



Education Zone **Tuesday 28th November, 4pm** **Temple Hall**

Present

Chair

Steph Foxton POE)

Students' Union Officers/staff

Paul Murtough – Student Voice Coordinator (PM), Charlie Carr (Academic Rep Support Staff)

Chairs of School

Amy Deveney (ADC), Skye Pickorer (YBS), Hannah Scott (EDU), Jenny Marchant (HRP), Millan Tankaria (HSC), Laura Grove (LAL), Anna Gunby (PMP), Raphie Piquiot (PSS), Abi Cranswick (SPO)

York St. John University Staff

Stephanie Gant (), Jim Irving ()

Student Representatives

78 members - headcount

Apologies

None

Welcome & Introductions

PRES welcomed all in attendance to the meeting and explained the format.

Items for Any Other Business

None were taken

Agenda Items

- 1. Transitions**
- 2. Timetable**

1. Transitions

PRES and PM presented updates to the students – PM noted that accreditation was open for multiple logs and can be accessed by the link sent via e-mail.



School of Art, Design and Computer Science (ADC)

What were your main worries starting university?

Moving away from home
Tea's not on the table and doing own washing
Grades- pressure on self to make sure they continue
Getting settled in to Uni first before starting the degree, making friends, worries
Money

When starting university, what did you look forward to?

Meeting new people
Starting new course, somethings new
Freedom of moving out, having own money
Responsibilities-adulting but also scary
Getting into your new subjects, something you're passionate about

When you started university, how did the reality compare to your expectations?

Enjoyed it but wish we was more prepared
Not as home sick as you thought you was going to be

Did you feel prepared for next step?

NO

Diss 15th Jan fine art, far too early, scary, not enough time. Needed more advise before going away for summer so had more time to act on it. Too little, too late

Got summer projects but meant nothing, they want projects that can be used in the future, useful projects and something to focus on. People working over something and isn't fair when it doesn't mean anything.

What could be done to help you feel more prepared?

ADC struggles with money,
Reading booklet sent out to home reading about the course and relevant projects

Do you feel supported during these different transitions?

With had more support between first and second but didn't need it between second and third (Fine art and Computer science)
Fine art-RSA and student accommodation and found lots of things available before but others didn't
More about product design course online please for future
Cross group crits- collab years and courses
Really want cross collaboration between subjects and courses



What could be done differently to help you feel more supported?

Taking on crits more

More items over summer, summer is wasted time.

Optional work over summer and Christmas, more resources to use and look it.

Emails, lecturers don't reply, some take a long time to reply (fine art)

Problems with getting hold of, not replying but saying they've replied when they haven't

Notes:

They've stopped the sketching classes that they loved, second and first years. want to practice more rendering.

Want more workshops on InDesign, CAD etc. (interior and product)

Wasn't notified about changes, sickness of lecturers.

Double bookings a couple of times

Studio Space (taking them away) saying its too expensive for fine art.

24/7 studio rooms they like, safe and security are really good.

More contact with tutors-more opinions

1h30 tutorial for one person and all the other missed out- same person all the time, not fair.

Stay in one corner- fine art

Great timetable, not in too late so find it nice full on and lots of activities.

Hard to motivate yourself when left to own devices.

First year split into two groups so couldn't meet friends at dinner. Couldn't speak to the other class and found it really hard. Was expected to interact but couldn't - fine art

External artist has come into the main art space and now no one can use it for 2 weeks.

Graphics would like workshops to improve skills, different levels of availabilities within the class and people want to learn more. Could learn something different once a week.

NO drinking water available in the whole of phoenix- only one is in staffroom but aren't allowed in.

School of Education (EDU)

What were your main worries starting university?

Making friends

Child care

Was it the right course?

Accommodation and where im staying

Not being able to find rooms/way around

How difficult the course would be

Jump between uni and high school

Reading

Expectations being met

Having time to work



Living away from home
Mature students being around 18 y/o – age difference

When starting university, what did you look forward to?

House – new
Independence
Sports and societies
1 step closer to career
Learning something new I wanted to learn
Meeting new people
Getting into schools -primary ed

When you started university, how did the reality compare to your expectations?

Phones

Did you feel prepared for the next step?

No in moving from 1st to 2nd – really big step up
More prepared for 3rd year with practice of second year
Lack of organisation – timetable last minute making things difficult e.g. work/timetable FE to HE

What could be done to help you feel more prepared?

No recorded response

What could be done differently to help you feel more supported?

Better 1st to 2nd year than coming into uni – more feedback given
Not supported going in but then as you become more familiar etc.
Did feel supported but up to you to ask for support not just expecting it to be given
Excessive AT meetings – not helpful/relevant
Not supported into 1st year but supported once here

School of Health Sciences (HSC)

What were your main worries starting university?

FEEDBACK
Balance between outside life and uni life
First assignment, head around
Moving away from home
Meeting new people
Balance overwhelming
College given guidance- not so much at uni
Independence
Intensity of the work load
Placement straightaway- good straightaway but still nervous.



When starting university, what did you look forward to?

Making friends
Fresher's
Meeting people with similar interests
Starting the course
Focus on one subject
Placement
Moving into student house
New city
Cooking own meals.
Getting into the course- has a direction – end goal
Doing something I enjoy

When you started university, how did the reality compare to your expectations?

No recorded responses

Did you feel prepared for the next step?

Felt prepared but then was not what expected
Welcome week helped so much- being taught about the university- referencing lectures,
Mandatory training could be clearer.- through one website
Difficulty on Moodle
More prepared for 2nd than 1st. Did not know how big the step up would be
Felt prepared but then when got to uni could have prepared more

What could be done to help you feel more prepared?

No recorded responses

Did you feel supported during these different transitions?

No- from college to uni summer getting everything sorted. Apart from what to bring not much else. How to cope??
Fresher's meetings- made friends
No other OT nearby- would be nice to live nearby
Maybe a Physio in block
Lack of dissertation support (deadlines and structure)
Felt supported- receiving emails, pre uni work
Meeting tutors early on but was overwhelming- taking a lot in did not realise who was their to support.
Very supportive- meetings with mature students- sent in the right direction
Lot of information beforehand.

What could be done differently to help you feel more supported?

No recorded responses



School of Humanities, Religion and Philosophy (HRP)

What were your main worries starting university?

Worried about moving away from home / family emergencies could I get back?
Getting lost in the city - especially at night
Being slightly older than everyone else
Not getting along with your flatmates
Money
Problem of not enjoying clubbing
Worried about thinking it's the wrong university – wrong decision
Worried about the workload – managing reading
Mental health support
Worried about cooking

When starting university, what did you look forward to?

Decorating your room
Leaving home
Independence
Taking a step forward in your career
Excited for the course content

The change started university, how did the reality compare to your expectations?

Most popped answers here on the screen – less of a discussion

Did you feel prepared for the next step?

One argued she didn't potentially feel academically challenged but then others felt it was really hard going into 2nd year from 1st year as it was a big jump - there was no information for the second years or guidance as they were expected to know it all already despite it being harder

The politics student said that the University did not send any information about the course and they only found out about it through UCAS

2nd to 3rd year jump – only one 3rd year present but he said it was ok as there was a lot more support than he thought and they explained the course content at the beginning

Fear of what careers can be gone into for Humanities – I made the suggestion of perhaps more careers advice which they agreed with – advised them to visit the careers centre and there did seem to be an agreement that that is a helpful service

One student knew nothing about the university as they went through clearing, and there was a lack of general information provided besides the course content.

What could be done to help you feel more prepared?

Answers are integrated below/went to screen board



Did you feel supported during these different transitions?

Sixth form to 1st years had a general consensus that there was more support, but 1st year to 2nd year had a lack of help. Some 2nd years think it should be mandatory to have a check up with your tutor at the start of the 2nd academic year to see how you are getting along.

First years - Some felt the jump was quite fast paced and that moving into halls was a bit fast paced, equally one argued the unfamiliar technology (Moodle) is hard to keep up with no technological support

A second year wanted more reassurance over summer as they got their grades but felt that nothing was said to guarantee they were still progressing to year 2 on the course – suggested an email just to say well done you passed style

More support- disability support – first year said he filled in that he had a disability, and nothing came of it, he had to chase it up with his lecturer who helped him sort it

Some people felt that the transitions were ok – and some felt they don't necessarily need the support themselves but know it's available.

There's some in place but maybe more support could be implemented

One felt too frightened to go to Wellbeing Team in the first week

The one the Humanities students agreed with, popping up on the screen on the interaction board was more integration between 2nd and 3rd year, as the 1st years seem to know a lack people in the year above and felt that would be helpful

A first year argued the campus map could be more clear and helpful – first years said the signage on the floor when it was there is a great help – but they felt they had to guess on the room names as they didn't know the abbreviations i.e QS – did not know what this meant

A notification when your timetable changes – people who have the same timetable and then it changes find it difficult to keep checking it all the time to know, it would be useful to be alerted if it changes

What could be done differently to help you feel more supported

Answers displayed on screen

School of Languages and Linguistics (LAL)

What were your main worries starting university?

Not knowing anybody

Homesickness

Failing

Academic writing

Accommodation

Management overload

Food shopping



When starting university, what did you look forward to?

Freedom
More opportunities
Talking to staff
Moving away
Looking forward to meeting new people
Freshers
More independence
Societies

how did the reality compare to your expectations?

Half and half – expectations were there, just met differently
Work load varies between year groups, bigger step up from first to second year

Did you feel prepared for the next step?

No
Not prepared for the year abroad

What could be done to help you feel more prepared?

More input needs to be given from previous year abroad students to (could try a buddy system of a 3rd + 1st year student being paired up, similar to a mentor, but for a year abroad)

Did you feel supported during these different transitions?

As much as we could
Dissertation talks
Welcome week was helpful
Post grad needs more discussion
Welcome week for 2nd years could be helpful
Group tutorials 2-4 students
Could do a goodbye wk for 3rd years
Academic tutors are useful

What could be done differently to help you feel more supported

Mixers and 'ice breakers' but in a more social format
Meet adjacent years, have informal meetings/discussions to prepare for the next year



School of Performance and Media Production (PMP)

What were your main worries starting university?

Wouldn't enjoy it
Money and finance
Wouldn't make any friends
The course isn't what they expected
Not being welcome
Workload being overwhelming
Being homesick

When starting university, what did you look forward to?

Independence
Getting away from home
Studying the course chosen
Different opportunities
freedom

Did you feel prepared for the next step?

Not really
No
A bit

What could be done to help you feel more prepared?

Articulate options to us more (second year)
Limited course information when first starting
Miscommunication about 3rd year running's & organisation
Reading lists weren't helpful
Getting a schedule for first few weeks
Knowing assessment dates from the beginning

Did you feel supported during these different transitions?

Check ins help
No, limited support for third year; IPAR and Dissertation
Support better when moving from first year to second year over sixth form to first year
Accommodation wasn't very accommodating
Media production felt very supported
Some lecturers patronised students



School of Psychological and Social Sciences (PSS)

What were your main worries starting university?

Quality of work – a-levels were worse thought it would be a step up from all the awful stuff
Being too independent when it's the first time and don't know what I'm doing – household chores

Don't trust lecturers for a while because its all new

Not knowing the area – never been to north – worried about getting lost

Not being surrounded by family – being alone

Freshers week very click – hard to break it later

Getting along with roommates – hear horror stories

When starting university, what did you look forward to?

Learning what I wanted – more depth

Excited to meet people from all over

Living on my own – independent – break out of routine

Getting out of home town

Better career prospect

Drinking – back home without parents

Added things in unis -such as societies and sports – friends form everywhere and from different activities

Join sport never done before

Make own society

Better connection with parents – more checking in – so much better home life now – feel like there's more support

Study abroad

When you started university, how did the reality compare to your expectations?

No recorded responses

Did you feel prepared for next step?

NO – came to uni and that's it

Lecturers could push that 3rd year is best year – light at the end of 2nd year

More content – more than first year – lecturers know better and listen to what they're saying – list of stuff to buy

What could be done to help you feel more prepared?

Lecturers taking us into account in second year instead of assuming we knew things

Coming into schools secondary – and said what to expect – very glamorised

Better explain maintenance loan – better advertise



Do you feel supported during these different transitions?

No psychology – especially 2nd year
Supported in where to go –
Support if ask – at end of lectures, email or in meetings

What could be done differently to help you feel more supported?

No recorded responses

School of Sport

What were your main worries starting university?

New city
Living with new people
moving away from home

When starting university, what did you look forward to?

Leaving home
Becoming more independent
;earning life skills

When you started university, how did the reality compare to your expectations?

Better
Love sports teams at YSJ
Made me stay at university

Did you feel prepared for next step?

No because applied last minute so no time.
Could do more directly about the transition at school
Better support between transitions within university

What could be done to help you feel more prepared?

Initial meeting with peers outside of lectures to get to know people
E-mails before starting university in summer

Do you feel supported during these different transitions?

Yes, my academic tutor met with me
Parents were only a phone call away
Peers were friendly and in the same boat



What could be done differently to help you feel more supported?

First to second years not supported
Improve relationships between students and SU staff
More support with placement

York Business School (YBS)

What could be done differently to help you feel more supported?

More support for international students in terms of assistance in looking at making journal software more accessible or provided in more languages

2. Timetable

School of Art, Design and Computer Science (ADC)

What should the timetable team prioritise to improve timetable?

- 1) Not staying in too late
- 2) Not coming in too early
- 3) Consistency
- 4) Good ratio between lectures and workshop/doing own things
- 5) Good break time in-between lectures
- 6) Over 12 Hours' notice if illness or change to lecture/class
- 7) Enough space for everyone
- 8) Workshops

School of Education (EDU)

How do you find your current timetable?

Difficult to read
Too many long gaps
No consideration for sport
Not consistent for primary ed
One thing on one day and then long gaps on others that could be filled
1 1 hour lesson a day feel a waste of a day
Considerate tutors make it easier for changing timetable
Lots of last-minute changes causing people to miss sessions
Some timetabled rooms are not fit for purpose
Inconsistency between tutors



What makes a good / student friendly timetable?

Consistency
Less late lessons
Shorter breaks
Not such long days
Being able to see which rooms are available and whose booked them
Compressed into less days rather than spread out
Colour coded for different modules
Wednesdays off
Easier to read
Sample timetables in advance so can know about commuting

What should the timetable team prioritise to improve timetable?

1. Consistency
2. Less late lessons
3. Shorter breaks
4. Not such long days
5. Being able to see which rooms are available and whose booked them
6. Compressed into less days rather than spread out
7. Colour coded for different modules
8. Wednesdays off
9. Easier to read
10. Sample timetables in advance so can know about commuting

School of Health Sciences (HSC)

How do you find your current timetable?

Not structured, good to get a mixture, a bit more structured
Revision session- no lecturers were there- no specific
Professional development lecture a lot and not so much anatomy lectures- could be more balanced
SOL- not knowing if it is right or wrong.
6 o clock latest
Make it clear how to put timetable onto calendar- so much clearer.
Online learning does not always say what it is for
Timetabling for assessment was all over the place.
Online timetable did not respond with timetable on the sheet with lecture a,b and c

What makes a good / student friendly timetable?



Independent and can change weekly- in professions the weeks will be different
Spread out- can do dissertation work
Day per module
More set days off and in and combine
One half is one module and the other half is another module

What should the timetable team prioritise to improve timetable?

1. Structure
2. Not massive breaks
3. Do not have lectures later than 6pm.
4. Balanced on days- days can be quite long and then quite short days- a hassle for people traveling.
5. Easier to get on the phone- an app??
6. Link up to calendar on phone is easier
7. Link timetable to modules- for example, a module content on one day.
8. Try to not change or move around lectures. For example, can check and not have anything then having something on that day.
9. Not spreading days out too much
10. Doing sessions with other disciplines for dissertation. For example, physio and OT.

School of Humanities, Religion and Philosophy (HRP)

How do you find your current timetable?

Timetable is confusing to follow online
Timetable changing can get confusing to follow
Notification if your timetable changes

2nd year RPE likes her timetable as its Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday – better in consecutive days as you get a couple of days off long weekends

General consensus that they'd prefer morning lectures as it gets it over and done with – evening ones are difficult

One boy liked having something every single day, gives you something to do – but most seemed to disagree with this due to the annoyance of popping in just for one hour

One student has the problem of all her lectures are basically on one day, and this means if she misses one day because of illness, she misses everything

Prefer daytime rather than evening things – if you are a commuter it becomes difficult to catch a train afterwards

Finding the balance between all of them being on one day or only being in one day a week



One girl is in Monday/Tuesday/Thursday and she's off Friday's which is good as she works weekends and gives her opportunity – likes this

Easier if it doesn't go after 5pm

6 hours a week for Liberal Arts – 4 hours on Friday, 2 hours on Tuesday – not really many contact hours

Commuting – find it difficult for transport when it gets to late evenings, and singular hour lectures as what are you travelling in for?

What makes a good / student friendly timetable?

Nothing after 5pm – good for part time jobs

Not in 5 days a week

Not 3 modules all on one day

Commuting – don't want to come in for an hour

What should the timetable team prioritise to improve timetable?

1. Nothing after 5pm
2. Don't want to be in 5 days a week
3. Don't want all of the modules all on the one day
4. Commuting students don't want to come in for one hour
5. Commuters find car parks are expensive, and evening lectures hard
6. Timetable consistency – would prefer a set timetable
7. Logging into a different portal for timetable is confusing – needs to be a bit more student engaging
8. Timetable to be laid out in a more user-friendly way– the codes confuse a lot of people
9. Notification – if the timetable has changed it would help to be notified
10. Info on about how to put timetable on phone

School of Languages and Linguistics (LAL)

How do you find your current timetable?

You can get it on your own calendar which is useful

Lecture times

Good breaks

3hr breaks (consistent). Timetable a break

Lessons aren't usually directly one after the other

What makes a good / student friendly timetable?

Consistent/regular breaks

Lectures coming before the seminars/workshops

Not very late finishes

What should the timetable team prioritise to improve timetable?



1. BSL times – we are aware that it is open to the public, but there were still some classes that ran late despite not having any adults or having only one in. consider adult numbers separately to student numbers.
2. Joint Hons – not communicating with each other. Some clashes
3. Thurs lectures 6.30-7.30pm, too dark to feel safe walking home
4. Some timetables have workshops before lectures
5. Earlier finish times in winter – too dark to walk home, especially if you live closer to town or near Limes Court
6. Timetable clashes
7. Academic tutor checks – ensure that the academic tutor assigned to the student is a tutor they will get taught by eg a student not taking Spanish isn't assigned a Spanish tutor etc

School of Performance and Media Production (PMP)

How do you find your current timetable?

Not correct for the course; time table online isn't the correct timetable

Technique isn't on the timetable

Would like less late finishes and the early starts the next morning; due to performing houses, societies and work

What should the timetable team prioritise to improve timetable?

1. Correct online timetable
2. Space bookings; priority over societies
3. User friendly booking system; many had problems understanding how to use the system
4. Technique classes not on the timetable
5. Technique classes clash with modules

School of Psychological and Social Sciences (PSS)

How do you find your current timetable?

Seminar straight after lecture – tiring but makes you go

Law – all morning 9am – want an afternoon one

Quite good think year in counselling – voted on class – listening to commuters – less days in uni but more together – 2 lectures a day not big gap really like it

Little contact hours- maybe better if all same day

Rooms in de-grey feel too small

Even if it says 30 max and there's 30 students feel very cramped, warm – cant work properly

CD very distracting for students if not walking about – classes next to the other distracting , can feel steps, also annoys the lecturers

Skell and de-grey for law – weird to find things – rooms are weird with screen – de-grey can hear someone moving things



Nice to have days off

Counselling Like the times but don't enjoy the locations

What makes a good / student friendly timetable?

Lectures not on too early

Nicer class room – spacious

Listen to students

Having a good break structure

Really love that timetable comes up really early

What should the timetable team prioritise to improve timetable?

1. Location – more spacious – lectures in the same room every week makes it easier
2. Timings – psychology 3rd year not ideal afternoon, lose motivation
3. Not all students are the same – contact hours less
4. Lecture and seminar together or 2 hours apart – 30 mins isn't enough time
5. Size of table
6. Lighting in room – having no daylight or ventilation decreases motivation and increases sleepiness
7. Temperature
8. Show what classrooms are available so other options than library to work in
9. List of where to find lecturers office
10. Timetable is readily available

School of Sport

How do you find your current timetable?

Timings between lectures on campus and Haxby Road is not efficient

More contact time would be good

What makes a good / student friendly timetable?

Not too early/Not too late

Potential later starts on Thursdays aft BUCS on Wednesday

What should the timetable team prioritise to improve timetable?

1. More breaks in lectures between 1-3hrs
2. Review lectures between HBR and campus – maybe more at HBR?
3. Reduce times of lectures from 3hrs to 1hr
4. HBR needs to be better managed
5. Review academic/social balance – interference between BUCS and lectures
6. Make staff availability more visible
7. No late evening lectures (beyond 6pm)
8. Make SOL sessions year round
9. Teaching/learning pedagogy
10. Timetable to take varied student demographics into consideration i.e. commuters/parents



York Business School

How do you find your current timetable?

Timetables need to be fixed or restructured in a way that makes more sense. Sometimes seminars happen before the main lecture of that week's topic. (MBA)

Rooms allocation seems odd and not optimal in terms of being able to learn. One example is an Monday 11am seminar for 3rd year finance and accounting with about 25-30 students is held in a small room in De Grey whereas a 2nd year seminar held at the same time with about 12-15 students is held in a much bigger room in Cordukes

It is felt that the submission time for assignments is too restrictive and it would be preferable if the uni could possibly move its standard submission time to 5pm

3. Student Voice Update

PM presented updates and requested that all reps complete the online training, if there are issues then contact at p.murtough@yorks.ac.uk

Rep handbook will be e-mailed again and made available on the website.

Both POE and PM noted the upcoming 'Know Your Rep' campaign beginning Monday 12th November - Friday 16th November.

Date of Next Meeting

Friday, 30th November, 4pm