

Open Meeting

21st January 2025

Meeting details			
Meeting name	Open Meeting		
Date	Tuesday 21st January 2025	Time	17:15 – 18:00
Location	The Little Room, Students' Union, Plymouth Campus		

Minutes	
1. Welcome	<p>Dindu Okechukwu – SU President opened the meeting.</p> <p>DO – Introduced the Sabbatical Officer team.</p>
2. Attendance / Apologies	<p>Dindu Okechukwu (DO)– SU President</p> <p>Darcie Jones (DJ) – VP Education</p> <p>Krupa Naik (KN) – VP Wellbeing and Diversity</p> <p>Joshua Frost (JF) – VP Activities</p> <p>10 Students, including:</p> <p>Maria Stefan (MS) – School of Engineering, Computing and Maths Rep</p> <p>Lisa Streltsova (LS) – School of Art, Design and Architecture Rep</p> <p>Tariq Ali (TA) – School of Society and Culture Rep</p> <p>Kate Inman (KI) – School of Biological and Marine Sciences Rep</p> <p>Tracy Priestman (TP) – Representation and Democracy Manager</p> <p>Oli Horne – Director of Student Experience (Advocacy)</p> <p>Charlie Atkinson, Representation and Engagement Co-ordinator (minutes)</p> <p>Siwan Tyack (ST) - Head of Careers Service</p> <p>Emily Taper (ET) – Student Development Consultant</p> <p>Josh Manning (JM) – Peer Learning Specialist</p>

<p>3. Minutes of last meeting</p>	<p>Can be found on the SU website</p>
<p>4. Discovery Weeks</p>	<p>JF – Introduced Siwan, Josh and Emily.</p> <p>ST – Introduced themselves and their role around Discovery Weeks</p> <p>ST – Discovery Week came from the redesign of the Academic Year, for students to experience learning from outside their programme/curriculum. The aim is to provide a broad selection of activities, linked to Plymouth Compass which supports graduate skill development.</p> <p>ST – whilst we can't change the concept, we can change the future direction of the programme.</p> <p>JM – This year, more time to plan has allowed for more student voice and the ideas presented are on the back of student feedback, with clear areas for graduate development to embed in programme.</p> <p>ET – this is a draft schedule which we are seeking feedback on, are the sessions of value, what could be added or improved? There are around 100 events planned/proposed.</p> <p>Do you think students would value the Alumni Panels?</p> <p>Feedback:</p> <p>Are events general, or focused on specific programmes? – Skill focused, rather than specifics? Potential to focus on attendees?</p> <p>ET – Perhaps they could be marketed to specific courses/programmes to get appeal?</p> <p>ST – We can see who has signed on to a session, which could help to plan for the session specifics.</p> <p>ET– Interested in Alumni Panel?</p> <p>LS – Could be interesting, may be difficult to engage across the university in different courses.</p> <p>TA – Advertising the alumni background could help attract students.</p> <p>E – Sign ups are through MyCareer on a first come, first served basis</p> <p>What will the promotion be?</p> <p>ET - Student Bulletin, Student Portal, Screens on campus etc.</p> <p>ST – Sessions will be launched on a set day, supported by academics.</p> <p>DJ – Could a Q&A panel represent current student body? Talk about their experience through uni, making sure that there is a diverse panel.</p> <p>TP – Could Webinars be recorded and shared after?</p> <p>ET – Yes, can be shared</p> <p>JM – Individual sessions to look at supporting wellbeing and resilience skills. Space to be supported by SU and Clubs and Socs.</p> <p>Feedback:</p>

SWCP, it would be helpful to tell students where they can go to get involved, and how to get on the Coast Path

JM – We can share the route, and structured time for the walk with staff or volunteers.

There is good attendance when it is supported, we also need guidance for self-led walks.

DJ – Imposter Syndrome sessions may be well received, would be valuable for students at the uni, hopefully be well taken up.

Is there scope to expand sessions with demand?

JM – Sessions could be run again or moved to a bigger space. Limitations could come from certain sessions but it would be looked into.

ET – Popular sessions last year have been expanded this year. Capacity could be lower from moving from 2 weeks to 1.

ST – Some sessions would be impossible to expand, e.g. Bounce, as it's a 2-day programme. External would have same issues.

JM – Learner theme looks to expand professional skills and develop learning skills, so upskilling students. Support student transition between stages or UG to PG.

ET – Behind the scenes tour around teaching and specialist space added this year.

JF – What do the behind the scenes sessions cover?

ET – Depends on the space, some may be more immersive or engaging than others.

MHFA training would be well-received, and students would engage with it.

ET – Citizen theme looks at 'Global Citizen' ideas, Climate Change, good citizen sessions and volunteering, partnerships with externals.

KN – Do students have to pay for working abroad opportunities?

ST – It depends on project or employer. Some may have costs, some may be supported by grants or internships.

KN – Are there opportunities for cross-cultural experience or work?

JM – Scope for more sessions around this concept.

ST – Space for a conversation around this to add to the plan.

KI – Course Reps have been interested in getting involved, and there has been interest from the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

ST – There could be potential for small pots of funding for students to run events.

JF – Space for more eco sessions, eg. Terrariums, gardening?

JM – Potentially, we could work with estates or Societies.

Media Literacy skills?

	<p>JM – Peer Learning and Library could run sessions on this, there could be sessions on AI and it's use academically and professionally.</p> <p>DJ – Students feedback on wanting more opportunities to volunteer, but Cost of Learning and demands on time can impact this.</p> <p>JM – Does the SU have connections for these opportunities?</p> <p>DJ – yes, we could link you up with current partners and connections.</p> <p>ET – Shared an example of how sessions will look on MyCareer for Discovery Week.</p> <p>KI – Is Discovery Week compulsory, how would this be measured?</p> <p>JM – Not sure on the messaging around if the sessions are compulsory, will be messaging around UKVI for international students.</p> <p>Signposting for the Buddy Scheme to support student wellbeing?</p> <p>KN – Support around International Students and managing finances may be helpful, to support working on an International Visa session.</p> <p>ST – Would students want to engage?</p> <p>If marketed and highlighted, students would come</p> <p>ET – Where do students find out about things?</p> <p>Timetables, Social Media,</p> <p>TA – Creative and Media Literacy, Creative Arts may be interesting to students, engaging other technologies.</p> <p>ST – Professional Service staff can support with this.</p> <p>ET – There has been a callout to staff and it did go out to look at specialist subjects</p> <p>Opportunity to work with Clubs and Socs.</p> <p>Speaking to students in lectures to promote sessions.</p> <p>ST – Distinctive branding should hopefully help</p> <p>JF – Have opinions changed after seeing presentation or plan?</p> <p>Yes, gentle nods</p> <p>Will this info be shared with Programme Leads? Programme Leads have not always been the most informed, looking back at last year</p> <p>ST – This presentation going to University Teaching and Learning Quality Committee for senior staff, then ideally cascaded down to staff.</p> <p>JM – Heads of Schools have been made aware and they have the knowledge to share with Programme Leads.</p> <p>ST – Other Uni committees also cover this e.g. Employability Forum.</p>
AoB	<p>JF – Food waste on campus, is there potential for food waste recycling in halls – email from student.</p> <p>TP – Halls aren't managed directly by the Uni, so students would need to lobby the halls management company, whether it was UoP or private halls. The SU is happy to support students to do this.</p>

	JF – Would like students to get involved.
Dates for the diary	Next Open Meeting to be on 4 th Feb.
	End of meeting