

**UNIVERSITY OF YORK**  
**Senate**  
**STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE**

**Matters for note arising from the meeting of Student Life Committee held on 3 November 2022**

1. The Committee **approved**:
  - a. A suicide safer action plan. The University had previously operated under the general action plan for the City of York: having a separate action plan for the University was in line with UUK recommended practice. The University had already implemented the majority of actions. The Committee would receive annual reports on progress against the plan.
  - b. Revisions to the Support to Study procedure, primarily concerning the appeals route and authority levels, with some additional clarifications. Further revisions would be presented to the June 2023 meeting of the Committee, following additional consultation with students.
    - i. The Committee also **considered** an annual report on Support to Study. It **noted** that there had been a significant increase in the number of students using the process since 2018/19. 58% of students using the process in 2021/22 had graduated or continued, which was an outstanding result given that students would likely otherwise have withdrawn. The Committee **commended** work in this area, which was distinctive and sector-leading.
  - c. A cycle of business and the following priorities for 2022/23: cost of living, accommodation, student mental health and wellbeing, and postgraduate and international student engagement. The Committee would receive reports from Student Financial Support on work around cost of living at its January and June meetings.
  - d. A minor terminological change within its Terms of Reference, relating to the naming of one of its subcommittees. It also **received** its revised membership list.
2. The Committee **endorsed**:
  - a. A revised action plan in response to a prior report from YUSU on the experience of being a disabled student at York (previously considered at the April 2022 meeting). This included actions across the University including a review of the implementation of Student Support Plans. The Committee would receive regular reports against the plan.
  - b. A proposed review of support for students with disabilities and long-term health conditions, which would be informed by the above action plan and based around the principle of inclusive learning, teaching and assessment. Colleagues from professional services would be invited to a future meeting to explain support in this area to committee members. The Committee **noted** a planned review of exceptional circumstances policy and procedure and had received information in relation to the experience of students with disabilities to inform this work. It further noted that TEF data had indicated that Continuation and Completion rates for students with disabilities at York up to 2019/20 were among the highest in the sector.
  - c. A set of priorities for work under the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2021/22. It further **noted** an updated implementation plan in this area.
3. The Committee **considered** an annual report on Student Employability for 2021/22, which provided an update on progress against the objectives of the previous Student Employability Strategy. The Committee **commended** work in this area. It **noted** the introduction of the Handshake system to connect students with employers, and requested a breakdown of usage of this system by demographic characteristics. The blueprint for objectives around student employability for 2022-25 would be presented to the next meeting.

4. The Committee **considered** an annual report from the Community Volunteering Committee. It **commended** work in this area during 2021/22, **noting** that the report captured the value of student volunteering off-campus in the community. This would be presented to the Good Neighbours Forum. The Committee requested that, if pragmatic and possible, future reports should capture the value of on-campus student volunteering (e.g. student mentoring, the support of STYCS and STYMS). It **noted** the planned priorities for the Community Volunteering Committee during 2022/23.
5. The Committee **considered** a report on Student Pulse surveys held in Summer and Autumn 2022. The Autumn 2022 survey held prior to the meeting had focused on arrivals. Respondents were generally highly satisfied with their arrivals experience. The next survey would focus on cost of living. An extra question would be added to this survey to measure take-up of University support in this area.
6. The Committee **considered** an annual report from the Conduct and Respect team for 2021/22. It **commended** work in this area, and noted that it was sector-leading. It also **considered** a progress report on the Sexual Violence action plan, **noting** that the University (in collaboration with YUSU and GSA) would be rolling-out Bystander Intervention training.
7. The Committee **considered** an update on work against the Sports Strategy. It **noted** that work was ongoing in relation to the implementation plan and KPIs for the Strategy. The implementation plan would be considered by the Committee prior to the launch of the Strategy in January 2023.
8. The Committee **considered** an update on the Colleges Governance review, which outlined the objective, remit and timescales of the review.
9. The Committee **received** the following further updates or reports:
  - a. A report from Security, which identified that the service would be renamed Campus Safety to better reflect its purpose and remit in relation to safeguarding and welfare.
  - b. Revisions to the non-academic misconduct procedure under Regulation 7: Student Discipline, approved under Chairs' action over the summer 2022. Additional consultation would be held on the procedure over 2022/23, with revisions brought to a future meeting of the Committee.
  - c. A report from the Student Mental Health Forum held October 2022.
  - d. A report from the YGRS PGR Experience Committee held July 2022.
  - e. Oral reports from the Co-Chairs, who reported on additional support from the University and YUSU in relation to the cost of living; possible upcoming industrial action; a review of the University's procedure in relation to staff-student misconduct; that there had been good engagement from postgraduate and international students in YUSU's activities; and on YUSU's relationship with Unity Health and local bus service providers.
  - f. A report from the Student Experience Operations Group from its September 2022 meeting.
  - g. Reports on recent activity from OPPA, DTEF, Equality & Diversity, the Open Door team, the YGRS and the IPC, YUSU and the GSA.

**Dr Wayne Campbell and Pierrick Roger, Co-Chairs of Student Life Committee  
November 2022**