

Presidents' Update

Friday 22 May 2020

Dear Students,

It's Mental Health Awareness Week and we hope you're taking the time to be kind to yourself and others. There are some great challenges on the UniWellbeing app if you're looking for an activity to get stuck into.

As we continue to work and study from home, we're reviewing our provision in order to best support you, exploring various developments and opportunities to enhance your experience. Thinking about your involvement in The SU, what developments (digital and otherwise) could we make that would best help you? Please take a minute to answer [this short question](#).

If you're a final year student and you'd like to stay in touch, [please sign up to our Graduate Mailing List](#). Please also reply to this email with what you'd like to see in a graduate newsletter (graduation news, good news stories, etc) and how frequent you'd like these to be.



Update From President Welfare & Inclusivity

Campus

I would like to remind all students that campus is still closed. Please do not go to any of the Cornwall campuses at this time. You will be updated as and when campus re-opens.

Collection of belongings in Exeter and Penryn

Message from the Accommodation Team: The Accommodation Team is finalising a process to allow you to return to collect your belongings from the University or University-nominated accommodation in a safe and organised way that protects you, as well as those students who remain in their accommodation, and the University staff who are working on-site to support them.

You will receive an email to your University account by Monday 1 June, which will include details on how you will be able to book a slot to return to your room at a pre-allocated time to collect your belongings. This email will also contain information about what options are available to you if you are unable to return to collect your belongings.

Please wait until we have confirmed these plans before making any travel arrangements. Penryn Security teams will continue to monitor access to University residences, and you will not be allowed to access your accommodation without an agreed time slot.

If you usually live in private accommodation, we would also urge you not to travel to collect items at this time, and to speak with your landlord about how you might be able to do this safely and with social distancing restrictions in place. If you are living in an off-campus nominated accommodation property, please refer to the operating company's website for further details on collecting your belongings.

If you are an international student with belongings still in your accommodation, we will contact you separately to discuss arrangements for returning your belongings.

Minimising time in Cornwall

When you do finally come to Cornwall to collect belongings, please try to minimise your time here for the safety of others. Covid-19 is still at large; we need to work together to minimise the impact on the local NHS services and ask that you take this into consideration should you be coming down at all.

Equality impact

Over the next couple of weeks, I will be focusing on making sure that any September provisions being planned have considered all aspects of equality, inclusivity, and diversity. I will be lobbying for both universities to do equality impact assessments of all of their proposed teaching plans so that no one finds themselves disadvantaged by the decisions made for September.

Update From President Falmouth

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

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, but am still currently waiting. I am looking forward to Board of Governors (Falmouth University's highest meeting) where I will bring this priority up for discussion.

Working with your Reps

This week we met with your student Reps to ask them to collect feedback on a few areas: the next academic year, the digital delivery of your course, and for graduating students' feedback on graduation ceremonies.

Please talk to your Students' Union Course Reps to give your opinions on these areas, as we will be working with the University to discuss your feedback, and I hope it will help influence decisions being made.

Update From President Exeter

2020/2021 Academic Year

Please look out for an email from Tim Quine and myself on Thursday 28th May, which will have lots of information on what the next academic year will look like, and some potential work opportunities for students graduating this year.

Graduation

Plans continue to develop around graduation and I am continuing to work with the university to make sure you still get an incredible in-person ceremony. As you will know, a graduation ceremony cannot happen this summer, but the University and I want to assure you that it is not cancelled; it will still happen, just at a later day. We are currently looking at the possibilities of Easter and Summer 2021. Before a decision on timing is made, we will ask what students want.

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 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,

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