

Report for SRC- Louiseanor McMullin - SciArts and Medivinity Faculty Presidentesses

Training:

Louise and Eleanor were involved with training the new team of School Presidents at the beginning of the semester; Louise was more involved with this as Eleanor had other commitments. This was effective; we each shared experiences of our time as an School President that we believed would be helpful to the incoming team, and gave them sage and wise advice from our own time in the roles.

Later in the semester Eleanor attended the training of the Welfare Class Representatives. This role is new, and was introduced without consultation of the Faculty Presidents, so we felt it was important that we should have a good understanding of how the role was envisaged to work in the class representative system. Student Services led the training, which was informative and gave a good overview of the limitations of the role, and outlined what ought to be expected of the position. There were good examples used of current practices in schools for event specifically aimed at promoting the welfare of students, which were very inspiring. In future, it might be even more useful if the representatives were given the chance to practice planning events in their training session, so that the practical side of the role is equally emphasised with the limitations of their position. Overall this training seemed to be effective, and built a good foundation for the representatives to start their work; the commitment of student services to the representatives was very encouraging and much appreciated. In the upcoming semester we hope to follow up with the representatives and School Presidents about what the role has added to the scope of the Class Representative system.

Elections:

The elections for Class Representatives were moved forward a week this year. The impact of this has been varied; we noticed a decline in engagement from the previous year both in terms of voting and in terms of nominations. This comes despite additional publicity for the Class Representative elections at the Fresher's Fayre. However, the previous year was record breaking, so in the scheme of things this decline is probably not a serious cause for concern. Equally, we saw the majority of positions being contested, and all positions filled which is very encouraging. In the upcoming elections we hope to see equal levels of engagement as people run for Faculty President and School President positions.

Louise was a member of the Elections Committee for the referendum that never was; we're beginning to suspect a curse, because she was also on the Rector's Election Committee and that never went to a vote either.

Socials:

We have been upholding the tradition of karaoke within the School Presidents, and we believe that we have largely been successful in creating a good sociable atmosphere to enhance the Education Committee working relationships. We have participated in Pub Quizzes, and organised meals alongside our karaoke adventures, and intend to continue this into the next semester.

It was raised with Eleanor that there is a problem with a lack of community spirit within the Arts and Divinity Faculty. This is something that Eleanor is committed to addressing; it featured in her campaign manifesto. To address this, the first Arts and Divinity School President Forum was held, in which there was discussion about how the schools could better foster a sense of community. The action steps agreed involved the Arts and Divinity School Presidents being "buddied up" with the intention of holding social events. There was also very productive discussion about different kinds of events which might result in higher attendance from the student body generally. These action points will be followed up in the upcoming semester.

Working Groups:

The Faculty Presidents observe all the working groups and lead a few. The working groups concern: Supervision, Exam Feedback, Joint Honours, and Diversity of Assessment. We also inherited the Early Information Working Group from our predecessors; Louise is currently in the process of writing a final report and we hope to have had that wrapped up by early next semester.

The Supervision and Exam Feedback working groups have had some difficulties progressing, but hope to make good progress in the upcoming semester. Papers will be produced for each.

Eleanor leads both the Joint Honours and the Diversity of Assessment Working Groups. For Joint Honours, a survey was taken of the information provided in each of the schools' handbooks assessing the adequacy and completeness of information provided for Joint Honours students. Those schools in which the information was inadequate were alerted in Education Committee. In the next semester, we hope to move forward in addressing these inadequacies, through reference to examples of good practice (such as Social Anthropology and Philosophy). A focus group was developed from volunteers across the student body. Unfortunately, due to interviews and exams, there was no opportunity for the focus group to meet last semester, but we hope to do so early next semester and proceed with the findings from this focus group.

In Diversity of Assessment Eleanor is working with the School Presidents of Economics, English, Classics and Film Studies. Progress has been varied, dependent on the receptivity of the school in question. Next semester, I hope to introduce Dr. Pipyrou of Social Anthropology to this working group, as she has done some research into using video as a means of assessment and a tool for reflection and student growth. I am in the process of writing a report on the importance of Diversity of Assessment to the university, and I hope that with Dr. Pipyrou's input next semester more progress can be made.

Louise has set up a successful outreach program working with Madras. This involves students from Physics and Chemistry going into Madras in Week 1 to talk and do demonstrations with all the S1 pupils ahead of their subject choices. The main focus is to encourage more students, with particular emphasis on girls, to consider taking these subjects on.

ID:

We held two SSCC meetings for the ID4001/2 modules in first semester, and are intending to finish any outstanding action points arising from these meetings by early next semester. We are exploring the options for class representatives for Semester 2 interdisciplinary modules.

Academic Council:

We have been attending the meetings, representing the undergraduate student body to the highest academic body. We also took selfies with the Dean of Arts and the Vice Principal for Governance, and ate ice cream. All in a day's work.