Consultation: Student Wellbeing and Safety Policy and Support for Students Policy

The Student Wellbeing and Safety Policy and the Support for Students Policy are new policies now open for consultation. Feedback from both individuals and teams is welcome by COB on 2 February 2024.

Support for Students Policy

The Support for Students Policy is a new policy required by 1 January 2024 to meet the recent Higher Education Support Amendment (Response to the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report) Act 2023, which was assented to on 6 November 2023. The Support for Students Policy was approved by the Vice-Chancellor on 18 December 2023 and has been published to meet legislative requirements. The Policy is now open for a three-week consultation period as we value your feedback. Relevant revisions will be made to meet the transitional period for the amended Act by 1 April 2024. The Support for Students Policy will be reviewed annually.

The Support for Students Policy outlines the support provided to all UNSW students to assist them to successfully complete the courses and programs in which they are enrolled. The Policy is intended to support the academic success of all students enrolled at UNSW.

Implementation

- The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student Success will oversee required reporting and annual review processes for the Support for Students Policy enabling further edits in 2024.
- To meet the requirements of the Higher Education Support Amendment (Response to the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report) Act 2023, learning analytics tools and triage instructions will guide assessment of a student’s suitability to complete their Course/s.

Student Wellbeing and Safety Policy

The new Student Wellbeing and Safety Policy consolidates three existing procedures relating to students at risk including the Student Critical Incident Procedure, the Student at Risk Procedure, and the Required Medical Leave Procedure.

The Student Wellbeing and Safety Policy outlines the principles that guide UNSW in promoting and supporting the wellbeing and safety of students, including the processes for reporting, responding to, and managing concerns and critical incidents.

Summary of substantive developments

| Policy consolidation, updated references and refined processes | Consolidation of UNSW’s commitment to student wellbeing and safety
| Definition of safety includes cultural safety, health and wellbeing
| Current range of student support services and reference to the new Support for Students Policy
| Management of personal information, notetaking and recordkeeping practice aligned with current privacy and data policies
| Respect for the diversity and uniqueness of each student and reference to equitable learning plans
| ‘Program leave’ in place of ‘required medical leave’
| Senior position titles, reporting and implementation.

| Student Wellbeing Response Group (in place of Student at Risk Group) | Clear process for recommending and establishing a Student Wellbeing Response Group to make recommendations for the outcome of complex welfare and safety needs.
| Clear process for student review of outcomes. |
Student Wellbeing and Safety Policy Consultation

The Wellbeing and Safety Working Group met over a period of 18 months to discuss the development of the Student Wellbeing and Safety Policy. Members of the Working Group included:

- Chair: Professor Leanne Piggott Director, Experience
- Bron Greene Director, Conduct and Integrity Office
- Clare Jones Head, Student Hub Management
- Jessica Luquin Head, Student Life
- Jo Cassidy Program Manager, Health & Safety
- Karl Baumgartner Director, Safety
- Kim Pettigrew Senior Legal Counsel
- Martin Healy Head, Psychology & Wellness
- Natalie Nickson Senior Project Manager, Student Experience
- Neil Morris Director, Wellbeing
- Nick Glover Director, Risk
- Sarah Dunbar Director of Operations, DVCAQ
- Tara Murphy Director, Security and Traffic and
- Ursula Brown Executive Officer, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Further consultation engaged:

- Professor Sarah Maddison, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience
- Professor Alex Steel Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education and Student Experience
- Dr Jonathon Strauss Registrar and Director, Student Services
- Professor Simon McIntyre Director, Education Innovation, PVCESE
- Associate Professor Karin Watson Director, Education, PVCESE
- Scott Parlett Director, Nura Gili
- Professor Jonathan Morris PVC, Research Training
- Dr Dijana Townsend Learning and teaching Development Leader, UNSW
- Canberra
- Faculty Associate Deans and
- Deputy Deans Education
- Academic Board members (including student representatives)
- Arc Student Directors
- UNSW Postgraduate Students Council

Implementation

- The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student Success will implement the Student Wellbeing and Safety Policy.