

Hertfordshire Students' Union

Name of Proposal: Wellbeing of students in the UH Strategy 2020-2025

Proposer: Amal Jolly

Secunder:

The issue and why it is important for UH students.

The wellbeing team managed over 3000 student appointments across this year. Nearly 70% of the students are 'at risk' due to their treatment by both Counselling and Mental Health teams and are categorised as 'educational risk' due to their poor performance; 42% of these students are categorised as suicidal.

Last academic year saw an astonishing 50% increase in the undeclared case; Semester A and B of last year saw at least one high risk case per day (often are unpredictable or unable to prevent).

Currently the Dean of Students office works with local Herts Partnership Foundation Trust, Secondary Mental Health Services. This working partnership has positively resulted in increased NHS services on campus, faster support when we have students in immediate crisis and mental health nurses working in the university for 2.5 days a week.

Hertfordshire Sports Partnership (SBU of UH) works with students, local community, MH organisations to improve wellbeing of the Hertfordshire community. They work with Hertfordshire county council, Sport England, Mind organisations to help provide workshops, awareness, events and activities to promote the wellbeing of the community. They are focusing on few events next year which they will be working with the SU on.

I'm working with the university on UH Strategy for 2020-2025 right now as we speak, The first phase of development is progressing well with analysis of the 'opportunities and challenges likely to face UH through to 2025 and beyond' currently ongoing. Mental Health and pastoral support is vital for functioning of any student. While the majority of the University departments are having their budget cut, it is necessary to think and invest in the areas where students need help.

Progress in CEG and Board of Governors:

In the last Board of Governors, I discussed the Mental health support UH offers and issues we face as students. The university recognises the issue we face and they are readily investing in 2 new counsellors using the restricted Alumni funding (temporary).

I believe the university understands the issue we face but needs to commit in providing increased support and should consider while discussing the strategy.

Action:

- President Activities to raise the problem to consider wellbeing of students as a challenge while deciding the University strategy in CEG and Board of Governors.
- Student Council to help prepare a paper to show the support from the student body.
- Focus on bringing the university departments together to pool resources on a bigger and supported wellbeing team.
- Increase the awareness of MH problems with staff.

Officer responsible: Amal Jolly