



## CAMPAIGN UPDATE REPORT

<b>Prepared for:</b>	Faculty Voice Committee (FVC) and Liberation, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (LEDIC)	<b>Date:</b>	25/05/2018
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**Summary:** *This paper provides an update on the implementation of the campaign(s) of the Executive Committee member*

### Retention

**Aim:** Does involvement with the SU correlate with good student retention/continuation rates?

#### Objective(s):

1. Email key stake holders to register interest and begin process
2. Collect Data and analyse
3. Create Report
4. Use Recommendations to Create Working Group

COMPLETE

IN PROGRESS

NOT STARTED

NOT STARTED

#### Updates:

1. Email was sent to key stake holders and experts. Awaiting reply to finalise data needed and then will begin data analysis.
2. I collected data however an issue with data protection has meant re-contacting Teesside to discuss how they got around this. Conversations about how we move around this seem positive and will be picked up in the New Year. Currently we receive data two years behind (so I would be working with data from 2014/15 which makes our research out of date before it's even begun. I'm talking to Ash Mcgregor (Academic Registry) and Ruth Taylor (ProVice Chancellor for Retention) around the the possibility of using our data before it's sent to the regulator and becomes out of date. The meeting will be early in the new year.  
The report will be in the style of our Let's Be Honest report in keeping with our strong feeling that what we do to improve student mental health will ultimately improve retention.

UPDATE: I am in the process of drafting a proposal document to explain to the university why this research will benefit both organisations. I need to ensure that I am clear about how beneficial the Students' Union is to retention. This proposal will go to the Student Retention Steering Group on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

UPDATE 28/02: After looking into the data sharing agreement it appears the Students' Union is unable to share data back with the university. This has led to the reconsideration of what this project will look like. I am disappointed I won't be able to achieve my manifesto point due to legalities out of my control but I will be looking into Students' Union involvement and mapping that engagements over the NSS results to see if there are target courses/demographics that we can further support.

UPDATE: I met with Abi Dickinson (Activities Manager) and Rose (Campaigns and Education Enhancement Coordinator) to discuss how we use our own data to create a report. Within the Activities Team they are using NSS data to map their course based society engagement and

see where there are areas of further support. I intend to work from this model to create a union wide piece of engagement research so we can target areas of support. I have emailed MSL (Membership Services Limited) our website provider to support us in generating this data as it means pulling a substantial amount of data from the website. MSL have recently responded and our next steps is to learn how to pull this data from the instructions they have sent, analyse and create a report, pulling on key themes and areas of support.

## Teaching Excellence

**Aim:** Lobby the university to create an internal teaching excellence framework which has students as partners to actually measure teaching excellence

**Objective(s):**

1. Lobby the university to create an internal measurement for teaching excellence

COMPLETE

2. Create a working group of university and students to feed into the definition of ARU teaching excellence

IN PROGRESS

3. ARU feedback mechanisms fit for purpose review

IN PROGRESS

4. Lobby the university to use this measure to benefit students

IN PROGRESS

### Updates:

1. Emailed Adam Longcroft (Anglia Learning and Teaching) to discuss my proposal. He suggested emailing a colleague as they already looked into this however the idea was dropped when the government mandated TEF was introduced. Waiting for a reply.  
UPDATE 28/02: Anglia Learning and Teaching have confirmed their support for the project. They will be communicating the project to the university.
2. **UPDATE:** I have confirmed with Anglia Learning and Teaching that we will look into an internal measure of teaching excellence.

I am bringing to executive committee a number of questions as well as some content so that we can collectively consider some criteria to go towards the end framework. After executive committee have agreed a list of criteria these guidelines will be taken to a group including the Anglia Learning and Teaching subcommittee so that we can dissect, consider, debate and ultimately condense the guidelines into 10 key criteria agreed by all.

UPDATE 28/02: I have sent my work out to the Executive committee for comment as the representatives of the student body. They will have ability to consult more on the project throughout its development.

3. The module evaluation survey is under review, I intend to be in those discussions and will update further when these meetings begins  
UPDATE 28/02: Conversations about reviewing feedback have been a hot topic. The university recognises that the feedback mechanisms it currently uses could be improved and I bring this conversation to many working groups. Unfortunately it is a very large project to undertake and currently they are moving to make the Module Evaluation Survey online so it can be changed in a more timely fashion.
4. Once this framework is in place it will be created by staff and students collectively to create a 'best practice' framework that staff can then use to develop their teaching and students can use as guidelines to support their learning. We could potentially use this to redevelop the MAD award criteria.  
UPDATE 28/02: I'm excited to see that the conversations with the university I've had so far have been met with praise for the project and a will to work in

collaboration to create a document fit for both students and staff. My view is that this project will be used by the university. To what extent right now, I'm unsure but looking forward to the projects development.

UPDATE: This project has been taken to the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Education and she agrees this would be an important and interesting tool for academic staff and students. We are both really keen to ensure student involvement in this however, she thinks that this tool could form part of/be a joint document with the university education strategy (which is huge!). To be able to do this, it would mean condensing/rethinking the principles and my next step is to work with Anglia Learning and Teaching and some post graduate students specialising in the Teaching Excellence Framework and teaching excellence to develop this. I think the best way to do this is to (where applicable) take our principles and link them to already existing policy and documents.

#### **Other relevant updates:**

Conversations about graduation being moved to July have restarted and are looking positive. This does however, mean re-submitters will not be able to graduate with their class in the ceremony.

UPDATE 20/12 Chasing the Academic Registry to be a member of the group which discusses this. Unlikely to be in time for 2019 graduations.

UPDATE 31/01 I am now invited to these meetings – unfortunately this meeting clashes with a Trustee Subcommittee meeting but I will be sending Johanna in my place and will fully brief her beforehand.

UPDATE: The conversation is still ongoing as most options for moving will lead to negative effects in one way or another. For example to fit this into timetabling there's a possibility that we would need to move teaching week one forward a week. We're still communicating what we should do and I will keep everyone updated.

I'm writing to local MPs to discuss the Let's Be Honest report as well as the possibility of student discounted public transport in Cambridge. UPDATE: Both MPs have replied, setting up dates currently.

UPDATE 20/12: Daniel Zichner came to visit the union on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Let's Be Honest report. Overall he agreed nothing in the report was a surprise. He discussed taking the report to his parliamentary group and we will continue to chase in the new year.

UPDATE: 31/01 After a successful meeting with Vicky Ford she is a big advocate for the promotion of being able to register at your local GP and your university GP. She has also given us numerous contacts within parliament to discuss the relevant recommendations around the Let's Be Honest Report.

She has asked that we give her the contact details for all the professional companies we have with regards to paramedics, nurses or any other course that has a practice based placements around the travel costs and how that affects students mental health (with fees and finance being the number one contributor to poor mental health).

UPDATE: We have met with key players in the university to discuss the Let's Be Honest report and from that an action plan is being created. From this we have agreed with the university that a mental health training course will be made available for all members of staff.

### Dance Studio

UPDATE 20/12: The Students' Union and Active Anglia are in conversations about who/how the dance studio will be ran. We are very much keen to give students priority and Active Anglia are working collaboratively to ensure a good partnership.

UPDATE 31/01: The Students' Union and Active Anglia have confirmed the timetable split for the dance studio. We are not waiting for budget to be released so we can refurbish and modify the dance studio to suit all our needs. We are still unsure of an opening date.

I am also still championing for the deal with the university (they will facilitate an appropriate off campus site for societies who used to use the dance studio) to continue for those societies where the dance studio still won't accommodate them – for example pole fitness until we get suitable poles.

UPDATE: The dance studio is built! We're in the process of creating a student bookable timetable with clubs and societies being given priority. We're looking to have the space functional in two weeks.

### University Mental Health Day

University Mental Health Day is March 1<sup>st</sup> and we are planning a collective event with Student Services. On the day we will be holding mindfulness sessions in PTH and Chelmsford (venue to be confirmed). Throughout the month of March we will also be running a whiteboard campaign with the theme of 'community' as well as social media updates and sharing student content so keep an eye out for that.

### FMT UPDATE:

Hopefully you've all seen/heard about my video on social media. After the abolishment of Faculty Board (FB - a strategic level faculty meeting) there has been no replacement mechanism for students to share feedback at a strategic level. All the items that went to FB have now been distributed to either meetings that officers already sit on or to the Faculty Management Team (FMT). We have requested that students have a seat on this meeting and the topic is being discussed by the Deans of the faculty on Thursday (17/01/2017). I will update on the results of this and the next actions we intend to take after we have heard from this meeting.

UPDATE 28/02: We have now agreed with the university our plans for the Faculty Partnership Team which has been agreed by the university. Next steps are to train and support officers and faculty reps to make the meeting as useful as possible.

### Articles and Bye-Laws

I have recently taken on comments given at council, through the democracy review, by the executive and through conversations with students and the union has seen an opportunity to review and change their articles and bye-laws. This is a very difficult process that needs sign off from the President, the Trustees, the university board of governors as well as legal support.

This process will look into how bound we are by ridged articles and move to giving more responsibility to bye-laws which can be changed much faster. It was looks into the conversation of accountability and accessibility of council and moves away from what we know isn't working and leaves students with the ability to create a new, more accessible student members meeting.

**UPDATE: The Articles and Bye Laws were approved at the AGM. Thank you to those that attended or proxy'd.**

**Student Charter Review**

I have been sitting on a working group working towards making the student charter a much smaller, more accessible document that focuses on the commitments the university makes to students and the expectations of students who study at Anglia Ruskin University.

**Access, Participation and Student Support Finance**

With the Office for Students focusing on student support, protection and value for money, universities have been asked to create and submit many documents including an Access and Participation Plan which focuses on supporting 'at risk' students. The beginning of conversations have started with a view on how we support these students more effectively.

UPDATE: I sent out a presentation to exec that one person has replied to. Please could you take a look and give me your feedback as soon as possible or set up a phone call with me so I can run you through it.

**OTHER THINGS:**

Since council I have been writing consultation papers on the education strategy and the committee structure at ARU. I am in the processes of starting an awareness campaign for contract cheating and developing a campaign for the module retake fees paper the university gave to use the day before council. I have also been acting in my role as chair to organise the CEO appraisal, a personal development review for the SU senior management team, developing the university student wellbeing strategy and met with Vicky Ford to further discuss how to support placement students.

FVC/LEDIC are asked to **DISCUSS**