Vice President Education Report
December

Module Evaluations!
In December I helped to facilitate and promote Module Evaluations!
Module evaluations are a chance to give feedback on your learning experience on different modules and improve the modules for next time! There were 5 x £100 and 10 x £50 prizes to be won. In total we had over 25% of the student population complete their evaluations! I will now be working with the University to use the information provided to improve your courses!

The Long First Year
This month I attended the Long First Year workshop. This was a collection of staff and representatives across the Student Body to discuss the experience of students coming in to university at level one. Some of the major topics discussed were the delivery of information across one week and creating a yearlong calendar to show when new information will be released. It was highlighted that there was a need for more inclusive social opportunities across the year to allow students the chance to meet new people at different points.

Rep Forum
In December we held the 2nd Rep Forum of the year, where we discussed a number of topics including NUS, SU finances, a guest talk from Deputy Vice Chancellor Toby Wilkinson and held a workshop on designing the perfect assessment. Over 140 student representatives attended. The feedback is included below!

Designing the perfect assessment
Design:
- Allow students to choose type of assessment so their knowledge can be tested based on their strengths i.e. 'A goldfish is assessment by its ability to climb a tree, it will live all its life thinking its' stupid'.
- 40% knowledge 60% application
- Focus on application of knowledge

- Exams to be more application – based rather than just knowledge recollection as it prevents just remembering information for the exam and then forgetting
- Tests of knowledge may not always be relevant to certain students e.g. students who want to pursue kids book illustration may not need to be tested on knowledge of surrealism

Weighting:
- Better communication between Programme and Module Leaders
- Individually assessed for group presentations and less weighting for group assessments
- Weighting needs to be standardised and appropriate workload based upon module complexity and difficulty e.g. 3000 word essay for 15 credits can be taxing
- More of an equal weighting to assessments, so every student has the chance to thrive
- Appropriate assessment style based on the nature of the module, rather than making them all identical
- The weighting should be accounted to the work the students put in e.g. if there is a 3000 word essay and an exam, the essay should have no less than 30% of total mark

Delivery:
- Contact time and available support from lecturers prior to assessments e.g. personal drop – in sessions and pre – assessment lectures to explain the brief
- Requests for full timetable/ calendar of assessments at the beginning of the year

Feedback:
- Prefer personalised 1-2-1 feedback that is face to face
- Personal tutors to offer progress meetings and check and give guidance on assignments pre – submission
- Request for paper feedback – pick up, chance to reflect, then speak to tutor face to face
- Feedback needs to be detailed and informative – highlighting what went wrong and how to improve
- Use Rubric consistently!

School Action Day: Computer Science
In December, the first School Action Day of the year was held in the Engine Shed for the School of Computer Science! Over 90 students and staff attended the event, where different topics were discussed for the school including getting industry ready, supporting the learning community, team and group working, extracurricular activities and the Students' Union.

Tommy George
Vice President Education