Students have their say on Information Systems development

This exemplar is relevant to Digital Student challenges:

> *Engage in dialogue with students about their digital experience and empower students to effect change in their digital environment*
> *Provide a robust, flexible digital environment*

At Nottingham Trent University the Information Systems Student Committee (ISSC) puts students at the heart of decision making about the digital environment. It is led by a full-time student on placement in the IS department and comprised of 8-12 course and school reps. The group meets fortnightly to share feedback and ideas from their peers, and committee members participate in development projects in IS and IT.

The ISSC has been central to a number of recent developments. For example, committee members designed a consultation process around the introduction of the [NTU Student Dashboard](#), a tool which won the [THE Outstanding Support for Students Award](#) 2014. The discussion process was instrumental in establishing how student data would be used and in overcoming misconceptions about the purpose of the system.

The ISSC was also involved in developing the IT Finder app, which enables students to find available PCs and printers close to their current location. The idea for the app came from student feedback via an ISSC interactive workshop and Padlet wall. During its creation, ISSC students collaborated with developers to ensure the app met the needs students had identified – and it has indeed proved a positive step in the direction of mobile working. Finally, the ISSC have had a direct impact on the latest version of the NTU's Virtual Learning Environment, NOW. Student feedback about the user interface, usability and ideas for the future were presented to D2L, the company behind NOW, and have been used to make [substantial improvements](#). New feedback routes are currently being explored to allow students to continue having a direct influence on NOW's future development.

How does this meet the challenge?

- Students with an interest in IT are at the heart of decision making. Their ideas are taken seriously and acted upon.
- This is only possible because student time is being valued and set aside: volunteers meet on a fortnightly basis.
- ISSC reps have a variety of routes including use of Padlet, social media and rep meetings to gather ideas and feedback from other students.

Find out more

- [Article about the ISSC](#)

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