

Council
2nd November 2009

Student Written Submission

Oh how I wish I had the time to write a longer report for Council! I've been writing for and assembling the SWS constantly, which includes research and some statistical analysis, and I will be very relieved when it's been sent off. I've presented the SWS for review so far to this Council and I need feedback hard and fast. Next Council on the 16th will just be a rubber-stamping exercise, I hope, so I won't be impressed if someone takes issue with something I've written that they could have commented on today...

Casework

Had a bit more casework in the last couple of weeks, involving me jumping in cabs to get from one campus to another before a plane leaves – don't ask!

Representation

I'm pleased to say that my list of Dep Reps is now complete. All positions have been filled and all reps have had some sort of training. Year Reps should by now have all been elected and forms submitted to me – if you're a guilty Dep Rep, please step on it. I'm inviting all Year Reps to a training session on Monday the 9th in the evening. Also the new Undergraduate Rep Handbook is now available and will be online ASAP! If you'd like a copy, drop in or email me and I'll print one off or send it to you.

National Student Survey

The National Student Survey is an annual survey of all final year students, carried out in the spring and paid for by the Government. Generally over 50% of students are surveyed and the results are statistically sound and highly representative.

I've been to a workshop on the NSS results this year and ours don't show anything we didn't expect: Aeronautics and Civil Engineering are the two worst departments for organisation and overall, Computing is by far the best overall (thanks in no small part to Susan Eisenbach, Dean of Learning and Teaching and Computing Department Director of Studies) and Earth Science and Engineering comes a close second, doing particularly well in teaching scores. Chemical Engineering and Chemistry aren't doing too badly either. Maths, Physics and Bioengineering don't do too well for personal development. Medicine and Aeronautics fall down on academic support. Mechanical Engineers find staff don't make their course interesting, Materials students find the opposite, and Civil Engineers want better IT resources. Life Scientists don't feel confident in tackling unfamiliar problems, but Chemical Engineers do.

Across College, assessment feedback is incredibly poor – a theme right across the UK, I discovered – and learning resources are very good indeed, particularly the library.

When the SWS is out of the way, these are the things I need to deal with. Visit <http://www.unistats.com/> to see some very basic results, and if you're interested in more detailed results or conducting any kind of analysis, get in touch with me.