

Volunteer Officer Report October 2018

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What has been worked on in the past month?

I have been helping Christie and Liz with elections over the last couple of months with going into lectures/seminars/workshops and talking to students about the course rep vacancies within the school of history and heritage. I think this has been helpful from both an SU and a student perspective because it has allowed students to ask questions relating to the position's commitments and specific school events etc, but also to provide support to the SU representative for any course/school specific queries e.g. in an elections for the diploma level conservation students who fall into the post graduate bracket one student wanted to know if subject committees were separate across the levels or if all levels are invited to them and i were able to explain the how a subject committee works briefly and settle any questions about them at that time.

Making sure course reps feel stable in their positions and that in the unfortunate circumstance where students have to step back from their positions due to other commitments that they feel supported and have been given all the options and information they need.

Working out any issues/problems/concerns course reps have had about their role or jobs, for example rep forum is the most well known course rep event to attend however it is not the only one open to their position. It has been my project (and still is) to keep students in the loop about extra meetings where i can, which is as simple as setting reminders about events e.g. programme leader lunch and subject committees. Obviously i am not perfect and this is more of a work in progress, but with the help of the other course reps (special mention to Michelle who is basically a calendar fairy) we are working together to get the best attendance at all of these events.

Successes from the past month and any Reps Wins

I attended three subject committee meetings this month and had a really good turnout of course reps for History's committee as well as Conservations. We were able to establish some of the main points we wanted to work on

I have provided the student feedback portion of the TEF submission to the team of academics working on my school's submission. Not only was this a useful experience to help out the school/uni, but this also provided useful from a rep perspective as it enabled me to see any improvements on student engagement within the course and involvement within the uni that i can help with.

The History and Heritage Ball is officially live! Myself and the History Society have been working on putting together a ball for students within the school (others welcome too) since summer and have finalised a date and we are now in the process of booking the entertainment, food, decorations and all of the other party things we needs. This is a much anticipated event and we have already had an overwhelming amount of interest in the

event which is delightful! We aim for this event to be not only open for students within the school of History and Heritage, but also to the academics within the school too, which they have already begun to show an interest in too.

Plans for next month

Work on standardising the feedback/marking system. I am contacting our student engagement champion in hopes that we can work on implementing a more consistent and useful marking/feedback process. One of the biggest points raised, by third year history students especially, is that the marking rubric is not used by a majority of the academics so for students achieving the upper 2:1 and 1:1 they are not really able to improve because of a lack of constructive criticism. My aim is to find out why it is not being used and try to come up with a solution to either push for the use of the marking rubric more widely or find another more effective manner of providing feedback and marks that everyone is happy with.

Continue working on the plans for the history ball alongside the history society. We have been able to bring the plans on so far, and between having the date confirmed and booked and the tickets going live we are doing great, now is just to keep spreading the event and book more entertainment and work on making it a great event.

Meet with my course reps in person to plan what extra steps we can be taking to ensure that we are doing our role effectively and efficiently.