

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
Student Success Subcommittee
PUBLIC

14:00-16:00, 26th February 2026, Kevin Gatley Room

Present	Beccy Freeman	Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) (Chair)
	Paul Blagburn	Head of Widening Participation
	Sarah Dahl	Departmental Director of Education from the Faculty of Social Sciences (Online)
	Justin Greaves	Director of Student Experience from the Faculty of Social Sciences
	Lee Griffin	Academic Director (Postgraduate Taught) (Online)
	Karen Jackson	Research and Academic Support Manager (University Librarian nominee)
	Jagjeet Jutley Nielson	Academic staff member with research expertise pertinent to the Subcommittee's remit
	Georgia Kremmyda	Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)
	David Lees	Dean of Students (up to item 036)
	Dr Bing Lu	Director of Student Experience from the Faculty of Arts (Online)
	Raymond Matata	PGT rep
	Simon Peplow	Deputy Chair (Education), Faculty of Arts nominee
	Michael Pounds	Deputy Chair (Education), Faculty of Science, Engineering & Medicine
	Sanchia Rodrigues	Academic staff member with research expertise pertinent to the Subcommittee's remit
	Emily Roisin- Reed	Academic staff member with research expertise pertinent to the Subcommittee's remit
	Lia Sarfatti	Non-sabbatical student representatives
	Andy Smith	Director of Wellbeing and Safeguarding (Online, item 037 only)
Attending	Megan Caulfield	Programme Manager (Inclusive Education)
	Lauren Baker	Head of Education Quality and Partnerships (Secretary Representative)
	Amanda Kowalczyk	Assistant Professor (item 036 only)
	Alex Pilkington	Project Officer (Assistant Secretary Representative)
	Enaya Nihal	Project Officer Wellbeing
	Echo Zhou	Deputy Director of Student Experience (Online, item 035 only)
Ref	Item	
030	Apologies for absence Louis Gosling, Adele Browne, Olivia Brook, Ollie Chapman, Andrew Clark, Will Curtis, Ethan Dommett, Gary Fowmes, Maria Gavris, Jonathan Hickman-Heron, Bo Kolestyn, Nicola Knowles, Jo Kukuczka, Kulbir Shergill, Adam Skrzymowski, Roberta Wooldridge Smith, Sarah Wood, Sara Wysocka	
031	Declarations of Interest No new declarations were made.	
032	Minutes of last meeting on 20 November 2025 DECISION: The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2025 (SSS32-260226, public) were approved .	
033	Matters arising from last meeting on 20 November 2025	

	Jack Keen had resigned from his position as a faculty representative and Lia Sarfatti stepped in as a new member.
Chair's Update	
034	Chair's Business - Students' Union elections were taking place, with a high number of nominations received. - Upcoming events were highlighted, including the Education Conference and the Inclusive Education Festival scheduled for May.
Substantive Items	
035	International student education and experience SSS received the joint update from the International Student Support team, Inclusive Education and Student Opportunity = 035-SSS20112025. An overview was provided of work to strengthen the international student experience. Progress was noted against UKCISA Charter areas and positive international student feedback. Priorities included scaling effective approaches, improving the welcome offer, and developing intercultural training, informed by sector evaluation insights. Risk considerations relating to global growth (e.g.TNE), competitiveness, and investment were also noted. The following points were raised during discussion: - Pre-arrival support and bespoke WGA in-session English provision were discussed, alongside the impact of conversion rates and the continued need for tailored recruitment approaches. - Challenges of low attendance of international students in departmental activities was noted. - Members asked whether wider engagement issues were specific to international students or reflected a broader trend. - Academic support was considered to require clearer framing to demonstrate its value, particularly as students increasingly engaging only on core activities. - Opportunities were highlighted to further share and co-create good practice, with potential to showcase this work at the Inclusive Education Festival.
Strategic Items	
036	Recommendations from Mitigating Circumstances review The SSS received and discussed the Recommendations from the Mitigating Circumstances Review (SSS36-260226, Confidential), presented by the Dean of Students. The committee had previously commissioned a group to review the remit and scope of mitigating circumstances, drawing on a wide range of sector approaches. High-level recommendations were presented for initial discussion to steer next steps. IDG colleagues have agreed to test the necessary technological changes for implementation. Further work will involve the drafting of a revised mitigating circumstances policy by the Mitigating Circumstances Working Group for consultation with students and key staff who would administer the policy and return to SSS and QSS for approval. Key themes were raised during a discussion amongst members: Policy & Process Adjustments 1. Timeliness - Members discussed formalising 20 working day turnaround from submission, with concerns raised about departmental workload and particularly the administrative burden. - Short cycle programmes may not be compatible with proposed models due to tight marking timelines. 2. Severity Scale - Strong support was expressed for removing the ABC severity scale (mild to severe).

	- Members did raise whether some justification of the outcomes provided was needed in the absence of the ABC severity scale, to demonstrate consistency. 3. Self-Certification Reform - Support was expressed for allowing students to apply for a self-certified (evidence-free) extension up to 24 hours after the original assessment deadline. - Reducing duration but increasing the number of self-certifications was seen as potentially creating workload pressures, particularly for larger departments with staggered deadlines. - Any tightening of rules should be framed as clarification rather than reduced support. 4. Extensions - Members noted that per-assessment extensions may be difficult for students managing longer-term circumstances. - Concerns were raised about extensions contributing to assessment bunching and widening awarding gaps. Academic Integrity and Regulations - Members noted overlaps between mitigating circumstances and academic integrity processes, and a need to balance the two. - Concerns were raised regarding falsified mitigation and the need for stronger safeguards. Future Framework - Members noted that the mitigating circumstances system was designed for one-off events and does not fully support students with longer-term circumstances, reinforcing the need for a more holistic approach. - Several concerns were considered more appropriately addressed through broader regulatory review (e.g., Reg 36, TWD), with the current paper seen as an initial phase of Regulation Reform.
037	Student Wellbeing Strategy SSS received report SSS37-260226 (Confidential) and welcomed the Director of Wellbeing and Safeguarding and the Project Support Lead, Warwick Wellbeing, who provided an overview of the strategy development. The Strategy set out a new Start Well, Stay Well, Succeed Well model focused on prevention, early intervention and clearer pathways to support, including 24/7 professional provision to reduce reactive crisis engagement. It had been developed collaboratively with Professional Services, Departments and the Students' Union, aligned with national guidance, and would be supported by an implementation plan and associated working groups, including the Student Wellbeing Implementation Group (SWIG). The Strategy had been shared UEB and will be presented to Education and Student Experience Committee and then Senate in April for approval. The following points were raised during a discussion: - Members discussed how existing external-partner arrangements would fit within the Strategy and ensure continuity of support. SWIG would oversee and develop a measurable model of care. - The value of engaging the Senior Tutor Network was highlighted, and it was confirmed that David Lees had been involved in the development process as Dean of Students. - Concerns were raised about confidentiality and disclosure, particularly affecting under-represented groups. - Support for under-18s would be addressed through safeguarding processes and relevant workstreams. - Data use and evaluation were discussed. The need for strengthen performance metrics clear baseline data, and consistent measurement across student groups was noted

	Action: The Student Success Subcommittee members to review the draft Wellbeing Strategy and submit any feedback to Secretariat, to enable collation and responses ahead of the paper going to Education and Student Experience Committee.
Items below this line were for receipt and/or approval, without discussion	
038	038-SSS260226 NSS & PTES Delivery Update
039	039-SSS260226 Compassionate Communications
040	040-SSS260226 Assessment strategy
Other	
030	Any other business Written feedback on the Assessment Strategy (040-SSS260226) was requested to be sent directly to the author as soon as possible.
Next meeting: 14th May 2026	

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS			
ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE	STATUS
2025-2026			
Student Well Being Strategy	Action The Student Success Subcommittee members to review the draft Wellbeing Strategy and submit feedback to Secretariat, to enable collation and responses ahead of the paper going to Education and Student Experience Committee.	Secretariat & Members March 2026	Completed