

UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON

STUDENT SENATE

Chair: Professor Paul O'Prey, Vice-Chancellor

Summary Report on the Fourteenth Meeting of the University Student Senate, held on Wednesday 25 February 2015 in the Convent Parlour at Digby Stuart College

1. Report from the last meeting, and matters arising

Senior staff reported back to Student Senate initially on progress made in relation to developing the 'Moodle' platform, which was addressing consistency of approach and use with staff in the context of a consideration of e-learning being undertaken by the Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee. There were indications that students were becoming much more satisfied with Moodle as a result of these developments.

Professor Ozanne welcomed the feedback regarding flat representatives received from student senators, which had informed further discussions with key stakeholders. Student Senate would be kept informed of proposals.

RSU members reported on meetings with the Head of Security, Paul Markham-James, which had been very informative on both sides, and had already helped understanding of students concerns expressed at a focus group and the last meeting of Student Senate. Discussions would continue.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

2. Proposals for Student-led element of the University Budget, 2015-16

The meeting considered a paper containing student suggestions for expenditure of the student-led budget element. The suggestions were many and wide ranging, and rationales and potential costings had been provided for each. A poll of the most popular yielded the following top three for further consideration.

1. Student Activity Grant Funding for student events which needed pump-priming
2. An Off-campus specific Student Welcome Event
3. Student Internship(s)

Final decisions about the student-led funding would be made at the May meeting.

3. Future of the 'Growhampton' Project

The Growhampton Project would soon require additional funding, and steps were being taken to determine how sustainability might be achieved. All agreed on the popularity, importance and achievements of Growhampton, and of the Hive Café. It was considered that the popularity reflected students' interest in and concern for the environment and healthy and sustainable lifestyles, which should be cultivated.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor advised that a sustainability plan, to bridge a crucial two-year funding gap, was being drawn up and considered and advice was being given by University staff on possible fundraising from outside sponsors.

4. Photocopying costs for students at Roehampton (Vice-Chancellor)

Although the Vice-Chancellor had been approached by some students regarding photocopying costs at Roehampton, the meeting did not share the view that costs were excessive, given that costs were already subsidised by the University.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5. Update on the 'W.I.S.H' Project

RSU members advised that some 500 responses had already been received from students surveyed about the 'Ideal student hub'. This would inform further decisions on student facilities in the context of capital developments.

6. Update from the Students' Union Council

The RSU Council was proving highly successful this year, with regular full attendance (of over 20 elected officers) further supplemented by a 'bring your friends' (to meetings) invitation. Topics considered included security, impact of building works, campaigns such as 'Think before you drink', and a reconsideration of elected officer roles to ensure representation. For example, introducing a Spring Mews representative was now considered valuable and essential.

'TOP OF YOUR AGENDA'

7. 'Top of your agenda'

Student members are invited to raise current matters of interest to them at this point in the meeting.

Topics raised here include concerns about the impact of building works on resident students; problems for students required to attend compulsory teaching on Wednesday afternoons when wanting to take part in sporting events, including as members of Roehampton teams; problems with Wi-Fi in halls of residence.

These matters were being, or would be, considered by senior staff who would report back to the next meeting.

8. Next meeting

2pm on Wednesday 6 May 2015.

*Andrew Skinner
Deputy University Secretary
Secretary to Student Senate
March 2015*