Message from Geoff Green

Following positive feedback from the first bulletin in January this year, here is a further edition with an updated format: I hope you find it useful. The objective of the bulletin is to keep colleagues across the Division informed of key developments and news. Feedback and ideas for content is always welcome – please email acadregistrar@le.ac.uk or post to Yammer.

Specific congratulations are due to the Careers Development Service which was awarded Best Preparation for Work Initiative (Higher Education) at this year’s AGR Development Awards in March, for the Smart48 programme; to Matt Mobbs and Jan Ball in LLI who successfully obtained their HEA Fellowship through the University’s PEERS programme; and to all those who helped us successfully navigate the QAA HE Review, particularly colleagues in the Quality Office.

You will all be aware from the VC’s recent email to all staff that our University is facing a particular set of challenges at the moment. Our Division will have a critical role to play in helping our University become more agile, resilient and effective, particularly with regard to the NSS. We cannot step back from the strategic commitments and investments we have already made to improve student life at Leicester, and indeed some areas may need further investment. But at the same time we cannot escape the fact that some of the things we do, or how we do them, will need to change or stop. I have my own ideas, developed with the Division’s leadership team, about how we might do this and I will share some of this with you at the divisional staff meeting on 9 May. But I’d also like to hear your ideas as well. What do you think we could and should be doing to become more agile, resilient and effective? All ideas will be considered by the leadership team and a response provided.

Email acadregistrar@le.ac.uk, tell your line manager, share them on Yammer, write them up on the ideas board in room 035 FJB or put them in the suggestion box outside my office on the Ground Floor of FJB.

Key Developments

Mitigating Circumstances Pilot

A new process for handling mitigating circumstances is now being piloted with all DL courses and campus based courses in Maths, Engineering, English, Modern Languages and History of Art and Film. As part of the pilot, students can access information, make claims and upload evidence through a dedicated BlackBoard site while staff in the pilot departments can collect and present the information in a few simple steps. The aim is to roll out a complete new system for all for the 2017/18 academic year.

Contact: Sharon North, sharon.north@le.ac.uk

Feedback Charter

The SU and University have developed a Feedback Charter to emphasise our approach is one of partnership and joint responsibility. The Charter has been circulated to all students and is available here for you to view: www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/documents/feedback-charter

Contact: Lily Patrick, lp250@le.ac.uk

Fabulous First Year

Fabulous First Year is an exciting project aiming to package together, brand and communicate lots of individual initiatives available to new students joining us. This will be done by bringing them together in a way to ensure that students are aware of the great things available to them and enhance their student experience from the day that they become a Leicester student. The welcome pack and student charter are being reviewed as part of this project.

Contact: Marie Muir, mm693@le.ac.uk
Student Representation Survey and Course Representative Elections for 2016/17

The SU and University are surveying staff and student members of departmental Student Staff Committees. The aim of the survey is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of the current system with a view to identifying improvements that could be made... watch this space.

In order to facilitate earlier training of Course Representatives and earlier scheduling of Student Staff Committees, the election process for second, third and fourth year Course Representatives for 2016/17 will be held towards the end of this academic year. Elections for first years will continue to happen at the start of next academic year.

Contact: Elena Boaru, edb6@le.ac.uk

QAA HE Review outcome

Great news that the Key Findings Letter confirmed that the University had met all the required standards and also identified four areas of good practice: the inclusive management of change which will enable the realisation of strategic priorities, the commitment to widening participation which promotes student inclusivity, the strategic approach to the professional development of students which enhances their employability and the continuing effective oversight of the postgraduate research student experience.

Contact: Louise Masterman, lm32@leicester.ac.uk

Did you know that...

• 490 Pathways applications have been received so far (the deadline is the 4th May).

• 274 individual students have attended the Student Counselling and Wellbeing Service and the Welfare Service has held 1,835 student appointments, both since January.

• Team Leicester retain the Varsity Title for another year leading 31 – 9 with 9 fixtures left to play in this year’s Varsity against DeMontfort University.

• 12 ‘validation workshops’ held by the Student Lifecycle Change Programme throughout February were attended by 153 staff and students from across the University.

• 7-9 March saw our University host the world’s first Global Career Summit in partnership with the University of California, Berkeley attracting over 60 university careers service leaders from across the world.

• The Food for Thought Briefing Series was launched on the 16th March with nearly 40 attendees. If you wish to attend future sessions, find out more here.

• 39,306 marks have been entered onto SITS since January.

…all of which was made possible by teams somewhere in our Division….thank you.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 9 May, 10.00am - 11.30am, Ken Edwards Lecture Theatre 1, SAS Divisional Staff Meeting