

Update From President Welfare & Inclusivity

Your wellbeing at this time is a huge priority and concern for me right now. Not only are you having to face dramatic change in how you are taught, massive uncertainty around money, and confusion about rent, but you are also having to cope with the anxiety caused by the pandemic and the isolation that is being enforced on us all. Everyone is struggling but we are all in this together. It is my aim to make sure that we, The Students' Union and both universities, are supporting you as best we can.

I have been in discussion with both universities about how we can best mitigate the issues caused by this pandemic. The Wellbeing Team are offering out 'care packages of support' for students still living in Cornwall. Please email livingsupport@fxplus.ac.uk or call 01326 255341 to discuss how they can best support you at this time. All other Living Support services are still running but via telephone or online only. You can also still access [online ASK sessions](#).

Earlier this week I launched the [#IsolationNotIsolated](#) campaign to encourage community online. I want both universities and students to get involved with this, sharing how to look after our physical and mental health in these unprecedented times.

From the survey, I have decided to lobby on the following:

I am lobbying for:

- Both universities to invest in online counselling for students to access for free.
- Falmouth University to better communicate its Hardship Fund and the extra financial help available to students. (The University of Exeter has dedicated Exeter money to its Hardship Fund and streamlined the process for receiving the money - please find the details at exeter.ac.uk/students/assistance-fund.)

- Both universities to support students who are in university managed by not owned accommodation and private sector accommodation.
- Better support for estranged students.
- For the universities to ensure that all lecturers are fulfilling their duties in moving lectures online and that personal tutors are still checking in with their students. (Advisors at the SU have written an editable letter for you to send to your landlord to request rent relief - please find that at thesu.org.uk/coronavirus).

Update From President Falmouth

The past few weeks for you all have been a really confusing and stressful time, it has taken course teams a considerable amount of work to update all assessments & teaching into a format that is deliverable by your course teams and I'd like to thank them for the hard work they have been putting in for trying to keep you all as updated as possible. However there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that you are all receiving the education you deserve and I hope my aims below can reassure you that I am doing my best to protect this for you.

Currently I have daily meetings with the Head of Quality Assurance and Enhancement, where I discuss assessment level concerns. I also have twice-weekly meetings with the Strategic Advisor to the Vice Chancellor, at the moment I am being consulted with but not in decision making spaces which I am trying to change. I am lobbying on the following issues for Falmouth students:

- Pushing for Falmouth to adopt the [National Union of Students proposal](#) to final assessments.
- Funding for students who have no access to a laptop or 4G devices to purchase devices which enable them to complete their studies in parity with their peers.
- Better communication and clarification of what 'no student will be academically disadvantaged' means for students, and the protection their grades will receive.
- Reassurance that assignments have been amended to consider mitigating factors to ensure that assignments are achievable in the timeframe given to students and that these changes are communicated clearly and concisely.
- Better communication around access to Extenuating Circumstances for students.
- More detailed and regular communication from Falmouth University so students

feel reassured, fully understand all changes to their education and the support available to them.

- For a meaningful end to their year for third years such as: ensuring Grad Ball still happens, opening access to facilities when it is safe to complete any physical work, an option to intermit and return in January for studies, for Grad Shows/exhibitions to become postponed not cancelled.
- To have The Students' Union included in spaces where decisions are being made, not just consulted with.

These will adapt and change as I receive feedback from students, and I will update accordingly with action from the university's next week.

Update From President Exeter

I have been involved in many meetings with The University of Exeter in the past few weeks around online learning, assessments, graduation, Postgrad research, and the future of the University. Exeter has the student voice at the heart of it, which is why you shall see many of the emails you receive focused around your studies signed off by Tim Quine (Deputy-Vice Chancellor Education), myself, and my counterpart in Exeter. You will have, or will be receiving, another update around assessments and the 'safety net' policy this Friday morning. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me or your Rep/Subject Chair for help. I am in constant contact with your Subject Chairs, so please use them to feedback any concerns or positive comments you may have.

The University of Exeter is sector-leading in its response rate and compassion to Covid-19 and looking after its students, and I am in communication with many other Presidents and students from other universities to help other students across the country receive the same treatment.