

Brief summary report on matters discussed at the Student Affairs Group (SAG) and the Student Safety Group (SSG) from October 2012 to January 2013 (inclusive).

Safety and security (SSG¹): Norfolk Constabulary (NC) continue to report the monthly statistics of recorded crimes; in general the numbers are either down or the same as in the previous year. There has been a very noticeable drop in bike theft as a result of a concerted campaign to encourage students to use D-locks (these are now available via the Lodge and DOS at a very competitive rate).

Concerns continue to be raised about the number of cyclists who leave the campus without lights. Security are organising a campaign to encourage cyclists to use lights which will be run in February 2013. Inexpensive light sets are available for purchase on campus with D-Locks.

There continue to be a number of cases each month of students leaving their property unattended, often either in the Library or in Residences. UEA Security and the Police continue to try to raise awareness of the need to secure property and want to encourage students to register their property with 'Immobilise'.

The number of assaults on and around campus in the autumn has been a cause for significant concern. The University is working with the Police, UEA Security and the UUEAS to raise awareness of measures that can be taken to enhance personal safety. The majority of the reported assaults appear to have been perpetrated by strangers to campus. Discussions have been held to encourage the UUEAS to make access to the Union bar and the LCR events limited to UEA students and their signed-in guests, and those with legitimate business at UEA (for example, Broadview Lodge guests and those attending UEA events).

Alcohol harm reduction

The DOS has reported on her work with colleagues from the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Public Health, licensing authorities and the police to discuss alcohol harm reduction, with a focus on the student population.

Student Accommodation

At the start of the academic year UEA Residences were significantly oversubscribed, and a number of students had to be housed in Broadview Lodge. Regular reports have been made to SAG about the accommodation situation, which has now eased,

¹ Terms of Reference for the Student Safety Group have been drafted:

The UEA Student Safety Group is a cross-sector collaborative reporting and discussion group whose remit is to monitor and promote student safety, security and responsible citizenship both on and off campus. Its members are drawn from UEA (DOS and Estates), the Union of UEA Students, Norfolk Constabulary and Norfolk City Council. The Group meets monthly throughout the undergraduate academic year and as needed during the summer vacation. The minutes of the meetings are confidential to members, but the Dean of Students, who chairs the Group, provides a report on key trends and concerns to each of the Student Experience Committee meetings.

giving a little more flexibility and allowing most students to move out of Broadview Lodge into student accommodation. A very healthy occupancy rate has, however, been maintained.

Work on new student residences located next to Britten House will be starting this summer with a planned opening in September 2014.

Teaching and Learning

The knock-on effects of the changes to the start of the January term have been discussed at SAG on several occasions. The very early January start and the shorter Christmas break has already put significant additional pressure on colleagues in the Accommodation Office and those preparing for the Arrival and Orientation of new International students. Particular concerns have been raised about the impact both on January starters, who can only be offered a very brief orientation programme, and on international students who wish to go home for the holiday period, but are having to fly back over New Year itself in order to arrive for the start of the year. Those PGT students who have January exams are particularly badly affected.

Library/Senior Residents (DOS)

SAG has been very pleased to have regular reports on the success of the move to 24 hour opening. Particularly heavy use was recorded over the Christmas break. The programme of events and activities for students staying in Residences over the break was significantly expanded and the activities organised were well attended.

International students

Processing visas renewals has taken much of the time for the ISA Team since October and remains a demanding workload. However, the social and peer support programmes continue to develop.

A new problem has emerged in respect of the police registration process which is necessary for many International students who newly arrive into the UK or change their address once they are here. This matter has been discussed at SAG but is currently still unresolved.

Open Days and Visit Days

It was helpful to have the Recruitment Events Manager from ARM attend SAG in November to discuss some concerns that had been raised by SAG members about the information that student ambassadors and guides were giving on Visit Days. The training and information that they are provided with has been updated as a result.

Student sport

There have been regular updates at SAG from the Assistant Director of Student Sport about the development work undertaken with the Rugby Football Union to enable a Rugby Club to be reinstated at UEA for 2013-2014.

Problems with the water supply at Colney Lane Pavilion and the impact that this has had on washing facilities for those playing field sports have been raised on a number of times.

SAG has been pleased to learn of an increasingly diverse range of events and opportunities offered through the Sportspark.

Graduate Students Association

The President of the GSA has provided SAG with regular updates on the work that has been undertaken to strengthen the GSA. SAG has welcomed the regular attendance at meetings by a representative of the GSA, and the opportunity to be better informed about postgraduate matters.

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