



THE PANEL
your ideas, your decisions **UCSU**

Panel Meeting 19/03/16

Notes and update

Here is a summary of the discussion held at the March meeting.

Representatives in attendance: Chair – John Sharp, Vice Chair – Stevenson Allen, Disabled students – Steven Shaw, SNROS Rep – Jack Howard, Returning to Education – Theresa Ribeiro, MSS Rep – Robert Bamber, Part-time – Rowan Cooper-Gritten, Fusehill Rep – Bethany Cutter, Brampton Rep – Rhianne Ikin, BLPSS Rep – Matt Bradbury, London Rep- Ahmad Sayed. Proxy vote – Ambleside Rep – Chris Warren.

PROGRESS ON CURRENT WORK

Aden Fry, Community & Partnership Officer

ISSUE	UPDATE	COMMENTS
Ambleside Gym	Difficulty locating local provider for student deal. Exploring possibility of equipment and course on campus.	Continue to progress discussion
London lockers	Summer re-development for EIDR will include lockers and prayer room. Plan now confirmed.	Monitor progress and outcome
London Canteen	Currently outsourced to Baxter Storey with all other UoC catering contracts. Likely that independent contractors will be chosen in the Summer.	Review with students early in the new Academic year
Dated Student ID Cards	Ready for introduction in the 16/17 academic year	Monitor implementation
Cross campus events	A number of events will be considered as standard practice to bring students together across campuses and wherever possible to allow access to students in different campuses to the same or similar event.	Incorporate in UCSU event standard calendar. Events include Success, AGM, Group and Sport finals, Health and Wellbeing, Fairtrade, Colour Run, Summerfest, Welcome, etc.
Recycling of food waste (Ambleside)	Currently this already exists at catering level but there is some concern over introduction of scheme to apply to students in their accommodation.	The Panel has requested to continue to pursue on behalf of the students
SU space	Part of front desk in Fusehill Gateway now acquired to allow easier access to SU for students. Low Rigg Cottage in Ambleside likely to soon be available for UCSU, Chaplaincy and LiSS services. The space will also include a Prayer room.	None required apart from promotion when space available.
Parking machines	All machines currently under	None required

	review and being updated/replaced if needed.	
Water Fountains	Potential agreement for further fountains to be sited on various campuses.	Aden Fry to liaise with all campus reps and initiate a proper review of where additional water fountains should be located.
Eco friendly sites	All UoC new planned buildings will include water recycling systems and solar panels.	None required
Catering for varied dietary requirements	All UoC catering outlets cater for a variety of dietary requirements. Extent and breadth of offer will be reviewed.	Aden Fry to update on further findings/actions following review completion.

PROGRESS ON CURRENT WORK

Izaak Koroneos, Academic Officer

ISSUE	UPDATE	COMMENTS
Student discussion forums	Discussion forums for students to communicate with UCSU now exist in the Community area of the Blackboard site. This will allow virtual access for all students to the Students' Union.	Izaak Koroneos to advertise and promote to all students. Monitor engagement.
Extension of library hours – London pilot	The pilot has now been extended but there is some concern over monitoring continuing over the holiday period.	Izaak Koroneos to chase the usage data for the period from pilot opening to this point and to share this with the Panel. Monitor effect of holiday period on final usage data.
UCSU Platform policy	The current policy has been reviewed and consultation needs to happen to ensure that the policy best serves the needs of the students.	Izaak Koroneos to create a sub-committee to discuss the policy and define any exclusions together. Policy to be brought back to Panel for final approval once complete.
Barrow campus representative	An idea had been placed to the Panel to suggest that a representative should be included for Barrow. Questions	The Chair has requested to complete the outstanding item and asked Izaak Koroneos to discuss with the Barrow

	had arisen around whether or not this would be something that Barrow students would wish for and around the likelihood of such a position being filled.	students and to report back to the Chair by the next Panel meeting at the latest.
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<u>PROGRESS ON CURRENT WORK</u>		
Adam Mather, Welfare & Support Officer		
ISSUE	UPDATE	COMMENTS
Halls inspections	Currently all students are given at least 48 hrs notice in advance of halls inspections. This notification is sent via e-mail to the student e-mail account.	The Panel has requested Adam Mather to secure further physical notification methods as appropriate to the accommodation location, such as a note in the letterbox.
Loan Laptop quality	Quality of loan laptops is still reported to be poor. LiSS advised these were currently under review.	Adam Mather to pursue and update on progress by the next Panel meeting.
Additional plug sockets	At the last Panel meeting it was reported that the University had purchased a powerhouse and portable trolley for student use. This is now however unlikely to be available to students for a further 10 weeks.	The Panel has requested Adam Mather to discuss with the University if these times could be shortened as current students would be well out of University by that timeframe.
Sexual Health Provision	Provision now secured for all major sites, except London. Difficulties in that location to locate a provider and secure a partnership.	Adam Mather to work with support from Richard Brooks (NUS Vice President, Union Development) to try and locate a suitable partner in the South of England.
Brighter lodgings	The University has a comprehensive 5 year plan refurbishing investment in place, amongst other things, to provide all students with top quality accommodation.	The Panel are pleased to hear that accommodation is scheduled for such updates but have asked Adam Mather to discuss with the University if completion times could be slightly speeded up.
Self Defence classes	Classes are now available for uptake in local centres at	The Panel has requested for information about classes

	Lancaster and Carlisle. There is a charge for attendance.	uptake by students to be provided by the next Panel.
Hearing Loop systems	An audit of systems in Lancaster has taken place and repairs/updates made but not yet in any other location.	The Panel has requested for Adam Mather to expedite this review, particularly in Ambleside, where this idea had originated.
Dyslexia tests	Cuts external to the University affect similarly all Universities. Some support may be available but will depend on overall finances.	Adam Mather to work with Steven Shaw (Disabled Students Representative) to explore possible avenues for discussion.
Survey of Student Health and Wellbeing needs	Health and Wellbeing events took place in Carlisle and Lancaster. Unfortunately London had to be rescheduled due to floods which delayed train travel and will be postponed till after the Easter break. Good attendance was reported but no survey undertaken so far.	The Panel has requested Adam Mather to initiate the survey and report with the results by the next meeting.
Cash system re-introduction for printing credits	The University confirmed that the new system has been introduced with the full consultation and agreement of the Students' Union and has only run for a few months and are therefore unlikely to produce further change. The advantage now is that students can claim a refund of any unused monies, once they close the account.	The Panel feel that there is a strong demand amongst students not for a scrapping of the current system but for additional re- inclusion of small cash top-ups (as was previously possible). Adam Mather has been requested to re-open such discussions and report back at the next meeting.

NEW IDEAS CONSIDERED

2015.31

Graphic Design Studio blinds

"The studio is too bright and not comfortable to work in"

Discussion in support

- Representatives based at Brampton Rd. confirmed that a number of students had approached them and also feel that there is far too much glare in that space.

Discussion against

None

DISCUSSION OUTCOME

AGREED

The Panel requested Izaak Koroneos to initiate discussions with the University, on the students' behalf, in order to bring a remedy to the situation.

2015.32

Catering Prices

"Prices in catering outlets in Ambleside, Lancaster & London are high for students"

Discussion in support

- London and Brampton Rd. students both feel the cost is quite high
- In London a lot of students resort to using Tesco round the corner as it is a lot cheaper
- London students acknowledge that the food offer has improved (i.e better variety) with the new contractor but that catering at the site remains an ongoing issue.

Discussion against

- Report from Ambleside suggests that food is already discounted to a certain extent and that it is quite nice.
- Fusehill St. students felt that offer was pretty good at their campus and also reasonable value for money.

DISCUSSION OUTCOME

AGREED

The Panel has tasked Aden Fry to investigate the catering costs across the sites and measure against student satisfaction. Discussion with catering company should then be initiated for the areas where it is felt there is poor value for money/excessive cost.

2015.33

Ambleside bus services

“A lot of students live in Windermere and are struggling to afford the daily travel to campus.”

Discussion in support

- Travel in the Lake District is expensive and a single ticket to Kendal costs £10. This is a high cost on a student budget.
- Special bus passes for students to travel towards Windermere would be helpful.

Discussion against

None

DISCUSSION OUTCOME

AGREED

The Panel has asked Aden Fry to explore the feasibility of introducing bus passes for Ambleside students which would allow local travel at a reduced rate.

2015.34

Ambleside Car Park

“Due to geographical area, a lot of students need to drive to campus but have no parking space.”

Discussion in support

- Since building the new halls, free parking has been lost and paying for parking is reasonably expensive
- Ambleside students have also issues with local housing not being available and perhaps therefore need more support.
- Ambleside food shopping is limited and expensive and students may need to use a car in order to get food where it is cheaper

Discussion against

- A lot of students also have to pay for a parking space

DISCUSSION OUTCOME

The Panel has asked Aden Fry to discuss with the University the possibility of offering at least some free parking to its students, due to their local circumstances.

2015.35**Ethical & Environmental Panel Representative**

"There is no representative to support and progress environmental ideas suggested by students."

Discussion in support	Discussion against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original co-ordinator was passionate about championing such issues but no other representative here is as engaged. Having a designated rep would help with this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other reps can pick up environmental issues. The introduction of an Environmental rep would suggest opening up position for all other interests. As a University and a Panel we are all already committed to safeguarding such issues.

DISCUSSION OUTCOME**AGREED**

As no clear agreement was apparent in the discussion, the Chair requested a vote. 7 voted in favour, 1 abstained and 4 against.

The Panel has requested for UCSU staff to update relevant documents and to include such a representative in the Panel election for the Academic year 2016/2017.

2015.36**IT Service Desk opening times**

"Desk is closed at weekends and students would like to be able to access such support in emergencies."

Discussion in support	Discussion against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crisis Management system may not notice smaller issues such as E-library failure Perhaps an on-call emergency number or e-mail address may be helpful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Journey Programme is under development and will place all sorts of resources under a single umbrella. This may simplify overall access to a variety of services. There is a Crisis Management system already in place to resolve such issues during major incidents

DISCUSSION OUTCOME**REJECTED**

As no clear agreement was apparent in the discussion, the Chair requested a vote. 2 voted in favour, 1 abstained and 6 against.

The Panel decided that at present, no further action should be taken on this matter.

2015.37

London printers

“In London, students have to leave the IT suite and collect their printing at Reception.”

Discussion in support	Discussion against
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is only one printer location in London and other campuses have more than one• In order to collect the printing and proofread it, you have to go outside across the courtyard which is particularly unpleasant when it's raining	None

DISCUSSION OUTCOME

AGREED

The Panel have requested Adam Mather to initiate discussions with the University at the London campus, in order to improve the situation.

2015.38

Printing from personal laptops

“Students are currently unable to print to University printers from their own laptops.”

Discussion in support	Discussion against
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People with disabilities use special programmes uploaded to their personal computers to aid them• Transfer of information from personal to Uni computers is cumbersome• There are systems in other institutions that allow online uploading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not all students have such difficulties so this may be an optional facility

DISCUSSION OUTCOME

AGREED

The Panel has tasked Adam Mather to initially liaise with Steven Shaw, Disabled Students' Rep to discuss the issue and then progress as appropriate.

2015.39**Ambleside reading space**

“There is currently lack of comfortable reading space for students.”

Discussion in support

- A Communal learning space is missing in Ambleside

Discussion against

- There are spaces available in the Barn and Charlotte Mason although these are not specifically Reading Areas

DISCUSSION OUTCOME**AGREED**

The Panel has requested Aden Fry to review this further with the University, on behalf of Ambleside students.

2015.40**Wi-Fi at Denton Holme Halls**

“Many students have experienced Wi-Fi issues in Halls and have had to travel to campus,, in order to complete their work.”

Discussion in support

None required

Discussion against

None required

DISCUSSION OUTCOME**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

Adam Mather reported to the Panel that this idea is already being actioned. The company that owns Denton Holme is updating connections on the site and will hope to provide High Speed internet in its halls from the new Academic year.

2015.41**Library books loan period**

“During dissertation writing, students may need longer loans than current loan period.”

Discussion in support**Discussion against**

- In London, there are limited books and further loan extensions would make availability worse
- In general, it is easy enough to renew again.

DISCUSSION OUTCOME

REJECTED

The Panel feel that at present, there is no evidence to suggest that there is an issue with renewing library books for longer loans.

2015.42

Healthy snacks

“There is better access to chocolate and crisps than healthy snacks across all campuses.”

Discussion in support	Discussion against
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free fruit would be a great idea and could maybe be grown on campus• Fruit would help students who have issues with low blood sugar levels to access food other than chocolate to maintain their wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are some healthy alternatives at Brampton Rd. although these are expensive• Although fruit may be given out free, not all students would have it• Would it work on every campus?

DISCUSSION OUTCOME

AGREED

The Panel have initially suggested that Officers should liaise with students to find out views on the different campuses. This should also include a London specific study. Depending on outcome, perhaps UCSU could run a fruit a fortnight/month campaign and advertise when free fruit will be offered.

NUS Membership

“A suggestion had come to the Panel to review whether the money which UCSU spends on affiliation with the National Union of Students (NUS), might not be better spent elsewhere.”

DISCUSSION OUTCOME

The Panel received a presentation from Richard Brooks, NUS Vice President, Union Development, regarding what NUS offers to affiliated Students' Unions and its students. Representatives were also able to ask any questions which would help them to make a decision.

On the basis of the information given, the Panel unanimously decided that the benefit of remaining supported by NUS far outweighed the costs and, as a result, a Referendum amongst the students would not be necessary.

The Panel have however requested for all Officers to share with all students the work that they personally do with NUS and to highlight what is available and relevant for students, within that Student Movement.