



RSMU Academic Affairs Report

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Academic and Welfare Drop-in Sessions

In the Autumn Term, drop-in sessions were held on Monday lunchtimes (together with Rachael Shuttleworth, RSMU Welfare Officer) to try and encourage students to come forward with Welfare or Academic issues. These were advertised using social media, mailing lists, and also by dropping into first year lectures to identify ourselves to the new students. However, students did not use this service, so instead email addresses have been set up for both the Welfare Officer and the Academic Liaison Officer, as it was felt that this, more anonymous, way may be more favoured by students. One major advantage of offering the drop-in session has, however, been that many more students know who their representatives are for the Constituent Union, and therefore who to approach should issues arise. Thanks must go to the RSMU Executive Committee, who were very supportive in both of these, and allowed the use of their office for the drop-in sessions.

Postgraduate-Undergraduate Space Meeting with Phil Power and Ethan Butler

I was invited to a meeting to discuss the issues surrounding space within the college, particularly for postgraduate students in the Faculty of Engineering (FoE). Ethan is the FoE Postgraduate Representative and wanted to discuss his concerns around having a social and more relaxed space for postgraduate students to go, whilst not working. This appears to be an ongoing problem faced by many departments within the college.

Faculty Teaching Committee (FTC)

Along with James Murphy, CGCU Academic Affairs Officer, I have attended the Faculty of Engineering Teaching Committee, where I have been able to give my opinion on issues affecting the

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current and future students of the faculty: including laptops, UROPs, IROPs and faculty entrance requirements.

ESE feedback – via Staff Student Committee (SSC)

I have attended several of the ESE Staff Student Committee meetings, along with the ESE Department Representatives, which has allowed me to voice concerns that students have come to me about, most recently regarding the ESE January exams. There were also concerns relating to Panopto: that some staff teaching particularly content-heavy modules were not using Panopto, and that this would very useful for revision. This has been raised at the SSC and the department will attempt to resolve this.

It was also discussed that content-heavy modules could be rearranged, so as not to be taught in terms with major ongoing projects, especially with the coinciding shorter Christmas vacation for the next few years.

Materials feedback – via Department Representative

The Materials Department Representative, Iacopo Russo, has reported the following things from the Materials SSC meetings:

- Timetables for Spring Term are available on an electronic calendar, as well as in PDF format
- Panopto: cameras for lecture recording have been installed in RSM G05 and G06, meaning that 3 out of the 4 major lecture halls used by the Department now have a camera (G01 still only has a microphone)
- Low attendance at tutorials for years 1 and 2 has been noted, and been discussed at SSC meetings. Year Representatives and staff members are now discussing how this issue could be addressed.

National Student Survey (NSS)

The NSS was released in the last month, and final year students have been strongly encouraged to complete this. Full completion has already been achieved by ESE, thanks to the efforts of the Department Representatives (Simon Brau and Robin Thomas) and Dr Lorraine Craig.

SACAs

Students have been encouraged to nominate teaching staff through publicity from the Department Representatives.

Future Plans

I will continue to attend FoE FTC meetings, ESE SSC meetings and ERB meetings as they arise, and continue to voice opinions and concerns fed to me by the Department Representatives, Year Representatives and other students from the RSM.