



FET Town Hall Summary

This Town Hall was a supportive conversation between students and staff. Staff has mentioned that there has been a positive narrative coming from students throughout the year. This has been further supported by encouraging feedback coming from module evaluations. While this past year has been extremely hard, staff continues to encourage students to do their best. Everybody is putting effort in what they are doing, and we are at the final lap.

A significant amount of investment has been put to tackle Digital Poverty.

- **Should we really be having 9-3pm lectures with no breaks and overlapping modules?**

This should not be happening. Staff thinks that this was a rarity, yet if it is something recurring, students should flag this to their module leaders, as it should not be happening.

- **Will course fees be reduced for the last two years to match that similar of other online universities such as the open university, who have far more experience providing online learning material and lower fees?**

Staff are aware that the current pandemic is a terrible situation to be in. While students claim that universities should reduce their fees like Open University, it is important to notice that universities like LJMU and Open University are two very different institutions. First of all, switching online was very expensive for LJMU, and staff had to change their mode of delivery overnight. On top of that, universities like LJMU still have to maintain some buildings open, and a lot of staff still had to access campus. This required a great investment to keep facilities open and pay for the delivery. Staff has highlighted that everyone has worked hard to ensure that students still received the best quality of teaching. For some courses, staff went on campus to record their experiments, so that students could have a great online experience. The university will not reduce fees as a blanket. This is because LJMU and Open University are two very different institutions.

- **How can the university justify only providing 6 hours of teaching a week for £9,250?**

It is important to reflect on the concepts of teaching and learning. Timetable is not the only element students should be looking at, as it is important to look at the asynchronous learning that takes place. For some courses, Canvas has registered 149,000 hours of synchronous delivery, this equates to 8 hours teaching delivery. To that, it is important to add the time students spend to learn on their own, and the pre-recorded lectures and other interactive resources and materials. Tutors have also uploaded a great number of resources on Canvas. If you look at the entire package available, it is quite rich. Flexibility is also a good thing, as staff understands that many students are juggling different jobs, family, and responsibilities. There has also been a discussion on pre-recorded lectures. Staff is aware that there have been some concerns regarding accessing pre-recorded lectures, and they are doing the best they can to ensure that students have a plethora of resources available to develop their knowledge of the subject, and become confident learners.

- **Will there be other opportunities to come onto campus to use specialist equipment?**

Staff are looking at different scenarios and possibilities. One possibility is to deliver summer-based courses, but this option may still be subject to change.

- **What is graduation going to look like? Why can't we have a late graduation if on the 21st June all distancing measures have to be scrapped?**

Staff are discussing possibilities concerning graduation. If it happens at all, some social distancing measures will be in place. Staff highlighted that not holding graduation last year was sad. Most staff enjoy the opportunity to celebrate students' achievements, and they will do their best to ensure that something will be in place. While it is true that govt has suggested that all social distancing measures will be scrapped on the 21st June, it is important to be careful. It is also important to keep in mind that the government road map is subject to formal reviews. If something changes, staff wants to be ready.

- **The Faculty Rep has mentioned the hard work Course Rep have done over the past year. Their feedback has been important, as it created positive discussions with staff**

Staff have reminded to students to maintain an open and collaborative dialogue. Tutors and other staff are working hard to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed in their courses. To achieve this, it is vital that students raise questions and share their concerns in a timely manner.