

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

UPDATE ON NSS 2023 AND SCHOOL RESPONSES TO NSS 2022

1. PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

This paper updates University Education Committee on ongoing activity towards NSS 2023 and on School responses to the feedback from NSS 2022.

2. PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY /FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED

	Board/Committee	Date
Previously considered	NSS Steering Group (issue, not this paper) SSEC (developments since then)	21 November 2022 5 December 2022
Further consideration/ approval required by	n/a	

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

The paper is provided for information and discussion.

4. DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The NSS Steering Group met in November 2022 to discuss plans for NSS 2023. This noted
- Student Experience plans for communication with students to raise awareness and encourage engagement with the survey, including possible incentives
 - plan for liaison between Planning and Student Experience to ensure awareness of School plans to engage with students to encourage completion, to avoid overload
 - plans to ensure that the appropriate students are on the list to be contacted by NSS
 - proposal for some optional questions to be completed in NSS 2023 as in NSS 2022 to ensure continuity of data, and NSS Steering Group approved this
 - some different plans about how results are to be shared for NSS 2023 (no overall satisfaction results), some changes to the core questions for NSS 2023 (eg no reference to learning community) and a new four item response to replace the Likert scale. There will be communication to the University about these changes and updates made to our internal reporting and metrics as appropriate
 - oral updates on School and institutional action building on NSS 2023
 - NSS Steering Group will meet in March, focussing on student response rates for NSS 2023
- 4.2 Action is ongoing in all Schools in response to NSS 2022. All Schools have completed action plans in a template form. These are in a TEAM channel to enable this good practice to be shared and to provide a base for ongoing discussion. A valuable meeting of School Education Leads to discuss these was held on 18 November 2022 and a constructive discussion took place at SSEC regarding School and institutional actions (see other paper before University Education Committee).
- 4.3 Results of NSS 2022 have been provided to Professional Services Directorates as relevant and processes have been established for steps taken to be shared.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Jason Bohan, Dean for Student Support
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21 December 2022

Freedom of Information/Confidentiality Status: *Open*

APPENDIX: NSS 2022 and NSS 2023 – Comparison of questions.

NSS 2022		NSS 2023	
TEACHING ON MY COURSE			
Q01	Staff are good at explaining things.	Q01	How good are teaching staff at explaining things?
Q02	Staff have made the subject interesting.	Q02	How often do teaching staff make the subject engaging?
Q03	The course is intellectually stimulating.	Q03	How often is the course intellectually stimulating?
Q04	My course has challenged me to achieve my best work.	Q04	How often does your course challenge you to achieve your best work?
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES			
Q05	My course has provided me with opportunities to explore ideas or concepts in depth.	Q05	To what extent have you had the chance to explore ideas and concepts in depth?
Q06	My course has provided me with opportunities to bring information and ideas together from different topics.	Q07	To what extent have you had the chance to bring together information and ideas from different topics
Q07	My course has provided me with opportunities to apply what I have learnt.		
		Q06	How well does your course introduce subjects and skills in a way that builds on what you have already learned?
		Q08	To what extent does your course have the right balance of directed and independent study?
		Q09	How well has your course developed your knowledge and skills that you think you will need for your future?
ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK		MARKING AND ASSESSMENT	
Q08	The criteria used in marking have been clear in advance.	Q10	How clear were the marking criteria used to assess your work?
Q09	Marking and assessment has been fair.	Q11	How fair has the marking and assessment been on your course?
Q10	Feedback on my work has been timely.	Q13	How often have you received assessment feedback on time?
Q11	I have received helpful comments on my work.		
		Q12	How well have assessments allowed you to demonstrate what you have learned?
		Q14	How often does feedback help you to improve your work?
ACADEMIC SUPPORT			
Q12	I have been able to contact staff when I needed to.	Q15	How easy was it to contact teaching staff when you needed to?

Q13	I have received sufficient advice and guidance in relation to my course.		
		Q16	How well have teaching staff supported your learning?
Q14	Good advice was available when I needed to make study choices on my course.		
ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT			
Q15	The course is well organised and running smoothly.	Q17	How well organised is your course?
Q16	The timetable works efficiently for me.		
Q17	Any changes in the course or teaching have been communicated effectively.	Q18	How well were any changes to teaching on your course communicated?
LEARNING RESOURCES			
Q18	The IT resources and facilities provided have supported my learning well.	Q19	How well have the IT resources and facilities supported your learning?
Q19	The library resources (e.g. books, online services and learning spaces) have supported my learning well.	Q20	How well have the library resources (e.g., books, online services and learning spaces) supported your learning?
Q20	I have been able to access course-specific resources (e.g. equipment, facilities, software, collections) when I needed to.	Q21	How easy is it to access subject specific resources (e.g., equipment, facilities, software) when you need them?
LEARNING COMMUNITY			
Q21	I feel part of a community of staff and students.		
Q22	I have had the right opportunities to work with other students as part of my course.		
STUDENT VOICE			
Q23	I have had the right opportunities to provide feedback on my course.	Q22	To what extent do you get the right opportunities to give feedback on your course?
Q24	Staff value students' views and opinions about the course.	Q23	To what extent are students' opinions about the course valued by staff?
Q25	It is clear how students' feedback on the course has been acted on.	Q24	How clear is it that students' feedback on the course is acted on?
STUDENT UNION			
Q26	The students' union (association or guild) effectively represents students' academic interests.	Q25	How well does the students' union (association or guild) represent students' academic interests?
MENTAL WELLBEING SERVICES			
		Q26	How well communicated was information about your university/college's mental wellbeing support services?

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (ENGLISH PROVIDERS ONLY)			
		Q27	During your studies, how free did you feel to express your ideas, opinions, and beliefs?
OVERALL SATISFACTION		FINAL QUESTION (SCOTTISH, NORTHERN IRELAND AND WELSH INSTITUTIONS ONLY)	
Q27	Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course.	Q28	Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course.