

THE UNIVERSITY NEWS

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On the inside...

Legal battle between Equalities Department and TFL over 'Mind the Awarding Gap!' slogan escalates.

Egg on the face of the head of university catering following unidentified incident. Mayonnaise for executive lunches 'unaffected'.

Unease as university mental health support chatbot suggests staff create a series of satirical newsletters lampooning management to alleviate stress.

Work experience student in the Department for War Studies accidentally sent to Donetsk front in occupied Ukraine. HoD decries 'cock up of epic proportions'.

'The one thing we didn't want to happen' - shock as incoming calls on UCAS clearing day accidentally diverted to competitor institution.

QS Ranking Success Rewarded

The 2025 QS World University Rankings have seen a significant increase in the position of the University of Barchester from 287th to 320th. This marks another increase for the current leadership, under whom the QS ranking has increased over 100 places from 222nd to 320th in recent years. Asked for comment, the executive administration said they are "delighted" with the progress, which they claim is yet more evidence of the "visionary leadership" and "strong, long-term, strategy" of the current management. The Deputy Vice-Head of Executive Pay commented *"this result is fantastic and vindicates our decision to dramatically increase executive pay over the last few years: a job well done, and a job deservedly well rewarded"*.

Despite overall positivity, TuN has heard of grumbling in the mathematics department, which seems to be focussed on the interpretation of the numerical ranking. Prof. Baz Newell from the number theory group told TuN *"normally larger numbers are better, but this isn't always the case, especially where things are placed in a kind of 'rank order' by some metric"*. (Are you sure you've got this story right? Ed.)

Awarding Gap Widens

The management of the Redland University is taking several leading newspapers to court, claiming unfair discrimination in the league tables. The issue in question seems to be that several departments of the university, including Medicine, Modern Languages, and Physics are ranked consistently much more highly than the university overall.

The management claims that this is unlawful discrimination, based on an over-focus on peripheral issues such as 'teaching quality' and 'research' by the newspapers. They told TuN that they are disappointed to see their 'major progress' on executive pay and the creation of new SharePoint websites go unrewarded, saying *"it's high time someone took these ivory-tower highbrow uber-nerds to task - I think the public are utterly fed up of the attitude of these boffins"*. The trial continues.

Teaching Quality Not Linked to Fee Income: Groundbreaking Study

Accountants at the University of Finckley are said to have made an exciting new discovery: that increased teaching quality doesn't increase the per-capita student fee. Ms Irene Lettuce from the UoF Finance Team told TuN *"the assumption has always been that it's best to educate the students to as high a standard as possible, and to use the highest quality educators possible. Our groundbreaking proves otherwise: a student who gives top NSS scores pays the same overall fee as one who gives rock-bottom NSS and writes abuse to the VC on Twitter"*.

UoF management say this will trigger a 'step change' in their business model - allowing them to teach more students than ever, using cheaper staff. *"This exciting result means we can channel more of our income away from the lame duck of 'teaching' into the things that matter: like sorting out the unsustainably high workloads of mid-senior level management by creating a deputy for every single position - including existing deputies."*

Educator's Corner: Top Tips for Improved Module Outcomes

In this issue top biochemistry lecturer Dr Randy Bottomflask writes with his insights gained over 20 years of successful educating. *"When I started here I thought I had to prepare teaching materials in advance, pack every lecture with quizzes and activities, and always make sure the recordings were high quality and available on time", he told TuN. "But I quickly realised you make your own work in this game. Most students couldn't give a rat's arse about the lecture content - the thing that really matters is the exam, so why not just tell them how to answer it?"*

Isn't dishing out exam answers before the exam poor practice? Dr Bottomflask has no time for what he considers an outdated view: *"All these so-called educational 'experts' in the university say that by giving out the answers you're not really educating the students. I say to that: have a look at my module marksheets."* Dr Bottomflask consistently achieves module averages above 80%, zero failures, and no awarding gaps.

So how does he achieve this? Simple - he just gives out the full mark scheme for each exam paper well before the exam so students have the time to learn the right answers *"and not any of that tangential bollocks that's in the course but not on the exam"*. Pressed on the ethics of this approach by TuN, Dr Bottomflask is unrepentant: *"these chaps are paying the best part of 10,000 notes a year for this. The least we could do is tell them how to get the degree they're paying for"*. Not everyone is convinced though, as Dr Bottomflask admits: *"I've been threatened with performance review and termination because people simply can't believe how effective I am at education. They just will not accept that you can have everyone getting top marks. I say to them: 'why are you talking down your customers'? They need to pass the exams to get a degree so just tell them the answers they need. It's not rocket science - and the best part is, it's far less work for me."*

Convincing stuff from this trailblazing educator, but how can those of us raised in the old-fashioned system start to make the transition? *"Well, you've got to drop all your preconceptions about what education is and just accept that you need to tell them the answers. Your module marks will speak for themselves at the end"*. TuN raised concerns that students who just memorise exam answers won't function well in the real world after graduation, *"Not my problem"* says Bottomflask, who continued: *"they're all going to have their jobs replaced by AI in the next decade anyway."*

Pastoral Support Goes Awry

Dr Godfrey Bedpans, personal tutor in the Institute for Modern Sewerage, is in hot water this week he allegedly told a student to 'get fucked' over allegations that he hadn't correctly recorded their attendance at his meetings in a dedicated OneNote file. Bedpans allegedly went on *"I get enough of this shit from the HoD, without you fuckers hammering on about it as well!"*. Bedpans has been suspended from pastoral support pending an investigation.

Got A Story to Tell?

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