

Faculty Representatives Termly Report

2017-18

Your Name: Judith Pape

Your Faculty & Role: Medical Sciences Postgraduate Research

Faculty Priorities:

I believe the most pressing student needs in the faculty are training for teaching and supervision, feeling valued as a research member and to be aware of codes of conducts and UCL legislations. I have come to these conclusions mainly from the results of the PRES but also through conversation with students and at SSCC meetings.

The results of the PRES were especially discussed in the most recent faculty research degree committee meeting in November and it was discovered that PhD students especially want more guidance on how to supervise BSc and MSc students for their projects (lab and bench).

Another ongoing priority and issue is also the late payment of PhD stipends, which is something we want to take forward this year. We also want to address the proper induction of PhD students that start in the middle of the year.

Meetings in the Faculty:

Additionally, to the faculty research degree committee as discussed above, Roxanna and I have met with Jill Norman to discuss the ongoing issues, especially the unpaid PGTA activities. Jill was very supportive in us enforcing a culture change in the faculty towards PhD students and other priorities that I have mentioned above.

As I am a rep for the Division of Surgery and Interventional Sciences, I have also been attending those SSCC meetings which has tied in nicely.

Roxanna and I also attended a course by ARENA called "Postgraduate Students Who Supervise", which was extremely helpful in answering questions about PGTA.

Meetings with the Union:

This week we have also raised the unpaid PGTA issue with Tom and he has suggested a meeting with him and Mark in order to seek advice and discuss possible actions.

Other comments:

Roxanna and I are hoping to send out a newsletter (with the help of Sandy Kutty) by next week to introduce ourselves to postgraduate research students of the faculty and to also send out a survey to collect data on stipend payments and PGTA teaching. We want to present the data obtained at the next faculty research degree committee in February. I also wanted to note here that we have discussed with Jill and other reps that some senior academics present with a very negative attitude at SSCC and faculty meetings. This appears to be especially toward research students. A lot of PI's seem to feel personally attacked by collective issues or complaints that reps are raising as a voice for the students. I think it would be great if it could be reiterated that these SSCC (and faculty) meetings are to the benefit of both students and staff to communicate better and strive for a more positive experience for everyone.