

## **Brief report to the Student Experience Committee on matters raised at the Student Affairs and Student Safety Groups from February 2013 to April 2013 (inclusive).**

### **Student Safety Group**

Norfolk Constabulary (NC) continue to report the monthly statistics of recorded crimes: in general the numbers are either lower than or the same as in the equivalent reporting period the previous year. The exception to this is the figures for violent incidents which are up from last year.

Bicycle 'D' locks and lights continue to sell well. There is an on-going initiative to raise awareness of the importance of cyclists using lights on their bikes in the dark. Security is planning another safety and security campaign in October.

Two representatives from Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) attended a recent Student Safety meeting to discuss ways in which they might work with UEA to improve fire safety for students, especially those living off-campus. It was agreed that DOS would set up links to the NFRS website and the latter would set up a volunteer scheme for students to help disseminate fire safety messages. The scheme would include first aid training and would be a good addition to students' CVs.

### **Student Affairs Group**

#### **Membership**

The membership of SAG has been expanded to include representatives from the PGR Hub, and the ARM Press Office.

#### **Library**

Library staff members are trying to encourage students to remember to bring their campus card with them to gain access and thus reduce the number of day passes being issued. This was a particular problem last year.

Staff members continue to seek student opinions on the provision of the 'Facebook-free' bank of computers in the Library, prior to making a decision on whether or not to continue this partial Facebook ban.

The amount of rubbish being left in the Library overnight is becoming increasingly problematic and bothersome. More bins will be installed and the situation will continue to be monitored.

#### **Careers and Employability**

The Careers and Employability continue to report on numbers of quick queries and booked appointments. In many weeks there has been an increase of over 50% on figures for the same periods last year.

#### **First Eastern**

Representatives from First Eastern buses attended a SAG meeting in February. This is a valuable opportunity for students and staff to report directly any concerns, and work with First to improve local bus services. The First representatives encouraged users to report any concerns or suggestions directly to the company or to Estates, who are the main contact point in UEA.

### **Student Finance**

A number of new events were organised in National Student Money Week (in February) by the DOS Finance Team to promote students' financial literacy.

### **Student Accommodation**

The anticipated move of the Accommodation Office from the Street has been discussed at SAG recently and frustrations with the delays have been voiced.

Enabling work on the new student residences started this week and a plan is in place for alternative study space for the students affected by the noise.

### **Teaching and Learning**

The decision to revise the academic year dates has been very well received on all sides.

### **International students**

The need to find somewhere for the Norfolk Constabulary Nationality Clerk to be based to see students for Police Registration was a topic of conversation at SAG, as the previous location is no longer available and a new location had proved very difficult to find. This concern has now been resolved; SAG members thanked the LTS for offering to host the activity.

It was reported to SAG that in 2012/13, 652 applications were made via the DOS batch scheme, and 992 students were seen in International Students Advisory (ISA) Team's drop-in visa advice sessions. The UK Border Agency has recently changed the system for visa renewal: all students wishing to extend their visas from the UK will in future have to apply online. The ISA Team are exploring ways of resolving the practical difficulties of checking that the electronic forms are completed correctly in order to help ensure that students are granted their new visas without problem, and that our licence is not put at risk by an increased number of student errors.

### **Student sport**

The very cold snap brought many challenges to the sporting programme this year, causing delays to planned fixtures.

The national korfbal championships were held at the Sportspark in March and UEA beat Nottingham University. A new event held in late January was a very successful ballroom dance competition.

Several meetings have been held with sports society presidents, and it was reported in March that all Sports Committees are in place for next year.

### **Graduate Students Association**

The GSA has a new Committee and it is hoped and expected that they will be able to build on the excellent work started by the outgoing President, John Taylor.

AG/JB

DOS

23 April 2012