Learning and Teaching Conference 2012

Abstract 1A

Student representation, engagement and the ability to make change within Higher Education Institutions

Presenters: James Harrison, GUSRC Vice President (Learning and Development), Hera Hussain, GUSRC Undergraduate Convenor for the College of Social Sciences and Dave Walker, GUSRC Life Sciences School Representative

We aim to highlight the effectiveness of student representatives within HEIs, specifically at the University of Glasgow, and how they can affect their learning environment to make positive changes. It will give details on the recent structural changes within the Glasgow University Students' Representative Council, and how this has allowed for a much more collaborative environment between student representatives themselves at class, school, college and university level as well as through their dialogue with staff. It will also look at examples of past successes. It will discuss methods of how students can be engaged more to represent, by seeing incentives and examples of how their efforts can make an impact.

It will highlight how graduate attributes have been developed, through the enhancing of skills of the representatives themselves, as well as the potential to spread the information on graduate attributes to the student community as a whole through these representatives. At Glasgow University, the implementation of graduate attributes has been worked on jointly with GUSRC, and is one example of how representatives and the university can work together for mutual benefit.

It will also give examples on how the curriculum can be enhanced, and how recent developments can allow for representatives to have more of an impact on their curriculum.

Themes 2 and 6 will also be touched upon, as recent examples of student representatives impact on the areas of using technology (particularly in social sciences) and feedback and assessment will be discussed.

Activities: Discussion and gaining feedback from the audience on their own examples of working with student representatives, and how best practice can be encouraged and incentivised

Outcomes: Inform the audience about the structures in place at Glasgow and how it has allowed the dialogue to improve. Also aims to provide information for staff outside Glasgow so that they can take it back for use at their own institution.