

Solent University

## STUDENT LIAISON AND EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (SLEC)

Minutes of the Student Liaison and Experience Committee held on Thursday 8 November 2018 in A301

### Present:

John Barfoot	Staff Governor and Committee Chair
David Cowley	Students' Union President
Professor Julie Hall	Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Councillor Satvir Kaur	Co-opted Governor
Lorna Reavley	Students' Union Chief Executive
Dr Joan Stopp	Independent Governor
Ro Tomlin-Wells	Students' Union VP Employability & Engagement
Mollie Tuck	Students' Union VP for Education
Rich Westlake	Students' Union VP Welfare & Community

### Apologies:

Karen Wilbraham                      Head of Student Experience

### In attendance:

Dr Caroline Carpenter              University Secretary  
Bridget Woolven                      Clerk to the Governors

### 1. Welcome

The Committee Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited attendees to introduce themselves.

2. **Minutes of the meeting on 3 May 2018** - Approved as a correct record.

### 3. Matters Arising

It was noted that since Dr Dowland's presentation in May, the structures supporting student admissions have been reviewed and these areas now come under Dr Caroline Carpenter and the Policy, Governance & Information department, with timetabling and course validation under Professor Julie Hall.

There were no other matters arising.

4. **Presentation:** by Rich Westlake 'Being well, doing well' a survey of the mental health of Students' Union members 2017/18

i. The survey was conducted in November 2017 by Alterline, involved 14 students' unions, with the following aims and objectives:

- Scope the prevalence and range of mental health issues among the student population;
- Identify institutional and personal factors that put some more at risk than others;
- Explore the impact of mental health issues on students' lives, both personal and academic;

- Understand what support students are currently receiving and what is missing;
- Inform further research and strategy, focused on the practicalities of providing support and advancing efforts towards preventative life skills.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- ii. Of the 17,000 students that had participated, 249 Solent students had completed the survey which was published via social media;
- iii. Rich highlighted that 2/3s of the Solent participants were female and 18-21 years old, and 70% were non-religious;
- iv. Sabbatical officers also highlighted the social pressures that young people feel to project a perfect and successful image;
- v. A lot of the findings of the survey had informed the work subsequently done by Hanna Head in 2017/8 on Solent Students' Union's (SoSU's) Wellbeing Strategy;
- vi. Several actions are now underway by SoSU:
  - Mental health first aid training for SoSU staff;
  - Societies and sports teams will be included;
  - SoSU will be electing a Mental Health Officer this week.
- vii. Mental Health is currently a priority for the National Union of Students (NUS);
- viii. SoSU may consider surveying members, to measure if students know where to go for help;
- ix. A copy of the report had been given to the University's Student Services;
- x. Within the University, mental health training was being rolled out for the Student Hub staff;
- xi. Introductory/awareness training was also being considered for lecturers to help them to identify the tell-tale signs that a student may need assistance;
- xii. Response times for follow-up by the Hub had improved and this now included, for example, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), GP referral and counselling;
- xiii. Professor Julie Hall noted feedback from the sabbatical officers that recently some students had reported finding the Hub waiting room unfriendly and uncomfortable and would pass this comment on to the Hub staff;
- xiv. **ACTION: Karen Wilbraham, Head of Student Experience to provide comments on the work done by the Student Hub and this will be included with the report when it goes to the Board in November.**
- xv. It was noted that the Solent staff survey questions included some reference to employees' mental health;
- xvi. In October 2018, the University and Students' Union had launched a Mental Health Vision with the support of Solent Mind;
- xvii. Wellbeing is supported at a University level through the Equality and Wellbeing Committee, chaired by Professor Julie Hall, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and supported by the Mental Health Vision for students and people working at Solent.

The Committee thanked Rich for his presentation and commended SoSU for taking part in the survey and for the actions that had been taken, or were underway, as a result.

## 5. Roundtable

Each attendee took a moment to mention, for the benefit of others at the meeting, what is currently at the 'top of their work agenda'.

John Barfoot	Quarterly reviews for apprenticeships.
David Cowley	SoSU - website design.
Caroline Carpenter	Setting up the new Policy, Governance and Information department so that it supports the student experience in the background.
Lorna Reavley	Pensions and the impact of outside forces.
Councillor Satvir Kaur	Southampton City Council - how can the City support SoSU with its initiatives?
Prof Julie Hall	Interview panel for the new Dean of the School of Sport, Health and Social Science.
Dr Joan Stopp	Analysing the Mental Health Survey report.
Ro Tomlin-Wills	Recycling campaign.
Mollie Tuck	Joining the Apprenticeships Society.
Rich Westlake	Prevent Duty and democracy work.
Bridget Woolven	Preparing for the arrival and induction of two new independent governors.

## 6. Solent Students' Union (SoSU) Sabbatical Officers' Report Oral report

Rich Westlake, Students' Union Vice-President, Welfare & Community - recent activities:

- i. Leading the review of the Memorandum & Articles and the Union's by-laws;
- ii. Joint working with Solent on a drug awareness programme;
- iii. Working with the sabbatical officers at the University of Portsmouth on a joint initiative for February 2019 on mental health.

Mollie Tuck, Students' Union Vice-President for Education - recent activity highlights:

- iv. Setting up course rep training and resolving course rep issues.

Ro Tomlin-Wills, Students' Union Vice-President for Employability & Engagement - recent activities:

- v. Implemented a 5- tier recognition scheme for SoSU's societies to improve satisfaction and engagement;
- vi. The number of SoSU awards has been doubled this year and includes more diverse award categories;
- vii. Working with Solent Sport on combined activities;
- viii. Planning the RAG event;
- ix. Planning stress-busting activities for the run-up to exam time including a puppy room, neck massage and meditation.

David Cowley, Students' Union President - recent activities:

- x. A website design competition;
- xi. Review of SoSU's newsletter;
- xii. Held a Students' Union conference.

Members congratulated the Sabbatical Officer team on their excellent achievements.

## **7. Students' Union Chief Executive's Report**

**Paper 18/SLEC/05**

The Students' Union Chief Executive, Lorna Reavley, presented her report. The Committee noted the following highlighted points:

- i. The Students' Union was considering holding the Freshers' Fair on campus next year;
- ii. The night bus service was re-introduced from 5 November in the form of a service provided by Radio Taxis, departing from the Mountbatten Library;
- iii. Course reps are now in place and 100 have been trained so far.

The Committee thanked Lorna for her report.

## **8. Students' Union Finance Report**

**Paper 18/SLEC/06**

Lorna Reavley presented the Students' Union Management Accounts to end of September 2018.

The Committee noted the following highlights

- i. the decision had been made to close the lottery in October;
- ii. the night bus was not operational during the period reported.

The Committee noted the report.

## **9. Student Board**

The new Student Board had its first meeting recently. The SLEC was seen as a less formal committee but which provided a valuable conduit between the student experience and members of the University's Board of Governors.

## **10. Next meeting - Thursday 21 February 2019 at 3.30pm.**

The presentation topic will be a review of the progress made with the Course Rep system and will be led by Mollie Tuck.