**EDUCATION COUNCIL (COURSE REP CONFERENCE 2018)**

24 January 2018 // MINUTES

Time: 1pm-5pm

Venue: Windsor Building



* **Welcome and introductions**
	1. *VPEd welcomed attendees to Conference*
* **Officer report**
	1. *VPEd highlighted the following achievements after the previous year’s event:*

*- The principles of feedback, as discussed in a workshop, have now been codified into a document that is being sent to Academic Board for approval*

*- VPEd and the Academic Quality and Policy Office (AQPO) have worked to clarify the marked work policy, including clearer guidance on when feedback is due after hand-in*

*- A discussion about the spacing of assessments and return of feedback has led to a wider consultation on the academic year, led by Prof. Katie Normington, Senior Vice Principal (Academic).*

* 1. *VPEd spoke briefly about the Academic Representation Review and explained that the report would frame the discussions of the latter half of the event.*
* **Items for discussions**

There were two workshops for attendees to choose from. The discussions were as follows:

* 1. *Academic Strategy with Prof. Katie Normington*

*Attendees were asked to critically analyse, in groups, one of five new principles being developed by Prof. Normington to guide RHUL’s academic development over the next three years. The conversations and feedback from this session will guide Prof. Normington in developing the strategy further before implementation.*

* 1. *TESTA: Transforming the Experience of Students Through Assessment*

*This short lecture, given by Dr Mary Richards (Brunel), introduced a new way of using assessment throughout a degree programme. TESTA is based on the assumptions that assessment drives what students pay attention to, and define the curriculum, feedback is significant and that the degree programme is central to establishing the course, not the other way around.*

Following the workshops, after a short break, the keynote speech was delivered by VPEd and Graham Atkinson, Director of Atkinson HR Consulting, providing an overview of the Academic Representation Review and the resulting report. The attendees were then split into two groups to discuss elements of the report and provide feedback for RHSU to factor into the implementation of the review. Following this, VPEd sat down with Amatey Doku, VP (Higher Education) at NUS, to discuss the importance of representation and the ways in which students can affect change at both a local and national level. The final element of the event, a plenary discussion panel, debated the role of students within a university setting. VPEd was joined by Amatey Doku, Natasha Barrett (President, RHSU) and Paul Layzell (Principal, RHUL).

* **Motions**
	1. *None received*
* **Any other business**
	1. *None*