

**Education Zone meeting 13/05/2019**  
**FELS Faculty Officer report – Michael Carter**

**New Faculty Officer:** Michael Carter took over from Jess Sainsbury on the 1<sup>st</sup> April which is a little earlier than usual handover date due to the fact Michael is on a course which will end in February 2020, and Jess was quite happy to hand the batten over sooner. He is a PGDip Nursing student (Adult field), though previously did a degree previously in the school of biological sciences at Soton.

**Getting the representation system to run smoothly:** At the last faculty board meeting it became apparent that many of the staff were unaware of the course rep structure and who are the appropriate students to liaise with over course-related issues. I have asked for an email to be sent to faculty staff with 1, a picture showing the FELS representation structure with names of FO and School presidents, and 2, a link to the SUSU search tool for finding reps for each cohort.

**Faculty Health and Safety:** All the schools within FELS are looking to be as transparent and inclusive as possible in more areas and would like to have student representatives sit on the individual School H&S meetings which I have put to the respective school presidents within FELS.

**Communication with students:** Communication from the academic reps to the student in FELS is largely through social media (FB primarily) and through course reps at the ground level. However, it is apparent that not all student use SoMe (or 'like' the relevant pages) and that not everyone will see posts. I intend to see if it is possible to come to an arrangement where we are on occasion allowed to use uni mass-email lists.

**Student Mental Health:** Jess was seeking to try and get 'Look-after-your-mate' training mandatory to all freshers, though from what I understand this wasn't practically feasible. Jess is also continuing to run a FELS mental health Forum in which staff and students can come together with ideas to make positive changes around the area of MH, though there has been a brief hiatus whilst Jess has been on her nursing placement.

**Summer elections:** We have advertised this via SoMe and I have encouraged the school presidents to share within their own areas.

**Looking forward:** As the new faculty officer my primary aim is to make the representation system in FELS run as smoothly as possible. Once the elections are over and the new school presidents identified, I intend to liaise with them early on in order to make sure we can really make representation visible for the new academic year and encourage students AND staff to use the system effectively. Additionally, I am also trying to see where course specific societies and academic reps can work a bit more symbiotically together with respect to helping student find what they need. I'm already trying to get the ball rolling within the nursing dept and will see how things go from there.