Dear all

This is the third ESS Update on the progress of the Enhancing Student Support project. Further details can be found on the Enhancing Student Support wiki: https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Home

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1 School Tutoring Statements

Schools provided very useful updates on progress in introducing the Personal Tutor system, which were discussed by the Student Support Implementation Group in May and are available on the project wiki: https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Resources

Schools are now preparing draft School Tutoring Statements. A checklist to support this is also available on the wiki.

2 Personal Tutor System – Benefits for Students

A statement which outlines the benefits for students of the Personal Tutor System has been prepared by the Student Support Implementation Group:

“Your Personal Tutor and the wider support network will work with you in partnership as you:

- Become a confident learner in your discipline and play an active part in your academic community
- Develop and reflect on the range of skills required for success at University and beyond
- Meet the challenges and opportunities of University life.”

3 Personal Tutor System – Agreed Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for the Personal Tutor system have been agreed following the recent consultation and are available on the wiki: https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Reports
4 Initial (Temporary) IT Tools

There are six strands to the ESS project, one of which is to produce IT tools and resources to help staff and students manage the quality and effectiveness of their meetings. These initial tools are primarily designed to facilitate and support meetings between a student and their Personal Tutor, and their wider student support team. The initial tools represent small changes to existing systems and use familiar interfaces. For staff this will be via the EUCLID MyEd channel, and for students this will be via a MyEd channel which will allow them to see their notes in a ‘stream’. For more information please see:
https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/SSG001/Initial+ESS+IT+Tools+Project+Summary

5 Senior Tutors’ Key Roles

Senior Tutors will have key roles in the development and delivery of the Enhancing Student Support project. A Senior Tutors network is being set up and details will be added to the project wiki. The project team will be working with Senior Tutors to:

- Coordinate the School Tutoring Statements
- Develop the Communications Strategy for the project
- Get input to the development of resource materials and IT tools
- Check that documents and information are updated to reflect new roles.

6 Academic and Pastoral Support Standards and Guiding Principles

The Learning and Teaching Committee has approved new Academic and Pastoral Support Standards and Guiding Principles for 2012/13: https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Reports
The revisions take account of the Enhancing Student Support project, the new Personal Tutor system and its key roles, and School Tutoring Statements. Paper G at the 16 May LTC highlighted the changes: http://www.docs.sasg.ed.ac.uk/AcademicServices/Committees/LTC/2011-12/20120516AgendaPapers.pdf There will be a further review of student support documentation in 2012/13.

7 Schools’ Preparation Activities

Schools will already be thinking about preparing to support these changes, such as who will be Personal Tutors and Senior Tutors within a School, as well as the Student Support Officer(s) and equivalents within the Student Support Team. This data, together with information such as scheduling the initial 1:1 meetings will be needed over the coming weeks. A suggested timetable to help Schools prepare will be made available soon from the project wiki.

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.

Regards,

The Enhancing Student Support Team