



## **School Presidents' Forum**

**19<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 5pm**

**Students' Association Committee Room**

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
  - a. Paul (Proctor)
  - b. Jess (English)
  - c. Kay (Medicine)
  - d. Ashley (PG Convenor)
3. Matters Arising
  - a. SSCC etiquette
    - i. Trying to keep SSCCs constructive; making sure meetings do not feel strained/staff don't get impatient.
    - ii. Martynas (Computer Science): they have a massive sand clock to keep people on time.
    - iii. Points coming up over and over in SSCCs – Rikke (Social Anthropology) looking for solution to this issue.
    - iv. 'If' format: trying to have people come to the SSCCs with solutions.
    - v. Winnie: Psychology reps meet up beforehand, create an agenda to give to staff. SSCC used more as a reporting platform
    - vi. Amy (Physics): reps are told to meet with module coordinators beforehand to iron out issues, bring solutions to SSCC. Easier to focus the meeting.
    - vii. Martynas (Computer Science): weekly class rep reports, also sent to module coordinators. Keeps president and coordinators updated. President meets with DOT every week.
  - b. Turnitin

- i. Several issues: quite slow - tell students not to submit last minute; does not take some formats which students submit.
  - ii. Bigger issue: staff (in psychology at least) need to click on student profile to download their coursework, so the marking is no longer anonymous – could lead to bias issues.
  - iii. Other issue: Turnitin states that whatever you submit to them, they have a right to use for their own development.
  - iv. Question of intellectual property: they cannot use it for anything except keeping it in their repository to screen other files. They cannot use the intellectual property without asking you.
  - v. Unfortunately, we are bound by the product that we use and Turnitin offers a lot more functionality than previous system. **Tom (Dean of Science) to bring up with IT services, and Winnie (psychology) to email Tom about this.**
  - vi. Anonymity of data issues – access to google drive and one drive. **Tom will follow up with IT, and data team at library.**
- c. Module Cancellations
- i. Modules getting cancelled right before start of semester, including yearlong German dissertation. Causes quite a bit of distress for students.
  - ii. Frank (Dean of Arts): some sympathy for staff – last minute issues, people getting sick/leaving. Very strange, however, that a yearlong dissertation module should be withdrawn. Very undesirable for modules to be cancelled.
  - iii. Amy (Modern Languages): this change was particularly problematic in taking away a lot of choice from people's module decisions.
  - iv. Tom: late cancellation of modules only allowed in exceptional circumstances.
  - v. **Frank will get in touch with Michael White in German and find out what is happening with this.**
- d. Quiet Spaces
- i. Kay (Medicine) in absentia: desire for a 'quiet space' for students and other people in science.
  - ii. Tom: would recommend that if a student requires something like this, they would be better off talking directly to their school. It would be difficult to permanently lose a teaching space to this.
  - iii. This falls somewhere between the remit of the University, the Students' Association and the Chaplaincy. There is probably a facility within the chaplaincy for something like this.

- iv. It is unlikely that a room within a school (noisy, not very private) would be able to serve this function well.
- v. Prayer/quiet rooms available in ABH, but this is under key card access.
- vi. Good idea to take this ahead to the chaplaincy. There is unlikely to be a situation in which someone needs to have a space like this urgently, in their immediate vicinity.

#### 4. AOCB

- a. When students register they are asked if they are happy to be contacted by NSS, but many don't know what this is at the time.
  - i. **Deans to look into providing explanation on this section of registration.**
- b. Jemima (Graduate School): in school they get set questions so the person who sets the questions knows who they are set to and marks it – lack of anonymity.
  - i. **Jemima to discuss with Monique (Provost).**
  - ii. There is a trade-off between anonymity and specificity.
- c. Question about Academic Monitoring Dialogue: where does it go from here?
  - i. Minutes of the meeting are produced, and 3-5 recommendations are made to each school.
  - ii. By next year's AMD, the schools should report back on what they have done about these points.
  - iii. Individual people/module coordinators are not rewarded directly through this (for excellent MEQ results) This is (hopefully) noted and highlighted within the school, as well as through Teaching Awards. Also when writing promotion forms – staff can cite good MEQ results.