

Divinity School President Report, Semester 1-2017/18 Academic Year

Introduction for Staff and Students

This brief report is intended to explain what the Divinity department's Class Representatives and I have been working on for the duration of our first semester working together. I will be including this in my handover to the next School President, so that efforts made in this semester can be built upon in the future. I have enjoyed working in the Divinity department this semester and hope that the position of School President will continue to develop in the future. Thank you for reading this, and for taking an interest in the work that I and the other Divinity representatives do.

Cameron Smith. Divinity School President 2017-18.

Elections

Class Rep elections were, on the whole, a success. Two positions remained unfilled at the end of nominations, and if there hadn't been an extension of the nomination deadline that number would have been closer to eight. The majority of the elections were uncontested (like my own Presidential election), with no more than thirteen or fourteen votes in each one. This, and other signals, suggest a lack of interest on the part of students in obtaining student representation in such a formal capacity.

Education Committee

This committee allows me to discuss any questions or ideas I have with the other school presidents, as well as being informed and consulted on matters relating to the wider running of the University, such as library opening times etc. As with every committee, it is as effective as its constituent parts, and consequently varies in usefulness from week to week. The Education Rep, chair of the meeting, is always helpful, kind and well-informed, and able to both relate and encourage when folk mention difficulties in their role.

Employability & Careers Events

Towards the end of first semester we held an event in which students with experience of summer work/internships spoke about their experiences. People generally came because their friends asked them to, or because they were after the Domino's pizza on offer, but I am happy to report a 700% increase in attendance on a similar event last year.

Weekly Emails

I have, on principle, avoided sending a weekly email, on the basis that their regularity dilutes their significance. Instead, I have waited until I had two or three things to tell people about, and then told them. Several students have mentioned to me in person that they enjoy my emails, so it is worth remembering for the future that they are, in fact, being read.

Staff-Student Consultative Committee

This committee allows Class Reps to give feedback to the appropriate members of the Divinity staff who then relay concerns and praise to individual lecturers. This meeting was largely enjoyable and enlightening, as staff were able to explain some of the more confusing decisions that had been made over the course of the semester.