

UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON

SENATE/COUNCIL

Summary Report on the latest meeting of Student Senate

Wednesday 16 May 2018, 13:30 in the Convent Parlour

The twenty-fourth meeting of the University Student Senate, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, was held on Wednesday 16 May 2018.

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed all present, including Aleata Alstad-Calkins, Director of Student Support, and Leah Bunn, Internal Communications Manager.

The **Report from the last meeting** (Paper 1) was received and confirmed by those present as an accurate record of the meeting.

Congratulations were given by the Vice-Chancellor to the new sabbatical officers and to all other students who were elected. Thanks and congratulations were also expressed to Student Senate at its last meeting of the year.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **New University website**

Leah Bunn discussed the new University website, which had recently gone live, and in particular noted the following:

- The extensive use of the new Roehampton logo
- That content was being progressively updated
- That there are new Student Life and Student Support sections
- That the Web Team have worked very hard to produce the new website
- That there will be a Phase 2 based on feedback
- That there is a new Student Blog, and that the Communications Team are currently seeking content contributions from students

2. **Our Vision and Values**

The Vice-Chancellor presented the new mission statement (attached to this report), noting that it is less corporate than many in the sector and focuses on people. It was suggested that the new statement puts students at its heart, and reflects both the economic and broader value of Higher Education. The Vice-Chancellor asked for feedback from Student Senate.

The feedback from Student Senate was generally positive. Student Senate was asked whether other students would recognise the message contained in the statement. It was noted that

some groups of students may not recognise the statement fully, including those from BAME backgrounds. It was suggested that the best way to find this out is to talk to students.

It was noted by Student Senate that the University needs to ensure that the statement is reflected in everything it does, and that the University needs to be aware of the diverse nature of the student body. It was further noted that the University needs to continue to ensure that change happens, including with respect to the University's commitment to diversifying recruitment.

It was noted that students of all backgrounds need to be accounted for in the University's approach, and consideration to how these intersect. Student Senate emphasised the importance of working with students to increase diversity, and of normalising inclusion and intersectionality. Student Senate also noted the importance of treating students as individuals.

3. Student-led Budget

Student Senate discussed how it would like to allocate the £50k student-led budget, based on the paper that was provided by Roehampton Students' Union following consultation with students (Paper 2). The Vice-Chancellor noted that mental health training was currently being considered by the University for security officers.

Student Senate agreed that the budget should be allocated to the following initiatives:

- Mental Health First Aid Training, for student representatives and leaders (£25k)
- Events to mark Black History Month (£5k)

The remainder of the budget was to be allocated to continuing current initiatives in relation to developing leadership in students and funding part-time student internships.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that there were ongoing discussions elsewhere around 24-hour access to the Library and subsidising graduation.

4. Update on Harvey building works

The Pro Vice-Chancellor firstly noted that the University had received a RIBA award for the new Library and for Chadwick Hall. He then gave a presentation setting out the design for the renovation of Harvey. In particular, he noted the cinema, which would be available to all students and student societies such as the Film Society, and the Student Support Centre. Feedback from Student Senate on the design was generally positive, particularly in relation to the cinema.

5. Access and Participation Plan

The Deputy Provost (Learning and Teaching) presented the University's Access and Participation Plan, and noted that in the 2018-19 academic year the University would be spending £15m on access and participation work. A handout was provided to Student Senate (attached to this report) setting out the key statistics in this area. It was noted that there

remains work to be done, particularly around intersectionality, and that the University needs to continue to ensure that students are involved in developing solutions.

'TOP OF YOUR AGENDA'

In this regular item, students advised Student Senate of matters that are of particular interest to them as individuals. Among the matters raised by student members at this meeting were the following (ordering as presented round the table):

- Organising a mature students' social event
- As it was the last meeting of the year, expressing thanks to every on Student Senate
- Ensuring a smooth transition and continuing good work next year
- Focussing on mental health
- The Level Up Leadership event, the College Cup Final, the RSU awards, goodbyes and thanks
- The flat rep awards, the postgraduate conference, handing over to successors
- Thanks were expressed for the platform Student Senate gives, and hope that the conversations raised in the meeting will continue
- Having a lift installed in the Jubilee Theatre
- Having a smooth transition
- Thanks were expressed for the furniture in the Reef

Closure: The Vice-Chancellor thanked all present for their contributions, and closed the meeting

Next meeting: Wednesday 21 November 2018

George Turner
Deputy University Secretary
June 2018