



EDUCATION OFFICER REPORT

For the attention of:	Executive Committee	Taking place on:	24/04/17
Name:	Grace Anderson	Action:	To note

Summary: *This paper provides an update on the work of the Executive Committee member*

Priority campaign(s) and objective(s)

1. Guarantor Scheme
2. Open Access
3. New Deal for Student Parents and Carers
4. Personal Tutoring System
5. Made a Difference Awards

Progress on priority campaign(s)

ARU Ran Guarantor Scheme

So far:

- I presented the new findings and research to the Vice Chancellor.
- I have been told we are unable to run a pilot project because of issues with the Competitive Markets Authority.

What's next?

- I have spoken to Housing Hand about what a partnership with them would entail. I am going to go back to the residential service and the Vice Chancellor once I have this information to see if we can explore this route.
- I have reached out to my contacts at Student Unions which have university-ran guarantor schemes to see how they managed to secure a scheme despite the CMA's regulations.

Open Access

So far:

- I presented my report with the findings and recommendations to USU (University Student Union Liaison Group) and was met with a positive response. I discussed this further with the Vice Chancellor and one of the Deputy Vice Chancellors, Helen Valentine.
- Leigh and Jamie spoke to Helen further about when we can expect these changes to go ahead. There is some work to be done first, but Open Access is definitely on the list.

What's next?

- Ensure that before the new team start there is a confirmed timeline of when these changes will occur and that a service is responsible for Open Access.

New Deal for Student Parents and Carers

So far:

- As you know, these changes were agreed a while ago and we had to wait a while to find out what progress was being made on them. I received an update in March which I didn't believe was good enough. Kat and I then spoke to the Director of Student Services and One of the Deputy Vice Chancellors, Roderick Watkins, to relay this. We were then given a comprehensive update and action plan on these results.

What's next?

- We need to make sure the good progress for student parents and carers continues. Currently there is still speculation over whether the money that funded the Cambridge nursery has been ring fenced to support parents and carers in study; I am currently trying to find this out.
- I have created a detailed handover file on this for the new officer team to continue to lobby for these changes and build upon the recommendations given to ARU as a starting point of good practice.

Personal Tutoring System

So far:

- In our Let's Actually Be Honest Report, early results have shown that roughly 3/4 of students see their personal tutor as a source of support. Personal tutors are also the most known form of support for students.
- It's been a historic issue that students have often not had consistent support from personal tutors; some are very good, but often students will never have contact with them, be told their personal tutor is too busy to see them or their personal tutor will offer inappropriate advice/guidance.
- I have been raising this with several senior members of university staff regularly as well as in academic committees and with personal tutors.

What's next?

- I've developed a guide for personal tutors on supporting students with mental health problems. I've had great feedback about this from personal tutors. I am currently making a design brief for this and will make sure it is distributed to all personal tutors through the summer period.
- I am working on a proposal to ARU's senior management team with the Director of Student Services and the Deputy Head of Anglia Learning and Teaching on what we believe needs changing about ARU's personal tutoring system. I am hoping we will do this by June.

Made a Difference Awards

So far:

- We've finished the shortlisting period and we have now identified our shortlist, winners and VIP list. This will be sent out ASAP.
- We've confirmed everything else basically – make sure you get a ticket when they come out!