

Education & Representation Board

Minutes

*The third Ordinary Meeting of the Education & Representation Board for the*

*2016-17 Session will be held on Thursday 26January 2017.*

*Location ICU Meeting Rooms 1+2*

Formal Business

1. Chairs business

Not quorate, but can put it to an email vote if need be. Will proceed with discussion

1. Minutes of last meeting – 30th November 2016 (**attached)**

Note to add FTL to this weeks agenda- can add to AOB?

1. Matters Arising

Zero tolerance in DPE update

**Matters for Report**

1. Updates from the Deputy President (Education)

Some manifesto points hit wall. FTL and PG Wednesdays. FTL was taken to E-Learning panel, issue is that there’s no central ownership over system, Going back to Provost Board.

Pg Wednesdays, space an issue, will probably come into place at the start of the next academic year. Part of a wider conversation about PG engagement as a whole.

Late Submission- sucessfully repealled the ZT policy. Graduated system was preferable, but met college halfway and implemented a zero cap.

Mattin: 9.13% quite a low turnout, why is that considered to be a good turnout?

Taught students are more likely to fill in survey. For the number of people we engage with, quite god turnout.

Has the union learned enough about gathering enough feedback before making significant change. Seems like the process was quite backward.

Union has learnt alot, democratic structures have their place, but student surveys work better at times.

Should’ve been done clearer.

Been a good success story.

Departmental breakdown of who voted what would be good. NC to circulate.

TEF:

Been a long process, initially invited by college to co-author TEF response. Took paper to Council, Union will contribute to submission, critically engaged with the paper, will be working to review HE funding policy.

Who authored College’s submission? Someone from Strategy office, not student facing. College are clearly taking a strategic view on the TEF, but consultation with wide variety of student facing.

Union stance on NSS boycott? Chosen not to engage with boycott, NSS is a powerful lobbying tool.

**Matters for Discussion**

1. Blackboard Feedback

Faculty issues with Blackboard.

ICSMSU: No one knows how to use it in a succinct way. Intranet would be better.

Not user friendly, often have to dig for information. Hard to navigate discussion forums.

Mobile device capability usage poor. Apps virtually unusable.

Inconsistient uploads + sorting on website

Is the problem with lecturers uploading on blackboard or with blackboard itself?

Need to identify who within departments is responsible for Blackboard uploads.

Some lecturers refuse to use blackboard, they dislike it that much.

Computing, ESE and Medicine have their own alternative systems that work well.

Do other universities use blackboard? And how do they find it? Can we pay for a better version?

Also issues with TurnItin- with word count and formatting.

Blackboard sometimes used for quick feedback mechanisms

Department pushes Blackboard and it can work, maybe it’s the way it’s used as opposed to actual software.

Some lecturers live stream on Facebook

Can you edit notifications settings?

Panopto at next meeting

IT presence at SSC meetings

1. SACAs

Nominations open until 26th Feb. Please nominate.

Ask departments to send out names of teaching staff

Have a live nomination counter.

Prize for winning department.

Promote on CU pages and dep socs

1. Rep Conference

More promotion, motivate students to come

Make a facebook event.

1. Reflection

 Sign up for meeting with Luke and Nayab.

Encourage reps to attend Lunch and learns

1. PG Representation (**Lloyd James)**

Context: Small part of larger process. UG CU want to be more engaged with PGT’s. Combined approach with A+W representation and social aspect.

Paper to recommend to Council.

Arguments that UG experience more aligned with PGT.

What consultation has been done with GSU and PGT reps more widely?

Some PG students have been consulted, but no comprehensive consultation proccess.

There needs to be a more comprehensive consultation proccess, GSU needs to be involved.

Can this be sent to GSU before it goes to Council? Two GSU representatives present.

Are we voting to pass this onto Council? Yes.

ICSMSU: Structure of our course, there is no overlap with UG and PGT. ICSMSU not willing to take it on. Will need to create new roles specifically. Missed leadership elections.

Timeline: Mandate CU to consult PG students to determine best way to represent students. Can be 2018 or 2019.

Should’ve been more consultation.

Big problem is that PGT students do bulk of degree in summer, where CU’s and UG’s are away. Different surveys have to filled out, other issues and structural issues need to be addressed. If you want to engage PGT students, then get PG students more involved in depsocs

Ultimatly experiecnes are the same.

Masters are more likely to do PHD, therefore benefit from closer contact with PGR students than UG.

Not about interaction, but about education and welfare representation issues.

Main concern is that we are a room of primarily UG making a decision that will affect PGT students. Most PGTs want nothing to do with CU’s, want to focus on their course which is so different to UG. Issue raised last year, PG reps did not approve, need to talk to PG reps.

Don’t know how it would work. All PG’s are representated by one staff member, how are you going to transfer that responsibility.

Departments that only have PGT programmes, how will they fit in.

If there are two different roles, then we’d have to over-haul entire structure.

How would Dep Reps fit in.

Should be more communication between UG and PG dep rep.

In Materials, PGT reps sit on UG committee, seems to work, tend to bring issues on their own. Examined differently, but ug reps can’t contribute to PGT problems.

Need to discuss Graduate students.

PGs have a very different set of problems, They feel that their representation (educationally) is better left with someone who knows exactly what their problems are. This board should focus on Education rep, Welfare rep should go to CWB.

Do GSU AWOs sit on CWB? The answer is no. So.

Should we recommend that the ‘welfare aspect’ be taken out?

Have to think about PGT identity? Only one year to build that, do we give them a dual identity?

PG representation should be done at a faculty level, create an identity and commonality there. Beyond GSU?

Will 8th year PHD students have common thread with UG?

GSU is developing, trying to be more representative and more robust. Disintegration not the answer.

Where do MBA students fit in for example? Things proposed can be done by GSU.

Need to support GSU more. PG students better representated through GSU

Some departments have depsoc system which works at engaging psotgraduates, maybe GSU should adopt that overall.

Found that people who were engaged with CU’s at UG level, aren’t interested at PGT level

GSU should mirror CU structure rather than merge completely

CU have ‘alumni associations’ but more for social interaction. But can’t generalise that.

Clarification; are we only talking about the social interaction or purely academic? Focus on academic representation.

Pgs in FoM have created own society and that works well.

Problem is that there is no consistency in experience across departments and faculties.

Don’t want PGTS to get overshadowed by UGs

Needs wider consultation, not one size fits all.

**ACTION: CU Presidents and AAO’s consult PGT reps and bring to next ERB- NC to circulate**

1. Leadership Elections

Run for Sabb positions, especially DPE. Great opportunity for personal development. Meet Luke for chat if interested.

1. **AOB**

Feedback Traffic Light system. FoM struggling to meet two week turnaround. Wondering what student: marker ratio is in other departments.

Two weeks is just a guide, set realistic expections, dependant on cohort size. Easier for smaller cohorts.

Issue with quality of returned work

If staff care, they will get work back on time, acknowledge it will differ, just as long as it’s communicated well.

Funding for tutorials, complicated, messy

NSS promotion: ESE nearly done with responses, made sure that students knew what they were filling in. Persistent with promotion. Communicate with staff.

**Key Dates**

Next meeting: Thursday 18th May 2017, Location MR1&2