

Deputy President (Education) report
A note by Alex Dahinten

Browne Review Survey Result Analysis

The survey analysis is almost done, but I probably need another week to finish it off. It will be circulated once it is fully finished, however if you are keen on finding out the results, feel free to ask/contact me.

National Student Survey (NSS)

The NSS is a governmentally funded, annual survey of all final year students which provides an insight into how satisfied students are regarding feedback, learning resources etc. at their institutions. The Union, as well as College, take the results VERY seriously, and although slightly flawed, allow us an insight into how departments are improving with regards to academic support, teaching etc.

In the past, any student which enrolled for a 4 year degree and switched to a 3 year degree (or vice versa), was considered as “disaffiliated” by Ipsos MORI (the research company which analyses the results). This meant that about 10% of our students were not even given the opportunity to fill out the survey! I am working closely with the Registry to ensure that this will not be the case. We are also going to be much more transparent than in the past by keeping a weekly updated running bar chart on participation within departments. Hopefully this will encourage healthy completion between individual departments to reach the highest turnout of all (similar to SOLE). If you would like to take a look at last year’s results, feel free to contact me.

Rep Training

On the 26th October the Union hosted our annual rep training for undergrads. This year we have split up the training into UG (26th October) and PG (4th and 9th November), due to a rejuvenated PG representation structure.

Together with Andrew Keenan (Rep Coordinator), Charlotte and Alex, we gave all AAOs, Dep and Year Reps a brief intro into the College, Union and the rep structure, Andrew did a wonderful job on making everyone aware of the benefits of being a rep, and that is was a job which could truly make a difference. All were handed a “Representation Pack” which included vital literature, such as the Rep Handbook.

Out of a possible 150 elected reps which were invited to training, an approximate total of 100-120 turned up; this blew any expectations we had. It goes on to show the enthusiasm which students are feeling with regards to their voices being heard, and representing their peers. We are all confident that PG rep training will go as smoothly as UG training.

The Union has also introduced Faculty Representatives prizes which go to the “best” Year and Departmental rep in each faculty for outstanding student representation and attendance of meetings.

Aldwych Group

On the 27th and 28th October, Kendall and I braved our way up North to Liverpool for our 3rd meeting this year. The Aldwych Group is the group of students’ union of the members of the Russel Group (the top 20 research intensive Universities in the UK). Since we are no longer members of the NUS (National Union of Students) or ULU (University of London Union), we cherish these meetings highly especially regarding sharing best practise between other world class Unions and Institutions. Last week we talked about Higher Education funding, and mainly concentrated on the Browne Review and its possible implications.