

### **OPRs and Periodic Reviews**

I attended two days of periodic review in the Business School, and one day in Life Sciences. I also attended the final OPR of the Medical School, and was encouraged by the changes they are making. I was asked to write a blog giving my perspective on what will be changed: this is up on Medlea for students to access.

### **President's Meetings with Schools**

The Vice Chancellor is holding a meeting with students in every School to share any issues they're having. I attend all of these and take notes, so I know what's going on in each School and can feed this into other meetings. Over the summer I plan to use this information as part of a "knowledge base" of everything we know about each School, to make my successors' jobs easier!

### **General Representation**

I have continued to represent the student voice on a number of committees:

**Senate** – the April meeting approved the final wording of the feedback policy.

**Teaching & Learning Group** – had a joint meeting with Graduate Education Group in May to discuss issues affecting PGR students.

**Faculty T&L Committees (4)** – keep me updated on changes being made in each Faculty with regard to teaching and learning. I frequently suggest amendments to proposals and participate in discussions to ensure that the student voice is listened to. I also meet frequently with the Associate Deans for T&L (especially in EPS and Humanities) to give input on proposed changes or problems.

**MLE Project** – looking at implementing Blackboard 9. I sit on the overall project board, as well as Workstream 5 which is looking at the student experience.

**Degree Regulations & Assessment Policy Group** – does what it says on the tin. We're looking at completely overhauling the complicated degree regulations as a long-term project, but also at quick fixes to make things simpler. It also ties in with the need to reform the way we assess: we'll be looking at different systems of marking with a view to creating a university policy on assessment.

**Learning Commons Core Group** – after consulting with students we've settled on a final design for the café.

### **Internal Relations – The University**

Outside of formal committee structures, I have regular meetings with key university staff to stay updated on various issues and flag up concerns from the student body. Recently I have met with:

*Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell* – in the absence of Prof Alan Gilbert (due to ill health), Nancy met with us to discuss various issues including the impact of recently announced cuts to the higher education budget.

*Exchange Project Board* – fed in anecdotal views and some issues with the new email system

*University-Union Liaison Forum* – every six months most of the officers and senior staff from the Union meet with senior University staff to discuss our budget and spending, as well as visiting speakers and certain other issues

*Marcia Ody, TLSO* – met to discuss the future of the Student Rep Staff Coordinators Forum

*Student Rep Staff Coordinators Forum* – Charlotte and I update them on certain things to do with reps (e.g. the progress of the Blackboard module; evaluation of the Union Link scheme) and we discussed the future of the forum and how it might be made more proactive and developmental.

*HEARing Student Voices* – I am on the steering board of this project, which is looking at how students make choices and whether a formative HEAR would improve their experience.

### **External relations and training**

*QAA Audit training* – I attended this in May to prepare for writing the Student Written Submission over summer. This is a lengthy document giving the students' perspective on the University, and it feeds into the six-yearly audit of the University which is to be carried out next April.

*Students as Collaborators Conference* – I attended this and looked at how students can become more involved in their learning.

*NUS ICT Symposium* – I fed into a focus group of student officers on the use of ICT in teaching and learning. This will be the basis for an NUS report later this year.

### **Other stuff**

I've begun a project known provisionally as a "student rights charter": a guide for students on what they are entitled to receive from the University. It's an extensive piece of research and drafting so will take most of the summer (along with the Student Written Submission).

I've set up a blog which I intend to update regularly: it's called Education@Manchester and is available at <http://educationatmanchester.wordpress.com>.

I held a meeting with Civil Engineering students to discuss their recent letter to me. None attended.

I continued my work on NUS' Vote for Students campaign, including emailing several mailing lists and asking questions at hustings with PPCs. I also filled in a post-election survey about the campaign.

I compiled a SWOT analysis of teaching and learning within the University to feed into institutional audit.

I reviewed the final report of the timetabling review group and returned it with comments.

I looked at the results of the Taught Student Survey.

I read the BIS report "One Step Beyond: making the most of postgraduate education".