Dear all

This is the first ESS Update on the Enhancing Student Support project, which summarises recent and upcoming events, actions and activities. Updates will be issued at least monthly.

Topics include:
1. Project announcement
2. Personal Tutor Scheme - Roles and Responsibilities
3. Benchmarking Event
4. EUSA Learning Lunches
5. Student Support Implementation Group
6. School status updates
7. Network of contacts
8. School or College Meetings

Information about the topics can also be found on the Enhancing Student Support wiki: https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Home

1. Project announcement

Messages were sent to all students and staff and there was a news article in January launching the Enhancing Student Support project with its focus on:

- A new Personal Tutor system, supported by IT tools and resource materials
- A development of student peer support in partnership with EUSA
- A review and strengthening of University-wide central student services
- Briefing and training for the new roles
- Revision of the University's Academic and Pastoral Support Standards and Guiding Principles

https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Communication

2. Personal Tutor Scheme - Roles and Responsibilities

Core purposes have been agreed for the key roles in the Personal Tutor scheme. Draft main responsibilities have been outlined and a paper produced which outlines questions which are being discussed with stakeholders: https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Reports

3. Benchmarking Event

The University held a very successful Benchmarking Event on 13 March with internal and external speakers and over 100 participants. There were presentations from speakers from the Universities of Nottingham, Queen’s Belfast, Leeds, Manchester and Southampton and from Geology, the Vet School, Law and the Office of Lifelong Learning. Interesting ideas emerged from the benchmarking, which will be used to develop the project, including:

- Focus on outcomes not process
- Taking a structured approach to Personal Tutor/Tutee meetings
• Viewing meetings with tutees as an integral part of their learning
• Using systems to help support students
• Producing Tutoring Statements by each School to articulate the local contextualisation of the Personal Tutor system.

Copies of presentations and links to notes and supporting documentation are on the wiki: https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Benchmarking+Event+-+Enhancing+Student+Support+-+13+March+2012

4 EUSA Learning Lunches

Two EUSA Learning Lunches were held with student representatives on 14 and 21 March. These events provided an opportunity for students to discuss the Personal Tutor system project with senior members of University staff, and to influence the way in which it is developed and implemented. Student comments are being considered by the Student Support Implementation Group.

5 Student Support Implementation Group

The Project is being managed by the Student Support Implementation Group, which has members from across the University and EUSA. SSIG will keep the Learning and Teaching Committee and Senatus informed about the project. https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Student+Support+Implementation+Group

6 School status updates

Schools have been asked to provide a status update by 30 April on their progress in implementing the Personal Tutor system. SSIG will discuss the updates on 7 May.

7 Network of contacts

A network of contacts from Schools, Services and students which will be used for consultation and to provide information on the project is maintained on behalf of SSIG. If you wish to join this list please contact Sara.Welham@ed.ac.uk.

8 School or College meetings

If you want members of the project team, e.g. Assistant Principal Professor Ian Pirie, Sara Welham or Brian Connolly, to attend a School or College meeting to update you on and discuss the project, please contact Sara.Welham@ed.ac.uk

If you know of any colleagues who are not currently on the list to receive this update but may be interested in joining, please forward this message on.

Regards,

The Enhancing Student Support Team