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LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

HEALTH & SAFETY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE: 15TH FEBRUARY 2023

PRESENT: Ms S Beecroft (in the Chair), Mr M Beecroft, Dr W Bignold, Ms J Burgess, Ms M Caldwell, Ms C Campbell, Professor R Cousins, Ms J Egerton Mr E Fahy, Ms M Gilmurray, Mr B Grice, Ms S Haimes, Mr D Kerry, Ms T Lewin, Ms G Mair, Dr S Mercer, Mr J Ryan, Ms O Vann, Mr M Wells

Apologies: Mr A Catterall, Mr J Ellison, Mr S Foran, Dr P Johnston, Ms D Mann, Mr D Salter,

Secretariat: Mr M Jones

The Chair welcomed Mr Fahy to the group in his role as Health & Safety Advisor, Ms Haimes to the group in her role as Director of Student Life, and Ms Egerton to the group in her role as representative for the Creative Campus.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Members had received unconfirmed minutes of the meeting on 5th October 2022 (CHS 257). The Chair requested that 'her job title' at actum one be corrected to 'the job title'. Mr Ryan requested that 'suicidal ideation' at actum seven be corrected to 'self harm'. Pending these changes, the minutes were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

Re Terms of Reference, Mr Jones confirmed that this had been done.

Re recruiting a Head of School to the committee, The Chair requested that this be carried over to the next meeting.

ACTION: Chair to recruit Head of School to committee.

Re recruitment of an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor, Ms Haimes informed members that this in progress and an appointment will be made in the coming weeks.

Re pinch point outside Gateway Building, Mr Kerry informed members that he and Mr Ellison had looked into this and concluded it was not currently an issue.

Re rationale for 'life and limb' exemption, the Chair informed members that she had supplied this to Unison, but that it had not been accepted..

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Re email policy, the Chair informed members that Dr Johnston had contacted her and the comments would be included when the policy was next issued.

Re SWL rooms, the Chair confirmed that Ms Burgess had contacted her and the matter had been resolved.

3. COVID 19 Update

The Chair informed members that since the last meeting of the committee the University has issued updated guidance in line with Government guidelines.. The Chair informed members that the University has chosen to retain a number of precautionary measures from earlier stages of the pandemic, including screens in public areas, free tests are available to staff and students, and PPE is available for staff members entering student residences. The Chair informed members that there have been no major outbreaks on campus this academic year and the situation continued to be closely monitored.

4. Health and Safety Action Plan 2022-23 Update

Members had received the Health and Safety Action Plan 2022-23 Update (CHS 258). Mr Fahy informed members that the document would be updated ahead of the next meeting. Drawing members' attention to the objective stating 'Analyse and publish the results of the Staff Stress Survey' the Chair informed members that the launch of the survey has been postponed due to ongoing industrial action. Dr Cousins noted that the survey had been postponed on a number of occasions and requested that this matter be expedited. The Chair undertook to relay this request to USET.

ACTION: Chair to discuss Staff Stress Survey with USET.

5. Staff Wellbeing Report

Members had received the Staff Wellbeing Report (CHS 259). Ms Lewin informed members that a dedicated web page created with signposting to the support available during the cost of living crisis went live early January 2023. Dr Cousins requested data in relation to numbers of staff absent from work due to stress. The Chair undertook to discuss this with Personnel.

ACTION: Chair to discuss with Personnel, as above.

6. Fire Safety

- (i) Fire Safety Performance Report 2021-22 and update on 2022-23

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Members had received the Fire Safety Performance Report 2021-22 and update on 2022-23 (CHS 260). Mr Fahy informed members that 63 fire alarm activations were recorded in a University building during 2021-22. 80% of these occurred in halls of residence. Mr Fahy added that there had been a slight decrease in the number of activations recorded during 2021-22 from 74 in the previous year. There were 43 recorded false alarms during 2021-22. Mr Fahy requested that the Fire Safety Report for each academic year be presented at the first meeting of the following academic year. The Chair asked Mr Jones to note this for future agendas.

ACTION: Mr Jones to modify future agendas, as above.

(ii) Fire Investigation Report – Arson

Members had received the Fire Investigation Report (CHS 261). Mr Fahy informed members that early detection and response were enacted by Campus Services, adding that this was a significant factor limiting the damage to the room and building beyond. Members joined the Chair in recognising Mr Mellon's actions in averting a serious incident.

7. Student Support 2022-23 update

Members had received the Student Support 2022-23 update (CHS 262). Mr Ryan informed members that student demand for both counselling and mental health support has fallen slightly (10%) when comparing data from the same period in the last academic year. The number of students accessing support identified as having significant risk factors has reduced by 20 percent, and known cases of serious/life threatening self-harm has reduced significantly by almost two thirds. Mr Ryan added that annual average waiting times to access mental well-being support across both the counselling and mental health service areas have largely remained within service performance targets since the start of the academic year. Mr Ryan informed members that the current proportion of disabled students registered at the University to date this academic year is currently 24.4%, which is a slight increase compared to 22% at the same point in the last academic year.

Mr Wells asked whether the cost of living crisis has had any effect upon student wellbeing. Mr Ryan responded that Student Support & Wellbeing is working with students to mitigate the effects of the crisis. Ms Campbell added that the 'Campus Cupboard' is available to all students, along with a 'Hope Essentials' range of cost-price goods in the campus shop. Ms Vann informed members that the Students' Union has food vouchers available for students in need of them.

8. Student Safety Issues

Ms Haines reported that cannabis use among resident students is presenting a cause for concern, adding that students are being signposted towards Student Support and Wellbeing where necessary. Mr Ryan informed members that colleagues from Learning Support visited Plas Caerdeon recently and identified

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a number of potential accessibility and health & safety issues. Mr Ryan undertook to forward these to the Chair.

ACTION: Mr Ryan to forward information to Chair, as above.

9. UCU/Unison Items

Mr Grice raised the issue of loft access at Aigburth for members of the Network Team. Mr Beecroft and Mr Kerry undertook to liaise re this.

ACTION: Mr Beecroft and Mr Kerry to liaise, as above.

Mr Grice raised the issue of use of Glyphosate on campus. Mr Kerry undertook to look into possible alternatives.

ACTION: Mr Kerry to look into Glyphosate alternatives.

The Chair informed members that UCU had contacted her with a concern about noise from the IQ Building construction site, and undertook to raise this with Estates.

ACTION: Chair to contact Estates, as above.

10. Departmental Updates

Ms Gilmurray requested an update on issues with the 3G floodlights. Mr Kerry responded that the company who installed the floodlights has been notified of the issues and will be coming to resolve them.

Ms Burgess informed members that since the new telephony system was installed the panic buttons in the library have not worked. Mr Wells added that this was also the case for the telephone by the defibrillator in Hope Park Sports. Ms Egerton added that this was also the case for the telephones in the workshops at Creative Campus. Mr Beecroft undertook to look into this.

ACTION: Mr Beecroft to look into telephony issues, as above.

11. AOB

There was no other business.