

Meeting:	Academic Council	
Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Date & Time:	09 December 2020 15:30-16:300	
Present		
Annie Willingham (AW) 118 Academic Representatives	UG Education Officer (Chair)	
In Attendance		
Chloe Whittaker (CW) Callie Edwards (CE) Liz Stoneman	SU Education Manager SU Academic Rep Coordinator (Secretary) SU Advisor	
Apologies		
Peter Lambert	Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching	
Item		
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Apologies from Peter Lambert (Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching) AW thanked everyone for their hard work this year and is hoping we will all maybe get to meet soon. Hearing lots of positive feedback from DOS about the great changes you are making and amazing you have been and crucial this year because of Covid.</p>	
2.	<p>No Detriment Policy</p> <p>We want to hear your feedback and ideas on the new No Detriment Policy, and we plan to create a list of questions/discussion points which Annie will take to Peter Lambert.</p> <p>AW- Gave and update on the no detriment policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers wanted to ensure that no detriment continued this year as teaching is still extremely different and the pandemic is still ongoing. When lobbying for the no detriment policy Officers did not back down in meetings, and looked to other universities for good practice • Blanket grade blanket policy not possible because of grade inflation, Office for Students are monitoring, and it influences the value of your degree • However scaling will be used at bath to ensure that grades still reflect the same grades as students in previous years. But we understand 	

	<p>that this does not address all your concerns and AW encouraged reps to continue to bring up their concerns on do detriment with their course teams and to keep pushing for better communication on scaling. AW Gave a shout out to Faculty of Science for their work on highlight issues with the no detriment policy which staff are now taking on board and considering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW advised to also escalate no detriment concerns to your Faculty Reps as they meet with associate Deans • AW gave a shout out to SOM who were great at working with their School to get a reading week to support students in mitigating the impacts of higher workloads. • IMC's don't have to have medical evidence to be considered • Extensions within departments on exams should be allowed. And less evidence is needed for a shorter extension. AW asked that any departments that are not accepting extensions request to flag to her and she will help resolve. <p>Question- What about evidence for non-medical IMC claims? For example, in maths 3-hour exam a distraction happens in your home exam environment that was unseen, and evidence would be hard to obtain? Or is this something to ask our DOS?</p> <p>AW- The SU Advises that if your cohort are not satisfied with the no detriment policy or students feel that they are not receiving value for money that reps can advise students to consider making a complaint.</p> <p>SU Advice- Gave a short presentation on complaints (see PowerPoint)</p>
3.	<p>Self-Certification Individual Mitigating Circumstances (IMC's)</p> <p>The impacts of Covid-19 are affecting everybody in different ways which can impact your productivity and ability to complete assessments. The SU are lobbying to allow students to self-certify for extensions on their assessments, we want to discuss with you your thoughts on this to help us in lobbying The University.</p> <p>AW- Gave an update on progress for self-certification of IMC's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want to introduce a 5-day extension for student if they need it. Sometimes can flag important wellbeing concerns are flagged

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSS trailing a Power App- where they can automatically get extensions- trying to get across the board <p>Question- how will the process work if students ask for multiple IMC's? AW we are pushing for reason for needing extension/ if two or more are requested will be flagged to personal tutor.</p> <p>Question- It seems unfair if some departments are trailing this and others don't? AW responded that extension requests should be approved by departments but not all departments are using a self-certification method and reminded students to flag to her if extension requests are not being approved.</p> <p>Question- What is the difference between not having to provide evidence for an IMC and a self assessed IMC. AW Self assessed should not be declined and automatically approved however IMC's which don't require evidence are considered and could be declined.</p>
4.	<p>Online Exams and Assessments</p> <p>Exams have changed massively this year with the introduction of 24hr windows and Inspira. We want to hear from you how your peers feel about these changes.</p> <p>AW Gave an update on Online Exams and Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The webpage on exams and assessments is now live. It contains information and how-to videos for students on Inspira, this help is all part of the no detriment policy. https://www.bath.ac.uk/topics/exams-and-assessments/ • The SU acknowledges that the release of this guidance took a lot longer than requested and have been voicing this with Senior management. • AW discussed privacy concerns to management and an email has been sent by the university addressing these concerns. • AW Praised Maths Reps who originally only had a 3hour window to complete exams which has now been extended to a 24hour window with a timed exam. • AW then asked reps to flag if they have timed or reduced exam windows, as we can support you in discussing changes with your course teams.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A handful of reps flagged that they had timed exams: Chaitanya Chakradeo, Haroun Abdinur, Francesca Marchetti, Bilal El Achab, Courtney Morgan. ● There are discussions within the university about in the new year opening exam halls and giving options of either online or in person. No decisions have been made. Students will be consulted in these decisions, more to come in the new year.
5.	<p>Questions for the Education Officer</p> <p>Rep are invited to ask The Education officer questions on their progress on their Priorities</p> <p>Question- remote learners who cannot come to the practical's that they would have to be done in June and would be part of the exams and then would forfeit their access to a retake. AW to follow up on this issue outside of the meeting.</p> <p>Question- Is there are change that grade boundaries might be really high due to open book exams? AW responded that this is where scaling will be used but there is a chance.</p> <p>Question- Group complaints vs individual- complaints can be stronger in a group complaint to show how widely people are impacted. As an Academic Rep you don't have to lead the complaint.</p> <p>Question- Dissertations with lab space/data collection on campus: concerns over the provisions for this and what the situation will be if data collections can't happen- surely projects cant be expected to change to literature reviews so late? Rep advised speak to DoS/Advice Centre</p> <p>Question- I have a question about timetabling. Students aren't being told about S2 timetables until 15th January, which is only 2 weeks before the start of the semester. That is really impractical for many students who have other commitments, for example I am a mature student and have commitments outside of uni, as quite a lot of mature students do, and we just can't plan our lives with only 2 weeks notice. I did contact timetabling but they said there is nothing they can do. It is just really difficult - Bath isn't the most mature student friendly anyway, and things like this just make it worse. AW IPT sessions should be changing</p>

	<p>to help accommodate for this. We will be continuing to lobby for trying to get changes and AW recognises that not all students have the same</p> <p>Question- Should we take the demo exams- AW recommending this as it helps students understand what to expect and asked that reps flag if students think there is anything missing in the Demos.</p> <p>AW- Gave more updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that University have purchased caption software- will be available for all students, if any students need in the meantime to contact student services. Available for use on YouTube/ teams. • Attended CSSU- Members of Council and Senate. We presented two papers on the Academic Rep System such as SSLC to ensure that your voices are being heard. As well as on Lecture capture, some academics are reluctant to recording themselves. Please Flag this. A new policy is being created to ensure that lecture capture can happen across the • Working on student Voice framework with Uni which includes a review of the Academic Rep system
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Items to Note from Meetings for Reps	
	AW encouraged reps to continue to bring up their concerns on do detriment with their course teams and to keep pushing for better communication on scaling.
	AW advised to also escalate no detriment concerns to your Faculty Reps as they meet with associate Deans
	AW asked that any departments that are not accepting extensions request to flag to her and she will help resolve.
	The SU Advises that if your cohort are not satisfied with the no detriment policy or students feel that they are not receiving value for money that reps can advise students to consider making a complaint.
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