

# **Rep Journal 2024-25**

## **School of Allied Health & Community**

### **Jess Astley**

Hi! I am Department Rep for Allied Health in the School of Allied Health and Community. I attended my department rep training on St Johns Campus.

I have attended the following meetings in my role as department rep:

- Education Council 1

### **Entry 1**

I recently attended the Department Rep Training 2024/25 which covered the following topics..

- Introductions to who is who and their roles in the SU and the University
- What is expected of a Dep Rep and our role within the university and the student union.
- Governance and Meetings that I am expected to attend and how this process can be used to the advantage of hearing the students voice and positively impacting the university as a whole.
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion : What it means and how to implicate policies in our practice as Dep Rep's
- Sustainability

### **Entry 2**

I recently attended our first Education Council of the academic year.

This included being an active part in voicing students' wishes for the betterment of the union and the university experience within the confines of the following topics...

- Matters Arising
- VP education officer updates
- Annual Objectives
- Student council updates
- Policy updates
- Discussions regarding welcome festival
- Current student issues to include recording of lectures and review of how group work is graded
- student council election

### **Entry 3**

As part of my departmental rep role, I was invited to be part of the foundation year lecture on different careers they can stream into. Once said students finish their foundation year, they can advance onto occupational degrees such as nutrition, radiography, occupational therapy and physiotherapy: all of which are represented by myself. For this reason, I was passionate about being a part of the lecture.

I attended alongside other departmental representatives from nursing and paramedic science to give a short speech about physiotherapy as an occupation, the areas you can work in, how the degree is structured and to answer course-related questions from those interested in the BSc.

#### **Entry 4**

Today, I attended the Health and Science College LTOE to discuss the following matters with the learning and teaching quality enhancement team for each school and their partnered department representatives.

- Approval of previous meeting minutes, of which there were none for Allied Health
- Discuss matters arising, including the improvement in engagement from student representatives, with a plan as to how to continue this.
- Chairs business put forward to be the assessment of the university on retention, progression and completion of students in their degree and what the university can do to better support students.
- Discuss the key strategic priorities of the university, including improving student retention, strengthening academic support (PATs) and also reviewing assessment practice at a subject and course level.
- Academic integrity was talked about at length in regards to Allied Health, amongst other health courses: there is more academic nievity losing students their marks rather than academic integrity, and the university is working hard to improve this through education in the hopes it reduces fail rates.
- Through this conversation, I put forward the difficult situation some, more vulnerable, students are put into by essay mills on social media and in person. Advice given to me to pass down to students and course reps would be to ensure anything you see, hear, or experience is reported to the SU to be handled.
- The NSS undergraduate student satisfaction survey demonstrated that the organisation and management sector of our courses is what needs the most improvement to get the University of Worcester in the top two quartiles. We aim to do this as an institution via student feedback. This, therefore, puts high importance on the response rates of student surveys, and all representatives must emphasise this within their cohorts.
- Due to higher fail rates in some modules, the university has worked to review these modules and make amends to help student retention: actions have been put in place, and some modules have been adapted or stopped.

This meeting helped me gain a larger idea of how the university feedback loop system works and achieve the outcomes needed to support students from the feedback each voice gives.