**Academic Council**

**DATE:** Tuesday 18th October 2022 **ROOM:** 0050 **TIME:** 12.00pm-1.30pm

Aasiyah Patankar; President – Academic Life

Chair: Louise Ford; President – Student Activities

Secretary: Julie Read – Student Support Coordinator

Attended: 33 Apologies: 10

1. **Welcome and Introduction**

Louise welcomed everyone and introduced herself and the other staff members. This AC was the first of the new academic year 22-23.

1. **Student President Update**

1. PAT System: Aasiyah has been trying to make this a more cohesive system and now delivers training to PATs. If there are still issues, let us know.

2. Previous feedback on the Virtual Learning Experience (VLE) was that there was not enough guidance for first year students on the workings of the university, so there are now more staff going into classes to explain this.

3. Lack of sockets in classes had been highlighted. This has been addressed by the supply of laptops to borrow from the library and the possibility of charging laptops there.

1. **Guest speaker**- Brendan Owers, Learning Technologies Manager, IT Services

Brendan explained that his team looks after the HUB and trains staff in its use. There will be a move away from the HUB, in the next academic year and they are working with staff and students on how they use it. Staff are provided with a base template to clarify terminologies. Brendan introduced a short activity for Class Reps to complete as an aid to developing the new platform, Canvas. Further activities will be offered to the wider student body in the months to come.

1. **QMUSU Update**

Aasiyah explained that the current cost of living crisis is a concern for the SU and the university, and we are looking into ways to help with this. There will be a new initiative starting on Thursday 27th October, which will be called TGIT (Thank Goodness it’s Thursday). This will be a pilot scheme initially and will provide a free hot meal and a food pack and recipe card to take away between 5pm and 7pm, along with another activity.

The first activity will be a clothes swap from 12pm on the 27th. Clean clothes in good condition can be dropped off at the SU on Wednesday 26th October. Vouchers will be issued to anyone who drops clothes off and they will have the first opportunity to “buy” clothes before those without vouchers.

Other activities are planned for future weeks. There is also the Food Pantry which operates every Wednesday next to 1875 from 10.30-11.30. Students can join for £2 for the year and this entitles them to shop any number of items for £1 each week. The SU is also looking into subsidising this with staples such as rice and pasta.

1. **Class Reps feedback**
* Some students are having difficulty in accessing room bookings for the library (Advised seeking help from Assist. May need to reactivate ID).
* Lots of students struggling to meet each other/agree on best way to communicate (WhatsApp or Snapchat) – Advised to stick to WhatsApp as messages don’t disappear.
* Lots of timetabling issues were raised by several Reps: Double-booked classes, start times but no finish times publicised, placement timetables not linked to class timetables, timetables which change on a weekly basis, back to back classes with no lunch break, classes disappearing off the portal so students don’t know when classes are on, all modules listed from 9-5 but no specific classes detailed, long gaps between classes, practical sessions spread out over the week and not all in one day.
* A module taken by three different courses is running although one course is on placement. Lectures are supposed to be recorded and uploaded but this is not happening. Assignment due soon. (Advised to contact PL).
* Some modules have guidance videos but others don’t – need consistency
* Many lecturers just reading off PowerPoint slides, even in seminars – no opportunity for discussion.
* Many students still waiting for ILP assessments but first assignments due imminently – (Advised to inform PL’s and apply for EC’s).
* Massive group project due and class have asked for meeting with PAT because of concerns. Meeting arranged for day before project due date.
* Students taking optional Drama in Education module have been told they need to pay £59 for PVG. This was not made clear in any information about the course/ module. (Advised that Hardship Fund may be able to help if students are in difficulty paying this).
* Primary Ed module – Community Based Education – guidance is unclear and students are unsure what is expected of them.
* Primary Ed – university based educators for placement have still not contacted their students, or do not respond to emails. Some students unaware of who their UBE’s will be, but are already on placement.
* Some international students have been told they need to change course but this may affect their visas. (Advised to seek information from the International office).
* Some students seeking information on funding guides (Advised to check Student Handbook).

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 24th November 13.00 Room 0049 (Be aware the room may change)

**Contact Information**

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