Students Shaping Strategy: Student Voice in the Learning and Teaching Strategy

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Introductions

• Emily Jordan, Student SFS Project Partner, 3rd year BA Creative Writing Student

• Cassie Shaw, Staff SFS Project Partner, Learning and Teaching Enhancement Officer
The Student Fellows Scheme

• 60 students work in partnership with a member of staff on an educationally developmental or student experience enhancing project

• Projects can come from either staff or students

• Operate on timescales of one year or one semester

• Students paid a bursary in recognition for their time and effort
The project

• A new Learning and Teaching strategy is under construction for implementation in 2018/19

• Canvas staff and student voice – Postbox, surveys, round-table discussions, open forums

• What really matters to students about their Learning and Teaching experience?
Methodology

• We set up a focus group of students from across the four faculties at this institution
• Rich qualitative data to use alongside postbox, surveys and open forum discussion
• 2x Humanities and Social Sciences – History and Archaeology & History
• 2x Arts – Creative Writing and Film Production
• 2x Business, Law and Sport – Fashion, Media and Marketing and Law
• 1x Education, Health and Social Care – Primary Education
Methodology

• Focus group questions, designed by Emily and Cassie on Google Docs

• The focus group questions also had influence from discussions with Faculty Chairs and Academic Quality and Development
Methodology

UoW L&T Experience

What attracted you most to study at the University of Winchester?

Why are you doing a degree?

From your own experience at Winchester, what teaching styles do you find most engaging?

What aspect of your university experience has helped you to achieve your goals?

Do you feel you are developing new and useful digital skills as part of your course? If so, what have you been developing and how do you feel it is useful? If not, do you wish you were/what would you like to develop?

Are you ever reflective of yourself as a student, for example, do you set yourself targets at the start of each semester? (e.g. organisation, time management, take more time for yourself etc)

If you could change anything about your learning experience, what would it be?
Key Areas of Student Voice

• Lectures
• Assignments
• Employability
• Experience
• Communication
Lectures

- Size of the seminar groups
- Active learning and discussion
- “The most engaging are the interactive and active learning lessons”
- Interaction with lecturers
- Integration of technology
Assignments

- Personalised assignments, exploring their own interests
- Feedback from assignments to feed forward into future work
- Assignment staggering
- Desire to be taught all content before the assignment deadline
- Authentic assessments
- Clarity in marking criteria, so marks can be better understood
Employability

• Students highlighted employability as a defining feature of motivation for attending university
• Assessments as “real world” experience, preparing students effectively for future careers
• Focus L&T on development of skills and preparation for industry
Experience

• Personally tailored experience
• More out of the experience than the grades, being prepared for the industry
• Gaining knowledge rather than just grades
• Winchester is highlighted in the focus group as particularly good at this due to the institution size
Communication

- Continuity of a point of contact for students, so tutors provide a personalised advice
- Issues of communication between staff - students/staff - staff
- Clarity in module handbooks
**Key Learning and Teaching Strategy**

**Headline Features:**

- Small seminar groups and class/one-to-one discussions
- Technology in the classroom
- Personalisation
- Parity in assessment criteria/marking between lecturers
- Student’s ability to see *why* they have received the mark they have - marking criteria
- Assessment feedback to show patterns for improvement – feeding forward
- Desire for authentic assessment
- Employability is a key driver for coming to university – L&T needs to reflect this
- Better communication between staff
- Open door policy for tutorials
Thank you

Any Questions or Comments?