Student Council (26.01.22) – Updates from Zara

<u>Manifesto Themes:</u>

Timetabling.

What progress has been made / what has been achieved?

- The semester B timetable was released on time (10th Jan). The majority of the feedback was positive, and when it comes to online vs. face-to-face, most cohorts are split 50/50. As a result, Sem B timetables have been finalised for the convenience of students who may have planned around the current timetables. I urged the timetabling group to give me a timetable release date for Sem A/B next year and it's decided to be 15th of August.

What are my next steps / what do I hope to achieve by the next meeting?

- Although funds for a "student choice timetabling system" have been granted, timeframes must still be worked out. In the near future, i.e. 2022/23, schools will seek to exchange best practises from those who are presently implementing manual methods in order to provide some level of student choice.

International Student Experience.

What progress has been made / what has been achieved?

- A group of all staff teams associated with the international student experience has been assembled, led by the PVC, to determine what kind of support they require. The international office has created a Canvas guide to assist students with their induction. The University has committed to having ambassadors on the ground for the whole September welcome week to help students around. On Monday, Rhiannon and I provided tours to welcome international students.

What are my next steps / what do I hope to achieve by the next meeting?

- In September, I will lobby the university to do airport pickups again. I'm working with the international network committee to improve the guide. I also spoke with the deputy vice chancellor to request that she consider creating a governance structure for international students' , for example- a staff member that will be responsible for all things international.

Academic Staff reply policy.

What progress has been made / what has been achieved?

- I've gathered feedback from SCOs/reps and relayed it to the University who agrees that a policy should be in place for not only the staff to follow but also to manage student expectation.

What are my next steps / what do I hope to achieve by the next meeting?

- I will be working with several university staff to determine whether the policy will be University wide or school wide. And once an agreement is reached working with associate deans to implement it.

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Bits and bobs:

- Review of groupwork as direct feedback from you and the review will be used to bring about a criteria used by all staff for consistency. I am also hoping to lobby for groupwork to only be limited to level 4/5.

- Review of the SAC process had been launched after feedback from students about the process being unclear and confusing.