



St Mary's
University
Students'
Union



Big Rep Meeting Report

February 2024

Artificial Intelligence

Do you understand the university/ programme rules about use of AI?

- The AI guidelines haven't reached all students
- Universities responsibility to teach the proper use of AI (introductory modules depending on course)

Should use of AI be allowed?

- Useful for guiding and information → in terms of assessment there are some restrictions that need to be implemented
- Depending on course, AI should be taught
- In Computer Science, AI is very useful for aiding in coding, and it is part of the course, focusing on AI ethical use
- AI should be taught, teaches boundaries and when it should be used and accepted
 - reducing issues surrounding academic integrity
- Useful for international students whose first language isn't English to have topics be understood in a simpler manner

Do you think students should be taught on how to use AI?

- Yes, it is an integral part of research and gaining information
- Not only students, there should be modules and guidance for academics as well

Academic Integrity

Overall trends from the feedback

- Students across the university have asked for more academic integrity training over their course.
- Students, particularly undergraduates, have said that the different referencing styles make it difficult to access peer support from friends in other courses.
- The academic integrity training on Moodle is not talked about enough, or students are not aware of it.

Academic Integrity Training

Students across the university have said that they don't feel supported enough with academic integrity. Undergraduates have said that one academic integrity training session for the whole of their 3- or 4-year course was not sufficient and have asked for at least one academic integrity refresher session per semester.

Academic Integrity Training on Moodle

The feedback from the reps was that there was a range of awareness about the Academic Integrity Training on Moodle. Some reps have said that they were aware of it and have completed it (mostly from Masters and Postgraduate students). Others (undergrads) have said that they either saw it and didn't know what it was or have completed it and forgotten most of the training. This is why they feel offering refresher courses would be particularly useful.

Areas of concern with Academic Integrity were:

- Referencing (different referencing styles)
- Self-plagiarism

Lecturer Feedback on Assignments

Undergrad students have said they receive mixed feedback on referencing and find this confusing. Some lecturers are able to give feedback on referencing, and highlight areas for improvement, whereas other lecturers don't give feedback on any referencing at all. Students would like consistency with the lecturers' standards on their referencing.

Positives

- Students with access to the Harvard Referencing Booklet provided by the University have said it was really helpful when referencing and have suggested these be made for every referencing style for other courses.
- Those who completed the Academic Integrity Training on Moodle said it was thorough and helped to ease anxiety around plagiarism.
- Lecturers who do give feedback on referencing are thorough and offer good support to students with this aspect of their academic integrity.

Deadlines

Primary Education

- Results come back in good time
- 9 am deadlines mean you lose a day of allocated study time.
- Exam times too early (9am exams).
- Work 4 days a week and study 1 day. 1 week between submissions isn't enough time.
- Previous years deadline was at 12, why at 9 am now?

Creative Writing MA

- Deadline for professors to give back work should be consistent and not fluctuate.
- Lack of communication about results and no set deadline for results to come back.
- No consistency of deadline dates.

Psychology

- Deadlines too close together
- 1 to 2 days between deadlines or sometimes even on same day
- December submissions are far too close together.
- All points shared across other programs, such as international business management, creative writing masters, sports rehab, and applied sports.

Sports Rehab

- Lecture material should be made available before submission deadlines to provide help on assessment write up.
- Communicating with lecturers about support on deadline is poor and asking for help needs to be better responded to.
- Module lecturers should organise deadlines together to make sure they are not back-to-back or a week apart in some cases.

LLB Law

- Lecturers being off over deadline period is really hard, lack of communication during this time isn't fair

LLM IBL

- Essay subjects are given in advance, which is good. But they are always working up until week before deadline.
- Some deadlines were on 22nd December, and night before NYE which they struggled with.
- Deadlines are at 1pm so that was appreciated.

Liberal arts

- Majority said that deadlines should be 48hrs apart.

Education

- Moved deadline days to Fridays instead of Wednesday's - good due to Wednesday being sport.
- Very aware of deadlines from lecturers
- Move deadlines to 12am, not 12 pm as people have other responsibilities or work.
- Students should be given info when to expect grades back via email.

What's working well across your course?

Primary Education WBR (Top up) Year 3

- Prompt 3 week turnaround for assignment results and feedback.
- Tutor response time is really good and they're really supportive. (lecturer & personal tutor)
- Naylor Library on Campus – very helpful "I use it so much more now"
- Leganto – great search portal and access, also access to SAGE and other journal publishers.

Primary Ed Year 2

- Field trips and in practice risk assessments, general teaching of the course and well-being is amazing!

L4 Education Studies

- Clear career path, career meetings and careers prep, informative, meeting with personal tutor regularly
- The library hub works really well and the SMU app works too!
- Lecture slides are available before lecture.
- Accommodation, and the community are lovely and friendly.
- The reading list is very useful for preparing for lectures.
- The student services work really well and gives a lot of support.
- The library works really well and the SMU app too!
- The Careers meetings are very good.
- Theology modules and fields are good.
- Meetings with personal tutors regularly.

L5 Education Studies:

- Uni offers access to external websites for sources which is helpful such as Jstor.
- Amazing lecturers on the course.
- Lots of freedom around our assessments and so enjoyable.
- Approachable lecturers, easy to ask questions.
- Field trips.

L5 Business Management Entrepreneurship:

- The team for support and the work experience module has been very helpful.

L5 Business Management and Finance:

- Lecturers make an effort to be approachable and offer support / guidance with some assessments.
- Learning objectives generally clearly stated.
- Additional study resources are usually available online.
- Facilities adequate.
- IT resources / support adequate.
- Submissions are spread over summer holidays and this helped to manage workload.

L7 - LLM - I.B.L:

- Having a commercial awareness workshop was a great idea and allowed us to engage with skills development - A week of self-development workshops could be a good idea to teach students about the way of thinking about your career.
- Efforts are made to support commuter students.

Sports Rehab:

- Lecturers are amazing.
- Placements are set up well. Placements are amazing for developing experience.
- Social events.
- Good app.
- Well-being services are amazing.
- Would like more field trips (e.g, cadavers and experiences).
- Education module has really good support.

MSc Sport Management

- Placement officers are proactive in assisting and guiding students.
- More sports journal additions are useful.
- Field trips to local stadiums and organisations have been successful.
- St Mary's app is good, but lecturers need help using it.
- A few modules having three rather than two assignments have been helpful.
- Having placement officers come down to lecturers has been helpful.
- The gym and sports centres are good, and discounts have helped.

Business Management

- Lecturers are well prepared and create a nice environment in the class.
- Liked the "hands on" approach of the modules related to business and entrepreneurship.
- The "Dragons Den" is a great opportunity to get a reward valuable for the resume.
- The team supporting the work experience module has been very helpful.

LLB Year 1:

- The lecturers are kind people
- The app is good!
- The library being open for all hours of the day is good.
- The bathrooms are clean and good to provide feminine hygiene products.

MA Creative Writing:

- Professors are communicative and open, they let us know what we need to know in a timely manner.
- I like the presentation option for the assessment.
- The refectory and cafe need more gluten free options – Food allergies are very serious, and it is a bummer that I can barely eat anything at school.

Theology:

- Would like more meetings with personal tutors- at least once a semester,
- We need more advice on careers that are theology specific.
- Assessments are all at least a week apart.
- In classes with seminars, lecturers are very aware of different levels of previous knowledge.
- Variety of assessment types.
- DV has very good wide variety of beverages.
- Good wellbeing support through organisation affiliated with the University.

ASN MSC:

- Career advice
- Applicability of content and opportunities
- Lecturer support
- Availability of staff
- Welcoming of environment
- Adequacy of assessment are working well.