



Student panel update

Purpose

1. To update the board on the work of the student panel.

Recommendations/Decisions required by the board

2. The board is invited to note:
 - a. The updates in this paper.

Paper publication date

3. This report will be made available on the OfS website.

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Update

4. The student panel met on 26 January 2023, where they discussed:
 - a. How to design and deliver student support to meet the needs of students.
 - b. The OfS's research regarding the cost of living.
 - c. Highlights from the regulatory learning training programme that OfS staff are undertaking.
5. The discussion on how to design and deliver student support was facilitated by Professor Edward Peck, Student Support Champion and Vice Chancellor – Nottingham Trent University.
 - a. The panel fed back:
 - i. The burden of offering student support is often shifted onto academic staff, and there can be long wait times to receive help from qualified professional services staff.
 - ii. Students should be kept in touch during the waiting period to access support services.
 - iii. There is a lack of strategy regarding how to support certain groups, like those who live in rural areas or who are distance learners.
 - iv. Most providers host a 'welfare week', and it's important that those are not tick-box events where support during the rest of the year is lacking. The most successful events are those used as an opportunity to raise awareness for support systems.
6. An update was given regarding the OfS's cost of living insight brief. This included an overview of the research methodologies (a student focused poll and round table discussions) and the themes of the research.
7. The final session focused on highlights from the regulatory training Regulatory Practice Learning Programme for OfS staff. The main focus was on consumer engagement and how different regulatory approaches apply to the OfS's context. The panel has been given access to further training videos as optional learning.
8. Other activities the panel has been involved with include:
 - a. Filming video testimonials regarding panel member's involvement in the blended learning review.
 - b. Sharing feedback on the initial proposals for the harassment and sexual misconduct consultation.
 - c. Sharing feedback about the proposed themes of the cost of living insight brief.
 - d. Filming videos and writing a blog post to promote the harassment and sexual misconduct consultation.

- e. Filming videos for the OfS staff conference on 7 February.
9. The next student panel meeting will take place on 2 March 2023, where Rachel Houchen will join from the board.