

Education Zone

Thursday 4th February 2016, 15:00 – 16:00

(Meeting Room 3, 2nd Floor, SU Building)

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Apologies

Position	Name	06.11.15	27.11.15	09.12.15	04.02.16
Faculty Co-ordinators					
Faculty of Science & Engineering	Declan Whiting				
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences	Dan Walker *				
Hull University Business School	Matt Thorneycroft **				
Faculty of Education	Elizabeth Barraclough				
Faculty of Health & Social Care	Victoria Welborn				
Hull York Medical School	VACANT				
Academic Council Representatives					
Elected at first AC	Kym Cardona				
Elected at first AC	Eunice Owusu-Kyereh				
Part-Time, Postgrad & Mature Students					
Part-Time Students' Officer	Moipone Christina Mokone				
Postgraduate (Taught) Officer	Robert Champion				
Postgraduate (Research) Officer	Mohammad Ali Obaid Al Khaldy				
Mature Students' Officer	Philip Yelland				
Councillors for Scrutiny					
Councillor for Scrutiny	Charlotte Constable				
Councillor for Scrutiny	Nadia Hassani				
International Students Association Rep.					
ISA Education Rep	Suzanne Strong				

Absent	
Apologies	
Present	

Chair – Matthew Evans (Vice-President Education). Secretary – Jacob Zobkiw (Education Co-ordinator). Also in attendance: Tania Struetzel (Democracy and Governance Co-ordinator).

3. VP Education Update

VPE informed the Zone on the campaigns and promotions currently taking place during the welcome back period of semester 2. The Treasure Hunt centring on the slogan "Do you Treasure your Feedback?" was expounded upon, with attendees encouraged to inform their peers of the Feedback Campaign and the prizes on offer should students complete the Education Survey,

which was launched this week. VPE thanked those who volunteered to help with the student engagement activities this week, including the SLTA push, the Education Survey launch, and the trip to Scarborough.

VPE touched upon the University organisational changes which will occur next academic year. The "Shape and Size" review will fundamentally transform the way in which the University operates, and the VPE will talk about it later in the meeting. Regarding changes to academia and education, the VPE's big win was a change in how the University library operates: disabled students can now borrow items from the High Demand Collection for 48 hours, as opposed to the regulatory 24 hours previously in place. Such a development takes into consideration the difficulty some students have in accessing resources.

4. Update from Officers

a) Mature

The Mature Students Officer is currently drafting a survey inquiring into the University experience of mature students and has met with the HUU Research and Campaigns Coordinator for assistance in this. The Chair Mature voiced concern in how to contact students across the University but has been in contact with the Mature Student Advisor in the Student, Wellbeing, Learning and Welfare Support Team.

VPE iterated that HUU does not have the functionality to send surveys to all mature students at the University, but assured Chair Mature that Karen Smales, the Mature Student Advisor, would be able to provide assistance.

The Mature Officer notified the Zone that the post for mature students has not been updated on the HUU website. VPE said that the person primarily responsible for the HUU website is based at Lincoln University and has difficulties commuting to Hull. Although HUU does have resources to run the website, sometimes these resources are limited and change can come slowly.

Action:

- Democracy and Governance Co-ordinator to inform marketing of the changes that need to be made to website.

b) Part-time

The part-time Facebook page is up and running and the Officer is working to bring back the books grant for part-time students. The Officer was not sure whether this is a national grant or a grant specific to the University.

Action:

- VPE to get details of this grant and pass on to Part-Time Officer.

c) Postgraduate Taught (Absent)

d) Postgraduate Research

VPE opened by informing the Zone that there has been work with The Student Engagement Partnership (TSEP) to develop the Postgraduate Research Project. Postgraduate Research Officer said that international research students now only have to report to their departments once a month as opposed to once a week as part of the agreement regarding tier-4 Visas. The Postgraduate Researcher Social Forum run by the Graduate School was a success in terms of student engagement and will continue on selected dates in 2016.

e) Faculty Co-ordinators

(i) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

FASS Co-ordinator has reached out to departmental reps via e-mail but has received a mixed response in terms of meeting to discuss representation in the faculty. FASS coordinator has been invited to NSS date panels for feedback. There have also been concerns in grade marks as academic staff have differing interpretations of the assessment guidelines. This is being looked into. The Co-ordinator asked about Feedback Week and was informed that this would take place week commencing 22nd February for Politics students.

(ii) Faculty of Health and Social Care

Co-ordinator has met with Nicholas Smith, the Faculty Graduate Intern and contacted all course reps in the faculty. A meeting was set up but only two students turned up. Co-ordinator is also awaiting dates for the faculty SSC.

(iii) Faculty of Science and Engineering

The Co-ordinator inquired as to whether a Geography Departmental rep was meant to attend the Faculty Board. VPE replied that this is the case. The Co-ordinator was unsure regarding the dates of moving to Canvas from e-Bridge.

Action:

- VPE will check with TEL when this migration takes place for the Faculty.

(iv) Hull University Business School

Co-ordinator gave an update on the issues regarding assessments in Marketing. Final years had 16,000 words to complete in a limited time but no exams. The portfolio of students is now being reviewed by the School. VPE added that the general assessment tariffs are being reviewed so credits are fairly awarded according to student workload. The Business School Coordinator added that the aim is for consistency.

Co-ordinator informed the Zone that there were timetabling and facility issues concerning a lecture theatre that accommodates 100 students in the Wilberforce building when there are 150 students in the class. These problems are ongoing. Furthermore, timetabling has also been released on the iHull app when it has not been finalised by the School. Additionally, some Business School students are facing a four hour block of lectures.

Action: VPE is discussing with the University Registrar on how best to timetable contact hours for students. There are talks concerning a 'pathway' which is designed to enable student choice. Rather than a member of staff or departments determining the timetable, students would have the capacity to suggest the best times for themselves. There are also discussions concerning timetabling on the hour – one reason for this is that HYMS students have to book rooms for double the time.

The Co-ordinator raised the issue of referencing at the Business School. There is a module for this designed to make things clearer for students but it is not great and has been subjected to a review. The facilities for students with learning differences were also discussed. The initial identification and induction is good but ongoing support throughout the year is an issue. VPE highlighted the University central service for those with learning differences that HUBS students can also access.

The Business School Co-ordinator reported that more core text book have been successfully procured for the library. There is also a massive review of welcome week as it was felt that money was overspent at events with a low turnout. Moreover, a review of how the Business School communicates with students is ongoing with an aim to cut down the jargon and be more upfront on matters. Additionally, the School is looking into how feedback is being acted upon – if at all – to make sure the student perspective is considered in all major decisions.

The Co-ordinator is currently planning and organising the first ever Faculty Ball which promises to provide an avenue for student interaction and integration, and to develop links within the School. The Course Rep Forums continue to be well-received and the Facebook HUBS page is nearing the 200 members mark. The Co-ordinator is preparing for the Student Experience in Enhancement Reviews (SEERs) which aim to identify and share good practice between subject areas and the Higher Education sector. There are steps being taken to create a Placement Peer Mentoring Project wherein students who have returned from placement can mentor those who are about to go onto it.

Finally, the Co-ordinator is reviewing feedback forms for students on the accounting course as they are not particularly user-friendly. VPE expressed concerns that this might be a conflict of interest but the Co-ordinator maintained that he was employed for his skills rather than as a Faculty Co-ordinator.

f) Academic Council Reps

Academic Council Rep called for assistance with contacting course reps and students. It was decided that she would liaise with the Education Coordinator on the message and the VPE can issue the message to course reps. The AC rep was also concerned that SSC dates in her department had not been issued.

There was concern regarding the non-attendance of the other Academic Council Rep as the AC rep in attendance had not interacted with her. This led to a call for attendance monitoring by the Zone and it was proposed that next meeting there would be greater scrutiny to hold non-attendance to account and to look into the process for changing NUS delegates. The Mature Student Officer asked if there were any measures in place for those who do not attend Education

Zone without sending apologies. The VPE answered that there has been persistent communication (e-mail, verbal) with those who do not attend the Zone, but this has gone unheeded. The majority of the Zone suggested that the VPE should get tougher on those who have not attended Education Zone and not sent apologies or any other communication, and the Zone also voiced its approval of a referendum in the next meeting.

Action

- Academic Council Rep to liaise with Education Co-ordinator regarding messaging other reps and students.
- Academic Council rep to liaise with her department and find out SSC dates. Education Co-ordinator can assist.
- VPE to scrutinise attendance.
- Democracy and Governance Co-ordinator to look into attendance of Zone meetings and to look into the process of removing an NUS delegate.
- Discussion on whether to hold a referendum for a future meeting and the process for this.

g) Councillor for Scrutiny

Councillor has provided valuable assistance in both the campaigns for the SLTAs and the Education Survey. She has met with the Union to scrutinise the budgets for Education.

5. Student Led Teaching Awards

VPE informed the Zone that SLTAs were pushed today with a stall on the 'Great White Walk' by the library. Free apples, leaflets and nomination surveys were given out as part of the promotion. Thanks to volunteers who helped make this a success. The Education Coordinator also promoted SLTAs this week with a stall at Volunteer Week. VPE expanded on this and drew attention to the awards ceremony and the great things that can come from nominating. It was also made clear that Education Zone would be expected to help with the shortlisting process which will take place shortly after the nominations close on 7th March.

Action:

- Education Zone members encouraged to promote the SLTAs in their faculties and tell their friends and peers to nominate. It can be accessed online at <https://hullstudent.com/education/student-led-teaching-awards>.

6. Education Survey

VPE informed the Zone of the numbers of surveys reached thanks to the efforts of volunteers. There were 160 collected on Monday in just three hours of promotion, while the Scarborough team on Tuesday secured 50 surveys with an additional 20 to be sent by the Scarborough Sabbatical Officer.

Action:

- Education Zone members encouraged to promote the Education Survey. This can be accessed at <http://hullstudent.com/edsurv>.

Update: Including promotion that took place on 5th February, the completed forms of the Education Survey now amount to 320 for the first week which is a great effort.

7. Shape and Size Review (papers attached)

VPE asked for feedback from the Education Zone regarding the Shape and Size review. This has a big knock on effect on many aspects at the University. There is a risk some staff may lose their jobs while elections, particularly for Faculty Co-ordinators, will be affected and delayed until the next academic year when the new organisation and structure of the University is implemented. VPE also directed Zone members to the most important aspects of the Review and to what pages in particular to read.

Action: VPE will inform the Education Zone of the meeting with the Senior Management Team (SMT) regarding the Review.

8. AOB

- Education Co-ordinator informed attendees of the Zone Photo.
- Democracy and Governance Co-ordinator informed attendees of the upcoming elections and encouraged the Education Zone to spread the word and that there are Information meetings taking place with prospective candidates. VPE is free to discuss positions that are to be filled.

Next meeting is Monday 15th February at 11:00 in Meeting Room 3, Hull Union.