

BLS UGR College Forum Meeting Minutes - 17th February 2021

Attendees:

Staff

Allan Theophanides **(AT)** - Academic & Support Services
Annabel Hurst **(AH)** - Catering
Tim Fry **(TF)** - Student Voice
Sebastian Ripley **(SR)** - SU Heath VP
Shane McCullough **(SM)** - Student Voice
Dai John **(DJ)** – UG Dean BLS
Hannah Doe **(HD)** - SU Education VP
Lindsay Roberts **(LR)** - Library
Sian Ballard **(SB)** - Education Manager
Emily Harding **(EH)** - Student Advice
Paul Jones **(PJ)** - IT
Paula Burns **(PB)**- Enterprise and Start Up team
Joanne Jenkins **(JJ)** – Careers and Employability

Students

Arfan Naseem **(AN)** - PHARM
Annabel Court **(AC)**- BIOSI
Bobby Gould **(BG)** - BIOSI
Cassandra Neri **(CN)** - HCARE
Chinyere Onyeukwu **(CO)** - PHRMY
Connor Rawlinson **(CR)** - HCARE
Dawn Marshall **(DM)** - HCARE
Emma Carswell **(EC)** - HCARE
Fidelia Igbinijie **(FI)** - HCARE
Frank Frayne **(FF)** - MEDIC
Garima Sharma **(GS)** - BIOSCI
Harpria Bhogal **(HB)** - PHRMY
Huda Hathaf **(HH)** - OPTOM
Ibrahim Yassin **(IY)** - PHRMY
Ishbel McMichael **(IM)** - PSYCH
Jia Yi Soo **(JS)** - OPTOM
Laiqa Rahman **(LRa)** - HCARE
Libiana Kimbell **(LK)** - HCARE
Linnet Mensuoh **(LM)** - MEDIC
Nitignya Navadji **(NN)** - DENTL
Princess Braimoh **(PB)** - MEDIC
Rebecca Davies **(RB)** - HCARE
Rhys Goddard **(RG)** - BIOSCI
Samuel Deutsch **(SD)** - MEDIC

Shon Thomas **(ST)** - MEDIC
Simon Turner **(STu)** - HCARE
Taylor Youngsmith **(TY)** - MEDIC
Zaki Bandlish **(ZB)** - CHEM

Apologies:

Staff

Ben Lewis **(BL)** - Student Support and Wellbeing
Claire Morgan **(CM)** - Pro Vice Chancellor

Students

Annabel Harris **(AHa)** - HCARE
Chloe Martin **(CM)** - PSYCH
Holly Booth **(HB)** - PSYCH
Jamie McDonald **(JM)** - BIOSI
Jess Long **(JL)** - HCARE
Jodie Gornall **(JG)** - HCARE
Leigh Bainbridge **(LB)** - HCARE
Maaria Lala **(ML)** - OPTOM
Mia McDade-Kumar **(MMK)** - MEDIC
Nadine Thomas **(NT)** - HCARE
Sam Michell **(SMi)** - HCARE
Sarah Taylor **(ST)** - HCARE
Sujana Shrestha **(SS)**- BIOSI
Syed Shah **(SSh)** - BIOSI
Tani Trivedi **(TT)** - BIOSI
Tobechi Engole **(TE)** - BIOSI
Zuzanna Skolik **(ZS)** - MEDIC

Introductions

SR led introductions of all staff members.

PB started with a presentation regarding a competition for enterprise and startups, SYNIAD. The closing date for this competition is 01/03/2021. Business ideas related to climate change and sustainability are preferable. The link for this competition will follow in the notes below.

Staff Updates

SR ran through previous meeting minutes and stated there being nothing of note to raise.

PJ stated a lab for running the program Salud was cancelled due to an IT issue. Unfortunately this was the responsibility of NHS Trust IT (not Cardiff University IT) to resolve. PJ has been chasing for updates on this and can confirm that this issue has now been resolved. PJ also stated there has been some disruption in IT due to an issue with a power station which has now been resolved.

LR stated posted loans are in place until the end of this academic year if students are at home. More eBooks are being purchased including a subscription to dissertation and thesis global. There is now an availability for a 30 minutes, 2 hour or 3 hour study slot to be more flexible. Book a reference space is also now available. Book a study space is not at capacity but there is a 40% level of students not attending their slot. LR encouraged students to cancel bookings they cannot attend and also to ensure students wear masks while using the library services in person.

AH states there is not much to update on the catering front. AH noted that only 4 food outlets are open, being the cafe at the Bioscience building, Haden Ellis cafe, the IV Lounge and Trevithick restaurant. Click and Collect food is open at the 4 open locations. Residential evening meals are still being delivered for those who have ordered online until they can be served at the restaurant. Aberdare Hall restaurant is still open as it is considered a single household. AH stated if students are isolating in Cardiff University residences then they will be offered a £20 food credit in residences which is not limited to once. AH asks to be contacted if there are any queries or issues. AH stated sustainability and waste management is now being looked at with catering now working with Menus for Change.

JJ updates on Careers and Employability. JJ stated that there are some online events approaching that students can engage with by searching for careers, fair and events on the intranet. JJ stated the introduction of other projects such as Career Confident, aimed at underrepresented groups to increase the success of transition into the employment market. JJ stated that support for careers is on an opt in format which have not been engaged with so requested if this was of interest to students then they should ask for a form to be opted in. Mock interview spaces are also being discussed.

Syniad has now closed but in case you wanted to share the link for reference here it is:

[SYNIAD 2020 | Cardiff University Curriculum \(simplydo.co.uk\)](https://www.simplydo.co.uk/syniad-2020)

We referred to the Career Confident opt in form, here's the link to the form:

<https://targetfeedback.gtisolutions.co.uk/surveys/embedded/#/instance/3e4eed36-4a39-493b-978f-483bada9b042/en-GB>

AT stated there has been restructuring in the Centre for Education Support innovation. AT stated more investment has been made to the digital education area. This allows staff to provide online learning resources to be used in a more efficient and adaptive way due to the transition to blended learning. Each college has been assigned a partner for each school to provide support on online learning to staff.

SB updated on the college. SB stated that plans for investigating the returning of students in BLS were taking place. The annual review of programs were also taking place to make improvements for upcoming years.

DJ thanked reps and those within the SU on swift and appropriate communication of issues, and partnership working. DJ also stated that advice on study skills are continuing to be updated as COVID-19 advice changes via the Intranet <https://intranet.cardiff.ac.uk/students/study>

EH from Student Advice stated that complaints are increasing especially regarding regulations within university residences. EH also stated that the service can help those with legitimate complaints to be made. EH stated changes are being made to update the service including the use of videos.

SR updated that speak week had unofficially ended with a lower return on feedback. SR encouraged if students had more feedback then to still send it through. SR updated that more funding is becoming available which will soon be allocated. SR also stated that if there are any issues or complaints that they be sent to the SU rather than just being circulated on social media. HD specifically mentioned the rules for university residences and restaurants as complaints that are attempting to be resolved. HD also stated further study spaces are being explored.

Student Update

TY stated there was not a lot to update. TY stated there had been discussion regarding ISKI revision sessions, but this could be discussed further with SR.

HB stated that students within her cohort would like more study spaces and hoped more action would be taken regarding those students not using spaces they book. HB also stated that wellbeing amongst students is another issue that the cohort are struggling with but thanked all staff for their efforts this year.

IM stated displeasure amongst the cohort and staffing regarding exam timetabling that condensed exams into one week which was overly stressful and asked for more consideration regarding future timetabling. SB stated this was being looked at and addressed.

NN stated that students are grateful for communication from staff. NN stated there are some concerns regarding clinic times and first-hand experience for students before graduation but that was being looked into by staff. NN also stated that toilet facilities are sometimes closed which students are struggling to access. NN also remarked that clinics are understaffed and would benefit from more supervisors. SR noted that no commitment can be made regarding graduation. SR also stated the toilet facilities will be brought up. NN stated these issues had been raised in the student-staff panel also. DJ said these issues will be taken up with the registrar. SR and DJ are to discuss further separately.

RG stated an issue of the examining procedure being shortened from a 24 hour period to a 4 hour period. EH asked to be emailed regarding this concern. RG also queried the safety net policy especially regarding uncapped resits. HD stated there are uncapped resits for assessments which are failed within a failed module but noted there are other aspects still

being discussed. RG also stated concern regarding extenuating circumstances of which DJ clarified and reassured was appropriate given the current climate and asked if there are more questions regarding extenuating circumstances then email the school directly.

PB stated all issues amongst her cohort have been resolved internally. Most feedback from PB's cohort was positive.

CR stated there were issues regarding the e portfolio amongst the cohort. CR stated issues regarding placement and locations of placement which has led to complaints due to lack of time with patients. CR also echoed wellbeing concerns regarding issues with residencies and encouraged a more collaborative approach between the union and students using social media. SR stated that placement issues have been discussed but the school had attempted to ensure some placement rather than no placement but sympathised. CR also praised the arrangement for students to go on placement in the first place rather than being cancelled.

CN stated issues with communication to her cohort regarding changes to the course and most of these issues are being dealt with in house. CN also stated the issues of support between students due to inability to connect through teaching. SR asked if there were any ideas that may require funding that could be used to increase student interaction. CN states these lack of relationships amongst the cohort has led to a lack of feedback to reps. SR said if there are any ideas that need support the cohort then to contact him directly

FI stated positive feedback from their cohort.

AH reminded both staff and students of sustainability week in the next week that can be engaged with.

BG also stated in the chat that most issues amongst their cohort we're being dealt with in house, but wellbeing was also an issue raised that has not yet been addressed adequately.

SR thanked students and staff for engagement and closed the meeting at 16:07