**EDUCATION COUNCIL**

14 May 2019 // MINUTES

Time: 18:00

Venue: Medicine

**Present:**

Jack O’Neil, VP Education (Chair)  
Kate Roberts, Sciences Faculty Rep  
Maciej Pawlik, Course Rep  
Kevin Kronhardt, Course Rep  
Daniel Gurner, Course Rep  
Jenisha Mac Dev, Course Rep  
Bethany Tonkin, Course Rep  
Neha Bhayani, Course Rep  
Niamh Smith, Course Rep  
Robert Cynarski, Course Rep  
Ned Matyjaszek, Course Rep  
Stephen Holmes  
Phill Dowler, Democracy Coordinator (Secretary)

**Renee apologies**

* **Welcome and introductions**
  1. JO’N welcomed those present
  2. Apologies received from Clem Jones (President)
* **Officers Report (Jack O’Neil)**As this is the last Education Council of the year, a year in reflection report was delivered rather than an update.
  1. Study Spaces
     1. There has been improvements in the capacity of the study spaces on campus.
     2. Began the conversation of utilising spaces other than the EWD library as study spaces.
     3. Worked with College to reopen the Founder’s Reading Room adding 96 study spaces and restoring the historic feel of the room. Additionally, the Herringham Room was opened opposite later in the year, a designated space for PGR students and staff.
     4. Additional seating has been added in EWD as well as more computer spaces in the Computer Centre.
     5. The library@ scheme has also been publicised to help promote other spaces on campus
  2. Academic Representation
     1. Worked on the implementation of the academic representation review with changes implemented a year ahead of schedule.
     2. Rep impacts have risen to over 100 which is a huge achievement for reps as it’s built on the less than 20 we received last year.
     3. We’ve seen academic reps involved in Periodic Department Reviews, and are looking to involve them in annual reviews. This has come from the College really recognising the importance of reps.
  3. Student Voice
     1. To incorporate more students in College recruitment. While progress has been slow, Officers have been involved in some key appointments this year.
     2. This summer, some departments are appointing new heads of departments and student representatives will have the opportunity to be on the interview panels.
  4. Assessments
     1. There’s been lots of great pockets of work across the College.
     2. Formed a new strategy that not only prioritises the expansion of innovative assessment but also places a commitment on digital submission of assessment.
     3. Next year academic reps will be key to work with the new VP Education to ensure this is implemented.
     4. RC states that some modules are submitted anonymous, some aren’t, the way we submit is different for each module, and asks how would this tie into that?
     5. JO’N responds that this should standardise the ways students submit their modules.
  5. Academic Societies
     1. Work has been stalled slightly as it fed into the Democracy Review.
     2. Worked with VP Societies & Media (Holly Hughes) to develop a minimum standards framework which is ready for consultation and will go into motion next academic year.
  6. Lecture Capture
     1. While this wasn’t part of the original manifesto, it gained tremendous momentum following the Academic Rep Conference.
     2. The issue was raised at Academic Board where there were lots of discussions and disagreements.
     3. Representing students views on this has resulted in a task and finish group where they will be auditing the quality of lecture capture and setting targets for use.
  7. No further questions on the Officer Report submitted.
* **Items for discussions**
  1. Academic Representation: A Year On

1. JO’N summarised the earlier update on Academic Representation and asked those present to write down any activities that went well and areas that could be improved.
   1. Library Matters
2. JO’N explained that problems relating to external users in the library which had been flagged with the library. They monitored the situation and as it was clear what the problems were, the Library made contact with local institutions to explain the situation which has led to a decrease in issues. Although there are some issues still. They’re now changing internal policy.
3. JO’N added that the Library will be looking to use the barrier activation with swipe card access. Further investigation into how will it work to take place. They will also be taking this opportunity to review the visitor card policy.
4. JO’N explained that there is a new Director of Library services starting so the Library can’t commit to a lot until they’ve started and set the direction that the Library will move to. JO’N encourages people to share how they feel students would like to feed into the library on chart paper provided.
5. NS questions why the library hasn’t attended Staff Student Committee meetings when they’re meant to attend.
6. JO’N will follow up on this.
7. RC added that the smoking barrier which people are ignoring, can this be improved.
8. JO’N agreed that things have gotten worse, they’ve mapped out the no smoking area although it’s being ignored.
9. BT stated that the entrance areas always smells.
10. NS added that the doors so often are broken
11. DG commented on an earlier discussion that staff also smoke within the marked areas.
12. JO’N encourages everyone to note down their thoughts around the library on a feedback sheet.

* **Any other business**
  1. Democracy Review
     1. JO’N provided an overview of the Democracy Review and encouraged members to vote in the referendum which will close at 4PM on Wednesday 15th May.
     2. DG asks whether the merging of the Vice President roles will happen now or in two years.
     3. JO’N explains that the Union will move into a transition year where some activities will be implemented sooner while the role merge won’t take effect until the 2020 elections.
* **Close of meeting and thanks to all for attending.**