims of Academic Societies from September by June 2019
5. 90% of representatives feel supported by the VPE
6. 100% of subject-level TEF Pilot submissions for 2018/19 have student representative input

### Holbeach Visit!

This month I have been arranging a visit for our student that attend the Holbeach campus to visit Lincoln! This came off the back of feedback from our Work based distance learner students that they would like to spend time in Lincoln. The visits will take place on both the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September.

### Team Training

During August, the other Student Leaders and I have been attending team training sessions in order to make us as effective as possible at representing our members.

This training has included a day focussing on how we best support volunteers, and how we run effective campaigns for students.

## Lecture Recording Working Group

Since May I have been Co-Chairing the Lecture Recording Working Group, designed to increase the usage of Panopto, our lecture recording software. Since the last meeting, we have produced a timescale of actions, in order to achieve an effective rollout of lecture recording for September 2019. Alongside this, a video has been produced for staff and students, highlighting how Panopto can be used!

A small digital campaign has been planned for November around increasing the use of Panopto around campus, consisting of case studies from both staff and students!

## PG Survey

This year we released a postgraduate survey, aiming to understand the needs of our PG students/PG Reps and how the Students Union can further support them. The consisted of 14 questions; 5 of which require a quantitative response and 9 a qualitative response. Questions are either open to all students, or restricted to either Postgraduate Research (PGR) or Postgraduate Taught (PGT) students. 6 questions are open to all students, 6 are asked exclusively to PGR students, and 2 are asked exclusively to PGT students.

Below are a number of recommendations and conclusions based on the most common responses from the survey

- In terms of increasing communication, the most popular response given was to create an online platform for students to contact Reps and other students to voice opinions and ask questions
- Respondents also highlighted the need for increased sharing of who the Postgraduate Reps are, and guidance on their role so that students know what they can contact them for. The most popular suggestions include:
  - Newsletters/updates via email with news from Reps as to what they are working on and if they need feedback on anything, updates from the School from Staff
  - Monthly/quarterly scheduled face-to-face meetings/drop-in sessions which are in timetables
  - Reps/lecturers could schedule meetings at the end of lectures or other timetabled sessions where students could give feedback, talk to Reps, and at the beginning of the year could be used to introduce Reps
- The most common responses surrounding issues that PGR students who teach are facing were related to Human Resources, such as contacts/payment being late and a lack of guidance surrounding these processes
- The most mentioned positive elements of the Postgraduate experience were:
  - Making friends/contacts and meeting new people
  - The level of support and accessibility of staff

- The content of courses and modules
- High quality teaching
- The most common suggestions for improving the Postgraduate experience were:
  - Making more of a community for Postgraduates to make them feel included; social events and participation in activities
  - More quiet facilities for Postgraduates to study as the library is often too busy and the Common Room isn't always convenient
  - More guidance with assessments, feedback and finance
  - Timetabling considerations for commuting students or those with children
- The most prevalent welfare concern for Postgraduate students in this sample is finance. For students who are Academic Reps, the next most significant concern is mental health, whereas for those who are not Reps this is work commitments
- Around three quarters of PGR students in this sample are happy with the progress they have made with their research and a similar level feel supported by their School in terms of guidance and resources. This differs between students who are Reps and those who are not; with 80% of Non-Reps stating that they are happy with the resources compared to 50% of students who are Academic Reps

An action plan will also be produced, outlining how the SU will go about supporting these recommendations.

### **PG Forum:**

This month saw the final Postgraduate Rep forum of 2017/18! A number of issues were discussed surrounding Communication, and it was fed back that all PG students would now receive a welcome pack from the Students' Union and the University.

The Training that is provided to Reps was also reviewed for next, allowing our Reps to work more effectively. A huge thank you to all of our Reps this year, who have worked fantastically to raise the profile and voice of students!

### **Student Engagement Meetings Summer catch up**

Each summer the VP Education meetings with Student Engagement Champions from every school in order to discuss representation, and sharing support. This includes how many Reps required, elections and any new plans taking place in any schools. So far I have met with 23/24!

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Vice President Education