

Volunteer Officer Report November 2018

Rhys Davies – School of Social and Political Science Rep

What has been worked on in the past month?

- Worked together with course reps to gather and provide feedback for the Subject Level TEF. All course reps went away and spoke to students and gathered some superb feedback which was really impressive with the small turn around we had to complete it all so very well done to all SocPol reps who helped. The report was then submitted to the VPE.
- One of my key aims this year is to increase the sense of community within the SocPol School. Just after the Rep Forum last month, I have worked with several course reps to create the Social and Political Sciences Academic Society, which will provide academic assistance, employability skills and more to the students in our School, and hopefully create the bridge between different courses and improve School integration.
- The first Subject Committee Meeting of the year was held on the 14th, and some really insightful feedback was received from this. This included staff and students working together in groups to work towards improving the online social media presence of the School, improving the 'Getting Started' section of Blackboard for first years joining the School and finding solutions to third-year students requesting more support concerning assessments and their dissertations. Good feedback was given from all who attended who liked the new structure and style of the meeting, which means that we're on the right path!
- Met with the College Student Experience and Engagement Intern to discuss a new award system that is being piloted from January in the College to increase employability through tasks, much like the Lincoln Award but focusing on the international side of University, with objectives such as attending a language course or spending time abroad.

Successes from the past month and any Reps Wins

Some elections have been held throughout the school to gain reps in years and courses that we previously had no representation from which is great. The School now has 25 Course Reps including Post-Grad which is an amazing turnout, up a lot from the 3 that we had at the beginning of the year! We are still waiting to train some of them, but a large amount have passed all training.

Worked with Reps to sort issues that included but not limited to increased interaction from staff concerning staff absences, lecture and seminar slides being uploaded quicker and support being provided for third years concerning their dissertations.

Plans for next month

Meeting a Senior Lecturer to action on the feedback received at the Subject Committee Meeting on the 'Getting Started' Blackboard page and how we can implement this. The meet and greet for the new academic society is tonight (22nd November) with a quiz set for the 6th December. Hoping that both go really well and are well attended by students.

Planning a course rep social / meal out so that everybody can get to know each other better.