



16.04.26 - VP Education Round Up



Chair: Erin Gerard [EG] - VP Education

Student Attendees: 1 x School Rep, 7 x HITS Reps, 6 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.

Summary of Mentimeter and Minutes

VP Education Updates

Deadline Clustering and Assignments

Student concerns about deadline clustering and assessment clarity have been escalated through ESEC and FESECs. A new timetabling panel has been established to improve scheduling processes, while work is ongoing to develop clearer and more inclusive baseline assignment types. Assignment feedback is also being reviewed, with the Teaching and Learning Academy redesigning feedback templates in collaboration with students.

Intellectually Stimulating Teaching and Learning

Improving teaching quality and engagement is a strategic priority, driven by NSS results. Teaching observation will be introduced in line with the High Quality Teaching and Learning Framework, alongside improvements to teaching environments. An opt-out approach to lecture recordings will be implemented, and a new disability policy aims to improve consistency and response times for student support queries.

Student Support, Resources and Costs

Initiatives are underway to support students with cost-of-living pressures, including potential increased funding for Unitemps and internships, a Nursing Swap Shop, and an Essentials Shop. LJMU is collaborating

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Lunch & Listen

with local universities to lobby for cheaper student travel, alongside research into hidden course costs. Tuition fee issues for PGT students have been addressed, and more course-level support is being reviewed.

Digital Support and Learning

Planned improvements include more accessible power provision in libraries, extended laptop loan periods, improved access to digital systems, and the development of accessible digital guides. New AI tools will launch on Canvas and the university website, supported by clearer AI regulations. The SLB digital lounge will also benefit from upgraded software and a potential rebrand.

Estates and Belonging

Campus improvements focus on accessibility, wellbeing, and belonging. Planned developments include library refurbishments informed by student feedback, new sensory spaces, improved water access, and long-term building refurbishments. Estates teams are addressing infrastructure needs such as plug sockets, while student-led initiatives, including sports lockers and improved catering options, are also being explored.

Student Feedback from Session

Students mostly felt supported and prepared for the assessment period, however some students did report that they did not feel supported, or that this preparation was done by themselves rather than with help from academic staff.

Students highlighted that they are most engaged by interactive and applied teaching methods. Small group workshops, seminars, mixed lecture/discussion sessions, and practical activities were the most praised, as well as guest speakers, particularly industry professionals and alumni, being seen as particularly valuable. Accessibility features such as live subtitles, along with interactive tools like quizzes and structured group tasks, also contributed positively to student engagement. Students expressed a strong preference for active learning and clear links to careers and real-world practice.

In terms of finances, students reported costs that they did and did not expect when coming to university. Costs such as travel, accommodation, food, books, printing, technology, and course-specific materials were expected. However, several costs were underestimated or unexpected, especially printing, on-campus food, transport, graduation events, and field trip expenses. International students also noted unforeseen medical costs not covered by the NHS. These responses indicate ongoing financial pressures that affect the student experience, reflecting feedback heard in Cost-of-Living discussions.

Students contributed creative suggestions for renaming the refurbished digital studio in the SLB, with ideas ranging from relaxed and social (for example, “Digi Lounge”) to more professional or tech-focused (such as “The Lab” or “Digi-Lab”).

In terms of final suggestions to improvements to campus life, students suggested various improvements to campus life, including better parking, more affordable accommodation, greater food variety (including vegetarian and vegan options), student rest or nap spaces, internships at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and spaces to support student businesses. A recurring, light-hearted theme was the desire for a campus cat, reflecting students’ interest in a friendly and community-oriented campus environment.