

SEN16D030

Title: *Do Something Different Week*
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Date: 30 May 2017
Circulation: Senate 7 June 2017
Agenda: SEN16A003
Version: Final
Status: Open

Issue

Do Something Different Week (DSDW) took place for the first time in 2017 in week 7 between 27 February and 3 March. This paper makes recommendations for the future of this event.

Recommendation

Recipients are invited to consider the recommendations of the Learning and Teaching Committee.

- (1) that the Do Something Different Week (DSDW) continues to run for the next two years.
- (2) that a planning committee is created, chaired by Head of Learning and Teaching Services(Quality), with student membership, to plan DSDW 2018 and DSDW 2019.
- (3) that the week is run in the same format as during 2016/17, on a voluntary basis, for all undergraduate students.
- (4) that further consideration be given to the DSDW offer being extended to taught postgraduate students.
- (5) consideration is given to the means of improving participation rates and the number and range of activities offered by Schools
- (6) that the DSDW be combined with the Global Opportunities week and other such similar events.
- (7) that DSDW is scheduled in Spring Semester week 6 going forward.

Resource Implications

Resource is required for staffing (grade 7 £41,000 and grade 4 £23,000) and operational budget (£20,000) per year.

Risk Implications

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

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 be for future events.

Timing of decisions

Recipients are asked to make a decision on the recommendation of LTC at the June 2017 meeting of Senate to allow staff to be recruited and preparation started for the 2018 DSDW.

Further Information

Please direct any enquiries to Head of learning and teaching Services (Quality) 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.

Senate received an update paper in March 2017 (SEN16 D022).

Background

The Learning and Teaching Committee considered a report and recommendations arising from the evaluation of the 2016/17 Do Something Different Week (DSDW) in May 2017. The minute is detailed in discussion and the report can be found at the link below.

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/17851007/ltc16d104+divider+c+do+something+different+week+full.pdf/f45325d3-02a5-462a-84bd-d9281d56640c>

Discussion

1. The minute from May 2017 LTC is given below.

Minute 90. DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT WEEK

Considered

a report and recommendations arising from the evaluation of the 2016/17 Do Something Different Week (DSDW). The recommendations are:

- (1) that the DSDW continues to run for the next two years. This will provide a baseline and year on year comparison to enable valid assessment of its impact and value to the student experience;
- (2) that a planning committee is created, chaired by LTS, with student membership, to help create and plan DSDW going forward;
- (3) that the week is run in the same format as during 2016/17, on a voluntary basis, for all postgraduate and undergraduate students. This will minimise disruption to the teaching timetable, to allow teaching patterns to continue to operate in the usual way and to ensure the inclusion of the week does not have a negative impact on the student experience;
- (4) that consideration is given to how buy-in from Schools to DSDW can be improved;

- (5) that the budget allocation within the resource section of this report is supported;
- (6) that combining events with the Global Opportunities week, as recommended at Internationalisation Executive, is considered.

(A copy is filed in the Minute Book, ref. LTC16D104)

(In its detailed discussions members

- i. discussed the feasibility of taught postgraduate students participating in DSDW given the structure of the PGT academic year ;
- ii. heard that the Arts and Science of Murder, which had been a theme throughout DSDW, had been highlighted to potential applicants at recruitment fairs and had been very positively received;
- iii. agreed that the proposed planning committee would look at ways that activities run by uea|su and for DSDW should be optimised to give students a diverse choice of activities delivered in partnership between the Student Union and the University;
- iv. considered the possibility of widening DSDW to partner institutions such as City College and Easton and Otley college
- v. noted that LTC is not empowered to make resource related decisions and so could not consider recommendation 5) above.

Recommended

- 1) approval of recommendations 1), 2), 4) and 6 above and 3) above where it relates to undergraduate students;
 - 2) to request that Faculty LTQCs consider the feasibility of taught postgraduate students being able to participate in the DSDW and report back to the June meeting of LTC.
2. In follow-up discussions the Associate Deans for Learning and Teaching recommended that DSDW runs in week 6 in 2018 and thereafter. Due to the shifting date of the Easter break, week 6 appears to be the best point at which to break the semester and still have sufficient weeks remaining for teaching either side of DSDW and the Easter break.