**Education Officer update for Academic Exec, 11th December 2018**

As per my update to Taught Academic Council on 3rd December, I’ve been working on the following issues:

1. **Errors in exams and inclusivity**: I’m currently collating feedback to inform the development of a University-wide policy to prevent errors and to apply consistency in how errors are handled.
2. **Essay mills**: At the Social and Policy Sciences SSLC, the issue of Essay Mills came up. Having done research, it’s clear that companies are actively targeting our students, but limited evidence to suggest demand for this service.
3. **Faculty forums**: Reps – you did a fab job of faculty forums!
4. **Council Strategy Day**: We had the University Council Strategy Day a few weeks ago, where we discussed student mental health and some of the key issues facing the University.
5. **Senate, ULTQc and other meetings:** I’ve engaged quite heavily with the higher-level committees, particularly on work around the curriculum transformation project. I’ve recently joined a group examining the academic framework, particularly looking at paths for studens who fail (and creating mechanisms to avoid repetition of years/£9k fees).
6. **Academic Reps Conference**: We had over 160 students attend the reps conference, with a number of speakers from across the Higher Education sector (including Amatey Doku, VP Higher Education for NUS).
7. **The SU’s cause, a project with the New Citizenship Project:** We’ve done some really interesting work with NCP around The SU’s cause, and had a number of reps involved in our workshops to understand what students value about the SU, and what we should focus on going into the future. I can’t wait to see what they come back with; I felt really revitalised and inspired by the activities we did with them!
8. **Planning work**: I have begun for semester 2 activities, including the Education Awards and projects we want to work on. If anybody has any ideas, let me know!
9. **Review Panel**: I was praised for being engaging with representatives, approachable, good at communicating and co-ordinating activities and proactive in the work I’ve been doing around academic representation. The panel suggested areas for improvement, particularly responsiveness to emails and communication of key messages, plus delivering greater clarity around exec meetings.

Since then, we’ve had some exciting developments:

1. **Scaling**: A paper is being submitted to ULTQC in January to provide a standardised approach for communicating scaling decisions to students. Providing this is successful, there should be full transparency in place for any January 2019 exam scaling decisions.
2. **360-degree review with NUS**: the Officers had an individual and team review on 4th December, helping identify strengths and areas for development.
3. **Library quality**: I sent a paper to CSSU highlighting quality issues within the library (e.g. lack of water fountains, toilets etc.). A working group will be established in the New Year to address these concerns. There was resistance to developing a long-term solution to a lack of study space within the library, although we will continue campaigning for this.

In the next few weeks, I’ll be going to Bristol SU for a discussion around the future of NUS, attending several graduation ceremonies for Postgraduate students and we have a Board of Trustees meeting just before Christmas!