

## UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON STUDENT SENATE

### Report to Council from its meeting on 19 February 2020

Committee Chair: Professor Jean-Noël Ezingard

The 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the University Student Senate was held on Wednesday 19 February 2020. At the beginning of the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor gave a presentation on the University's Enabling Strategies 2019-2025, focusing on areas such as the awarding gap, employability, curriculum development, financial and environmental sustainability. He also talked about the challenging external environment.

Student Senators discussed their recent activities, including developing a BAME mentoring programme, creating a forum for discussing issues with student halls with the Accommodation Team and creating a fund to subsidise graduation. The meeting also discussed the University's nursery and childcare provision.

#### **Report from the last meeting**

Student Senate approved the enclosed report as an accurate record of the last meeting. The report had previously been submitted to the University Senate and Council. There were no matters arising not already covered in the agenda.

#### **Environmental plan development**

Student Senate received a presentation on the development process for the University's new environmental plan, noting that there would be extensive consultation with students and other stakeholder groups. The aim would be to publish the plan in Spring 2020.

#### **Update on mental health training**

Student Senate received a report from the Vice-President (Community and Welfare) on mental health first aid training for staff. It was noted that the training had so far been well received by 25 staff who had completed it. Further sessions were scheduled over the coming months and University staff present were asked to encourage their teams to participate.

#### **Student surveys**

Student Senate received a presentation on module evaluation surveys and discussed ways in which the process could be improved. It was noted that an online survey may be preferable and that consideration should be given to the timing of surveys. It may also be useful to consider other ways of capturing student feedback on teaching, such as through focus groups.

## **Chair of Council recruitment**

Student Senate noted that the recruitment process for the new Chair of Council was ongoing and that the RSU Sabbatical Officers and other students would be asked to participate in the selection process.

## **Student-led budget**

It was noted that at the next meeting, Student Senate would be asked to approve the student-led budget. Members of Student Senate were therefore asked to begin thinking about proposals for the budget, which would be coordinated through Roehampton Students' Union.

## **Top of your agenda – Reflections and Priorities**

At the beginning of this item, the Vice-Chancellor and other University staff discussed the steps the University was taking to prepare for the forthcoming industrial action. The University's focus was on mitigating the impact of the strike on students. It was agreed that a link to the student FAQs would be circulated to members after the meeting.

All those present were then asked to introduce themselves and discuss their reflections and priorities. Among the matters raised by student members at this meeting were the following (ordering as presented round the table):

- Making the Muslim prayer room at Whitelands more accessible
- Better student engagement at Whitelands
- Noise disruption caused by the Romero development
- More employability events in the Department of Social Sciences
- Welcoming new research students
- Developing digital signposting for research students
- The development of commuter kitchens
- Working on the older mature student experience
- Enjoying the excellent sense of community at Roehampton, including through alumni
- Repairing the pathway between Digby Stuart and Froebel
- Joining the AI Committee
- The discussion forum with the Accommodation Team around accommodation complaints

Next meeting: 2pm, 29 April 2020

*George Turner*  
*Deputy University Secretary*  
*March 2020*