Dear all

This is the eighth ESS Update on 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

Topics
1. Enhancing Student Support Phase Two
2. Student Synectics Event
3. Personal Tutor Software: IT Tools updates
4. Resources to support staff and students
5. A date for your diary: Benchmarking Event

1. Enhancing Student Support Phase Two

Phase two of the ESS project is focusing on developing appropriate models of Personal Tutoring and support for taught postgraduate students, students working off-campus, addressing specific needs of international students and providing student peer support.

Working groups have been established for the following project areas:
- Taught Postgraduate students – lead is Professor Peter Higgins, Dean of Students, HSS
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Enhancement - lead is Professor Ian Pirie, Assistant Principal
- Encouraging Excellence – lead is Professor Alan Murray, Dean of Students, S&E
- Student Peer Support – lead is Katie Scott, EUSA Peer Support Development Officer.

In addition the ESS project is holding brainstorming sessions to consider the support needs of:
- Distance Learning students – lead is Professor Jeremy Bradshaw, MVM
- International students – lead is Tom Bruce, School of Engineering
- Students working off-campus – lead is Professor Alan Murray, Dean of Students, S&E.

Ian Pirie and Peter Higgins recently presented information about Phase Two of the project to the PGT Directors Network and invited this network to be the wider consultation group for the development of the Personal Tutor system to meet the needs of PGT students. The Senior Tutors Network and Student Support Teams Network are also all fully involved in Phase Two consultations.

If you are interested in contributing to any area outlined above, please contact the relevant lead.

2. Student Synectics Event

An Enhancing Student Support Synectics Event was held on 26 October. This was to gain student input to the development of online networks, resources and digital tools as part of the project.

Students were asked to think about:
- The future, for example - what could education be like, how could it be structured and how could learning be supported by using online access to information, people, resources and applications?
- What kind of information would be helpful to students and what kind of digital ‘tools’ and applications would help them manage their learning and optimise their time as students?
- What would help students get the most out of University education?

Student ideas and feedback from the event will be used to develop the ESS project. Feedback on the day was very positive, e.g.
- “It shows that the University cares and trusts the agency of students. I'm glad that I visited today and I learned about what the University values.”
- “Great initiative. Right steps in right direction. Democracy is for the people by the people with the people.”
3 Personal Tutor Software: IT Tools updates

A number of updates have been made to the IT Tools. Staff and students may now add up to three files to a note, meeting or comment; and the author of these also may now flag a saved note, meeting or comment as deleted. When a student requests a meeting via their MyEd channel the notification now goes to both the Personal Tutor and the Student Support Team. The Student Disability Services software has been updated to refer to the Personal Tutor on relevant screens.

4 Resources to support staff and students

Last month Professor Ian Pirie, Assistant Principal Learning and Development, and Andrew Burnie, EUSA Vice President Academic Affairs, were interviewed about the Enhancing Student Support project. Copies of these videos are linked to Academic Services’ webpages about the project and the benefits to students:

www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/projects/enhancing-student-support/overview
www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/students/undergraduate/personal-tutors/benefits-for-students

The project wiki has information for Schools and Services about how to embed these videos in your own websites: https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/PESS/Resources

The wiki has a summary of the central staff development resources and materials available at the end of phase 1 of the Enhancing Student Support project.

https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/download/attachments/153654703/ESS-ResourcesUpdate-20120901.pdf?version=1

The IAD webpages also include information about available resources and workshops.

www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/institute-academic-development/undergraduate
www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/institute-academic-development/learning-teaching/academic-pastoral

Fliers about IAD student support can be found here:

www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/institute-academic-development/about-us/flyers

This includes information about quick one-to-one consultations in January for undergraduates who would like advice about their approach to their studies. These may be students who are worried about their progress; equally they may be students who are doing well and want to build on their success. Student Support Teams may wish to cascade this information to interested students and to Personal Tutors.

5 A date for your diary: Benchmarking Event

On 19 February 2013 the Enhancing Student Support project will hold a second Benchmarking Event at Pollock Halls. This will follow a similar format to the first event with internal and external speakers invited to host sessions across the various strands. The event this year will focus on:

- Student Peer Support
- Support for Postgraduate and doctoral Students
- Online networks, tools and resources

More details will follow but you may wish to save the date in your diary now.

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