



## Minutes SAF20-M3

Minutes of the Health, Safety and Environment Committee held on Tuesday 15 September 2020

### Attendance

#### Members:

Neil Budworth, Ruth Casey (ab), Paul Conway (ab), Sandy Edwards, Alec Edworthy, Graham Howard, Chris Lumb, Sam McClellan (ab), Ruth Casey, Sarah Mackinley, Julie Turner.

#### Received from:

Paul Conway.

### 20/40 University Preparations for the 2020/21 Academic Year

#### SAF20-P49, SAF20-P50

40.1 The Committee received a presentation on the University's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and on preparations for the forthcoming academic year. Members noted that the University's response to the challenges of the pandemic had been coordinated by Covid-19 Gold, Silver and Bronze Groups. Members were asked to consider whether they were assured that the measures that had been taken were, and continue to be, appropriate from a health & safety perspective.

#### *Covid-19 Planning*

40.2 Members noted the considerable amount of planning undertaken by the Groups since the start of the pandemic and the ongoing plans to counter future developments. Thanks were expressed for the contributions made by all three trade unions on a weekly basis to share views and challenge thinking.

40.3 It had become clear to the Groups that there were no risk-free options available to the University, and they had striven to balance the needs of all concerned whilst seeking to reduce risk. With a predicted increase in the number of infections in the wider population during the winter months, the Groups had modelled different scenarios where one or more students were infected and where there were outbreaks in the local community. They had developed flexible plans to respond swiftly and as necessary, heeding the advice of public health experts and the local authority.

*Wellbeing*

*Changes to facilities*

40.15 A number of measures had been taken to ready the University's buildings for the return of students and staff. Social distancing measures had been put in place, occupancy levels reduced, and cleaning increased at common touch points. Appropriate ventilation had been identified as

the Health and Safety Service had gained expertise in the development of apps, such as the Lone Worker App and the Contractor Management System. Much of its training had been moved online which had resulted in training targets being met earlier than expected. The need to work closely with other parts of the University during the pandemic had resulted in stronger links with staff in imago, IT Services and the Timetabling Team. The new connections forged would be of mutual benefit moving forward.

- 40.25 The LSU representative commended the Health and Safety Service on their achievements during the pandemic. LSU intended to align with the University's practices in relation to Covid-19 and would share their experience xperf its tia02.6 (v)peri (af)4-2 e vual bene(af)420.002550 Tc 0 T60.002540 T