

Presidents' Update

Thursday 7 May 2020

Dear Students,

Yesterday we came together with both universities to discuss the student experience. We had positive conversations about the inclusion of the student voice in decision making around hate crime reporting, graduation ceremonies, and September provision. However, a key theme in the discussions was that planning for the future is difficult without government guidance on the easing of lockdown measures. We expressed to them that we are understanding of these difficulties and will be patient. However, we received strong reassurance that involving the student voice in their decision will be a priority when decisions can be made and we will be working closely with the universities and your student Reps to provide data to them on your thoughts, feelings and opinions, to help ensure decisions are made in your best interests.

It was the National Volunteering and Societies Awards last night and we want to say a massive congratulations to the students who organised this year's [Sustainability Week](#), because they won Collaboration of the Year, a wonderful joint effort with the universities and FX Plus. Also, a huge well done to the runners up (Zoe Burden, EcoSoc and Women in Conservation were also shortlisted for awards). In our eyes, you're all winners. We also had news that CSM Ladies Hockey 1st team came first in their division, CSM Men's Hockey came third, and both the 1st and 3rd teams for CSM Netball came second!

These are all amazing results, so well done everyone involved! It's important for us all to celebrate our achievements during these times, no matter how big or small.

Update From President Welfare & Inclusivity

#IsolationNotIsolated

We're still running our wellbeing campaign [#IsolationNotIsolated](#), where we have students and staff from both universities takeover our social media to inspire mental and physical wellbeing. If you want to get involved, you can email marketing@thesu.org.uk to organise your takeover day.

NUS Liberation Conference

The NUS Liberation Conference is at the end of the month. This is the first time the NUS has held a Liberation Conference, so it'll be exciting to see what comes from that. Myself, Callie, and two students will be attending as delegates, so we'll update you after.

Student Opportunities Awards

It's not too late to see the [Student Opportunities Awards](#)! As well as the Instagram live, we have uploaded a pre-recorded version to [Flipgrid](#). If you won an award, you can leave a short acceptance video, or alternatively you can leave a video to congratulate others.

Update From President Falmouth

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.

Regarding progress on this, I have received this statement from the University's Finance Team: "If students are having problems with access to tech, then their assessment should be adjusted accordingly, and students should contact their academic team first. If that is not possible, and IT is absolutely necessary, we encourage students to continue to apply to the Hardship Fund to help resolve technical hardship issues and access to L&T materials. This allows us both to capture the requests, cross-refer back to the academic teams, and provide a consistent response to all applicants. If students have concerns and/or needs, please ask that they contact the Funding Team on studentfunding@falmouth.ac.uk or (01326) 213744 / 255159."

I will work with the team to make sure that a clear plan has been established for September and that this is communicated to students.

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

Today I received a draft of the staff guidance for Falmouth's 'safety net' plans, which is awaiting approval, and will then be made available for all students to read.

For a meaningful end to their course for third year students

Most of you will have handed in now and congratulations for that. I hope that you are proud of what you all achieved!

Falmouth have created their Showcase space and I have had reassurance this is not a replacement for physical grad shows. I have spoken with Mandy Jandrell (Head of Falmouth School of Art and Institute of Photography), the led on the

development of this online space, and it sounds like an exciting opportunity to create a great archive of student work for employers/the industry to browse and engage with you all in light of the absence of physical shows.

I want to reassure graduating students that I still have you in mind and that when the university can begin looking at re-opening facilities I will continue to request that Falmouth consider inviting graduate students back to finish off work when safe to do so, as well as ensuring graduation is the best it can be. However, it is important currently that we understand that the university are unable to make decisions at present until there is clearer guidance from the government, as your safety is our top priority.

I have included a joint update in the opening of this email about graduation ceremonies

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

Friday I had a positive conversation with the University about being in decision making spaces where it was expressed by the University that they value the student voice highly and want your voice in their decisions. The conversation felt very positive and I hope this will result in being included more directly in discussions around graduation and September provision. I will keep you all updated.

Update From President Exeter

With exams and assessments well under way now, I hope everything is going the way you planned. If not, I have included the contact details for the Assessment Helpdesk in my update again. Callie and I will be hosting the Student Voice awards tonight (Thursday 7 May), so tune in to see who won! To all those nominated, if you win or not, well done! It is a massive achievement and you should be immensely proud; it has been a true pleasure working with all of you this year. Below is my update for this week:

Exams/Assessments

Assessment Helpdesk for all students taking exams. It is only to be used if you are sitting an exam that day and run into a problem or find an error in an exam paper. You can call them on (+44) 01392 726800 or email on Exams2020@exeter.ac.uk. The Assessment Helpdesk will operate from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and from 8am to 12.30pm Saturdays BST. You should not email module leads or your tutor with issues - all problems can be directed by the helpdesk. If you find an error on a paper, contact them they will contact the academic and ask if any mitigation is needed and send out a student-wide email. If you have already completed your paper and didn't notice it, do not panic, it will be taken into account when marking takes place.

Sport

I have been working with Exeter to improve the sport facilities in Cornwall and a first proposal is being created over the next three months to assess what the best options are. This will include two grass pitches and an artificial 3G/4G pitch., It must first be approved by Exeter's governing body over the summer, which is when consultationconsoltationconsultation with Falmouth University will take place.

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,

Allie Guy, President Welfare and Inclusivity (allie.guy@thesu.org.uk)

Callie Edwards, President Falmouth (callie.edwards@thesu.org.uk)

Joe Rigby, President Exeter (joe.rigby@thesu.org.uk)