

PSE PGR Forum

Date: 30/11/2020

Location: Online via Zoom

In attendance

Staff:

Vice President Postgrad – Jane Chukwu *Chair* **JC**

Dean for Postgraduate Studies - Julie Gwilliam **JG**

College Education Manager - Kath Evans **KE**

Student Voice Coordinator - Tim Fry

Students:

Sameeh Baqain ENGIN **SAB**

Danielle Buchanan EARTH **DB**

Andy Hannington PHYSX **AH**

Rhiannon Lunney PHYSX **RL**

Everyone is welcomed to the meeting

Facilities available

- JG stated that some students requested a canteen area to eat within the school of Chemistry. Another query was to open up some more office space. These have been raised with the school. The opening up of catering facilities in the students' union has at least eased one aspect of this concern.
- AH stated that one research group in astronomy (staff and student) have returned to their offices. JG stated that the College board has been informed on a number of occasions that students should not be on campus and that opportunities for study space on campus are being limited to needs only basis. AH to email JG the specific groups who are back in office. AH stated 4 students are in 2 days on 2 days off per week.
- JC stated that the library is now open for study space with slots hoping to be extended to 3 hours from 2 hours and opening hours hoping to be extended to 8pm from 5pm.

Printing

- JG stated that to prevent people touching items, printing has been deliberately limited, people are not being encouraged to print. More slots are now becoming available to print in libraries as specific printing slots.

Teaching

- **RL** stated that she has been struggling to get hold of students regarding tutorials. **RL** remarked on the smooth transition to online teaching. **RL** also stated that for tutorials more notice would be needed regarding adjustments for tutorials and labs.
- **RK** states that some people are still awaiting induction meetings.
- **SAB** stated that there has been good feedback regarding online teaching.
- **JG** stated there has been an increase in discussion and seminar groups due to transition to online teaching which may be a lasting change.

COVID Testing

- **SAB** requested to know what type of testing is taking place (PCR or antigen) regarding COVID testing for those travelling abroad. **JG** requested that **KE** forward information regarding testing type but is confident it is an Antigen test.

Code of Practice with Teaching

- **SAB** stated that the code of practice is not being followed completely in ENGIN with tutoring sometimes being given to specific students. **SAB** notes of the discrepancy between actions within the school and the code of practice. **JG** requests a catch up with **SAB** regarding this topic. **SAB** confirms this will take place. **JC** requested that **SAB's** presentation be forward to them also.

Field based research

- **DB** stated concerns from **EARTH** that field-based research is still being ignored in comparison to lab work. **JG** states she is happy to meet to resolve this issue.

Funding

- **DB** stated that there is concern that funding available to students is being limited from the university. **JG** states she cannot make promises but hopes more support from UKRI and the University will be made available soon. **JG** states avenues are trying to be found to support students who are receive their PGR funding through the University. **JG** also stated that some students will be eligible to apply for funding extensions such as those meeting criteria regarding disability and caring responsibilities. **RL** stated that many within the disabled community feel too much evidence may be needed to be provided. **JG** thanked **RL** for bringing this up and stated that a procedure is trying to be found to minimise evidence needed. **JG** stated that it is clear that in order to be eligible to secure more funding, evidence must be shown that students have attempted to adapt projects. **DB** asked whether those with mental health issues are eligible for funding if diagnosed. **RL** stated that the university has provided support financially and practically and **JG** states this is something that still needs to be addressed as many are undiagnosed.

Any Other business

- JC requested that people to read the latest newsletter that has been circulated. JC also stated that they would like people to contact her if they have any further queries.

****Meeting closes****