

Kieran Minto Postgraduate education officer report: August

Hi everyone, I'm your postgrad education officer for this year. I represent your academic interests, working closely with the undergrad education officer and the reps (Faculty, school and course). I sit on many committees alongside senior members of staff across the university in order to promote student voice.

During August I got more into the role and the workload picked up, especially around repeat meetings. All the officers dealt with a sudden increase in prices within the union bar I also spent a lot of the month on annual leave.

Events attended:

- I along with the undergraduate education officer attended the first Russell group SU (**RGSU**) conference in Cardiff on the 10 and 11th. This was an opportunity to meet with officers from across the UK to get an understanding of the issues they face, our similarities and differences and how we can work together to solve them.

Meetings:

- Myself and the undergraduate education officer attended a couple of meetings relating to **Strategy 2030**, specifically around transforming assessment and the associated planning meetings.
- Continued to attend multiple **introduction meetings** with senior staff members and departments across the university.
- Met with **student rep coordinators** from all schools across the university.
- Worked with the rest of the team to reverse a massive **rise in drinks prices** within the union bar, instituted without consultation. This was in direct violation of the relationship agreement between the university and SU and undermined the role of the commercial services forum. I conducted extensive research, comparing the prices within other SUs and local bars; I then put together a spreadsheet of prices used to highlight the unsustainable nature of the pricing position taken by the bar. Some drinks did see a small increase in prices, however the future structure of pricing within the bar is an ongoing discussion. This incident reaffirmed the position of commercial services forum and resulted in the sharing of more detailed financial information from the university, alongside the reduction in prices.

Training:

- **UJS Antisemitism training**
- Between the 14th and 16th all the officers attended **SUT+** the second round of USI training, which was hosted at Queens and mainly consisted of a simulation event.

Other:

- Continued developing my **plan of work**.
- Continued planning around **freshers**.
- Shot a short video welcoming new students to **Canvas**.