



## **University of Lincoln Students' Union Volunteer Officer Report**

**26/01/2018**

### **Bradley Allsop- Postgraduate Research Officer**

What has been worked on in the past month:

- Over Christmas I set out my plan for the next term detailing my priorities and steps towards completion.
- I met with Tommy, Vice President Academic Affairs (VPAA) to discuss the plan above and talk through practicalities of implementing some of it. This includes...
  - Setting a time for my drop-in sessions, where PGR students can come and chat to me about any issues they face or ideas they have, and arranged for their to be a graphic and promo from the SU. These sessions will be 12-2pm, every Tuesday (starting Jan 30<sup>th</sup>) in the PG Common Room.
  - Making sure we have reps at all the upcoming PG conferences (info to come soon).
  - Discussing ways to engage PG students in developing an online community- I've posted in the PG Rep facebook group and emailed my reps to ask them their thoughts on an online community and to speak to pg students to hear their views ahead of a discussion on it in PG Rep Forum.
- I have also been speaking to a couple of PG students about the provisions at a Union and university level for distance learners. I've been raising the issues such as online workshop provisions with the SU and will continue to push for campus life to be more inclusive for distance learners- watch this space!

- I have also arranged a meeting between reps from UCU (the union that represents academic staff on campus) and the SU- this will be taking place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Feb- I'll update in my next report.
- I attended the latest Digital Education Sub committee meeting where I raised the issue of associate lecturers not always having access to computers/laptops/office space and the need for digital training available online to be communicated to associate lecturers too. I also engaged in a discussion about an app for all campus life, arguing in favour of it along with the VPAA.
- I have now been coopted onto the committee of UCU as the Postgraduate Research Representative and attended the latest committee meeting, continuing to push for closer collaboration with the SU and for more action on PGR employment conditions.

#### Successes from the past month:

- Developed a plan for the term ahead and began to implement it.
- Secured a meeting between UCU and the SU.
- Established my weekly drop ins

#### Plans for next month:

- Attend and (with SU staff and other officers) run the next PG Rep Forum.
- Plan, advertise and run a successful PhD in the pub session
- Attend the UCU/SU meeting and ensure a strong foundation for future meetings is established.
- Begin to run my weekly drop-in sessions and advertise these to the student body, along with pushing out the PG Common Room promo.
- Continue to develop the Union's stance on PGR employment rights and engage the university in addressing these problems.
- Attend the PG conference in Nottingham with other PG Officers and produce a report for the PG community back in Lincoln on what we learnt.