

SEN16D022

Title: *Do Something Different Week*
Author: Laura Thompson, Head of Learning and Teaching (Quality)
Date: 21 February 2017
Circulation: Senate - 1 March 2017
Agenda: SEN16A002
Version: Final
Status: Open

Issue

Do Something Different Week (DSDW) takes place for the first time in 2017 in week 7 between 27 February and 3 March. This paper gives an overview of the week, its purpose and subsequent evaluation plans.

Recommendation

Recipients are invited to receive this update on DSDW.

Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications. Resource for a project manager and operational budget have previously been approved.

Risk Implications

All events and activities within DSDW have been fully risk assessed to mitigate associated risks.

There is a reputational risk associated with DSDW as students who participate will share their experiences of the week with their peers and/or in satisfaction surveys. This risk has been mitigated through having a Project Manager and project plan.

Equality and Diversity

There are no equality and diversity issues associated with this report. Equality and diversity issues have been taken into account in the design of activities and will form part of the evaluation.

Timing of decisions

No decisions required.

Further Information

Please direct any enquiries to Laura Thompson (laura.thompson@uea.ac.uk, x7374).

Information regarding the 2017 Do Different Week can be found on the Portal <https://portal.uea.ac.uk/learning-and-teaching/do-something-different-week>

Senate resolved to proceed with the Do Something Different Week concept in January 2016 (SEN15 M002 Minute 24) having considered recommendations from LTC (SEN15 D020). There was a further discussion at the February Senate meeting SEN15 M003 Minute 31.

Background

Do Something Different Week is designed to give students the opportunity to take part in events and activities to enrich their time at UEA; whether this is developing their study skills, life skills or purely for fun. Events are primarily aimed at Undergraduate students.

Co-ordinated by the Learning and Teaching Service the events have been developed with Academic staff, Student Societies and Services. The week has been designed as a collaboration between staff and students and has worked to engage students not only as event attendees but as an integral part of the running of the week.

Discussion

The Art and Science of Murder is the headline series of events which runs across the week and takes an interdisciplinary approach giving students from all subjects the opportunity to engage with different disciplines. This is a collaboration across all four faculties and with students to deliver an event based on a story produced in workshops led by Ian Rankin when he was a writer in residence. Students will visit the scene of the crime, step into the anatomy laboratory, watch the drama unfold and then take part in the trial. The story will be told through live events and social media throughout the week. Concrete will be helping to tell the story through their 'fake news'.

This headline series of events demonstrates the ethos of the week; to work collaboratively across all areas of the University, across all four Faculties, Services and most importantly in partnership with students.

The week aims to offer something for everyone and students are encouraged to sign up for as many or few events as they wish. Events cover photography, languages, cookery, art, first aid, animation, accountancy, public speaking and revision techniques as well as much more. For those who wish to spend time studying there is a VIP study lounge for quiet time with refreshments provided.

At the time of writing individual event bookings have exceeded 1800 from over 400 individual students. The number of students intending to participate exceeds the levels seen at Edinburgh in their first year of introducing a similar event where approx. 100-150 students took part and so is a positive indication of a successful event. Additional student involvement not included in these bookings includes events being led by students or with students assisting the delivery, adding to the community involvement and ethos.

All Faculties and Schools are represented in bookings although FMH bookings are low as due to the nature of their courses teaching has to continue in this week (breakdown of individual students is approx. HUM 47%, SCI 27%, SSF 26%, FMH 1%).

All years and levels of study are represented in the bookings but primarily they are from Undergraduate students in years 1, 2 and 3 (breakdown of individual students is approx. Yr 0 1%, Yr 1 35%, Yr 2 35%, Yr 3 22%, Yr 4 2%, Masters 4%, Research 1%).

Feedback will be obtained from event attendees and combined with attendee figures to provide a full evaluation and recommendations for future events. Senate will receive an evaluation report in due course.