

**VP Education**

**April Report**

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**Summary:** This month has been focused on arranging the STaR Awards, nominations and emailing invites. It has been reassuring to see so many strong nominations and for so many different members of staff too. I attended a workshop with FBL predominantly about BME students and advocacy. Varsity was amazing, good turn out of support and a good effort from our teams, looking forward to next year already! I attended the NUS Conference in Glasgow which was valuable to see what their future plans are given their current financial issues. Spoke with other Unions to compare what they are achieving in and whether we can arrange visits to similar Unions to share what we do well and vice versa. I attended the Arts ceremonies which included emerging talent from local school, it was impressive to say the least. I have had a lot of annual leave to catch up on too.

**Key Talking Points:**

* Anonymous marking
* Symesterisation
* JISQ Survey
* By elections preparations
* NUS Conference
* Held an Easter crafternoon and egg hunt, well attended.

**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
* Review of elections process
* Getting student voice in to new spaces
* Liaising with students regarding semesterisation, anonymous marking and other University level decisions.
* BME Workshop with FBL in which I discussed academic advocacy and how best to engage students in shaping their education.

**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. Face to face and online (emails, social media etc.)
* Discussing the maximization of advocates in the coming year and where best to utilize their skills such as in upcoming elections and welcome week.
* Preparing handover for new VP Education and sabbatical team.

**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.
* Emailing nominated lecturers and students to invite to 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.
* Seeing students needs through top level committees and meetings.
* Social media monitoring to answer any concerns.
* Art ceremonies.

**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!!
* Attending JH steering group to make sure that JH students are well represented when major decisions are made that could affect them.