THE Awards 2019 – Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution/Nominee	Swansea University
Title	Unitu: Supporting Swansea University in Empowering the Authentic Student Voice
Key personnel	Debbie Ricci Jones, Head of Student Partnership and Engagement Services
Submission	How can we ensure the authenticity of the student voice? Traditional mechanisms of engagement rely on highly motivated students, not always providing a true reflection of our students' experience. In 2017-18 Swansea University rolled out Unitu, an online multi-device student voice platform. Students post and comment anonymously on college and university-wide boards, allowing staff to respond, facilitating meaningful discussion. Unitu has been transformative, challenging the cultural norms around feedback and positively disrupting staff and student views of how to engage with each other. The traditional balance of power in this online community is inverted, as staff are not anonymous and therefore accountable for actions. It has facilitated change to learning and teaching environments and the wider student experience, whilst providing a space to celebrate success and promote good practice.