

Meeting:	Taught Academic Council Minutes
Location:	CB 5.1
Date & Time:	Tuesday 14th April 12.15 – 13.05 and 13.15 – 14.05
Present:	
Jack Kitchen	SU Education Officer
Jiani Zhou	SU Postgraduate Officer
In attendance:	
Ryan Myles-Roberts	Academic Representation Coordinator
Item	
1.	<p>Officer Updates</p> <p>The Education Officer updated Taught Academic Council on his work on Errors in Exam Scripts, the Education Awards and the Academic Integrity test.</p> <p>The Postgraduate Officer updated Taught Academic Council on the Loneliness Working Group which she attends to give the view of PGT students.</p>
2.	<p>Academic Representation Constitution</p> <p>The SU Education Officer outlined his vision for the Academic Representation Constitution for the next academic year.</p>
3.	<p>Feedback from the floor</p> <p>An Academic Representative reported that they had been having issues with accessibility in the Politics department. It was reported that most of the issues they raised had been resolved, despite it being a lengthy process. It was reported that the politics leavers drinks were organised in an inaccessible venue.</p> <p>An Academic Representative queried when changes to the exam error reporting would be implemented. The Education Officer replied that it would start after the summer exams, where the University would record centrally instances and report them to a University committee.</p> <p>A Computer Science representative asked other reps what their departmental policy was on dissertation printing and printing fees. A Natural Science rep reported they had to print their dissertation and pay for it. In Mathematics it was reported that the cost of printing was partially covered and in Electronic and Electrical Engineering it was reported that they had to print and pay.</p>
4.	<p>Any other business (AOB)</p> <p>The Chief Executive of the Students' Union (SU) gave a presentation on the SU Cause strategy, illustrating this with examples of organisations who have focused on rearticulating their core purpose. The Chief Executive briefly explained the purpose and function of this project, highlighting the aim of clarifying the role of the SU, the actions it takes, why, and for whom. The Chief Executive stressed the importance of</p>

understanding the difference between the SU and the university. The strategy was understood to elucidate the links between the various actions and decisions the SU takes. Through a three-phased process, this new approach is hoped to enhance student engagement with the SU and to provide opportunities for students to shape their community, thereby deconstructing the traditional, top-down and bureaucratic image students have of the SU.

The Chief Executive explained the concept of the workshops that took place, essentially to understand the elements people thought the SU could improve, stop or continue. These workshops resulted in the need for a mind-set shift in the SU. The key shift emphasised was having the SU become an enabling body rather than a provider for students, the idea of working with students rather than for them. Another issue that was urged to change was the undergraduate focused image of the SU. This aim was greatly supported by the Exec. This new strategy was understood to have the potential of empowering students and giving them the courage to lead their SU and implement change themselves. The Chief Executive stressed the importance of feedback on this new project as it is in its early stages and could benefit from everyone's ideas and input.

This project was also explained to attempt to place SU Officers as the connectors between students and staff. In general, the need to render SU staff more approachable to students and to increase information transparency and accessibility were discussed.

The Chief Executive informed that this strategy would be tested next year aiming to obtain valuable feedback for the strategy to be implemented in 2020.

The meeting ended at 13:05 and 14:05.