

## Student Representatives Assembly 4 – 26/04/2026

### Agenda:

- Introduction
- Q&A and Updates for the Full-Time Officer Team
- Academic Satisfaction
- Ideas Board
- Bids
- SCOs Campaigns
- AOB

### Introduction

- Welcome from Chair

### FTO Q&A and Updates

#### Katie

- Working on temporary study spaces for exam season, there will be comms coming out soon, so students are aware of the locations.
- Working on providing additional activity spaces on campus buildings from hours of 6pm till close.

#### Lucy

- There is a shipment of microwaves for Vet Students including pantry ready to go.
- Rent setting paper has been approved by executive board members.
- £15k for people in halls going into their accounts for laundry services.
- Students Union will set aside £2k towards Green Impact Award which will be effort across all areas of the organisations for sustainability.
- Preparing students about the changes regarding Renters Rights.

#### Jessie

- Met with government officials from DFE, spoke about international students and what home office students can work on, regulations on TNE.

- Worked with Russell Group students' union to lobby government about student visa bans, sent letter to Bristol MP's and signposts students to write their own letters.
- Mumbai enterprise campus opening this year and connecting students who are interested in making connections across campus.
- Sanctuary scholarship fund has been ratified, need people to support it mainly with fundraising
- Demilitarise education event happening soon as a response of arms companies, will be a joined event with UCU and Union.

Linlu

- Working on consent training with the university and it will be mandatory for all students next academic year.
- Looking at accessibility adjustments that the SU can offer to support students with different access needs.
- Exploring an accessibility and neurodivergent fund to pay for anything that can help neurodivergent students and those with access needs to make their day-to-day life better.
- Lobbied university to audit their teaching rooms, they will feed it back to timetabling team and changes will be reflected on the digital map.

Chair opens for questions

### **Question and Answers**

- Q: Will there be group study sessions during the temporary study spaces?

Katie A: There is nothing specific, but the normal group study spaces are still available.

- Q: Follow up – Is the Ivy gate going to be a silent area? If people can talk, it would be a good group study session

A: Not sure

- Q: Will there be any activity spaces at Temple Quarter managed by SU?

Katie responds – there is a possibility that they may be managed by SU after teaching hours.

- Q: Disability and neurodiversity fund – will it be a similar format as the Gender expression fund and or you must have to be diagnosed?

Linlu responds: Gender expression fund is on a trust basis and similar SU's do it on a self-diagnosis basis.

- Q: Is there anything for food in terms of living role?

Lucy responds: We don't anticipate the SU Hatch will be closing so that will be an ongoing roll.

- Q: For accessibility within teaching spaces, is Sian's work also being fed into Mia's work?

Linlu responds has not heard much of Sian's work and information is fed back to Mia.

## **Academic Satisfaction**

### Sharan's Update

- Starting postgraduate alumni mentoring scheme, now up to 55 students who have been linked up to professionals that have graduated.
- Part of Aegis innovation competition, hoping to extend to PGR and adjusting it to meet their needs and expectations.
- As part of supporting disabled students holistic experience, has been pushing to integrate PGR disability into their disabled student's commitment – how can PGR students voices be brought into this discussion.
- Worked on survey about engaging postgraduate.
- Received funding to do a focus group/ workshop style with students to understand what students want over the summer and how they would like to be communicated with over the summer.
- Student teaching nominations have opened and encouraged students to fill it out.

Chair opens for questions

### **Questions and answers**

- Q: With the focus groups about summer, will they be about supporting students this summer or next summer?

A: It will be this summer and they will evaluate for next summer.

- Q: How does the mentoring match work with PGR

Sharan responds: It is being held with careers service and there is diversity in careers. They are being matched based on application. Now it is limited as a pilot but there can be expansion of careers.

- Q: Can it be expanded to PGR?

A: Ideally, should be something we need to have.

- Q: Student teaching awards – will students be involved in the panel?

A: There will be student representation throughout. Every panel is chaired by a student.

Mia

- Currently working with university to allow more flexible coursework resubmission. Working on policy so students don't have to wait until summer.
- Working with timetabling team to establish student research around timetabling preferences. Goal is for an earlier release of timetables.
- Continuing to support assessment feedback fellows, some of hosted peer led workshops.
- Re-designing how marking criteria is presented.

Chair opens question

### **Questions and answers**

Q: Will marking criteria be centralised across all schools?

Mia responds: Yes

### **Key areas of university changes**

Mia discusses key areas that university are planning to change, wanted to get a sense check from SRA to feedback to committee.

#### *Student circumstances and excisional circumstances*

- There have been talks for lenient extension requests. University is currently looking at approach that Reading does where students get 3 automatic extensions

Feedback and Questions:

Feedback:

- Could be a good idea for people with fluctuating health conditions.
- People have previously abused extension request (witnessed this during COVID), it must be assumed that majority students will be taking it and needs to be considered with marking and staff workload.
- Concerns that this would be abused by students who will just apply for extensions even when they do not need it.
- Could be counterproductive for some students such as those with ADHD where it becomes a temporary plaster and they miss their deadlines.

- Extensions will have implications for PGR students who must mark work and the backlog could impact on their working hours.

Questions:

Q: Can you stack extensions on top of each other?

A: I doubt they would allow that due to staff workload but can be asked to the committee.

Q: Why is the deadline before 10 days? Was the idea for students who work part-time jobs or have disabilities?

A: No – University following Reading's approach and not sure how they arrived to the before 10 days.

Q: will this be applied to bigger projects such as dissertations or normal coursework.

Mia responds: Not sure

Student adds, this policy would not work for master's research thesis as its such a large piece work.

*Coursework penalties*

- Has come to attention that there are varying practices across faculties/ schools, the university want an standardised approach.
- Arts, Law and social science have standardised approach where there is a 10% leeway.

Feedback and Questions:

Responses

- No point of standardising it, schools should have their own autonomy
- Should be unit by unit, based off what the coursework is and marking criteria.
- Having different units can cause confusion. There should be a hard work limit to prepare students for the outside world, but acknowledges this is from the science perspective rather than humanitarian courses.

**Ideas board updates**

No updates from officers regarding Ideas Board

**Bids**

### *Arms companies Campaign*

- Jessie requesting £85 to cover transportation, food and support smooth running of event with Demilitarise Education
- As this is a joint event with UCU, UCU have agreed to partially cover the cost.
- Student adds that bids no longer add refreshment. Discussions move to refreshments and food with another student adding that as faculty rep, this has limited their incentives and there is still so much money there.
- Agreement that refreshments can be used with the money that is leftover.

Chair moves to voting

Bid has been won

### **SCO Campaign**

Shreya absent but there is someone to speak on behalf of:

Issues that emerged from SCO's house meetings.

- For there to be more SU led initiatives such as Jessie's MP letter writing
- One Love Project has been booked on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, and commercial materials will be coming out.

Lucy asks, *how would SCO feel about a roundup of their experience in this role?*

One SCO agrees with the idea, would prefer if it was after dissertation period, something to consider when to hold that event.

Sian's updates

- Women's voice event in March, in city town hall, came across Bristol Disability groups but is unsure on how to pass on information that is compliant with GDPR
- Working with Postgrad neurodiversity and disability network to advocate for equal and fair amount of paid leave.
- In April, Sian will be talking to trustees about why accessibility should be a priority and will feedback all these meetings in the next SRA.

Sharran responds on the support for postgraduate students, may be bringing this as a bid in the next SRA for funding.

Aimee Updates:

- Has been in contact with SVLO team working towards more of a collaboration as the main issue brought up in the house meeting was that it is tricky to find information and access support for people that have been sexually assaulted.

No questions for SCO's

## **AOB**

### **Student council Forum**

- Chiara gives an overview; it will be hybrid. There will be a motion coming through. Asks student what topic should be discussed on the tables.
- Student responds, it is nice for officers to choose their own topics as there was a variety.
- Chair agrees and adds that there should also be agenda time so there is enough time.
- Jessie adds that they would want to do a follow up meeting on activism on campus, which could be chaired by SCO or officer?
- Student suggests that housing will be an upcoming one with the upcoming renters' rights. What are your rights now? What are the changes that are coming in the pipeline? Informative and gathering experiences to inform future work.

Chosen topics to be discussed at Student Council

Assessments – Mia

Renting/ Student living - Lucy

Societies – Katie

Activism – SCOs

Safety – Linlu

### **Staff redundancies**

- There has been no student voice around university staff redundancies.
- Student adds that faculty directors were not consulted at all to make this decision, staff voices were also cut out.
- Decisions made regarding staff should have student input before decisions are made.
- Jessie notes if people are passionate, they should apply for student trustee next year as that will be a good way to have input.

Questions – Is it possible to have future SRA Hybrid as this would be useful for PGR?

- Chiara gives overview on committee, when it was hybrid there was no engagement which is why it became in person. Happy to reconsider for next year and see how that works.
- Chiara asks for feedback of all the meetings to improve for following sessions.

**End of Meeting**