

Student Support & Wellbeing Committee

Date: Tuesday 06 June 2017

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Venue: Sir Alexander Fleming Building 119

Present

Christian Adams (Secretary)

Simon Archer

David Ashton

Hannah Bannister (Chair)

Mary Bown

Lorraine Craig

Emily-Jane Cramphorn

Sarah Freedman

Joanna Haigh

Lizzie Huckle

Fran Hyatt

Colin Kerr

Sue Mannion

Louise Menard

Arash Mostofi

Rosie Summerhayes

Leigh Turvey

Angela Urasala

Lynda White

Denis Wright

Agenda

1. **Apologies for absence:** Julie King, Paul Noke and Andrew Willson.

2. **Welcome and introductions**

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting – 7 February 2017**

Paper A

Minutes were approved.

4. **Matters arising**

(i) **Action Tracker**

Paper B

6. **Interruption of Studies** - Denis Wright and David Ashton working on developing a formal process for supporting students prior to, during and returning from an interruption.

The policy will cover interruptions for medical and non-medical grounds.

Areas of concern noted by members of the committee:

- Departments still registering students without a fit to return assessment
- Returning students are assessed after a period of rest but symptoms may return once studies are resumed. Need for ongoing assessment.

- Assessments made by Health Centre staff affected by lack of information for example from the home doctor
- Different impact on international students, need a visa to return to be assessed at IC Health Centre, cost burden for student
- It was noted that any IOS procedure should take into account the use of regulation section 9 where circumstances are severe enough to warrant it. This would normally be a last resort once all avenues have been exhausted.

David Ashton confirmed that the areas of concern raised are being considered in the development of the policy and there will be a holistic approach.

8. Pre-sessional student's ID cards and accommodation – CfAE members of staff working with David Parrott in Registry to establish a work around for the ID card issue so this is ongoing. UG students will be housed during week zero, but PG students will still have to move out during week zero. Fewer rooms available at GradPad so students may be housed in Woodward or Xenia.

9. Mental Health Difficulties - Now complete and ready to launch.

10. e-Halls - Decision to be made on whether to buy Paul Beaumont's code or acquire similar software that can interact with Banner.

[ACTION: Hannah Bannister to meet with ICT and decide the way forward].

11. Council tax for partners of sub-wardens - Ongoing, information has been collected from the relevant Council authorities.

[ACTION: Paul Noke]

(ii) **Review of Alcohol and Substance Misuse Policy** to take into account the use of smart drugs.

[ACTION: Hannah Bannister to take this forward]

5. Catalyst Fund update

Funding has been awarded from HEFCE for the Sexual Violence Initiative.

Bystander Intervention training: 2 members of staff now trained and one more to be trained in November, development of this training is on-going, content and delivery currently being assessed.

Hannah Bannister meeting with an outside provider to discuss training frontline staff on disclosure of sexual assault/rape. Discussions with the outside provider will also look at providing support to the trained members of staff through (1) regular meetings (2) professional supervision by the provider (3) link to anti-harassment and bullying adviser (4) training on how to take notes as may be required for court.

[ACTION Hannah Bannister to work with IC Communications team to raise awareness/promote.]

6. Student Death Protocol

The current protocol is currently under review by David Ashton and Hannah Bannister Needs to set out more clearly what happens at the first point of contact and where the responsibilities lie, once a draft is ready it will be circulated to the SSWC and other relevant persons around the College.

It was noted that student deaths are disclosed on a need-to-know basis, relevant for Student Financial Support to be notified to stop email requests about money being sent to deceased students.

[ACTION: David Ashton and Hannah Bannister]

7. Update from Wardens

There has been an increase in cannabis possession in Halls.

To deal with the problem (1) residence tribunals to be held in a timely manner (2) the punishment handed out by the tribunal is no more severe than what a Warden is able to hand out – should the punishments at tribunal be more severe? (3) As a deterrence advertise the stats for students caught with cannabis and the consequences.
Noted that this may not act as deterrent – possibly take the approach of highlighting the dangers of cannabis use.

8.Update from Support Services

Occupational Health

Mental Health Awareness Week was a success. Provided sessions with male facilitator for male attendees, promote men to speak more openly about mental health issues.

Currently 100 mental health first aiders at IC.

Sports Imperial: fitness classes now offered at Hammersmith and Chair Cross campus.

Square Mile Relay on 15 June – open to staff and students

Computer health - new strategy launched over a 4 year period. Currently staff are the main target but this will be expanded to include students.

Warning: currently a measles epidemic coming from the EU.

International Student Support

Website updated with guidance for EU students on their current status in the UK with specific information on Comprehensive Sickness Insurance.

Highlight that there are likely to be more immigration changes affecting international students regardless of the outcome of the General Election.

Team are concerned about international students who change their course. Visas granted from 6 April 2016 are now linked to a specific course and this has implications for any future changes (i.e. adding a year in industry, changing from a BEng to an MEng)

Counselling

45 students on the waiting list and will not be seen by the end of the term. These students have been updated.

Have had a Roadshow to raise mental health awareness.

Counselling now offered at Charing Cross campus – room not ideal.

Plan to review current operations to assess how to make best use of resources.

Highlight that many staff across the College are not aware that the Mental Health Advisers are not an emergency contact.

Disability Advisory Service

438 students have declared a disability but not all have made contact for an assessment.

Plan to increase awareness using TV screens around the College using different languages.

71 students referred for mentoring support.

Reasonable Adjustment Plan: current focus has been on 1st year students but the plan is to expand to cover all students, just over £ 21 000 has been spent on support e.g. note-taking and equipment.

Referral process in place with the Health Centre and Occupational Health.

Team making monthly visits to Silwood Park Campus, SPLD tutoring provided monthly together with Skype sessions.

Health Centre

Increased CBT provision has decreased wait time and has enabled students to be seen sooner, current waiting list is 8 weeks so UG students may only be seen in the new academic year, hope to sustain and possible increase the CBT supervision.

NHS partner retiring in September – will not seek a new NHS partner.

Appointments should increase from January with staff returning from maternity leave.

Student Union Advice

Food vouchers - a few students have made use of the vouchers. Please refer any student who may need the food vouchers, plan to raise awareness of availability.

Student Hub

Hub to be refurbished over the summer.

14 students have taken up the Rent Guarantor Scheme offered by the College.

There is a notable increase in the number of medical and welfare students requiring places in Halls. Currently there are 55 places available in ordinary Halls and 20 in Evelyn Gardens.

Interruption of studies does create difficulties finding available accommodation where students do not return at the start of the academic year.

Student Financial Support

Currently £ 64 000 in funding has been given to students.

Imperial College bursary:

- the assessment for continuing students to be brought forward, students can apply from June, this should help students plan better financially for the year ahead.

- care-givers to be paid their bursary 2 months earlier in September

Funding for EU students confirmed for 2018 for UG students.

IC bursary linked to government funding so this may change depending on the outcome of the General Election, changes may lead to more students in need.

9. Global Relief fund (for information) [DW] Paper Q

Fund created to support students who have been sponsored by an overseas scholarship that is then withdrawn or unpaid whilst the student is partway through their course.

The amount paid is assessed as being what is a reasonable amount to help the student reach a specific point in their studies e.g. finish out the year or complete the course.

Piloted since March 2017 and currently 3 students have been supported with £ 40 000 which has come from centrally sourced money, if the fund is to be expanded money additional funds would need to be sourced from Departments.

10. AOB

The Chair noted that the role of the College Tutors is currently under review and, in case they are not at the next SSWC meeting, would like to thank them for their support for students and valuable contribution to the College and this committee.

Several members of the Committee noted that losing the College Tutors role would be a great loss for the College and do not feel that these roles should be lost. The review is still currently ongoing.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10 October, 2-4pm

Please send apologies to christian.adams@imperial.ac.uk