



QUEEN'S STUDENTS' UNION

EDUCATION OFFICER REPORT

Jason Bunting



Contact at: su.education@qub.ac.uk / 028 9097 3724 January- February 2020

Outline

A chairde,

January and February were an extremely productive time for each of our educational priorities. We have made a lot of progress over these last two months due to the hard work and commitment of our student reps and colleagues in the Students' Union and University.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for me to be re-elected at the end of February. I will work every day to ensure you can be proud of your vote. I would like to also thank Sultan Abbas, for running a clean, dedicated and thoughtful campaign. Sultan once again proved a credit to himself and I know he will go on to achieve incredible things through his maturity and commitment to service.

Congratulations as well to the five incredible women who I know will make a formidable Officer team. Grian, Katie, Róisín, Tasha and Chloe, you are all ridiculously impressive and passionate people and I am really looking forward to working with you all.

Read on to find out more about what happened in January and February!

Key Priorities:

- Academic Rep Review
- Feedback Team
- Review of Academic Year Calendar
- The Partnership Project
- National Education Service

Academic Rep Review

In January, we finished consultation for the Academic Rep Review and we produced a first draft of the Code of Practice.

NUS best practice establishes that all Unions and Universities should have a code of practice which clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of each partner. The Student Academic Representation Code of Practice will go to all relevant stakeholders for consultation.

We also held individual meetings with all the School Reps to gather information on how the recommendations of the Academic Rep Review could be tailored to each area.

We also brought the Academic Rep Review to the February meeting of Academic Board and discussed the findings with relevant partners.

The Academic Representation Assistant and I also held three weekly Course Rep Forums based by Faculty to consult students on upcoming changes, including the impact of strikes and assignment feedback.

Finally, we also developed a number of resources including template SSCC agendas, minutes and handover and induction forms.

Feedback Team

These two months were productive ones for our team of student partnership interns, who have each established a project in a Faculty.

Sarah: Sarah has drafted a template of a School Feedback Policy and Feedback Contract. We are also developing the skeleton of a Feedback Toolkit which all students and staff will be able to use. Sarah is also planning on conducting focus groups and live Mentimeter workshops with Schools over the coming weeks.

Katie: Katie is working with our student reps in MAE to look at open book examinations and consider their utility. She is planning on conducting student engagement and student focus groups in the coming weeks.

Angela: Angela is leading on the equality and diversity perspective as it relates to assessment practices, planning on conducting interviews with under-represented groups. Angela is also working to ensure the needs of Postgraduate students are met as well through a survey. Angela has also completed the first in a series of Student Partnership Podcast episodes, interviewing John Topping from SSESW on video feedback. We hope to make this available to you all. Angela has also started a project on SSCCs to ensure students are consulted on assessment and feedback practices.

We also were extremely lucky to be able to recruit a fourth Student Partnership Intern, Úna who will lead on developing assessment and feedback training.

Review of Impact of Academic Year

After securing agreement to re-design the academic year calendar, this semester saw the work begin in earnest to address the issues of bunched deadlines and poor assessment practices.

I held ten focus groups to consult on a new proposed model for the academic year. Thank you to all those who attended the focus groups.

The University also set up Faculty working groups, which I am a member of and have been busy contributing to the University's efforts in this regard.

The academic year calendar has also been discussed at a number of forums. It is hoped that we will see some valuable changes come into force this year.

The Partnership Project

Student partnership is about students having an equal voice in education. In 2016, the Education Officer Oisín Hassan and the University agreed to draw up a Student Partnership Framework and my predecessor conducted the process to draft the Student Partnership Framework and agreed it with the University, then began the Queen's Partnership Project, to

implement a number of projects which would mean that students have a true voice in the quality of their academic provision.

Last semester, we received project plans from Schools interested in continuing School Partnership Projects. In January, we began to re-assess the Partnership Project and consider whether it is the most useful means through which to embed a culture of student-staff partnership.

Several meetings were held between DASA, the Student Voice Policy Engagement Manager and I to assess whether the Partnership Project has been successful in reaching its goals so far.

We want to ensure that any student-staff partnership in Queen's is deep and meaningful and that it is based on a strong institutional commitment from both partners. It is not enough to have a partnership which is only surface-level. Partnership is a culture, an ethos and a practice which challenges the traditional structural power roles in higher education. As such it is really important to make sure that the Students' Union not only plays a leading role in this project but also ensures that our student-staff partnership in Queen's delivers for students in a true and meaningful way.

Over the next few months, we will ensure that any framework or project which is decided, meets the needs and expectations of both the University and the Students' Union.

National Education Service:

In February, we were delighted to host the first ever Your Education Matters Forum in Ireland with the National Union of Students' Vice President for Higher Education Claire Sosienski-Smith and NUS-USI President Robert Murtagh.

As we face another round of strikes in March, it is clearer than ever before that our education system is broken for both students and staff.

To fix that system, we need a

National Education Service to guarantee

that education is free, lifelong, accessible and fully-funded. At this event, we were able to

share our experience of education and talk about what we want to see from NUS. I want to

be doing more of these forums throughout the coming year by linking up with the next Officer team in NUS to ensure that the National Education Service is tailored to the idiosyncrasies of all nations.

I am really grateful to Claire and Robert for coming over and thank you to all those who came to the event!

Other Issues:

- Continue to work closely with student reps to support the development of projects in their area



- Continue to work closely with CED on Universal Design for Learning
- The Student Activities Officer and I met with NICRAS to discuss how we can advance the rights of asylum seekers in education.

The first two months of 2020 have been two extremely busy months and I am grateful for the ongoing support of colleagues in the Student Voice Team and across the SU and University.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with me on any issues at su.education@gub.ac.uk

Go raibh maith agaibh,

Jason

Annual Leave taken to run for re-election.

Meetings attended

Meeting	Dates
Semester Review and Planning Forward	2 Jan
EECS School Rep: ARR	3 Jan
Advance HE meeting	6 Jan
Study Abroad Induction Talk	8 Jan
Assessment Task and Finish Group	8 Jan
VR Advice SU Meeting	9 Jan
Partnership Project Meeting	10 Jan
ACG Meeting	10 Jan
NICRAS meeting	10 Jan
DLSPIG	14 Jan
Investigatory meeting	14 Jan
Rep social media catch up	14 Jan
CAG	14 Jan`
DE Forum	15 Jan
Strategic Plan: Officer Priorities	15 Jan
School Rep Committee	15 Jan
International Students in Management	16 Jan
Development Weeks: SLAF meeting	16 Jan
PVC Education and Students	17Jan
UG Prospectus	17 Jan
Stage 3 Complaints Procedure	20 Jan
Action Changes Things meeting	20 Jan
AHSS Social Space meeting	20 Jan
Partnership Review	21 Jan
Development Weeks Working Group	21 Jan
Partnership Core Group	21 Jan
Academic Board Pre Meet	21 Jan
Videoscribe meeting	21 Jan
Meeting with ACG	21 Jan
CAG	21 Jan

DE meeting	23 Jan
DLSSG	23 Jan
PG Representation	23 Jan
Intern meeting	23 Jan
Videoscribe meeting	23 Jan
BT9 Student meeting	24 Jan
NUS-USI Tuition Fees meeting	24 Jan
International Student Project	24 Jan
Student Withdrawal meeting	24 Jan
VideoScribe meeting	27 Jan
Partnership Review meeting	27 Jan
Academic Year Calendar Focus Groups x 2	27- 31 Jan
Student Voice AHSS Town Hall	28 Jan
SU Sweep Report	28 Jan
CAPE Panel	28 Jan
CAG	28 Jan
Workload Allocation Meeting	29 Jan
School Rep Committee	29 Jan
Dean's Business Group	30 Jan
VR meeting	4 Feb
Teaching Awards	4 Feb
Committee of Discipline	5 Feb
Academic Board Partnership	5 Feb
Course Rep Forum	5 Feb
MHLS Faculty Working Group	6 Feb
Strike Talks	7 Feb
Partnership Intern Induction	7 Feb
Ben Harper Meeting	7 Feb
Your Education Matters Forum	10 Feb
Partnership Project Update	11 Feb
Video Recording	11 Feb
International Student Officer	11 Feb
DLWG	11 Feb
CAG	11 Feb
EPS Working Group	12 Feb
UCU + NUS USI Joint Lobbying Event Stormont	12 Feb
AHSS Working Group	12 Feb
Course Rep EPS Forum	12 Feb
Strike Planning	12 Feb
AEL School Rep	13 Feb
Strike Planning	13 Feb
Strike Comms Chats	13 Feb
Management Board	13 Feb
CAPE MHLS Panel	17 Feb
CAPE EPS UG Review Panel	19 Feb
Course Rep Forum AHSS	19 Feb
School Rep Committee	26 Feb
CAG	27 Feb
SU Awards: Judging	27 Feb