

# Presidents' Update

27 April 2020

Dear students,

It's been almost exactly a month since the campus closure. For some of you that time will have flown by and for others it will have might have seemed slow but, either way, we're seeing amazing things coming from the student body and we couldn't be prouder with how you are all coping.

NUS have launched their new safety net campaign; this campaign is aimed at the government, not universities, to better support universities in supporting their students. This includes demands such as a national hardship fund and the ability to retake your year at no additional cost with full maintenance support. We, as Presidents, support this campaign and you can read more about their lobbying [here](#).

## Update From President Welfare & Inclusivity

### Accommodation update

It was decided this week that accommodation will not be offered to the NHS/ Emergency Service workers etc for at least the next three weeks to ensure that staff and students who remain on campus are not put at risk. Consequently, no belongings that remain in accommodation will be moved and the Accommodation Team requests that students return to campus once travel restrictions are relaxed to collect their belongings. Due to the nature of this pandemic, this decision is subject to change, however the staff are hoping to be as flexible as possible for students when it comes to collection. There will be a cut-off point in July for when belongings must be collected to enable accommodation to be sorted out for the coming academic year. If you would like to get in touch with the Accommodation Team, you can email [accommodation@fxplus.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@fxplus.ac.uk).

Information from the Office for Students regarding students and their rights in accommodation can be found [here](#).

### Letter to Local Letting Agencies

After we sent a letter to government about student rent relief, you guys requested that we also wrote another letter to local estate agents. You can see that letter [here](#). We're hoping that this letter will encourage better communication between students and local letting agents, and help those of you who are struggling to pay rent. We have sent the letter to the following letting agencies: Lewis Haughton Wills, Townsend, DIGS, Martin & Co, Kernow Property Services, and Heather and Lay.

### Student Finance information

In the coming months, many of you will be looking to get your student finance secured again. Due to the current situation, your's and your family's finances may be strained, so we have put together some advice about how you can resubmit to student finance in order to get a bigger loan.

## Update From President Falmouth

Not a lot to report this week but, as always, please give us your feedback using our [tool](#). This enables us to go the University with data to help make changes in your best interests.

### **Better communication and clarification of what 'no student will be academically disadvantaged' means for students, and grade protections.**

We passed the paper on 'ensuring students are not disadvantaged' at Falmouth's Academic Board. This outlined Falmouth's approach to protecting grades, marking, and assessment. Many of the decisions made formalised the information I gave you last week on this matter (you can see the previous letter [here](#)).

I have been informed that there will be an update about the decisions made in the Tuesday newsletter next week. I have asked for details within the paper to be made available online so that students can understand Falmouth's processes in more detail.

As always, if you are still concerned about your assessments, please talk to your academic tutors and module leaders. They can support you in more ways than you might realise! Also, talk to your Rep, as keeping them informed helps them make changes that could benefit your whole course. You might not be alone in your issues and they can help identify this and work with your course team to make positive change.

## **More detailed and regular communication from Falmouth University so students feel reassured, fully understanding all changes to their education and the support available to them.**

Through my conversations with Falmouth, they put out a newsletter last week with a message from the Vice Chancellor, which felt more personal and reassuring.

If there are more messages you wish to see communicated by Falmouth, please let us know in the [feedback tool](#).

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

I asked again to be included in more decision-making spaces (such as the sub-committees that have been made in response to COVID-19) to represent the student voice when in Academic Board. This request was not directly responded to in the meeting.

Falmouth have begun conversations on what the future of their teaching will look like. I am hoping to be included in these conversations to make sure the solutions created are the best they can be. I will also endeavour to make sure these are communicated to you in as much detail as possible, and as soon as possible.

## **FX Plus Casual Staff Furlough**

We have been lobbying for casual staff to receive fair furlough payments. I have been told a 'positive' decision has been made and that casual staff should potentially be finding out today (23/4/2020) about the decision on furlough.

## Update From President Exeter

Exeter continues to push to enhance their online learning capability. If you have any feedback on how your online learning has been so far, please let your Rep, Subject Chair, or myself know. Below is my update for this week:

### **Truro**

I have a meeting the day this letter will go out to discuss the costing of the building work that is intended to start at Truro, and the effect Covid-19 shall have upon the timeline of this build, so shall share information when I have more.

### **No-Detriment Policy**

As of Tuesday, study abroad and placement year grades shall now be included in the policy and in the working out of the benchmark grades. This came from students and Reps asking for this to happen, so please keep giving feedback!

### **Employability**

The Employability Team is working to prepare students for the working world post-pandemic and have released information in the Registrar email that went out on Thursday. They are working on online support to help you career plan for a life either in the UK or abroad with the help of virtual career fairs.

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))

**Joe Rigby**, President Exeter ([joe.rigby@thesu.org.uk](mailto:joe.rigby@thesu.org.uk))