OFFICER WRITTEN REPORT

Date:

Monday, April 15th 2024

Name:

Destiny Mazaiwana

Title:

Student Academic Executive Officer

Role Description:

To lobby for the academic interests and needs of the students at DMU. I represent the student voice during Academic Board meetings in addition to various committees including the Education Committee and the Academic Quality Sub-Committee. In every given opportunity, I do everything in my power to advocate for change in the best interest of the student cohort!

Officer Goals:

Timetabling - I would like to address the issues that many students are facing regarding the lack of consistency and the general sporadicity of their timetabled sessions. Succeeding in this will enable students to better plan their studies around commitments like working part time to fund their cost of living.

Empower Students to be Independent Learners - I would like to work with the library team to develop workshops for students to attend throughout their studies to [empower] them with the skillset to take ownership of their academia. (e.g. developing tailored strategies to manage your time effectively)

Increase Awareness of Study Resources - There are various modes of support that DMU have put in place to support their students, we just aren't always aware of how to access these resources or even know that they exist in the first place. I intend on identifying all existing study resources in order to create a simple guide outlining exactly how each of them can be utilised.

Identify & Improve Existing Study Spaces – There seem to be a lot of missed opportunities across campus, where study spaces could be incorporated to provide students with more options for places to work both independently and collaboratively. Utilising my academic background in Interior Design, I intend on working with the university to explore this idea and facilitate its implementation.

Projects Completed:

All of my individual projects are in progress as they all involve collaboration with the university, so the outcomes are still in discussion/to be determined.

Projects in Progress:

- **Block Teaching & Timetabling** - I raised this (again) at the last Academic Board Meeting and have since started communications with the PVC for Education & Equalities. We had a 1 to 1 meeting where we discussed potential solutions for her to present to the Registrar Academic; I'm waiting for an update.
- **Adobe** - I also raised this at Academic Board (again...) and was referred to the Director of Library and Student Services. During our communications, in light of it being a cost issue- I proposed alternative solutions for him to present in the meeting he had scheduled with the faculties and ITMS. UPDATE: Increasing visibility of ITMS Usage map, relocating some high-spec computers to the library, convos have started re increasing opening hours for Vijay Patel & Gateway House around ADH & CEM exam/deadline season > Need to encourage students to email faculty leads in support of this.
- **Independent Learners** – I recently pitched my ideas regarding empowering prospective students to be independent learners, to the Director of Library and Student Services. I now intend on working with DMU to facilitate the delivery of various ways in which students can be prepared to take their learning into their own hands when they start university and beyond.
- **Project Click** – This is a project lead by the SU; we are working with an architectural firm to redesign the SU to meet the needs of DMU Students. It is still in early stages, but Last week we hosted a couple of sessions that gave students the opportunity to communicate their desires for the building.

Potential Upcoming Projects:

Student Retention – A DMU lead project exploring various aspects of the student experience.

Action Updates from Previous Student Council Meetings:

BA Music Tech raised an issue about how block teaching is causing strain for students due to the quick turnaround of information when changing blocks. - Raised this issue to the Associate Professor for CEM and am currently awaiting a response. In the meantime, I intend on getting in touch with BA Music Tech students to better understand the root cause of the issue so that I can start conversations with the programme leader (Peter Batchelor) and the CEM Faculty's Head of School (Zoe Allman).

MSc Health Psychology reported that their course is due to either be scrapped, or have tuition fees increase. - Looked into it and haven't found any indication that the course will be discontinued, but I will seek confirmation about this at the next Quality Sub-Committee meeting (19/04/24).