

My agreed objectives

1. Ensuring students Get value for money
2. Improving representation for specific student groups
3. Expanding facilities and support for commuter students
4. Group Objective ([5 ways to wellbeing](#))

Key areas of work since the last panel meeting

Officer: Emmanuel Haruna (President) May 2020



I'm looking for support and feedback from you on....

- Accessibility to the entrepreneurship side of the enterprise team. Want to talk to students and see what their experience has been
- Which elements of the method of delivery by the University would you as students love to be carried on with after the pandemic issue has passed and lock down restrictions have been relaxed (for example the move to online availability of a large proportion of learning resources usually only available physically in the library)

I have been working on the following;

Ensuring Students Get Value for Money

- **Recognising our volunteers:** [Mass transcript](#) and certificate developed and has now gone out to 790 of our students. We have also won the Kirklees Volunteering award and the certificates carry this recognition. This is linked with Careers services who will offer some support to students in line with employability
- **Hardship funds:** Partaking in the discussions that led to the hardship fund being opened up to EU students and equally available to international students. I have since kept questioning and demanding for numerical updates on applications to ensure international and EU students are accessing the hardship funds this period
- **Where do my fees go?** Still chasing the final stage of this up as and have had meetings including one with Support from our Chief exec to ensure this would be delivered. The Pandemic has had a slowdown impact on this
- **Inaccessibility of enterprise service:** This is still an ongoing work and I am talking to students who have had issues. We are working on a case study video that highlights the issues, shares experience and makes recommendations for change to the service.

Improving representation for specific groups

- **Care leavers** society is now finally ratified just before the lockdown restrictions due to Covid-19. Things would progress more much better when the current situation gets better
- **PGR students:** Worked with and supported our equalities officer in developing a PGR Charter which is a joint contractual agreement between PGR's and their supervisors spelling out clearly obligations of both parties to address some of the issues of conflict that have been raised previously

Facility developments:

- Following an audit of lockers and microwaves I carried out in collaboration with various school managers, it showed that aside the 620 new locker that came with the Barbara Hepworth building as a result of our inputs on initial consultation prior to the building, I have managed to get schools this academic year to provide another 446 new lockers with about 67 orders set for delivery before the lockdown hit. In total from the audit we now have over 1,200 new lockers across the 7 schools as well as 20 new microwaves.
- Work on other areas of facilities has been on hold due to the physical lockdown of University during this period

Group Objective

- To ensure we are supporting students with their mental health and wellbeing, I have worked with my team and we have ensured our advice service have been open all through to support students, we have had meetings with wellbeing and disability services to ensure students could and are still accessing support. We have also introduced other fun, interactive and engaging initiatives such as the HSU big night in Friday quiz which could help student loneliness

Others (Mainly Post covid-19)

- **Safety net policy:** Worked closely with our Education Officer in delivering the Safety net policy. We worked closely with the PVC T&L to negotiate this provision in ensuring that covid-19 had no detriment to student's final outcome.
- **Dealing with Covid-19 related issues:** I and my team have worked closely in addressing questions and issues relating to the pandemic. We have worked closely with the Su services as well as University services to answer as well as provide support ranging from academic related issues to wellbeing and even personal issues.
- **Lobbying for accommodation issues (early release from contracts, term 3 rent release etc):** Have been in conversation with the University senior leadership team and providers. Most student accommodation providers have responded positively with exception to DIGS which have only agreed for a 50% release option. We continue to Lobby DIGS have written to members of parliament in the constituencies around us to join in the campaigns we are supporting locally in Huddersfield and nationally through the NUS
- **Delivering SU awards 2020.** We had to for the first time deliver our annual SU awards online. This year myself and the Officer team hosted the awards through a YouTube Live session which was very well received with lots of engagement and interaction with the live stream and awards

What opportunities have my team and I had to be more innovative or creative?

- Covid-19 outbreak and the University going on physical lock down. We have had to work remotely like never before as well as lobby for positive and beneficial change with regards to minimising the impact of the pandemic
- Lobbying for accommodation issues by talking with the university, accommodation providers, and also messaging local MP's to support our work locally and nationally.

How have I made personal connections?

- Through working with students on individual issue and complains raised as a result of covid-19
- Officer live sessions on social media answering questions and giving explanations to a wide range of topics, issues and demands from students
- Hosting an episode of the HSU big night-in Friday quiz put up as a means of connecting to students during the lonely periods of covid-19
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How have I been part of an inclusive community?

- Working with the Dean of applied sciences as well as Course leader for Pharmacy in addressing dissatisfaction with safety net policy not applying to them in same way as other students.
- Taking on board and chasing up all cases from all students affected by covid-19
- Working with my team to deliver SU awards 2020

How have I created meaningful change?

- Linked with one of my objectives for this year, we submitted and won the Kirklees volunteering award Which is linked with the transcripts and certificates going out. So proud of where the work of recognising and valuing our volunteers have gotten to this year
- Worked closely with our Education Officer in delivering the Safety net policy. Took a lot to persuade the University into making this move but really glad we were able to pull this through
- Working to start our first care leavers society
- Working with my team through conversation with student accommodation providers as well as the University in lobbying for early release from term three accommodation contracts

Key meetings I have attended:	
Meeting name, date	Key points to note as discussed in the meeting/event
UCU strikes and role of the SU (Meeting with students) 12 th March	I and Rebekah met with two student to explain the stand the SU has taken regarding the strikes and the reasons behind the various steps we have taken as an exec team as well as a Union
University SLT and SU termly meeting, SU Board of trustees meeting 16 th March	We discussed various topics ranging from Social space provision, lockers & microwaves within school buildings, SU grant funding, climate emergency strategy to Change to SU charitable status as well as strategic developments I.e plans for a University new building We also touched on issues like the Corona virus, UCU strikes and issues with course delivery in Bahrain and the petitions against the University for the delivery
University Council 19 th March	We touched on Corona virus and University's response to the OFS on situation at Huddersfield, potential impact on applications and September start, UCU strikes and impact on studies as well as complaints scheme for affected student, appointment of new University Chancellor, change to SU constitution, estates related topics (e.g New faith centre build progress report, refurbishments and future plans). Also presented a report on progress with Officer's work and areas we need support from the University and the two papers I presented for approval were passed
On audit tender presentations (recruitment for HSU auditors) 20 th March	Was on a panel where we interviewed some auditing firms and companies in order to recruit for the next academic year
Academic integrity panel sessions 24 th March	Confidential
Meeting with deputy VC (DVC), 26 th March	Met with the DVC to address best way to work with the University leadership team amidst the lockdown situation. We agreed to have a meeting with the PVC T&L at least once a week and raise unsettled issues through her and she would refer if relevant, cases to the other members of the VCO
Meeting with PVC teaching and learning 27 th March	We raised issues that were coming up from students around assessments and exams, communications and clarity on plans for online delivery, laptops for students to work remotely with for those who don't have, hardship funds, accessibility of learning resources.
NUS conference (online) 31 st March- 2 nd April	Voting on national exec for next year, voting on campaigns and policies
Exec and management committee 31 st March	Assessments and exams issues currently on ground, no detriment policy and petitions to drive this forward, other issues arising and where we are with addressing them, running of the SU amidst lock down restrictions, SU awards 2020 plans
Catch up with pro vice chancellor teaching and learning (PVC T&L) 31 st March	No detriment policy and petitions from students. We got a no at this meeting but we tried to convince the PVC to put in everything in place to mitigate against any detriment to student outcomes due to covid 19 impact. We discussed issues with accommodation and challenges students are facing. We also discussed extensions, extenuating circumstances in the current situation
Meeting with Director of Finance and DVC 1 st April	HSU grant funding, financial forecasts and remodels given impact of corona virus, progress on transparency to students on where their fees go (assets to be developed and made accessible to students)
Meeting with PVC T&L 2 nd April	Safety net policy and how it applies to various students (Msc taught, Integrated masters, 2 nd and 3 rd years etc), clarity in communications to students, Visa issues with international students,
Global professional award program board meeting SU Board of trustees meeting 6 th April	Adapting program delivery to online, impact of covid 19 on anticipated progress and contingency plans for moving forward including potential online induction if campus is still closed by September
Meeting with PVC T&L 8 th April	Issues with Mpharm students and the safety net policy, how grades might appear on transcript with relation to covid 19 impact on learning for those whose marks are affected as well as other issues brought to us by students
Meeting with advice centre manager 15 th April	Discussed issues that officers need to be aware we may not have picked up from our interactions with students. We also talked about results and potential appeals due to covid 19 impact and how we may address this. Agreed to raise appeals policy as a discussion with the PVC T&L
Meeting with PVC T&L 16 th April	Discussed appeals policy and potential change if any due to covid 19 impact, handling appeals after exam results are released, any updates to graduation dates etc
Academic integrity (misconduct) panel meeting 16 th April	Confidential
Plans on Webinar presentation to QAA (student perspective on internationalisation) 20 th April	Invited by the Quality assurance agency as a member to deliver a webinar exclusive to QAA members from its member institutions as well as across the country more broadly to inform potential changes to improve international student experience and the work the QAA is doing in this area
SU and student services termly meeting 21 st April	Accommodation issues, lobbying DIGS on early contract release for students, Hardship funds and how accessible it is looking at current statistics, other issues relating to support services available to students this period
Exec and management 21 st April	Log of issues dealt with so far after covid 19 and the lock down, plans to address issues still ongoing,
Students network Zoom meeting 22 nd	Discussed issues students were facing and took notes on those to chase up addressing
Meeting with PVC T&L 24 th April	Appeals policy, fit to sit policy, online access to leaning resources, hardship funds, laptop loans etc
Cause for concern panel meeting 24 th April	Confidential
Formal complaint investigation meeting from an SU society 27 th April	Confidential
University international committee meeting	Hardship funds access stats for international students, Pres sessionals and plans for September, International office response and support for students amidst covid-19, VISA and immigration guidance for international students



Big Ideas which have been allocated to me:

Idea	Progress
1.	