

Education Zone meeting **1.00pm, 29th October 2010, University House**

1) ATTENDANCE

1. Apologies.
No Official apologies given

2. Register.
Matthew Barrow (VP Education)
Victoria Winterton (Councillor of Scrutiny)
Tanya Cohen (Chair postgraduate)
Matthew Smith (Councillor of Scrutiny)

Sophie Reid (Democracy Coordinator)

2) MINUTES

1. Minutes of the previous meeting. None on record
2. Matters arising. None
3. Previous points to action – results. None

3) REPORTS

1. Report by VP Education.

As of today we have 391 Course Reps which is fantastic, as last year they had 401 already so we are well on track on smashing that record. Training for Course reps has been taking place all week. 180 people signed up for that already, although not all of these showed up we still have a good number trained now. More training will be given in about two week to catch those who didn't make it this week. Also running a refresher training course for course reps from last year just to keep them up to date and that is all going really well.

We have wristbands ordered for the Course Reps and are in the process of getting hoodies organised. The company that do the AU kits have agreed to do that and the University seem happy enough to let that happen. They cost £14 each but we are thinking about charging £20 as the Education Zone budget is small and we could do with the extra funds.

We will be electing Faculty Reps at the first Academic Council and that is o.k as the Standing Orders says that can happen. We have Senate reps except for Postgraduate but they have no interest in having any so it would be pointless to push it any further. We've contacted them several times and haven't had anyone come forward interested.

Education Zone is now pretty much fully elected although pity that not everyone has turned up at this present meeting. We need two more to sit on Education Zone to be quorate.

Currently arranging more publicity on Course Reps, so the plan is to get pictures done with course reps holding up their arm that says "I'm a course rep". Pretty cheesy but should be affective. Planning on e-mailing out departments with contacts of course reps. We were going to do pictures but the admin on it would be ridiculous so we'll leave that part out.

Have a library campaign going and as part of that I went to visit Sheffield University library last week and took some footage. Going to visit Warwick sometime in the near future after reports that they have a very good library so hopefully get some good ideas.

Ran the Ideas cafe this week, which went really well. It was outside the union building and basically had questions about the University on big pieces of paper and students were asked to write down their ideas and then if they answered two then they got two tokens to get some candyfloss, popcorn or toffee apples. This is really useful research for the Union.

Also working on Collaborative Vision Audit, which the University have asked the Union to get involved in. They have asked the Student Written Submission, which Lee Fallin (Education & Representation coordinator) is hopefully finishing today.

Working with Learning Teaching Support Unit (LTSU), with Shirley Bennet. Developing a virtual University for students before they actually go to University so that they can get a good idea of how University life will be and ask questions. She has mentioned a possible conference in Berlin, which I have been invited to and there could be possibility that the Education Zone could go. Also sitting on a number of working groups; One being to make the teaching system a lot more flexible so that there are a lot more options for students regarding when they will be in lectures.

Question from Matthew Smith- We've had this discussed before about a more flexible system and basically there is a huge obstacle with timetable clashes. VP responded by saying that obviously it's an ongoing thing that they will have to think about very carefully and look into a system that ensures no timetable clashes.

Currently writing new code of practices as the current ones are out-of-date. So working with the quality office to get the Representation one and the Assessment Feedback one up to scratch. University also looking at setting up focus groups.

At the minute, we're busy with organising HUU in the City and the National Demo in London. Currently organising coaches and are hoping to sell about 300 tickets for the Demo.

Academic Council is on Monday and I'm also going to a conference in Manchester, which Aaron Porter (NUS) will be at and the University is paying for that, which is good.

Questions.

-How much are the course reps wristbands going to cost? VP responded by saying that 450 wristbands costs £240, which is a really good price considering the price of flyers.

-Is the Learning Teaching Student Unit (LTSU) project done by the University? VP responded by saying that the University has asked him to do some research but it's still at the early stages of development.

-Regarding LTSU: Would it not be a conflict of interest to get perspective students to ask questions about the University, when the answers will be biased towards the Uni. VP responded by saying that the questions will probably be more practical, such as 'What are the library opening times?'

Matthew Smith then continued to explain that they've missed the trick by creating a virtual world because people like asking things on Facebook and stuff like that because it involved human interaction. VP responded by saying that the University probably couldn't keep up with it.

-Question: What Kind of ideas did you get from Sheffield? VP said he was most impressed with the electronic system that allows students to see what how many computers are free on each floor, you can book computers and study rooms online, campus map of computers and generally there is a lot more computers.

-Questions: Does the campaign include getting more computers and more places to plug in laptops? VP responded by saying that the library is an old building that would have difficulty in the amount of power it would have to generate. Also explained that he has been in regular contact with the head librarian regarding a more ambitious, big redevelopment of the library which just doesn't concentrate on computer issues but also other problems such as not having enough books.

2. Report by Chair Part-time Students Committee.
Questions.

Not present.

3. Report by Chair Mature Students Committee.
Questions.

Not present

4. Report by Chair Post Graduate Students Committee.

Didn't have much to say because it is the first meeting. Has been on Facebook introducing herself and has put up a picture and description in the Postgraduate Centre. Had brought up the issue of not having a top-up service in the Postgraduate centre for the printers but this has since been agreed, although not yet enforced. VP said that he would forward her the details of the secretary so she could chase it up.

5. Report by Academic Council representatives.

Not present

6. Report by Scrutiny Councillors.

Nothing to bring up.

7. Report by ISA Representative

Not present.

4) PROPOSALS

Any proposals for action. None

5) MOTIONS

1. Motions of caution/ censure/ no confidence. None

2. Questions to trustees. None

3. Questions for Council. None

6) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Any Other Business

A Chair needed to be elected but the meeting was not quorate so this will be held until the next zone meeting.

Question: What do we have to do for the Academic Council? VP responded by saying that everyone is expected to attend but are not expected to give a report unless they wanted to.

Closed 13.39