

Union Council Report – Monday 14th December 2009

Course Reps

This year we have taken part ownership of the course rep system. In practise this amounts to nearly complete ownership, the only things we are not wholly responsible for being the physical elections of reps.

We produced and handed out over 20,000 leaflets explaining the roles of course reps as well as encouraging students to stand. One was included in every HUU welcome pack and there were volunteers giving out leaflets, t-shirts, role descriptions and nomination forms throughout welcome week and week 2. Most of this material was paid for by the university through us securing a grant of £1200 from the Quality Office.

This year has been the most successful in memory for course rep recruitment and training. We have had the most applications for reps which translated at the beginning of the semester to the most contested elections for rep positions across both campuses.

As of the beginning of the week the following statistics for reps is correct:

Recruited Course Reps:

Scarborough: 66

Hull: 267

Total: 333

Trained Course Reps:

Scarborough: 33

Hull: 147

Total: 180

Some departments have not handed to us their rep information, although are believed to have recruited full cohorts, although these figures don't accept that presumption.

Six training sessions of 4 hours each have been given, with a session on Saturday for students on full-week courses.

There are reps that haven't had training asking for it, so the number trained will increase over the first weeks of the second semester where more sessions are planned.

In terms of the training, Feedback was excellent as some councillors will certainly testify. Most credit for the delivery of this must go to Kasia – our Representation coordinator. The following statistics are from all feedback forms collected at the end of each training session.

Scarborough

- In answer to the question, 'how satisfied were you with the training?' 97% responded either 'satisfied' or 'strongly satisfied'.
- Out of the 33 reps trained in Scarborough, the top 5 words chosen to describe the training were (in order) Positive, interactive, enjoyable and constructive

- Out of the 33 reps trained in Scarborough the average response to the question 'out of 10 how useful did you find the training?' was 7.5/10

Hull

- Out of the 147 reps trained at Hull, 122 (88%) responded 'strongly satisfied' to the question 'how satisfied are you with the training.'
- Out of the 147 reps trained at Hull, the top 5 words chosen to describe the training were (in order) interesting, interactive, constructive, enjoyable and fun.
- Out of the 147 reps trained in Hull the average response to the question 'out of 10 how useful did you find the training?' was 8.34/10.

Overall

- NONE of the 180 reps trained considered the words, 'boring', 'uninteresting', 'waste of time' or 'dull' to describe the training.

Senate Reps

Senate Reps were elected finally in week 8. We had contested elections for FASS, Science, HUBS and postgraduate – a recent record. Congratulations to the winners and congratulations to Laura the Senate rep for FHSC – our first rep from that faculty for a long time. We are still on the lookout for representation from HYMS.

I am currently creating training for Senate reps which will take place next week.

Education Zone

All positions on the Education Zone are now filled with the election of 3 reps from Academic Council last week. We have now had a couple of quorate meetings. Minutes for these are available on the Education Zone section of hullstudent.com as are details of the membership of the Zone. At various points these meeting have been attended by various elected student reps which is exactly what should be happening.

Academic Council

The first meeting of Academic Council was held last week. The meeting originally timetabled for 90mins went on for over 2 hours. Much was discussed and many action points raised. Minutes will be available on hullstudent.com this week. Attendance was however quite poor, I put this down to my absence from work in the preceding fortnight.

ANTI-CUTS

The union will be running an anti-cuts campaign in the new year combating cuts that are happening currently – the slashing of Gender Studies – and gearing up for the inevitable barrage of cuts that are spreading through other universities in the region. This was supposed to occur this semester, but due to my absence has been pushed back to Semester 2.

HE funding

Jamie Scudamore has promised me a debate on HE funding in the New Year, this will be complemented by a debate between NUS President Wes Streeting (the first time he's visited Hull) and NUS trustee board member Daniel Randall. Following this there will be a referendum on which position HUU should take.

Other campaigns are in their embryonic stages, just waiting for the starting pistol from UEC/Chair Campaigns.

If councillors require any of the documents alluded to in this report (training presentations, data collection spreadsheets etc) I am more than happy to forward them to you.

I'd like to thank the rest of the sabbatical team, who although on the whole I have significant political disagreements with are incredibly good at what they do and have made a positive impact on HUU and have hopefully restored some of the confidence of students in their union that was destroyed by the incompetence of previous Executive teams.