



23 October 2019, 6-8pm, Wallace Room, Bristol SU

Committee

Chris Brasnett [CB; Postgraduate Education Officer], Emmanuel Bempong-Manful [EBM; PGR Science], Arsham Nejad-Kourki [ANK; PGR Life Sciences], Alexander Brett [AB; UG Arts], Rosie Hudson [RH; UG Engineering], Sam Crossley [SC; UG SSL], Jack McAlinden [JMA; UG Health Sciences]

Apologies: Hillary Gyebi-Ababio [Undergraduate Education Officer], David Dewar [PGR Arts], Mengwei Xu [PGR Engineering], Yunyan Li [PGR SSL], Becca Kent [UG Science]

In attendance

Lizzie Tilley [LT; Student Voice Manager], Stella Becci [SB; Academic Representation Assistant]

AGENDA

1. Standing items
 - 1.1. Present & Apologies
 - 1.2. Intro to Education Network Committee meetings (Lizzie)
 - 1.3. Minutes and Action Points from last meeting
 - 1.4. Updates from all committee members

2. Items for Information
 - 2.1. Update on elections and Education Network Chair (Lizzie)
 - 2.2. Academic Rep Conference on 2nd November (Lizzie)

3. Items for Discussion
 - 3.1. Senate discussion
 - 3.2. Lucinda Parr's request to shadow a student
 - 3.3. Education Network Facebook page – how do we want to use it? (Stella)

4. Any other business

Date of next meeting: November 26th, 6-8pm (followed by a social)

Meeting Chair: LT

Minutes:

1. Standing items

1.1. **Present and Apologies;**

1.2. **Intro to Education Network Committee meetings;**

- LT: explains that ENC meetings will happen monthly, dates will be booked in advance, ideally to alternate with Standing Committee.
 - **Action: ALL;** are there any dates/times that don't work for anyone? Let the SU staff know.

1.3. **Minutes and Action Points from last meeting;**

1.4. **Updates from all committee members;**

- LT: explains this is a space for all committee members to share what they've been up to since last meeting.
- RH: has been working on how to make course reps come together in Engineering and make a spreadsheet to log issues; RH suggest to have photos of reps to put up in university building so that they have more visibility.
- ANK: is still trying to meet all course reps; reps did not seem enthusiastic about the course rep forum; it is challenging to engage course reps. Some reps have asked about how to chair an SSLC; there will be specific training on this at the Academic Rep Conference.
- EBM: will look into organising a course rep mingle after 7th November.
- LT: advises to make course reps feel special to increase engagement; e.g., "I am contacting you in quality of course rep". Also ask for help of academic staff, especially senior academics, to sponsor forums and course rep events. Make sure that you follow up meetings/forums with thank you's, and updates on action points.
- EBM and ANK: discuss the feasibility of a faculty conference
- RH: explains that the two schools in Engineering are quite separate and that this is confusing the students; CB suggests that this is something that could be on RH's agenda to look into.
- ANK: faculty records of reps are out of date
 - **Action:** LZ, SB to look into this after the end of elections.
- RH: how to work with academic societies? The Education Network automatically includes Academic Society Committees; the idea is for reps to work more with academic societies collaboratively, rather than in competition.
- EBM: There is no structure for academic societies to communicate with academic reps and we should look more into how to implement this. LT suggests perhaps this is something that could be looked into long-term. JMA: In Helath Sciences the course rep structure is organised through societies; they are a really valuable resource and engaged. This year would be good to look into branching out to engage academic societies in EN.

- JMA: been focusing on Mental Health Survey. Request from a student to look into developing a Medical School building as currently there is none.
- CB: been trying to catch up with all reps; been going out to SSLCs to talk about new proposal of doing course representation differently at PGR level. Developing a survey for PGR students about wellbeing and other issues around space, how the SU can engage with them better; generally it's meant to capture what the PRES survey does not, regarding the student experience for postgraduates; for the SU to complement what the university provides in terms of wellbeing services for postgraduates (e.g., PGs might feel uncomfortable in the same spaces as UGs).

2. Items for Information:

2.1. **Update on elections and Education Network Chair**

- LT: We are currently in the process of elections; all PGT Faculty reps have enough nominations; the only gap standing is PGR Faculty Health Sciences. Once all are in place (25th October), there will be a chance for being the Chair of Education Network committee. These run online and there is a chance for people to ask questions to nominees during the next Committee Meeting (T.B.C. in November), after which the elections will take place.

2.2. **Academic Rep Conference on 2nd November**

- LT: If you can't make some of it, come for as much as you can. 12-1PM there will be an opportunity to get a headshot during the 1-hour registration. If you can't attend all of it, prioritise the Faculty Break-outs 1:30 – 3pm: course reps split into faculties (split by UG+PG/PGR) – a chance for reps to look into faculty-specific data from NSS, YourBristol surveys, Mental Health reports (which have not been published), and PRES (for PGRs), and identify issues and solutions. There will be 5 minutes at the end to do "priority setting" with a focus on "things that you can do as an academic rep". After this, there will be a choice of sessions (a more detailed schedule will be circulated). At 5pm closing remarks and pizza!

3. Items for Discussion:

3.1. **Senate discussion**

- LT: explains Senate is the most senior committee in the university body. There are 10 positions for faculty reps to attend. All 6 UG go, + 2 PGRs and 2PGTs. These positions are fixed currently, so it is always the same faculty reps who attend. We will try to time Education Network Committee meetings close to a Senate meeting so that we can discuss the papers beforehand and the reps that won't go are able to feed into the discussion.
- CB: attended a Senate induction meeting; in brief, this is attended by senior uni staff (Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Provost, Deputy Registrar, PVC Education, Heads of Schools) and the Sabbatical Officers. There are updates and discussion of papers with statistics. CB gives brief overview of next Senate agenda (circulated on paper during the meeting). It is helpful to read papers beforehand to bring something up.
- CB and JMA: if anyone is not comfortable putting their hand up to contribute during Senate, they volunteer to support/speak on behalf of.

- CB: advises to look at the action column for items up for discussion, to endorse, and for approval. Items that are for information will not be discussed thoroughly.

3.2. Lucinda Parr's request to shadow a student

- LT: Lucinda Parr has requested to shadow a faculty rep for a day to get an insight on how students interact with student spaces, what their schedules are like, etc. .
- LZ suggests half a day for a UG student, and half for PG could be appropriate. This is a good opportunity for getting a pair of "senior eyes" on your student community.
- JMA: Would be keen but there might be issues with LP being in clinical environments [JMA is a Medical student]; also JMA feels he might be an atypical student, ie. spending most of the day in hospital.
- CB suggests Lucinda could take 2 reps out for lunch (and then swap over).
 - **Actions:** JMA to look into alternative, potentially a course rep in Medical school. AN-K to contact Master's student rep who might be interested.