

11.03.26 - Estates and Belonging



Chair: Erin Gerard [EG] - VP Education

Student Attendees: 2 x School Reps, 1 x Academic Inclusivity Rep, 2 x HITS Reps, 5 x SAC Reps

Introduction and Welcome

Introduction to Lunch and Listen and its purpose, as well as overview of the topic.

Purpose of the session is to explore the feedback course reps have been collecting, as well as their own ideas and opinions, to get a representative perspective of the student body and their academic experiences. Introduction to VP Education and school reps.

Update from VP Education:

- Libraries... City Campus opening hours will be 8:45am to 9pm for a trial period - 27th April to 8th May. Mount Pleasant library isn't because of the new REFURBBB
- Lectures will have a new opt in system for lecture recordings
- JMSU are working on a Nurses, midwife and paramedics swap shop
- We're working on the hidden costs feedback you've given us with TLA and SAW, plans are underway.. free breakfast?
- IT has taken your feedback from last L&L and is working promptly to sort issues on the website and looking in authentication

Summary of Mentimeter and Minutes

In the Mentimeter, students said they are most likely to study in libraries, followed by SLB, external venues, campus classrooms, and social zones. They would like to see more comfortable, well-equipped, flexible study environments, including quiet, social, outdoor, and specialist spaces, along with better facilities and wellbeing-focused features. This is in terms of the Mount Pleasant Library refurbishments, and general LJMU spaces.

In wider discussion, students highlighted the importance of accessible and well-designed study spaces, stronger opportunities for social connection, and safer, more inclusive campus environments. They value

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Lunch & Listen

quiet study areas such as those in the City Campus Library but feel improvements are needed, including clearer room booking systems, better signage, warmer lighting for neurodivergent students, and more effective use of study spaces. Students also want more outdoor study areas and better access to specialist spaces such as sensory rooms, postgraduate areas, and art studios.

In terms of community, students would like more dedicated social and recreational spaces beyond JMSU and Freshers' Week, with comfortable seating and activities that help students relax and connect. Suggestions included subject-specific spaces to encourage peer-to-peer support and initiatives that support wellbeing, such as therapy animals.

Safety and inclusivity were also key concerns. Students raised issues with overcrowded lifts, confusing toilet signage, and some areas of campus feeling unsafe at night. They called for more inclusive facilities such as prayer rooms, sensory spaces, cross-cultural areas, and wellbeing-focused features like nap pods, greenery, and more 24/7 secure buildings.

Closing of Session

Thanking Course Reps for attending and informing that this feedback will be shared with Estates to help shape and improve campus spaces in the future. EG will update in the next session with what next steps are.