

**Student Engagement Staff Network meeting
Thursday 15th April 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 Reflections**
A chance to reflect on and share the innovations, obstacles and successes of course rep systems throughout 2020-21. What can we learn from our experience this year, and what can we learn from each other?
(Justin Walker, Development Consultant, sparqs)
- 11.10 Break**
- 11.25 Staff development resource**
An update on and discussion of sparqs' forthcoming toolkit to support student engagement work among staff.
(Simon Varwell, Senior Development Consultant, and Justin Walker, Development Consultant, sparqs)
- 11.55 If I were the course rep...**
A fun reflection about engagement and learning. More details soon.
(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... April 2021

For this month's topic, we will be looking at the college admissions scandal in the USA, following the release of the new documentary 'Operation Varsity Blues'. To prepare for the session, please do the following:

- For those who have Netflix, we would encourage you to watch the documentary ['Operation Varsity Blues'](#).
- If you don't have Netflix (or don't have time to watch the full documentary before the event), please:
 - Watch [the documentary trailer](#).
 - Read [this Guardian article](#) which gives an overview of the admissions scandal.

Then consider the following questions:

- What are your initial thoughts about this situation?
- What questions does this situation raise about the admissions process?
- Is this situation unique to the American context, or is it also relevant to us in Scotland?
- Do we currently engage enough with students on the admissions process? How could students and staff work in partnership in this area?
- **If you were the course rep... what would you do?**