

**Student Engagement Staff Network meeting
Tuesday 8th June 2021
By Zoom**

AGENDA

- 9.45 Registration**
- 10.00 Welcome**
Headlines and outline of the day.
(Simon Varwell, Senior Development Consultant, sparqs)
- 10.10 Course rep training needs in 2021-22**
Anticipating the course rep role in the new academic year. What do we expect the student learning experience to look like next year, and what does this tell us about the training needs of reps?
(Justin Walker, Development Consultant, sparqs)
- 11.10 Break**
- 11.25 Partnership case studies**
Restructuring course rep meetings around curriculum areas.
(Jodie McNair, Students Association Development Officer, and Anne McMullen, Head of Curriculum for Media and Performing Arts, Glasgow Clyde College)
Partnership in pandemic response: QMU's Business Continuity Group.
(Cecile Guilloteau, Student Representation and Support Co-ordinator, and Chiara Menozzi, President, Queen Margaret University Students' Union)
- 11.55 If I were the course rep...**
The next in our series of discussions prompted by books, films and articles about engagement and learning. See details of this month's topic on the next page.
(Megan Brown, Development Consultant, sparqs)
- 12.25 Conclusions and evaluation**
- 12.30 Optional informal chat**
- 1.00 Close**

If I were the course rep...

What would you do if you were a course rep at Crunchem Hall, the school of Matilda, Miss Honey and the dreaded Miss Trunchbull? Or a sabbatical officer at Harvard University as Mark Zuckerberg (or the Winklevoss twins depending who you ask!) created Facebook? How about being the course rep at Greendale Community College (home of the TV show Community), or Horace Green Preparatory School (bonus points for if you know that this is School of Rock!)?

We are continuing a new series of sessions at SESN: "If I were the course rep...". The aim is to have some fun and informal discussion about learning, teaching and student engagement through the medium of books, films and articles, in a way that we hope gets you thinking about your role and how you work with staff and students to create effective partnerships.

There are a few ideas in the mix, but feel free to suggest a topic for a future meeting.

If I were the course rep... June 2021

For this month's conversation, we will use as a starting point the two-part documentary *College Behind Bars*. This focuses on a group of students in the USA who are earning their college degrees whilst in prison. The Bard Prison Initiative allows individuals across six New York State prisons to enrol in associate and bachelor's degrees awarded by Bard College.

To prepare for the session, please do the following:

- For those of you who have time, we'd really encourage you to watch the documentary, which you can find in two parts on iPlayer: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).
- If you don't have time to watch the documentary in advance of SESN, don't worry! However, please take 10 minutes to:
 - Watch the [extended trailer](#).
 - Read [this review](#) of the documentary.

Then consider the following questions:

- Is prison education something that you are familiar with? Does your institution offer anything of this nature?
- Should an education cohort based in a prison elect a student representative?
- To what extent can a student undertaking a course in prison be an effective rep? Are there any barriers/challenges to undertaking this role?
- What elements of the student learning experience can a student rep within a prison context have influence over?
- Can students still work with staff in partnership whilst in a prison environment?