Student Council Report

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Position: Vice-President Community
Date of Council: 26/11/20

Please find below a summary of the 4 main projects I have been working on since the last meeting of Student Council:

1. ADVOCATING FOR STUDENTS ON PLACEMENT

One of the main areas that I am focusing on this academic year is ensuring there is adequate support for students going on placements throughout out the year.

Evidence: Towards the end of the last academic year the students’ union gained feedback from students across the university that highlighted that students from the school of Health & Social Work, the school of Life and Medical science, the school of education and the school of creative arts were adversely affected by the pandemic and the place that was affected the most was their placements.

Explanation:
Sense the last student council I have with the School community organisers and discussed what we would like to do moving forward. We discussed check ins during a placement from lecturing teams, we discussed making this a mandatory and how best to go about it. Following this I met with an associate dean to how best to implement this into their school. Moving forward I plan to speak to other school to implement this for their students.

Having these check ins in place reminds students that is support during a placement and that they are not alone.

2. STUDENT WELLBEING

A priority of mine this year is student wellbeing and mental health, for this I am creating a tool kit for students that gives them the power to sign post themselves to the most appropriate service while ensuring that is student friendly and interactive.

Evidence: Over the past 6 months it has been prevalent that everyone’s mental health has been affected, this has been highlighted through research done by your student’s union and from national statistics. Following on from this we have met with partners across the university and within the union to start coming up with content and a creative way to pull all the resources together. Ensuring that the vital service have had a say and we are making the most appropriate resources for students.

Explanation:
Sense the last student council I have been collating the content of the tool kit and is coming together in a document, we are still awaiting some information from the university but that should be with us soon. I have met with our marketing team we are looking at how the toolkit will look and ensure that this will remain interactive.

Having this tool kit in place, students that may need support will be able to access it independently or a student leader or member of staff can utilise it to sign post students.

3. STUDY / COMMUNAL SPACES

A key point for me this year has been the ability for students to come together spaces to socialise and study together.

Evidence: I have had to approach this very carefully this year in line with government guidance. With this I have lobbied that university to ensure that study spaces have been open available for students and ensured that group study areas are still available but in a social distanced way.

Explanation:

As sense my last report it has been confirmed that new outdoor spaces for students are being placed on both campuses for students to meet in small groups in their households. I have been in the discussion with the university about the design of the spaces (yurts and suitable seating) and it is positive that they are taking students spaces seriously.

Having these spaces give students an alternative place student to go to study and socialise within government guidance, while also give students the opportunity to leave the house get some fresh air.

4. STUDENT SAFETY

Part of the campaign was run on the safety of students, looking at what is in place to keep students safe and how the security system works at our university.

Evidence: Following on from the work that was start by the previous officer team, that had been done work last year. During the hand over period, it was clear that work had been done and that more work was needed. From the grass roots research on social media, the testimonies from students via email and various surveys over the past 12 months. Currently our research co-ordinator is collating a report of our research together to help me lobby the university for change.

Explanation:

From this research is has been clear that is poor perception of security on campus and students often feel that they are not safe on campus. From this we wanted to hear from a wider range of
student views, I hosted a successful security forum which the head of security, dean of student & the students’ head of operations were in attendance to listen to the student experience. Following this we held a debrief meeting to talk about plans moving forward.

Gaining a greater understanding of the student experience when it comes to student safety allows me to lobby the university for change in a positive way, while working with the head of security help change the perception for campus security.

Further information about the work I do can be found here: https://hertfordshire.su/your-say/electedofficers/vice-president-community/

And my previous reports to Student Council can be found here: https://hertfordshire.su/your-say/student-council/

Thank you for reading!

Kayleigh Malone
Vice-President Community