



ACADEMIC OFFICER REPORT

For the attention of:	Executive Committee	Taking place on:	09/12/15
Name:	Grace Anderson	Action:	To note

Summary: *This paper provides an update on the priority campaign(s) of the Executive Committee member*

Priority campaign(s) and objective(s)

Campaigns:

- Alternative assessments
- Peer mentoring and study packs
- Assessment literacy
- Education week

Other projects:

- Responding to the Higher Education Funding Council England (HEFCE) consultation on the National Student Survey (NSS) and Unistats
- Responding to the Higher Education Green Paper (*Fulfilling Our Potential: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility, and Student Choice*)

Separate papers submitted on the nursery campaign and Where My Rent Went

Progress on priority campaign(s)

Alternative assessments

I have found out about a working group within the university working on inclusive assessments, and I am asking to be involved in this project. This project has been on hold for work on consultations to happen, and the recent campaign against the closure of the nursery.

Peer mentoring and study skills packs

ALSS are considering active support for this project, as the aim is for me to talk about this in several lectures in a faculty and get the study pack information put into VLE resources. I have ordered several items for the study skills packs. I have met with Study Skills Plus who have endorsed the project, given information and freebies for the study packs, and have given support on the creation of online training.

Assessment literacy

I have given a presentation to the working group I attend on this, on how assessment literacy needs to play a part in changing the attitude towards assessment, and contribute to its future as a learning tool rather than a hurdle at the end of a module. We have created a rough draft of the document which is getting feedback.

Education Week

This is happening in Semester Two, Week 7. I'm currently creating a timetable of events I'd like, to make sure they are feasible and right for each campus. My aim is to show students what is available to support them during their studies and create a positive approach to education.

Responding to the Higher Education Funding Council England (HEFCE) consultation on the National Student Survey (NSS) and Unistats

This consultation was due for submission on **Friday 4th December**. It will be put up as an article on the website after it has been submitted. The main parts of this is that HEFCE proposed removing question 23 (the only SU question) and replacing it with an optional bank of questions. We agreed that this is the way forward, as the SU question was vague and gave us little feedback on the services we provide, whereas choosing a more specific question allows us to use the NSS as a tool for feedback and improvement.

Responding to the Higher Education Green Paper (*Fulfilling Our Potential: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility, and Student Choice*)

This is a paper was released on 2nd November, it's 105 pages (350 words), and the biggest change in higher education since 1992. It is proposing a Teaching Excellence Framework, amongst commenting on access to university and changes to our grading system, as well as a lot more. I see this paper as quite negative, as do many SU's, alongside academics who are against the paper. The consultation on this is due on **Friday 15th January**. I have had a meeting on this with SU staff and Executive Officers, and have been to a day at the National Union of Students to get assistance in writing this consultation.

Further support required from the Executive Committee/Students' Union

Peer mentoring and study skills packs

I would like feedback on what should be in the study packs, and help promoting this to students (especially through faculty and postgraduate reps).

Assessment literacy

If anyone would like to look at this draft and give any feedback, email me and I'll let you know. If anyone would like to sit on this working group with me, do let me know. (g.anderson@angliastudent.com)

Education Week

Any ideas of what events could be held and offers to assist in this week would be very helpful.

Responding to the Higher Education Green Paper (*Fulfilling Our Potential: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility, and Student Choice*)

Your feedback on anything in this would be very important to me. Anyone interested, I can send helpful articles on separate aspects of the paper so you don't have to read the whole thing, I can talk to anyone about it, I even have a presentation, if you'd like to be involved in any way please let me know. This is a huge change to higher education and affects a lot of things.