

Education Zone Open Meeting 3

Session 1: 5pm on Tuesday 11th February 2020

Session 2: 1pm on Wednesday 12th February 2020

Simeon opened the meeting and introduced himself to those present
In total 13 students attended EZOM across the two sessions.

Simeon updated attendees on the progress against his objectives and the additional work that has been done as President of Education:

- Foundation students now eligible for scholarships from September 2020 following a project in partnership with Casper Nicholas, Part-Time Officer for Foundation Students. This will be added to the HUU student newsletter.
- International Students fees: Simeon has worked to lobby the University to reduce the fees paid by international students during their studies abroad. This has been reduced by more than 50%.
- BAME Awarding Gap: Nothing had been done on campus. Ongoing objective to reduce this. SO has worked with Katherine Hubbard (Polar Gap is the participation of local areas – problem with areas where universities are located. Few Hull students go to Hull university!) Most people agreed that the majority of students in the library at night are BAME students. The questions are; is it that BAME students are working harder than they should be, as when students achieve a 2:1 they are no longer part of the gap? And is there something that staff should be doing to help?
- Enquiry into the University's Policy with Respect to students with Parenting duties: Maternity policy is outdated and referenced feeding in toilets. The Library is working to find space for a parenting room/area. Questions that have been raised are: How does this work in the library, lectures etc.? What would the action be if a parent had nobody to look after their children?

SO asked if there were any questions about objectives but there were none.

Hull University Unions President, Isobel Hall, attended to talk to students about the Additional Costs Survey aimed at finding out what extra expenses that students incur while they study. This was being conducted as part of IHs manifesto promise to conduct research into additional costs.

Most in the room had completed the survey but tablets were handed to students to log in and complete it if they wished and asked them to share the link.

IH added that students should ask the questions about what they will get/need when they study, as many are surprised by what they need. The target is at least 500 responses to make the University take notice and that Union Council has already passed a motion on this issue.

This is a national campaign as maintenance loans are not fit for purpose and 18 students' unions have already written to MP Phil Bloomfield to request a meeting to discuss student loans.

In response to questions IH clarified:

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- Any student can complete the survey, including postgraduates even though expenses can be different.
 - Expenses can be course related but can be as broad as students like.

SO addressed those attending regarding decolonising the curriculum and students were encouraged to contribute to the discussion via the Mentimeter question on display: What do you think would be a way (or ways) to resolve this?

SO – The University should take responsibility for students not achieving rather than blaming the student! BAME students leave because they can't see someone else like them on the course, which doesn't feel right! Highlighted the lack of diversity in reading lists and that 59% of British people still celebrated the British Empire

Attendee – It's hard to write outside of the sphere of white, older patriarchal circles.

- The Biomed course is fine, but would be good to have a BAME professor included in the teaching. Someone to ask relevant questions and relate to!

SO engaged the room in an activity, giving a prize to the student that found the page to suggest a purchase to the library on the University website first, without the use of Google. Some succeeded in this but highlighted the difficulty in following the path through the website to the correct page.

Feedback from those attending was that the students shouldn't need to do this work and that lecturers should do the work and audit their own reading lists. However, students don't always feel that they can speak up to lecturers, but one student suggested that they were looking for clarity from lecturers and didn't want to offend, for example, American students studying American History. It was suggested that SO could petition the University on this.

The question of diversity was raised, with reference to staff and teaching methods, with one attendee, while acknowledging the problem, stating that despite suggestions for strict rules on course content, material should not be cut from the course as it may still be relevant.

SO pointed out that Nursing students have complained that all mannequins are white, but explained that the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education, Becky Huxley-Binns, is hosting a series of Education Roadshows to look at a five year Education Strategy. This would be a good opportunity for students to voice their concerns.

SO- Students can talk to others, friends, colleagues and Reps and send any feedback to hull-education@hull.ac.uk and that the Presidents can offer support with issues.

AOB

A lot of what has been said goes back to the student-staff discussion.



There is no place in the Fenner Building for Psychology staff and students to meet. It would be better to have more communal zones for both on campus, rather than trying to force interaction.

Accessibility for disabled students in the library lifts (has previously been raised in the library) and being put to the side in lecture theatres. IH advised anybody experiencing this to contact her.