



## **Education Zone Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 4pm CD006**

### **Present**

#### **Chair**

Izzy Tooke - VP Education (VPE)

#### **Students' Union Officers/staff**

Laurie Illingworth - SU President (PRES), Paul Murtough - Representation and Democracy Coordinator (PM), Louise Aiken - Membership Engagement Manager, Matthew Walton - Sports and Activities Manager

#### **Chairs of School**

George Coombs - Chair of School: Art, Design and Computer Science, Fran Ansel - Chair of School: Sport, Lizzie Smith - Chair of School: Education, Steph Foxton - Chair of School: English Language and Linguistics,

#### **York St. John University Staff**

Alyson Tobin - Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), Liesl King - Subject Director: English Literature, Mandy Asghar - Director of Academic Development Directorate (MA)

#### **Student Representatives**

##### **Art, Design and Computer Science**

Ellen Shaw - Graphic Design, Ellie Plews - Fine Art, Lucy Coleman - Interior Design, Amy Deveney - Product Design

##### **York Business School**

Abi Terry - International Business Management, Yasmin Riegeler - International Business Management

##### **English Language and Linguistics**

Alexander Terry - English Language and Linguistics, Isaac Frampton - English Language and Linguistics, Rebecca Kiff - Languages

## Education

Asha Matthan-Rogers - Education Studies, Megan Coull -Education Studies, Bryony Wood- Primary Education, Caitlin Curry - Primary Education, Madeline Beschizza - Primary Education, Mike Smaje - Primary Education, Victoria Rankin - Primary Education, Natalie Starkey - PGCE, Kayleigh Barsby - PGCE

## Health Sciences

Charlotte Watkinson - Physiotherapy, Joshua Williams- Biomedical Science, Sian Leighton - Biomedical Science

## Humanities, Religion and Philosophy

Abigail Peace - English Literature, Charlotte Stevenson - English Literature, Ella Bramhall - English Literature, Sarah Hatfield - English Literature, Joshua Crombie - Geography Lucy Hobson -Geography, Joshua Engley History, Penelope Hodgson - History, Demi-Marie Paterson - ELL & English Literature,

## Performance and Media Production

Daniel Smith - Music, Ellis Walsh - Music, Millie Saunders - Music, Nikitta Chard - Music, Vikki Uden -Music, Ben Ramscar - Music Production, Lewis Quinn - Music Production, Oli Longbottom - Music Production, Neisha Devereux-Lewis - Photography

## Psychological and Social Sciences

Hannah Allison - Sociology, Laura Southward - Psychology of Child & Adolescent Development, Katie Lee-Brown - Children, Young People and Families, Sally Robinson - Children, Young People and Families

## Sport

Lucy Garnett - Injury Rehabilitation, Shannon Davies - Physical Education and Youth Sport

## Apologies

Chris Bateman - Chief Executive Officer

## Welcome & Introductions

VPE welcomed all in attendance to the meeting and presented staff with the opportunity for introduction

## Items for Any Other Business

No items were taken

## Agenda Items

1. Election of the Zone Senators
2. University restructure
3. Resources
4. Moodle
5. Upcoming VPE campaigns
6. Course Rep system

### 1. Election of the Zone Senators

VPE introduced the Senate, VPE expanded on what Senate's intended purpose is  
Four students expressed interest in the role and IT stated that a ballot would be taken,  
(Results to be confirmed 19/10)

### 2. University Restructure

VPE brought to the discussion the recent change over to 'schools' which was implemented over the summer and asked for feedback (with particular reference to level 2 and 3 students)

## General feedback:

### Art, Design and Computer Science:

The Chair of School stated that the transfer to schools has been good but with growing numbers in the future, what space will be available for Fine Art?

### English Language and Linguistics:

The Chair of School praised the restructure stating that in the previous 'faculties' ELL felt lost in amongst the York Business School, however the changeover has resulted in smoother and far more accessible systems for support.

DVC was thankful of the positive outlook but asked if there were any problems arising with the restructure?

### Education:

The Chair of School stated that peers in Education hadn't really acknowledged that there had been a change

DVC stated that this wasn't a surprise as staff felt students were more akin to their course rather than a faculty/school.

### Sport:

Sport Science stated that the School of Sport presented an introduction at the beginning of the 2016/17 year discussing the new schools.

## Performance and Media Production:

Music felt that the key changes could have been distributed earlier in the summer with a focus on the student support element from administration teams.

## 3. Resources

VPE asked for feedback from students on the current available resources at the university

### General feedback:

Chair of School (ELL) stated that library restructure for book locations has caused a number of issues for students using the 'Ling lab' resulting in students storing books in the room

Music stated that similar issues have been found whereby books are now located on two separate floors instead of being together.

Chair of School (Sport) reiterated this point and Chair of School (Education) agreed.

**Action:** VPE to contact ILS regarding signposting of the new locations for books

It was also stated by a number of the students that other students are somewhat unaware of the laptop banks and their uses/locations.

VPE explained what the intention of the banks were and the campus locations, currently:

Fountains Learning Centre  
De Grey  
Holgate

The students were asked for feedback on the new modular teaching units (Cordukes, Temple Unit)

The use of technology advances and multi-screens were praised as being beneficial for the student body.

There was one issue highlighted that when the interactive screen is being written on, this does not translate to the multi-screens and results in students having to shift their focuses and positions which was felt to go against the intention of the layout.

**Action:** VPE to clarify with ILS the potential for this to be resolved.

It was also asked if the waiting areas in Cordukes could be carpeted due to when it is wet weather it becomes a health and safety hazard for students.

**Action:** DVC to review the need for carpets/mats in the waiting areas of CD

Chair of School stated that the new refurbishment to New Wing is very good but the temperature (NW006) is not manageable.

DVC asked if it was now worse than before.

Students stated it was even colder, added to by a broken window which doesn't close.

Music stated this was a similar situation for the Music Block (004/107)

Students also stated that for Music there is no support for note taking, resulting in students leaning on their knees for notes, pallet tables were seen to be an option.

DVC stated that this was interesting as pallet tables in the past were an unfavourable option.

Chair of School (ADSC) stated that in the instance for Fine Art, several moves for lecture space has improved as previously lectures were held in QS111 which wasn't appropriate for their work but the recent move to Cordukes has improved things.

Chair of School (ADSC) also stated that space availability in Phoenix is great for practical work.

A question was raised as to the availability of Sibelius for Music/Music Production students on the networked computers in the library.

**Action:** VPE to look into this with ILS and the relevant departments

Chair of School (ELL) stated that the 'Ling lab' is utilised on weekdays but not weekends as they are unable to gain entry to the room due to it being locked.

DVC Should it be locked?

Chair of School (ELL) replied that it should be available to students at all times.

DVC asked if there was a way to capture feedback on locations and resources and looked to MA for the potential of a Moodle feedback tool

PRES interjected that the new SU website and 'Viewpoint' can be utilised to gauge this feedback.

MA agreed that this was a good idea as some of the issues raised are not common knowledge.

**Action:** PRES/VPE to look into gathering feedback via 'Viewpoint'

## 4. Moodle

Students felt that Moodle is accessible and easy to manoeuvre but can sometimes be difficult for online submission of assignments.

A number of students requested for slides to be placed on Moodle at least a week prior to the lectures.

DVC stated this should be done and is university policy.

**Action:** DVC to provide the Students' Union with the policy for publication

VPE asked if students felt that the reason for this was due to a potential impact on attendance?

Students agreed that this would be the case.

However, it was felt that slides would help for preparation due to some courses being allocated work prior to the sessions.

Courses who do not receive slides on Moodle are:

- Primary Education (Module/lecturer dependant)
- Music Production (Module/lecturer dependant)
- Music
- English Language and Linguistics
- Psychology and Childhood Adolescent Development
- Children, Young People and Families

Biomedical Science stated that in their case, Moodle and presentations are well utilised, lecturers are selective in what is placed on line and remove any slides that will be used for discussion in the lectures.

Students from the various Geography programmes also stated that Moodle has been utilised very well.

English Language and Linguistics stated that in level 3 students are credited for their engagement with Moodle as a discussion forum is an assessed element.

Psychology was praised for its use of '#' which links to Moodle and formulates discussion between the students.

DVC stated that items like this will be picked up in the regular meetings with Heads of School.

**Action:** DVC to highlight the specified issues with the Heads of School and report on the results



## 5. Upcoming VPE campaigns

VPE stated that upcoming campaigns included:

- Continuing elections of Course Reps
- Chair of School elections
- Know your rep
- More than a degree – The HEAR

DVC asked if MA could provide an oversight of the HEAR

MA provided students with a brief description of the HEAR and reiterated that students who attend the HEAR training will receive further in-depth information.

## 6. Course Rep system

VPE asked how students felt the system was going.

Students felt that all was going well, a request for more information was placed in the lead up to elections.

VPE stated that information was readily available for staff

PRES stated that all information could be found on the SU website.

## 7. Open Discussion

### Primary Education (Level 3)

Timetable is sporadic and lectures are not at the same time, or on the same day each week, this is felt to be interrupting the potential of a work/life balance.

DVC asked if this was prior knowledge to starting the year.

Students stated that it was but there are various other changes which impact on lectures, including cancellations.

DVC asked if reasons were given for cancellations and MA added by asking if they were rescheduled.

It was stated that no reasons were given, and they are not always rescheduled.

DVC asked if this discussion could be continued in the following.

### Music (Level 3)

Last minute rearrangements are made on the course with as little notice as on the day. Students were timetabled to meet with a member of staff from study development on a day which is known for her not being in work.

## **Music Production (Level 3)**

Alterations to sessions impacted on the level 2 pass to progress assignments

DVC asked if there was an explanation as to why?

Students were only told that it was due to computer availability and therefore groups had to be separated.

DVC asked all students how cancellations/rearrangements are communicated.

Social media/e-mails were a regular device, with some students stating they had received text messaging – this was felt to be a potential benefit by all students in attendance.

DVC asked if MA could look into the potential for this.

MA stated there is/was software available for this.

**Action:** VPE/MA/DVC to look into the suitability for this procedure with relevant staff

## **Biomedical Science (level 1)**

For next year, looking into the timetabling for a better work/life balance

## **Psychology (Childhood and Adolescent Development)**

Enrolment issues in regards to the DBS which was now been resolved.

## **History (Level 1)**

Lecturers are very good and welcoming

## **Geography (Level 1)**

Lack of books – four on a topic for all combined Geography courses

DVC asked if students were aware of this being worked on?

The students stated no action appeared to be taken.

## **Music (Level 3)**

Double booking of rehearsal spaces via timetabling – two parties both holding valid confirmation.

DVC asked who had been informed?

Lecturers and this was also a point raised in level 1.

## **Music Production (Level 3)**

Similar issues – in particular the chapel when events are booked but students hold a confirmation.



## Music (Level 2)

Provide better clarification of module descriptions. (Music in education)

## Design (Level 1)

Macs in the design block do not work for printing.

## Fine Art (Level 3)

Budgets were not distributed which has caused problems for students but staff have worked to resolve problems.

DVC stated that this is down to communication errors and not the budget released

VPE brought the meeting to a close and thanked members and staff for attending.

## Date of Next Meeting

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 4pm, SU Coffee Lounge

## Summary of actions

Agenda item	Action:	Assigned to:
Resources	ILS to be contacted regarding the signage of book locations due to changes over the summer. <i>(Page 4)</i>	VPE
	ILS/TEL to be contacted regarding the interface for the new CD block and transfers of written items from the central screen to multi-screens <i>(Page 4)</i>	VPE VPE/PRES
	To establish an online feedback tool via the SU website to capture information on resources <i>(Page 5)</i>	
Moodle	To publicise the policy on presentation slide uploads to Moodle for students (prior to lectures/seminars) <i>(Page 5)</i>	AT
	Issues surrounding Moodle to be brought to the attention of the Heads of School as an item at scheduled meetings <i>(Page 6)</i>	AT
Open discussion: Lecture cancellations	Due to a mix of methodologies in communicating lecture cancellations, the agreed preferred method of 'texts' will be looked into as it sporadically used at the institution currently. <i>(Page 7)</i>	VPE/MA/AT