



EDUCATION OFFICER REPORT

For the attention of:	Executive Committee	Taking place on:	30/11/16
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. Let's Be Honest
2. ARU Ran Guarantor Scheme
3. Open Access
4. #TEFOff

Progress on priority campaign(s)

Let's Be Honest

So far:

- I wrote the survey we've had open, Let's Actually Be Honest, to gather feedback from students on support and attitudes around mental health at ARU.
- I've been organising project teams to meet consisting of people interested in the campaign at Fresher's Fair (and anyone else!) to come and help us plan the next campaign stages and lead parts of the project.

Interested? Come along, here's the link to the first event:

<https://www.angliastudent.com/ents/event/3756/>

What's next?

- Creating a report of the data we've gathered and making recommendations to act on in Semester Two
- Running more Be a Friend events.
- Meeting with MPs, particularly in Cambridge, to talk about local mental health provision and the problems students face accessing this.

ARU Ran Guarantor Scheme

So far:

- I've met with our accommodation service to talk about the practicalities of this. There's been issues raised in the past by ARU's risk management department over whether this should be something we start doing.
- I've done research and made contact with other SU's and universities that deliver a guarantor scheme and so far I've come across no-one that is already offering one that would recommend against taking the risk.

What's next?

- Presenting these new findings and helping to find solutions to mitigate risk while seeing how this could be resourced for a pilot year.

- Looking at ARU recommended landlords and seeing why they're recommended/if they're not very good (as some universities only give guarantor when students use "approved" landlords/letting agencies).

Open Access

So far:

- Leigh and I, alongside last year's officer team, have been lobbying ARU for a year to refresh the provision in open access and create some ownership over the space. We have finally secured a meeting to talk about this provision.
- I have ran a survey filled in by 67 students asking what they believe are the best things about the space currently and what should be improved about the space.

What's next?

- Put this into a report to take to a meeting with Student Services on Friday 11th November (there will be further update to council with how this meeting went).
- Send the report to students who specified they would like to see the results and recommendations.
- Give recommendations to ARU and lobby for them to be accepted and a timeline produced for changes/renovations to this area.
- Ask ARU to put a service in charge of Open Access (e.g. the library) as lots of the current problems stem from having no-one regulating the space.

#TEFOff

So far:

- In autumn 2015 the government proposed something called the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) as part of a new Higher Education bill. To break it down, they want to measure teaching quality based on the National Student Survey (NSS), Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey (DLHE) and retention figures (that means things like dropout rates and numbers of students changing courses). They then want to give universities a bronze, silver or gold award and raise student fees in line with those "awards".
- I don't think this is a good measurement of excellent teaching and I certainly don't think that quality grows on fees. **ARU Students' Union is, and always will be, against any rises in tuition fees.** We've been saying this to the Vice Chancellor and other university staff ever since this was considered.
- ARU is taking part in the TEF, as well as most universities in England now, and will be raising tuition fees for new students in the 2017/18 academic year. If you started your course in or before the 2016/17 academic year there will be no impact on your fees.

What's next?

- We are still planning the action we will be taking, however we do know that we don't want fees to rise for any student and we don't want students to take part in the NSS or the DLHE without being fully informed about what that data will go towards. The action we take will likely be based around these two areas.