

Minutes of Course Rep Forum: 30th April-1st May 2018
Meeting Room 1, Hull University Union, 11:00 –12:30

1. Welcome from the Education Officer (Chair)

Salman Anwar introduced himself and informed the course reps this is their chance to give feedback and raise issues.

2. University Matters

HUU invited guests from the University to engage Course Representatives with projects and plans.

i) Dr Darren Mundy, FACE. – Language Provision across the University

- DM introduced himself and discussed times in the past when students were able to take other modules in a free elective slot.
- At present there is a working group in place at University level looking at modern language integration in programmes across the institution.
- DM voiced the University have been asked by the Programme Management Committee to explore student interest in undertaking language related study either as a core component of their programme or in addition to their degree.
- DM asked the group if anyone would see any negatives in offering the choice of studying a language. The group agreed they could not see anything negative expect from taking a supplement to a degree could implicate the students time. DM responded credits could be awarded up to 20 credits each year.
- A psychology student expressed their free elective slot was replaced with other modules and would worry of receiving a free elective again that could take up valuable time. DM responded by noting through a new frame work, it will be enabled to allow health sciences the opportunity to be involved.

- Veronika Mikurova asked DM if there would be a cost. DM voiced a panel last week had two students from different institutions, there was no difference in the take of numbers from an institution that does charge and one that doesn't as the fee can make it seem more serious.
- DM discussed the use of virtual equipment in language learning.
- A student asked what languages would be offered, DM responded there are many languages such as Russian, Chinese, French.
- An English student discussed about having a passport language in their module choices and gave positive feedback on this option.
- A student questioned if a language would be promoted to state that it can relate to a course. DM will feedback to the panel students would like some context and promote how a language would relate to a particular course.
- A student questioned the possibility of taking the language course after University. DM responded by saying possibly the summer would be a good option.
- A rep questioned whether a trip could be included at the end to test learning. DM voiced this would be an idea to take on board.
- A maths student expressed the opportunity to add a language would be beneficial as long as it doesn't take it necessary study modules. DM voiced the team are looking at having it as an outside opportunity.
- A rep queried if this would be open to post graduates. DM stated post grads cannot access passport modules however the team are looking to have this scheme available to research and post grad students.
- A rep voiced that he is already paying a fee to study Japanese. DM voiced other Universities charge a fee, which makes the course more serious and promote a lower dropout rate.
- A course rep stated students of business law and politics may be interested as their timetables are less constrictive as an engineering students.
- VM voiced a challenge could be students that would like to experience the culture as well as learn the language. DM responded there would be an opportunity to study abroad but not on a passport course. Also virtual reality training equipment will provide an insight into practicing learning in an artificial environment.
- Benedict Greenwood expressed emersion courses for 4 weeks after study could be an option to promote. DM responded students could take the opportunity with Erasmus links within Europe.

3. Education Officer Briefing

EO informed the reps of his projects for the semester

i) **Education Officer objectives**

- SA informed the reps of attending the language review panel.
- SA voiced the No Platform Policy motion passed at Union Council.

ii) **Officer team objectives**

- Osaro Otobo brought a motion to union council around Brexit and how it affects students, in particular international students
- Jennie Watts had the breastfeeding policy passed at Union Council.

4. **Feedback on actions from CRF1**

- SA discussed the affects after the strikes and asked the reps of any issues and feedback to be sent to him.

5. **Course Rep Issues**

Space for Course Representatives to raise any central concerns that those they represent have brought forward.

- **Timetabling** – A rep voiced the need for spacing the timetabling in between receiving the homework, deadlines and when the lecture slides are put on Canvas. SA responding by saying that timetabling is getting better and asked the rep to bring it up if the slides are not up 24 hours before.
- **Heating** – Robert Blackburn building has been far too warm. SA will raise the issue with estates.
- **Psychology** – A 2nd year student affected by the strikes voiced the questions around the work that was missed are now being removed from the exams. The rep felt that this information took too long. He has been informed of these mitigating circumstances processes will be a lot more stream line. SA added after discussions with the registrar, it is known that Psychology department are relaxed at responding.
- **Psychology 3rd Year** – A psychology student voiced that choosing their 3rd year module options felt extremely last minute. The rep added at the seminar regarding module choices, it came across that you would get the options that you choose, however, it is a preference system. In addition on the selection page, there were 3 new modules that were not on the selection form. SA agreed that this should be made clear, it is generally always a preference system and will raise the short turn around issue.
- **PAST** – A history student voiced a big issue with these sessions which were voluntary for first years. The rep expressed instead of scraping it, the lecturer could make it compulsory. A psychology student highlighted the same issue. SA to feedback this information.

- **Disorganisation around modules** – A student voiced when new modules come in to fill out the Chinese course, if they can be checked before going out to students so that they are relevant this would be beneficial. Also the student expressed the need for more resources as there is only 1 book between 2 students. SA will feedback this issue.
- **Module choices for English** – A student voiced receiving an email to say that the module voting open on the 16th April, which didn't happen. It eventually came out on the 26th April. Technology issues can happen however the lack of communication was frustrating and stressful. SA will feedback this issue.
- **Modules for physics** – A student discussed a new Astro module, the lecturer is a very busy person, the lecture notes were received a week/s after the lecture, not 24 hours before. The lecturer talks far too quickly for you to follow. The student expressed speaking to the lecturer about the delay in receiving the notes and is worried about the new modules for next year of experiencing the same treatment. SA suggested to email the lecturer with high priority and to raise the issue at SSF.
- **Social psychology modules** – A student voiced that the notes were not in depth for a social psychology module and were just a copy and paste from the lecture slides with emails being unanswered when asking for more detail. SA informed the student to send the unanswered email to him and send it again to the lecturer.
- **Union Issues** – A student expressed the need for notice of the haven/retreat being out of use when there are Give it A Go activities. Students who did not know that the room is out of use have brought it food to reheat and being told they cannot use the room. SA will feedback this to Chloe Birr Pixton, Activites Manager.
- **AST Issues** – Many issues around the ASTs have not been listened to which have been brought up at every SSF and the benchmarking tool does not allow students to express everything they need to. A rep voiced there is a feeling of ASTs that don't care and students that still haven't met their AST. A computer science rep voiced a positive experience of meeting with their AST every two weeks in first year, a fellow rep voiced they did not have regular meetings in their first year but would have appreciated regular meet ups. SA responded to say that the AST code of practice has been updated today.
- **Teaching in FACE PhD students** – The University is supposed to allow teaching experience to PhD students, however this has not taken place. Also there is a discrepancy in the funding to PhD students, history gets nothing but Geography get up to £1k towards conferences and travel. SA will feedback this at the research degree committee.
- **Module choices for English** – A rep on a combined honours voiced issues with English. The history choices came out two weeks ago,

English are now out on a Tuesday with the deadline on Friday. SA stated DM heard the same issue yesterday and will be taking the feedback to the department.

- **Lack of lecturers** – A mathematics rep voiced that the lack of lecturers is an issue. SA will chase this up.

6. Any Other Business

- Subject rep and faculty rep recruitment is currently taking place.
- SA thanked the reps for all of the hard work this year.
- SA discussed the referendum and asked for reps views. A PhD student voiced a preference to the old system, however changing it back could be detrimental. A rep voice to realistically it would take another few years to change back and would vote no for HUU to lobby the University to disband the student hubs. Another rep expressed if there were specialised members of staff at the student hubs that would be preferred. SA queried do students prefer the opening times. A rep answered that you get used to the timings, the departments used to have long lunches but apart from that it was satisfactory.