

**EDUCATION COUNCIL**

07/11/2017 // MINUTES

Time: 6pm

Venue: SU MAIN HALL

* **Welcome and introductions**

*VPEd welcomes all attendees to Education Council and introduces permanent staff team and Sabbatical Officers present. VPEd explained the context of the Education Council, in reference to its position within the SU democratic structures, and introduces the themes for the year.*

* **Officers report**

**a. Academic Representation Review**

*VPEd explained the rationale behind the review and noted that the consultant would be using the second half of Education Council to gather the views of those present on the current rep system.*

**b. Course Rep Update**

*VPEd updated students on the progress of the course rep system, noting that a majority of course reps have now been trained and that Staff-Student Committee meetings have begun taking place across campus.*

**Question:** A rep had not received any communications about training and was asking how this would be made available. ARC investigated and found that the record of representatives from the department for the level in question had not been received. ARC has since received a response and is contacting the students.

**c. Stressbusters**

*VPEd explained that he was working on provision for January stressbusters currently and that more details of events would be available soon.*

**d. Assessment and Feedback Improvements**

*VPEd reported that he had taken a paper, written after feedback from the 2017 Student Voice Conference, to several college committees and a working group had been created to create a common layout for feedback across college. The aim of this is to make sure that all students receive equal opportunities for feedback.*

**e. Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaign**

*VPEd reported that his priority campaign was to lobby the College to reduce the amount of money it invests in companies who make money from fossil fuel production. This is an ongoing campaign and he will report back as soon as possible.*

* **Items for discussions**

**a. Library Space**

*The room was asked to write positive and negative comments about the library on post-it notes and stick them onto A0 size posters of the new building layout. Representatives from the library were present to answer any student concerns. There was some debate about the lack of postgraduate taught student space within the new building now that the swipe card system is in place for the PGR spaces. The library will be meeting with some PGT students to discuss the provision of a space for PGT students.*

**b. Department/Faculty spaces**

*The room was asked to comment on the buildings, rooms and facilities they use throughout their education provision using campus maps. There was clear indication that not all the rooms being used for teaching are suitable for use. VPEd to investigate.*

* **Motions**

*None received.*

* **Elections**

*Elections took place for 1st Year Open Place, 2nd Year Open Place and Postgraduate Taught Open Place. The results were as follows. Students can request a full voting record by email Voice@su.rhul.ac.uk.*

1st Year Open Place: **Alexandra Upton**

2nd Year Open Place: **Kate Roberts**

Postgraduate Taught Representative: **Danielle Cavender**

*There were no candidates for Final Year Open Place and Postgraduate Research Open Place and these will be available for election at the next Council meeting.*

* **Academic Representation Review**

*VPEd introduced Graham Atkinson, the consultant conducting the review of academic representation at Royal Holloway. After a short presentation detailing the background to the review and the process moving forward, the room was split into six groups and took place in a World Café discussing the following three questions:*

*- Why is academic representation important?*

*- What’s academic representation like now?*

*- What should academic representation look like in the future?*

*Full results will be made available via a report written by Graham which is due in February 2018. Any updates will be made available to students as they are received.*

* **Any other business**

**a.** *For any postgraduate taught students wanting to continue discussions about provision for a central study space, please email* [*Voice@su.rhul.ac.uk*](mailto:Voice@su.rhul.ac.uk) *to be added to a pool of students currently involved in beginning these discussions.*

**b. Question:** when would the recommendations of the academic representation review report be put into place? *VPEd confirmed that any small fixes will be addressed soon after the report is received, and that the report will be taken to college committees between March and April before going to Academic Board in May with the aim of updating the Staff Student Committee constitution; this approval will legitimise and enable significant change to the running of the Course Rep system in the next academic year.*