

**Lancaster University**  
**Fylde College**  
**Syndicate Meeting Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013**  
**Fylde Common Room 1.00 p.m.**

**Apologies:** Katy Beth Heaward, Jordan Finneran , Heather Willes

**Attendees;** Frank Wareing, Denise Rutledge, David Summers, Jamie Rogers, Mathew Ikediashi, Simon Clarke, Mandy Chetwynd, Shelagh Walsh, Arielle Planchette, Sam Parry, Chrissi Meyer, Jackie Williams, Shelagh Walsh, Omar Anwar, Joe Short, Ricky Dunn, Robin Challinor, Aaron Mallinson.

### **1. Principals' Meeting with the Vice Chancellor**

A meeting was held with the V-C and new Chief Administrative Officer at which the Principals gave a presentation on the college system at Lancaster. Both the V-C and CAO are from Warwick University (which does not have a college system) and one of the purposes of the meeting was to brief them on the history, rationale and development of the college system at Lancaster as well as explaining how colleges support the university's strategy. The presentation emphasised the role that colleges play in the engagement and involvement of students and in enhancement of their experience outside academic study. For example, the Principals pointed to the involvement the student voice in governance through the JCRs and the wider student body through, for example 700 Freshers' Reps each year across campus who voluntarily welcomed and guided each new cohort.

There was also some discussion about links with our overseas campuses and the role that colleges could perhaps take in forging international relations between the student bodies.

### **2. Responses to the Lancaster Student Experience Survey**

Fylde had fared well in the responses to the student survey and there were only a few issues which needed to be addressed. These could be addressed within college resources and processes. Across all colleges, however, there was widespread adverse commentary on the prevalence of alcohol-based social events in Introweek. It was expected that all the colleges would make an effort to run 'inclusive' and non-alcohol-based events this year to support the university policy on responsible drinking.

### **3. Bars.**

It was reported that Fylde Bar is doing well at the moment compared to other bars on campus, with a new and varied food menu and a lively buzz during the day. Regular meetings were being held with Lou Davies in which all parties could plan together for the most student-friendly (and hopefully financially sustainable) use of the bar.

The Principal said that he would really like to see a replacement event for the Gallon Challenge whereby lists of participating students could become part of college history by being formally displayed in the JCR like the records of previous Gallon Challenge participants.

#### 4. Senate

- Admissions. It was thought in the light of current admissions data that there would be a shortfall in UG Home (UK) student recruitment again this year (AY 2013-2014). A question on notice to the VC would be asked relating to the process and criteria for setting and modifying A level entry requirements for Lancaster prospective students. The rationale for setting specific departmental requirement was likely to be challenged. Subject areas in the Arts and Humanities were particularly concerned by the fall in applications to Lancaster this year.
- There would be an update on the progress regarding Guangwai-Lancaster (Chinese campus in Guangdong) and the Foundation Year scheme in Ghana.
- Department of Music. It was expected that an information item at Senate would address a range of questions and challenges relating to the closure of the Music degree scheme at Lancaster. Members of Syndicate expressed disappointment that this had taken place, but the Principal pointed out that undergraduate student cohorts in department had fallen steadily over the past five years. This year's applications numbered only 4 students (2 of whom were joint majors). In terms of research and teaching income, the department was becoming unsustainable.

#### Substantive Items

- Developing the Strategic Plan. A paper from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor setting out the issues facing Lancaster in developing its strategic plan for the next ten years would be discussed. The significant issues appeared to be Lancaster's aspirations (World HE status as a Top 100 University, maintenance of Top 10 status in the UK) in relation to uncertainty in the UK Higher Education environment, current trends in recruitment and our scale of operation and available resources.
- Senate Effectiveness (College representation). The Principal said that if the item, as proposed in the Senate papers were to be accepted, the nine Syndicate-elected members of Senate would be removed. It was expected that this item would stimulate much debate.
- Research Excellence Framework. Preparation was almost complete for the university's submission to go forward in the REF.

**Next meeting : Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 1pm Fylde Common Room**