EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on

Thursday 8th October 2020 at 7:30pm

Present: Beth Garrett (BG) - FHES Advocate/Acting Chair

 Ektaa Vadgama (EV) - FHES Advocate

 Genine Taylor (GT) - FHES Advocate

 Bev Adams (BA) - JH Advocate

 Lillian Koroma (LK) - JH Advocate

 Yeqi Zhou (YZ) - Vice President Education

 Anthony Stepniak (AS) - PGR Part-Time Officer

Apologies: None

Absent: Ahmed Basil - Vice President PGR

 Tracy Afriyie - FBL Advocate

Minutes: Ektaa Vadgama

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1. **Welcome back/introductions**

Everyone welcomed to the meeting. BG chaired the meeting as it was the first one of the year and a Chair had not yet been elected.

1. **Apologies for non-attendance**No apologises sent.
2. **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

BG put herself forward as Chair and GT put forward for Vice-Chair. Vote taken and unanimously accepted.

EV put herself forward as a minute taker. Vote taken and unanimously accepted.

1. **Chairs Actions**

None to be noted.

1. **Actions arising**

None to be noted.

1. **Reports**

Note that these reports were all given verbally due to the short notice on of when Education Committee was taking place.

**VP Education (YZ) –** The focus for July was training for the new role. Training focuses included organisation history and strategy, marketing, Trustee training, mental health first aid and advocacy training, among other things. Met with the Chair of board of Governors.

In August, YZ liaised with Course Advocates to help understand Course Advocacy. Looked at how to implement manifesto points. Focused on improving English skills and to develop communication. September focus was on supporting Welcome Week; attended lecture ‘shout outs’ with SU staff. Created marketing content to welcome students and promote advocacy. Created an online platform called ‘Tell Yeqi’ whereby students can give feedback on online learning.

Question from EV about the online platform and how it works. YZ affirms, it enables students to share feedback on their experiences of online learning so she can determine the advantages and disadvantages, to be shared with University Staff.

Report unanimously accepted.

**BA (Joint Honours) –** Fairly quiet over the summer, was trying to develop the JH Facebook page and engage with students through that. Considered creating a promotional video.

Report unanimously accepted.

**EV (FHES) –** Created YouTube videos and raised awareness of Podiatry through social media, attended advocacy courses, met up with Podiatry first years and with Podiatry Society members to promote Course Advocates and Faculty Advocates. Keen to continue work supporting the charity, Crisis – who focus on supporting homeless people. Difficulties with this due to COVID.

Question from GT about what is happening in Podiatry at the moment. EV affirms she is keen to produce a video with other healthcare professionals and may seek healthcare students to support with this. EV also describes difficulties COVID has posed for healthcare students who are experiencing limited clinic hours and struggling to find placements.

Report unanimously accepted.

**GT (FHES) –** Explains quite a few worries prior to the start of the academic year, faced a lot of questions from students via Facebook groups. In Welcome Week, spoke to first year students on her course and created promotional talk for second years. Saw interest in Course Advocacy as a result. From talking to students, has noticed issues with timetabling and problems with amount of online/face-to-face learning. Noted drop-in sessions do not equate to two hours of face-to-face lectures a week. Has some additional ideas to discuss with YZ. Some students have voiced concerns with communicating with personal tutors, finding emails are not being responded too or they do not feel comfortable approaching personal tutors. International students have approached GT with various issues, she has sign-posted for financing, housing problems, etc. Last year worked with Tim Dobson (Head of School Engagement), for a higher education system, creating a website for higher education students – would like to continue this into this academic year.

Report unanimously accepted.

**LK (JH) –** Has been trying to support the Joint Honours Facebook group. In the process of setting up some drop-in sessions for students on campus to increase student voice and engagement.

Report unanimously accepted.

**BG (FHES) –** Has picked up on advocacy again over the last month. Helped SU staff create promotional marketing content for Course Advocacy and Faculty Advocacy – these have been shared on SU social media and YouTube channel. Supported SU staff with Union Day during Welcome Week. Dropped into Primary Education lectures with first, second and third years and PGCE students to promote advocacy and introduce self.

BG, GT, EV to arrange a time to meet and plan activities for advocacy this year.

Report unanimously accepted.

1. **Course Advocacy Update**

Updated shared from CS. Outlines support in place for advocates – entitled to monthly one-to-one meetings and also available during 6 hour weekly drop-ins in the Learning Hub from 20th October onwards. Key contact details provided. Nominations for Course Advocacy taking place now, mainly to be done ‘in-house’ this year and Programmes Leaders can with names. Any further questions to be directed to CS

1. **Faculty Forums**FHES advocates tried to run Faculty Forums last year but they were not particularly affective. This year they are written into the bye-laws. Each Faculty will host one Faculty Forum a term, lasting a maximum of 2 hours so it is not too heavy on workloads. Course Advocates *should* be attending these. Will be held virtually for at least the first term so Faculty Advocates will need to liaise to determine the dates and times.
2. **PGR Updates**

Minutes provided from the Research Student Committee. Following the next Student Council Meeting, the intention is that RSC will sit parallel to Education Committee and the VP PGR will report to the RSC. For the purposes of this month’s Student Council, the minutes must go through Education Committee. AS summarises minutes.

Minutes unanimously accepted.

AS provides general PGR update. AS and AB have been working together on the relocation of the PGR space. This has been challenging in and of itself, particularly with managing COVID restrictions and social distancing the space. AS has also liaised with PGR students, managing email queries etc. PGR induction is coming up in the next couple of weeks so this will be the next focus.

1. **Discussion of Meeting Dates**

Education Committee voted on preferred date/time for meetings this academic year. Suggested Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm.

Unanimously accepted.

**Any Other Business**

None

**Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 4th November, 6:30-8:30pm.