

# Student Forum in Combined Honours

## What did/do you do?

Combined Honours has a student forum each semester.

## Who is involved?

The student forum is organised by Colin Bryson (Director of the Combined Honours Centre), then run by him with the support of the student Chair of the Student-Staff Committee, Course Reps, and Grace Cooper (Student Experience Officer).

## How do you do it?

The Student-Staff Committee decides on a theme for the student forum. Past themes have included:

- contact hours
- feedback
- degree restructuring.

Colin leads the design of a workshop format for the forum, using tasks and activities to generate discussion and points for action. All CH students are invited by email to attend the forum, and told that if they are unable to attend they can email their comments.

## Why do you do it?

The forum is a space for a focussed look at a particular topic. Whilst the forum is led by the Colin and the Chair of the SSC, and Course Reps, it is open to all students. This becomes a way to connect with all CH students, not only those currently active as Course Reps: it becomes an example of participative democracy rather than representative democracy. The forum is also an opportunity for mutuality, through student-staff joint investigation of and action on issues.

## Does it work?

30 students attended the last student forum, with a further 20 emailing their comments as they were unable to attend. The forum on degree restructuring led to the development of a new Independent Studies module for CH students, enabling them to conduct dissertation-type research.

## Teaching and Learning Case Study

**HaSS 'communicating  
with students' pro-  
ject, 2010/11**

**Colin Bryson,**  
Combined Honours  
Centre

## Coherent Curriculum theme:

- Student Engage-  
ment

## Other keywords:

- Student represen-  
tation