

**Education Committee Minutes - DRAFT**

**29th November 2016**

**1. Welcome**

NB welcomed everyone and introduced new reps to the meeting

**2. Attendance and Apologies**

Attendance and apologies were acknowledged

Attended: Dale Bennett (DB); Nicole Berroa, Chair (NB); Sohaib Farooqui (SFa); Steven Fellows (SFe); Gemma Gessey (GG); Rachael Healey (RH); Ziya Mohamed (ZM); Jenny Plant (JP); Nishalini Ravindran (NR); Daniel Raw (DR); Sophi Turner (ST).

Apologies: Habiba Amjad (HA); Joshua Barden (JB); Stewart Boyd (SB); Jessica Edwards (JE); Ewelina Florczak (EF); Iman Hussain (IH); Katie Minchin (KM); Joshua Richardson (JR); Issic Romel (IR).

Absent: None

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

**4. Matters Arising**

**Social media** – SV&DC said we will have to put in a policy around social media to make sure that the profiles are used in accordance to charity law and other union policies. **Action: SV&DC to contact other unions around social media policies.**

SV&DC also said email signatures are ready.

The rep training target this year was 60% of reps trained. 69% was the final percentage. We’re still working to ensure all reps are trained by offering more sessions in the next semester as there are clear differences between most trained and untrained reps. SV&DC also said he will share reps emails to faculty reps to help improve communication. SEM stated that the training was redesigned this year making it the most comprehensive training we’ve offered so our reps are more highly trained than ever. GG stated the training was excellent.

JP asked about her social media page for reps and asked whether it would be affected by the policy. SV&DC claimed the policy won’t be designed to restrict or discipline reps but rather safeguard them from difficult situations due to the nature of social media. SV&DC said he would send out the document for feedback.

ST asked if there is still online training for reps who may not be able to attend physical sessions. SV&DC said the training is still available but isn’t to the same standard and it will be redesigned soon.

**5. Faculty Feedback**

DR stated late lectures are a problem in FOSS with some lectures continuing to 8pm and lasting 4 hours.

Loud students in the library on an evening are causing a problem for students wanting to study in peace.

Telford bus times aren’t suitable for those wishing to get to lectures on other campuses.

Student parents are struggling as there aren’t any places that are suitable for them to study with their children there. GG said there had been discussions around a child safe area within the library but progress is being slow.

JP said that in the MK building there aren’t adequate printing facilities for arts students as they are low in quality so not suitable for assessment work.

No additional funding towards printing whereas other departments get more printer credits as standard. GG stated that the issues around printing were raised at VC question time so this point needs to be chased up. **Action: Fulltime Officers to investigate printer credits.**

There are problems with the heating in the MK building as it is often too cold.

Security staff members aren’t entering the building in an evening and the card lock isn’t turned on which has led to work to being damaged and non-students using the building. This is a huge safeguarding issue.

Food and drink facilities aren’t adequate in the MK building and coming over to the main building isn’t always feasible for students due to accessibility or time constraints.

No subsidising for students’ assessment materials and the art shop closes early.

The computers aren’t adequate or don’t have the necessary software for arts students. The library also has very limited access to design packages. Access to workshops is also severely restricted due to a new lock being installed on the door.

ST raised an issue around a self-funded nursing course for international students which offers access to funding in the second year. The finance available has been accepted by the funding body back in the USA but the university don’t know how to process the application. This may be a wider issue when more international students arrive in January. This needs to be communicated better to students and the current issue needs to be resolved. NB has said if the affected student wants to get in touch with her, she will find her the support. **Action: Action: NB to contact ST around the issue.**

GG had a meeting with Nicky Westwood in FEHW looking at issues that may affect the wider student population across the university, looking at things such as SEC, personal supervision and contact time. Some policies approved by the university aren’t being followed by staff members resulting in unwarranted stress on the student. Some students have not being able to progress into their second year because of this lack of communication.

Students aren’t being offered support they need and lecturers should be given more training. Marking frameworks aren’t offering enough feedback to students to help them improve so changes have been proposed to offer more opportunities to receive it.

January students are struggling to get support in the summer semester due to lecturers and staff taking annual leave. Adequate support should be offered during these teaching periods for students that do study over the summer. NB asked if this had been raised in faculty meetings, GG stated that these issues had been raised before but the university aren’t taking ownership of the issues raised. Rachael has a meeting with the Dean of FEHW in a couple of weeks’ time. NB asked if there is scope to take a report to that meeting from the reps. GG said that the university are refusing anecdotal evidence which is due to the anonymous nature of the marking.

GG claimed that students don’t want anonymous marking due to the nature of their placements and course. She also claimed that students need the flexibility over their markers. SFe stated that the FAEC meeting held recently was discussing removing anonymous marking.

NR stated that bias is a huge worry to markers due to seeing drafts and seeing the students develop and the mark may not be a true reflection of their work.

**Action: Rachael and Nicole to lead a research exercise into anonymous marking with faculty reps.**

FoSS to set working targets for the NSS and to create a student voice newsletter to show feedback to students with an attempt to have this in place in January.

**9. Academic Policy**

The attendance policy was discussed. GG said that if the policy isn’t based around student wellbeing then we shouldn’t support it as it’s not the policy we wanted to see. SFe raised that the policy would be to cap marks at 40% for low attenders. DB said that the capping has been discussed but there is still time to influence the policy but some of the students who may attend less lectures achieve good grades and their lack of attendance. JP said this is something that would greatly affect art students. GG said we shouldn’t penalise students for learning in a different style. NR asked how the policy would actually be implemented. DB said the University doesn’t fully know the logistics yet. NB said there are already discussions in other meetings around the policy but logistics haven’t been developed yet. NB said if students want to be involved in consultation she will host a meeting around the policy. **Action: NB will welcome input and feedback from reps and will organise a meeting.**

SFa asked about the caps after deadlines. Other reps explained the regulations.

**10. National and Regional Activity**

Nicole spoke about her TEF education campaign and reps responded saying they would like more education before this campaign so they can be more involved.

**11. Any other business**

Nicole raised the SU survey and asked for reps to promote it and complete it themselves.