

University of York

Student Life Committee

Matters for note arising from the meeting of Student Life Committee held on 15 June 2023

1. The Committee **endorsed**:
 - a. A proposed Student Academic Engagement and Welfare Policy for 2023/24, subject to clarificatory amendments. The policy sets out expectations for students' academic engagement in key areas (attendance at timetabled sessions; supervision and assessment) and ways in which the University will monitor this to identify students in need of further welfare and wellbeing support, including via a new Check-In system. It is intended to further develop this engagement monitoring in future years, for example by adding data from the VLE. The policy will apply to all students. Its key driver is student welfare and wellbeing. The policy will be submitted to Teaching Committee for approval.
 - b. An annual assurance report on the Committee's work and progress against its annual priorities for 2022/23, prior to consideration at Senate.
2. The Committee **considered** the following reports:
 - a. An annual report on Sport, noting in particular an encouraging growth in facility usage, sports team and College sport activity and York Sport membership, albeit recognising that these were not at pre-COVID levels. The Committee noted the link between sport and exercise and mental health and encouraged further connection in the University's work in these areas. The Committee also received a brief update on progress against the implementation plan for the Strategy for Sport and Active Wellbeing, requesting a more detailed update for its November 2023 meeting.
 - b. A report on two Pulse Surveys run since the Committee's last meeting. The first of these covered students' awareness of semesterisation, noting that 40% of respondents had requested additional information: the Committee endorsed actions by Internal Communications to further raise awareness. The second survey covered drivers of resilience, to inform a Success at York toolkit being developed by Student Life and Wellbeing. The Committee instigated further work to clarify the purpose, design, analysis and resourcing of the Pulse Surveys going forward.
 - c. An update on cost of living support, noting in particular a significant growth in the number of food vouchers issued. The Committee observed that, relative to the funding allocated, the uptake of cost of living support remained lower than expected as at the end of March 2023. Action had been taken to raise awareness of cost of living support and to clarify eligibility criteria: the impact of these actions was not yet reflected in the data presented to the Committee. The Committee observed that some aspects of the University's financial support were relatively hard to access, albeit appropriately targeted at students in the most acute need.
3. The Committee **noted** the following updates or reports:
 - a. The annual impact report from GSA for 2021-22, commending the successes set out in the report.
 - b. Report and Support data for the Spring Term 2023, noting the continued encouraging trend of users of the process providing their contact details, which allowed for individual follow-up.
 - c. An oral report from the Co-Chair (Academic Registrar) and Co-Chair (YUSU President) on the Marking and Assessment Boycott and on cost of living support in 2023/24, noting this would include individual support for off-campus accommodation costs targeted at the most vulnerable students next year.
 - d. A presentation on the work of the Inclusive Learning team.

- e. Updates on recent activity from YUSU and the GSA, noting in particular YUSU's work in distributing free food bags; progress in the coming together of YUSU and GSA; the success of Roses 2023; and student dissatisfaction with the time taken to resolve appeals and complaints. The Committee also discussed issues caused by staggered starts for PGT and PGR students in 2023/24. This arose from timelines for off-campus providers not being synchronised with the new semesterised year. The Committee was assured that support would be in place for students at key off-campus providers throughout this period and that this was a one-off issue for 2023/24.
- f. Updates on recent activity from DTEF, YGRS, Equality & Diversity, Open Door and Disability, the IPC and York Online.

Dr Wayne Campbell and Pierrick Roger, Co-Chairs of Student Life Committee, June 2023