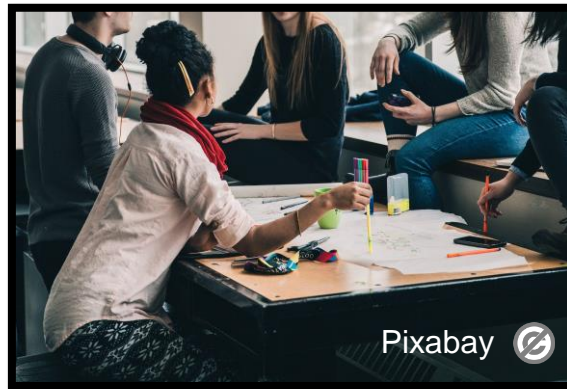# Engaging Students as Partners in shaping the 20-21 academic year

Pixabay

Strategic Organisational Response Initiative:
Session 2 (28th July 2020)

Background

- SORI sessions 2 & 3:
  - Core stakeholders for Student Experience 20-21
  - Students & Programme Leaders

Encourage you to **"Put yourselves in your students' shoes"**

Pixabay

Replicate elements of your students' online learning experience

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Structure of Session

- Housekeeping

- Pre-Session activity review

- Part 1: The Student Perspective

- Part 2: Students as Partners - Where are you now?

- Break

- Part 3: Breakout Room discussions

- Summary and next steps

Session Objectives

- By the end of this session, participants will be able to:
  - Make observations on key findings from the Student Academic Experience Survey 2020, and relate these to the HE sectors in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland.
  - Identify key concerns over next six months from the student perspective, and develop/refine responses to these for your institution.
  - Reflect on your institution's position with regard to engaging 'Students as Partners' in shaping the 20-21 academic year, both in terms of 'Where are you now?' and 'Where do you want to be?'.
  - Identify and discuss key challenges and potential solutions with a network of cross-institutional peers.

Pre-Session Review:

Student Academic Experience Survey (SAES) results

Student Academic Experience Survey
Key headlines

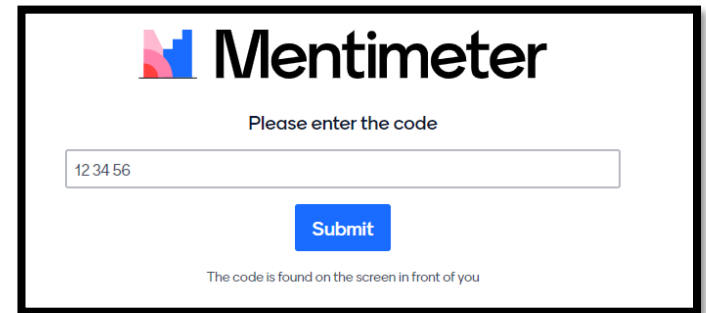|			
There has been a clear increase in the academic experience exceeding expectations	**Ratings of assessment have improved across the board**	**Some teaching ratings have improved as more teaching was moved online ~**	**Students are working harder, with more timetabled hours and study hours**
Recent improvements in value perceptions have not been maintained, with both industrial action and the pandemic appearing to impact on this ~	**Unfortunately, not all students have the same experience of higher education – less than half of students of Black ethnicity would make the same choice again ~**	**Student wellbeing remains below that of the general population. Concerns around the future may be a factor in this**	**Advanced learning technology is not especially common, but when used it can contributed to a better experience ~**

Part 1

The Student Perspective

Activity: Student Concerns

- Mentimeter – polling tool
- 'Your perceptions'
- Anonymous responses

- Instructions
  - Go to www.menti.com
  - Use the code 97009
  - What are students worried about….

Strategic Organisational Response Initiative
Students as Partners

Stef Black
Senior Development Consultant
sparqs

@sparqs_Scotland @sparqs_stef

What are students worried about?

This session will explore some data captured via a convenience survey of ~50 students, in which we asked what are the main challenges or concerns facing students over three distinct periods:

1. Over Summer

2. Returning to campus

3. Throughout semester one

Over summer –

- Isolation
- Financial worries/funding
- Career prospects (and summer jobs)
- Accommodation
- Lack of communication – not knowing what is happening
- What their University experience will now look like…should they defer?
- General uncertainty – so many unknowns

Returning to campus –

- Actually getting back to campus (what travel restrictions there might be)
- Will they need to quarantine, and how will they be able to do that (no support network etc.)
- Student safety – what measures are in place?
- What the on-campus experience will be like – what will be open and what services available in person?
- Will they be able join clubs/socs/sports teams etc?
- How will they meet people and make new friends?

Throughout semester one –

- Quality of teaching provision

- Being able to engage in online/blended learning

- What will teaching, and assignments look like?

- Will there be exams, and when, and what will they look like?

- What if there is another peak and they are stuck in Scotland?

- Will they be able to see friends, engage in extra curricular activities, play sport, use the gym?

- Will I be able to go on placement?

- Will I still be able to learn what I need to progress/graduate?

The Student Perspective

Liam Brady (@GUSRC_President)

- University of Glasgow

Emmanuel Akerele (@rgu-presew)

- Robert Gordon University

Amy Smith - apologies

- University of Stirling

Part 2

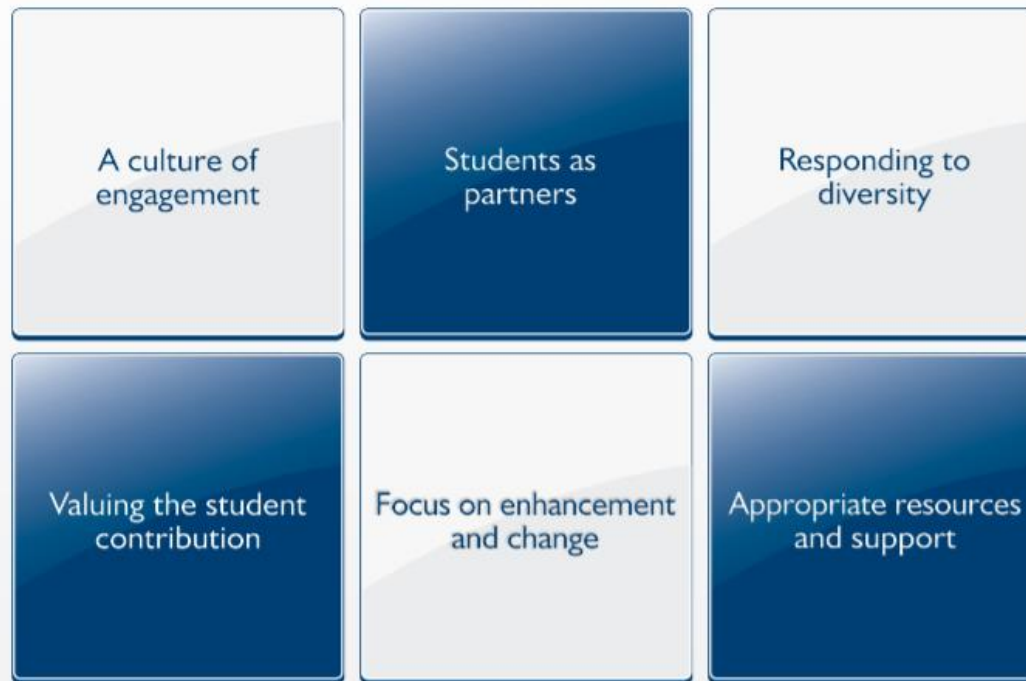# Students as Partners - Where are you now?

Students as Partners – Where are you now?

Student Engagement Framework for Scotland

- o A culture of engagement
- o Students as partners
- o Responding to diversity
- o Valuing the student contribution
- o Focus on enhancement and change
- o Appropriate resources and support

sparqs: A Student Engagement Framework for Scotland

The Six Features of Effective Engagement are:

- A culture of engagement
- Students as partners
- Responding to diversity
- Valuing the student contribution
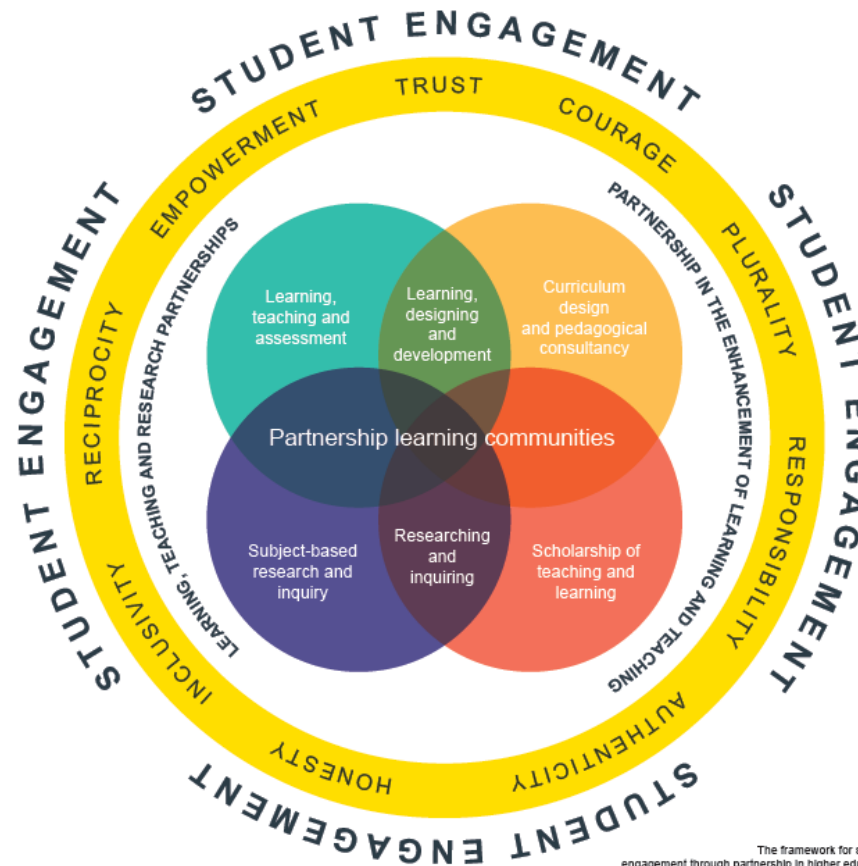- Focus on enhancement and change
- Appropriate resources and support

https://www.sparqs.ac.uk/culture.php?page=168

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Advance HE Framework (for info)

The framework for student engagement through partnership in higher education
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Where are you now?

Please refer to the SORI 2 Workbook (p7) :

"*Our student officers were invited to join crisis management meetings/committees (in relation to COVID-19) from the very beginning*"

Strongly Disagree -------------------Strongly Agree

"We have actively supported our student officers to work with us to problem solve and develop solutions in our COVID-19 response"

Strongly Disagree ---------------------Strongly Agree

*"We have worked with our student officers to ensure **all** students experiences' are protected, including those most at risk or facing additional challenges"*

Strongly Disagree -------------------Strongly Agree

"We truly value the input our student officers have had, and the way we have worked together in responding to the crisis"

Strongly Disagree --------------------Strongly Agree

"Throughout our response to COVID-19, we have maintained a strong focus on enhancement of the student experience"

Strongly Disagree -------------------Strongly Agree

"We continue to support our student officers, recognising that developing engagement opportunities (and in particular within COVID-19 work) requires particular sets of skills and expertise that we must help to equip officers with"

Strongly Disagree -------------------Strongly Agree

Student Panel

Response to questions

Part 3 - Breakout room discussions

Student as Partners:

Where are you now?

Where do you want to be?

This session will be a chance to reflect on the statements from the previous session, and then to action plan for the coming months - *Where do you want your institution to be, and what do you want to have achieved in six months time?*

New challenges

Existing challenges

Exacerbated challenges

In your breakout rooms you will be able to discuss some of the different challenges and consider how, in a SMT role, you can action change to alleviate/remove the barrier at your institution.

1. Student officer support & training

2. Student engagement might seem like less of a priority

3. Student engagement might not look the same

4. "We don't have time to innovate"

5. Student rep structures might not all be functioning

6. Operating in an online environment

7. Adaptions to decision-making processes and quality arrangements

8. We are still in a pandemic – recovery mode

Part 3 - Breakout room discussions

Student as Partners:

Where are you now?

Where do you want to be?

1. Please accept breakout room invitation
2. Comfort break
3. Please return at 13.15pm

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Next steps

This session

- 1 min evaluation (link in workbook)
- Webinar recording + Padlet electronic resource

Next session:

- Tue 25th Aug (12-2pm)
- 'Empowering Programme Leaders to optimise + evaluate the quality of new online programmes'