

SEC – Student Sport Report 2016/17

1. Transition of student clubs to PES (Physical Education and Sport)

In August 2016, the final decision was taken to move the day to day management of student sport clubs to the University sports department (PES), known as uea+sport. The initial year of this new operation challenged both the uea+sport and Su team to make adjustments on certain operational processes and procedures and there are still a number of items that need to be continued to be discussed regarding the peripheral support from the SU and whether we still aim to move this over to PES as initially planned.

This process of communication and review will be managed through monthly Sports Operations meeting where both UEA staff and student representatives can work through ongoing matters and then the more strategic objectives / development opportunities will be taken to the termly Student Sport and Physical Activity Committee meetings.

The general feeling has been extremely positive – although now specific research was deemed necessary to seek formal feedback, the absence of any complaints regarding inadequate or the inability to provide support within this new framework indicates the students are happy with the changes implemented.

This year's uea+sport financial performance missed budget by £12,171. We have taken that into consideration as part of the programming and estimated costs associated with this to hopefully ensure we can claw this back during the new financial year.

2. USAF conclusion

The three-year Sport England and UEA funded programme to engage with the students not currently engaged with sport or physical activity has been a huge success. The programme required the introduction of two full-time Sport Coordinator roles and a huge effort in improving communication through UEA and SU channels to promote the benefits and options to taking up a healthier lifestyle while at UEA.

The results have been tremendous, far exceeding the three-year targets asset with Sport England. The success of the scheme and positive impact across campus has meant that I reached agreement with Brian Summers that we should continue with the programme, utilising the surplus planned and achieved over the three years of the project, and then build this into future costs for the overarching programme. The Ziggurat Challenge still retains its individual identity but is part of the ueactive participation programme.

3. BUCS results

A phenomenal year of sport for the club competitive programme means we finished in 44th place – that's nine places ahead of best previous year! Some of our top points earners have slipped down a tier so we will be focussing hard on getting them back up to their previous levels as well as supporting the other clubs to grow and improve through this year. A number of the initiatives outlined in section 6 below will hopefully

lend their support to this particular objective although we still have not set ourselves performance targets like some very sport-oriented institutions do.

4. BUCS – Participation Award

The BUCS annual conference this year, to coincide with the conclusion of the USAF project (point 2 above) BUCS added a new award for the Participation Programme of the Year. We were shortlisted against Leeds and Warwick who managed to achieve 21% and 24% respectively and we managed to actively reach 26% of the total student population. This has been a phenomenal achievement – to beat all other universities is a staggering result and testament to the work that uea+sport, with the support of the SU and UEA department partners, to record such a result.

5. Retirement of Rachel Tomes – reorganisation of the team

Rachel Tomes retired in August this year and she will be sorely missed after her amazing contribution over the last 29 years. As with all things though, change provides an opportunity for review and shifts of focus so there is a small reorganisation under way.

Rachel's post will not be replaced directly and for the interim the uea+sport team will report to me directly. We are recruiting for a Performance Sport Manager to sit alongside the Club Operations Manager (James Raywood) which will enable some greater focus on some key components to our programme, particularly in light of the initiatives in section 6 below.

We are hoping to have the post filled by Christmas.

6. New initiatives

a. Scholarships

UEA sports scholars join us for the first time this year. Details of the scholarship structure can be found here <https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/sport-scholarships> and with the initial year intake being below capacity we have also been able to provide some one year support to some current students that meet the criteria for the Developing Excellence tier of support.

b. Colours

UEA will be introducing formal Sports Colours awards at the end of this academic year. The criteria for these is being shared with the Student Sport and Physical Activity Committee (SSPAC) at the end of October and will represent a formal UEA accolade for performing at the highest level either within their sporting performance or their club committee / support functions. The full scope of these awards will be forwarded to SEC as soon as they have been ratified by SSPAC.

c. Focus Sport reactivation

Over the last year we have been reorganising our approach to supporting the UEA sporting clubs that are achieving success in the sport. This may be in the community or the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) competition structure. The criteria for this is also due to be confirmed by SSPAC in October

but for this year, rather than accepting applications from the clubs, the uea+sport Club Ops Manager and Activities and Opportunities Sabb have decided on those that are in a position to meet the criteria for this year.

The additional support for scholars and focus sport clubs includes varying degrees of the services outlined below. Please note that some of this support network is still being finalised and will be communicated to all involved in the coming weeks:

- i. Development workshops from sporting professionals e.g. nutrition, goal setting, injury prevention etc
 - ii. Enhanced / free Sportspark training access
 - iii. Sports Association Membership (for Tier 1 and 2 incoming students)
 - iv. Strength & Conditioning support
 - v. Physio / sports therapy support
- d. 'ueaccess'
- The ueaccess is a referral scheme and will be offering six free of charge sessions (swim, gym, ueactive sessions) for any students who are receiving support from the Student Support Services. The scheme recognises the benefits of regular physical activity in supporting students and is being funded by the alumni fund.

There will be a ueaccess open evening on Thursday 9th November – for all students and community.

All clubs will be taking part in disability confidence training to assist clubs with making their club's and sessions more inclusive. We have invested in disability confidence training so key committee members in clubs (President/Equality & Diversity Officer) know how to support potential members who have a disability and what actions to take to assess if the club is suitable for them.

7. Strategy development – a formal development approach for sport and physical activity at UEA, knitting in to the UEA Plan but also to incorporate the Sportspark for the end of the Lottery Agreement period.

As part of the transitioning of clubs from the UEASU to the University's PES department (uea+sport), there is a commitment to determining a formal strategic approach to developing sport and physical activity at UEA. Until this formal review is completed, the SSPAC is the forum where objectives can be proposed and agreed, and eventually these will all feed in to UEA's sporting strategy that will be devised over the next 12 months.

The work will be completed via SSPAC and will involve collaborative work for students and the community to determine UEA's vision for sport and physical activity for the future.