

UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON STUDENT SENATE

Report to Council from its meeting on 24 November 2021

Committee Chair: Professor Jean-Noël Ezingard

The 34th meeting of the University Student Senate was held on Wednesday 24 November 2021. Attendees joined in person in the Convent Parlour, Digby Stuart College, and via MS Teams.

Welcomes, introductions and apologies

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed everyone to the first Student Senate meeting of the 2021-22 academic year. Everyone present introduced themselves to the group and apologies were noted.

Report from the last meeting

The report from the last meeting was presented to Student Senate.

Terms of reference, composition and membership

The group noted the terms of reference, composition and membership (Paper RSS34/2).

Updates from members

The Vice-Chancellor gave a number of updates at the start of the meeting on the activity that had taken place throughout the first term. This included the following:

- COVID-19: The University had taken a very cautious approach to COVID-19 to support the safety of staff and students, but had nevertheless been able to return to face-to-face teaching and many of the campus-based activities that support an outstanding experience for our students. In particular, there had been a focus on encouraging students to wear masks in indoor shared spaces, getting vaccinated and undertaking regular testing. The University had also arranged for on-campus testing and pop-up vaccination clinics.
- Student induction: Planning for student induction this year had been very complex because the University had planned for a number of scenarios depending on the pandemic. Nevertheless, welcome week had gone very well and in September over 2,000 events had been delivered for students.
- Student pulse surveys: These surveys had been introduced to help the University to understand how it could support students more effectively and would run every two weeks. The results would be shared with senior staff across the institution and result in improvements to our activities.

Student Senate was thanked for its role in raising issues on behalf of the student body that the University was then able to address and resolve. Student Senators then raised a number of items to be discussed:

- Washing machines: It was noted that there was an uneven distribution of washing machines across the Whitelands campus and that there was variability of pricing across the University. It was agreed that the Chief Operating Officer would arrange a meeting to discuss this further.
- Timing of maintenance work: Concerns were raised about the timing of planned maintenance work and communications to students living in accommodation. It was agreed that the Chief Operating Officer would look into this further.
- CCTV: Questions were raised about the location of CCTV and whether this was intrusive. It was noted that the University had upgraded its CCTV over the summer to ensure the safety and security of the campus and our community. The installation had been completed with privacy as a central issue. Students are not pro-actively monitored on CCTV.
- Growhampton: A question was asked about establishing a Growhampton space on the Whitelands campus. It was agreed that the matter would be looked into further with the Whitelands College president.

Other items

The group received reports from the Dean of Students, Head of Placements and Business Engagement and the Director of Student Support Services.

Date of next meeting: 2 February 2022

*George Turner
University Secretary
November 2021*