

1793 Student Mental Health- from Service to Strategy

(Passed 19 November 2015)

Proposer – Dan Wrigglesworth

Seconded - Jo Swo (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer)

Union Notes

1. Figures show that an increasing and, according to the Dean of Students, “now very significant” proportion of the UEA fulltime student population had an appointment with DOS last year.
2. In the 2014/15 academic year 40% of students had at least one appointment, and the average per student was 3.6, an increase from previous years.
3. This confirms the DOS’ Office’s impression that last year “a greater number of students than previously were presenting with complex concerns”

Union Believes

1. That whilst the University has a well-meaning, overstretched **service**, it does not have a coherent, comprehensive **strategy** in relation to mental health and wellbeing.

This is unacceptable.

2. That almost none of the increase in income from additional student numbers is

reaching student support services like LTS, the SU or DOS.

3. That as the Uni grows, the University ET must develop a proper student mental

health and wellbeing strategy for UEA

4. That a task force, with student representation, should be established to enable

individual

departments to review the implications for their own policies and

procedures.

5. That the University should consult and collaborate with the SU and its student

groups, and particularly with students with mental health difficulties when formulating and implementing student mental health-related policies and procedures

and in identifying areas for improvement.

6. That robust arrangements are put in place for any student with mental health

difficulties who is required to undertake a period of time studying off campus,

including those studying or working abroad.

7. That mental health and wellbeing services should be adequately resourced and the

operation and capacity of services should be regularly assessed in relation to demand and effectiveness.

8. That ongoing evaluative feedback should be sought regularly from service users and other students and staff.

Union Resolves

1. To lobby the University to run a strategic review of student mental health and wellbeing

2. That this review should consider proactive as well as reactive work, alongside financial and structural considerations