

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Monitoring the impact of the guidance on student charters, and on good practice in funding of effective, democratic student unions, and student representation

Date: 30 July 2013
Reference: W13/27HE
To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales
Principals of directly-funded further education colleges in Wales
Response by: 11 October 2013
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This circular asks institutions to provide HEFCW with feedback on the impact of student charters and of our guidance on good practice in funding of effective, democratic student unions, and student representation. Responses are requested by 11 October.

If you require this document in an alternative accessible format, please telephone us on (029) 2068 2225 or email info@hefcw.ac.uk.



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Introduction

1. This circular asks institutions to provide HEFCW with feedback on the impact of student charters and of our guidance on good practice in funding of effective, democratic student unions, and student representation.
2. Responses are requested by 11 October.

Background

3. HEFCW's [2012-13 remit letter from the Welsh Government](#) asked us to assess the impact of Circular [W11/31HE: Guidance on the development of student charters](#), and our [2013-14 remit letter](#) asks us to report on the impact of Circular [W11/46HE: Guidance on good practice in funding of effective, democratic student unions, and student representation](#).

Request for information

4. In order to achieve this, NUS Wales will repeat a survey of Student Unions, and will provide Student Unions with support to understand what was meant by 'impact'. This will provide contextual information from the Student Union perspective.
5. In addition, as part of the impact monitoring, we are writing to ask you to address the questions detailed at **Annex A** and **Annex B**.
6. Because institutions continually seek to enhance the student experience in a range of areas, we are mindful that you will have undertaken a range of other actions (eg National Student Survey action planning, action plans in response to module and course evaluation, responses to reports of external examiners, regular review of institutional policies, etc) which are likely to have also had an impact.
7. As a consequence, we recognise that it may be difficult, if not impossible, to disaggregate changes arising, to attribute some solely to the Student Charter and the good practice in funding of effective, democratic student unions, and student representation.
8. Annex A and B therefore ask questions about the impact of the guidance in the context of changes in each of the areas detailed. Each annex sets out explicitly the particular aspects of the guidance in Wales and we would like you to address these aspects explicitly in your response.
9. We may also write to you in the future to ask for a further update on the impact of both sets of guidance in the period since their introduction, in order to ensure that the objectives of both sets of guidance continue to be met.

Responses

10. Please return your response electronically (in MS Word or PDF format - not scanned) to Steve Williams (steven.williams@hefcw.ac.uk) by 11 October 2013.
11. We will need confirmation that this is a joint response from both the institution and its student union/guild, either via email copied to all parties to confirm that this is the case, and/or via use of electronic signatures.