



Paper title	Vice-President Education's report (September 2019)
Outcome requested	The Board is ask to consider the report
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Sponsor	

Vice-President Education's Report

EQSB – September 17th 2019



Since starting my role in August 2019 I have been working on my priorities for the year and provided updates below.

Student Experience and Learning Resources

I am currently working with the library in order to increase visibility of the services they offer. Due to the introduction of Semester based exams the Library will be changing their opening hours over Christmas vacation period to be open every day except bank holidays from 8am to 8pm, with trained staff from 11am to 6pm. They will have completed all infrastructure works in time for welcome week. Unfortunately, the rolling renewals project the library are undertaking has had a few delays and the new timeline involves a rollout for January time. The work for Study Well has begun, and the Students' Union will be running the Study Well campaign for both exam periods and it is positive that the Library staff are keen to be involved.

It is high on my priority list to improve the provision of QReview within classrooms and to introduce the use of learning technologies such as Cahoot and Socrates within lectures for increased accessibility and inclusivity. I will be bringing both of these topics to the E-learning Group and Teaching Rooms working group which sets out to look at these topics.

Course Reps and Part-Time Officers

As I was a keen Course Representative, one of my priorities of the year is to look at the Course Representative Programme and I am excited to announce that the Students' Union is currently undertaking a review in to the Course Representative programme which will look at the whole programme, from election, training and their interactions with SSLC's and their schools. I will be working with Course Representatives, Faculty Representatives and the Student Voice Intern based in the Students' Union to ensure that their voice is at the heart of the review. The Student Voice Intern, which is a newly created position within the Students' Union will support the recruitment and elections of the Course Representatives, take part in the training and ongoing support of the Course Representatives. We have made changes to how Course Representatives are elected and moved to an online system where students have to nominate themselves on the system we use for voting. This is to increase engagement from the beginning with the election process, which the previous system which was paper based may have negatively impacted on the engagement with voting. In addition the term of office is for one academic year, to allow for students who want to be part of the programme and we are confident that engaged Course Representatives will re-run each year to continue being involved. This will be rolled out with each coming year, so course representatives in 2nd and 3rd year will remain in post and newly elected 1st year representatives will serve one term, and so on until all course representatives are on 1 year terms.

Talhah Atcha, QMSU President and I are currently in the process of reviewing SSLC guidance documents and want to place more emphasis on the importance of student co-chairs for a co-created curriculum. We want to remove any ambiguities within this document, and provide a clear structure for how Student Voice is empowered through the SSLC meetings. We are also working with the Doctoral College Manager, Zi Parker to introduce Postgraduate Research School Representatives to ensure all student voices are being heard.

The Student Partnership conference will be on October 26th and will form the main training for all course representatives, this has been chosen to ensure that we maintain the momentum from election, and the beginning of the year. For the conference, we have an extensive list of potential

sessions on topics that will empower course reps such as how to be an effective course rep, women/BME in leadership as well as a session on negotiation and persuasion techniques. We are also excited that Stephanie Marshall and Library Services staff who will be there on the day to provide updates to Course Representatives.

I am also introducing a monthly Course Representative newsletter from October onwards. The newsletter will include content from myself, the Education Coordinator, Course Representatives as well as information from Advice and Counselling services and Library Services so that this can be better advertised to students.

If you would like to be involved in the Student Partnership Conference or the Course Representative newsletter please do contact me.

Extenuating circumstances and advocacy services

Working with Shamima Akter, Vice President Welfare we have been working to understand the Extenuating Circumstances policies and procedures, as well as the Fit to Sit Policy. We have been working alongside the Students' Union Advocacy Manager, Annie Mitchell to understand the barriers faced by students both Extenuating Circumstances and Fit to Sit. This is a joint priority for the Executive Officers to better understand the needs of students in regards to this and what the Students' Union needs to do to better support these students given the introduction of semester based exams, as well as the increase in students applying for Extenuating Circumstances.

Annika Ramos

Students' Union Vice-President Education