

University of York

Student Life Committee

Matters for note arising from the meeting of Student Life Committee held on 13 June 2024

1. The Committee **approved**:

- An annual assurance report on the Committee's work and progress against its annual priorities for 2023/24.
- A proposed enhanced York Award for College Leaders, which will be available for applications in the 2024/25 academic year.
- The Committee approved the proposed revisions to the Non-Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Procedure. [REDACTED]
- The Committee considered and approved the proposed revisions to Regulation 7: Student Discipline ahead of consideration and approval at Senate. [REDACTED]

2. The Committee **considered** annual reports for 2023/24 for the following areas:

- a. Unity Health. The Committee **noted** the general pressures on the NHS. It is a challenging time and likely to remain so after the General Election in July. Student patient numbers have risen to their pre-pandemic levels. Telephone and online access remains 1st point of contact and the text based Accurx service now is embedded in day to day working allowing quick and easy replies to patients. The proportion of appointments provided on the day has increased and overall the proportion of patients seen within a 14 day period continues to increase overall with time. Positive relationships with University services and with YUSU. The reform of the Leave of absence return service which is now much more streamlined and the work between the University and Unity Health to try and address problems before they arise.
- b. The Annual report on Sport and progress report on implementation of the Sports Strategy. The Committee **noted** the annual report from Sport and progress report on the Implementation of the Sports Strategy 2023-24, which summarised its work. The successful delivery of Sport and activity at the University of York between July 2023 and June 2024. Within the last 12 months, student activity has increased and membership of clubs, colleges and York Sport has exceeded pre-pandemic levels.. This is despite challenges to engagement, student mental health, access, costs.. The report recognised conflicting and increasing challenges of meeting demand and expectation within a climate of unprecedented operational and financial difficulty. The rising cost of living continues to provide pressure to university and college sport clubs, with travel, competition fees and facility prices increasing, meaning the finances of delivering such a breadth of student sport are proving challenging to negotiate.

3. The Committee **noted** following updates or reports:

- a. The update on recent developments from YUSU on activity since the last meeting, commending the breadth of activity set out in the report.
- b. The Committee noted a report from the GSA on activity since the last meeting, commending the breadth of activity set out in the report.

- c. Update on the Student Unions' Merger (oral update). The last joint board meeting with YUSU and GSA has been held. The new single union staff team is now in place. Consultations have been held with all current staff and all have been offered new opportunities in the new Union; two staff will take voluntary severance. There are now seven full-time Sabbatical Officers, along with an Academic Committee, an Equalities Committee, and SUMmit, who will all work together to decide the direction of the Union and create positive change.
 - d. University of York Students' Union new brand presentation (oral update). The Committee noted the University of York Students' Union rebrand which will be used from 1 August 2024 when the new University of York Students' Union is officially launched. The new brand represents various aspects of the Union, it symbolises a 'coat of arms' - reinforcing this idea of unity, family, but also a nod to York city's history. The new brand can be split into four areas: 'core', 'student voice', student life' and 'advice and support'. A new single students' union website has also been created.
4. The Committee **noted** progress reports in relation to the following areas:
- a. Progress report on the Disability Services Review. The Committee **noted** that good progress was being made against the Review, most notably the key area of the Student Support Process (SSP). A Project Board is overseeing the work which is now in the solution generation phase which includes sub groups of PSS, academic staff and student representatives working on 4 key areas:
 - SSP content: standardised and taking PGRs into account
 - SSP technical group: working with the Student Systems Team for data input, technical and design build.
 - SSP output and engagement: right information to be communicated to depts/individuals
 - PSRB programmes: to ensure requirements are built into courses - Health Sciences, Education, Medicine and Social Work

The implementation date for the project is autumn 2025/26 with a pathfinder department. Relevant student groups will be road testing during the second half of 2025/26. It was noted that Disability Services are working closely with the York Online Learning team to ensure online students are also included in the SSP process.

- b. The Implementation of Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Progress report - to be deferred to the 31 October 2024 meeting. The Academic Registrar reported that notice of increased risk has been submitted to UEB because of the current staff vacancies within Student and Academic Services due to the current financial measures in place.
5. The Committee **noted** the following updates or reports:
- a. Updates on recent activity from Professional Services & IPC; YGRS PGR Experience Committee; Student Mental Health Forum; College Life Forum and the International Student Barometer results.
6. The Committee **received** its updated membership.

Tom Banham and Pierrick Roger, Co-Chairs of Student Life Committee, June 2024