

**Deputy President (Education) report**  
**A note by Alex Dahinten**

**VLE review**

This year I have had numerous meetings with a committee tasked with reviewing the VLE (virtual learning environment). Although this is a long-term project (it would not be implemented in the next 2 years), our work in coming up with solid specifications will set the groundwork for future decisions. A group of student volunteers have given their input as well recently, and in a meeting this week we will produce the final specifications and priorities.

**Feedback Code of Practise**

At the last Council, I promised to bring this document to this council. However, due to unforeseen reasons, College has not been able to complete their part of the document, therefore it is not ready. Since this will need to be passed, I recommend circulating it to the members of council once a final draft is done, collect your opinions, and then pass this at the next Executive meeting.

**Departmental Wiki**

The Physics reps have been working on a wiki for their department since the beginning of the year. The idea behind this was to provide a way for students to interact with each other outside of the lectures, and to share their solutions to questions for which answers are not provided e.g. previous exam papers. The wiki can be accessed via:  
[http://rcsu.org.uk/physoc/wiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://rcsu.org.uk/physoc/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page). This wiki was launched recently, and is continuously growing. I really see the potential of this being rolled out to all departments, and therefore have begun working on incorporating this idea into the union webpage. Hosting it on the union server would protect it from internet bugs, allow much greater storage capacity and make sure that the pages can all be accessed from one location; this is an inter-departmental solution. Some issues which will need solving are how to guarantee that this does not turn into a lecturer-basking forum, how it will be monitored and how to avoid students uploading their CW solutions i.e. avoiding plagiarism.

**Extending the College Day**

The meeting has been set for 23 February 2011.

**NSS Participation**

Latest NSS participation rates (7 February) are below. We are up 4% compared to the same time last year (mainly because ESE and Bioengineering participation has been overwhelmingly good). Dep reps have been emailing their peers and doing lecture shout-outs. A poster campaign has also been launched and departments provided with these posters.

Council  
14<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Department/Degree Stream	NSS Response Rate (07.02.2011)	NSS Overall Response Rate 2010	Δ
Earth Science and Engineering	85%	68%	17%
Bioengineering	65%	56%	9%
Biology	40%	57%	-17%
Business School	38%	<50% (results not published)	-
Computing	36%	68%	-32%
Chemistry	36%	56%	-20%
Biomedical Sciences	32%	56%	-24%
Biochemistry	29%	60%	-31%
Materials	27%	61%	-34%
Aeronautics	25%	58%	-33%
Electronic and Electrical Engineering	24%	52%	-28%
Physics	23%	58%	-35%
Civil Engineering	19%	52%	-33%
Mechanical Engineering	16%	59%	-43%
Mathematics	16%	<50% (results not published)	-
Medicine	11%	68%	-57%
Chemical Engineering	10%	53%	-44%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>-34%</b>