

**VP Education**

**February Report**

**Gemma Lovegrove**

**Summary:** The highlight of this month has been a visit to Westminster to discuss the future of Student Mental health, and the proposed new charter from the Government. It was interesting to see so many stakeholders with a keen interest in student mental health and wellbeing, and it has given me lots of ideas to drive the Union forward in being the supportive network it should be for our members. Refreshers was fantastic, and I was happy to see so many people engaging and re-engaging with the Union. It was also so beneficial for me to get chatting to students about waterside and any unresolved issue, whilst gaining some STaR Award nominations. I will also be holding stalls across Waterside and Avenue to raise awareness and gain more nominations for the awards. Massive wins for Advocates and myself, for example, parking over the weekend available for students and new power points and furniture being installed in the study areas. Microwaves and water coolers now in situ and new laptops on the way for students to borrow. I have also been working on task and finish groups such as anonymous marking, TEF framework, board of governors and quality assurance. These meetings help me to check that the University are compliant with regulations and that they are putting student’s needs at the forefront of decisions.

**Key Talking Points:**

* Media Training
* Societies Varsity
* Review of QAA -student engagement, student opportunities.
* NSS Shout-outs
* Anonymous marking working group.
* Board of Trustees
* Promotion/recommendations for Elections
* Governors
* School’s engagements
* Quality Assurance code
* Inclusive Student Experience Group
* NUS submission
* TEF steering group- am looking for one/two more student volunteer to join the group

**Manifesto Points:**

**Student empowerment, Education as liberation, get students actively involved in their University and SU.**

* STaR Awards
* Supporting advocates
* Liaising with programme leaders to ensure they have advocates and know the process
* SU shout outs to new students
* Getting student voice in to new spaces
* Liaising with students regarding semesterisation, anonymous marking and other University level decisions.

**Actively involved and well-trained course reps across all faculties, training delivered to all reps, relevant to their roles, getting them actively involved in SU.**

* Recruiting new Student Advocates
* Handing out new lanyards to students
* Keeping in contact with Advocates and assisting them in any issues they feel they are unable to resolve alone. Fact to face and online (emails, social media etc.)
* Developing training with Mobas for Advocates to become the spokespeople of the Union and promote our activities and services to peers.

**Get the lecturers to understand and support the role of reps, the importance of having them, and what it means for their course.**

* STaR Awards to share good practice and create a buzz about the awards.
* Organizing a panel for the programme leaders and subject leaders to understand how the Union works.
* Emailing lecturers to raise more awareness of how they can be involved in STaR awards.

**Quality student experience –when valued and listened to, students will be more engaged and content.**

* Feedback of student needs to SEC and Governors. Trustees
* STaR Awards.
* Listening to students from Avenue campus to make sure they do not feel left out of decision making.
* Seeing students needs through top level committees and meetings.

**Improve on Personal Academic Tutors- ensuring they’re well trained and supported to carry out their duties and know their students.**

* Welcome week talks and how to make sure all level 4 students have a PAT allocated.
* Joint honor students had all new students allocated a PAT, this is the first year this has happened, and no student slipped through the net!!