Vice President Student Voice Report – October 2018

This is my first report as VP Student Voice, and therefore relatively short as I have been finding my feet in the role since taking office on 1st August 2018. Over the last two months I have considered my aims for the rest of the term, worked together with the Student Association Student Voice Staff team to put together a work plan and timetable, and began to make relevant contacts within the university.

The first Central Executive Committee weekend offered a productive opportunity to meet the new members as well as to agree on a team agreement and refresh tasks for the next two years, such as writing papers. During this weekend I arranged a meeting with the Faculty Association Representatives in order to discuss the student voice aspects of their roles and the future of the LER role, and we have agreed upon a regular meeting during every face to face CEC weekend.

In September I took part in an induction day together with the Staff Team and VP Education, to agree upon priorities and targets for the next two years; my priorities are to close the feedback loop to students who communicate student voice issues, to reach those who are currently unheard, such as students in secure environments and with specific mental health conditions, and to increase NSS scores. Another major focus is to adapt and improve the efficiency of the LER role which will be an ongoing project until January 2019 and will be my main project during October. During the day we also discussed the dates for upcoming events and volunteer trainings, and had introductory meetings with members of staff from the Student Consultation Office and the library.

I was kindly invited to the June meeting of the Senate Reference Group (SRG) in order to meet the other members and gain understanding of how the group works. At the time of writing, I am preparing for the October meeting. I have attended one meeting of the Student Consultation Management Group, in which future topics for consultations were agreed together with venues for face to face meetings in Spring 2019. The Kitemark Project Advisory Group is discussing how to recognise good levels of student engagement on different university projects; And another group I am part of is investigating a staff facing resource hub.

I believe that Student Voice communications is not as prominent as other features on social media yet, and feel it would be more productive to build on existing channels rather than create new ones at this time. I have access to contribute to the Student Voice Twitter account, which as of 2nd October has 734 followers, and plan to write blog posts as agreed with VP Community.

Read more about Student Voice on oustudents.com