

MINUTES OF THE STUDENT VOICE MEETING
held on 7 October 2015

In attendance

Joe Porteous	Countryside L2
Robert Kerr	Countryside L2
Sophie Stukins	Countryside L2
Tee-Jay Harbour	Land & Environment L1
Danielle Randall-Greenway	Animal Care L2
Abbie Tyler	Animal Care L2
Phoebe-Louise Black	Animal Care L2
Edward Ashurst	Animal Care L2
Ethan Litchfield	Animal Management L3
Phoebe Neesey	Animal Management L3
Laura Potts	Animal Management L3
Max Humberstone	Animal Management L3
James Boston	Animal Management L3
Dayna Gordon	Animal Management L3
Robyn Inkley	Animal Management L3
Dempsey Powell	Equine L3
Emily Bignell	Equine L3
Sam Gale	Outdoor Adventure Sports
Micaela van der Merwe	Outdoor Adventure Sports
Ben Dunham	Outdoor Adventure Sports
Holly Greenough	Outdoor Adventure Sports
Harry Mansbridge	Outdoor Adventure Sports

**Action
by**

1. Programmes of Study – Student Focus Group

Em Lowe and Lesley Ferguson asked for volunteers to attend a focus group on Thursday 16 October at 12.30 pm to discuss Programmes of Study. There was a good response and around 10 reps agreed to attend.

**EL/LF
16.10.15**

2. Welcome and Introduction to Student Voice

WS gave an explanation about Executive Directors who are a key part of the Student Voice structure. They want to hear feedback from students themselves. They will then take action as a result of student comments and requests for realistic change, although these actions may not be evident immediately and make take two or three years to take effect.

The Student Conference is held in February next year, it's a chance for reps from across the College meet. Last year, for example, changes to Mocha were requested and these are now almost complete as a direct result of the Student Conference and student voices.

In November there is an Exec question time where students are given the opportunity to ask questions of the Executive Director team. Issues that were actioned last year included problems with WiFi.

It's therefore very important for student reps to attend Student Voice meetings whenever they can.

3. **Group Discussions on:**

Students were given three minutes to discuss the following:

The positives and negatives from the time when students decided to do a course here to the first day in college – how was that experience? Communication, enrolment etc.

Positives

- Easy and clear process
- Got letters and leaflets to keep up to date
- Friendly interviews
- Nice tutors
- Bursary

Negatives

- Make more of enrolments
- No signs around college – buildings don't have names- lots of people got lost at welcome day
- Too many breaks at welcome day – seemed a waste
- Duplicated letters sent as wrong information on them

The positives and negatives from the first day of term until now – either as a new first year or a returning second year? Felt welcomed, know about finances, trips, assignments etc.

Positives

- Settled in well/made to feel welcome
- Wifi
- Open access computer rooms
- Red brick barn open in the evenings

Negatives

- Food and food prices
- Second year returners information sent very late , didn't get timetables till first day.
- Room and timetable changes

4. Student Issues

- Request for Slush puppies in the restaurant
- Better quality ketchup
- More socials
- Official tour round animal unit
- To know where the boundaries are
- More ashtrays at the smoking shelter near the library – MJ addressed this issue at the meeting
- Bedford bus is always late as are some others at times
- Problems with bus passes or buses - the process is very long and issues don't always get resolved.
- Prices of food have gone up
- More healthy food/salads to be made available. More choice of healthy foods. There have been a few occasions where resident students have not been permitted to have salad as a side dish with a main meal.
- Queries on staffing in the restaurant once the Trust take on responsibility – this was explained by Mike Johnston
- Outdoor Ed students feel that 1.5 hour teaching sessions are too long for students to concentrate.
- Confusion on timetabling with Countryside students
- Level 3 Maths sessions are 3 hours with a very short break.
- Equine students doing GCSE Maths are missing riding sessions.

WS/MD
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