

Education Zone meeting, 27th October 2011 at 1pm

Meeting Room 6

1. Present:

Maria Leonard (Chair Part-time Students), Jacob Samoraj (Chair Postgraduate Students), Alexander Paradise (Faculty Co-ordinator, FOS), Glen Burgon (Faculty Co-ordinator, HUBS), George (International Student Rep), Lauren Fincham (Councillor of Scrutiny), Richard Brooks (Councillor of Scrutiny), Matthew Fensome (Faculty Co-ordinator, FASS).

Sophie Reid (Minute taker).

2. Apologies:

Sinead McKiernan (Faculty Co-ordinator, HYMS).

3. Election of Chair:

Lauren Fincham nominated herself for Chair Education Zone. Elected with no objections.

4. Reports:

Report by VP Education

Library:

- Really good progress with library campaign.
- Part of Planning and Development Working Group.
- University have committed to £20 million on the redevelopment of the library. Want to get as many students involved as possible.
- Around the 10th November, everyone will be invited to come to a meeting with the architects. Will be really good to get the voice of students there and what you think the library should look like.
- Visiting Sheffield, York and a couple of other Universities to see their library facilities.
- Meeting the VP Education in Salford on Friday.
- The University have spent £100,000 over the summer on making improvement to the library. This includes more PC's, more laptop points and a better cafe. Also created a social learning space and are working on a Code of Behaviour, for acceptable behaviour in the library.
- Feedback of improvements have been positive

Feedback

- Changed University Policy to make feedback better for students.

- It now states that it has to be within 4 weeks and be clearly written and legible. It must focus on the learning outcomes and further guidance will be made available on request.

Course Representatives:

- There are currently around 370 course reps, which is fantastic and this is more than this time last year.
- A lot of departments yet to declare their reps, but hopefully we can get them as soon as possible.
- Have trained more than 270 so far in a week and have been running sessions at the weekend, in Hull and Scarborough.
- Beaten number trained in a whole year, last year, in just a week.
- Going to run other optional sessions throughout the year.
- Feedback has been really positive.

Access, Support & Retention:

- Important campaign, concerned with widening participation,
- The University has had issues with retaining students, with a lot of leavers.
- Trying to find out why this is, whether it may be financial, academic or any other issues. Doing as much research as possible.
- All Universities have access agreements and we can make significant changes.
- Need as much evidence as possible and aim to write a report on recommendations.

Student Conference:

- Confirmed for the 8th February 2012.
- Confirmed guests: Alan Johnson, David Davis, Vice-Chancellor, Glenn Burgess, Craig Mahoney, Liam Burns and the QAA Chief Executive.
- Focus will be on the future of UoH and impact.
- There will be workshops and one will be run by the Education Zone, so need to think about ideas for this.

Student Led Teaching Awards:

- £3000 from the University towards this.
- Also approaching NUS and other places to get funding.

Question asked by Lauren Fincham about why there were no women on the panel for the Student Conference, and what can be done. VPE is trying to get the Women's Officer from

the NUS. Might not have her on the panel. Alternatively, will get a woman to Chair the Panel.

Meeting closed 1.45pm.