

---

**Meeting:** Taught Academic Council  
**Place:** CB 5.1  
**Date and Time:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 12:15 – 14:05

---

**Present:**

Charlotte Cook	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Elizabeth Bremer	Department of Health
Hannah Toal	Department of Health
Rachel Stones	Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Alissa Mann	Department of Psychology
Jack Beadle	Department of Psychology
Haike Klaih	Department of Social and Policy Sciences
Charlie Deverson	Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering
Suruthi Ghananthian	Department of Chemistry
Abhishek Jairh	Department of Social and Policy Sciences
Jiayne Qin	Department of Psychology
Matthew Monti	Department of Chemical Engineering
Fay Nikolopoulou	Department of Psychology
Isabella Harrison-Wan	Department of Psychology
Thomas Banks	Department of Chemistry
Shiyue Su	Management
Oliver Hewitt	Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
Pearl Rilges	Department of Management
Paarth Gupta	Department of Management
Emma McFarland	Department of Management
Edward Jackson	Department of Computer Science
Adam Hughes	Department of Natural Sciences
Marianne Aspbury	Department of Natural Sciences
Chloe Ruffell	Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering
Sheekha Amin	Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
Nihg Geng	Department of Management
Yulei Sun	Department of Management
Tingyu Liu	Department of Management
Georgie Waterworth	Department of Psychology
Samira Kelly	Department of Natural Sciences
Henry Jackson	Department of Mathematical Sciences
Alex O'Neill	Department of Mathematical Sciences
Lauryn Taylor	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Helen Mylne	Department of Natural Sciences
Bianca Goilimerti	Department of Management
Sofya Morozova	Department of Management
Yunpeng Li	Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering

Miranda Yang	Department of Management
Karina Chan	Department of Natural Sciences
Yuwen Shang	Department of Management
James Kay	Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering
Dominic Mallas	Department of Management
Nikita Hadavale	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Suzannah Belk	Department of Social and Policy Sciences
Anne-Dauphine Loshie de Keicher	Department of Politics, Languages & International Studies
Tilly Walters	Department of Social and Policy Sciences
Ellie Devereux	Department of Physics
Naimeesh Mistry	Department of Social and Policy Sciences
Meg Marumoto	Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
Callum Morrison	Department of Chemical Engineering
Megan Mellamphy	Department of Physics
James Fossey	Department of Social and Policy Sciences
Willow Wyatt	Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Tamara Reid	Department of Health
Jack Clark	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Munsher Ali	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Peter Wong	Department of Economics
Alex Baker	Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
Paulina Konkina	Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
Mamel Bulloch	Department of Management
Muyun Wu	Department of Management
George Jones	Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Louis Jamisa	Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Sachin Janagal	Department of Mathematical Sciences
Molly Crawford	Department of Politics, Languages & International Studies
Eleanor Giles-Pharnsam	Department of Politics, Languages & International Studies
Leen Jabban	Dept of Electronic and Electrical Engineering
Raj Haria	Department of Physics
Sanjae King	Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering
Megan Reeve	Department of Natural Sciences
Elizabeth Clarke	Department of Education
Hannah-Jade Parker	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Darcy Unson	Department of Chemistry
Carolina Hinojosa	Department of Education
Jack Kitchen	Department of Management
Pablo Beattie	Department of Mechanical Engineering
Sarah Woodley	Dept of Architecture and Civil Engineering
Raphael Ofoe	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Matilda George	Department of Psychology
David Evans	Department of Mechanical Engineering
Joshua Olabe	Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering
Rikita Israni	Department of Management

Brianna Marie Wong	Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering
Kexin Kuang	Department of Management
Sua Cho	Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
Achsah Wildish	Department of Management
Rob Tyrell	Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering
Lauren Young	Department of Psychology
Rob Douglas	Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Amy Shepherd-Coley	Department of Social and Policy Sciences

**Attending:**

Megan Travers	Representation Assistant
Kia Brown	Academic Representation Co-ordinators
Amy Young	Engagement and Quality Co-ordinator
Ryan Myles-Roberts	Academic Representation Co-ordinators
Ben Davies	SU President

**Action**

**1. Matters arising**

Placement support

The SU Education Officer has been gathering feedback about how the SU can better support students on placement. She posted her suggestions on the Facebook page. The post will be pinned to the top in case any Reps missed it so that they are able to comment on the post with their feedback.

ACTION: Pin Facebook post to top of page

**Liam**

ACTION: Comment on post with feedback

**All**

Scaling update

The SU Education and Postgraduate Officers are due to receive a University wide scaling transparency policy. This has been pushed back but has already been incorporated into Engineering and Design who now provide evidence of what exams have been scaled and by how much. The SU Education Officer is discussing the policy in all meetings she attends with Peter Lambert, the Vice Chancellor for learning and teaching and learning and teaching staff.

Townhall event

This went ahead in February and was a success. Thanks were given to all who attended, and it was relayed that a video will be released following this as well as an update on the curriculum transformation that will be discussed later in this meeting.

## **2. Any Other Business**

A disciplinary appeals panel is being held and at least six students are needed to volunteer for this, further information will be provided at the end of the meeting.

In the last five minutes of the meeting a Professor from “Professors for change” will be coming in to discuss the movement around the desire to change the University governing system.

## **3. UCU Strikes**

The SU Officer had sent an update on the strikes which was read in her absence. She relayed that a meeting will be held later this week with Peter Lambert to discuss the University response towards mitigating effects of the strikes, as the University have now completed the audit to see the affects of the strikes on learning and teaching. After this meeting the SU Education Officer will communicate the outcomes to Reps. Until then Reps are encouraged to communicate their feedback to Heads of Departments and Units and Directors of Studies as the decision on mitigating circumstances lies within the departments and not the University centrally. These Heads of Department will look at the results this year in relation to previous years and the expectations for this year.

A question was raised around whether the impact of strikes would be observed on a module and course basis as well as on a programme basis as within programmes individual modules can be very different. The SU Postgraduate Officer relayed that currently this has not been made available but that he will follow this up in the meeting.

**ACTION:** Feedback on whether strike impact will be looked at on a modular level

**Liam**

The Postgraduate Officer relayed that the first deal to end the pension dispute had been rejected last month. However, there has been another deal proposed which is being balloted. This ballot will close on Friday at 2pm so it is likely the result will be known by Monday. If it is accepted it is unlikely there will be more strikes. If it is rejected, then it is likely that strikes will happen over exams. If this is the case it will be discussed with senior staff including Peter Lambert, looking at what will be done to limit negative impact. The SU Postgraduate Officer also relayed that all staff wages not being paid will go into the

Student Hardship Fund. It has been noted at the University that students are demanding refunds due to the strikes, currently this has not happened but if there is a national request for this it is possible that it will be investigated. There was going to be a Policy round before Easter looking at the support of the UCU strikes but due to snow this was cancelled, this will instead be held in the upcoming week.

An Academic Rep mentioned that one route to overcome the strikes could be to take up an internal complaint. The SU Postgraduate Officer discussed that in the UK there is an Office of Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education who would deal with complaints on a national level. Currently there has been no complaint made but the SU will follow this if it does happen.

It was also asked what the impact of potential strikes during exams would have. The Postgraduate Officer said this was hard to gauge, it could be exams don't go ahead or there may be a delay in marking. The University will also react to this, so it is unknown what the impact would be. This will become clearer as time goes on as strikes at this level are almost unprecedented in higher education.

A final question was asked around the process of gaining compensation for missed lectures. This Rep had missed a large amount of teaching and had written a formal complaint that had received limited response. She highlighted that although she knows the tuition fee does not only cover lectures this is a large part of it and structures the way students are able to make use of other facilities that the tuition fee covers. The Postgraduate Officer suggested the best way to get a solution was through formal complaints, but the process is difficult as it is hard to work out what lectures cost especially seeing as different students pay different fees. He mentioned that he would ask for clarification around this. The SU President also relayed that this is a national problem, so the final outcome will not be decided on a local level at the University of Bath but likely by the Minister for Education that will filter down to Bath.

**ACTION:** Get clarification on process of requesting compensation from strikes

**Liam**

#### **4. Transforming the Curriculum Update**

The curriculum transformation will be discussed in the Senate tomorrow. The Vanguard programmes have been successfully rolled out and are leading the way for other programmes. It was confirmed there will be four placement students working with the curriculum transformation group next year and these roles will be advertised soon. The Centre for Learning and Teaching is also looking at how to engage more students and get their input on curriculum transformation, especially those who are harder to reach. The Student Voice Manager and the SU Education Officer have formed a working group address this and will feedback in due course.

A question was asked around how feedback would be gained from students over Summer seeing as they are absent from the University whilst decisions are being made. The SU Education Officer has addressed this question to the Centre for Learning and Teaching and the outcome will be fed back to Reps when it is available.

A further question was also asked around the issue of second years resitting when the new programme has been implemented for first year. It was mentioned that this would either mean an individual doing an entirely different programme or only one person in the year doing modules from the previous year. The SU Postgraduate Officer discussed that at this stage this has not been addressed but that this issue will be brought up in future meetings and the outcome fed back.

**ACTION:** Investigate the finer workings of what curriculum change will mean to students resitting

**Liam &  
Chloe**

## **5. Officer Updates**

The SU Education Officer sent updates around Panopto. The Panopto Project Board met this week and are rolling out an easier way for staff to book recordings, making it easier for them to use Panopto and thus encouraging more staff to do so. Later phases of the plan will involve encouraging a stronger line from the University towards staff that they use Panopto especially when it is a requirement for certain students, such as those with disabilities. It was asked whether this would include increasing the availability of Panopto functions in rooms where they don't currently exist. The Postgraduate Officer did not know so agreed to forward this question on to the SU Education Officer.

**ACTION:** Ask Chloe whether the provision of Panopto equipment in rooms is being increased

**Liam**

Education Awards are being held this Friday, the SU Education and Postgraduate Officers looked forward to seeing many Reps there and congratulated the nominees.

The SU Education Officer wanted to give Reps the opportunity to feedback to her on her work this year, she asked that Reps who had questions or comments email her on [sueducation@bath.ac.uk](mailto:sueducation@bath.ac.uk) and she would aim to reply when she is back from the International Women's Conference.

**ACTION:** Email feedback to Chloe

**All**

It was discussed that this was the last meeting so both Officers thanked the Reps for their engagement and contribution this year.

The SU Postgraduate Officer updated Reps on the annual University surveys that are in their seventh week; engagement in the UK Experience Survey is up 4%, NSS engagement is up 18% and PTES 2% which is very positive.

The SU Postgraduate Officer also relayed that PG Forums are changing format and now will take the form of 10 PG breakfasts that will have suggestion boxes for anything in the University that Officers and staff can address.

At the Council and Senate meeting the SU Postgraduate Officer presented a paper on his prioritised two of the "SU top 10" looking at Postgraduates who teach and how improvements can be made to their: training, development, supervision, online support and peer mentoring.

## **6. Q&A to Officers**

The SU Postgraduate Officer was asked what his biggest achievement had been this year. He reported that he felt it was very positive that there had been three candidates running for the Postgraduate Officer role, one of whom was a Doctoral student, which has never happened before. At one point there were six people running which is an improvement as last year he was the only candidate. He also felt he had encouraged more engagement from Postgraduate students and made them feel more involved and welcomed into the University. He relayed focusing a lot on Doctoral students this year as they are

a group who are keen for more representation, and he hoped that this would continue into next year.

## **7. Reflections on the Year**

Forms were handed around encouraging Reps to discuss any achievements or changes they had made this year as well as any issues that needed to be carried forward to next year.

Reps relayed some achievements they had made; increasing student engagement on the biology Vanguard programme, encouraging their department to set up a working group for tutorial supervision, resolving the dead insects in the library lights and increasing easy access to the maths department.

They also discussed some changes they had made; introducing lecturers informing students what changes they made to courses based on course feedback, clearly labelling labs as either study or revision space, increasing staff office hours because of the strikes and setting in motion the introduction of a reading week for Social and Policy Sciences.

Finally, they addressed some large issues that need to be addressed next year. One Rep wanted to encourage more people to read the course handbooks as often questions that are asked are clearly answered within it.

It was discussed that international students are concerned about visa restrictions limiting their ability to partake in placements as they are only allowed to work for a certain number of hours a week. Another Rep discussed that on her course the six-month placement counts as part of the study course, so if these placements could be implemented as part of the course this could overcome the issue.

Another issue was exam grading and waiting for feedback. Within exams it was highlighted that some questions are much more time consuming or difficult than others, so it could be beneficial to introduce a form of quality control to ensure fair weighting. It was also mentioned that some courses can wait months for their feedback and grades so this needs to be improved.

Further transparency is needed around course content. Some students on International Management and Modern Languages reporting feeling misled to choose the course that wasn't what had been advertised. It is presented as a course that is half



management and half languages where as it is half management and half politics. This has been raised at an SSLC and a response is due.

**ACTION:** Investigate what is being done around this issue

**Chloe**

Finally, more clarity was called for in how Postgraduate degree classifications are decided as many students are not clear on how their Undergraduate degree will impact their future studies. They need to be made aware sooner so they know what they are aiming for.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

The disciplinary appeals panel is being held as a student has appealed an SU sanction. Reps were encouraged to sign up to sit on this panel.

The TAC was joined by a Professor for Economics from the Professors For Change movement. Last September a group of 60 Professors who were dissatisfied with the running of the University wrote an open letter calling for the Chair of Council and Vice Chancellor to resign. This did not happen. Currently the group has 86 Professors, over half at the University, and they are trying to reach out to other groups including students. They want change for a fairer University that, amongst other things, hears the voice of all staff and students and they aim to influence the reappointment of the next Vice Chancellor and incorporate a management structure that is more balanced. Their manifesto was left at the meeting and Reps were encouraged to feedback to him what they agreed with and also any changes they would like to see. He also provided details of a Symposium on the afternoon of Thursday 19th April that will look at University governance nationally, followed by an open meeting in the evening that is open to all students and members of public. Reps were encouraged to come to both.