

**LTC12D134**

**Title:** Student Experience Committee  
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**Issue**

This is a round up report to members of the Learning and Teaching Committee for information on activities of the Student Experience Committee covering the meeting held on 1 May 2013.

**Recommendation**

None

**Resource Implications**

None

**Risk Implications**

None

**Equality and Diversity**

None

**Further Information**

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**Background**

N/A

**Discussion**

The report is for information only and no discussion is anticipated.

**Attachments**

Summary report as attached below.

## **Report of the Meeting of the Student Experience Committee on 1 May 2013**

The following items were considered by the Student Experience Committee on 1 May 2013 and are presented here for the Learning and Teaching Committee's information.

### **1. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

In his report the Chair, the Chair drew the Committee's attention to UEA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations which are expected to take place during the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

### **2. FAITH ON CAMPUS**

The Committee received the new Faith policy which had previously been endorsed by Council in January 2013. (SEC 12 D04).

### **3. EVENTS PERMISSION**

3.1 Members received a report from the Events Permissions Group on proposals to reduce the current six week deadline for event applications. (SEC 12 D05).

3.2 The Committee heard that as requested by the PVC (Academic) the Events Permissions Group had examined ways to reduce the deadline for event applications as well as fast-tracking events for week 1.

3.3 Members of the Committee endorsed the proposals to have the following deadlines for events approvals: 6 weeks for major events (as identified in the major events guidelines document); 3 weeks for small events (flashmobs, dance displays, performances) and 2 weeks for small events (basic stalls/stands promoting a society or event). Any shorter deadlines would seriously jeopardise the risk assessments needed for such events which were in place to protect students.

3.4 Members heard that staff responsible for approving event applications would work as fast as possible and would aim to approve applications before the agreed deadlines if at all possible.

3.5 The Committee also agreed that fast-tracking events for week 1 needed further consideration mainly as week 1 was already crowded with many events for new and continuing students. For the time being, it was agreed that no fast-tracking of events for week 1 should happen and that students should be encouraged to organise events for the summer and definitely before week 1 until the logistical concerns about too many events on campus in week 1 will have been considered further.

### **4. DEAN OF STUDENTS' OFFICE**

The Committee received a report from Dr Annie Grant, the Dean of Students, on latest activities discussed at the Student Affairs Group (SAG) and the Student Safety Group (SEC12D06).

### **5. NRP ENTERPRISE CENTRE**

5.1 Members were informed by the CEO of Adapt, Mr John French, on latest developments in relation to the building of the NRP Enterprise Centre which is planned to open in October 2014.

5.2 The building proposed will be the most advanced low energy building on any UK University campus and will contain a 300 seat lecture theatre, a café, an

exhibition area, business hatcheries and further space for academic teaching. Members of the Committee welcomed the opportunity to be informed of the outline plans for the building and were impressed by layout and the concept of UEA having a the most advanced low energy building on any UK University campus.

- 5.3 Members also heard that there would be a Phase II development of the land between Earlham Hall and the NRP Enterprise Centre which amounts to 10,000 square metres and could be developed into another area containing high quality academic space. Currently, the University had not yet identified funds for the development of Phase II of this project.

## 6. STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY 2013

- 6.1 The Committee received a presentation from Dr Sree Ghosh, the Research Survey Manager, on the Student Experience Survey carried out at UEA in spring 2013 and covering all first and second year students at UEA. (SEC 12D07 & SEC 12 D08). Questions asked were modelled on the questions included in the National Student Survey.
- 6.2 Students studying in the Norwich Medical School were exempt from this survey with the permission of the PVC (Academic) as these students were already required to complete surveys as part of their studies from the Professional Body and further surveys could lead to survey fatigue.
- 6.3 Members heard that students are broadly happy with the quality of teaching. Students are less happy with timely return of coursework from the hubs, especially the Arts Hub as 53% of students disagree with the statement that their coursework had been returned in a timely manner. The survey did however not differentiate if this was due to slow marking or hub procedures.
- 6.4 Members also heard that students mentioned the following areas in ranked order which would improve the student experience: i) greater range of sports activities; ii) academic support; iii) feedback; iv) organisation and management.
- 6.5 The Committee were informed that students valued the following highest in terms of the overall satisfaction with their course: i) course is well organised and runs smoothly; ii) overall academic support; iii) staff are good at explaining things; iv) course is intellectually stimulating; v) staff make the subject interesting.
- 6.6 Members agreed that overall the results of the Student Experience Survey were positive and encouraging with a few minor causes for concern, in particular the perception of late feedback on coursework. Members also heard that the Learning and Teaching Service was conducting an analysis on return of coursework in more detail to identify concerns and remedies to enable the speedy return of coursework.

## 7. UEA STUDENT UNION STRATEGIC PLAN

- 7.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Community Officer of the UEA Union of Students on the UEA Union of Students Strategic Plan.
- 7.2 Members were informed that the Strategic Plan had been updated since the last Strategic Plan had been published in 2009 using information gathered from 5000 students.
- 7.3 The Committee heard that the UEA Union of Students wanted to become the best Students' Union in the country and this would be achieved by focussing

on three key indicators: i) participation of students in as many Union activities as possible; ii) engagement by being member led and empowering members to shape their education and academic experience through representation at school, faculty and committee level; iii) satisfaction by providing services of high quality and gathering feedback to further improve the Unions' services.

- 7.4 Members heard that by focussing on the principles of participation, engagement and satisfaction, the academic experience of students would improve as the Union will work in partnership with academic staff to ensure that feedback mechanism such a course representatives will create a pro-active partnership conducive to improving the academic experience. Similarly, student welfare would improve as the Union focuses on participation, friendship by promoting events which would focus on social activities such as quiz and salsa nights and avoiding the promotion of alcohol centric events.
- 7.5 The Committee heard that the Union had employed new initiatives to reach all students and had launched a campaign to reach Chinese students via Rebo, a Social Media site available to Chinese students in the absence of Facebook and Twitter. The Union web site had also been redesigned to ensure maximum exposure of Union activities to UEA students.
- 7.6 Members were also informed that the Union of UEA Students is keen to diversify its income streams by moving away from the sale of alcohol to support its business and is exploring alternative income streams to ensure business sustainability.
- 7.7 The Committee was informed that the Union of UEA Students worked in partnership with the Research, Enterprise and Engagement Service (REN) on improving students' employability rates and similar initiatives to the Pitch up project would be pursued to achieve this aim.