

Accountability Report

March 2026 – Vice President Academic



WHAT I SET OUT TO ACHIEVE AND WHAT I DELIVERED

- Improving Assignment Feedback Quality.
- Support for Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) - *Developing enhanced GenAI training with Information Services (IS) that is engaging for students.*
- Providing Lecture Recordings.

With my goals, I have successfully laid the foundation(s) for implementing positive changes, where most of the incoming changes will be implemented over the Summer for the beginning of next academic year. With that, there is always more work that can be done

with them to further build on the groundwork set. Specifically;

1 - A Copilot agent is being developed to deliver feedback within the Action Feedback Protocol (AFP) format. Further resources are now being incorporated into Canvas pages. This will result in students being able to effectively understand their feedback and support their academic development.

2 - Led by data from our academic reps, this will inform how the training will be re-developed to be more practical and stimulating – where student testers will also be involved. this will lead to students leaving with broader skillsets, thus increasing their employability.

3 - Created a proposal of recommendations on why recorded material should be provided as a standard. Currently, these are being re-drafted and will be taken back to the University on April 28th.



end goal. For example, from speaking with our Department Officers, this helped over a fresh perspective on the range of student views on the use of AI. It helped shift the campaign towards supporting employability skill development, as well as the hope to reduce related misconduct cases. Further student data from our Big 6 and speaking with the Advice Hub, has offered a critical insight that has driven this change.

OTHER WINS AND PROJECTS

Portfolio Review & Rightsizing

With this ongoing University Project, students have raised several concerns regarding the impact this will have on their and future student experience. To support this, I have invited Tadhg (Deputy Principal, Education & Student Life) to our Department Officer Meeting – and also supported the planning of a wider student Townhall to answer questions and challenge decisions.

Have Your Say – Sem 2

Running this event again in Semester 2 (mentioned in previous report), is such a crucial event for engaging with students in a creative and unique way. Events such as this, allow students to share their feedback on a range of topics and input into key decisions within the University. These matters

ensure that student voice is at the front and centre of University decisions, and ensuring the Union is committed to being *Students First, Always*. Despite the attendance being lower than Semester 1, it offered us a fresh perspective going forward on how this event can be further enhanced. I am truly excited to see how this has developed, based on our low engagement previously.

We had 24 students from our Galashiels Campus attend, and 27 from Edinburgh Campus.

Widening Participation Students Focus

Arranged a meeting for the Advice Hub with the Commissioner for Fair Access to chat about Widening Access and Participation students at HWU, specifically the work the Union does, as well as highlighting the challenges we face, and how this can be improved. The impact of this, will significantly improve the experience of those students within this cohort, ensuring that they are represented in making sector changes. More information on what this is can be found [here](#).

Student Partnership Agreement (SPA)

A lot of our ongoing work is shaped by the SPA, as such, I've worked to ensure our approach is more effective

when working towards these goals. One way I've done this, is using regular meetings with the University's Senior Learning & Teaching Staff to focus on SPA priorities and have an open conversation about how to progress challenges being faced.



DEMONSTRATED IMPACT ON THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Much of my work achievements, will have a longer-lasting positive impact on students. For example, the **GenAI training**, and embedding recorded materials (**lecture recordings**), will improve the resources available for students to engage with and enhance the wider student experience.

I've organised or been involved with several community-based events during the semester. For example, Postgraduate Student Mixers during Refreshers, or trialling the School Mixer events during the semester. This helps boost, connectivity to the

Student Union and enhances feelings of belonging during the semester.



PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Communication & Visibility

Increased transparency in Department Officer meetings, by sharing impact and contribution in key meetings. Used my Full-Time Officer (FTO) "Deep-Dive" to share weekly summaries of key work with wider student body. Continuing to work with our marketing team to ensure this fits with the comms plan.

Safeguarding Tools For Critical Thinking

Existing tools are available for students to engage with, for example Skills Hub has many resources on [critical thinking](#).

After reflection, I found this recommendation doesn't quite fit my role as a representative; therefore, I can only promote students to develop these skills, through their own engagement.

Capturing All Student Views on GenAI

Continuing to be data led and informed, e.g., Department Officers continue to be regularly consulted on this. If students feel uncomfortable, they don't have to engage with training, however, many industries are now adopting the use of GenAI, therefore, it is also crucial to develop these skills.

HOW STUDENTS SHAPED MY WORK

With my remit having an education focus – I tend to seek feedback and advice from our Academic Reps (Department Officers, and Class Reps across all levels). I take a very open approach, where feedback is welcomed. This usually includes via meetings we have scheduled throughout the semester, as they tend to be the most effective.

Additionally, opportunities where I attend events, students often share their views, such as; *Women in GenAI Event, Have Your Say, Community Meals*. I use this as an opportunity to hear what's important to students.

Finally, the Advice Hub also share anonymous student stories to help provide data and evidence.

LEGACY AND LEADERSHIP

This year I focused on strengthening my leadership through embracing a “trial-and-error” approach and enhancing my confidence through focusing on intentional communication and relationship-building (which was previously a strength). I learned to approach challenges with openness and self-compassion, particularly when navigating challenges such as embedding lecture recordings and navigating student and executive conflicting priorities during the ongoing Portfolio Review.

Focus going forward – continuing to attend meetings, building on the foundation set before me, to ensure the incoming VPA can succeed in their own goals, particularly around stakeholder management, as well as wrapping up projects (where possible).

