

UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON STUDENT SENATE

Report to Council from its meeting on 28 April 2021

Committee Chair: Professor Jean-Noël Ezingoard

The 33rd meeting of the University Student Senate was held on Wednesday 28 April 2021 via Zoom.

Report from the last meeting

The report from the last meeting was presented to Student Senate.

Updates from members

The Vice-Chancellor gave a number of updates at the start of the meeting on the action that had been taken in relation to the points raised at the previous meeting, including the introduction of fines for students who break COVID rules and testing for entry to the Library.

Student Senate was thanked for its role in raising issues on behalf of the student body that the University was then able to address and resolve. Student Senators then raised a number of items to be discussed:

- Gender-neutral toilets: It was noted that 159 of the 388 toilets on campus are currently universal access, split across each college. Work would be undertaken to improve the ways that we can communicate and promote the availability of gender-neutral toilets across campus.
- Graduation: It was noted that the University was planning a number of on-campus events in the summer for students who would be graduating at the end of 2020-21 and for those who graduated at the end of the previous academic year. Remote events were also being planned for those who could not attend campus.
- Summer enrichment programme: The University recognised early on that the Government would likely not allow students to return fully to campus. To mitigate the impact of this, a summer programme was designed within and across departments to deliver intensive additional practical activity. This includes the Digital for All Programme, delivered by the School of Arts. The full timetable was available on the Roehampton app.
- Academic regulations and no detriment: It was noted that some students had reported delays in turnaround times for mitigating circumstances applications. It was agreed that enquiries would be made with the relevant departments. A question was raised about the quality of Roehampton degrees in light of the no detriment regulations. Student Senate was assured that no student should have any concerns about the quality of their degree. The University's academic standards are as rigorous as they ever have been. There has been no change in the quality of the degrees awarded. All work is quality assured, with the support of external examiners.

At the end of the meeting, which was the last Student Senate of the year, the Vice-Chancellor thanked all of the students present for their contributions to the debate

and discussion throughout the year. Particular thanks were given to Lauryn Fleming and Nicolo Sodaro, who were attending their last meeting of Student Senate as RUS Vice-Presidents.

Date of next meeting: 28 April 2021

*George Turner, University Secretary & Clerk to Council
April 2021*