

UNIVERSITY OF YORK
Senate and Council
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

Matters arising from the meeting of Student Life Committee held on 5 November 2020

1. The Committee agreed minor revisions to its terms of reference to reflect changes in operational structures, and welcomed Brian Terry (YUSU Activities Officer) in attendance. Full details of the revised terms of reference and membership were recommended for formal approval by Senate. Subsequent to the meeting and following discussion with the Chief Operating Officer once in post, Senate was further asked to approve the recommendation that the Academic Registrar should be confirmed as Co-Chair of Student Life Committee, following the departure of the Registrar & Secretary.
2. The Committee received an update from the PVC (T,L&S) on development of the University Strategy 2030. It noted its annual cycle of business and agreed annual priorities (pending any further strategy development) as follows:
 - The response to the Covid-19 pandemic in all areas of non-academic student life;
 - Student wellbeing and mental health.
3. The Committee received a number of detailed reports regarding adaptations to non-academic provision for students in the light of Covid-19, with a particular focus on arrangements in place for the start of the autumn term. These covered areas such as student arrivals, welcome activities and quarantine arrangements, staggered starts, online inductions and mixed mode delivery, provision of green space, and student wellbeing arrangements with a particular focus on those who need to self-isolate. The Committee commended the impressive collaborative effort across the University, the students' unions, York City Council and local public health bodies and the NHS.
4. The Committee noted amendments to the annual Freshers' Survey (approved by Chair's action prior to the start of term) to take account of post-Covid-19 circumstances. Following the meeting, it was decided via Chair's action to cancel distribution of the Freshers' Survey for 2020, and instead to incorporate key questions from the Survey into the weekly Pulse Surveys run by the Internal Communications team, which were newly instituted for 2020/21. This decision was taken (i) in order to avoid confusion between the two surveys and survey fatigue, and (ii) in recognition of the fact that the Pulse Surveys were better suited to allow the University to respond quickly to changing circumstances and to student feedback.
5. The Committee considered Annual Reports in the following areas: Student Employability and Revisions to the York Award, Sustainable Transport, and Student Accommodation.
6. The Committee noted minor changes to the existing student complaints procedure and a new procedure to address student complaints of staff misconduct, which had been approved by the Acting Head of Professional Services on behalf of the Professional Services Operations Group and introduced from 1 September 2020. The Committee further noted details of how anonymous reports were handled within the Report and Support system.
7. The Committee received reports on the HESA Graduate Outcomes Survey 2017/18, an analysis of the Freshers' Survey data for 2019, and an update on student voter registration.

Dr Wayne Campbell and Mr Patrick O'Donnell, Co-Chairs of Student Life Committee
January 2020