Student Services and Amenities Fee
Student Consultative Group (SSAFSCG)

Communique
Meeting of Friday 15 August 2014, Committee Room, Chancellery, Callaghan

Student members present
Elsa Licumba (International)
Grant Morgan (Online/Distance)
Callum Thirkell (Callaghan)
Nicholas Moor (Undergraduate)
Monique Nash (Faculty Board BusLaw)
Hannah Turner (CCCUL)
Clare Swan (NUSA)
Lorna Katusiime (NUPSA)
Sam Barker (UONS)

University members Present
Trevor Gerdsen, Chair and Director Regional Campuses

In attendance
Gina Caddies, SSAF Project Officer
Cecilia Connell, Marketing and Public Relations
Leah Serafim, NUsport representative

Apologies
Bradley Burns (Indigenous)
Ellen Tiedeman (Undergraduate)
Jade Fisser (Faculty Board EdArts)

Introductory Business
The Chair welcomed the group to the meeting. The communique/summary of the previous meeting was taken as read and confirmed. The summary outlined the key issues discussed at the introductory meeting of the SSAFSCG.

Student Priorities for 2015
Documents provided to the SSAFSCG outline areas of focus and key principles, background to SSAF 2015 consultations and decision making and possible capital (amenity) projects.

The approximate total fee revenue for 2015 is expected to be similar to 2014, ie $7 million with $2.3-2.5 million for capital (amenity) and $4.5 million for services.

It was noted that the guiding statements which were endorsed by the SSAF Working Party and Executive Committee in 2011 currently underpin the SSAF process, however they may be revisited next year.

The Chair advised that:
- not all services currently delivered are equally accessible to all students across all campuses or modes of study;
- online and distance student enrolments are slightly higher than enrolments at Ourimbah campus, hence we need to think about innovative ways to support this cohort effectively;
- capital is ‘lumpy’ – need to take a five-year view for major works;
- service proposals for 2015 need to be supported by a strong evidence base ie student input into the service request and/or support/demand for the proposed service.

The Chair invited the SSAFSCG to consider key service priorities delivered in 2014 and potential new priorities for 2015 and areas of continued focus for services.

Successes in 2014 include:
- Office of Student Advocacy has been implemented successfully but collaboration with the OSA from student associations is variable; and
- Legal Clinic drop-in service at Callaghan has received very positive feedback to date with an opportunity for direct student experience in law practice as well as access to a free legal service for students. Ourimbah service has not been as well accessed – this may be a marketing/advertising issue.

Areas of consideration for 2015:
- sporting and non-sporting recreation options for residents of new student accommodation;
- childcare project – consultant will be engaged in 2015 to undertake investigation of occasional childcare options at UoN; and
- parenting rooms currently being checked over by IFS and Equity and Diversity with refurbishments scheduled in 2015.

Possible capital works projects for 2015:
- Stage II Shortland Union outdoor space – this was considered by SSAFSCG as being of low priority;
- planning phase for synthetic playing field near the Forum at Callaghan – considered by SSAFSCG to be of high priority;
- Ourimbah covered recreation/social space – considered by SSAFSCG to be a top priority;
- Upgrade of Brennan and McClarty Rooms in Shortland Union Building at Callaghan – some members of SSAFSCG raised concern of third party benefit from upgrade, however the Chair noted that the expectation if this project went ahead, would be that SSAF would not be used for solely commercial benefit, that the focus would be on upgrading the space from a student perspective with appropriate furniture and fittings – considered by SSAFSCG as medium priority;
- Shortland social space near Bakehouse – not deemed a priority project by SSAFSCG;
- Hunter Building and University House Reading Rooms to be investigated further by IFS and Library – not deemed priority projects by SSAFSCG;
- Survival stations continue to be a priority and not campus specific. SSAFSCG members requested a survival station be installed at Port Macquarie, Engineering at Callaghan and near the McMullin Building at Callaghan. All will be investigated as potential locations.

Other projects and requests:
- NUSA kitchen refurbishment
- Ourimbah space near cafeteria and pond refurbishment similar to smaller version of Derkenne Courtyard Callaghan
- NUPSA raised the issue of lack of ‘quiet’ spaces for Postgraduate students – particularly in the city. The University House reading room may potentially address this
- Courtyard near Hunter Cafeteria, Callaghan
- Three winged seating/social space near MSB West
- Lawn area near old Sculpture sheds – turn into a social space with furniture.

Top SSAF capital priorities identified by SSAFSCG:
1. Ourimbah covered recreation space/playing court
2. Synthetic Field near the Forum, Callaghan (planning stage)
3. Courtyard near Hunter Cafeteria.

If members of the SSAFSCG or other students have any further suggestions, please forward through to the SSAF Project Officer, Gina Caddies at Gina.Caddies@newcastle.edu.au