RSMU Welfare officer Report

For Community and Welfare Board 16/2/17

Day-to-day, I have been directing people  to counselling services/ the health centre/ the advice centre/ personal tutors/ senior tutors/ DUGS dealing with personal and financial issues/ stress/ depression/ anxiety.

The surveys and reports are very RSM/ Materials specific, so I don’t mind if the agenda is full and we don’t have time to discuss them in detail. I would like to at least mention the RSM Freshers report if possible.

**Attendance Survey results:**

I only asked one question: "Why do you think attendance is poor". 42 people responded.

Options suggested, along with the number of and percentage of students that selected them are below:

I prefer to panopto (9) 21%
Poor quality of lecturers (28) 67%
I prefer to use the slides/notes (9) 21%
9am is too early (12) 29%

Students could select more than one option, and select "other" to specify. Of those that selected other and left a comment, responses were:

"Too much content during lectures which makes it hard to concentrate"
"lazy to travel"
"I am struggling with depression. I do not manage to rest and it is very hard to get up in the morning. Keeping up with the lectures is hard and the first thing to cut off is going to lectures"
"Often lectures have nothing to add to the notes"
"I'd like more interaction of lecturer-students, and not simply reading the slides"
"I think there is too much content to grasp in one hour causing a very quick loss of concentration due to this frustration. Peer instructing (the way David Dye teaches for example) is a solution to this and works very well"
"Sickness"
"I missed lectures for a week due to illness and when I came back I felt so far behind I get scared when I come in - it just hits me how much I don't know"

Clearly, there is a limitation in this: students that are not engaging with lectures and attendance will be unlikely to engage in giving feedback also. The question also assumes the person answering has poor attendance. Personally, I was alarmed by the students citing stress and illness as reasons for not coming in, and was not expecting this sort of response, which is why I didn't include it in the options. I was also shocked by the fact that a huge two thirds of students said that the quality of lecturers was why they were not coming in.