

Education Executive Minutes

Date & time	9 th March 2021 – 18:00
Location	MS Teams
Attendance	<p>Alissa Chohan (VP Education) – Chair Kate Roberts (President) Henn Warwick (VP Wellbeing & Diversity) Maia Jarvis (School Rep – Performing & Digital Arts) Ellie Matthews (School Rep - Engineering, Physical & Mathematical Sciences and BAME Students Collective Convenor) Grace Waterman (School Rep – Life Sciences & the Environment) Sampada Kotcherlakota (Commuting Students Collective Convenor)</p> <p>Phill Dowler (Democracy Coordinator) – Secretary</p>
Apologies	

Item	Action	Responsible	Due
4.	AC to meet with JK to discuss EPMS. If deferred then further action needed.	AC	ASAP
5.	AC to investigate restricted exam spaces	AC	ASAP
6.	EM to meet with EPMS to clarify what decisions have been made and why for transparency.	EM	ASAP
7.	MJ to forward survey on assessment methods to AC	MJ	ASAP
8.	KR to re-arrange academic societies focus group.	KR	ASAP

Item	Notes	Action
1. Welcome	AC welcomes members.	
2. Minutes of the last meeting	AC updates progress on actions and minutes were agreed.	
3. Officer Update	<p>AC takes paper as read focuses on questions built into the paper.</p> <p>Do you have any thoughts around changes / improvements you would like to see to the Personal Tutoring system, or any specific struggles that you face?</p> <p>The Executive agreed on the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the consistency in support provided across personal tutors. • Improving continuity of personal tutors' year on year. Some students have had a new personal tutor every year. • Minimum standards for communication. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior safety net to catch students that slip through due to inconsistencies in support. 	
4. School Rep Update	<p>EM identifies that the work within EPMS is focusing on the workload of students within the school. It has been acknowledged that there is a higher level of workload than normal, but there is a reluctance to make any changes within this academic year. This is leading to severe frustration, burn out, disengagement and disenfranchisement.</p> <p>GW & MJ have had quieter periods focusing on launching virtual study spaces but have struggled with engagement.</p>	AC to meet with JK to discuss EPMS. If deferred then further action needed.
5. Campaign	<p>AC is looking to run a campaign to run activities or content for term three to reduce stress from exams and assessments.</p> <p>GW identifies that CeDAS leads have been piloting themed study sessions within LSE which have been successful.</p> <p>EM notes that there's concern about actually being able to sit exams in the library or at home. Could there be restricted specific exams spaces for those that need it?</p>	AC to investigate restricted exam spaces
6. Term 3	<p>AC led a discussion regarding term three of the academic year focussing on questions in the paper.</p> <p>After a discussion around the number of students that might return to campus, there is a consensus that the majority of students either already have, or plan to over the Easter. This is with the exception of those from outside of the UK who are restricted by travel.</p> <p>In regards to encouraging testing, ideas including restricting access to buildings, spot checks and incentivising were all discussed. Concern was raised that some students may stop accessing vital University services due to negative experiences of testing.</p> <p>On safety, there was consensus that the public has become too relaxed when considering personal responsibility and safety in relation to COVID-19. Students frequently do not wear masks while on campus, including in spaces like the library. Expectations of staff and students on campus needs to be revisited.</p> <p>Looking to exams and assessments, the first year cohort have the most confidence as the plans are what they've experienced so far. Whereas for some</p>	EM to meet with EPMS to clarify what decisions

	<p>second and especially third years, there is still some confusion and anxiety.</p> <p>Some decisions within EPMS have been made that lack clarification, communication and transparency.</p> <p>When looking ahead to specific term three activities, members agreed they would like to see departments hosting meet and greets with key staff as some first year students will still have never met some key departmental staff.</p> <p>There is some desire within academic staff teams to run activities but so far there have been no formal plans or at least any communications yet about plans.</p>	<p>have been made and why for transparency.</p>
7. 21/22	<p>AC led a discussion into how we can move forward with the positive changes that were made to education as a result of the pandemic, and to reflect on the unsuccessful changes.</p> <p>Members identified the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students want to be consulted on a large scale about what has worked well. • Students don't expect or have a desire for education to revert to pre-pandemic activity, and would prefer a new vision. • There will be cohorts that haven't sat exams in at least two years which will need extra support. • Lecture recordings should be kept standard practice. • Attendance monitoring needs reviewing as neither pre-pandemic nor current methods are appropriate. 	<p>MJ to forward survey on assessment methods to AC</p>
8. AOB	<p>AC provided an update that the University is looking to review the extensions policy for the next academic year would like to consult students on this before any policy is drafted.</p> <p>AC noted that the responsibility of the Universities' 'You Said, We Did' campaigns have shifted to school level and invited School reps to share relevant comms.</p> <p>KR updated members on the progress of RHSU's academic societies review. There was some confusion as some members hadn't received any invite to a focus group whereas others had, but were unable to attend. The group are very keen to be involved in this work however.</p> <p>KR updates members on sustainability work and identifies that a task and finish group is going to be</p>	<p>KR to re-arrange academic societies focus group.</p>

	<p>set up which includes students. KR invited interested members to reach out to be involved.</p> <p>PD provides an update on elections, inviting members to attend Candidate Question Time and keep any eye out for communications regarding voting.</p>	
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