

“If You Build It” They Won’t Necessarily Come

Reinvigorating Student Representative Engagement In Partnership With Students

Mark O’Hara and Abbi Flint (D&S)



This project aims to make more of the potentially valuable role of student representatives through both enhancing their own personal and professional development and the integral role they play in mediating between the wider student body and the institution.

Aim: enhanced levels of student representative engagement with the opportunities that the University provides to incorporate authentic student voices in enhancing the student experience.

Objectives:

- increase level of student representative participation in existing processes/mechanisms;
- develop new mechanisms/processes in partnership with student representatives and Hallam Union;
- empower student representatives to set agendas and actively research and pursue solutions.

Outcomes:

- publications/conference presentations, some in partnership with students;
- 2 large faculty student/staff fora;
- research with student representatives into effective/engaging mechanisms;
- trial at least two new mechanisms;
- training and development events/workshops for student representatives.



Highlights

**Student rep away-day
(4/3/2010)**
Produced a set of riddles and poems to be displayed in public areas in the Faculty.

“inspiring-enjoyable-constructive fantastic-useful-effective engaging-valuable-rewarding”

Mentoring system for 10 Faculty student reps

Two student council meetings

riddle #2
I can help you to succeed -
I am the foundation of your essay.

Staff and students use me -
though perhaps not as closely as I should be.

You would benefit from knowing me -
go ahead and cover me in graffiti!

riddle #3
At university I am your life.
A whole world of information,
I am at your fingertips.
You use me to read and search.
Like Christopher Columbus you navigate yourself around on me.
I take you to places you have never been before.
You may visit me for a short period of time
Or maybe just for a while.
At Sheffield Hallam I am your life!

"Helped me realise the behaviour of certain groups, exercise about feed back was very useful"

Two faculty fora

"I enjoyed how the interactive the training was. For example, the quiz on assertiveness and the demonstration with the paper balls and box"

Evaluation activity
2 online surveys (all reps) Interviews (faculty reps)

Closing the feedback loop
Review student rep Blackboard site
Sustainability Plan for 2010/11
Dissemination at 2010 HEA and ISSOTL conferences
Sharing findings and outcomes with student reps

Better recruitment of student reps for 2010/11

Project team: Mark O’Hara (m.p.ohara@shu.ac.uk), Denise Elliot, Rachel Martin and Danielle Dixon (D&S); Nicky Harris (Hallam Union); Abbi Flint (a.i.flint@shu.ac.uk) (LTI) ; and the D&S Student Council

