

Faculty Representatives Termly Report

2017-18

Your Name: Monica Koo

Your Faculty & Role: Research student rep for the Faculty of Population Health Sciences (FPHS)

Faculty Priorities:

My first priority is to raise awareness of payment for teaching (and related) activities among PGR students and relevant staff at FPHS.

I first came across this issue as a department StAR last academic year, and co-led student involvement in the development of Institute-wide guidance. This was based on discussions in person and via email with the students within IEHC (second largest Institute at FPHS). However, there appears to be poor knowledge of payment procedures for teaching activities, and inconsistent arrangements for payment across all seven Institutes at FPHS. This is based on email discussions with elected student reps throughout the autumn term, and I believe it may be attributable to a) poor application of [UCL-wide guidance for PGTAs](#) established in 2014; and b) the fact that the guidance does not clearly define the *types* of activities that may be considered “teaching”.

I plan to address this by continuing to raise awareness of this issue across the student body primarily through student reps, and also by promoting the adoption and uptake of guidance developed for IEHC in other Institutes. A secondary objective of this priority is to ensure that payment is timely and straightforward as possible, as there is some evidence that this is often not the case.

My second priority is to audit activities and resources available to PhD students within each of the seven Institutes at FPHS. This was triggered after reading Institute-specific SSCC minutes and realising that there was considerable variation in activities available. I believe there may be an opportunity to promote sharing of best practice and ideas across Institutes. Given that there are 40 student reps across Faculty, I decided to do this via the newly established Lead reps. I was able to confirm Lead rep details in November, and therefore am still currently gathering information on this.

Meetings in the Faculty:

I attended the Faculty Research Degrees Committee meeting last term. I did not request any items on the agenda as I wanted to use the first meeting primarily as a knowledge-gathering exercise. I learnt a great deal about existing concerns (from the Faculty Committee perspective) and became more familiarised with the structure of FPHS and its Institutes. I also read through the Institute-specific SSCCs extensively in order to learn about individual Institutes, which operate

independently. Based on the above, I created a fact sheet (including FPHS/Institute structure, current rep names/contacts, Institute fact sheet including graduate tutors/administrators) which I passed on to this year's reps, and I am also hoping to pass to the next elected Faculty rep as part of handover.

Meetings with the Union:

I was only able to attend one Council meeting last term due to annual leave and other commitments. I was pleased to see very proactive and engaged student representation, although this was mostly concentrated in undergraduate/Taught Masters programmes. I hope to attend more meetings this term.

Other comments:

No other comments.