University of York

Student Life Committee

Matters for note arising from the meeting of Student Life Committee held on 11 April 2024

1. The Committee approved:

- a. Gender Based Violence Action Plan 23/24: the development and introduction by the Conduct and Respect Team of in-house online training for staff and students from September 2024.
- b. The proposal to reduce the number of meetings for the Student Life Committee from 4 meetings per year to 3 meetings per year commencing October 2025. The April meeting will be discontinued.
- 2. The Committee **considered** annual reports for 2023/24 for the following areas:
 - a. Catering and Retail. The Committee **noted** that the section is struggling with increased costs in all areas from labour, cost of goods to overheads. Sales are being adversely impacted by hybrid working and departments not spending with Campus Kitchen; the effects of building holiday closures as well as the new peaks and troughs in trade created by the new Semester pattern.
 - b. Accommodation. The Committee **noted** that demand for on-campus accommodation among returning students exceeded supply. The Committee further **noted** work with external providers to increase the breadth and variety of affordable student accommodation.
- 3. The Committee **considered** the following other reports:
 - a. The annual impact report from YUSU, commending the breadth of activity set out in the report.
 - b. The annual impact report from GSA, commending the breadth of activity set out in the report.
- 4. The Committee **noted** progress reports in relation to the following areas:
 - a. Progress report on Suicide Safer Strategy and Action Plan. The Committee **noted** that good progress was being made against the Strategy, most notably the Postvention section where there are now no red areas of risk. The student death procedure has been rewritten and a student death response checklist (based on UUK guidance) has been created. The Committee further **noted** that gaps do remain particularly in staff training there is not currently an institutional plan to appropriately train staff to respond to risk (work is ongoing to create a training matrix to guide discussions with HR).



- c. The Implementation of the Gender-based Violence Action Plan. The Committee **noted** that as part of a service review, the Conduct and Respect team are reviewing the questions asked of students who receive SVLO support, to ensure that this data is as meaningful as possible and as a result the SVLOs have launched a new feedback form in April 2024. The Sexual Violence and Prevention Manager is now in post taking on a caseload of students as well as leading on preventative and strategic work. The current online training packages on offer to all students and staff have been reviewed and as a result we are currently exploring the development of in-house online learning packages in partnership with an external digital provider.
- 5. The Committee **noted** the following updates or reports:
 - a. Updates on recent activity from DTEF, Equality & Diversity, Open Door and Disability, the IPC, YUSU and the GSA.
- 6. The Committee **received** its updated membership.

Tom Banham and Pierrick Roger, Co-Chairs of Student Life Committee, April 2024