

## RH100 Panel 2 Report

**Date: Wednesday 01 February**

**Panellist Attendance – 60%**

**Departments in Attendance – Student Engagement and Sport, Strategic Planning.**

### *Discussion Topic – The Access and Participation Plan*

The RH100 panel discussed student consultation, student success and student progression in relation to the Access and Participation Plan and advised how the university can encourage students to engage with it in a meaningful way.

### **Panellists informed the university that...**

- One of the most important ways in which to encourage students to engage in a meaningful way was to demonstrate that the university cares about and listens to the students. Therefore, it is important to have a feedback loop so that students know that they are being listened to.
- Many panellists disliked the fact that the Careers Service no longer had a physical presence in the Davison building as it made it less accessible for students to get support.
- Most university services are only open during specific times which makes it difficult for commuting students to receive support out of hours.

### **Panellists therefore suggested...**

- University staff could liaise with societies and Collectives to ensure that all members of the student community are included within the APP framework.
- To keep formative assessments throughout all year groups.
- For there to be a representative from each School in Careers, mirroring the current CeDAS structure.
- Introduce a specific space for commuting students to go e.g., a commuting lounge or overnight hotel.
- To use more accessible tools such as screen readers.

### **What next?**

The APP team will be working on the new plan over the next few months, with a submission deadline in July. They will take the responses from the pre-survey and the group work at the panel into account as part of this and intend to keep working with students in the next stages of the plan.

## Appendix

### Question 1: Student consultation

**How best might we involve students from a range of backgrounds in the design, implementation and evaluation of the plan?**

- Societies (especially Presidents) and Collectives that target specific groups.
- Inform students of the ways in which the APP affects them. Utilize the physical spaces to communicate better – halls of residence, eateries, SU shop. Putting a banner in the library, on toilet doors – QR code scan with email.
- Academic reps asking classmates. Personal tutors, staff.

**How might we ensure that students can engage in a meaningful way?**

- Including students in the idea stage but also when the idea has been implemented and how.
- Important the university demonstrates that it 'cares' and is 'genuine' in its approach.
- Really important to have a feedback loop. Makes it meaningful. Students want to feel they are being heard.

### Question 2: Student success at Royal Holloway

**Look at the help sheet. How effective do you feel that these activities are in helping students to do well at Royal Holloway? Please consider any experience you have of taking part in these activities as well as your awareness of any challenges students face that may affect their studies. Please explain your answer.**

- CeDAS is very helpful.
- Would like more support from personal tutors.
- More 1-1 support

**What other activities do you think we could do to help students continue with their studies and achieve a good degree?**

- Events to allow engagement with alumni – transition to working life.
- Should keep formative assessments across all years.
- More financial support.

**How might we ensure that these activities are inclusive and that they reach and benefit students from all backgrounds? For each activity, how could we make sure that it's working?**

- More staff resources to have longer hours for students to access support.
- Need a diverse array of people in all services.
- More accessible tools e.g. screen reader.

**How might we better support all students, including those who commute to campus, to feel a better sense of belonging at Royal Holloway?**

- Ensure people have a place to engage and feel engaged.
- Can't get help with sessions as it doesn't always fit with lectures and commuting
- Specific commuting lounge – potential idea.

**How might we better support students to take part in extra-curricular activities?**

- Have an overnight hotel – type systems so commuting students can engage with student activities.
- University bus service from Egham station.
- Alternative modes of transport (e.g., cycles) to make hill and travel easier.

### **Question 3: Student progression to employment or careers**

**How effective do you feel that these activities are in helping students to go on to employment or further study? Please consider any experience you have of taking part in these activities as well as your awareness of any challenges students face that may affect their progression. Please explain your answer.**

- Taster career events for subjects even outside your field of study (good for CV).
- Broader careers people at fairs – most are business and law.
- CV checking service has proved useful - some degrees have had module dedicated to helping students find a placement opportunity.

**What other activities do you think we could do to support students to go on to employment or further study?**

- HAVE A HUB!! Careers no longer in the library.
- CeDAS representatives for each school but for careers.  
Network events and industry talks.
- Possible providing a module dedicated to CV writing, writing dissertation.

**How might we ensure that these activities are inclusive and that they reach and benefit students from all backgrounds?**

- Partner with relevant society to spread info to students.
- Office hours a barrier for commuting students - unable to access all resources.
- Avoiding unpaid opportunities – difficult to manage with the rise of the cost of living.

**For each activity, how could we make sure that it's working?**

- Surveys.
- Suggestion box – maybe online.
- Ensuring accessibility – ask students from the group you are targeting in the alumni if they found it useful.