

ROEHAMPTON UNIVERSITY

SENATE

Report on the first meeting of the University Student Senate

The first meeting of the Student Senate was held on Wednesday 13 October 2010. The terms of reference, composition and membership of the Student Senate are attached as Annex A

Introduction

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed everyone to the first meeting of what is believed to be the first Student Senate in the HE Sector, explaining that it was designed as a forum for students to discuss matters of significance and mutual interest with the University's senior administration. The Student Senate is a vital element of the New Student Partnership, which is aimed at developing a student-led University at Roehampton. As part of the same initiative, students are now represented on almost all Senate and Council committees. However the Student Senate plays a particularly important role as it offers students the opportunity to be heard directly on any matters that interest or concern them.

The Student Senate will provide regular reports of its meetings to the University Senate and the University Council and will also interact with University committees as appropriate, including the new Student Affairs Committee. This is the first such Report.

Business of the meeting

Sustainability Issues for Roehampton University

The Vice-Chancellor outlined the possible impact on the higher education sector of the Comprehensive Spending Review. As the University's government funding was likely to be significantly reduced, Roehampton would have to consider raising home and EC student fee levels significantly.

Fees of approximately £7,500 per annum would need to be charged in order to replace the government contribution. The Vice-Chancellor asked how such a fee could be justified to potential applicants, whether they would have been prepared to pay such a sum, and what their expectations would be of a University charging that level of tuition fee. A wide-ranging discussion followed with students expressing divergent views but with some common themes emerging:

- it was important to sell the whole University experience to potential applicants – emphasising that the personal development flows as much from what occurs outside the classroom as in it, as well as the employability potential.
- it was much easier to gain the full experience if you lived on site, so more should be done to 'capture' students living off-site, particularly as more students may choose to live at home to reduce costs.
- expectations of universities would be high if fees rose, and students would compare not only tuition fee, but also the grades of leavers, and graduate employment statistics;
- it was very important to avoid being seen as a 'budget-option' University and once students are paying over £6,000 they may not see a great difference between £7,000 and £8,000.

Employability Strategy at the University (Ian Pickup, Director of Student Development)

Students emphasised the importance of:

- offering more opportunities (in-house internships, placements etc) within and outside the curriculum, as well as early, regular and accessible careers and skills guidance.
- opportunities for students to work in University departments to gain experience.
- involving students in the marketing of careers advice.

Student Survey Results (Mark Ellul, Head of Planning).

Students advocated:

- improving the publicity around University responses and actions resulting from survey results.
- working with students more closely to discover what would improve their experiences even more, and enable them to understand restrictions.
- Disseminating good practice regarding the Personal Tutor system.

Development of Student Facilities at the University (Ghazwa Alwani-Starr, Director of Property and Facilities Management)

- students welcomed a presentation of the very wide range of improvements in student facilities made across the University, often in response to student input.
- staff considered the best improvements had been made when they worked with students to respond to their suggestions and needs, so students were invited to comment and feedback ideas.

Matters raised by Student Sabbatical Officers (RSU Sabbatical Officers)

Student Safety and Security:

- Requests for more, and more obvious, security presence at Froebel, especially at the Gatehouse, and improvements in lighting at the College.
- Request for more Security cameras in order to reassure students that personal safety and security was taken seriously and could be followed up in the case of incidents.

Recognition of Clubs and Societies, and more University publicity for them. RSU would bring proposals regarding this to the next meeting.

Student Services Review. RSU would like the opportunity to feed back regarding student services, and it was agreed that they would be able to do so in a proposed Review.

RSU Radio: 'Fresh Air'. Equipment and software have recently been installed, and RSU is seeking a volunteer manager for the station.

ANDREW SKINNER,
DEPUTY UNIVERSITY SECRETARY
SECRETARY TO STUDENT SENATE,
OCTOBER 2010

ROEHAMPTON UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE

Terms of Reference, Composition and Membership**Purpose**

The Student Senate provides a formal forum in which:

- students can raise issues of concern with members of the senior administration of the University
- students can be consulted on all key institutional matters.

Terms of Reference

The Student Senate is a consultative and advisory body that reports regularly both to Senate and to Council. As a result of its deliberations it may make recommendations or refer matters to appropriate bodies or individuals such as Council (and its committees) or Senate (and its committees).

In particular, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Student Senate will be consulted on University strategies and University policies relating to the student experience.

Composition

Vice-Chancellor (<i>Chair</i>)	Professor Paul O'Prey
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Professor Jane Broadbent
Pro Vice-Chancellors (2)	Chris Cobb
	Andy Masheter
Director of Finance	Reggie Blennerhassett
University Secretary and Registrar	Robin Geller
Deputy Provosts (3)	Professor Pat Corcoran
	Professor Ann MacLarnon
	Dr Claire Ozanne
President of Roehampton Students' Union (RSU)	Alex Murray
Sabbatical officers RSU (3)	Becky Aston;
	Natasha Blake;
	Anant Naik
College Presidents (4)	Tom Barrett (Froebel)
	Alex Feyler (Whitelands)
	Luke Holliday (Digby Stuart)
	Adam Ozdemir (Southlands)
President of the Athletic Union	Luke Brand

Student representatives of each Department,
selected by the Departmental Board (10)

Samantha Bottle (Drama,
Theatre & Performance)
Robyn Cabaret (Dance)
Rachel Fincham (Life
Sciences)
Victoria Kindred (Media,
Culture & Language)
Kayleigh McHale (Psychology)
Nurani Nathoo (Education)
Lizzie Neale (English &
Creative Writing)
Chang-Xi Sun (RU Business
School)
John Tugwell (Humanities)
Sam Wilson (Social Sciences)

Five additional students appointed by the RSU Council from the groups listed below:

- Post Graduate students (2)
(if possible, one to be a Research student)
- Mature students (1)
- Part-time students (1)
- International students (1)

To be confirmed

Nick Kinsella

To be confirmed

Caroline Selnes

Secretary to Student Senate

Andrew Skinner
(Deputy University Secretary)

Frequency of meetings

The Student Senate will meet at least once each term and the agenda is set by Vice-Chancellor in consultation with the President, Roehampton Students' Union