

**VP Education**

**January Report**

**Gemma Lovegrove**

**Summary:** The Christmas Crafternoon was a success despite some initial difficulties and we managed to engage with a few students who had never had any experience with the SU before. After inviting all advocates, we took approximately 30 (course and faculty level) to the VC’s drinks at the thread where he thanked them for their contributions so far. I have been assisting with helping new exec officers to settle and understand their roles and positions on council. I have also been working on a new set of promises to support my manifesto pledges as I feel this is required given the work I have been doing in these areas. Education on the edge campaign against differential fees for courses, spoken with VC regarding opposing the changes and sending an open letter. Will enlist the help of Faculty Advocates to educate on what the changes would mean for our institution. I have also been working with Raf on this years NSS with lecture shout outs already being done in some courses and a plan in place for the others requested. NSS Nursing event 09/01/2019.

**Key Talking Points:**

* Attended the VC drinks with the advocates
* Working on STaR Awards and promoting the nominations process
* Christmas Crafternoon
* Dealing with student complaints
* Assisting with exec members to fulfil their manifestos or problem solve.
* Education on the edge
* New TEF steering group to help maintain UoN’s Gold teaching award

**Manifesto Points:**

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

* Engaging new students over social media and highlighting SU to them.
* Supporting new exec members
* Trying to organize a stall to highlight the SU, its purpose and how it supports students.
* Collaborating with staff and Raf to help improve PGR student experience and representation.

**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.

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

* Met with the PGR staff and students to cement what we need to do as a union to support this group of students
* Opened Nominations for STaR Awards to share in good practice of student advocates, lecturers and support staff, technical difficulties so now have paper copies available. Will be starting a stall in LH soon with nominations.
* Liaising with lecturers regarding SSLC’s and advocacy, advising on getting advocates for courses.

**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.
* Working on commuter student’s needs – awaiting price and advice on possibility of lockers in the SU and working on making the SU a more comfortable place to study and use as a community common room space. Also, discusiing with them what else they feel the SU is lacking with reagrds to their needs (ie suitable events which I shall pass on to Ryan)
* Postgraduate needs, not traditional student experience, have different needs, investigating what we can do to be more supportive.
* Working on Alumni needs

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

* Welcome week meeting, getting student voice in the planning of next years students and the allocation of PAT’s.
* Still in constant talks with c@n do regarding staff development and support of PAT’s.

**BME Mandate from BME Officer**

* Supported BME Sabbatical officer through Board of Governors
* Constantly keeping up to date with national BME campaigns, research and NUS developments on BME issues (for example, for the first time, Universities WILL be set targets on the Black Attainment Gap as part of their Access and Participation agreements through OfS. This is a big win from campaigns such as BME attainment gap which we took an active part in)
* Kept in contact with BME PTO to ensure we did not lose the opportunity to work with him and utilise his expertise.
* ISEG

**I.T Mandate from Education Committee**

* Spoke with Jane Bunce who said that it would not be cost effective. They have had to spend on snagging issues and as the I.T provisions have been improved and are still being worked on as a developmental process, they cannot consider this request.
* Jane suggests that someone from Ed Comm go to the next waterside and you forum to discuss with I.T so they can discuss the complexities behind such a request.