

UQ Student Representation

Business School Student Program Committee

What are the main aims of the committee? Why is the student voice so critical in achieving these aims?

The aims of the Business School Student Program Committees are:

- To provide a student voice
- Enhance the student experience
- Create opportunities for continuous improvement
- Foster transparency and collaboration
- Build student engagement

As evidenced by the quality and quantity of feedback received from the committees - which the School has used to help facilitate improved course and program renewal - having the student voice is critical.

In many cases the level of student engagement has surpassed expectations. Several committees have evolved to hold industry-based events for students on their program (such as mixers with alumni and industry representatives from prominent companies), as well as holding more academically orientated events such as student-tutor mixers in order to encourage attendance in class tutorials.



What benefits have staff members gained from effective student representation?

Student representation via the committees allows academic staff to obtain current feedback on their courses and programs, rather than waiting for official evaluations at the end of the semester. It has been particularly useful for program leaders of new programs, such as the Bachelor of Advanced Business, where program structures and course offerings are being implemented for the first time.

Another benefit of the committees is that they aim to reach and represent all students on the program. Committees are encouraged to have a good representation of male/female students, students at different stages of the program (first years, second years, etc.), students from different majors, and international/domestic/exchange students in their membership.

Finally, representatives from the student program committees attend meetings of the Business School's Education Committee (made up of the Education Director and Associate Directors, Program Leaders, and other relevant staff). This provides senior staff of the school with a direct link to the students and a holistic view of how students across different programs feel about course developments and innovations.

What kinds of responsibilities do the student reps have as part of their role? What strategies have you employed to carry out your duties effectively?

The responsibilities the students have depend on their roles in our committee. I would briefly introduce what they are. We currently have three teams: communication, events and marketing. For those reps in the communication team, they manage our database, organize meetings and hold team building events. For those who are working in the marketing team, they do content writing, design posters and manage different social media platforms. As for the event team members, they basically take responsibilities to present a decent event, including writing event proposals, inviting the event guests, booking event venues, ordering catering and so on.

My strategy is "Plan well, set deadlines, keep everyone happy". I started planning the works in our committee during the holiday, clarifying all the activities happening this semester. And I set a periodical goal and deadline for our team leaders, so they can plan the works within the team well. I also think in a small group like our committee, keeping everyone happy is important. I like collecting their feedback through small chat. Committee members need encouragement and a sense of achievement. We organise team building events regularly, so they get the chance to know more about their teammates.

Would you encourage other students to undertake representative roles?

Yes, I absolutely would. I have developed my soft skills as a student rep including communication, time management and problem-solving skills. Also, I have met a lot of inspiring people through my student rep journey.

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