National Student Engagement Programme

Clár Rannpháirtíochta Náisiúnta na Mac Léinn

Lessons for Student Engagement in Decision-Making Post-Pandemic

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Student Engagement in Decision-Making: Key issues for quality assurance

▶ How is the student voice captured, understood and acted upon throughout QA, governance, and teaching and learning?

▶ How are students included and able to fully participate as partners in QA processes?

▶ How can QA processes capture and understand how <u>meaningful or authentic</u> student engagement in decision-making is?

What worked well?

From reactive to proactive crisis-management

▶ Involvement in the heart of decision-making (not just high-level pre-existing committees)

▶ Communications designed with students, rather than students asked to transmit afterwards

▶ Use of visible institution-wide feedback (particularly VLE)

▶ Recognising that the entire 'learning community' was "in this together" – students at a disadvantage

▶ Continuation of dept and programme level shared governance – opportunity to firefight together

▶ Existing high-level vision, aims and objectives, developed through shared processes (universal culture)
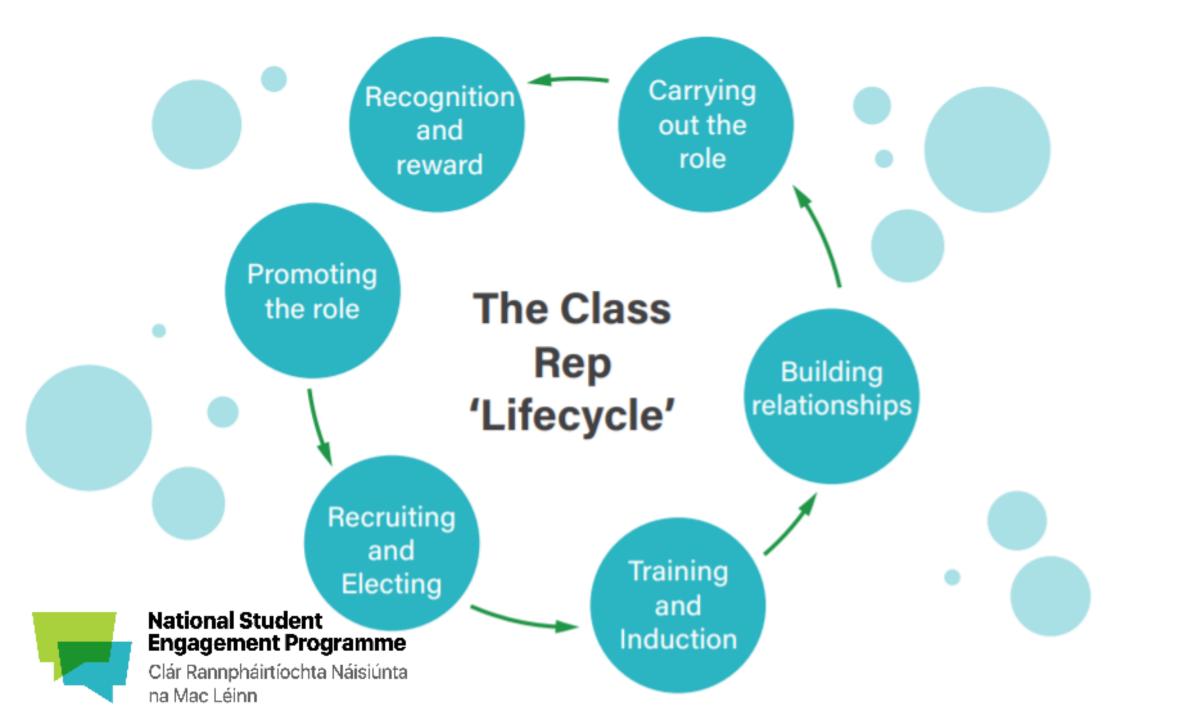
Lessons learned:

Enhancing student engagement through representation

- ▶ Frustration and lack of meaningful role – many report only gathering views (whatsapp) and communicating to staff

- ▶ Interest and role in resolving 'big issues' – assessment, lecture recording, VLE usage, timetabling, mental health and wellbeing, closer collaboration with academics, etc.

- ▶ Increasing the value, opportunities, and visibility of reps

- ▶ Focus on ongoing collaborative spaces as education emerges from the pandemic

    - ▶ Staff professional development and support

    - ▶ Revision of existing governance, committee, and consultative structures (involve reps and promote to students more widely)

The Class Rep 'Lifecycle'

Recognition and reward

Carrying out the role

Promoting the role

Building relationships

Recruiting and Electing

Training and Induction

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Thank you!

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National Student
Engagement Progra
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Strengthening
the value of
student engagement
nationally