

Course Rep Forum 5

Minutes of the Course Rep Forums held online on Tuesday 30th April and in Student Central on 1st May

Sessions:

Tuesday 30th April, 7:30pm, online via Canvas and Facebook

Wednesday 1st May, 3:30pm, in Meeting Room 1, second floor, Student Central

1. Welcome from President of Education

IH welcomed attendees to the final Course Rep Forum of the 2018-2020 academic year. The scheduling of this forum changed from previous forums, with the online forum taking place first and only one further forum for Reps to attend in person.

The video from the online forum is accessible to Reps via the Conference tab on the Canvas module.

2. 2018-19 objective update from President of Education

IH updated Reps on the three main objectives that had been important to her time as President of Education.

- Transforming Academic Representation, along with the introduction of awards for Reps, had been a priority. IH also announced that Hull University Union is now recruiting for Faculty Reps and Course Reps for 2019-2020
- Value for Money: IH finishing a report on funding for Nursing students following the Nursing students forum. This included IH writing to MPs and the UK Government to highlight the hidden course costs encountered by these students, among others
- Working Space: IH writing a report about what postgraduates would like to see in this space, which is currently non-existent for PGTs and limits for PGRs

3. Updates from previous guest speakers at Course Rep Forums: Sarah Londesborough, Ian Aylett and Michelle Anderson

IH has filmed a video with librarian Michelle Anderson, who had attended the February Course Rep Forum to gather feedback about the library facilities. The video is based upon the findings from this feedback. At the time of this forum, the video would not easily download to show Reps.

4. General Discussion

IH and Andy Costigan will be launching a campaign to combat exam stress by offering tea and toast and someone to talk to from 9-11am in Scoop during the exam period. The Haven will also become a silent study area within Hull University Union. Stalls with helpful information will be open in the breakout area of Student Central and in the Brynmor Jones Library.

The day of the online forum had been His final Chocolate and Chat event.



IH asked the following questions of the Reps in attendance based on the key topics that have been discussed in Course Rep Forums this year:

- What has gone well this year?
- What has not gone so well this year?
- What do you want to see improved for next year?
- General comments

Graduation was again a topic for discussion, with a question asked about news on the location for the ceremonies. IH confirmed that the ceremonies would not be moving back to the City Hall this year, and that herself and Osaro Otobo, President of the Students' Union, had visited the new location at the Bonus Arena. The accessibility issues at the City Hall had not been resolved, but moving back there was something that could potentially happen in the future. OO has written a blog about this issue, which can be found on the Hull University Union website [here](#)

One Rep contributed to the discussion that at the City Hall disabled students are often just left on the stage until after the ceremony is complete, which is not fair.

Printer credits: Question asked relating to credits tolling over into the next academic year. IH stated that this would not be the case, but that each student would start the year with another £20 of credit.

Assessment & Feedback: All deadlines scheduled in the same week, IH stated that this pressure is not helpful for students, and that the Rep should raise this with their Student-Staff Forum.


- It was commented that third year students in FoSE were experiencing discrepancies, with students attaining a 2:2 were doing the same as those on firsts.
- Marine Biology have inconsistent feedback
- Positive feedback regarding Engineering where there are standardised marking rubrics

Difficulty gathering feedback: IH sympathetic that despite Reps being passionate about their role, some students just do not wish to engage. But questions to students could be more targeted rather than open, so that it is something the student is invested in. E.g. graduation.

IH used Nursing courses as an example for gathering feedback, where social media is effective for those on placement. It is about finding what method works best for you.

Faculty Hubs – IH asked reps if they had noticed any improvements in the operation of the faculty hubs. Responses were that students were encountering difficulty – getting issues sorted, with the example of a module wrongly listed as filed on a manuscript. Some are still not sure where their hub is, which prompted them to be added to a map for WelcomeFest. Reps were also enlightened with the information that any student is allowed to request a list of mistakes that they have made on an official exam paper.

Timetabling – Reps had previously been informed that the timetabling team had been looking at new platforms. There were too many rooms of the wrong size and type, something which was being built into the plan to find a solution. The team were getting students involved in consultation to talk about module



clusters (pre-determined pathways). It was suggested that timetabling could be linked to calendars being used.

Additional Technological Issues:

- The exam results site had crashed
- The tap-in system for lectures in Criminology stopped working, meaning that attendance was not accurately recorded which was affecting student's applications. Many others revealed that they had struggled with attendance for this reason.
- The iHull app still was not great and the FoSE Canvas site was not very useful. IH has contacted staff to highlight that the sites needed improvement.

Languages – IH informed those present that talks were still ongoing

MEQs – Marine Biology: 1st years are more open with their feedback, more so than previous years

- Engineering: some MEQs were late and had to be chased
- Suggested that MEQ report should be handed to the year below to follow up and this could be added to SSFs

Facilities Issues - LTI in the Allam Medical Building: seats are still dangerous as a whole row rocks when a person moves. This is an issue repeatedly highlighted by Reps.

IH announced that she would be giving plenary speech at this years Learning and Teaching Enhancement Conference in June.

5. What have you been most proud of/what has been your greatest achievement this year?

- Confidence has improved
- Able to detect issues and find the solution
- Proud of representing those who do not normally have a voice

As a final activity, Reps were provided with multi-coloured luggage tags and requested to write down their proudest moments of the year and hang them from the wish tree. 25 tags were used and provided great feedback on the experiences of Academic Reps.

6. Update of the processes and current status of the proposals for Transforming Academic Representation (TAR)


How have we got here?

IH stated that it had been a 'bit of a journey' with all of the consultation and research/

Where has the proposal gone?

The proposals have passed through votes at a number of groups and committees

- Passed by Course Reps at the Extraordinary Course Rep Forum
- Education Zone

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- Union Council – change to standing orders
 - USEEC – Code of Practice approved

What happens next?

The changes will be written into all necessary Hull University Union documentation and procedures for the start of trimester 1 of 2019-2020. This includes the training material and guidance information provided to all Reps.

7. Sign up to be a Rep next year

IH announced that students may sign-up to become a Course Rep for 2019-2020 by completing a short form via the Hull University Union website [here](#). Faculty Reps and Deputy Faculty Reps are currently being recruited, while Course Rep Leaders will be elected during the October by-elections.

It was highlighted that some areas of campus had continued to elect their Course Reps this academic year. IH issued a reminder that this had not been the correct policy, as all students have been given the opportunity to benefit from being a Course Rep. However, it has been understood that some groups on campus have chosen to 'appoint' their Rep.

8. Course Rep Survey

The Course Rep Survey is currently live and all feedback from Reps on their experiences is appreciated, and will be considered when preparations are made for the coming year.

9. Certificate – Achievement and Celebration winners

IH reminded Reps that their certificates of achievement can be collected from the Hull University Union Welcome Desk on the second floor of Student Central.

Rewards and events for Reps will remain the same for the 2019-2020 academic year.

10. Any Other Business

Regarding the Nursing report and the value for money, the question was asked if other FHS courses were the focus of this. IH responded that if other areas required her attention, then Reps are welcome to highlight this for the President of Education of the President Team to address.

A further response was for a request for funding for marine practicals in Marine Biology, as many practicals take place on land.

11. Thank you from President of Education for all that attended the final Course Rep Forum 2018-2019.