

Annual Student Meeting (Additional Meeting July 2024)

Motion 9: Should the Students' Union ensure a seamless transition for new students?

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What do you want?

1. On-Site Assistance for their First Week:

Building Guides: Assign students, teachers, staff members, security guards, or volunteers at the entrances of each building to help new students find their designated classes. This assistance is crucial for the first two weeks.

Email Importance: Emphasise the importance of checking emails daily. During the first two weeks, every class should start with a reminder about checking emails, using MySIS, and seeking help when needed.

Navigating MySIS: Comprehensive guides and practical workshops on using the MySIS system for enrollment, course management, and accessing academic records.

2. Student Support and Engagement:

Buddy System: Pair groups of 20-30 new students with second or third-year students who can attend lectures with them and reinforce the importance of communicating with teachers and asking questions (might not be possible, but it could help new students).

Confidence Building: Encourage students to approach teachers during office hours, send emails, and ask questions in class. This can be reinforced by having a senior student in each lecture to support and demonstrate this behavior.

3. Orientation and Tours:

Comprehensive Tours: Conduct detailed tours around the university for the first two days. Cover all essential locations like classrooms, the library, canteen, career advice, IT services, admin office, and teacher offices to help new students familiarise themselves with the campus.

Orientation Week: Extend the concept of Freshers' Week to ensure that all new students have the opportunity to attend, even those with other commitments or who live far away.

4. Surveys and Feedback:

Mandatory Survey: Implement a compulsory survey to gather information on students' A-LEVEL or BTEC backgrounds, teaching preferences, financial needs, disabilities, workdays, and other personal circumstances. This information will help tailor support to individual needs and should be done in the first lecture to maximise completeness (90% of students will likely attend their very first lecture).

Continuous Feedback: Establish a system for ongoing feedback from students about their transition experience to make iterative improvements to the programme, and to monitor and address any issues promptly.

5. Classroom Dynamics:

Introductions: Begin the first lecture and seminar of each module with introductions from both students and teachers, sharing educational backgrounds to create a more sociable environment.

Interactive Sessions: Encourage interaction by asking questions throughout the lecture to students, not just at the end. Use engaging methods like educational games (KAHOOT) or apps to make participation fun and less intimidating.

6. Attendance and Participation:

Attendance Verification: Implement a system that ensures only students physically present in class can submit attendance codes, possibly using a location-based app or device.

Active Engagement: Teachers should make an effort to interact with students personally, asking questions and encouraging discussion to prevent a silent, awkward atmosphere.

7. Examination Protocols:

Phone Collection: Collect phones in plastic bags placed on the floors, under the tables during exams to minimise cheating risks.

Spaced Seating: Ensure adequate spacing between students in exam halls to reduce the temptation and opportunity to cheat.

8. Timetabling Flexibility:

Personal Schedules: Consider students' work or personal commitments when creating timetables. Offer flexibility to swap classes where possible to accommodate their schedules (this information should be acquired through the survey).

9. Teacher-Student Interaction:

Friendly Environment: Teachers should create a welcoming environment by greeting students warmly, initiating casual conversations at the beginning of classes, and showing attentiveness to individual students' struggles.

Encouraging Socialisation: Promote the formation of friendships and study groups by facilitating icebreaker activities and collaborative projects at the start of the semester.

Why do you want it?

Due to my experiences and observations

What impact will this have?

1. **On-Site Assistance:** New students will navigate the campus confidently, reducing anxiety and ensuring they find their classes easily.

2. **Student Support and Engagement:** Increase confidence in communicating with teachers, fostering a supportive learning environment.

3. **Orientation and Tours:** Help all students, regardless of their schedule, familiarise themselves with

the campus and its resources.

4. **Surveys and Feedback:** Improve the overall student experience and allow for timely adjustments to the support program.
5. **Classroom Dynamics:** Encourage student participation and engagement.
6. **Attendance and Participation:** Ensuring only physically present students can mark attendance will promote active engagement in classes.
7. **Examination Protocols:** Measures like phone collection and spaced seating will minimise cheating and ensure fair exams.
8. **Timetabling Flexibility:** Accommodate students' diverse commitments, making it easier for them to manage their time.
9. **Teacher-Student Interaction:** A friendly and welcoming environment will enhance teacher-student relationships and promote socialisation and collaboration among students.