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| Meeting: | | Academic Council |
| Location: | | Microsoft Teams |
| Date & Time: | | 24 Febuary 2020 15:00-17:00 |
| Present | | |
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| In Attendance | | |
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| Apologies | | |
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| Item |  | |
|  | **Education Officer Update**  Hear updates from your education officer on progress on The SU’s Top Ten and university wide issues.  No Detriment   * Annie has updated the NUS on our no detriment policy, we are one of the few universities in the counties to have a no detriment policy * The univeristy is in the process of analysis exam results to check how student and student groups have been affected by COVID and if the no detriment policy has been effective enough in preventing disadvantage. * Depending on the results of this analysis the no detriment measures could be revisited. * Aw stressed the importance of reps raising their concerns at their SSLC if they are not happy with the no detriment policy.   Self assesed Extension   * A software is being developed for all faculties/schools to use to enable self-assessment extensions for students.   Exams   * We now have a great understanding of exams from your survey responses and faculty forums. We reported a summary of your feedback to resilient curriculum. These issues are now being considered actioned by the committee. * SSLCs should be looking at if the structure of exams are working for students.   Rep of the Month   * Nominations are open, you can nominate yourself we want to hear about your hard work! * [Nominate yourself or someone else for Rep of the Month here!](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thesubath.com%2Facademicreps%2Frep%2Frepofthemonth%2F&data=04%7C01%7Ccw2336%40bath.ac.uk%7Cc35522d4983f4d5d535d08d8d8e17512%7C377e3d224ea1422db0ad8fcc89406b9e%7C0%7C0%7C637497810128205361%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=0G7xXvp9AOOyYLEVi7HLuDsHp2phqy1l%2F3ApsB1maFg%3D&reserved=0)   Decolonising the Curriculum   * [There is a session next week on decolonising the curriculum specifically for Academic Reps.](https://unihub.bath.ac.uk/students/Events/detail/861699) * We are currently working the uni and the NUS to create an action plan for faculties to support them in improving on their work of decolonising the curriculum   Updates   * Trying to share more updates with students, on the website and on our Facebook, please make sure to add us!   AW & FM introduced Keith Zimmerman- Chief Operating Officer, Peter Lambert- Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, and ProfessorMomna Hejmadi who will be giving updates to Academic Council. | |
|  | **Keith Zimmerman Update**   * Currently 2/3rd of students are still in accommodation and we think this is similar to students in private accommodation. * We are doing what we can to look after students who are here and offering what we can to keep them safe and * Infection rate is low on campus. If all students continue to take advantage of our free testing this will help ensure this rate stays low. * 2m social distancing and face covering still remains in place, and is increasingly important with the new variants present in the south west. * We must work together to keep to the date the government has set out, we are looking forward to the 29th of march when teaching can begin on campus for those student who fit the gov criteria for coming back. We are also looking forward to April when the rule of 6 will be reinstated.   KZ took quetsions from Academic Reps   * Q- are the tests reliable? Some students are very sceptical of them KZ- The tests are extremely good at indicating if there has been infection and will help us in reducing the transmission of the virus. * Q- is there an update on graduation for final years KZ- we will put on what we are safe to do, if we can keep to the gov road map it could be likely that a physical ceremony is possible. KZ stressed that the univeristy does want to have these celebrations. There is a possibly that graduation will be on campus as it would be safer for the local community and allow for better social distancing if necessary. * Q- Any updates for international students? KZ there is specific guidance there is a [Q&A on the website](https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/roadmap-out-of-lockdown-q-a-for-students-and-staff/#international-travel)   AW asking for the university’s stance on Tuition Fees   * KZ- we are not considering a case for widescale tuition fee refunds, but will consider individual circumstances as we are legally obliged to. * Kz- We have invested a lot into the student experience this year and understand that some students may be disappointed by this experience. Government are trying to push the responsibility on us and we are trying to push it back and I expect that this may be a conversation that will likely continue for a long time. * Aw reminded students who are not currently satisfied with the delivery of their course they should contact an officer or the SU Advice and Support team for help with making a complaint ([suadvice@bath.ac.uk](mailto:suadvice@bath.ac.uk)) | |
|  | **The Future of Bath Blend**  An update on the future of Bath Blend from your the Pro Vice Chancellor of Learning and Teaching Peter Lambert and ProfessorMomna Hejmadi. As we continue looking ahead to next academic year there are several scenarios that could take place regarding how teaching and learning is delivered.   * PL- This year has been a tough year on everyone both staff and students who have shown a great deal of resilience. * PL Thanked the SU for their help in doing everything they can to support the student voice and work with the univeristy.   MH- explained that courses that are practical or practice based and require specialist equipment and facilities   * and those that have assessments linked to practical’s have r been prioritised to come back to campus in line with the government guidance. Your departments will reach out to you shortly if they have not done so already. * PL- Outlined that we are unsure what teaching will look like in the new academic year. The Governments roadmap does indicate that teaching could go back to normal however univeristy will be planning for different scenarios including for the continuation of social distancing * We want to hear what you think worked well and what we should retain.   PL outlined the scenarios for the September Return:   * Scenario 1- we will continue in lockdown * Scenario 2 – no lockdown but there will still be social distancing * Scenario 2- No social distancing back to normal but what should we retain from our experience with the Bath Blend from this year.   PL explained the lessons learnt/considerations for future of Bath Blend by the univeristy are:   * We need more consistency in areas such as Moodle, recording lectures, exams, interactive online learning. * And we must be able to adapt to different scenarios as they change. * We must allow more flexibility for departments in how they teach to respond to needs of students and discipline * We must try and reduce the workload of students, this is a priority * How do we asses students, how can we do this better? | |
|  | **Discussion time**  Academic Reps entered break out rooms of each of their faculties and discussed the following topics:   * **The Future of Bath Blend -** Reflecting on the update from Pro Vice Chancellor of Learning and Teaching Peter Lambert and ProfessorMomna Hejmadi what thoughts or comments do you have *regarding what we might retain and what we should discard*? * **Workload -** Throughout the year there have been ongoing discussions around increased workload. What thoughts or ideas do you have on how you can be better supported during the academic year?   **Faculty Reps/Group Leads Gave updates on what was discussed in their breakout rooms**  **Science- Jacob Withington & Kieran Maharaj (Science Faculty Reps)**  Workload:   * Still high with lots of coursework and they’ve tried to reduce workload but it still isnt great. * Some lecturers are using more than there usual 3 lecturers * Lecturers skimming over content to fit lots in * less LOILs this semester which is good * Changing modules takes time for the university admin team to do which puts students behind.   Future:   * Students should be allowed to do online only and choose when to return campus * Lecturers should be accessible with online office hours * keep recorded content! * IPTs aren’t relevant * For dual courses they get left out when assigning where people go for IPTs * IPTs should include peer learning but with remote people still supported. * -Keep 24hr open book, online exams! This better supports students with DAPs * Release results on the day all of yours are ready instead of over 2 weeks so you see your average fluctuate. It’s better to wait longer.   MH- there some professional accreditation bodies which mandate students to have some form of physical practice experience which is why not all courses will be able to be delivered 100% online.  **HSS- Chloe Whittaker (SU Education Manager)**  Workload   * Students feel amount of content on Moodle adds to the feeling of increased workload, they would like to see some differentiation between compulsory and supplementary reading. * The increase in self- led and self-paced learning, through blended delivery means adds to the perception of higher workloads * Some raised that while it was beneficial to pause and replay pre-recorded content to take notes and check understanding, this adds to the amount of time spent studying.   Bath blend   * Should retains:   + LOIL- next best thing to being in person, is a great mode of learning and teaching   + Lectures should stick to 1hour- no longer   + Lecture recordings are very beneficial * Discarding   + Pre-recorded lectures- would prefer live lectures to return in future, perception is that content could be recycled from previous years.   + Moodle increased workload with all the extra resources. Would want more guidance on what is compulsory so students are reading all materials in case they missed something they could be assesed on.   **Eng & Design (Raj Haria- Faculty Rep)**   * Would like to see shorter lectures as they were earlier to engage with * LOIL- want related content in lectures- and would like to see them broken down. An idea was suggested that PHD students could lead and support students in smaller groups. * Students would would like to be able post questions before the LOILs so they can be answered in the LOIL’s * IPT needs more work- departments/faculty should review how they are run and the content in them. It was felt that unit conveyors are setting work for IPT’s as it was needed as they felt they should. Reps want to see more effort to made to make them more engaging by using more creative teaching methods such as quizzes etc   Workload   * Lots of coursework deadlines which are all at the same time. Would like to be able to see a time table of when all the coursework was due before taking units. Reps requested that units should coordinate together to spread out workload of deadlines. * Pre recorded lectures should be released a week in advance. This is not happening and students are left very short time scales to watch them. * Reps are reporting a repetition of pre-recorded lecture content to other sessions from units in the past. * Reps asked Training for staff to get better at using recording functions an technology. * Reps asked if a method which could enable students to flag when students if they had quetsions in LOILs which would allow for staff to go back through and answer quetsions in the next lecture- we lost this practice from last year and it was really valued.   **Management (Francesco- President)**   * Lecture recordings should continue * There is lots of group work, Reps would like to see the members of groups reshuffled more often as they are working with the same people multiple times * Difference between UG and PGT- Masters students are not getting the same support compared to UG students with assignments, they want to see this improved. * The MBA will be brought back with in person teaching in march, why are they allowed back on campus and rest of School is not? They do not have practical assesments or practical based teaching. * Standardising Moodle pages- Academics are all using Moodle in different ways, students are having to adjust to all the different methods and this is time consuming. | |
|  | **Feedback from the floor & Questions for Pro-Vice Chancellor of Learning and Teaching & Professor Momna Hejmadi**  Academic Reps are invited to share issues/feedback from their cohort that they may want to bring to the attention of or for discussion The Education Officer/Postgraduate Officer and Academic Council.  Q- Would it be possible to officially graduate finalists who have deferred exams/resits in August so that they can move into grad jobs in Sep/Oct without hindrance.   * PL we are not able to graduate students who have not completed their studies * Clarification from from: How speedily can the university deliver deferral/resit results? * PL- we did look at this as an option but we are not able to turn around results and resits in that timescale. We are reviewing this for future years   Q- With the recording of lecturers currently compulsory due to varying circumstances, can compulsory recording be carried over into the new normal given that circumstances still and will always vary (even when more students fit the 'median' of being able to attend in person lectures)   * Q- Can't recording lectures be made a contractual thing? * PL- We cannot legally make people record against their will. If we were to make it contractual, it would create significant (and unnecessary) conflict given the progress we are making with the SU and UCU. * AW- We are working on a policy for recording lecturers with the University and UCU.  1. Just a thought on recordings and refusals, would it be possible for staff to give explicit notice if/when they will not be recording lectures so students can plan accordingly?  * PL expressed that he believes that students should be able to ask lectures if the lecture is being recorded. * AW- Any lecturers who refuse to record lectures should offer a reasonable alternative.   Q- If there's going to be criteria for studying entirely remotely rather than it being a choice, can you elaborate what criteria will need to be met? It is causing some students a lot of anxiety about feeling they must return in the future when they have complicated situations going on which mean studying remotely is a better option for them   * PL- This will be developed with the SU. We will be doing what we can to be flexible for next year as we know people will be facing all kinds of challenges.   Q- I've heard inklings of reducing length of Sem 2 exams from 24 hours? Are you able to give an update on this and your thoughts?   * PL- The feedback we have seen is that students feel 24hr exams are more successful. However if a department needs a timed exam they have to go through their associate deans for approval, but we are discouraging this practice as much as possible.   Q- You discussed previously about exam data analysis around the no detriment, would this analysis be done more on an individual basis (i.e students that have majorly dropped average etc), or based on unit result averages? I'd be concerned with the latter that due to open book less people would fail and some may thrive but other students may have been disadvantaged with online exams, yet due to this the average would still be around the same as previous years.  PL- This is where scaling and moderation is being used to try to prevent this.  AW- Students who are concerned about being disadvantaged by scaling or moderation still should raise if they are concerned about their grades to speak to advice for support and guidance in this.  AW- Could you explain what scaling/moderation mean?  PL – explained the process of how moderation is taken out on assesments and exams.  MH- we will work on how we communicate our processes of designing and moderating exams and assesments  **Questions we didn’t get to answer**:  Q- Also, will it be possible to standardise Moodle structure/contents across modules and the way lecture links are shared (if not possible to have only Teams or Zoom)?  Q- Do we know what the status of the pre-recorded and recorded live lectures will be moving forward? In later years of our degree will we be able to revisit old recorded lectures ?  Q- It would be beneficial to have a forum to share good techniques from LOIL sessions - some lecturers have gotten quite creative with making sessions interactive! Do students want this?  Q- Another question I have is, is there any chance we are able to have back our marked exams? I conducted a survey with my department is the vast majority don't understand why we don't get to see why we received the grade we got, if knowing our errors is a big part of learning.  Q- This question might have been answered previously but can students who are doing all exams in the SA period due to missing out on activities during the semester (which are going to be completed in June) be able to then have a retake exam period if necessary without having to defer a year | |
|  | **Any other business 16:50**   * Decolonising Session   + [Book onto the decolonise session here.](https://unihub.bath.ac.uk/students/events/detail/861699) * Referendum & Elections   + Don’t forget to vote in the SU referendum & Elections: <https://www.thesubath.com/elections/referenda/nus/>   + Elections are being held online and are tougher than ever, we would appreciate your kindness and support in supporting candidates by engaging with their content online. * Access to participation plan   + Franchi gave an overview on the access to participation plan. The univeristy is currently going to report on their process, part of this can be an optional student report on this, Franchi and Freya are looking to hear from students about how the univeristy is doing against it access to participation targets. | |