

# Presidents' Update

Friday 15 May 2020

Dear Students,

Following the latest government updates, there's little change to our way of life at this stage of the pandemic. We understand your frustrations but hope you can find plenty to bring a smile to your face as we come to the end of the academic year. It's certainly been a year unlike any other and you all have so much to be proud of.

Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week, so do join us on the UniWellbeing App for some challenges. There are some great resources, including podcasts to enjoy while relaxing in the sunshine. Download it via your app store.

Here are our updates for this week.

## Update From President Welfare & Inclusivity

### Time to Talk

As of this week, Student & Library Services is offering Time to Talk appointments online via Teams. Students can book on to an appointment via Compass Online. This is a great opportunity to chat about anything and everything that's on your mind, so definitely worth taking up.

### Community/Voluntary Sector in Cornwall

The Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum are asking for students who are volunteering their spare time to fill out [this survey](#) so that they are able to evaluate the social and economic impact the current crisis has had on the voluntary sector. They are expecting a surge in demand and corresponding drop in income from fundraising, but need to establish a more precise picture in order to help the sector recover. Please share the survey with friends and family who are volunteering their time as well to maximise the survey reach.

## Update From President Falmouth

With teaching and assessment over, things are quiet on the update front as staff are marking your work and the University is busy focusing on planning for September. I am still yet to be included in these conversations, but I have promises that I will be.

### **Better communication and clarification of what 'no student will be academically disadvantaged' means for students, and the protection their grades will receive**

I am working hard to get an update about the approval of the staff guidance for Falmouth's 'safety net' implementation, and I am sorry that this still isn't ready to share. I will chase on the progress of this guidance and try to get it published as soon as I can.

### **To have The Students' Union included in spaces where decisions are being made, not just consulted with**

I am continuing to work hard to be included in working groups and conversations that are happening about the current COVID-19 experience.

### **Working with your Reps**

Next week we will be meeting with your Reps to brief them on collecting feedback to find out your views and thoughts on September provisions, as well as graduations (for third years). This feedback will be used and analysed in collaboration with the university who want to use this feedback to help influence their decision making.

## Update From President Exeter

Exams continue to be at the forefront of your minds right now, so keep going and good luck once again. Please only use the Assessment Helpdesk if you are sitting an exam; it is not for use if you are not currently sitting the exam. **You can call them on (+44) 01392 726800 or email on [Exams2020@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:Exams2020@exeter.ac.uk).**

### Exeter Projects

There are several new groups set up within the university that myself and the other Presidents sit on that include maintaining the student experience, enhancing the academic experience in a digital world, and the best way for students and staff to return to campus, teaching, research etc in the coming months. I want to reassure you that everything is being done to support students in your learning, experience and safety. Please email me if you have any questions.

### Feedback

We meet weekly with many different senior members of the University who are always willing to help with issues you may have, so if you have any feedback, please keep sending it in so we can get things sorted for you.

Our team has been working hard to answer all of your questions and we've compiled them on our FAQs page. Please check [here](#) to see if your question has already been answered. There are also links to all reports, Presidents' letters and other useful resources.

## Join the online Corona Community

Our [Corona Community](#) is live on Facebook and we're happy to say that the pet pictures are a hit. Please join us to share happy things, memes, and support each other.

## Is there something more we can be doing?

Please talk to us. Firstly, please try using our feedback tool to give your opinions at [www.thesu.org.uk/survey](http://www.thesu.org.uk/survey) Our Advice Service is also still running if you need independent, professional advice on university matters.

As always, we are all here for you and want you to know that you can reach out to us to talk about your concerns on anything in this uncertain time. We are available on nearly all platforms (Facebook, Skype, Teams, phones, etc) so please do not hesitate if you would like reassurance or a direct conversation on your concerns/situation, or even if you are feeling isolated and just want a chat.

Stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives.

All the best and stay safe,

**Allie Guy**, President Welfare and Inclusivity ([allie.guy@thesu.org.uk](mailto:allie.guy@thesu.org.uk))

**Callie Edwards**, President Falmouth ([callie.edwards@thesu.org.uk](mailto:callie.edwards@thesu.org.uk))

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