



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

Panel Meeting 04/02/17

Notes and update

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

Representatives in attendance: Chair – Sophie Ward, Co-Chair – Steven Shaw, LGBTQ Rep – Callum Baines, International students rep – Nanna Jensen, Societies Rep – Shelby Mercer, Sport Groups Rep – Emma Sheret, Lancaster Rep – Hannah Price, Fusehill St. Rep – Matthew Wisener, Ambleside Rep – Sam Abram, Business, Law, Policing & Social Science Rep – Natasha Bezuszko, Medical & Sport Science- Erika Llamado, Institute of Education Rep – Anna Fletcher, Institute of the Arts Rep – Megan Hearn

The Panel representatives were involved in a couple of additional activities as part of this meeting as follows:

1. Students' Union strategic plan

The current Union's strategic plan is due to expire in 2018 but at the time the plan was created, the Higher Education sector and the population of University of Cumbria students, was very different to the one that we find today.

At a time when the University is also working towards reviewing its focus and aims, it seems an appropriate time for UCSU to also initiate that process.

Danny Prescott, Chief Executive for the Students' Union, ran a session with Panel representatives, introducing some of the implications surrounding the creation of a new strategic plan. The representatives were also asked for some of their ideas with regards to their views on the future aims and goals of the Students' Union.

The formation of the full strategic plan is a complex and important task for the Union and any organisation and it will involve extensive consultation with students, University staff and a variety of other stakeholders.

2. Careers and employability

Students may not always be fully utilising the services provided by the University with regards to Career and Employability. Fiona Boyle, UoC Employability Manager, came to talk to the Panel representatives about what they knew about the service and their experiences with it. The representatives made several suggestions on how provision could be improved and the profile of this important service raised, amongst the students.

<u>PROGRESS ON CURRENT WORK</u>		
IDEA	UPDATE	COMMENTS
Ambleside Gym	A survey will be issued to Ambleside students this month to gain a better idea of what their requirements are. Ambleside students – please make sure that you complete it and have your say!	
Water dispensers	The Community & Partnerships Officer has spoken to the vice-chancellor and this is now progressing! Dispensers requested for- FHS- Bowscale, Brampton- dance corridor Lancaster- gateway building	Item to be closed once water fountains are in place.
Ambleside -	Could Ambleside students, still living in Windermere, contact the	Ambleside rep to also feedback to Community & Partnership

Windermere bus	Community & Partnership Officer?	Officer.
Reintroducing the service of topping up Cumbria cards on campus.	A list of options and discussions will be circulated to Panel members.	The Welfare & Support Officer to send list to Panel representatives as soon as possible.
Ambleside Car Park	It has been agreed for a survey will be repeated at busier times and the situation to be reviewed then.	Report back on any progress with regards to timing and outcome of new survey.
Microwaves and kettles to be available for students in Lancaster and Carlisle	<p>The issue was raised at the Student Voice Working Group as a number of students have made this request and the issue was also discussed at Staff/Student forums by Student Academic Reps.</p> <p>Possibility of having microwaves at catering outlets was discussed as were issues around responsibility for cleaning and maintenance of appliances.</p>	Continue to progress and provide further update at next Panel meeting.
Alternative time slots for Ambleside parcel collection.	This has been raised with the University, and facilities were unaware that this was the case and will work with LISS to have more time slots.	Once changes have been confirmed as implemented, suggestion can be closed.
Ambleside planting – for green areas to be wildflower planting/gardening areas providing volunteering opportunities	The Community & Partnerships Officer is awaiting a plan from conservation society. University are wary about up keep when students aren't present, however are willing to work with us.	Progress to be reported at the next Panel meeting.

NEW IDEAS CONSIDERED

08

Students should be able to take more books out of the library.

Discussion in support

- The 15 books limit out at a time is not enough when juggling many modules.
- For students with a special educational need this is more paramount, reading from the internet can be very difficult for some.
- Consider increasing limit for each year group. Final year should be allowed more books.

Alternatives

- Lecturers can print or share the text required for an assignment or module.
- The library can print or scan and email the required text.

DISCUSSION OUTCOME

The Panel voted in support of this Idea.

AGREED

The Panel has asked the Academic Officer to liaise with the University to amend policy to ensure that final year students and those with special educational needs are able to take our more books.

TO BE MONITORED UNTIL SATISFACTORY COMPLETION

<p>Hearing Loop Systems</p>	<p>Faulty loops have been repaired, signage is in place, funding is being sought for improving/expanding current system</p> <p>Concern has been expressed through the Student Voice working group, as student experiences in the meantime need to be better supported nonetheless.</p> <p>A monthly meeting has been arranged between Welfare & Support Officer and Disabled Students' Officer to ensure progress of effective technology to support students who have disabilities.</p>	<p>Report back to the Panel and students as progress is made.</p>
<p>Canteen facilities & food choices</p>	<p>A meeting with Baxter Storey and panel members was arranged. Unfortunately representatives could not attend, however some feedback was sent through and presented to UOC.</p> <p>It was noted that Brampton Road canteen times have been extended to 4pm.</p>	<p>The Panel would like to be kept up to date with changes made.</p>
<p>Free dyslexia tests</p>	<p>The Disabled Student's Rep and the Welfare Support Officer have been liaising with the newly appointed Assistive Technologist Officer at the Lancaster Campus. At a meeting, they discussed the updates regarding free or cheaper Dyslexia tests. Agreement was made to review the current situation and begin generating new ideas for the future.</p>	<p>Report back to the Panel and students as progress is made.</p>
<p>Library & additional facilities opening hours (photography studios, dark rooms etc.)</p>	<p>Lancaster library is open on Saturday and Sunday 12-5.</p> <p>LiSS are currently looking at costings for 24 hour and longer service hours. They will give feedback when they have thoroughly looked into it.</p>	<p>Report back to the Panel and students as progress is made.</p>

COMPLETED IDEAS

Prayer Rooms	Provision review at Brampton Road is ongoing as is continuous review of provision across all sites. This is led by Alex Logan and she urges students to send any feedback directly to her.	No further action required.
Long-term loan of University laptops in emergency cases	The Welfare & Support Officer confirmed that a system has now been in place since the start of the new Academic year.	No further action required.
NSS Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Make good use of our time2. Give us useful feedback, in time to apply it3. Demonstrate that our work is marked fairly4. Give us a break5. Enjoy helping us succeed6. Give us time to prepare for placement7. Show us the money8. Give us the Cumbria experience wherever we are	These are the points which were originally picked up by the Academic Officer last year and which now form part of the University's NSS action plan. Progression along these points are also tracked at Departmental Quality Committees which Departmental Reps attend and the NSS Steering Group meetings which the Officers attend.	No further action required.
Increase University use of renewable energy	The University is actively seeking such initiatives to apply to all new builds. In Lancaster, the new building between the Keep and College North, will have solar panels and the University is currently seeking better energy sources for other	No further action required.

	<p>existing buildings.</p> <p>The Environmental rep will work with the Welfare and Support Officer to raise/track environmental issues at University.</p>	
£5 notes in cash machines	<p>The machines are owned by the banks and are unable to handle the new £5 notes.</p> <p>London students have access to cash machines within 5 minutes from the campus and use of the existing machines across sites is not such to justify any changes at the moment.</p>	No further action required.
Additional printers for London	<p>Printers are now in place by the entrance and in the library.</p> <p>Instructions are now also attached to the printers.</p>	No further action required.
London lockers	<p>A number of lockers arrived in London but there was no suitable area to site them. 3/5 lockers were placed inside the reception area and are available to students. To date these lockers have not been used.</p>	No further action required.
Dated Student ID Cards	<p>The Panel received a report from the Community & Partnership Officer which explained the difficulties of implementing this. The Panel concluded that the benefits are not great and they appreciate the University stand point.</p>	No further action required.
Blackboard discussion forums	<p>The assigned Blackboard space was reviewed with UCSUs Marketing & Communications Facilitator and it was decided that this location is not effective or</p>	No further action required.

	<p>suitable for communication with students. Facebook pages and Officers will be further promoted and students encouraged to comment from there.</p>	
<p>Chill out areas</p>	<p>Alexandra Building</p> <p>-Updated but must remain in shared use.</p> <p>Brampton Rd.</p> <p>-There is an area of the cafeteria allocated as a chill out area.</p> <p>Calva & Skiddaw</p> <p>-Students can access these areas without purchasing food and drink.</p> <p>There are limitations to these allocations but they are continuously reviewed for improvement by the University.</p>	<p>No further action required.</p>
<p>Multiple plugging locations for charging equipment</p>	<p>The Panel has reported a general improvement and are satisfied.</p>	<p>No further action required.</p>
<p>Food waste diversion</p>	<p>The Environmental representative reports that as much as possible is actually being composted in Ambleside and Baxter Storey show an interest in applying this to other sites.</p> <p>Different processes are in place at each campus for food waste diversion, this is to be communicated to students by the Welfare & Support Officer.</p>	<p>No further action required.</p>
<p>Graphic design studio blinds at Brampton Rd.</p>	<p>Partial screening has been applied to the studio windows and both students & tutors have commented that this has made a big</p>	<p>No further action required.</p>

	improvement.	
Student safety campaign	We are working in partnership with LUSU for safety messages which are to be shared via UCSU social media channels by Welfare & Support Officer.	No further action required.
Sports Centre Bookings	Students are now negotiating with the sports centre as and when they need additional bookings and the feedback has been positive.	No further action required.
Ambleside Lighting	<p>Some lights have been redirected in the car park, which has reduced some lighting. Lighting on site will continue to be reviewed.</p> <p>Suggest that Community & Support Officer, together with Environmental and Campus Reps monitor this on an on-going basis.</p>	No further action required.