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PRESIDENT

My campaigns, policy, and other work

My campaigns

International student support (team)	In Progress

Introduction:

Students who come from different education system faces tremendous challenges when they come to our university. Identifying exactly where the loop holes are — why are the students facing so many barriers? What are those barriers? What are the existing services provided by the university and across other institutions to tackle some of common problems which the student faces..

Identifying the problems:

 Each officer will be working individually on some of the issues identified by us.

1. **FEES REDUCTION**:- International students pays such huge about of money when they come to UK. On the other hand the home students fees are capped.

For Ex: I. For UG Home student; they pay 9000£ (capped) whereas an international students pay 14500£ yearly for the similar services university provides.

II. For PG Home students pay 5000£ (capped) fees whereas International student pays thrice the amount i.e. 14500£.

(the disparity between the fees is huge)

The question to think about here are the students getting the right and adequate support (worth the money they pay) at ARU.

If not how why is the disparity happening?

What can we do to increase the support available to all students (being inclusive)

2. **QUALITY OF SERVICES:-** International students have being provided with variety of services to support their academics throughout their time at ARU for ex: student advice, employability service, I Centre, money advice, health, and wellbeing support. (In theory even after these services being in place why are the highest number of dropouts of students in each academic year are International students?

This is a widespread problem all International Institutions are facing across UK. Are the international students coming in the hopes of getting right education (paying huge amount of fees) and left just like that to find a way for themselves?

What can we do to resolve the barriers students are facing here, how can we support them truly ? Quality of rightful education is every student's right. Students come from across the globe at ARU, keeping in mind the education system is different in all countries. It's no doubt students feel differently when students come at ARU.

Finding out the grassroot level of problems and finding a rightful solution (support) in place is what should be done.

3. **LANGUAGE BARRIER:** One of the main identified barrier students are facing is the language barrier which is causing a lot of turmoil on the international students.

(to state few : lack of communication from the students are leading them to misunderstand the lectures, leading to academic misconduct and plagiarism, discontinuations, being expelled)

Change in behavior in students and psychological well -being. (being shy in communicating with staffs and other students)

Coming to a diverse university like ours with students studying and organizing their workload differently, students should be able to learn from each other. Research have shown students learn better in an informal atmosphere much better than a more formal front (which ARU tries to provide)

Then why are the international students not able to grow academically in that environment?

Students when they apply for ARU they have an interview before the university issues CAS form, is it enough to understand the level of English a student has! The other question is what are the support available for students who have passed the spoken English interview but need support to improve their academic writing for assignments.

(We don't know at this stage whether all the students are able to follow the lectures conducted).

4. **NUS:** As we mentioned before, this problem is not only pertaining to ARU students this is a common problem across UK. Finding right support from the NUS might bring a clearer perspective on the things we can implement practically.

Community Development sessions	In progress

We as an institution take a lot of pride in advertising about being very inclusive in our diversity (diversity in gender, demographics, orientation). Everything sounds good in theory but when it comes to the practicality of it what we face is – discrimination, gaslighting, microaggressions, abuses (sexual, racial, physical). Why are things like this still happening in this century.
Students should be coming together and learning in harmony. Although we cannot sometimes control a lot of people's view and perspective, what we can do is to help each other grow. Is it not that the main purpose of education!
With students having deep rooted misogyny, coming to a diverse environment like our university, it creates a lot of fiction amongst the student population.
It affects the mental wellbeing of a student. With implementing an Equality Diversity and inclusivity training which is spread throughout their time at ARU (Anglia Ruskin University) gives every student's an opportunity to educate themselves and being more open minded and progressive. Unlearning some of the unconscious biases as an institution and individually is so important. Making all students feels valued and respected. As an institution we should be focusing on making students intolerant towards injustices.
Talking from the staff's perspective are all staffs trained to handle some the complaints and cases students bring up to them!
Things which are in action:
Creating introductory training for all the new students when they join ARU. Those training sessions to be called as community building sessions which will be inclusive of CONSENT, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING, LIBERATION GROUPS TRAINING, RACISM IN HE.

In discussions with Dr. Apurba (Deputy Dean AHSS), Katie Potts (EDI manager) at university to work on implementing these sessions into the curriculum.
So far, the colleague from the university agrees with the topic of sessions.

1. Talking about consent and sexual abuse: To collaborate with our wellbeing services and our Independent sexual violence advisor on this. University is quite certain they want to implement this as soon as possible.
2. Microaggressions/ racism: Plan is to work with our race equality advocates to deliver the sessions, allowing students to get more engaged in the open conversation (student to student interactions to be more productive.)
3. Mental health wellbeing and suicide prevention: with the recent case of a loss of a student due to c

Staff response (Team)	Completed/Ongoing
From talking to different students, we received information saying the staff vs student's response time was more and it caused a lot of delay in getting a right response from the university. For now, Faculty of B&L have 3 working days as a response time. Faculty of AHSS has recently implemented to reduce their response time from 5 working days to 3 days. (We were successful) Faculty of HEMS and S&E we will be lobbying the university in future to reduce their response time.	

Other relevant updates

Projects, Ideas and Policies:
1. I am currently working on drafting a SU good speech policy which will be our own independent work keeping in mind all our student voices.

   We are working closely with the officials at the University and the city council members to provide a safer atmosphere for the students especially when they go to clubs. With the recent events of spiking drinks on high rise we are trying to make sure all our students are heard, and they feel safe.
2. Our SU this year to working closely with Camb SU on Reclaim the Night this year (11/03) and we are hoping to still get more people to act as stewards for the march! All training is provided by Camb SU and there is an FAQ doc if anyone wants to know a little more note as the entire event is for female-identifying and non-binary people that only those who identify as female and non-binary can be stewards, but allyship and spreading the word is extremely appreciated!

Sign-up form - https://forms.gle/WgnR62CKpcdnsfqG8

FAQs - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a1d7J6O7eaXArkr85-YqGpB5obq4jvqr19lSd-dggt0/edit#

3. *We are continuing our work with local city council to make it safer for students during the night. We will be doing internal awareness campaigns regarding safer nights.*

Updates from committees and meetings that I sit on:

Senate Committee

Non-Senate committee

Students' Union Committees

Working groups (and others)