

Faculty Representatives Termly Report

2017-18 (Termly Report 2)

Your Name: Tayla McCloud

Your Faculty & Role: Faculty of Brain Sciences PGR Rep

Faculty Priorities:

Teaching opportunities – our Faculty Tutor is very against PhD students teaching so refuses to address this at all and I'm not sure why. It's really a lottery based on your department because the vast majority of the undergrads are in PALS and only PALS PhD students are given the opportunity to teach them. When the majority of PhD students have done a Psychology BSc (a lot of them at UCL), there is no reason we shouldn't be able to help out with TAing/marking on this too. PG programmes within departments differ in how much they allow PhD students to help out (but the Fac Tutor actually told us she doesn't want PhD students helping with Master's TAing or marking at all!)

I came to this conclusion partly from the personal experience of myself and my co-rep (we are in different departments) but this was also backed up in qualitative and quantitative data obtained from the survey we circulated around the Faculty.

Meetings in the Faculty:

We made a plan with our faculty Tutor to hold a 'super SSCC' meeting twice per year with lead dept reps and faculty reps to help with communication channels between the two roles and an opportunity to look for patterns across departments. However, in the committee this was completely dismissed – quite aggressively - as unnecessary, and as we were given the item right at the end of a 90 minute meeting people just left while we were still talking. I strongly believe this is necessary but I'm not sure what more I could do.

We also presented the results of our survey regarding the above, but we weren't given the time to discuss properly about what to do moving forward – we could only make brief recommendations.

Meetings with the Union:

I wasn't invited to attend the Council. I didn't raise anything at the Forums, but participated in discussion about the possibility of an interdisciplinary conference for PG students, which I think would be a great idea.

I have raised informally several times with several members of the Union about the difficulties in our Faculty regarding communicating with Dept Reps as the Faculty is so large and spread out. I would really have appreciated more help from them on this, particularly when I raised it from the beginning. One of the things suggested when I raised it again more recently was to put a bit about Faculty reps

and what we do/can do/who we are in the reps newsletter...but until March I wasn't even receiving that/didn't realise it existed.

Other comments:

Please include any other thoughts or anything else you'd like to tell students about here.