

Deputy President (Education) report to Council
A note by Alex Dahinten – Deputy President (Education)

SOLE

The Autumn SOLE survey began on Monday 6th December and will be open until Sunday 19th December. I have created a small campaign around it, informing students about how a good turnout benefits both them and the staff in their department. In the past, students have often not been made aware of the changes which SOLE results have brought to their department and therefore dismiss it as being 'just another survey'. The Dep Reps and Year Reps have been asked to publicise this information to their peers. The first week of SOLE I have not been able to publicise it widely due to various commitments I've had, however the second week I am going to concentrate on this. If you have not filled in SOLE yet (and are an undergrad) please do it and spread the word!

Academic Forum

The Academic Forum is something I wish to organise termly for both PGs and UGs. During these, the Dep Reps, AAOs/AWOs come together to give a brief update on how the term has gone in their department; any problems they have/are encountering and present some best practise. The PG one was held on the 7th December and was a success. The turnout was decent, taking into consideration that many reps had lab or project commitments on that evening.

The UG academic forum is scheduled for Thursday 16th December. I have asked all Dep Reps to fill out a form and highlight good/bad practise in their departments. This will provide the foundation for good discussions during the meeting.

Next term, the plan is to widely publicise these meetings to the student body, and encourage any student to come and voice their academic concerns.

Feedback Policy

A feedback policy is currently being drafted, and will be presented at one of the first Councils next year. This policy will incorporate current College procedure, best practise and student Union's opinion regarding the quality and timelines of coursework and exam feedback. In order for this policy to stand, I would like it passed through Council as well as the relevant UG Faculty Studies Committees and PG Committees; unless both students and staff agree on a common ground, this policy will be a waste of time.

Two members of College Staff have begun writing a separate feedback policy, however I have contacted them and they agreed to merge our documents into a single one before it is passed. While drafting the policy, I have come across a lot of good practise on how to assess students in different ways, and therefore I've decided to also draft a best practise guideline for academic staff on this.

SSC Good Practise Guidelines

The SSC good practise guidelines have been revamped. Some major changes include:

- Fully incorporating PG SSCs into the document
- Adding 'strongly recommended' and 'useful' topics for discussion which are to be considered at every meeting
- Making sure that the relevant AAO/AWO, Representation Coordinator and myself are informed of every meeting and are sent the agenda and minutes
- Outlining that the committee should meet twice a term in Autumn and Spring, as well as once in the Summer term (currently only once a term is recommended)
- Head of Department should be present at every meeting
- Model Agenda appendix

The changes were passed at the last RWB meeting.