

**VP Education**

**March Report**

**Gemma Lovegrove**

**Summary:** I have been holding stalls for STaR Awards and so far, we have over 600 nominations. I believe that by the time it closes, we will have a record amount. Thank you to Ana and the Advocacy team for all their effort in helping to achieve this! I have enjoyed speaking to students that are so positive about their educational experiences at the University and the outstanding efforts their lecturers and support staff are putting in to their students. Now I cannot wait to hold the awards night in May which we are busy planning. Working on the TEF steering group to understand how TEF awards Universities based on teaching excellence and how we can utilise student voice within this process. We also held an appointments committee where we shortlisted two candidates for external trustees and they successfully got voted through student council. The Sabbatical team and the CEO had a day out of the office speaking about the future of the Union and how to develop the strategy further in future. At last student council I confirmed that the gaming network had been set up to alleviate stress on those studying using the WiFi. Generally, I have been supporting students daily and encouraging them to take part in their Union, if people understand more about the Union they will feel empowered to make and be part of the changes. Other than this, my month has been inundated with surveys, consulting on questions in surveys and meetings about surveys!

**Key Talking Points:**

* TEF Steering Group
* Nominations committee
* STaR Award Stalls
* CEO/Sabbatical Team Away Day
* Sitting on the interview panel for new Head of Student Services
* Education Committee manifestos fulfilled.
* Anonymous marking
* Semesterisation.

**Manifesto Points:**

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

* STaR Awards
* Supporting advocates
* Getting more student voice in the regulatory processes of the University, such as QAA, TEF and OfS
* SU shout outs to new students
* New page being developed on BME issues in preparation for new BME Sabbatical role. Will include all meetings and research so far to help them a stepping stone into their role.

**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 for advocates to do lecture shout outs to promote the Union and Elections. Was too late to actually implement it but in future this will be delivered well in advance to inspire students to nominate themselves too and raise awareness of the elections.

**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.
* Encouraging lecturers to nominate their course advocates for good practice.
* Course Advocate Easter meet
* Advising on formation of SSLC’s and how to support Advocates.
* SSLC Survey
* PAT Survey

**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.
* QAA more student voice
* 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.
* Welcome week development to ensure super supportive transition period from college/school education.
* ESS speaking about how to support students through transition, working on retention and progression. Also discussed more supportive transition strategies in ISEG.
* Semesterisation talks to see how this is ‘super supportive’ for students.
* Welcome week Integrated Learner Support and levels 5/6 possible integration.
* PAT Survey